

That Luang Marsh — Vientiane's flood-buffering urban wetland under development pressure

PES & Nature-Based Solutions · Good practice · Laos

Quality score: 33/100

Evidence strength: Cautionary / limited

Summary

Vientiane's That Luang Marsh, part of a ~2,000ha wetland system draining the capital, removes an est. 117 ± 13 t of nitrogen and 3.9 ± 0.8 t of phosphorus a year and generates ~US\$5m/yr in flood-buffer and livelihood value — even as a 365ha SEZ converts part of it.

Key dimensions

Dimension	Score
Carbon — sequestration / storage, evidenced	0/3
Biodiversity — conservation / improvement, evidenced	1/3
Water & soil — retention, infiltration, erosion control	3/3
Fire resilience — risk reduction, evidenced	0/3
Governance, certification & transferability	1/3

Evaluated by C-NAPSE

Data sources

C-NAPSE web research — accessed 2026-09-03

National University of Laos & WWF Lao PDR (wetland valuation and monitoring) — accessed 2026-09-03

UN Lao PDR — Wetlands and the paradox of urban development — accessed 2026-09-03

CBD/TEEB — Integrating Wetland Ecosystem Values into Urban Planning: That Luang Marsh case study — accessed 2026-09-03

Water (MDPI, 2023) — Impact of Land Use Change on the Water Environment of a Key Marsh Area in Vientiane Capital, Laos — accessed 2026-09-03

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