

Impact

The VPA negotiations between the EU and the Lao government have supported the establishment of inter-ministerial cooperation structures and formed collaboration between private sector stakeholders and CSOs in the multi-stakeholder process. The forest policy output builds on these achievements and continues to strengthen the technical and organisational capacities of government partners (in particular the Department of Forest Inspection – Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture) while supporting the engagement of CSOs and private sector stakeholders in multi-stakeholder dialogues. Thus, the team promotes the inclusiveness of forest sector development in Lao PDR.



Gender

The decision-making level of the Lao forestry sector is still male dominated. The Forest Policy output aims to promote inclusive policies and practices, working towards equal participation in decision making and opportunities for all genders in the forestry sector.

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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Forest Policy



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Output in Brief

Forests are critical for adaptation to climate change and disaster risk reduction, as well as for freshwater supply and management of watersheds. However, from 2000 to 2022, forest cover in Lao PDR has decreased by about 900.000 ha and the National Forest Monitoring System documents a remaining forest cover of about 57% of the land area today (MAF 2022). Given the importance of forests for the development of the country – a large share of the population is dependent on forest resources and hydropower based on water supply is a critical energy source of the country – the Lao government intends to increase the national forest cover to 70% through sustainable forest management as well as reforestation and afforestation measures. To prepare a competitive and sustainable forest sector, improved inter-ministerial coordination is needed on aspects such as land titling in forest areas. Enhanced forest governance, referring to the systems, rules, and institutions that govern forest management, protection, and use, is required with adaptations in the legal framework for FLR and forest-based value chains.



Location



Partners

Partners:

Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI) – Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)



Objective

Forest governance for an inclusive, gender and human right-based, biodiversity friendly and deforestation-free forest production sector is improved.



Our Approach

The Forest Policy team aims to enhance forest governance. Partners are capacitated to actively engage in dialogues on different policy instruments through targeted advisory services.

The revision, update, and development of policy instruments, such as the Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) and other forms of legislation, belong to the forest policy team's expertise. The piloting of selected policies on the ground feeds into the exchange and enables more comprehensive forest governance. Additionally, the forest policy team supports the Lao government in building on the achievements of the FLEGT VPA negotiations through continued dialogue with the European Union on forest sector development, considering the EU deforestation regulation (EUDR).

