



## Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme

### Putting Sustainable Livelihoods into Practice

Training Course on Participatory Approaches  
18-20 August 2005, Attapeu, Lao PDR

IUCN – The World Conservation Union facilitated a training course on the use of participatory approaches in development planning, targeting 24 district and provincial staff from a wide range of provincial departments including, the Department of Health, Department of Fishery, Department of Agriculture and the Women's Union, together with District Staff in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR. According to the participants the course provided a new way of thinking in terms of how to engage with local communities in development planning. The course facilitated a series of interactive sessions focusing on the theory and application of participatory approaches.



In the closing remarks the District Governor of Sanam Say District said, "this course has been valuable in terms of equipping us with the necessary tools to assess the underlying cause to people's vulnerability... Our experience shows that unless we understand the cause behind people's vulnerability it will be difficult to find ways of improving people's livelihoods. Now that we have a better understanding of participatory tools we should make sure that we start applying the tools to effectively address poverty".

IUCN, in partnership with Health Unlimited, have initiated a project to address food security by focusing on aquatic resource management and health. Following on from the training course nine of the participants who were interested in working with participatory tools joined the Core Team with IUCN and Health Unlimited in developing village action plans in three target villages of the Mekong Wetlands Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Use Programme (MWBP) demonstration site in Attapeu. The Core Team is currently working to develop an implementation plan for these three villages.

For more information please contact:  
Souksavanh: [souksavanh.mwbp@iucnlaos.org](mailto:souksavanh.mwbp@iucnlaos.org)  
Mark Dubois: [mark.mwbp@iucnlaos.org](mailto:mark.mwbp@iucnlaos.org)



A JOINT UNDP - IUCN - MRC GEF-FUNDED PROGRAMME



CAMBODIA



LAO PDR



THAILAND



VIETNAM



IUCN  
The World Conservation Union

