



Green Club



for a living planet®

Preparing for Tomorrow

A Glance at Lao PDR

Over half of Lao PDR's 5.9 million people are aged under 20 years. This disproportionately young population has an annual growth rate of 2.4 percent and in coming years will both boost and increase demand on all aspects of the Lao economy.

In response to this growing demand the Government of Lao PDR, as a part of the Greater Mekong Subregion, is supporting the development of region-wide economic corridors.

Improvements to infrastructure, energy production, telecommunications and trade across the sub-region will strengthen economic development, but it will also give rise to many serious environmental challenges.

Today, huge pressure is being placed on natural resources that support livelihoods and biodiversity, supply commercial industry like fisheries and forestry, and secure investments such as hydropower dams and roads.

The sustainable development of Lao PDR relies on sound environmental management. Introducing environmental education in primary and secondary schools countrywide is one way to help build this capacity.

Green Club is an extracurricular environmental education activity set in primary and secondary schools that introduces ways to sustain and conserve Lao PDR's precious natural resources and biodiversity for the greater benefit of all.



Green Club youth play games in the field next to their school in Champasak Province.



The Government of Lao PDR has targeted a total area of 500,000 hectares of industrial tree plantations by 2020.



© Thomas Calametz

Wildlife in Champasak Province.



The Mobile Conservation Unit teaches students about the benefits of sustainable land management

Environmental education is empowering youth to be proud stewards of the environment.

Environmental Education

Introducing Green Club

Green Club is an extracurricular environmental education activity working with primary and secondary schools in Champasak Province, Southern Lao PDR.

Green Club empowers youth to be responsible stewards of the local environment by teaching them about intricate natural ecosystem functions, and by addressing local environmental issues and broader environmental challenges.

Activities and lessons in Green Club are carried out in a fun and practical spirit of conservation. The project supports this learning by providing teachers and students with environmental education training and materials, activities and stationary supplies.

This project runs in partnership with the Lao Government Water Resources and Environment Administration, the Pathoumphone District Education Department, the National University of Lao PDR, and the Participatory Development Education Training Centre.

Green Club forms part of the WWF Biodiversity Conservation Corridor Initiative and Xe Pian Natural Ecotourism project, which are currently working with communities living between Dong Hua Sao and Xe Pian National Protected Areas in Champasak Province, Southern Lao PDR.



© Erin Gibson

Teachers learn Green Club games that teach students about aquatic habitats.

Green Club Topics

Connectedness: learning about ecosystem services and the part humans, plants and animals play

Development and Population Pressure: understanding how industry and human activity impact the environment

Soil, Water and Air: learning the value of clean air, healthy soil and waterways, and addressing the threats

Deforestation: weighing up the short term gains against the long term problems

Plants and Animals: learning about life cycles, the food chain, and Lao PDR's rich biodiversity

Sustainability: understanding how sound management of natural resources can create long-term prosperity

Wildlife Trade: exploring the impacts to biodiversity and ecosystem function

The Big Picture: understanding global environmental issues such as climate change

Project Activities

* Target village visits, research and stakeholder meetings.

* School visits by the National University of Lao PDR Mobile Conservation Unit to educate students on environmental issues, and teachers on different teaching methodologies.

* Teacher training workshops to increase awareness of environmental education issues and to build capacity for the design of school-based environmental education programs.

* Weekly Green Club activities in target schools

* Follow-up workshops to assess lessons learned, facilitated by the Participatory Development Education Training Centre.

Green Club in Action

Passionate, Proud & Proactive



Teachers devise activity plans at Green Club teacher training workshops.



Students take the lead during a visit from the Mobile Conservation Unit to teach them about Lao's biodiversity corridors.

WWF Laos is a part of the WWF Greater Mekong Programme, working to promote sustainable environmental management across the Greater Mekong Subregion.

WWF's mission is to stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature, by:

- conserving the world's biological diversity
- ensuring that the use of renewable natural resources is sustainable
- promoting the reduction of pollution and wasteful consumption



WWF for a living planet®

Better Early than Wet!

This year Green Club teachers and students came together in Phathoumphone District, Champasak Province, for early World Environment Day celebrations before the end of school term and onset of the monsoon season.

Teachers took the opportunity to reflect and share their lessons learned following the first term running Green Club activities.

During the day, students led by energetic Participatory Development Education Training Centre volunteers played Green Club games and participated in nature-inspired colouring and drawing competitions.

Representatives from the District Education Department and Lao Government's Water Resource and Environment Administration participated in the day's colourful events.

"We showed students how to plant trees so they can plant them at home. Students are proud to be a part of the World Environment Day," said Mr Paseuth Bouakeo, Director of Pathoumphone High School.

The day's celebrations ended with each school being awarded an education 'show bag' filled with books, courtesy of Room to Read, environmental posters, stationary and materials for cataloguing school libraries.

Contacts

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