

Impact

Local Communities:

Enhanced livelihoods through sustainable forest restoration, watershed protection in areas for sustainable water supply, increased growth and production of NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products), commercial use of timber in production forest areas, more wood production from village use forests for house construction and other uses, etc.



Government:

Strengthened capacity for forest governance, improving policy development, enforcement, and overall management of forest resources, contributing to national environmental goals.



Private Sector:

Support in sustainable business practices and investments in forest restoration, leading to more stable and profitable supply chains, and contributing to corporate social responsibility goals.



Other Stakeholders:

NGOs, academic institutions, CSOs (Civil Society Organisations), and development partners benefit from knowledge sharing, capacity building, and collaborative efforts in advancing environmental restoration and sustainability.



Gender

Both women and men are essential stewards of natural resources, and their active involvement is crucial to the success of forest restoration. The FLR initiative promotes gender equality by encouraging the participation of both women and men in all aspects of FLR field activities, including planning and implementation. In addition, FLR supports the economic empowerment of women, ensuring they benefit from FLR through increased access to NTFPs (Non-Timber Forest Products), their value chains, and new opportunities in the commercialisation of timber and other wood products from village use forests. Women in target villages can earn income through activities like establishing and operating small nurseries, with compensation based on the quality and quantity of tree seeds collected, with different rates for small, medium, and large seeds.

About The Project

The Protection and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Laos (ProFEB) is co-funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union. ProFEB is the forest component of the Team Europe Partnership with Lao PDR to increase sustainable and inclusive Trade, Investment and Connectivity in the Agriculture and Forestry sectors (TICAF). Discover more about ProFEB by scanning the QR code.



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ProFEB

Protection and Sustainable Use of
Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)



Green hillside in Luang Prabang, Laos, with a mix of natural forest and regrowing plants in a degraded area.
Photo credit: GIZ/ProFEB.



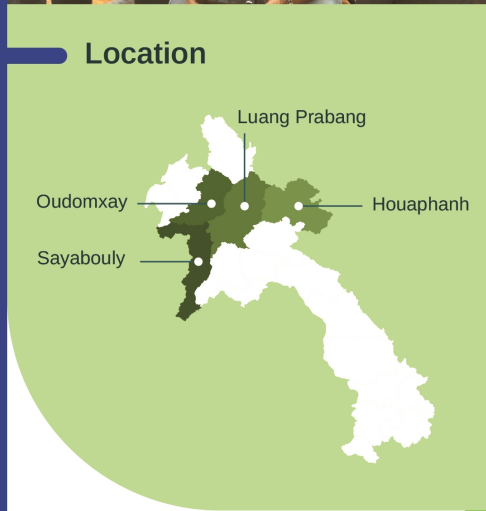
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Output in Brief

In Lao PDR, forest restoration activities are actively promoted under the Lao PDR Forestry Strategy to 2035 and Vision to 2050, which sets the target of increasing forest cover to 70% of the country's land area through effective management. This includes protecting existing forests, rehabilitating degraded areas, and planting trees and other essential resources to restore ecological balance and support sustainable development. However, challenges remain, specifically repeated encroachment into forest areas, deforestation, illegal logging, and low tree survival rates after the first dry season. A key challenge to success is motivating local communities to protect and manage restored areas. Their involvement is crucial for ensuring the sustainability of restoration efforts. Moreover, engaging private sector stakeholders and smallholders in FLR activities remains a challenge due to their concerns over limited benefits and land tenure insecurity.

Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is defined as an active process that brings people together to identify, negotiate, and implement practices that restore an agreed optimal balance of the ecological, social, and economic benefits of forests and trees within a broader pattern of land uses (GPFLR). FLR focuses on re-establishing functions and key ecosystem processes through specific interventions (active restoration) or deliberate non-interventions leading to natural regeneration (passive restoration) within the context of a whole landscape.

Output 4 of ProFEB on Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR) is implemented in close cooperation with the GIZ project "Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation" - CliPAD, based on the engagement with over 500 villages in 6 northern provinces on land-use planning, sustainable deforestation-free forest management practices, and sustainable agriculture practices.



Location

Partners

The government partners:

Department of Forestry (DoF), Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF), Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+), Village Forestry Management Plan (VFMP), National Protected Areas (NPA), Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO), District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO).

Other Partners:

Institutes: National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Northern Agriculture & Forestry colleague LuangPrabang (NAFAC Luang Prabang), National University of Laos - Faculty of Forestry (NUoL-FoF) Private Sector Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) Local Villagers.



Objective

Seeks to strengthen partnerships among the private sector, villagers, government, and civil society organisations for climate-resilient restoration of forest landscapes and biodiversity conservation.



Our Approach

The FLR approach restores degraded forest areas through collaboration with the government, private sector, local communities, and institutions. This will be implemented by:



Identification of options for FLR and conservation activities based on existing CliPAD-supported villages.



Exploring and developing financing models for restoration and conservation.



Support for the implementation of village forest management plans, including enrichment planting with native species.



Facilitation of management partnerships between companies and villagers for forest conservation areas linked to livelihoods, land use concessions, and FLR through land identification for forest concession, including out-grower schemes.

FLR activities cover all forest categories, addressing different levels (five levels) of degradation and applying appropriate restoration strategies. Villagers, guided by district foresters and supported by the FLR team, play a key role in the restoration process, utilising traditional knowledge for natural regeneration, assisted regeneration, and enrichment planting. This ensures the restoration efforts are both sustainable and suitable.

