Wild Foods and Aquatic Species







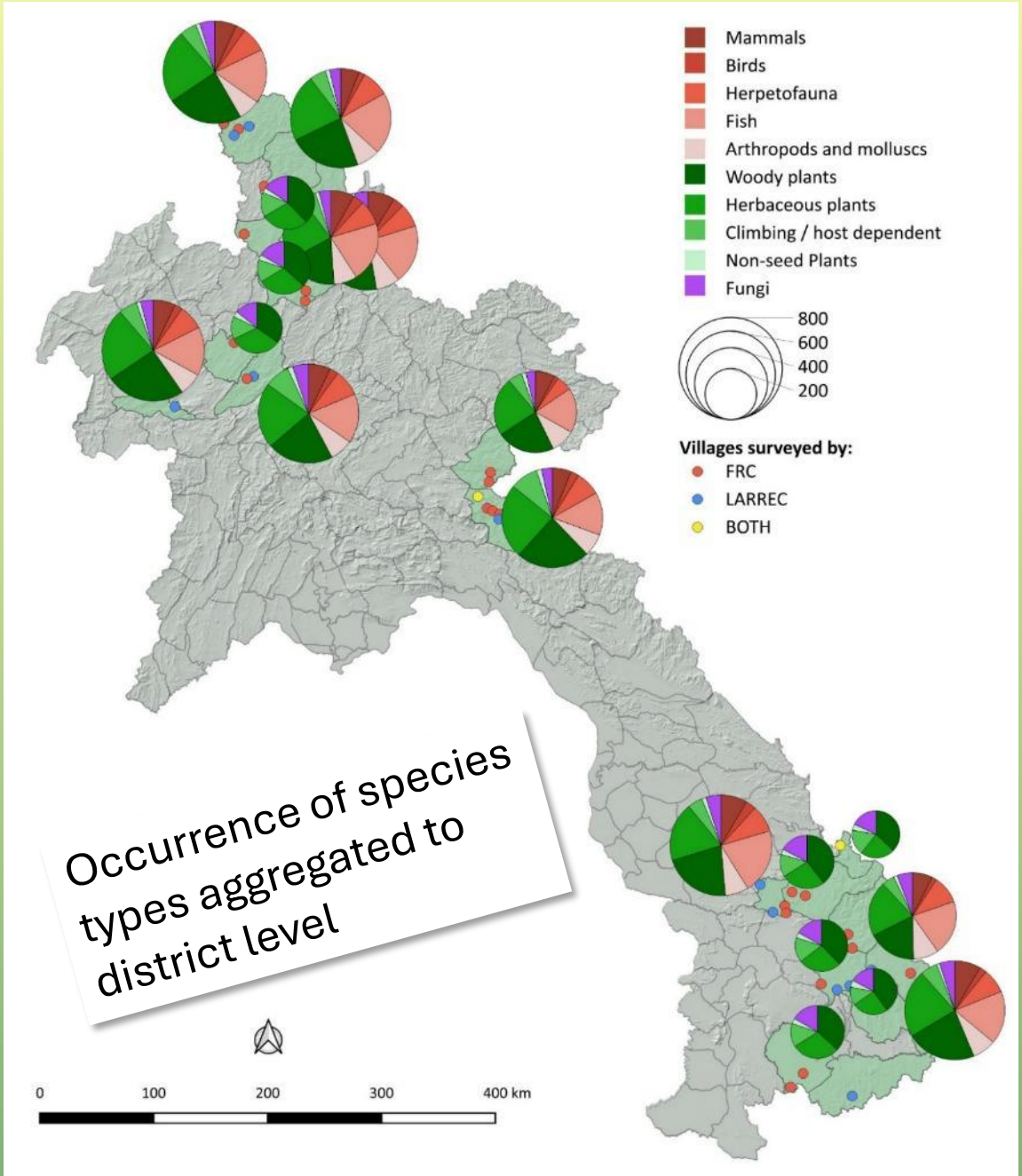




Explore the insights from surveys conducted in 2024 and 2025 in 48 villages in 6 provinces of Lao PDR

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Surveys were done in Phongsaly, Oudomxay, Xiengkhouang, Salavane, Sekong, and Attapeu Provinces



These species were rated as being very important food sources in at least 10 out of 48 villages

Mushrooms


White Log Mushroom


Termite Mushroom


Tiger Lentinus


Round Cap Termite M.

Bamboo


Albociliata Bamboo


Bitter Bamboo


Bengal Bamboo


Mai Hia

Other plants


Galanga


Fiddlehead Fern


Turkey Berry


Indian Trumpet Tree

Aquatic Species


Nile Tilapia


Eurasian Carp

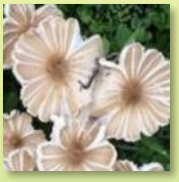

Gerlach's Barb


Taylor's Creek Frog

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These species were rated as being very important income sources in at least 5 out of 48 villages

Mushrooms


Termite Mushroom


Tiger Lentinus


Bloody Brittlegill

Spices and Condiment


Galanga


Guangtong Cardamom


Eye Buffalo Cardamom


Malva Nut

Bamboo and Rattan


Albociliata Bamboo


Bitter Bamboo


Wai Mon

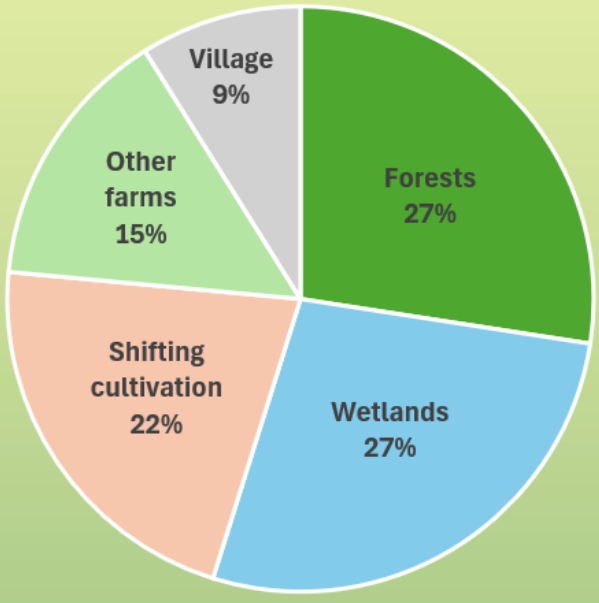
Ferns and Grasses


Fiddlehead Fern


Broom Grass

Forests, wetlands, & shifting cultivation fallows are highly important wild food sources

Villagers indicated that more than ¾ of wild foods and aquatic species are collected in these 3 landscape units (27% + 27% + 22%)



Each landscape unit provides different types of species:

Forests: Mainly mammals, woody plants, climbing plants, fungi

Wetlands: Mainly, birds, fish, reptiles, amphibians, molluscs, ferns

Shifting cultivation fallows: Mainly woody and herbaceous plants, fungi, mammals, climbing plants

Other farms (paddy & grasslands): Mainly birds, arthropods, molluscs, herbaceous plants

Villages (home gardens): Mainly herbaceous and woody plants

Villagers are very worried about the conservation status of mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and fish

The colours in the pie charts below mean that the conservation status of species in this category is:

= good = medium = bad

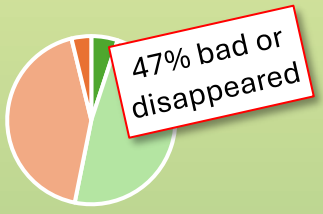
= species has disappeared



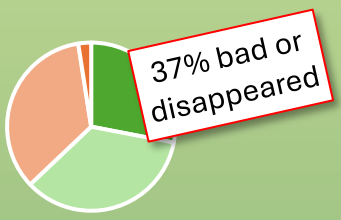
Mammals



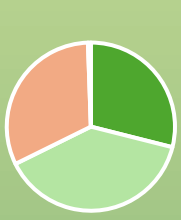
Reptiles & Amphibians



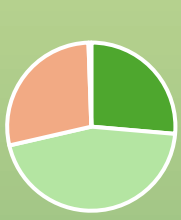
Birds



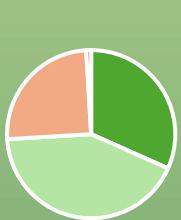
Fish



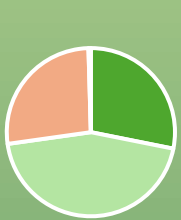
Arthropods



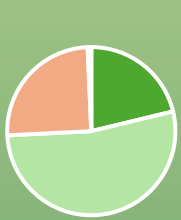
Woody Plants



Herbaceous Plants

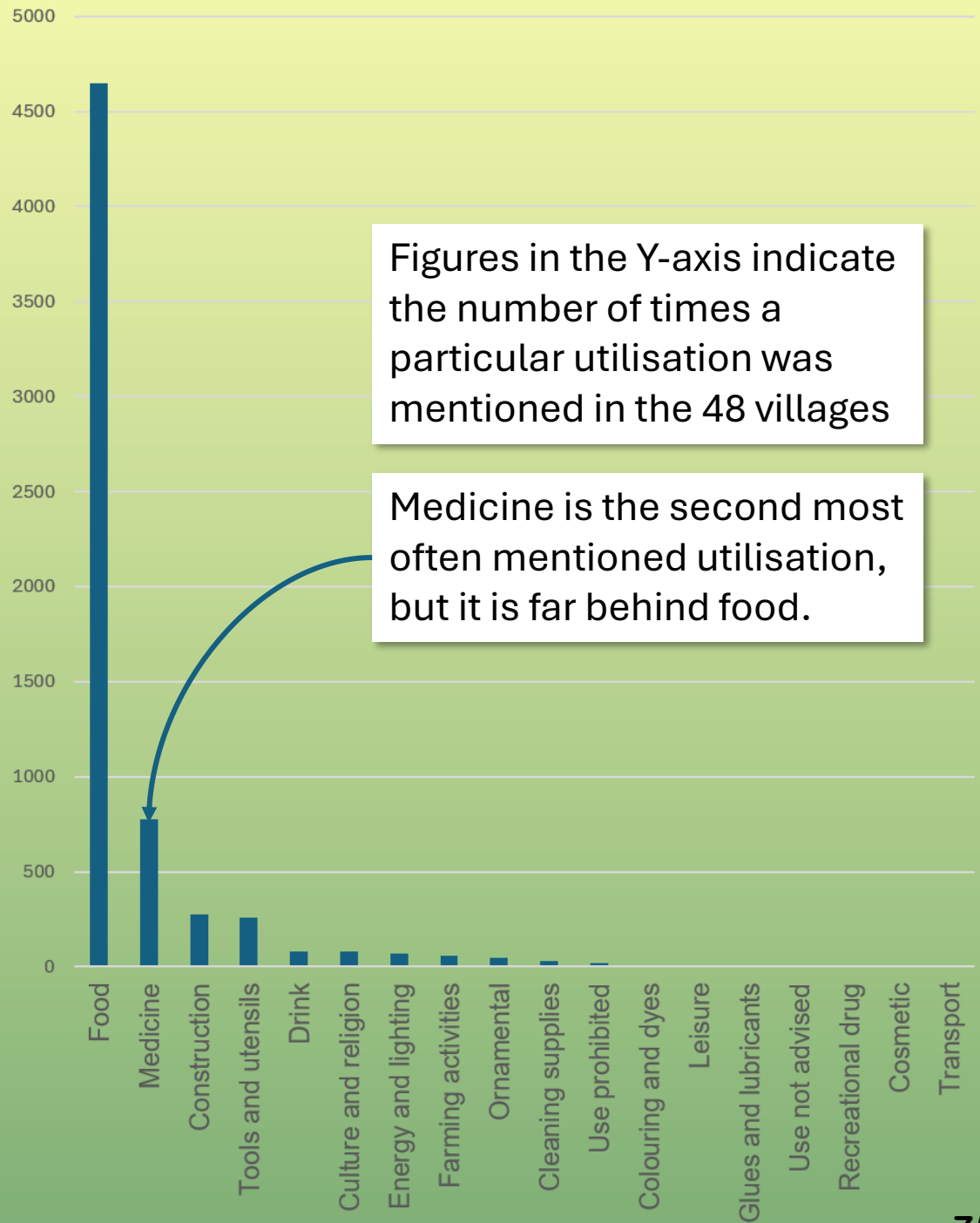


Climbing Plants



Mushrooms

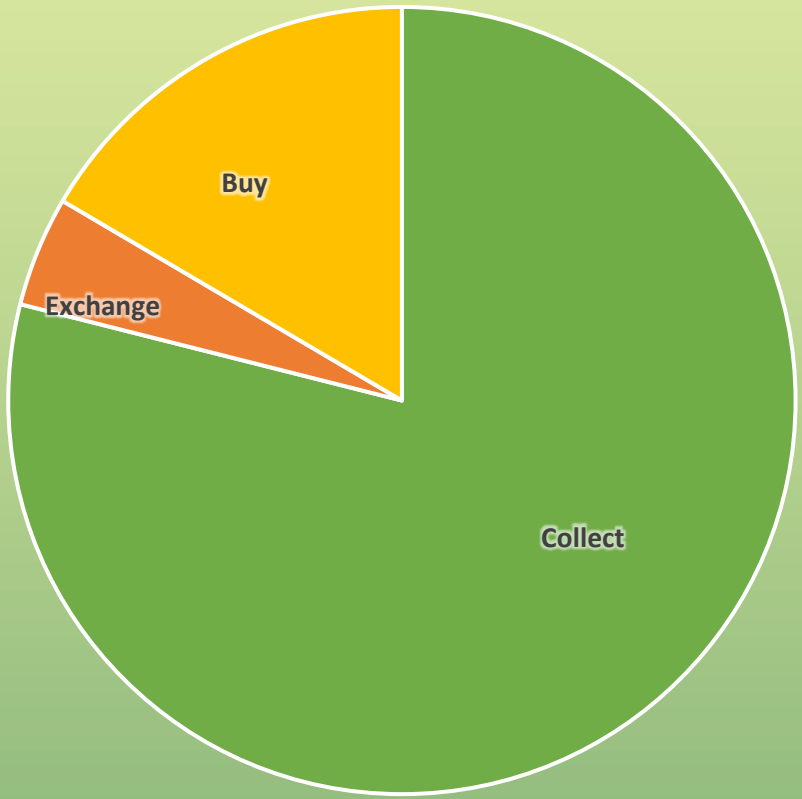
Food is, by far, the most common utilisation of wild species



Figures in the Y-axis indicate the number of times a particular utilisation was mentioned in the 48 villages

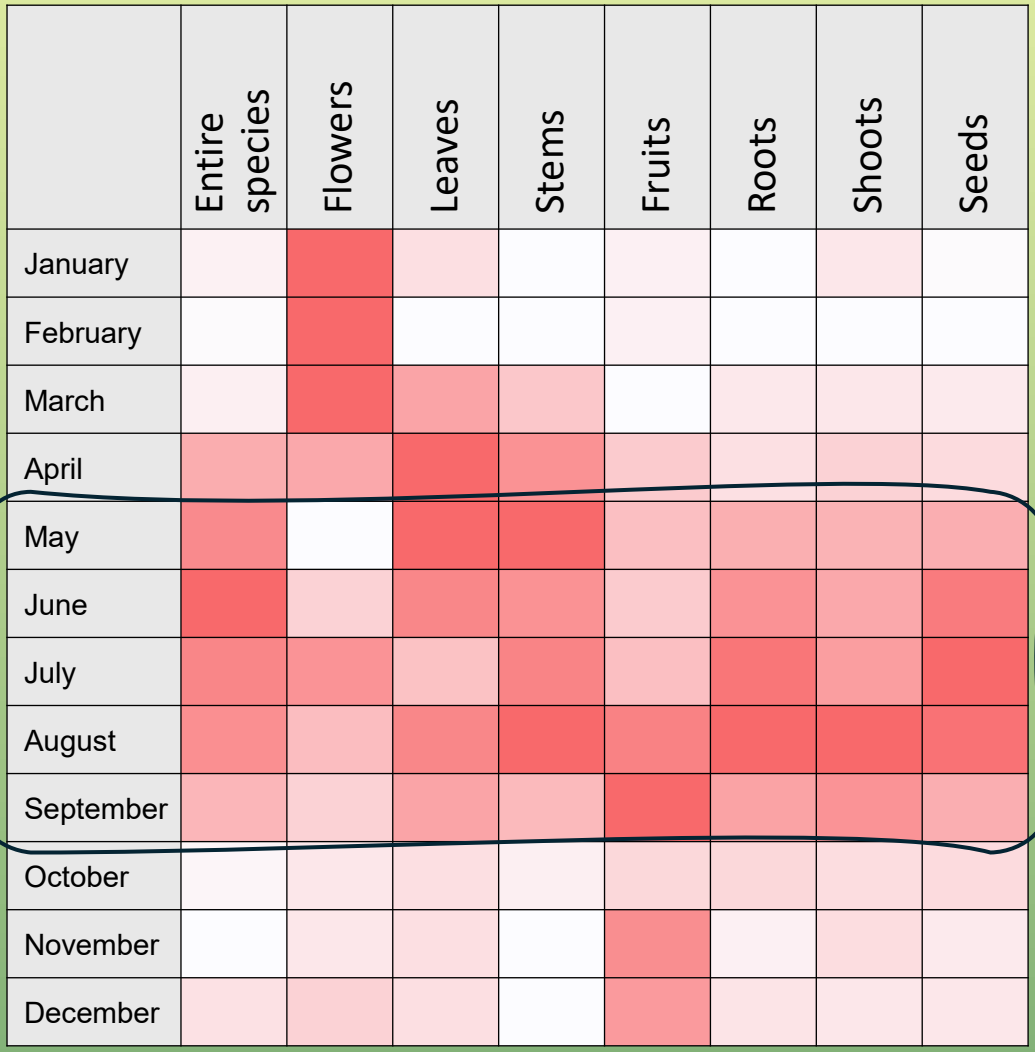
Medicine is the second most often mentioned utilisation, but it is far behind food.

Villagers mostly **collect** wild species. They rarely **exchange** them with other households. They sometimes **buy** fish and mammals, but rarely other types of species



May to September is the time in the year, during which villagers are mostly collecting wild plants.

This is also when the previous year's rice reserves run low, and wild foods become essential for bridging the gap.



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