



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace, Independence, Democracy, Unity, Prosperity

Prime Minister

No. 25/PM
Vientiane Capital, Dated 16/09/2025

Order

**On Increase Strictness in the Management and Inspection of International
Endangered Aquatic Animals, Wild Animals, and Wild Plants**

To: Ministers, Leaders of government agencies equivalent to ministries, and Chairpersons of the Capital City and Provincial Administrative Committees.

- Pursuant to Government Law No. 03/NA, dated 16 November 2021.
- Pursuant to Forestry Law No. 64/NA, Dated 13 June 2019.
- Pursuant to Aquatic Animals and Fisheries Law No. 41/NA, dated 17 July 2023.
- Pursuant to Wildlife Law No. 42/NA, dated 17 July 2023.
- Pursuant to the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment's Proposal No 0809/MAE, dated 26 August 2025

To increase strictness in the implementation of management, prevention, suppression, and resolution of negative activities related to the hunting, raising, breeding/propagation, possession, trade, import, export, re-export, and transit of international endangered aquatic animals, wild animals, and wild plants, in compliance with applicable laws and regulations issued by the Government, and in accordance with the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES), of which the Lao PDR is a Party, as well as other relevant international agreements.

The Prime Minister issued an order:

1. All ministries, ministry-equivalent state organizations, and local administrative authorities at all levels shall increase strictness and pay attention to carrying out their mandates, rights, and responsibilities in accordance with laws and regulations, especially those laws, regulations, conventions to which the Lao PDR is a Party, and other relevant international treaties. This applies to the management, prevention, suppression, and resolution of negative activities related to the hunting, raising, breeding/propagation, possession, trade, import, export, and transit of international endangered aquatic animals, wild animals, and wild plants.

2. It is prohibited to hunt, raise, breed, possess, trade, import, export, or transit international endangered aquatic and wild animals that are listed in List I of the Lao PDR and in CITES, including their carcasses, parts, and products.

3. Stop the establishment of wildlife farms for wild animals listed in List I of the Lao PDR and in CITES for commercial purposes. Existing wildlife farms holding wild animals listed in List I of the Lao PDR and in CITES must be converted into wild animal zoos solely for conservation-based tourism and scientific research purposes.

4. Address the issues of wild animal farms and wild animal zoos that house tigers by either completely closing all existing tiger farms or converting them into wild animal zoos, and strictly follow the procedures as follows:

4.1. Manage and inspect tiger farms, including the analysis of tiger DNA samples and stripe pattern images to assist in identifying individual tigers.

4.2. Require the collection of DNA samples of the Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*) from each wild animal farm or zoo and encourage business operators to cooperate with the CITES Scientific Authority and CITES Management Authority in breeding efforts for the conservation of this wild animal species.

4.3. Implement measures to control tiger numbers by limiting the reproduction of tigers in farms (sterilization, separation of males and females);

4.4. Stop permitting the importation of live tigers, except for the subspecies of Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*), for the purpose of conservation breeding.

4.5. Establish a database system for tiger population management to monitor increases and decreases in numbers of tigers in wild animal farms, zoos, and rehabilitation centers.

4.6. In the event of a tiger's death, the standard procedures for the destruction of tiger carcasses that have been set out in each period must be followed.

5. Address the problems of wildlife farms and zoos that raise long-tailed and rhesus macaques as follows:

5.1. Suspend the issuance of permits for the import, export, re-export and transit of long-tailed and rhesus macaques, and proceed with the process of verifying the source of long-tailed and rhesus macaques in wild animal farms, including long-tailed and rhesus macaques obtained from the wild for breeding, in accordance with the recommendations of the CITES Secretariat to ensure compliance with laws and regulations, and then submit the matter to the CITES Standing Committee for reconsideration;

- 5.2. Conduct a verification process to establish the source of parental long-tailed and rhesus macaques in wild animal farms in accordance with applicable laws and regulations (LAF: Legal Acquisition Finding).
6. Prohibit the international trade, export, and import of endangered wild plants without proper authorization from the competent authorities.
7. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall take the lead in researching and promoting the propagation of international endangered wild plants, as well as in managing plantations of international endangered wild plants.
8. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall take the lead in coordinating with ministries, ministry-equivalent government agencies, and local administrative agencies at all levels in implementing measures for the management of international in endangered aquatic animals and wild animals, as follows:
- 8.1. Conduct surveys, registration, and inventory of ivory parts from captive elephants with certified origin, held by individuals, legal entities or organizations, correct and in compliance with laws and regulations,
- 8.2. Strictly inspect and patrol markets, restaurants, shops, vulnerable border areas, border checkpoints, special economic zones, and transport stations (land, rail, water, and air), as well as other targeted areas. Any violation or offense of laws, conventions to which the Lao PDR is a Party, or other relevant international treaties, is detected, an investigation must be carried out to prosecute the offenders. In cases where items are confiscated for prosecution purposes, they must be handed over to the Forest Investigation Agency for legal proceeding of the case in accordance with the law.
- 8.3. Confiscation of evidence, if it is aquatic animals, wild animals or wild plants, including their carcasses, parts and products, which can be preserved after the conclusion of legal proceedings must be handed over to the CITES Management Authority for preservation, and for items cannot be preserved, a committee must be appointed to resolve it according to applicable regulations.
- 8.4. Confiscate or seize wild animal products such as those of elephants, tigers, bears and other species that are illegally traded, including imitations or counterfeits that are sold in various places, as prescribed by law.
- 8.5. Continue to inspect, manage, inventory, and collect all destructive wild and aquatic animal hunting or harvesting equipment for destruction; and prohibit any individual, legal entity, and organization from producing, possessing, or distributing all destructive wild animal and aquatic animal hunting or harvesting equipment.

9. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall serve as the lead agency to coordinate with local administrative authorities and relevant sectors in inspecting and inventorying targeted individuals or groups to prevent and suppress the trade of aquatic animals, wild animals, and wild plants, including their carcasses, parts, and products such as bones, skins, horns, elephant ivory, tusks, teeth, nails, scales, whiskers, bile, and other derivatives – in markets, hotels, special economic zones, tourist areas, airports, railway stations, transport companies, international border checkpoints, and other locations, including online trading.
10. Local administrative authorities at all levels shall increase strictness and pay close attention to carrying out duties within the scope of rights and responsibilities in accordance with the laws and relevant regulations concerning the conduct of inspections, patrols, and prosecutions of the trade in aquatic animals, wild animals, and wild plants, including their carcasses, parts, and products, in their jurisdictions.
11. The Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Public Security shall instruct their respective chains of command to increase strictness in monitoring and inspection of the import, export, re-export, and transit of aquatic animals, wild animals, and wild plants, including their carcasses, parts, and products, at all border checkpoints and along national frontiers. Officials are strictly prohibited from authorizing or facilitating the import, export, and transit of such aquatic animals, wild animals, wild plants, including carcasses, parts, and products.

In case smuggling is detected, offenders shall be apprehended and the goods confiscated and then handed over to the Forestry Investigation Authority for prosecution in strict accordance with applicable law and procedures.
12. The Ministry of Finance shall instruct the Customs Investigation Authority to increase strictness in inspection, prevention, and suppression of the trade, movement, import, export, and transit of aquatic animals, wild animals, and wild plants, including their carcasses, parts, and products derived from nature, as specified in applicable laws and international treaties. In case smuggling is detected, offenders shall be apprehended and the goods confiscated and then handed over to the Forestry Investigation Authority for prosecution in strict accordance with applicable law and procedures.
13. Investigation Agencies are prohibited from applying administrative measures to criminal offenders regarding the trade, transport, import, export, and transit of aquatic animals, wild animal, and wild plants, including their carcasses, parts, and products.
14. The Ministry of Education and Sports shall coordinate with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment and local administrative authorities to conduct Non-Detrimental Findings (NDF) for aquatic animals, wildlife, and forest plants to determine their status, serving as

the basis for the issuance of CITES permits and for proposing amendments to the CITES Appendices at the Conference of the Parties (COP).

15. All ministries, ministry-equivalent state organizations, and local administrative authorities at all levels shall pay attention to improving coordination mechanisms for management, inspection, and monitoring of the implementation of relevant international treaties.
16. The Ministry of Agriculture and Environment shall take the lead in coordinating with ministries, ministry-equivalent state organizations, and local administrative authorities at all levels to increase attention to carry out outreach and dissemination of relevant laws and international conventions, while at the same time strictly implement this Order and reporting regularly to the Government.
17. Ministers, heads of ministry-equivalent state organizations, and chairpersons of the Administrative Committees of the capital city and provinces shall understand this Order, promptly translate it into detailed tasks within their respective areas of responsibility, and ensure effective implementation. In any case where a sector or locality violates this Order, the leadership of that sector or locality shall be held accountable in accordance with the law.
18. This Order takes effect upon signature and replaces Order No. 05/PM dated 8 May 2018, concerning management and inspection of prohibited wildlife and wild plant species.

Prime Minister
Signed and sealed
Sonexay SIPHANDONE