

An aerial photograph of a forest landscape. The foreground shows a large, dark tree stump with a hollowed-out center, surrounded by dense green forest. The background consists of rolling hills covered in forest under a clear blue sky.

Progress in REDD+ Preparation in Lao PDR

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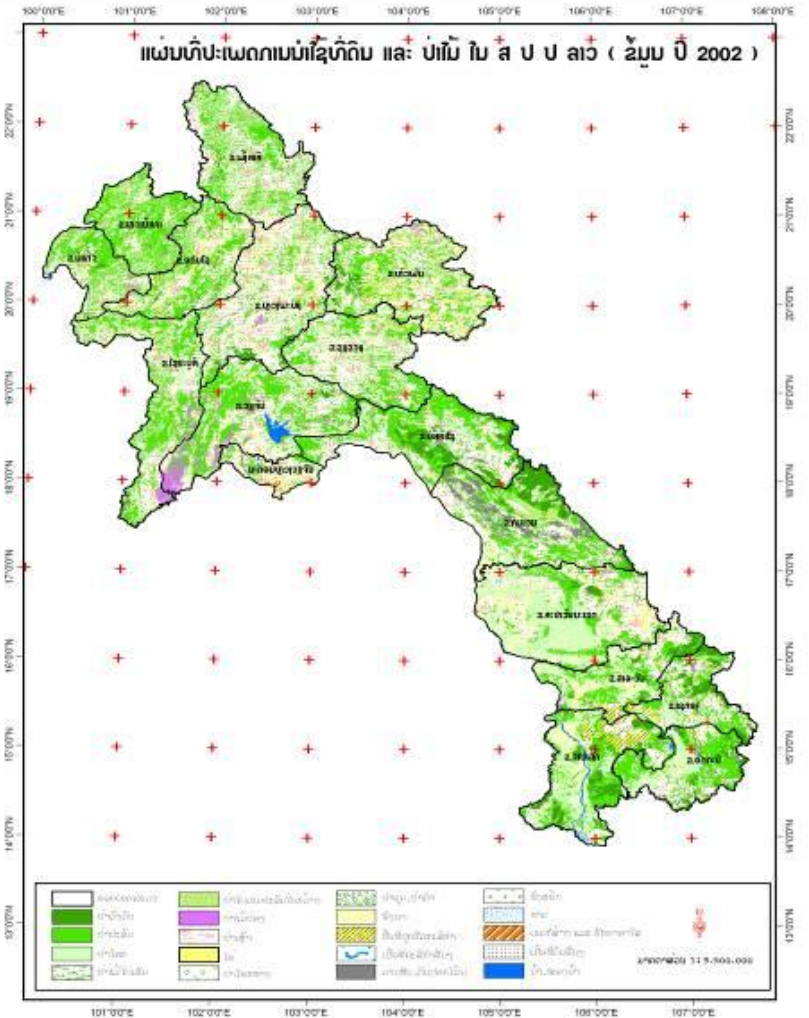
- I. Introduction; Forest situation, strategy, etc.
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I. Introduction

1. Forest resources
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1. Forest Resources in Lao PDR

The Current Forest (Canopy cover above 20%) decreased to 9.8 million ha in 2002 from 11.2 million ha in 1992 with an average loss of 134,000 ha per annum.



2. Forest cover assessment 2010

Objective; Assessment of forest cover against the target of 53% in 2010

Method; Computer based analysis of ALOS AVNIR (10m Color) for the whole country with ground truthing

Progress; Pre-processing done and preliminary results expected in May 2010

Uses

- Assessment and analysis of forest area changes
- Stratification for forest carbon assessment in 2011/12

3. Forestry Strategy 2020

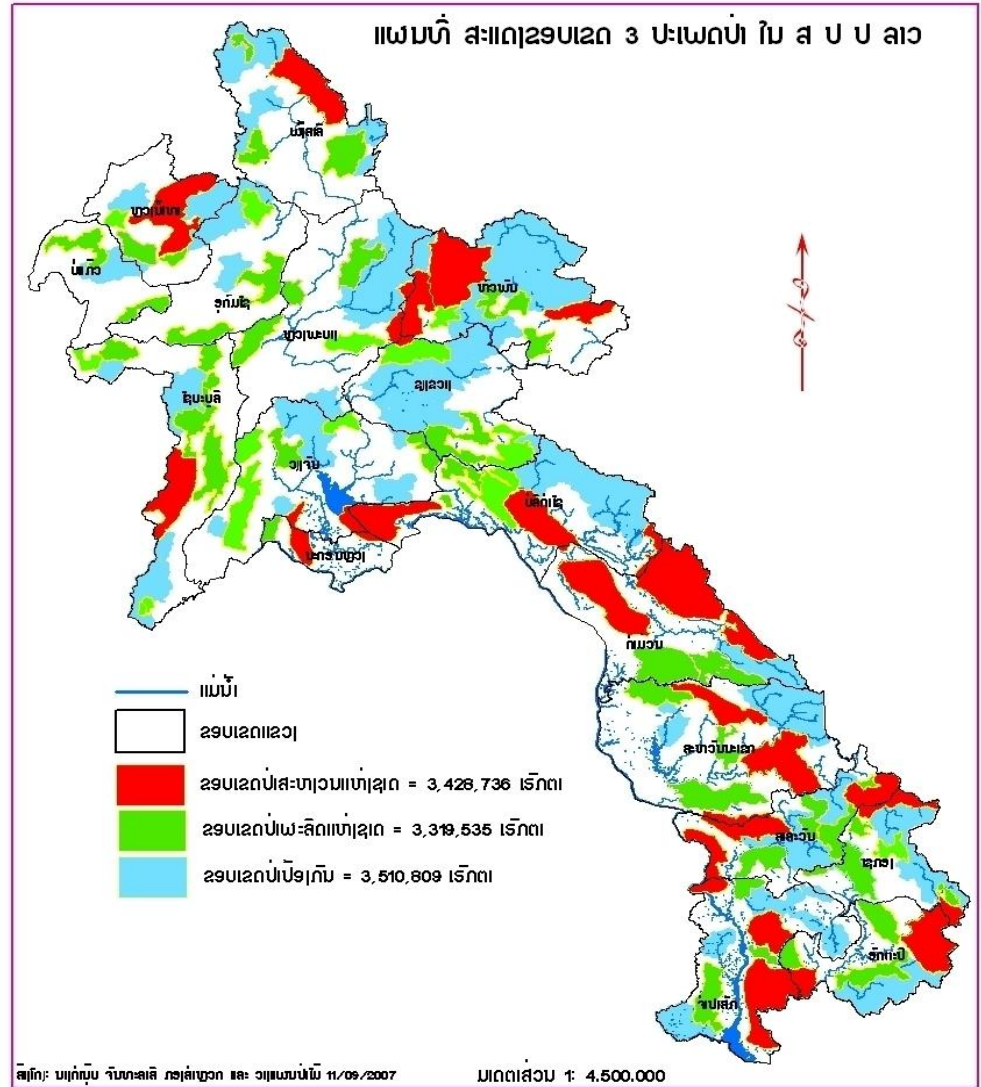
- Overall Objective: Poverty Eradication
- Target: 70% Forest Cover in 2020
- Programmes and Actions include:
 - Land/forest use planning, monitoring
 - Forest Legal Framework
 - Sustainable Forest Management with Local Participation
 - Capacity Building
 - Tree Plantation Development
 - Biodiversity Conservation
 - Protection Forests and Watershed Management

4. Forest Categories in Laos

Forest category Areas (M. ha)

- Protection Forest 8,2
- Conservation Forest 4,7
- Production Forest 3.1

Total 16



5. Ownership of Forest

Forestry Law Article 4

Natural forest and Forestland is the property of the national community and the State manages in centralized and unified way throughout the country.

Trees planted by people or organizations in the designated areas with their labor and/or funds with recognition of the Forest and Forestland Management Organization shall become the property of such individuals or organizations.

6. Potential of REDD+ in Lao PDR

Statement made by Head of Lao Delegate to COP15

“As a country with a history of abundant forest resources, reaching an agreement for an international mechanism for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation under the Convention is of paramount importance for us. Forests play a vital role not only in mitigating greenhouse gases and adapting to climate change, but also in reducing the vulnerability of forest dependent peoples and the rural communities of Lao PDR, which consists of almost 80% of the population.”

7. Lao PDR's position on REDD+

Preference for flexibility to maximise opportunity

Scope: REDD+

Reducing Emission from Deforestation and
Degradation

Enhancement of carbon stocks, conservation and
sustainable management of forests

Scale: Nested approach

Project based activities

National REDD+ Framework and supporting policies
and programmes

Implementation: 3 Phased Approach

- Readiness
- Demonstration
- Full Implementation

Financing: Hybrid approach

- - Donor based financing
- - Funds
- - Market-based
- - Other alternative financing for forests

II. REDD activities

1. REDD strategy formulation, coordination and consultation
2. Development of a National REDD Mechanism
3. Carbon assessment pilots
4. REDD demonstration/system development projects

1. REDD strategy formulation, coordination and consultation

REDD Task Force

- Established in Nov 2008 consisting of MAF Departments, NLMA, WREA, MOIC and NUOL chaired by DG, DOF and meeting every month
- Inputs and decisions on Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, REDD+ projects and pilots, UNFCCC REDD+ negotiations, etc

Forestry Working Group

- Established in 2006 consisting of MAF, NLMA, WREA, MIC, Donors, Projects, NGOs and Private Sector
- Official forum for consultation on forestry issues
- REDD has been one of main issues consulted

2. Development of a National REDD Mechanism

1. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)
 - National REDD Mechanism development in line with FCPF process
 - Development of Readiness Preparation Proposal is to start in mid March by a Lao team and international consultants
 - 7th PC meeting is targeted for Lao R-PP consideration
2. Study of Land Use and Forest Changes and related Drivers (2009; implemented by FSIP(DOF/JICA/Sida))

3. National Forest Inventory Design and Methodology for Carbon Measurement and Monitoring (2009-2012; implemented by SUFORD (DOF/WB/Finland))

4. Program for Forest Resource Information Management (2010-2013; cooperation with JICA)
 - Establishment of Forest Base Map for 2012
 - Field plot survey for biomass estimation

5. Forestry Law Enforcement Strategy incorporating REDD by Department of Forestry Inspection (2009; implemented by SUFORD)

3. Carbon assessment pilots

1. Lidar and Combination of very high and mid resolution images pilots in central region (2009; implemented by SUFORD)
2. Estimation of forest carbon in shifting cultivation area (2009-10; cooperation with Forest and Forest Products Research Institute, Japan)
3. ALOS AVNIR and PRISM pilot in north (2009-11; cooperation with Forestry Agency and Air Asia Survey, Japan)

4. REDD+ Demonstration/system development Projects

1. Lao-German Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation Program (2010-17; CliPAD by DOF/GTZ/KfW)
 - Demonstration and system development in two National Biodiversity Conservation Areas in the north

2. Participatory Land and Forest Management for Reducing Deforestation (2009-14; PAREDD by NAFES/DOF/JICA)
 - Demonstration and system development in shifting cultivation areas in the north

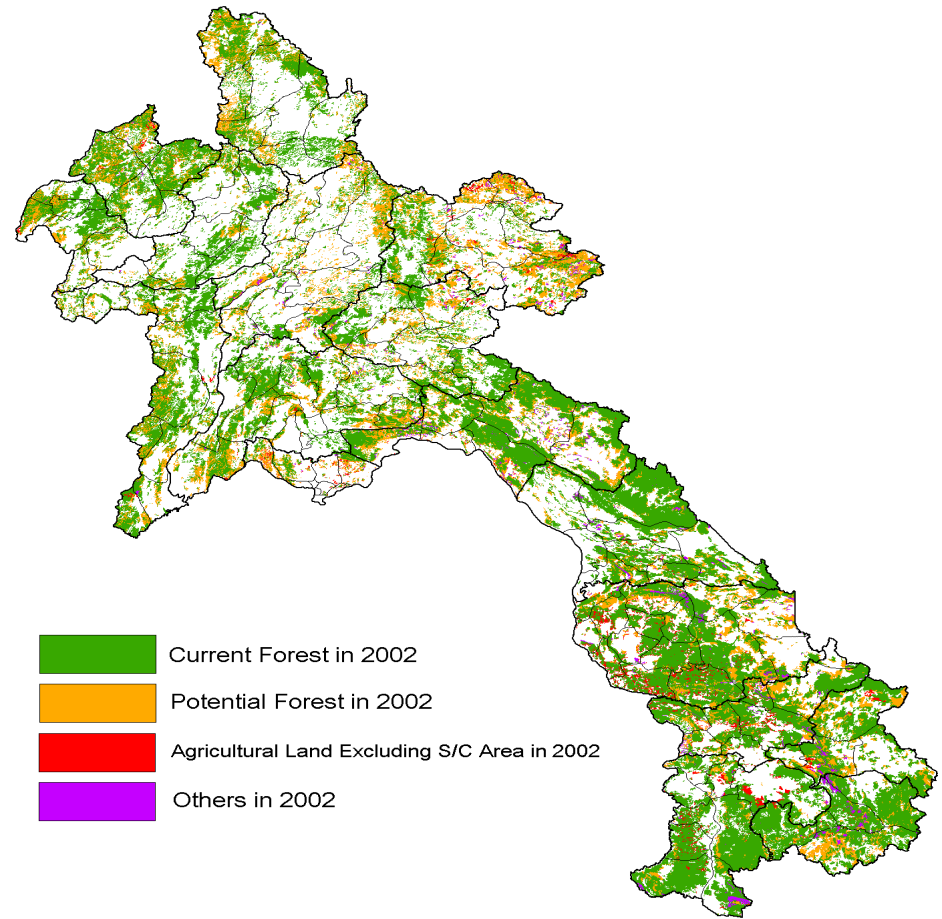
III. Outcomes of Pilots and Studies and Implications on National REDD

1. Situation and causes of DD change overtime and vary place to place
2. Rapid re-growth hinders detection of degradation
3. Shifting cultivation area poses definitional and monitoring difficulty

1. Situation and causes of DD change overtime and vary place to place

Land Use in 2002 of Current Forest in 1992

- Relatively small scale DD spread in many parts of country (no clear deforestation front)



Source: Produced from GIS data provided by FIPD

Traditional causes of DD

- Shifting cultivation (Northern part)
- Excessive timber logging (Central and South)
- Forest fires (Upland)
- Large infrastructure development projects (South)





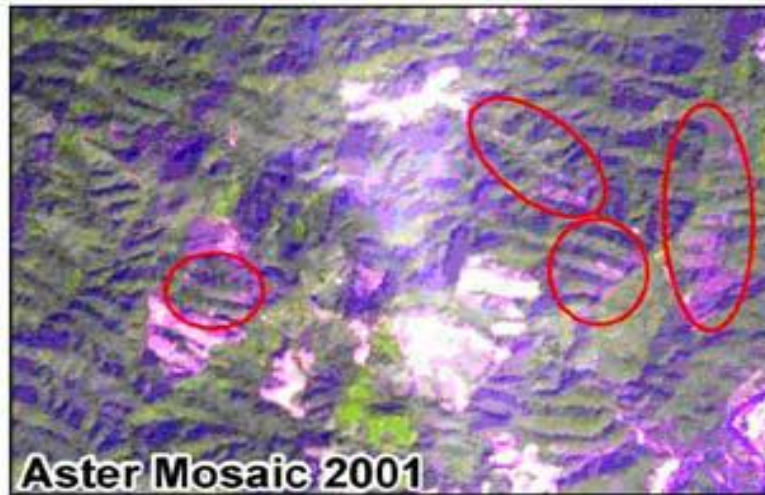
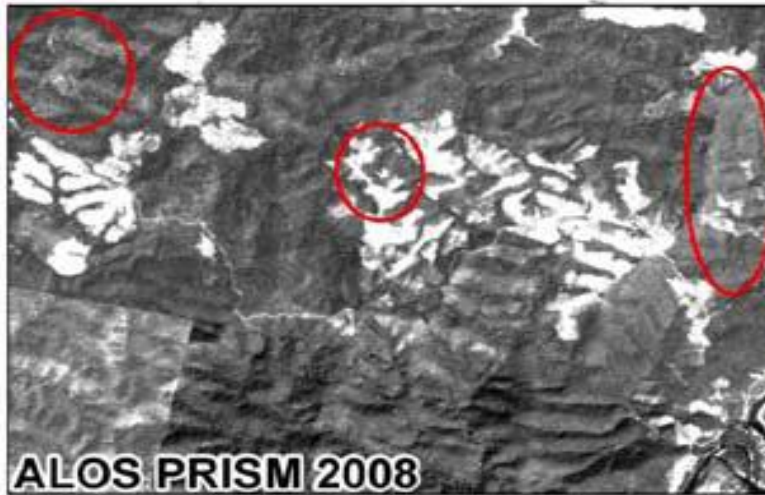
Recent causes of DD

1. Expansion of cash crops into forest (upland)
2. Establishment of large scale plantations and mining development (central and south)
3. Infrastructure development such as roads and dams

Implications

- Wall-to-wall mapping with combination of very high and relatively high resolution images is necessary for cost efficiency
- Different and site specific mix of interventions (REDD strategy and programs) is required
- Coordination of land/forest use policies through land/forest use planning is necessary, example; conservation/rehabilitation versus crop plantation expansion
- Infrastructure development, which is national development priority, needs to be considered in reference level establishment

2. Rapid re-growth hinders detection of degradation



Implications

- Frequent monitoring with relatively high resolution images is necessary to detect forest degradation and small scale deforestation
- Capacity building for R/S and financial resources are essential
- Local monitoring and information on forest uses are indispensable for accurate national level monitoring

3. Shifting cultivation area poses definitional and monitoring difficulty

- Fallow land is temporarily forested for agriculture
- Fallow land re-grow to natural forest if left undisturbed
- It is unpredictable which parcel will be burned or left undisturbed



Implications

- Land/forest use planning is essential for demarcation of forest land including village use forest and village rehabilitation forest
- Local information on land/forest zoning, ownership and monitoring is essential for national level MRV and fair payment distribution
- Village level land/forest use planning in rural areas requires huge financial and administrative inputs

IV. Tasks and challenges ahead

1. Task; Consolidation of on-going and future activities into a National REDD Mechanism
 - Development of R-PP taking into account results of on-going activities and planned ones
 - Consultation with a wide range of stakeholders to ensure an national process
 - Capacity development at all levels and in all concerned sectors through on-going and planned activities
 - Mobilization and efficient coordination of external supports

2. Challenges ahead

- Strong leadership at very high level
- Efficient and effective coordination between sectors
- Strengthening law enforcement and governance
- Improvement of understanding of existing laws and regulations by government officers, business and local people
- Progress in REDD preparation without over- and hasty expectation
- Strengthening human and financial resources



Thank you