



CLIMATE CROWD

Community-driven solutions to help people and nature in a changing climate

NAM POUI NATIONAL PROTECTED AREA LAOS SUMMARY REPORT

JANUARY
2024

ABOUT



Climate Crowd is a bottom-up community-driven approach. Working with communities and local NGOs in over 40 countries, we collect data on climate impacts to communities, analyze the data, present the data back to the communities, and work with them to develop, fund and implement on-the-ground solutions that help people and nature adapt to a changing climate. The Climate Crowd model provides a rapid way to gather data, pilot projects, and mobilize financial resources for the most vulnerable communities, through a participatory method.

BACKGROUND

This report summarizes what was learned from 41 interviews with key informants in various communities in and around Nam Poui National Protected Area in northwestern Laos. Interviews were conducted by WWF Laos in January of 2024.



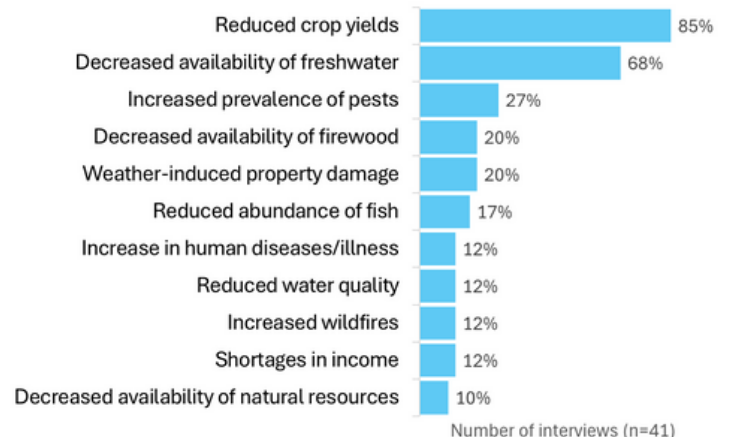
REPORTED CHANGES IN WEATHER AND CLIMATE (n=41)

- 73% Changes in the timing of seasons
- 73% Flooding
- 61% Drought
- 27% Heat waves and hotter days
- 20% Increased rainfall
- 20% Erosion and landslides
- 17% Decreased rainfall
- 12% Storms

When asked about what the most significant changes in weather and climate were, a majority of respondents pointed towards changes in the timing of the seasons and increased occurrences of floods (73%). Increased flooding is substantiated by increases in rainfall and storms during the rainy season (20% and 12%, respectively). Many respondents also reported increased drought during the dry season (61%), brought upon by an increase in heat waves and hotter days (27%) and decreased rainfall (17%). 20% of those interviewed also reported an increase in erosion and landslides.

IMPACTS ON COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

These changes in weather and climate have had impacts on local communities' livelihoods, with reductions in crop yields being the most significant, as reported by 85% of those interviewed. Many of those that reported this noted that floods have been destroying their crop fields and, at times, their personal property as well (20%). Reduced crop yields have resulted in shortages in income for some community members (12%) as agricultural production is one of the main livelihoods in the area. A majority of respondents also reported a decreased availability of freshwater (68%), which also has contributed to declining

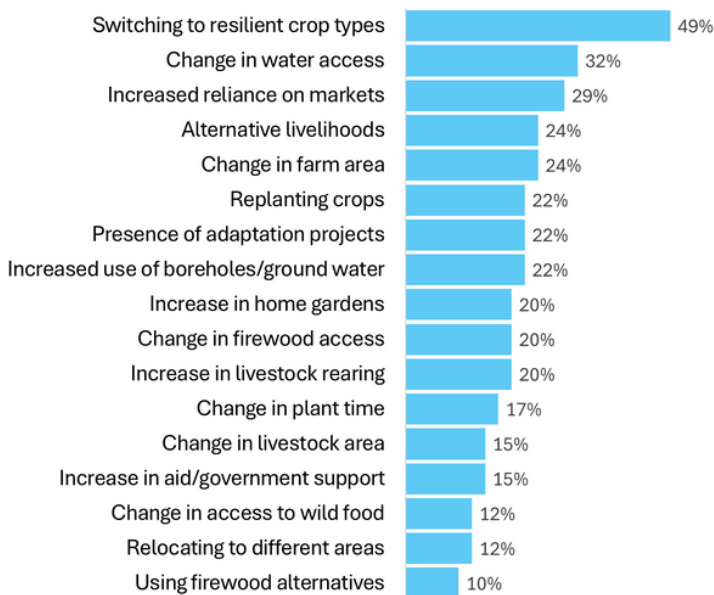




crop yields, along with an increased prevalence of pests (27%). Declines in other resources were also observed, including firewood (20%), fish (17%), and unspecified natural resources (10%). In addition to decreased availability of freshwater, several interviewees reported reduced water quality (12%), leading to increases in illness and disease (12%). 12% of respondents also reported that there have been more wildfires.

COMMUNITY RESPONSES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

In response to failing agriculture, 49% of respondents reported changing the types of crops they plant to species that are more drought resistant, like cassava. To further increase crop yields, people have changed the areas where they farm (24%), replanted crops that failed (22%), and changed the time of season in which they plant crops (17%). Some interviewees entirely switched from agriculture to a different livelihood (24%), with 20% of those interviewed reporting that they've begun rearing

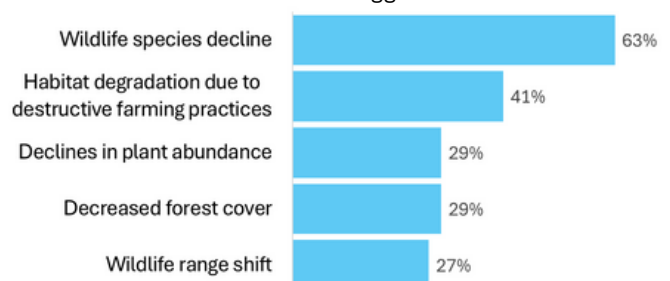


livestock instead. For those who already had livestock, 15% reported changing where they keep and raise their livestock due to declining productivity. To cope with resource scarcity, interviewees noted that they have had to travel further distances to access water sources (32%), firewood (20%), and wild food (12%). This is supplemented by an increased reliance on markets for food (29%), an increase in home gardens for household food (20%), an increase in boreholes and groundwater usage (22%), and an increase in using firewood alternatives like charcoal or gas stoves (10%). These communities are also receiving assistance in adapting to these changes; 22% of respondents reported that organizations have implemented adaptation projects in the villages and 15% reported an increase in external aid and government support. Similarly, 46% of those interviewed made suggestions for future projects, half of which suggested projects surrounding water availability like new boreholes and improved irrigation systems for agriculture. Finally, 12% of interviewees mentioned that people were relocating to different areas due to the difficulties they faced.



IMPACTS ON BIODIVERSITY

These changes in weather and climate have also been impacting the area's biodiversity, with 63% of respondents noticing a decline in wildlife species and 29% noticing a decline in plant abundance and variety. 29% of those interviewed also mentioned decreased forest cover due to deforestation. As a result of reduced natural resources and habitat, wildlife is not as easily spotted anymore because they are migrating out of the area (27%). There have also been indirect biodiversity impacts brought upon by people as they cope with changes in weather and climate. For example, 41% of respondents reported that there has been an increase in destructive farming practices that have resulted in the clearing of forests and general habitat degradation. The new practice of farming cassava was mentioned as the biggest contributor to this.



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