

Improving Forest and Land Use Management in

LAOS

Attapeu and Houaphan Provinces

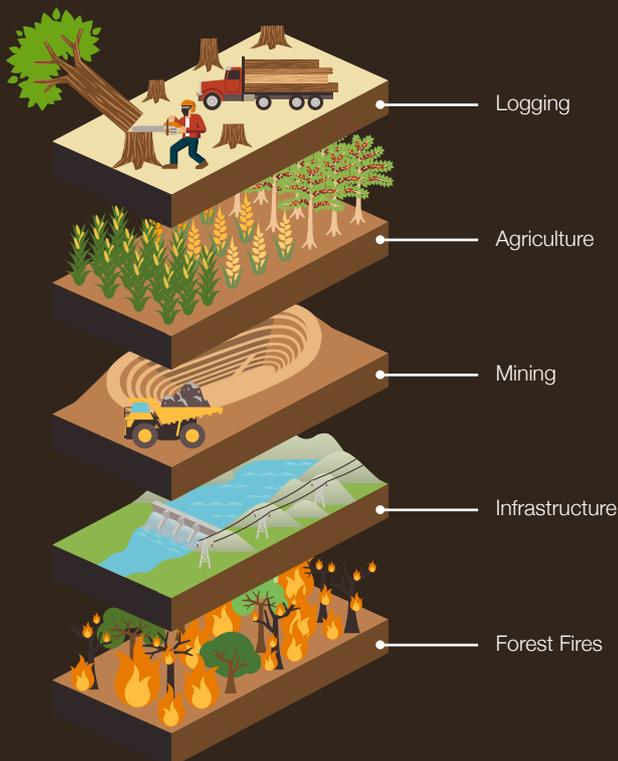


Improving Forest and Land Use Management in LAOS

Laos is endowed with rich natural resources including high value forests. Shifting cultivation, unplanned logging and land conversion for agriculture and other uses – coupled with rural poverty and a rapidly growing population – are resulting in the rapid loss of forest resources.



Main threats to forest resources



Logging

Agriculture

Mining

Infrastructure

Forest Fires

Together For A Better Future



- The Laos 2020 Forestry Strategy sets targets of reducing deforestation and forest degradation and increasing national forest cover to 70%
- To meet these goals, the Government of Laos promotes reforestation through land zoning and encourages alternative agricultural practices

- USAID LEAF collaborates with the Department of Forestry in Houaphan and Attapeu provinces to strengthen forest management systems, support the development of jurisdictional REDD+ frameworks, implement land use planning, and promote improved livelihoods



Laos

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USAID LEAF works side by side with our local partners and government counterparts to slow climate change by developing strategies to sustainably reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry and land use sector.



USAID LEAF's key partner has been the Department of Forestry (DOF) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). USAID LEAF has also collaborated with the Department of Forest Resource Management (DFRM) in the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MoNRE).



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The United States Agency for International Development Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests (USAID LEAF) program supports the government of Laos and relevant stakeholders to develop improved forest and land management strategies that sustainably reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

USAID LEAF initiatives focus on two landscapes, Nam Xam National Biodiversity Conservation Area (NBCA) in Houaphan and Sanamxay district in Attapeu, and includes three key activities.



Forests, Land Use Planning and Livelihoods - Houaphan



Capacity Building



Forest Management and Livelihoods - Attapeu

Forests, Land Use Planning and Livelihoods - Houaphan

USAID LEAF initiatives in Houaphan have decreased deforestation and forest degradation and generated greater community engagement in management of the Nam Xam NBCA through three activities.



Management Planning for the Nam Xam NBCA

- Strengthened management capacity and conservation planning processes of the remote 70,000 hectare conservation area
- Supported consultative planning and development of a mechanism for community-based land use management
- Increased community awareness of important land use regulations for communities living in and accessing resources from the conservation area

Participatory Land Use Planning

- Introduced and supported participatory land use planning covering nearly 10,000 hectares
- Strengthened security, land tenure and usage rights to village land and forest resources
- Encouraged sustainable land management and assisted communities to identify resources and interventions to support their future development



Village Livestock Improvement

- Improved livelihoods through better livestock management to reduce pressure on forests
- Trained and certified community members as Village Veterinary Workers
- Enhanced animal husbandry and management skills to promote healthy livestock

Forest Management and Livelihoods - Attapeu

USAID LEAF activities in Attapeu, in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank, have restored forest areas, increased incomes and led to a balance between growth and conservation.

Improved Forest Management

- Developed community reforestation plans to address local forest loss
- Supported village-led restoration of more than 1,000 hectares of forest
- Established village forest management guidelines and trained villages on implementation

Strengthened Livelihoods

- Introduced improvements to growers and processors of coffee, the main cash crop of local farmers, resulting in added value and increased incomes
- Created viable long-term economic opportunities balanced with community conservation objectives



Capacity Building

USAID LEAF training and awareness raising have resulted in community, provincial and national stakeholders better understanding climate change, the critical role of forests and the importance of reducing deforestation and degradation.

Forest Management

- Identified and reduced drivers of deforestation and degradation
- Measured forest biomass and carbon stocks and established reference levels
- Supported forest restoration and afforestation activities



Participatory Land Use Planning

- Introduced the concept of multi-stakeholder engagement
- Facilitated community participation
- Provided technical support

Gender Integration

- Ensured gender inclusiveness in the drafting of the Lao Forestry Law
- Formulated Gender Action Plan with Department of Forestry
- Trained government officials on gender-integrated planning in climate change and REDD+



Curriculum Development

- Engaged nine professors from the National University of Laos (NUOL) in climate change curriculum development
- Trained 60 academics from six Lao universities in the curriculum
- Promoted the revision of a forest resource master's degree at NUOL

USAID LEAF activities in

LAOS

have resulted in

- 650 households effectively managing forests and forest resources
- 10,000 hectares of natural resources being sustainably managed through participatory land use planning
- 200 households with improved livelihoods through better livestock management practices
- 60 professors from 6 universities benefiting from the new climate change curriculum
- 6 gender champions actively mainstreaming gender in climate change programs



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