

# **Lao PDR on addressing illegal timber and forest products movement and trade**

Workshop on Regional Collaboration to Control Illegal Timber and Forest Products Movement and Addressing Transboundary Displacement

14-17 November 2018, Ha Noi, Viet Nam

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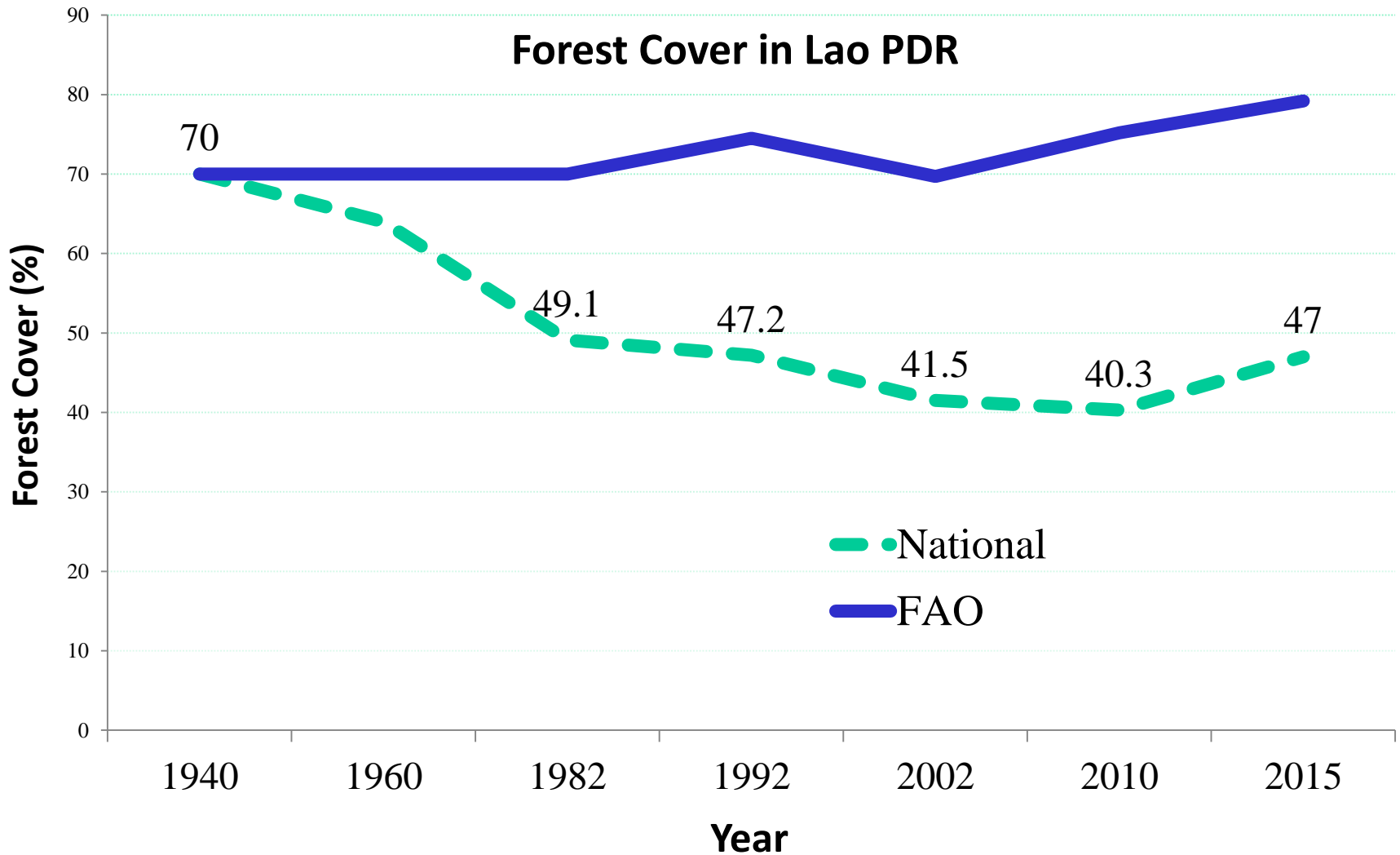
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# 1. Policy Context:

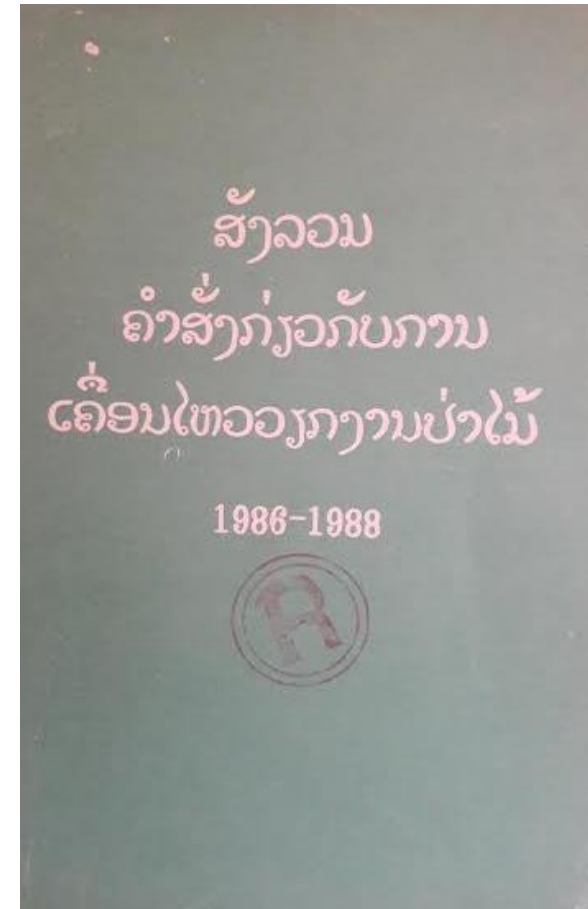


Source: FRA 2015

# 1. Policy Context (cont'):

## Lao People's Revolutionary Party Congress IV and Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan II (1986) identified:

- To completely stop deforestation (e.g., forest fire).
- To stabilize and completely stop shifting cultivation.
- To maximumly limit exporting timber as export commodity.
- The export commodity has to be finished product.
- Harvesting of timber and non-timber forest product has to have rehabilitation plan and re-planting plan.



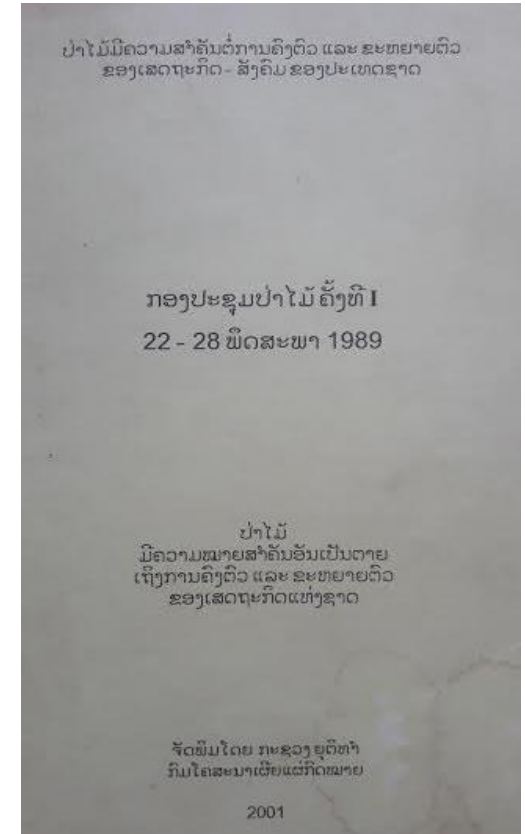
COMPILATION OF ORDERS  
ON FORESTRY SECTOR

1986-1988

# 1. Policy Context (cont’):

## The First National Forestry Conference (1989):

- From 1990-2020, focus on forest rehabilitation and an increase in forest cover up to 70% (17 million hectare) by:
  - ✓ Re-planting about 1-2 million hectares.
  - ✓ Natural regeneration about 8-9 million hectare.
- The former President, H.E. Kaysone PHOMVIHANE, stated **“forest destruction in the country has reached an alarming rate [so] it is the time to change from uncontrolled logging and destruction of forests to focus mainly on tree planting and forest protection”**
- The Party Congress (2001): **logging and forest destruction that had brought a great loss of the nation forest resources, but benefit generated from is very little.**

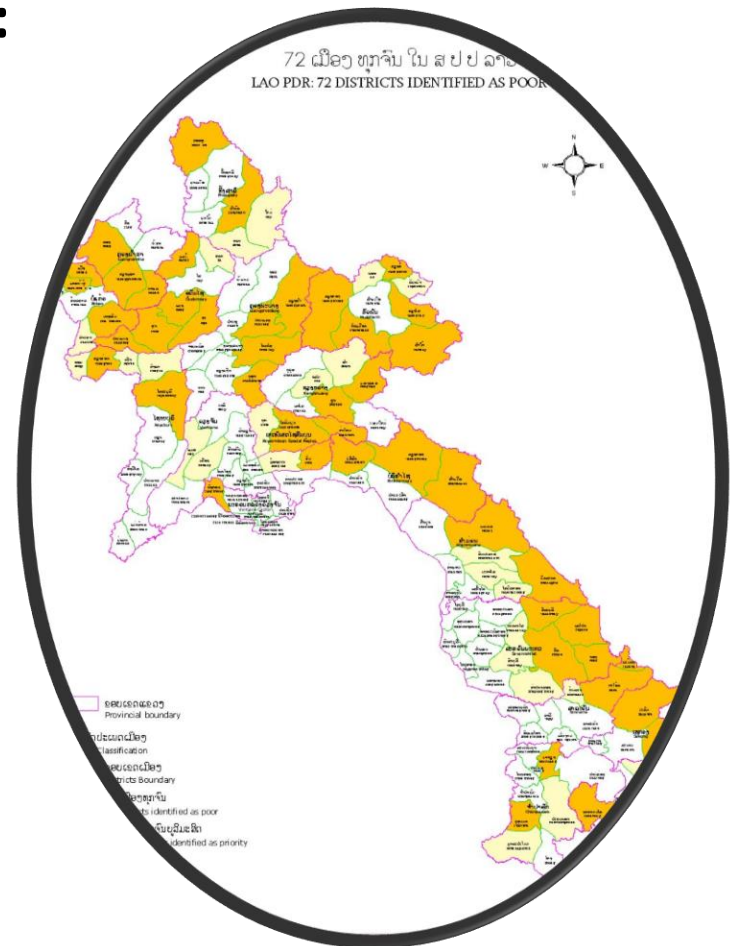


The First National  
Forestry Conference  
22-28 May 1989

# 1. Policy Context (cont'):

In 1990s, the government promulgated:

- National Strategy on Poverty Eradication Program focusing on 72 very poor districts country-wide.
- Shifting cultivation stabilization and stable occupation programs.
- Land-use planning, forest and forestland allocation.
- **Law on Forestry (first version in 1996).**



## 2. PM Order No.15 (13/5/2016):

**“Strengthening strictness on governance and inspection of timber harvesting, timber transportation and timber business”:**

- Suspend strictly the export of logs, planks, sawn timber, split wood, roots, stumps, knots, branches, and standing trees or decorative trees that are harvested from natural forest under all circumstances.
- Only finished products are allowed to export.
- Prohibit importing of illegal timber for the purpose of re-exporting to third countries.
- Timber has to be auctioned at log landing 2 to national wood processing companies, Lao furniture association, etc., to buy those logs for further processing to be finished products for export.
- Border checkpoints should strictly control that only finished products of legal source are exported.

## 2. PM Order No.15 (13/5/2016) – cont'

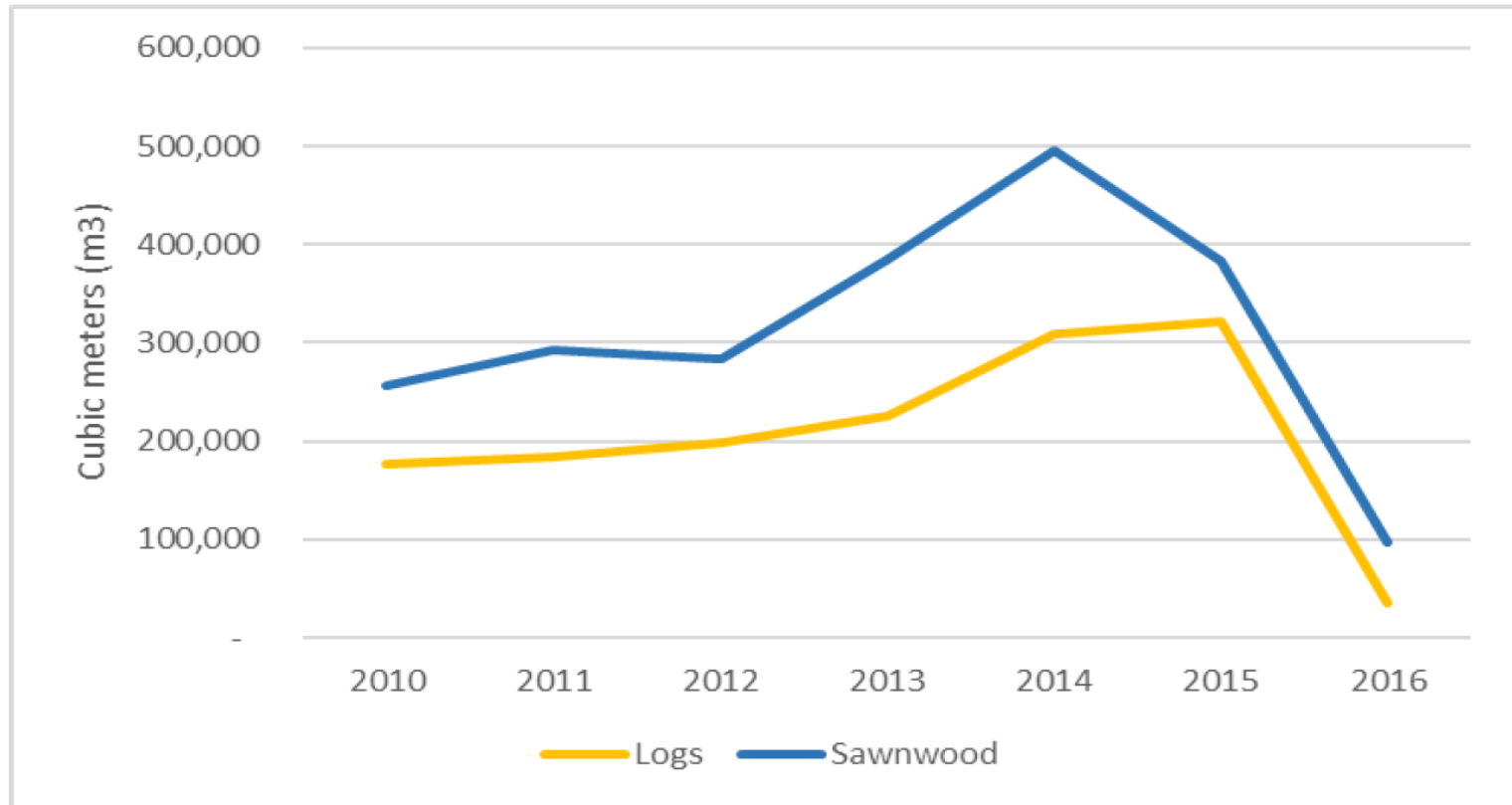
### PM ORDER IMPLEMENTATION:

- DECISION No.40/PM, 2/6/2016 (SPECIAL TASK FORCE).
- NOTICE No.769/PMO, 1/6/2016.
- DECISION No.253/GIA, 7/6/2016.
- NOTICE No.1669/MOF.
- GUIDELINE No.1050/ MOIC. DIMEX.
- PROVINCES HAVE ISSUED THEIR OWN LEGISLATIONS TO IMPLEMENT THE ORDER No. 15/PM.
- MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY
- NOTICE No.052/MAF, 31/5/2016.
- GUIDELINE No.0054/MAF, 9/6/2016.



## 2. PM Order No.15 (13/5/2016) – cont'

Figure 1: Vietnam Imports of Lao Logs and Sawnwood, 2010-2016

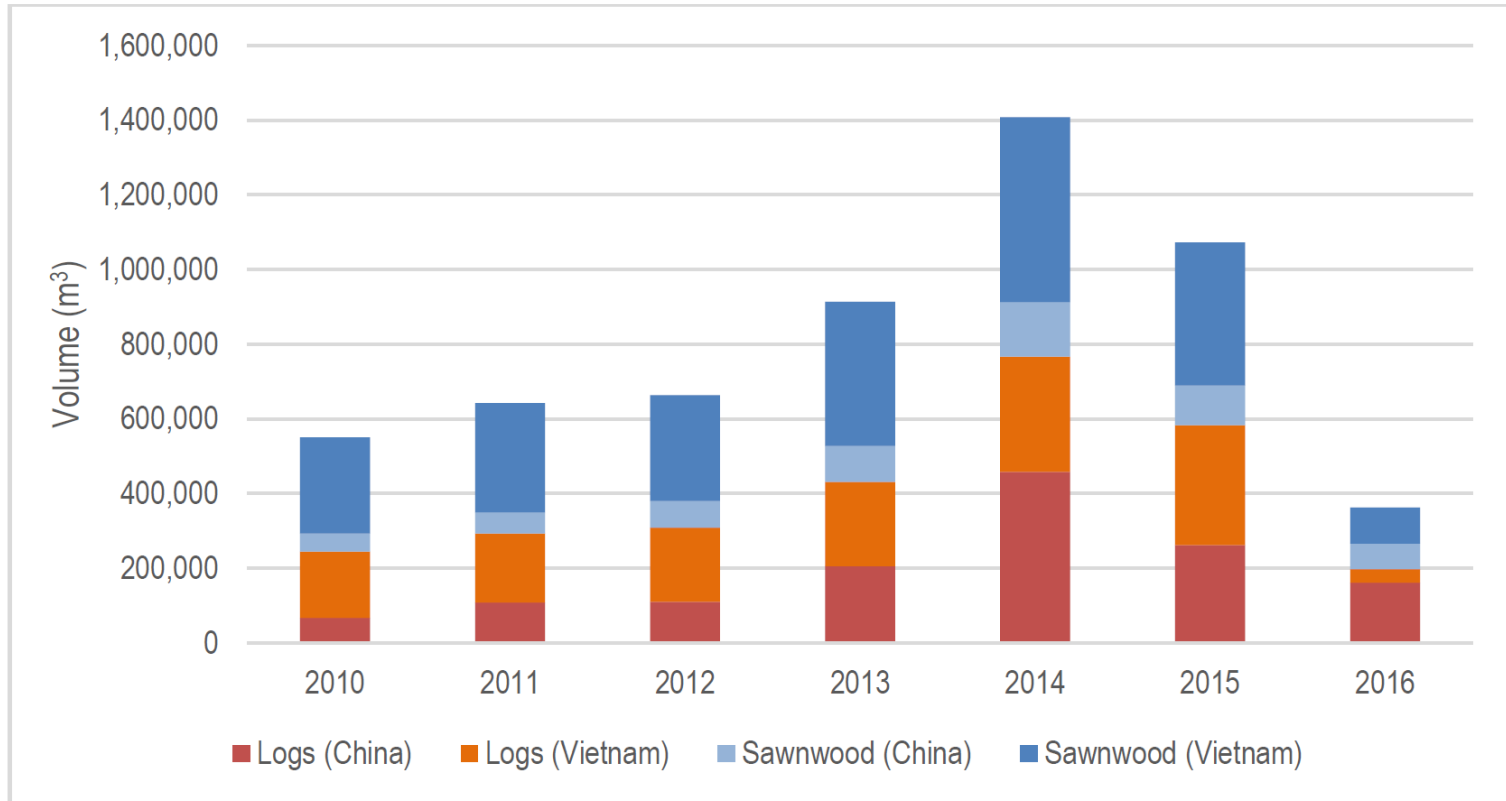


Source: Vietnam Customs statistics, compiled by Forest Trends.

Source: Forest Trends (March 2017)

## 2. PM Order No.15 (13/5/2016) – cont'

Figure 1: Vietnam and China's Imports of Lao Logs and Sawnwood by Volume, 2010-2016



Source: Vietnam Customs and China Customs statistics, compiled by Forest Trends.

Source: Forest Trends (April 2017)

# 3. Mandate, MOU, commitment:

## Mandate:

**Ministry of Agriculture  
and Forestry**

Management, inspection, promotion and development of agriculture, forestry and rural development

**Department of Forest  
Inspection**

Inspection, investigation, prosecution and development forest resources

**Provincial Office for Forest  
Inspection**

Patrolling, inspection, detection, disruption, investigation, prosecution forest resources in provincial level

**District Unit for Forest  
Inspection**

Patrolling, inspection and detection forest resources in district level

# 3. Mandate, MOU, commitment (cont'):

## MOU and commitment:



**Commitment**

Joint Press Release by Chinese living in Laos on supporting biodiversity conservation and combatting illegal trade of wildlife

### 3. MOU main text:

- Forest law enforcement and governance;
- Preventing and combating illegal logging, movement, trade of timber and wildlife;
- Patrolling along the suspected sites and forest fire control in border and associated early warning practices;
- Transboundary trade agreement;
- Information exchange including FLEGT and REDD+.

# Commitment Example



## 老挝华人支持保护生物多样性，助力打击野生动物非法贸易 联合声明

中国政府高层对野生生物保护的高度重视正逐渐转化为实实在在的行动，赢得了国际好评。贸易和投资活动中，贯彻可持续发展原则，保护当地生态环境和濒危物种，逐渐成为华人企业在老挝长远发展、有作为地参与当地事务的重要考量因素。

响应绿色“一带一路”号召，保护全球生物多样性，在老华人企业责无旁贷，必须在生产经营的各个环节，严格遵守两国法律法规，积极配合政府的各项工作。为了积极响应老挝政府、中国大使馆关于“老挝华人支持保护生物多样性，助力打击野生动物非法贸易”的公益倡导，我们郑重承诺：

- 一，我们商会全体成员及企业全体员工，严格遵守老挝及中国法律法规，拒绝买卖濒危野生动物及其制品。
- 二，我们积极承担社会责任，加强与社会各界的合作，支持生态文明建设，在企业文化中树立和倡导不消费、不携带、不运输野生动物及其制品的观念，为野生动物保护作出努力。
- 三，进一步提升员工意识，为形成全社会共同保护生物多样性、助力打击野生动物非法贸易的良好局面做出贡献。

我们衷心希望通过这份联合自律声明，向全社会树立起正面、绿色的企业社会责任模范形象，呼吁各行各业积极参与到保护野生动物、抵制非法野生动物贸易的行动中。

承诺机构（排名不分先后）：

老挝中国总商会

老挝中国总商会湖南商会

老挝中国总商会广东商会

老挝中国总商会浙江商会

老挝中国总商会福建商会

中国南方航空公司万象代表处

日期：2018年3月30日

## 4. Challenges:

- **Forest encroachment along border occurred:** illegal logging, timber, NTFP, wildlife movement, hunting and trade;
- **Inaccessible road** for some traditional border-checkpoints cause weak immediate tackle on incidence;
- **Co-patrolling and reporting system** on the incidence between two parties is not yet effective;
- **Lack of financial support** on implementing some activities in the MOU;

Thank You