The landscape and its people

Nam Poui is one of the world’s most culturally and ecologically rich landscapes. Its 191,203 hectares include the Nam Poui National Biodiversity Conservation Area. The landscape includes three important tributaries of the Mekong: Nam Phou, Nam Phou and Nam Lu Rivers. This highly diverse landscape harbours many endangered and threatened species including gibbon, gaur, tiger, dhole, serow, Asian black bear and the Asian elephant. Nam Poui is home to almost 38,000 people and 27 ethnically diverse villages inside, at the boundary and alongside protected areas. These are home to Hmong, Khmu, Hatdua and ethnic groups who depend on forests to sustain their livelihoods and cultures. Investments in strengthening forest governance and community-led forest management will ensure the people of Nam Poui can share in the benefits derived from the forest while protecting and restoring this threatened landscape and mitigating climate change.

Entry points for investment to achieve the SDGs

1. Formulating local communities’ rights to manage forests and protected areas.

2. Supporting community-led biodiversity conservation and livelihoods of communities that depend on forests.

3. Supporting the development of inclusive forest-based business opportunities for women and other marginalized groups.

Challenges

- Climate: Erosion, deforestation and declining forest cover.
- Livelihoods: Unstable and limited opportunities, livelihoods at risk.
- Gov: Little to no public or community commitment.
- Partners: Limited trust and support.
- Current activities: Need for deforestation mitigation.

Our experience in Nam Poui and Lao PDR

Since 2017, we have helped the people of Nam Poui build their capacity to secure their land and resource rights, govern and manage their lands and improve their livelihoods. Today, there are tremendous new opportunities in Nam Poui to support local communities, protect the landscape, mitigate climate change, and achieve sustainable development through a landscape approach. By 2030, we can lift more than 5,000 people out of poverty, empower 400 women to take active roles in decision-making, and strengthen the capacity of people and the local people to adapt to climate change, improve deforestation, and foster sustainable management of 20,000 hectares of forest. By securing land rights, we can enable Lao PDR to foster good forest governance.

Partners

- Local communities
- National government
- Government agencies
- Private sector
- Civil society

Our vision

- Formulating local communities’ rights to manage forests and protected areas
- Supporting community-led biodiversity conservation and livelihoods of communities that depend on forests
- Supporting the development of inclusive forest-based business opportunities for women and other marginalized groups
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