

Impact

Investing in people's knowledge creates long-term benefits for both the environment and the economy of Laos: students, community members, government and private sector employees will gain vital skills in sustainable forestry, creating a ripple effect across the country.

This new expertise will help companies to become more efficient and innovative. At the same time, better-trained forestry staff on district and province level will be able to more effectively support communities in managing local forests, restoring landscapes, and protecting biodiversity. In the long run, this investment in people ensures that Laos' forest resources can be used to create value for local communities while conserving ecosystems, paving the way for a "forest-positive" future.

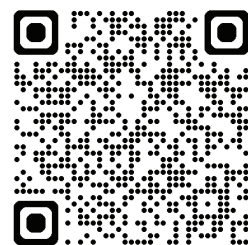


Gender

Although women are equally represented at academic educational institutions, the number of graduates does not reflect equal representation in forestry professions. Meanwhile, leading companies in the timber industry are actively seeking to recruit women for management and supervisory positions. To advance gender equality and to ensure women have equal access to academic education and training as well as to professional and leadership opportunities, the output will award at least 50% of the provided forestry scholarships to women. Furthermore, all training programmes will be designed to be fully inclusive, considering the specific cultural and practical needs of participants to help them succeed.

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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Education



Photo Credit: Faculty of Forest Science, NUOL



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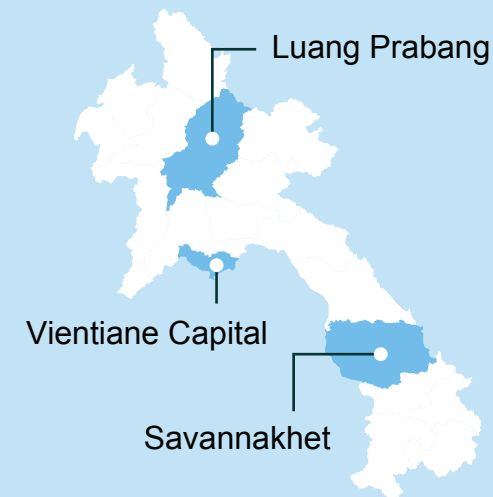
Output in Brief

Forests are central to the livelihoods of Laos' forestry sector rural communities, providing fuelwood, food, medicine, and income through timber and non-timber forest products. Yet, the forest sector faces a significant skills gap. Many professionals lack training in sustainable forest management, restoration, and value-added processing, while academic educational institutions offer limited curricula, and research facilities are under-equipped. Women, in particular, face barriers to entering and advancing in the sector.

This output addresses these challenges by strengthening the knowledge and professional skills of both men and women. Through improved academic curricula, practical training, and inclusive learning opportunities, the output empowers a new generation of forestry professionals. By investing in human capacity, the output lays the foundation for the sustainable use of forests, biodiversity conservation, and inclusive economic development – ensuring that Laos's forests are managed by skilled, informed, and diverse workforce.



Location



Partners

Primary Partner:
Faculty of Forest Science,
National University of Laos,
Vientiane, and its wood and wood
product testing laboratory

Secondary Partners:
Faculty of Agriculture and Forest
Resource, Souphanouvong
University, Luang Prabang
Faculty of Agriculture and
Environment, Savannakhet
University, Savannakhet



Objective

This output aims to build the professional skills of men and women throughout Laos' forestry sector by modernising education and training. It embeds the principles of sustainable management and biodiversity conservation into academic programmes, technical training, and on-the-job learning. Through updated curricula and improved facilities for practical training, a new generation of professionals will be equipped to manage forests sustainably, drive innovation in forest-based industries, and lead community conservation efforts.



Our Approach

To achieve the objective, the output cooperates with the **Faculty of Forest Science (FFS) at the National University of Laos (NUOL)**. Key activities include:

- Technical support via an integrated expert.
- Develop and update curricula for Bachelor and - Master programmes as well as short and long-term courses.
- Improve the teaching and learning quality by creating modern materials and providing teacher training.
- Upgrade the wood and wood product testing laboratory with new equipment in order to offer hands-on training for students and professionals as well as to increase its service offer to the private sector.

In collaboration with the private sector, a scholarship programme has been initiated in cooperation with the three leading timber companies: Mekong Timber Plantations, Silvicarbon Agroforestry, and Burapha Agro-Forestry. These scholarships support aspiring students at Laos's three national forestry faculties at NUOL, Souphanouvong University, and Savannakhet University.

