



**Guidelines
on
Registration for Domesticated Live Elephants in Lao PDR**



Prepared by:

Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

September 2025

ABOUT DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

Department of Forestry uses the abbreviation 'DOF' to refer to the agency responsible for managing forest resources. Forest resources refer to forests, wildlife, forestland, and forest products, including timber and non-timber forest products. These include protection forests, conservation forests, and production forests and wildlife conservation.

These guidelines primarily apply to domestic captive-bred terrestrial wildlife species listed under CITES, ensuring consistent procedures for verifying legal acquisition prior to export. While similar processes may be adapted for other species or sources, including flora, they are not covered here due to differing documentation and procedural requirements"

CITES MA (CITES Management Authority) refers to the unit under the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment appointed by the Minister of Agriculture and Environment to implement the CITES;

Preface

Wildlife management and protection remain central priorities of the Department of Forestry (DOF), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE), Lao PDR. These priorities are guided by the Forestry Strategy 2035, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and Lao PDR's international obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), to which the country has been a Party since 2004.

In line with CITES Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Permits and Certificates, CITES Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on Specimens of Animal Species Bred in Captivity, CITES Resolution Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on Trade in Elephant Specimens, and CITES Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Legal Acquisition Findings, the systematic registration and monitoring of domesticated live elephants is a mandatory national obligation. Paragraph 14 of Resolution Conf. 10.10 further recommends that all elephant range States have in place legislative, regulatory, enforcement, or other measures to prevent illegal trade in live elephants. Resolution Conf. 18.7 requires that Legal Acquisition Findings be made before the issuance of CITES export permits, thereby ensuring that specimens are not only bred or acquired legally but also traded in full compliance with national and international law. Together, these Resolutions require that all specimens of captive-bred animals are:

- Uniquely marked and identifiable through microchips or equivalent permanent identification methods;
- Clearly linked to valid documentation, ensuring that ownership, acquisition, and transfer are legally established;
- Assigned appropriate CITES source codes (e.g., C, F, or D) to certify the origin of specimens and to maintain international consistency;
- Subject to transparent record-keeping and reporting to prevent illegal trade and ensure traceability throughout the specimen's lifetime.

Currently, Lao PDR is home to approximately 258 domesticated elephants (Department of Livestock and Fisheries, 2025), with the majority (about 220) located in Xayabouly Province. These elephants are central to national cultural heritage, ecotourism, and traditional livelihoods, but also require strict oversight to safeguard animal welfare and prevent misuse in trade.

The CITES Management Authority (MA) of Lao PDR, in close coordination with the Scientific Authority (SA) and relevant stakeholders, has undertaken a series of actions to strengthen oversight and ensure compliance, including:

- Conducting systematic audits of domesticated elephant facilities and ownership records;
- Operationalizing the certification process for captive-bred elephants in accordance with Res. Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19);
- Ensuring consistent application of CITES source codes within the national registration system, in line with Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19);
- Requiring microchipping and biometric data recording for all registered elephants, to establish unique and tamper-proof identification;

- Developing and integrating the National Elephant Information Management System with the CITES electronic permit and certificate database;
- Providing targeted training for district, provincial, and national officials on registration, monitoring, and issuance of CITES-compliant permits and certificates.

The rollout of this dual-platform information management system is scheduled to be completed by November 2025. Once operational, it will modernize compliance infrastructure, enhance transparency, strengthen data security, and enable inter-agency collaboration, while providing a scalable foundation for future regulatory needs. Importantly, the MA will retain full administrative control over data and user permissions, ensuring the highest standards of accuracy, accountability, and integrity.

The *Guidelines on Registration for Domesticated Live Elephants in Lao PDR* provide a systematic and transparent framework for the identification, registration, and monitoring of domesticated elephants. They are designed to ensure full compliance with CITES permit and certification requirements, improve traceability of captive elephants, and safeguard both animal welfare and Lao PDR's international standing under CITES.

This document was developed through a national technical consultation workshop on *CITES Implementation and Registration Systems for Domesticated Elephants in Lao PDR*, held in September 2025, and was refined through follow-up consultations with elephant owners, veterinary experts, conservation NGOs, and provincial forestry authorities. Their technical input has ensured that the Guidelines are scientifically sound, operationally practical, and internationally aligned *five*

Vientiane Capital, Date **22 SEP 2025**

Director General of the Department of Forestry



Assoc.Prof.Dr. Somvang PHIMMAVONG

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Department of Forestry (DOF), as the CITES Management Authority for Lao PDR, gratefully acknowledges the support of the CITES Secretariat through the CITES Project for enabling the development of the *Guidelines on Registration for Domesticated Live Elephants in Lao PDR*. By adopting and applying these Guidelines, we aim to strengthen national systems for the monitoring, verification, and management of domesticated live elephants, ensuring transparency, accountability, and compliance with Lao conservation priorities and international CITES obligations.

We extend our sincere appreciation to all partners who contributed to the preparation of these Guidelines, in particular Prof. Dr. Sithong Thongmanivong, Dr. Thananh Khotpathoom, and Associate Prof. Dr. Viengsamone Thammavong from the Lao CITES Scientific Authority, colleagues of the Department of Livestock and Fisheries, Mr. Petr Nečas, and Mr. Khamkhoun Kounbolin (Elephant Specialists). Their leadership, technical expertise, and continued collaboration have been instrumental in shaping a practical and scientifically sound approach to the registration of domesticated elephants.

The Lao PDR Management Authority also expresses its special thanks to **Ms. Sofie H. Flensburg, Chief of the Legal Unit at the CITES Secretariat, and the Secretariat team**, for their invaluable contribution and constructive feedback in the development of this Guideline.

On this occasion, the Department of Forestry reaffirms its commitment to the effective implementation of these Guidelines, recognizing their critical role in protecting biodiversity, maintaining credible records of domesticated elephant populations, and ensuring responsible management practices in accordance with both national legislation and global standards.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Table of Contents.....	6
Abbreviations.....	7
1. introduction.....	8
2. Objectives of the guidelines.....	9
3. Species and Distribution of Asian Elephants.....	10
4. Legal Status.....	10
5. Estimation of Domesticated Live Elephants in Lao PDR.....	10
6. Why Register Domesticated Live Elephants?.....	11
6.1. Legal Framework	11
6.2 Mandate of the CITES Management Authority	12
7. Pre-Census and Registration of Domesticated Live Elephants.....	13
8. Registration Process of Domesticated Live Elephants	13
8.1 Application Procedure.....	13
8.2 Application Requirements.....	14
8.3 Permit Issuance Process	15
8.4 Equipping Microchips on Domesticated Live Elephants.....	15
8.5 Data Management of Domesticated Live Elephants	16
9. Verification of Captive-Bred Status (Source Code C).....	18
9.1 Controlled Breeding Environment	18
9.2 Parentage and Lineage Verification	19
9.3 Legality of Breeding Stock	19
9.4 Generational Requirements	19
9.5 Microchipping and Identification.....	19
9.6 Facility Inspections and Monitoring	19
9.7 SOP Flow for Verification of Captive-Bred Elephants (Source Code C).....	19
References.....	24

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviation	Full Term
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
CITES MA	Lao PDR CITES Management Authority
CITES SA	Lao PDR CITES Scientific Authority
CoP	Conference of the Parties
DOF	Department of Forestry
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
LAF	Legal Acquisition Finding
MAE	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
NDF	Non-Detriment Finding
Res.	Resolution
Lao PDR	Lao People Democratic Republic

1. INTRODUCTION

Asian Elephants are classified as prohibited species defined in the Wildlife Law of Lao PDR, it has a high value and are nearly extinct animals in Laos. It is also defined in the Prime Minister's Decree No. 08/PM, dated February 25, 2021, on the adoption of the categories list of prohibited wildlife or List I and the management categories List II. The elephants are in Appendix I of the *Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora* to which the Lao PDR became a member on May 30, 2004.

Lao PDR has a National Elephant Action Plan from 2022 to 2032, which the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment has been approved in 2022 and National Ivory Action Plan both are strengthen the elephant conservation in Lao PDR.

The Asian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is listed as *Endangered* on the IUCN Red List, with wild populations estimated to number between 30,000 and 50,000 individuals¹². In the Lao PDR, current estimates suggest there are 300–400 wild elephants, with potential increases projected in Nakai–Nam Theun National Park and Nam Et–Phou Louey National Park, owing to improved forest protection and management. With sustained conservation measures, the national wild elephant population could potentially rise to 400–500 individuals in next ten years.

Domesticated elephants, however, face parallel and severe declines. Concentrated primarily in Xayyabouly Province, they are threatened by an aging population of mahouts, limited reproduction, habitat loss, and reduced utility in modern livelihoods.

Elephants occupy a central place in Lao PDR's natural heritage, history, and culture. Known historically as the “Lane Xang” or “Land of a Million Elephants,” Laos has long depended on elephants for ceremonial practices, transport, logging, and, more recently, ecotourism and cultural identity. Elephant imagery continues to permeate Lao traditions, folklore, and architecture.

Ethnic communities—particularly in Xayyabouly, Luang Prabang, and Attapeu provinces—maintain deep-rooted traditions of elephant domestication. Within these communities, skills in taming, training, and managing elephants were traditionally passed down through generations. However, since the mid-1990s, the capture of wild elephants has been prohibited due to conservation and ethical concerns. Today, only a small number of older mahouts retain these specialized skills, and the tradition is rapidly disappearing.

The management and conservation of domesticated elephants present serious challenges. The availability of natural fodder and suitable habitats is shrinking due to deforestation, land-use change, and infrastructure development. This has forced many elephant owners to rely on costly supplemental feeding or to relocate elephants to farmland within forested areas. The financial burden of elephant care is increasingly unsustainable, with many mahouts reporting that they cannot afford maintenance costs in the absence of reliable income sources.

Simultaneously, the tourism sector exerts growing demand, prompting the relocation and transfer of elephants to areas such as Luang Prabang, Vang Vieng, and Vientiane Capital. These dynamic underscores the tension between conservation, livelihood needs, and market forces.

¹ <https://www.asesg.org/PDFfiles/The%20Asian%20Elephants%20new.pdf>

² <https://www.fws.gov/species/asian-elephant-elephas-maximus>

To address these concerns and strengthen the governance system for elephant management, the CITES Management Authority (MA) of the Lao PDR, in close collaboration with the Scientific Authority (SA), the Livestock and Fisheries Department under the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment has recently undertaken several key actions:

- Reviewed the results of recent audits of elephant facilities;
- Presented and operationalized the certification process for captive-bred elephants;
- Strengthened coordination among national, provincial, and facility-level authorities;
- Discussed the application of CITES source codes within the Lao PDR;
- Introduced and promoted the integration of the National Elephant Information Management System with the CITES permit database;
- Trained staff at district, provincial, and central levels responsible for the management of captive elephants.

The full integration of the dual-platform system is scheduled to be rolled out to all stakeholders by November 2025. This strategic, phased approach modernizes compliance infrastructure, enhances data security and inter-agency collaboration, and provides a scalable foundation for future needs. The MA retains full administrative control over all data and user permissions, ensuring accuracy, integrity, and transparency.

Lao PDR has also initiated the drafting of national guidelines for the registration of domesticated elephants. These guidelines are designed to:

- Strengthen monitoring and census systems;
- Improve tracking of elephant movement and ownership;
- Enhance compliance with CITES obligations;
- Support implementation of the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) and National Elephant Action Plan (NEAP);
- Advance national priorities on biodiversity conservation, animal welfare, and sustainable livelihoods.

The Department of Forestry, acting as the CITES Management Authority, is leading implementation in collaboration with provincial and district authorities. These efforts represent an essential step towards ensuring that elephant management in Lao PDR is consistent with both international commitments and national conservation priorities.

2. OBJECTIVES OF THE GUIDELINES

The *Registration Guidelines for Domesticated Live Elephants in Lao PDR* aim to:

- Establish a standardized system for documenting all domesticated elephants nationwide;
- Ensure unique identification of each individual through ISO-compliant microchips, biometric data, and official Elephant Identity Certificates;

- Strengthen monitoring of elephant ownership, transfers, and movements, consistent with CITES Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19);
- Certify captive-bred elephants in accordance with CITES Res. Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19);
- Support implementation of the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) and related national conservation strategies;
- Prevent illegal capture, trade, and laundering of wild elephants into captive populations.

3. SPECIES AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASIAN ELEPHANTS

- **Phylum:** Chordata
- **Class:** Mammalia
- **Order:** Proboscidea
- **Family:** Elephantidae
- **Genus:** *Elephas*
- **Species:** *Elephas maximus*

The Asian elephant occurs across South and Southeast Asia and is classified under Appendix I of CITES, meaning international commercial trade is prohibited except under exceptional, non-commercial circumstances and only with valid CITES permits.

4. LEGAL STATUS

The Asian elephant is a protected species under the Wildlife Law (2023) and covered by the Decree on CITES Implementation (No. 299/GOV, 2024). As such:

- Capture of wild elephants is strictly prohibited;
- All domesticated elephants must have legally verifiable origins;
- Registration with the CITES Management Authority is mandatory for possession, breeding, transfer, or use of elephants;
- International movement is permitted only in exceptional cases (e.g., conservation breeding, education, or scientific research) and must be authorized by the CITES Management Authority through a CITES document issued in accordance with Convention, Law on Wild Animals (2023) and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19).

5. ESTIMATION OF DOMESTICATED LIVE ELEPHANTS IN LAO PDR

As of the most recent assessments, Lao PDR is estimated to have 258 domesticated elephants, with the majority located in Xayabouly Province, and smaller numbers in Luang Prabang, Attapeu, Vientiane Capital, and other provinces. Historically, some elephants were imported or transferred from neighbouring countries prior to the implementation of stricter wildlife laws in the past.

Domesticated elephant numbers have declined due to aging populations, limited breeding, and high costs of care. Several elephants have been moved to tourism centres or sanctuaries such as the Elephant Conservation Centre in Xayyabouly, or used in cultural events and educational settings. Official and verifiable registration is for a national census and registration system is done by the Department of Forestry and Department of Livestock and Fisheries, MAE.

Table 1: Statistics of domestic elephants in Laos (30 January, 2025)

No.	Province	Gender			Total
		Female	Male		
			Tusked	Un Tusked	
1	Phongsaly	1	0	0	1
2	Borkeo	0	2	0	2
3	Luang Prabang	18	9	2	29
4	Xayabouly	140	46	34	220
5	Salavanh	2	0	0	2
6	Champasak	2	2	0	4
Total		163	59	36	258

6. WHY REGISTER DOMESTICATED LIVE ELEPHANTS?

Registration of domesticated elephants is both a legal requirement and a conservation management tool. It ensures:

- Compliance with Wildlife Law (2023) and Decree 299/GOV (2024);
- Application of CITES source codes and issuance of valid certificates under Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19);
- Verification of legal acquisition and prevention of laundering wild-caught elephants into captive populations;
- Traceability of ownership, transfers, and use, consistent with Res. Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) and Res. Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Legal acquisition findings;
- Integration with veterinary care, welfare monitoring, and livelihood support for mahouts and local communities.

6.1. Legal Framework

A. Law on Wild Animals (Amended), No. 42/NA, dated 17 July 2023, Article 15 – Registration and Declaration of Lists of Wild Animals:

- List I species (including carcasses, parts, and products) kept in zoos, farms, rehabilitation or breeding centres, and other authorized facilities must be registered and declared to the District Agriculture and Environment Office (DAEO).
- List II species kept for commercial purposes in authorized facilities must also be registered and declared with DAFO.

- All individuals, legal entities, or organizations must submit annual declarations on the lists, number, species, and any increase or decrease in wild animals under their possession.
- For species listed in the CITES Appendices, including elephants, registration and declaration must also be made with the CITES Management Authority (MA) in accordance with relevant regulations.
- List III species are exempt from mandatory registration, though declaration may still be required.
- Procedures and conditions for registration will be further defined in a separate implementing regulation.

B. Decree on CITES Implementation, No. 299/GOV, dated 05 June 2024, Article 8 – Registration and Declaration of Lists in Possession:

- Any individuals, legal entities, or organizations that possess, breed, or artificially propagate aquatic and wild animals or wild plants (including carcasses, parts, and products) listed in the CITES Appendices for purposes of international trade must register and declare their possession with the CITES MA.
- The CITES MA is mandated to:
 - Maintain a database on possession and trade of specimens;
 - Conduct site inspections;
 - Verify the legal acquisition of listed species and related products;
 - Manage information on applicants to ensure compliance with law.
- Required documentation for registration includes:
 - A completed application form provided by the CITES MA of the Lao PDR;
 - A detailed list of specimens under the applicant’s possession, including aquatic animals, wild animals, wild plants, carcasses, parts, and products.
- Article 9 – Consideration of Registration and Declaration:
 - Upon receipt of the application, the CITES MA shall examine and consider the registration request.
 - A Registration and Possession Certificate will be issued within 30 days if the application is approved.
 - If the request is denied, the applicant shall be notified in writing, with reasons provided.

6.2 Mandate of the CITES Management Authority

Under Article 17 of the Decree on CITES Implementation, the Department of Forestry, acting as the CITES Management Authority of Lao PDR, is responsible for registering and monitoring domesticated elephants for the following purposes:

1. Education and scientific research;
2. Conservation breeding programs;
3. Compliance with international agreements, particularly CITES.

Importance of Registration

Registration of domesticated elephants contributes to:

- Preventing illegal capture and trade, thereby strengthening enforcement and compliance;
- Improving welfare, traceability, and accountability of ownership, ensuring proper monitoring of individual elephants;
- Supporting veterinary care, habitat planning, and livelihood strategies for mahouts and local communities;
- Aligning national implementation with the National Ivory Action Plan (NIAP) and CITES Resolutions (e.g., Conf. 10.10 on trade in elephant specimens and Conf. 18.7 on legal acquisition findings).

7. PRE-CENSUS AND REGISTRATION OF DOMESTICATED LIVE ELEPHANTS

The pre-census is a critical step in managing data on domesticated live elephants in Lao PDR, particularly to monitor movements, prevent illegal trade, and avoid capturing wild elephants for domestication.

The census and registration process provides a systematic approach to document key information such as the number, origin, ownership history, and current location of each domesticated elephant. This ensures clear and consistent records for management, conservation planning, and legal compliance under the National Elephant Conservation Action Plan and CITES Decisions³ 18.226 (Rev. CoP19), 19.107 & 19.108 Trade in Asian elephants (*Elephas maximus*).

8. REGISTRATION PROCESS OF DOMESTICATED LIVE ELEPHANTS

8.1 Application Procedure

The process for registering domesticated live elephants in Lao PDR consists of the following five steps:

Step 1: Application

Applicants (individuals or legal entities) submit an application form and required documents (Annex 02 for individuals, Annex 03 for legal entities) to the competent authorities (Provincial Office for Agriculture and Environment).

³ See <https://cites.org/eng/dec/index.php/44364>

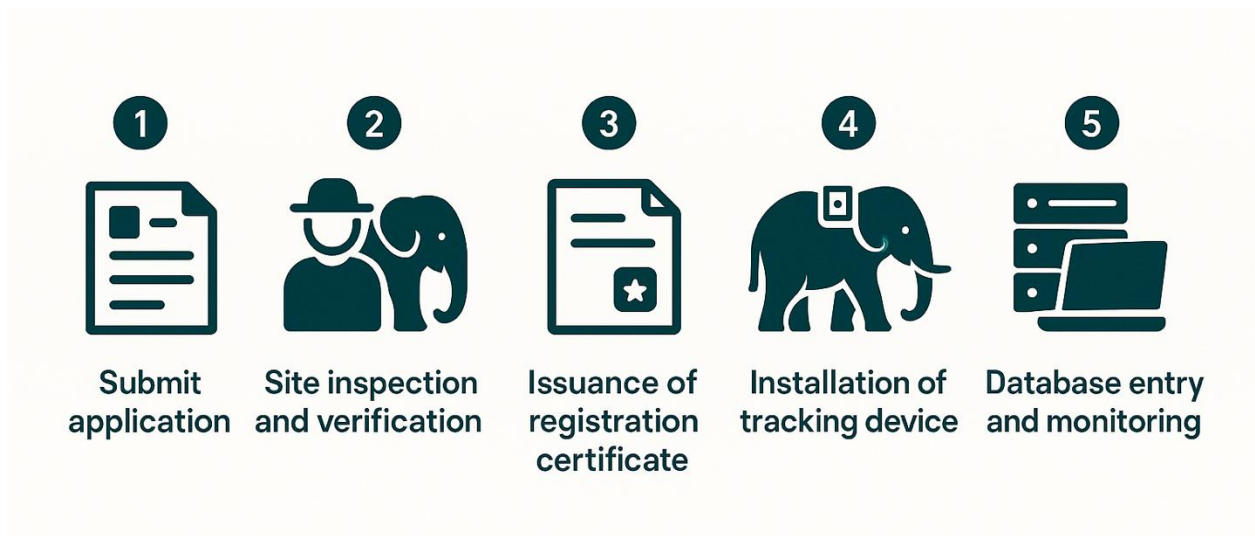


Figure 1: process for registering domesticated live elephants in Lao PDR

Step 2: Verification and Evaluation

A joint inspection is conducted by the competent authorities: Department of Forestry (DoF), Department of Livestock and Fisheries, and local authorities to verify ownership, welfare conditions, and compliance with legal requirements.

Step 3: Issuance of Registration Certificate

The DoF issues a Permit for Household Domesticated Live Elephant (Annex 01), providing legal recognition of ownership and authorization for lawful care, subject to compliance with national legislation.

Step 4: Microchipping / Tracking

Installation of an ISO-compliant microchip in line with CITES Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19), Res. Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19), and Res. Conf. 8.13 on the use of Use of coded-microchip implants for marking live animals in trade⁴. If a microchip is already installed, the existing record must be submitted.

Step 5: Database Entry and Monitoring

All registered elephants are entered into the DoF's central database, linked with the national CITES permit database. Periodic monitoring is conducted to ensure compliance with Forestry and Wildlife laws.

8.2 Application Requirements

To register for the care and keeping of domesticated live elephants, individuals or legal entities must submit the following documents to the Department of Forestry or the nearest Provincial/District Agriculture and Environment Office:

- Copy of Lao National ID Card or Passport

⁴ <https://cites.org/sites/default/files/documents/COP/19/resolution/E-Res-08-13-R17.pdf>

- Document proving legal ownership of the elephant
- Photographs of the elephant (full body and head)
- Letter of consent for microchip/tracking device installation
- Any additional supporting documents as requested by authorities

Application forms for individuals and legal entities are available from the Department of Forestry (Annex 02-03), Division of Wildlife management, or can be downloaded from the official DOF website.

8.3 Permit Issuance Process

Upon submission of the application for the care and management of domesticated live elephants, the Department of Forestry (DoF), in coordination with the Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF) and the relevant Provincial and District Offices for Agriculture and Environment, shall conduct a site inspection, verification, and evaluation.

The inspection shall include:

- Review of all supporting documents provided by the applicant;
- On-site assessment of the elephant(s), their condition, housing facilities, and welfare standards;
- Verification of ownership and provenance.

A Field Verification Team—comprising representatives of the DoF, DLF, local authorities, and community stakeholders—will prepare a verification report. This report is submitted to the Director General of the DoF for final review and decision on whether to issue the permit (Annex 01).

Where there are grounds to suspect illegal acquisition, undocumented origin, or fraudulent claims, the DoF may deny the permit and initiate further investigation in coordination with enforcement agencies.

Domesticated elephants that were already resident in recognized elephant conservation centre or government-approved facilities established prior to 2005 are exempt from applying for a new care permit but are still required to be formally registered and monitored.

All registered elephants used in tourism, cultural ceremonies, reward-based activities, or commercial operations must, without exception, be equipped with an electronic tracking device to ensure traceability and monitoring.

8.4 Equipping Microchips on Domesticated Live Elephants

Following the issuance of a legal Permit for Household Domesticated Live Elephant (Annex 01), the DoF, in coordination with the DLF, shall assign trained and authorized personnel to equip each registered elephant with an ISO-compliant microchip or an equivalent permanent identifier. This requirement is in line with the provisions of CITES Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on Permits and Certificates and Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) on Specimens of Animal Species Bred in Captivity, and Res. Conf. 8.13.

a) General Rules:

- **Mandatory Requirement:** All domesticated elephants must be microchipped, particularly those involved in public services, tourism, cultural activities, conservation breeding, or when transferred between provinces or owners.
- **Traceability and Provenance:** The microchip provides a permanent unique identifier to ensure lawful ownership, traceability, and compliance with CITES documentation requirements.
- **Exceptional Cases:** Where implantation is not feasible due to veterinary or welfare concerns (certified in writing by a licensed veterinarian), the Management Authority may authorize alternative identification methods (e.g., tamper-proof ear tags, freeze branding, or biometric identifiers). Such exceptions require **written justification** and official approval by the DoF.

b) Timing and Procedure:

- Microchipping should normally be completed during the registration process.
- With the owner's consent and in coordination with the DoF, implantation may be scheduled before or immediately after final registration.
- Facilities or conservation centers may also employ supplementary monitoring systems (e.g., GPS collars, biometric databases) with the prior technical approval of the DoF.

c) Data Management:

- All microchip identifiers and supplementary device data must be recorded in the Centralized Elephant Database managed by the DoF.
- This database is fully linked with the National Elephant Information Management System (NEIMS) and the CITES e-permit system, ensuring consistency, transparency, and international compliance.
- Updates on movement, health status, transfer, or mortality of each elephant must be submitted regularly and verified by the DoF.

8.5 Data Management of Domesticated Live Elephants

The Department of Forestry (DoF), acting as the CITES Management Authority of the Lao PDR, is mandated to establish, operate, and maintain a centralized national database of all domesticated live elephants in the country, in accordance with Annex 04 (Elephant Identity Certificate Record).

This database shall be regularly updated and integrate information collected through the national census, registration, microchipping, issuance of Elephant Identity Certificates, and follow-up inspections, ensuring comprehensive monitoring and traceability of every registered elephant.

a) Core Data Fields

The database will include, at a minimum, the following standardized information for each individual elephant:

- **Identification Data:** species, sex, estimated age class, distinctive markings, biometric identifiers, and photographic/diagrammatic records;
- **Microchip and Permanent Marking Data:** ISO-compliant microchip number, date of implantation, implantation location, and alternative marking method (if applicable);
- **Parentage Data:** records of known parentage, including sire and dam where available. If only the mother is known because the specimen was not conceived under controlled conditions, this must be clearly indicated, as such specimens would be assigned **source code F** under CITES rather than source code C;
- **Ownership and Legal History:** records of the current legal owner/holder, previous ownership, transfers, and institutional holdings;
- **Movement Records:** documentation of all transfers, loans, sales, or relocations, including associated CITES permit numbers;
- **Health and Veterinary Data:** results of routine health examinations, veterinary assessments, disease status, and mortality records;
- **Location and Purpose of Use:** designation of use (tourism, cultural/religious, breeding, research, conservation, or educational purposes), and current place of residence.

b) Integration and Linkages

All data will be compiled and maintained in the DoF Information Management System, which is fully integrated with:

- The National Elephant Information Management System (NEIMS); and
- The CITES e-permit database maintained by the DoF as the Lao PDR CITES Management Authority.

This integration enables:

- Effective Tracking of elephant ownership, transfers, and population dynamics;
- Strengthened Enforcement of legal measures under the Wildlife and Aquatic Law (No. 92/NA, 2023), the Forestry Law (No. 08/NA, 2019), and the Prime Minister’s Decree on CITES Implementation (No. 299/PM, 2024);
- Compliance with CITES Obligations, consistent with Resolutions Conf. 10.10 (Rev. CoP19) on the trade in elephants, Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) on permits and certificates, Conf. 18.7 and Decision 18.226 on the conservation of Asian elephants, and Decision 19.107 on compliance mechanisms.

c) Reporting and International Accountability

The DoF shall use the centralized database to:

- Generate national reports for submission to the Government of Lao PDR and relevant stakeholders;
- Support policy development and decision-making regarding elephant management and conservation;
- Provide timely and verifiable compliance reports to the CITES Secretariat and relevant international bodies.

By maintaining standardized, verifiable Elephant Identity Certificates (Annex 04) for every domesticated elephant, the Lao PDR ensures that all registered elephants are effectively monitored, legally managed, and internationally recognized, thus safeguarding the species in line with both national legislation and international CITES commitments.

9. VERIFICATION OF CAPTIVE-BRED STATUS (SOURCE CODE C)

In accordance with the Wildlife and Aquatic Law (No. 42/NA, 2023), the Forestry Law (No. 08/NA, 2019), the Decree on CITES Implementation (No. 299/GOV, 2024), and CITES Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19), the following provisions apply to domesticated elephants declared for international trade under CITES Source Code C. These provisions are further aligned with the *Guide to the Application of CITES Source Codes* (2nd Edition, 2024)⁵.

For Source Code C to apply to a specimen presented for international trade, the following conditions must be met:

- **Parentage Data:** Both parents are known and demonstrably part of a controlled breeding environment. Parentage records must be supported by documentation (studbooks, microchip data, veterinary certificates, or other recognized records). If only the mother is known and the specimen was not conceived under controlled conditions, Source Code F must be applied instead of C.
- **Controlled Environment:** The breeding occurred in a controlled environment as defined under Resolution Conf. 10.16, ensuring that husbandry, reproduction, and care were under the direct supervision of the competent authorities.
- **Legal Acquisition:** Founding stock must have been legally acquired in accordance with the provisions of Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Legal Acquisition Findings.
- **Traceability:** Each specimen must be uniquely identified (microchip, biometric data, photographic records) and linked to transparent ownership and registration records.
- **Verification and Certification:** The competent authorities, including the CITES Management and Scientific Authorities, must verify all documentation and issue certification confirming Source Code C status prior to any international trade.

Note: It is also possible to authorize international trade in a specimen that does not meet the above criteria; however, such a specimen must be coded as Source Code F.

9.1 Controlled Breeding Environment

Captive breeding must take place in a controlled environment, defined as one that is deliberately managed to ensure successful reproduction, where boundaries prevent uncontrolled movement of animals and where conditions are characterized by appropriate housing, reliable food supply, regular veterinary care, waste management, and protection from external threats. The primary purpose of such a controlled environment is to guarantee the integrity of lineage records, particularly the accurate identification of both the male and female parentage of each offspring. The Department of Forestry (DoF), as the CITES Management Authority (MA), shall verify and certify the adequacy of facilities before any registration of offspring or authorization of international trade.

⁵ https://cites.org/sites/default/files/eng/prog/captive_breeding/Guide_Application_CITES-Source_codes_Updated2024_PC27.pdf

9.2 Parentage and Lineage Verification

Each elephant must have verifiable parentage records, confirming that both parents reproduced in a controlled environment (Guide, pp. 13–14, Questions 13–17). Required documentation includes Elephant Identity Certificates, ISO-compliant microchip records, and photographic/biometric profiles. Where parentage cannot be substantiated, the specimen does not qualify for Source Code C and may instead be assigned Source Code F (Guide, p. 14).

9.3 Legality of Breeding Stock

Breeding stock must be **legally acquired**, established in full compliance with national legislation and CITES provisions, and maintained without detrimental effects on wild populations (*Guide to the Application of CITES Source Codes*, p. 10). In accordance with **Resolution Conf. 18.7 (Rev. CoP19) on Legal Acquisition Findings (LAFs)**, “legally acquired” means that the specimens forming the founder stock must have been obtained in compliance with the relevant national laws regulating wildlife harvest, possession, and trade, as well as with applicable CITES provisions.

Occasional introduction of wild specimens into breeding stock is permissible only under the following circumstances:

- a) to prevent inbreeding, where necessary to maintain genetic diversity;
- b) to accommodate confiscated animals, in line with **Resolution Conf. 17.8** on the Disposal of Confiscated Specimens of CITES-listed Species; or
- c) under exceptional circumstances approved in writing by the Management Authority, with the advice of the Scientific Authority.

9.4 Generational Requirements

To meet the definition of 'bred in captivity,' facilities must demonstrate F2 or subsequent generations (F3, F4, etc.) in captivity, or prove capacity to reliably produce F2 offspring (Guide, pp. 14–15, Questions 17–18). Facilities limited to F1 production must provide Scientific Authority (SA) certification of their management system’s capacity to achieve F2.

9.5 Microchipping and Identification

All elephants must be permanently marked with ISO-compliant microchips or another approved identifier, in accordance with Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19). Identification and lineage data must be entered into the National Elephant Information Management System (NEIMS), linked to the CITES e-permit platform, to ensure traceability (Guide, p. 4, Source Code definitions).

9.6 Facility Inspections and Monitoring

The MA and SA shall conduct routine inspections, as recommended in the Guide’s Section 5.0, which specifies checks on facility licensing, parental stock, production feasibility, and inspection history (Guide, p. 9). Inspection reports must be stored in the national database and shared with the CITES Secretariat upon request.

9.7 SOP Flow for Verification of Captive-Bred Elephants (Source Code C)

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) establishes the process for verifying captive-bred status of domesticated elephants in Lao PDR under Source Code C. It integrates the national

Guidelines on Registration for Domesticated Live Elephants in Lao PDR (2025) and the Guide to the Application of CITES Source Codes (2nd Edition, 2024), with explicit references to relevant sections and page numbers.

Step 1 – Submission of Application

Responsible Actor: Owner/Facility

Action: Submit completed application form (Annex 05), including:

- Elephant Identity Certificate (Annex 04)
- Proof of legal ownership
- Microchip implantation record or veterinary confirmation
- Parentage and lineage documentation (photographic/biometric evidence)
- Receiving Authority: Provincial/District Agriculture and Environment Office (PAEO/DAEO).
(Guide, Annex pp. 12–13, Questionnaire Q1–Q6)

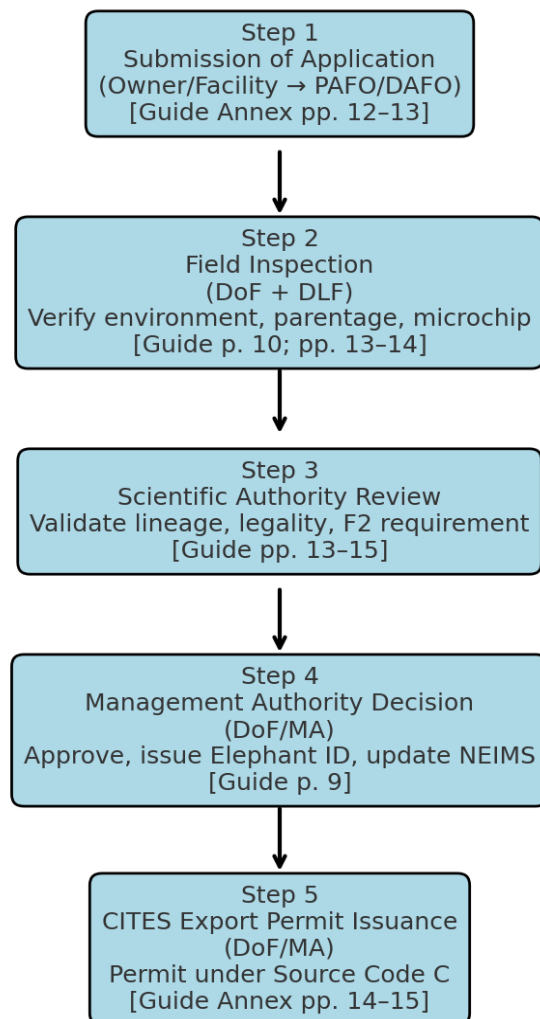


Figure 2: Flow for Verification of Captive-Bred Elephants (Source Code C) in Lao PDR

Step 1 – Submission of Application

Responsible Actor: Owner/Facility

Guide Reference: Annex, pp. 12–13 (Questions Q1–Q6)

- Application dossier (Annex 05):
 - Elephant Identity Certificate (Annex 04);
 - Proof of legal ownership and acquisition records;
 - ISO-compliant microchip record (or veterinary confirmation of implantation);
 - Parentage and lineage records (photographs, biometric data, studbook entries);
 - Any documents establishing legal origin of breeding stock.
 - Key Consideration: Applicants must show that elephants were produced in a *controlled environment* (p. 10, definition), with records sufficient to allow verification of parental status and legal origin.
-

Step 2 – Field Inspection

Responsible Actors: Department of Forestry (DoF) & Department of Livestock and Fisheries (DLF)

Guide References: p. 4 (Source Code table); p. 9 (paras. 4–7); p. 10 (definition of controlled environment); pp. 13–14 (Q13–Q17)

- **Inspectors verify:**
 - Controlled environment as defined (p. 10): boundaries to prevent entry/exit, provision of food, water, veterinary care, waste removal, predator protection.
 - Microchip verification: cross-check microchip ID with NEIMS and Elephant Identity Certificate (p. 4, Code C definition).
 - Parentage verification: ensure that both parents reproduced in captivity, checking breeding logs, veterinary records, or biometric proof (pp. 13–14, Q13–Q17).
 - Facility licensing and compliance with national law and CITES obligations (p. 9).
 - **Output:** Formal Inspection Report uploaded to NEIMS.
-

Step 3 – Scientific Authority (SA) Review

Responsible Actor: Scientific Authority (SA)

Guide References: p. 10 (legal acquisition of breeding stock); pp. 13–15 (Questions Q13–Q18); Annex pp. 14–15 (decision-tree for Source C)

- Parentage/Lineage Review: Confirms both parents bred in captivity. If parentage cannot be confirmed, classification defaults to Source F (p. 14).
 - Legality of breeding stock: Must demonstrate legal acquisition, in compliance with national law and without detriment to wild populations (p. 10).
 - Occasional wild introduction (p. 10, ii.b.1–3): permitted only to prevent inbreeding, accommodate confiscations under Res. Conf. 17.8, or under exceptional approval by MA with SA advice.
 - Generational Requirement: SA must confirm F2 (or beyond) production, or certify that facility is demonstrably capable of producing F2 offspring reliably (pp. 14–15, Q17–Q18).
 - Output: SA Certification Report (positive or negative).
-

Step 4 – Management Authority (MA) Decision

Responsible Actor: Department of Forestry (DoF), acting as CITES Management Authority
Guide References: p. 9 (licensing and inspection criteria); Annex pp. 14–15 (approval decision-tree)

- Reviews SA certification and Inspection Report.
 - Issues or denies Elephant Identity Certificate (Annex 04).
 - Updates National Elephant Information Management System (NEIMS), linked to the CITES e-permit system, ensuring traceability.
 - If doubts exist about feasibility or compliance, MA consults with importing country’s SA (Res. Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18)).
 - Output: NEIMS record updated; Source Code C classification approved/denied.
-

Step 5 – CITES Export Permit Issuance

Responsible Actor: CITES Management Authority (DoF)
Guide References: p. 9 (reporting obligations); Annex pp. 14–15 (flowchart for Code C)

- Issues CITES Export Permit in accordance with Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19).
- Permit must reference:
 - Source Code C;
 - Elephant Identity Certificate number;
 - NEIMS record;
 - Parentage verification status.
- Output: Legally valid CITES Export Permit under Source Code C.

Oversight and Monitoring (Cross-cutting)

Guide References: p. 9 (paras. 4–7: reporting obligations); p. 10 (definition of controlled environment); pp. 13–15 (verification questions); Annex (decision-tree logic).

- Inspections: MA and SA conduct routine audits of breeding operations. Inspection frequency and findings are recorded in NEIMS.
- Reporting: Annual submissions to the CITES Secretariat must include:
 - Licensing details;
 - Numbers of breeding adults and offspring by generation;
 - Parentage verification records;
 - Production levels assessed against biological feasibility.
- Traceability: NEIMS must serve as the centralized system, ensuring integration with the e-permit system and lifetime traceability of each elephant.

REFERENCES

1. Forestry Law (Amended 2019), Lao PDR.
2. Wildlife and Aquatic Law (Revised 2023), Lao PDR.
3. Decree No. 299/PM (2024) on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
4. Land Law (2019), Lao PDR.
5. Ministerial Instruction No. 0960/MAF (2022) on the Management and Monitoring of Wildlife Breeding and Captive Facilities.
6. Decision No. 3776/MAF (2016) on the Establishment of CITES Scientific and Management Authorities in Lao PDR.
7. Ministerial Instruction No. 1822/MAF (2024) on the Registration and Reporting of Wildlife Stocks.
8. Prime Minister's Order No. 05/PM (2018) on Strengthening Wildlife and Timber Trade Enforcement in Lao PDR.
9. Department of Forestry (DoF). (2014). *National Ivory Action Plan of Lao PDR*. Vientiane: Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.
10. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). (1973). *Text of the Convention*, signed in Washington, D.C., on 3 March 1973.
11. CITES Secretariat. (2019). *Decision 18.226 (Rev. CoP19) and Decisions 19.107-108: Trade in elephant specimens*⁶. Geneva: CITES Secretariat.
12. Williams, C., Tiwari, S. K., Goswami, V. R., de Silva, S., Kumar, A., Baskaran, N., Yoganand, K., & Menon, V. (2020). *Elephas maximus*. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020: e.T7140A45818198.
<https://dx.doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2020-3.RLTS.T7140A45818198.en>
13. Resolution Conf. 17.7 (Rev. CoP18) ; Res. Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19); Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19); Res. Conf. 12.10 (Rev. CoP15)
14. Resolution Conf. 17.9 – Hunting trophies.
15. Resolution Conf. 18.6 – Designation and Role of Management Authorities.
16. Resolution Conf. 18.7 – Legal acquisition findings.
17. AC32 Com. 4 – Compliance: CAPTIVE-BRED AND RANCHED SPECIMENS, pp. 8–9.
18. Convention Text – Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES).
19. Forest Trends and Centre for International Environmental Law (CIEL) (2021). *A Handbook on Legal Acquisition Findings*.

⁶ <https://cites.org/eng/dec/index.php/44364>

Annexs:

Annex 01: Permit for Household Domesticated Live Elephant

***Issued by the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment
Lao People's Democratic Republic***

Legal References:

- Pursuant to the Law on Wild Animals (Amended), No. 92/NA, dated 17 July, and its current implementing regulations;
- Pursuant to the Prime Minister's Decree No. 299/PM, dated 05 June 2024, on the Implementation of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES);
- Pursuant to the Forestry Law (Amended) No. 08/NA, dated 13 June 2019;
- Pursuant to the Decision of the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry, on the Registration and Management of Domesticated Elephants;
- Based on a request submitted for the registration and monitoring of domesticated live elephants in accordance with the current applicable laws and regulations of the Lao PDR.

I hereby certify that:

Mr./Ms.: ***Sex:*** ***ID Card No.:***

is authorized to care for and raise domesticated elephant(s) of the species:

Species: *Elephas maximus (Asian elephant)*

Location of care:

Village: ***Sub-district:*** ***District:*** ***Province:***

.....

This permit is issued for the purpose of elephant care related to conservation, education, scientific research, or sustainable tourism, as applicable.

The rearing permit is valid from [dd/mm/yyyy] to [dd/mm/yyyy]. The permit holder is required to report every six (6) months on the condition and status of the registered elephant(s) to the Department of Forestry and to comply with all provisions of the Forestry and Wildlife Laws.

Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR

Date:

Director General

Department of Forestry

Ministry of Agriculture and Environment

(Back Side)

Elephant Identity Certificate record

Certificate ID:

Issue Date:

1. INSTITUTION & OWNERSHIP

- **Issuing Facility:** [Name, CITES Reg. No.]
- **Current Owner/Holder:** [Name/Institution, Address]

2. ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION

- **Species:** [] **Sex:** [] Male [] Female
- **Name/Alias (if any):** _____
- **Origin:** [] Wild-born [] Captive-born [] Unknown **Date of Birth (Est.):** [DD/MM/YYYY]

3. PERMANENT MARKING (CITES MANDATORY)

- **Microchip No. (ISO):** _____
- **Implant Location:** [e.g., Left Nuchal Ligament]; **Implant Date:** [DD/MM/YYYY]
- **Alternative Mark (if no chip):** [e.g., Freeze Brand: LFLank_12]

4. PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION (Key Identifiers)

- **Tusk Status:** [Description]; **Distinctive Marks:** [e.g., R Ear: Large notch on top edge; Trunk: Linear scar]
- **Photo Reference ID:** [Link/Photo ID Number] (*Photos must be maintained on file*)

5. TRANSFER & MOVEMENT (Update upon any event)

Date	Event Type (Sale, Loan, Death)	Transferred To/From	CITES Permit No.	Auth. Signature

6. DECLARATION

I certify that the information provided is accurate and that this animal is permanently marked as described above.

Head of Wildlife Management and CITES, Department of Forestry

Signature: _____ Date: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Director of Department of Forestry

Signature: _____ Date: [DD/MM/YYYY]
Stamp/Seal:

Note: This list is officially attached to the back of the permit.

Annex 02: Application Form for Individuals

Name:

Sex: Age:

Address:

Village:

Sub-District: District: Province:

To: Head of the Provincial Office for Agriculture and Environment

Subject: Request for the registration and care of domesticated live elephants at household level.

Section A: Applicant Information

Attachments:

- Copy of Lao National ID Card or Passport (01 copy)
 - Photographs of the domesticated elephant (02 copies each):
 - Left-Side Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Right-Side Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Front-Facing Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Rear-Facing Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Diagram of Markings: [Attach a labelled diagram of the elephant's ears and body, highlighting all unique features]
 - Copy of microchip/tracking device installation if already installed (01 copy)
 - Certificate of ownership from the village/commune authority (01 copy)
-

Section B: Elephant Identification

- **Name of the Elephant:**
 - **Gender:** Male Female
 - **Microchip No. (if already installed):**
 - **Implant Date:**
 - **Implant Location:**
 - **Place of Birth:**
 - **Estimated Date of Birth / Age Class:** [DD/MM/YYYY] or [e.g., Calf, Juvenile, Adult]
 - **Origin:** Wild-born Captive-born Unknown
 - **Tusk Status:**
-

Section C: Provenance & Legal History

• **1. Parentage (If Captive-bred)**

Name (Father):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Name (Mother):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

• **2. Grandparentage (If Captive-Born, where records exist)**

Paternal Grandfather (Name's Father):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Paternal Grandmother (Name's Mother):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Maternal Grandfather (Name's Father):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Maternal Grandmother (Name's Mother):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Section D: Declaration

I hereby request approval to register and care for a total of ____ domesticated elephant(s), located at the above-mentioned address.

I confirm that all attached documents are accurate, and I agree to comply with relevant laws and technical standards regarding elephant care and monitoring.

Date:

Signature / Thumbprint:

Section E: Endorsements

Endorsed by:

Head of the Village/Sub-District:
(Signature, Name & Stamp)

Certified by:

Head of the District Office for Agriculture and Environment:
(Signature, Name & Official Stamp)

Annex 03: Application Form for Legal Entities

Name of Legal Entity:
Representative: Position:
Address:
Village: Sub-district:
District: Province/City:

To: Head of the Provincial Office for Agriculture and Environment

Subject: Request for the registration and care of domesticated live elephants at Legal Entity level.

Section A: Applicant Information

Attachments:

- Copy of Lao National ID Card or Passport (01 copy)
 - Photographs of the domesticated elephant (02 copies each):
 - Left-Side Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Right-Side Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Front-Facing Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Rear-Facing Photograph (Date: []) [Attached Image]
 - Diagram of Markings: [Attach a labelled diagram of the elephant's ears and body, highlighting all unique features]
 - Copy of microchip/tracking device installation if already installed (01 copy)
 - Certificate of ownership from the village/commune authority (01 copy)
-

Section B: Elephant Identification

- **Name of the Elephant:**
 - **Gender:** Male Female
 - **Microchip No. (if already installed):**
 - **Implant Date:**
 - **Implant Location:**
 - **Place of Birth:**
 - **Estimated Date of Birth / Age Class:** [DD/MM/YYYY] or [e.g., Calf, Juvenile, Adult]
 - **Origin:** Wild-born Captive-born Unknown
 - **Tusk Status:**
-

Section C: Provenance & Legal History

• 1. Parentage (If Captive-Born)

Name (Father):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Name (Mother):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

• 2. Grandparentage (If Captive-Born, where records exist)

Paternal Grandfather (Name’s Father):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Paternal Grandmother (Name’s Mother):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Maternal Grandfather (Name’s Father):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Maternal Grandmother (Name’s Mother):

- Microchip No.:
- Name/ID & Institution/Village:

Section D: Declaration

I hereby request approval to register and care for a total of ____ domesticated elephant(s), located at the above-mentioned address.

I confirm that all attached documents are accurate, and I agree to comply with relevant laws and technical standards regarding elephant care and monitoring.

Date:

Signature / Thumbprint:

Section E: Endorsements

Endorsed by:

Head of the Village/Sub-District:

(Signature, Name & Stamp)

Certified by:

Head of the District Office for Agriculture and Environment:

(Signature, Name & Official Stamp)

Annex 04: Elephant Identity Certificate Record

(In accordance with CITES Res. Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19) and Res. Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19))
Disclaimer: *This document is a critical internal record and may form the basis for official CITES documentation. It must be kept up-to-date and made available for inspection by the relevant national CITES Management and Scientific Authorities.*

Section A: Certificate & Institution Details

Certificate Reference No.: [e.g., CountryCode-INST-YEAR-001]

Date of Issue: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Issuing Institution (CITES Registered Name):

CITES Registration No.:

Institution's Full Address:

This Certificate Pertains to: Live Animal Part Derivative (*Strike out as appropriate*)

Section B: Elephant Identification & Biometrics

1. Species & Sex

Scientific Name: *Loxodonta africana* / *Elephas maximus* / *Loxodonta cyclotis*

Common Name: African Bush Elephant / Asian Elephant / African Forest Elephant

Sex: Male Female

2. Physical Identifiers

Estimated Date of Birth / Age Class: [DD/MM/YYYY] or [e.g., Calf, Juvenile, Adult]

Origin: Wild-born Captive-bred Unknown

Distinctive Markings (Scars, Notches, Tears, etc.): *[Detailed description with location on body (e.g., Left ear, large V-shaped notch on posterior edge; Trunk, linear scar on dorsal side)]*

Tusk Status (if applicable): *[Description, including length, shape, presence of implants/microchips in tusks]*

3. Microchip / Marking Data (Mandatory)

Microchip No:.....	Implant
Implant Date:	[DD/MM/YYYY]
Implant Location:	<i>[e.g., Left nuchal ligament]</i>
Alternative Marking (If no microchip):	<i>[e.g., Freeze brand number/location, tattoo]</i>

4. Photographic & Diagrammatic Record

Left-Side (Date: []):	Photograph	<i>[Attach/Link to high-quality image]</i>
Right-Side (Date: []):	Photograph	<i>[Attach/Link to high-quality image]</i>
Front-Facing (Date: []):	Photograph	<i>[Attach/Link to high-quality image]</i>
Rear-Facing (Date: []):	Photograph	<i>[Attach/Link to high-quality image]</i>
Diagram of Markings:	<i>[Attach a labelled diagram of the elephant's ears and body, highlighting all unique features]</i>	

Section C: Provenance & Legal History

1. Parentage (If Captive-Bred)

Name (Father): _____

- Microchip No.: _____
- Name/ID & Institution: _____

Name (Mother): _____

- Microchip No.: _____
- Name/ID & Institution: _____

2. Grandparentage (If Captive-Born, where records exist)

Paternal Grandfather (Name's Father):

- Microchip No.: _____
- Name/ID & Institution: _____

Paternal Grandmother (Name's Mother):

- Microchip No.: _____
- Name/ID & Institution: _____

Maternal Grandfather (Name's Father):

- Microchip No.: _____

1. Parentage (If Captive-Bred)

- Name/ID & Institution: _____
- Maternal Grandmother (Name's Mother):
- Microchip No.: _____
 - Name/ID & Institution: _____

2. Acquisition History

Date of Acquisition/Import: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Source Institution/Country: _____

CITES Export Permit No.: _____

CITES Import Permit No.: _____

Previous Owner/Institution: _____

Section D: Transaction & Movement Record (To be updated for any transfer)

Date of Transfer/Event	Type of Event (Sale, Loan, Death)	To/From (Institution & CITES Reg. No.)	Associated CITES Permit Numbers	Authorizing MA Signature/Stamp

Section E: Health & Mortality Record

1. Health Status at Time of Certificate Issue

General Health Assessment: Excellent Good Fair Poor

Veterinarian's Name & License No.: _____

Date of Last Examination: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Veterinarian's Signature: _____

2. Mortality Record (To be completed upon death)

Date of Death: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Cause of Death (if known):

Disposition of Carcass/Parts: *[e.g., Necropsy, burial, parts retained for educational purposes with CITES Appendix II pre-Convention certificate]*

Post-Mortem Microchip Verification: Verified Not Recovered

Attending Veterinarian:

Section F: Declaration & Authorizations

I hereby declare that the information provided in this Elephant Identity Certificate Record is true and correct to the best of my knowledge. This animal has been permanently marked and its details recorded in accordance with CITES requirements.

Provincial Office for Agriculture and Environment:

Name: _____

Title: _____

Signature: _____

Date: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Stamp/Seal:

Department of Forestry (Lao PDR MA Authority):

Director General: _____

Name: _____

Signature: _____ Date: [DD/MM/YYYY]

Official Stamp:

Official Stamp:

Annex 05: Captive-Bred Verification Form (Source Code C)

(In accordance with CITES Resolution Conf. 10.16 (Rev. CoP19) and Resolution Conf. 12.3 (Rev. CoP19))

Section A: Applicant & Facility Information

- Name of Applicant / Institution: ...
- Address: ...
- Village / District / Province: ...
- Facility Registration No. (if applicable): ...
- Contact Person & Position: ...
- Telephone / Email: ...

Section B: Elephant Identification

- Elephant Name / Alias: ...
- Species: *Elephas maximus*
- Sex: Male Female
- Date of Birth (Est.): ...
- Microchip No. (ISO): ...
- Implant Date & Location: ...
- Photographic Reference ID(s): ...

Section C: Parentage Records

- Father (Name / ID / Microchip): ...
- Mother (Name / ID / Microchip): ...
- Yes – Mating occurred within a registered facility
- Yes – Artificial insemination / gamete transfer within a facility
- No – Records incomplete (may not qualify for Source C)

Section D: Grandparentage (If Available)

- Paternal & Maternal records (Name/Microchip/Location)

Section E: Generational Status

- Generation: F1 / F2 / F3 / F4+
- Evidence: Offspring of F2+ Facility plan verified by SA
- Supporting Documents attached

Section F: Facility Conditions

- Controlled Environment Verified: Yes No
- Veterinary Care Available: Yes No
- Supplementary Feeding System: Yes No
- Boundaries prevent wild exchange: Yes No
- Date of Last DoF/SA Inspection: ...

Section G: Declaration & Endorsements

Applicant Signature: ...

Inspection Team Verification,

Head of Division of Wildlife Management and CITES:

DoF Director General Approval: