

Distribution and Protection of China- Laos Cross-border Asian Elephants

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1. Overview of China-Laos Joint Protection Area

- The investigation range starts from the Shangyong Zone of Xishuangbanna National Nature Reserve and the Laos NamHa NPA National Nature Reserve, and extends towards the north with the width of 5km on each side along the national boundary. Within China, Mengman, Shangyong, Mohan and Mengban towns all the way towards the source of the Jinchang River in the Menglazi Protections Area are included. Within Laos, from south to north, the whole belt area is 220km long and of 200,000 ha., across NamHa, Oudomxay, Phongsaly provinces bordered Xishuangbanna along the national boundary, as shown in Pic 2, hereinafter referred to as China-Laos Cross-Border Joint Protection Area
- The altitude is from 600m to 700m. The climate type is tropical, with an average temperature of 15.1 to 21.7°C. There are dry and wet seasons. The dry season is from November to April the next year, and wet season May to October. Annual precipitation amount is 1300-1600mm. Major vegetation includes tropical rainforests, evergreen broadleaf forests, mixed coniferous forests, mixed broadleaf and bamboo forests, and meadow. Abundant vegetation means rich biodiversity. There is a huge number of large-sized ungulates typical in the Greater Mekong, such as Asian elephants, gaurs, red deer, wild boars, etc. There are also large predator felines like Indochinese tigers and clouded leopards. This area is one of the most biodiversified areas throughout the world, and is of great protection value and significance.

中国—老挝跨境联合保护区域情况示意图



2.Number and distribution of Asian elephants

1Number and Distribution of Asian Elephants in Xishuangbanna

Distribution		Number	Active Area
Mengyang Protection Area		70-90	Mengyang Protection Area and areas around
Mengwang		40—43	Mengwang
Mengla Area	Protection	33-38	Mengla, Yaoqu, Mengban
Shangyong Area	Protection	70-90	Shangyong, Mengman, Mengbang
Menghai		15-16	Menge, Mengwang
Total		228-279	

Number and distribution of Asian elephants in Shangyong and Mengla Protection Areas

- 70-90 elephants in Shangyong. 11-13 population groups with 2-30 elephants in each. 1-2 alone elephants.
- 33-38 elephants in Menglazi. 2 population groups and 1 alone elephant in Yaoxiang, and in total 22 elephants. 1 population group(10-15 elephants) and 1 alone elephant in Mandan and Nanlang, and in total 11-16 elephants.

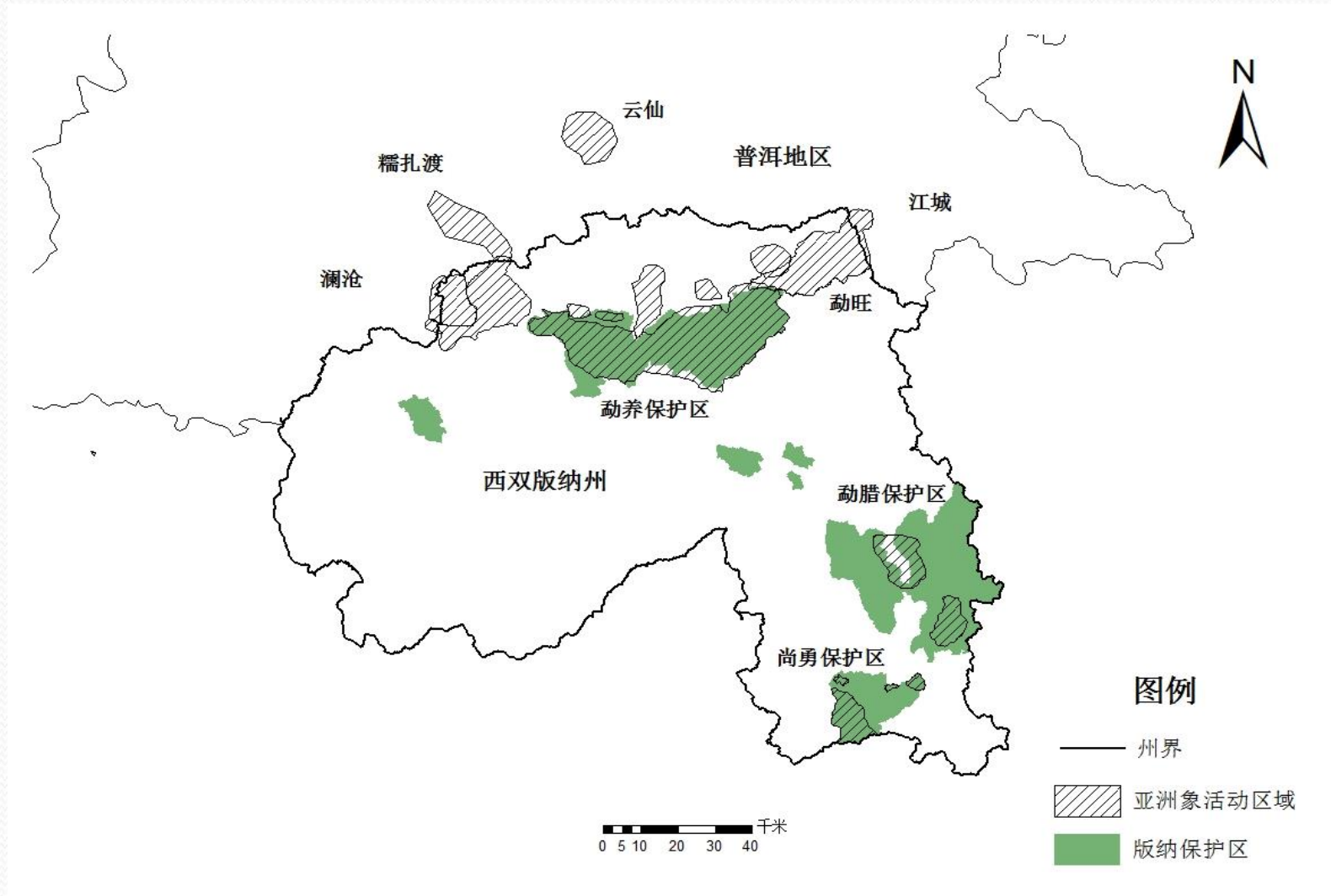
Number and distribution of Asian elephants in Laos

- 5 groups in the joint protection area with 25-33 elephants, in which
- 2 groups in NamHa with 13-15 elephants, accounting for 45% of the totality in the border area.
- Oudomxay has one group with 5-7 elephant, taking up 21% of the totality.
- Phongsaly has two groups with 7-10 elephants, taking up to 34% of the totality.
- So we can see that the majority lie in NamHa(45%). Phongsaly is ranked the second(34%) and Oudomxay the third(21%).

3. Migration Route of Asian Elephants

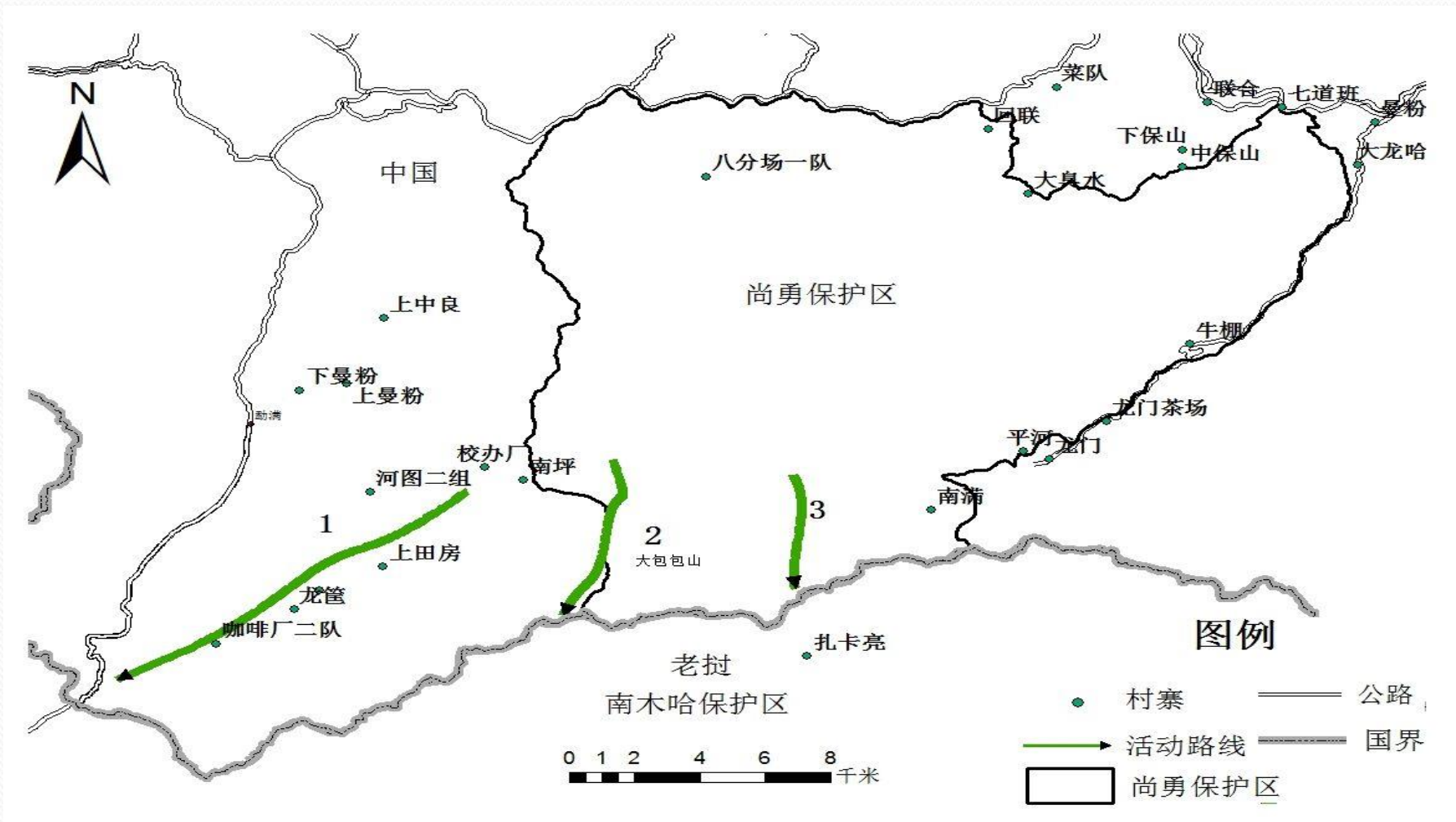
- Mengyang groups and Shangyong groups have been there since long ago. Mengla groups migrated from Shangyong in 2003. Menghai groups migrated from Mengyang in 2007. Currently there are 228-279 Asian elephants in Xishuangbanna. The active area of these elephants are not continuous and related.
- The migration route from Shangyong to NamHa is from Mengman to Panyalong. There are 32 Asian elephants active from March to May every year.
- In terms of Oudomxay, 8 Asian elephants migrate from the 33rd Boundary Monument to Nam Nguen to Baka.

Distribution Map of Asian Elephants in Xishuangbanna

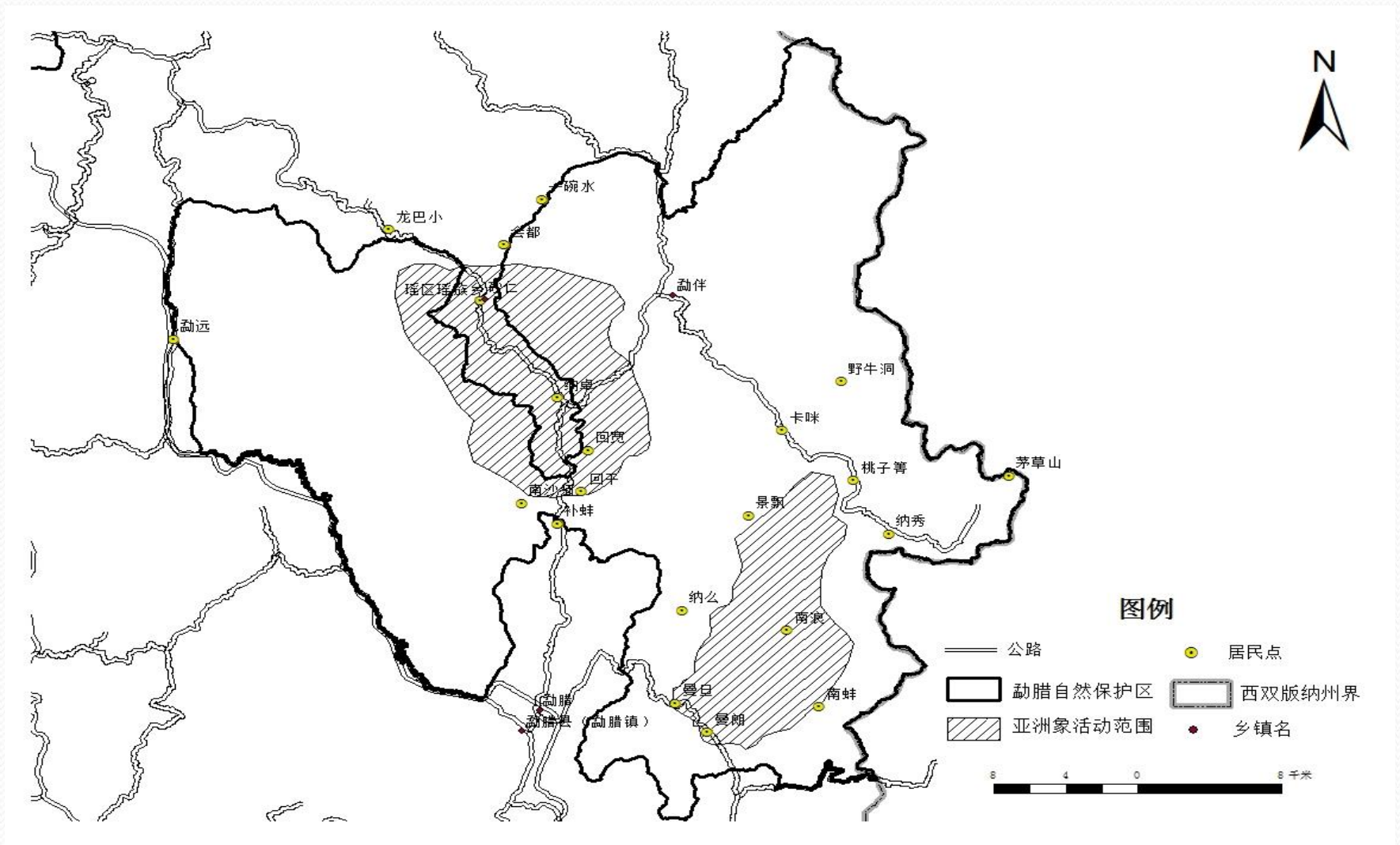




Active Area of Asian Elephants in Shangyong Protection Area



Cross-Border Routes of Asian Elephants in Shangyong Protection Area

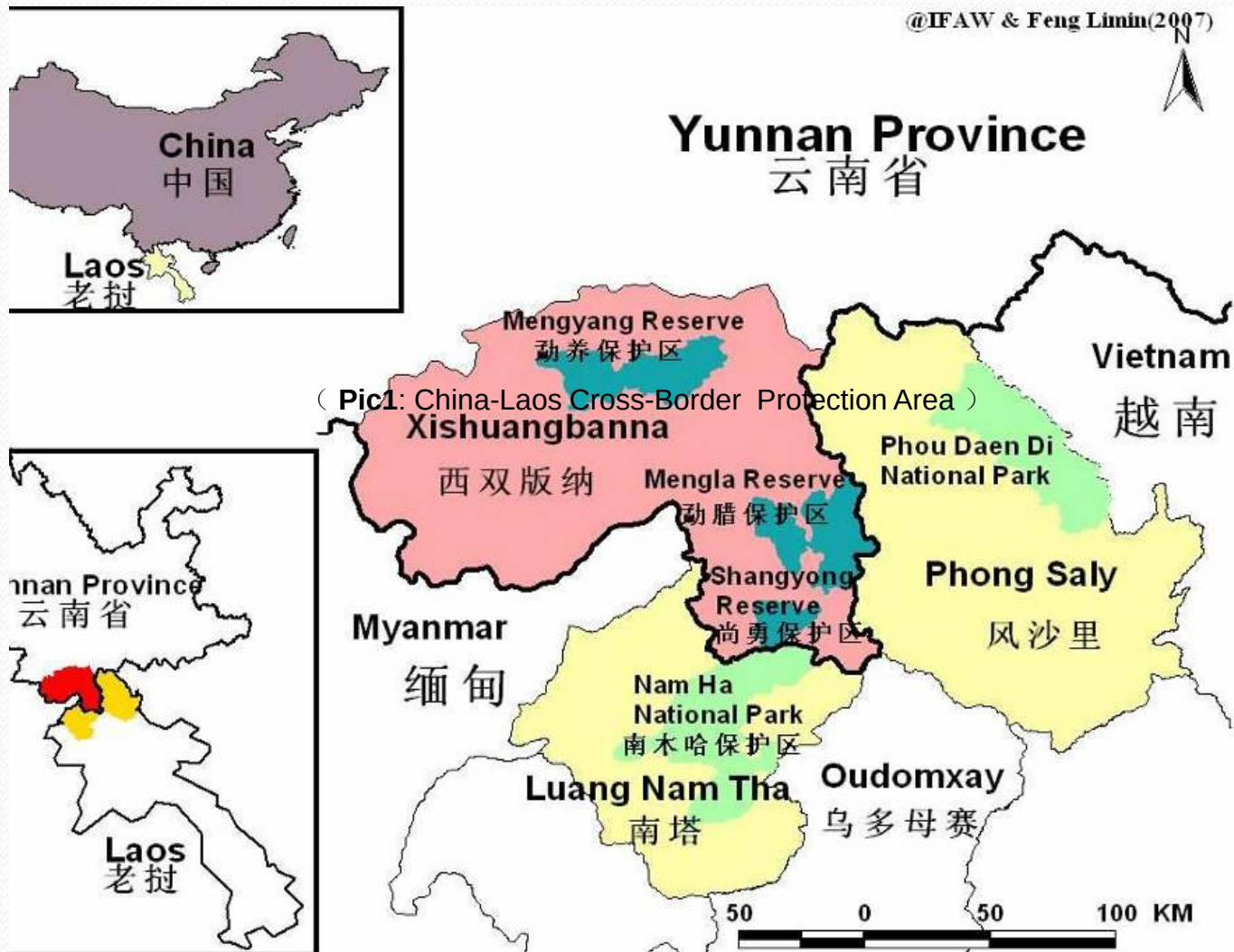


Active Area of Asian Elephants in
Mengla Protection Area

4. Protection measures and suggestions

- In total there are three recommendations regarding planning the protection of Asian elephants in the cross-border area between China and Laos:
- **First, take into account spacial distribution**
- **Second, enhance bilateral protection management**
- Third, take into account long-term cooperation
- Details as follow:

Pic1: China-Laos Cross-Border Protection Area

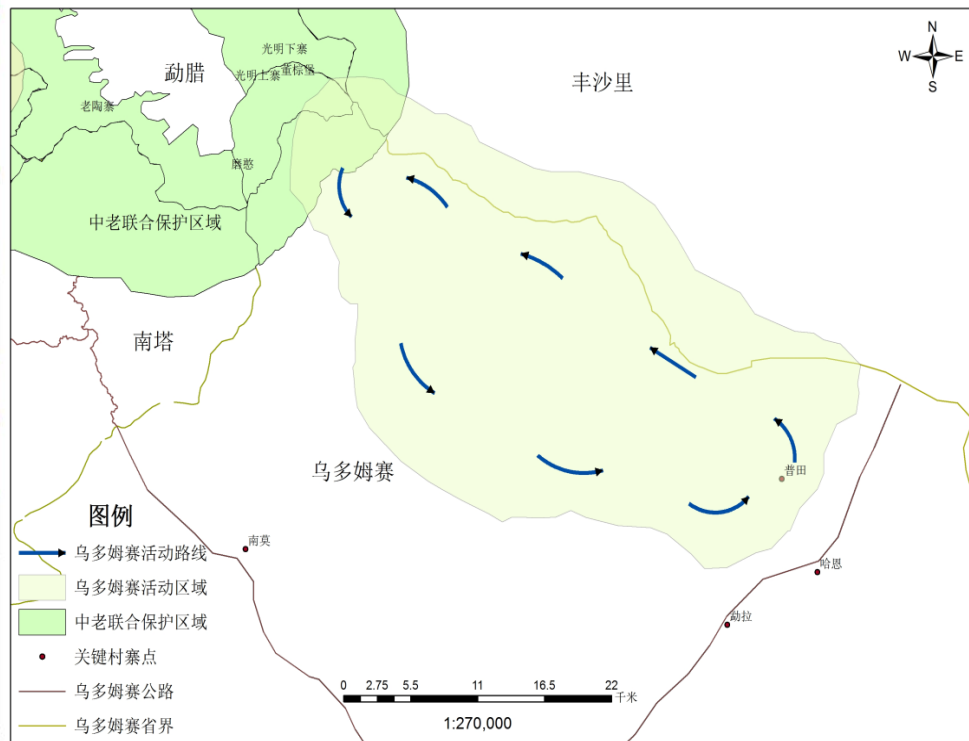


1. take into account spacial distribution

- According to latest investigation, migration of Asian elephants takes place in NamHa, Panyalong and Oudomxay provinces bordered with Xishuangbanna, and yet the active areas of Asian elephants in these provinces are isolated from each other. It is therefore recommended that, first set up three protection areas, namely Area A: China-Laos Shangyong-NamHa Cross-border Joint Protection Area(53917 ha.);
- Area B: China-Laos Na Mor Asian Elephants Cross-border Joint Protection Area(93188 ha.);
- Area C: China-Laos Mengla-Panyalong Asian Elephants Cross-border Joint Protection Area(22072 ha.)
- Overall area of distribution: 170000ha.

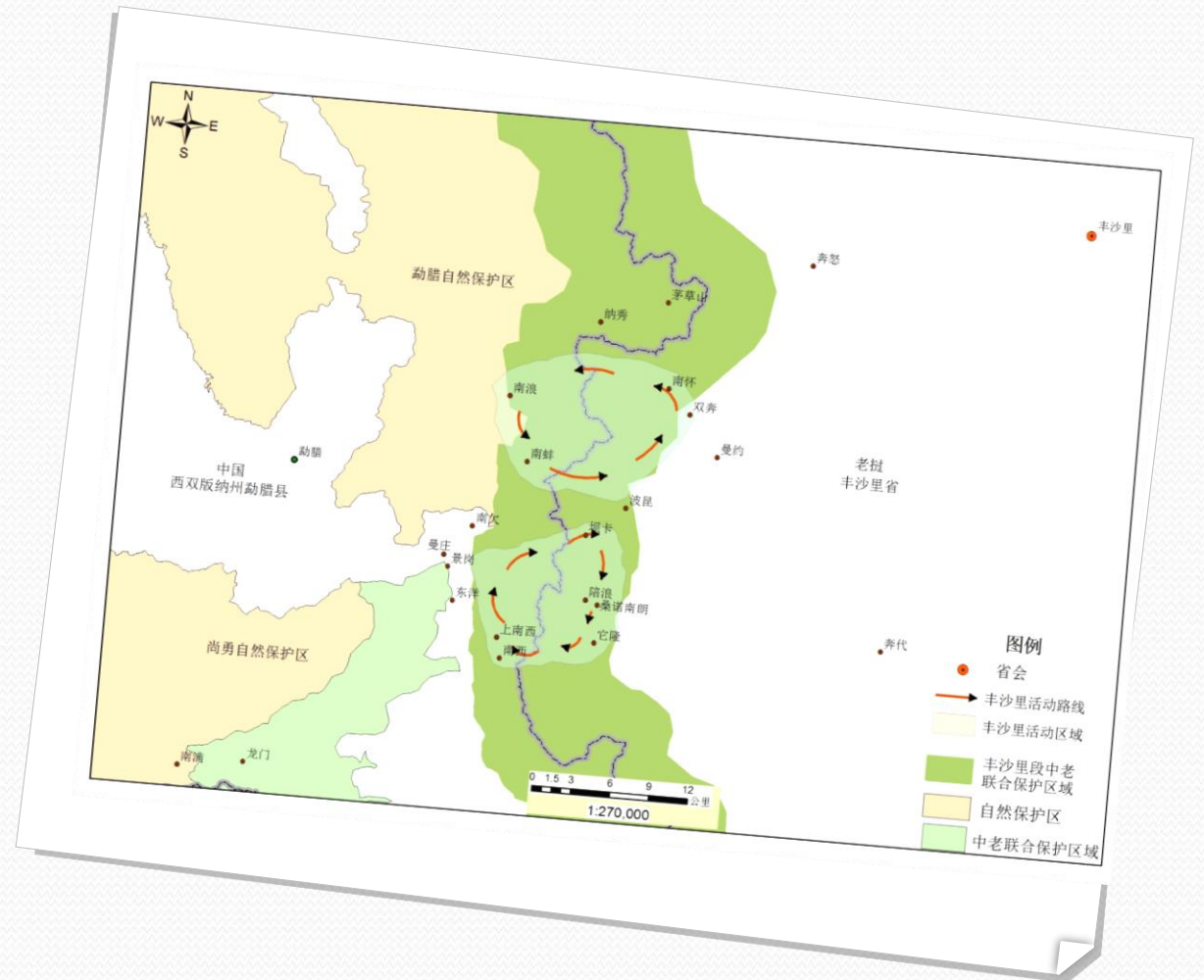


- Area A: China-Laos Shangyong-NamHa Cross-border Joint Protection Area



- Area B: China-Laos Na Mor Asian Elephants Cross-border Joint Protection Area

Area C: China-Laos
Mengla-Panyalong
Asian Elephants
Cross-border Joint
Protection Area



2.3 Some Thoughts on

Protection Management

- **2.1 Reach consensus of joint protection initiative centered on Asian elephants in the cross-border area**
- **2.2 Enhance management capability building of both countries**
- **2.3 Comprehensively carry out systematic research and monitoring of Asian elephants in the cross-border area**
- **2.4 Advertise the initiative to enhance public awareness**
- **2.5 Do research on human-elephant conflicts in the cross-border area and solutions**

3. Long-term strategic cooperation between China and Laos

- 3.1 Attract domestic and international assistance. Establish China-Laos Boundary Residents Public Responsibility Insurance to compensate residents' financial losses and provide livelihood guarantee. This can enhance public awareness and gather public support.
- 3.2 Establish a long-term communication mechanism between the two countries. The protection of cross-border species in such a huge area is an arduous and long-term project. Only by establish an effective long-term communication mechanism can we ensure the consistency of protection work. It is recommended that a guide of strategic cooperation and even more long-term protection action plan are established via negotiations of high officials of both sides

Thank you!

