

# Where we work

## Mekong River

Weaving through six countries, the Mekong River connects Qinghai's (Tibet) windswept highlands with the tropical jungles of Myanmar and Laos, before it finally enters the massive delta that spans Vietnam's southern coast. Swimming its depths are rare Mekong giant catfish and a fish biodiversity rivalled only by the Amazon.



## Greater Annamites

Stretching along the border of Vietnam and Laos, this area harbours one of the highest rates of endemism in a continental setting globally. An ecological mosaic, it was in these forests that the saola, a deer-like species, was discovered in 1992. This was the first of many new species discoveries to come.



## Kayah Karen Tenasserim

Located on the Thai-Myanmar border, this ecoregion is one of the most significant biodiversity areas in Southeast Asia. Encompassing more than 18,000 km², this vast wilderness comprises a continuous block of high conservation value forest. The Tenasserim Mountains are ranked as one of the world's highest priority conservation areas for tigers and Asian elephants.



## Dry Forests

Located in Cambodia and Laos, these forests form the largest continuous tract of tropical dry forest on mainland Southeast Asia. Open woodlands and grasslands provide refuge for Indochinese tiger, leopard, Asian elephant, and several wild cattle species. As recently as 50 years ago, the Dry Forests in Cambodia were described as "one of the great game lands of the world."



**WWF Cambodia Country Programme**  
54, Street 352, Boeung Keng Kang I  
PO Box 2467  
Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
Tel: +855 23 218034  
Fax: +855 23 211909

**WWF Thailand Country Programme**  
2549/45-47 Paholyothin Road  
Ladyao, Jatujak  
Bangkok 10900 Thailand  
Tel: +662 942-7691 through 942-7694  
Fax: +662 942-7649

**WWF Lao PDR Country Programme**  
House # 39, Unit 05  
Ban Saylorom  
PO Box 7871  
Vientiane, Lao PDR  
Tel: +856 21 216080/ 262830  
Fax: +856 21 251883

**WWF Vietnam Country Programme**  
39 Xuan Dieu Street  
Tay Ho District  
IPO Box 151  
Hanoi, Vietnam  
Tel: +844 3719 3049  
Fax: +844 3719 3048

Find out more about WWF's projects at [www.panda.org/greatermekong](http://www.panda.org/greatermekong)

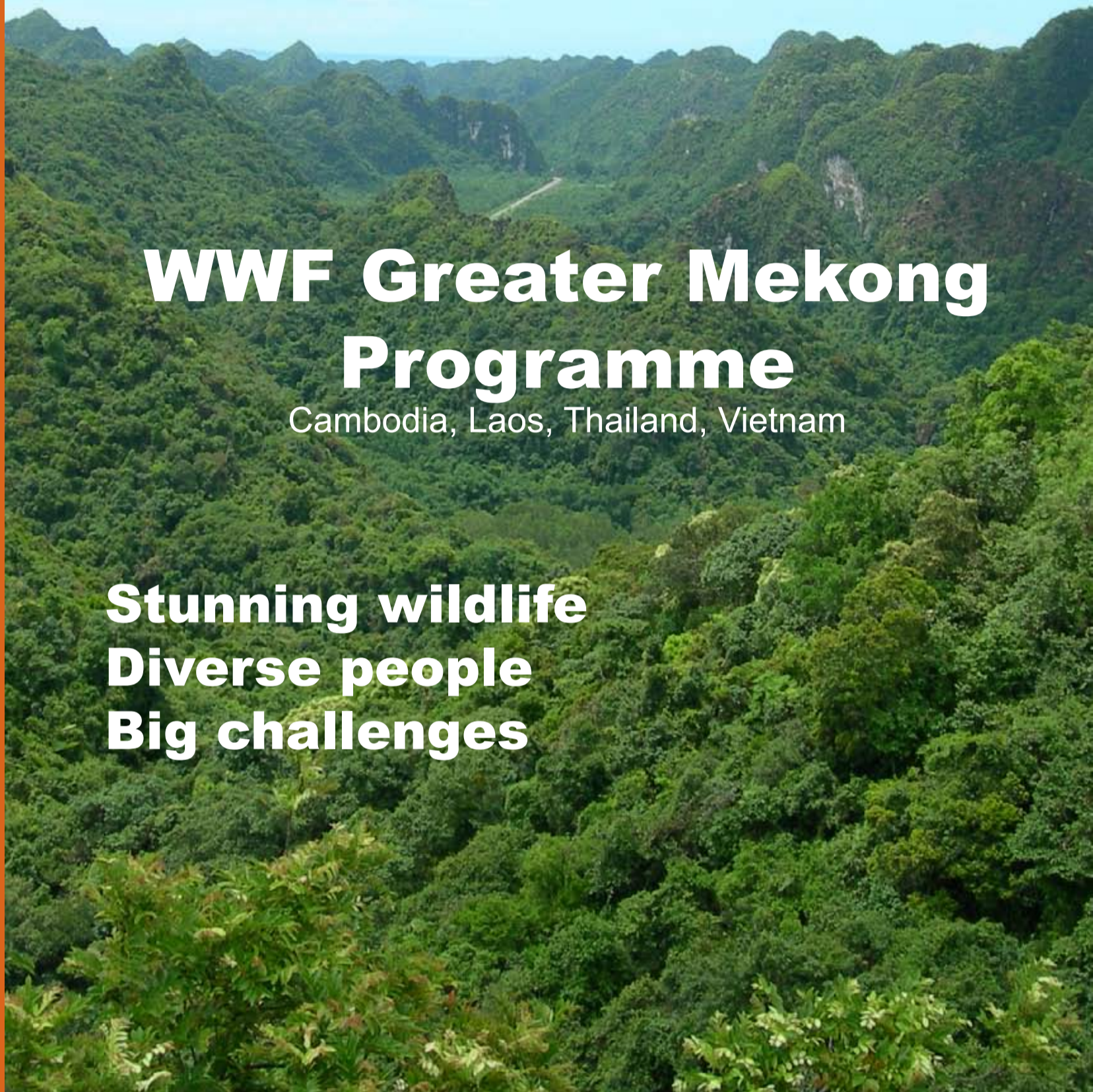
Photos: (cover) © Martin Shannon, (inside spread) © Bas Jongerius, David Dove / WWF Greater Mekong, Elizabeth Kemf / WWF-Canon, Dang Van Tran / WWF (Where We Work) © Elizabeth Kemf / WWF-Canon, David HULSE / WWF-Canon, Pham Ba Thinh / WWF (back cover) © Noy Promsouvanh / WWF-Laos



# WWF Greater Mekong Programme

Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam

## Stunning wildlife Diverse people Big challenges



Over 1000 new species were discovered in the Greater Mekong region in just ten years. This reaffirms the Greater Mekong as a global conservation priority.



# One life giving waterway the Mekong River

By length the Mekong is the richest river for fish biodiversity on Earth. It provides habitat to more than 1,300 species of fish including the world's largest - the Giant freshwater stingray - in addition to rare populations of Irrawaddy dolphin.

Over 60 million people rely on the Mekong River for their livelihoods. This river produces an estimated 2.6 million tons of fish per year, making it the largest inland fishery in the world accounting for up to 25% of global freshwater catch.

There are 11 hydropower dams planned for the lower Mekong River mainstream. Seventy percent of commercial fish are long-distance migrants. Based on current technology, no dam can handle such a large and diverse fish migration.

WWF supports a 10-year delay in the approval of lower Mekong River mainstream dams to fully consider the costs and benefits of their construction and operation.

Few places on earth show such a vivid link between human and ecosystem wellbeing, as the Greater Mekong

WWF is working to conserve 600,000km<sup>2</sup> of the world's most biologically diverse, economically viable, and seriously threatened forests and rivers within the Greater Mekong region. Home and life source for over 300 million people in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and China.

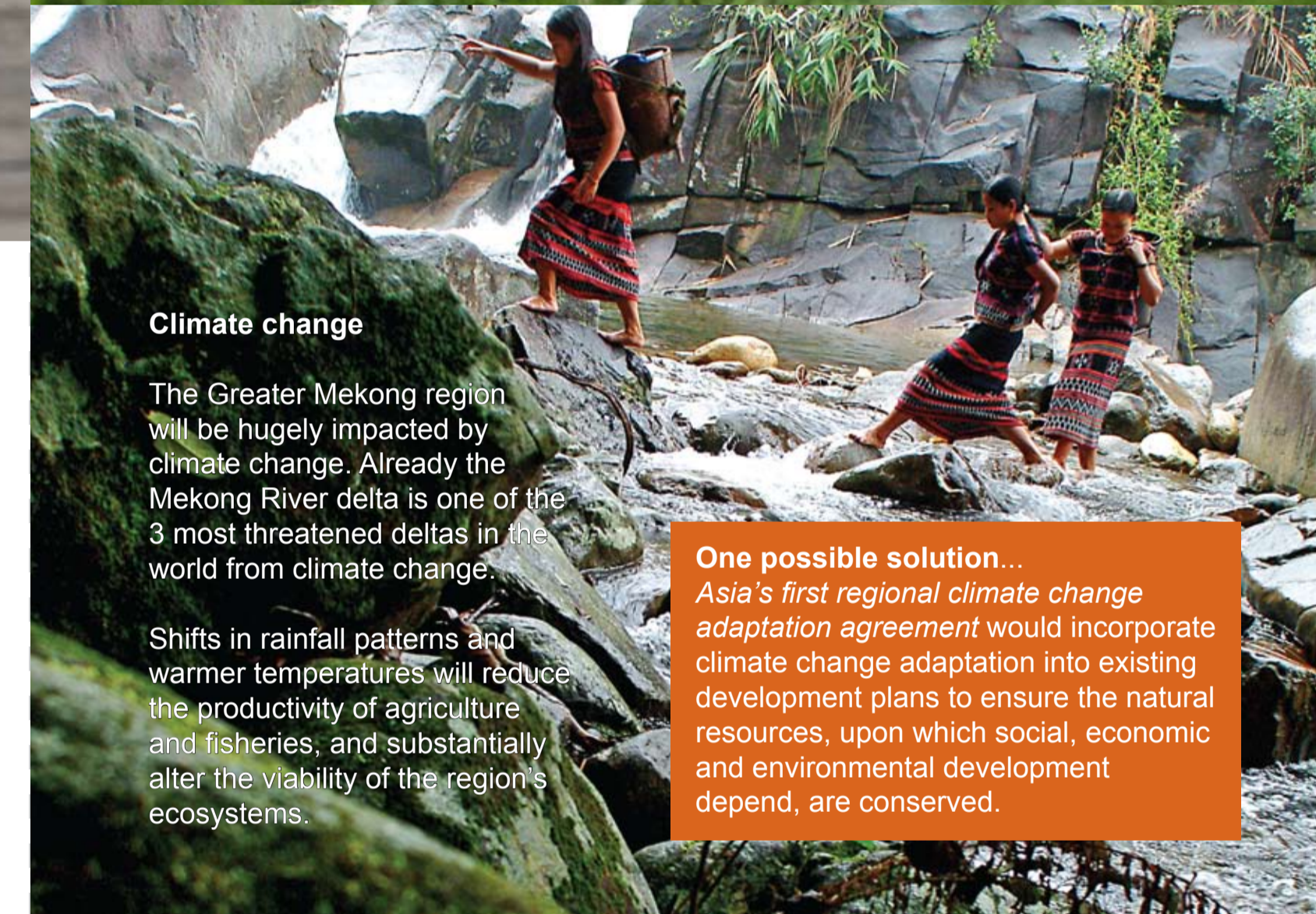


The Greater Mekong contains some of the richest and most biologically diverse habitats on our planet.

Its largely unexplored forests and wetlands harbour some of the world's rarest species including Indochinese tigers, Javan rhinos, Asian elephants, and the elusive saola.

Today, this region is on an ambitious development path that is resulting in rapid social, economic and environmental change.

There is no doubt the Greater Mekong must develop, the question is how?



## Climate change

The Greater Mekong region will be hugely impacted by climate change. Already the Mekong River delta is one of the 3 most threatened deltas in the world from climate change.

Shifts in rainfall patterns and warmer temperatures will reduce the productivity of agriculture and fisheries, and substantially alter the viability of the region's ecosystems.

## One possible solution...

Asia's first regional climate change adaptation agreement would incorporate climate change adaptation into existing development plans to ensure the natural resources, upon which social, economic and environmental development depend, are conserved.

