



Country	MIKAS springs	Coordinates / Nearby City	Spring discharge (Q in l/s,min/av/max) / tapped or not	Criteria* in order / Main justification */ H-historic, A-aesthetic, S-scientific, E-Economic, Ec-ecologic	Data collected by
Laos 	1. Xe Bang Fai Cave (resurgence)	17.37211 / 105.83919 Z = 190 m asl Nongping, Xe Bang Fai River	2000/77000/ 480000. >2000 m ³ /sec flood max discharge (!?) Not tapped	Ec, A, S, H, E <i>Permanent, gravity, freshwater spring issuing from middle Carboniferous to early Permian limestones. The very large discharge from the Xe Bang Fi Cave during the wet season and especially during flood pulses is among the world's largest if not the largest one. "The large flows of water through the Xe Bang Fai Cave have created the largest active river cave passage in the world." The discharge is result of a function of heavy monsoon rains confined to a short wet-season and a large catchment area (1310 km²). The Xe Bang Fai River is the only surface water source in Hin Nam No National Park (and areas upstream and downstream of the park) for 3-4 months in the latter part of the dry season. So it is a vital water source for wildlife, livestock and people. In addition to the size of the river passage (averages 76 m wide x 53 m high), it is superbly decorated with large speleothems. The Xe Bang Fai Cave and its spirits have spiritual significance for local people living near it, who have animist beliefs. The Xe Bang Fai River is mainly used as a water supply for villagers and their livestock living along it.</i>	Terry Bolger

MIKAS – Xe Bang Fai Cave



Photo: 3021_Ban Laboy, is a photo of the catchment looking upstream from the Ban Laboy ford, just south of the southern boundary of Hin Nam No National Park (Photo by Paul Williams)



Photo: 3049_TXBF Resurgence , is the resurgence/spring of the Xe Bang Fai Cave (Photo by Paul Williams)



Photo: 3047_XBF Sandbank , is looking downstream from the cave resurgence at the pool, sandbank, and river (Photo by Paul Williams)