REDD+ in Struggle: Case of Institutional Reforms in Laos

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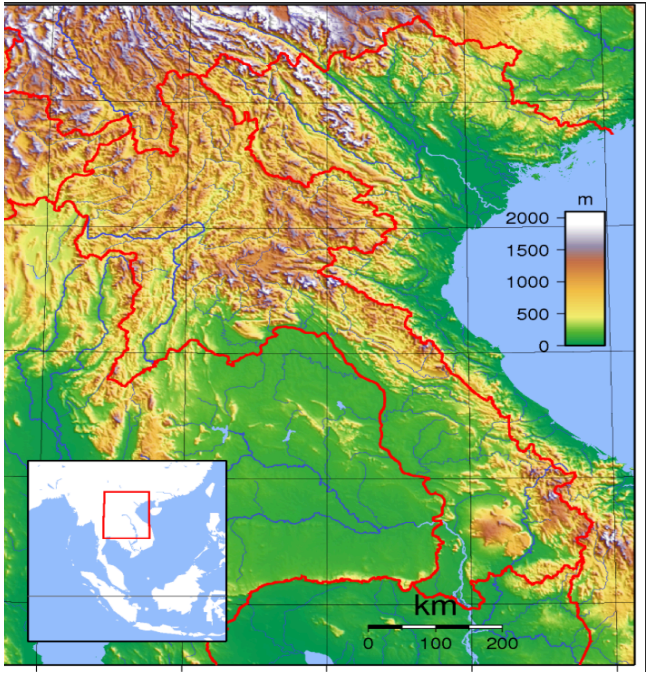
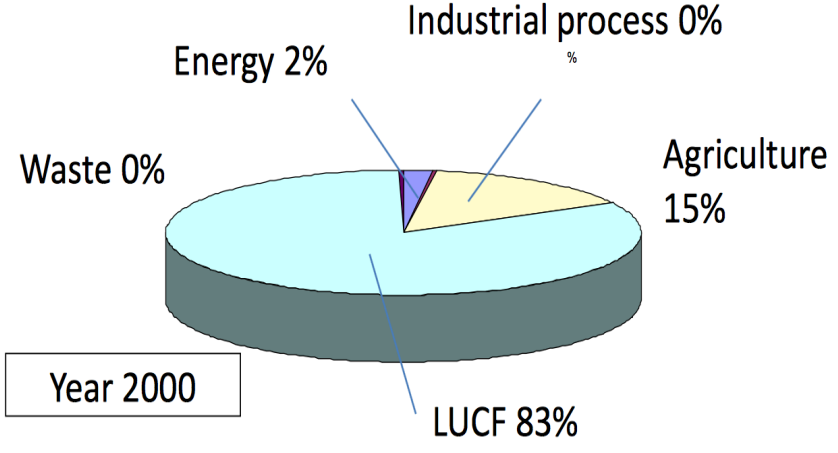
Introduction

- Laos is remote and mountainous
- People's livelihood is highly depending on agriculture and natural resources
- Moving from subsistence based farming to marketed economy
- Rapid infrastructure development



Introduction

- Laos has less industry, except hydropower
- Increasing regional collaboration and trade; increase investment, especialy since 2000
- Rapid ecconomic development, increase pressure on the natural resources
- Ending poverty and sustainabiblity becoming more and more challenge and constraversal issue



Source: Lao PDR 2nd National Communication to the UNFCCC (June 2013)

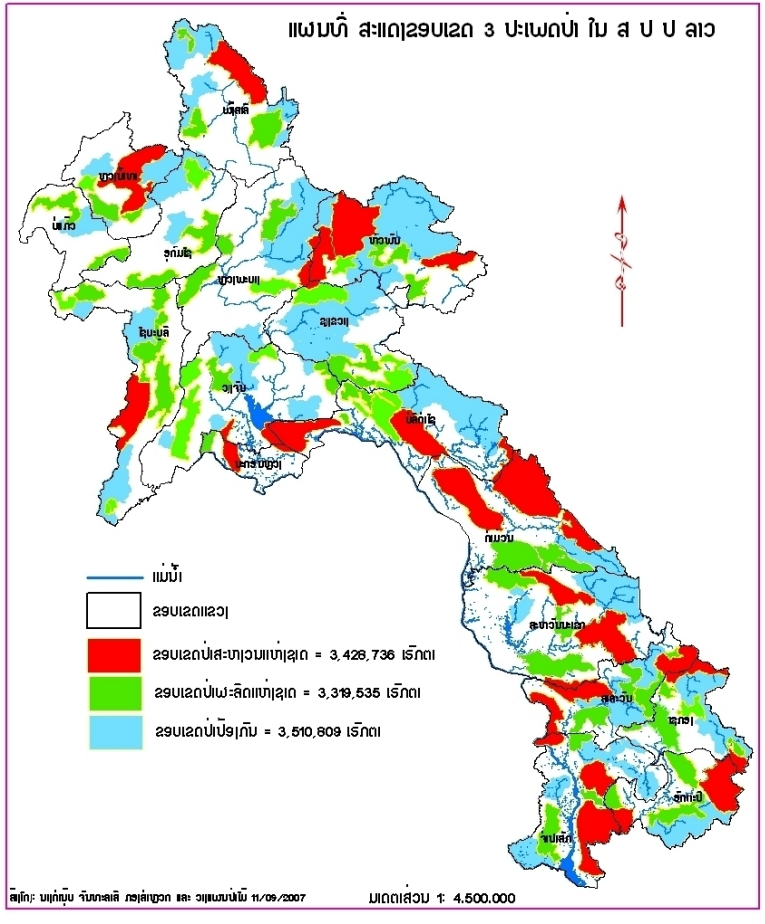
Laos SDGs

17 global goals + 1 national goal

Forest Land Area

- Total country area ≈ 23.7 mil. Ha
- Forest Land Area (of 3 forest categories under Forest Law and their locations defined on the map) ≈ 15.4 mil. ha
- Total (current) forest (regarding to current forest definition, and the assessment data in 2002) ≈ 9.8 mil. ha

Total forest cover (%) of country area ≈ 41 %

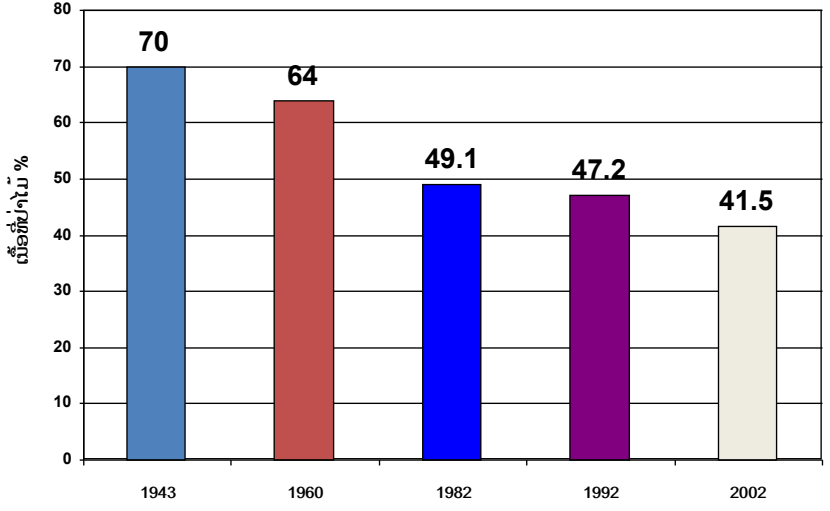


Forest Cover Change

Three forest categories are recognized under Forestry Law for the purpose of preservation and development

Forest category	Areas (M. ha)
• Protection Forest	6.8
• Conservation Forest	5.2
• Production Forest	3.4
Total	**15.4**

Forest/land use changes



*The Current Forest 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** equivalent to 0.6% of the total land area.*

Reducing Emmision from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+)

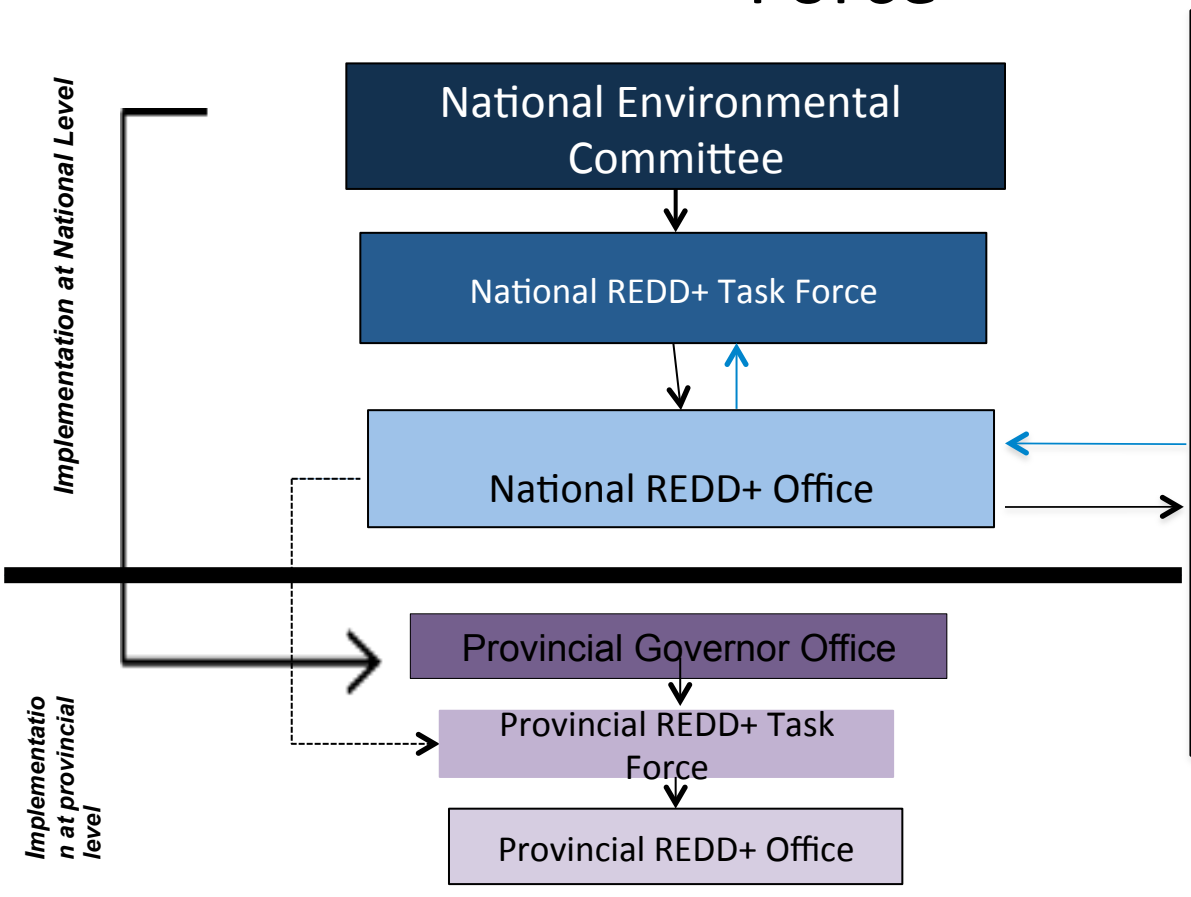
Laos Perspectives on REDD+

1. REDD+ as a means to promote the National Forest Strategy
2. REDD+ enhances forest conservation
3. Source of financial support
4. Contribution towards poverty alleviation and provide alternatives to shifting cultivation
5. Creating incentives for rural communities in the management of forest resources

Laos Response to Climate Change and REDD+

- Government signed UNFCCC on 4/4/1995 and Kyoto Protocol in 2003
- National Steering Committee on Climate Change established in May 2008
- National Adaptation of Action to Climate Change approved in May 2010
- National REDD+ committee establishment

TWGs report to National REDD+ Task Force



- Safeguards TWG
- Benefit-sharing TWG
- Land Issues (related to REDD+) TWG
- REL and MRV TWG
- Policy and Legal Framework TWG
- Enforcement and Implementation of Mitigation Activities

Team of technical advisers working to support NFTF, TWGs, and National REDD+ Office. TA from:

- FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project
- CliPAD
- MB-REDD
- F-REDD

The National REDD+ Office is the secretariat for the NRTF and the six TWGs !

National REDD+ Program Key Features

Lao PDR phased approach to REDD+:

Phase I

Institutional Readiness

(2014 – 2016)

Objective: Institutionalize REDD+, National Strategy and Action Plans complete with key safeguard systems in place.

Phase II

Subnational Readiness and Implementation

(2016 – 2018)

Objective: Simplified key technical (MRV and REL) elements in place, sub-national programs engaged

Phase III

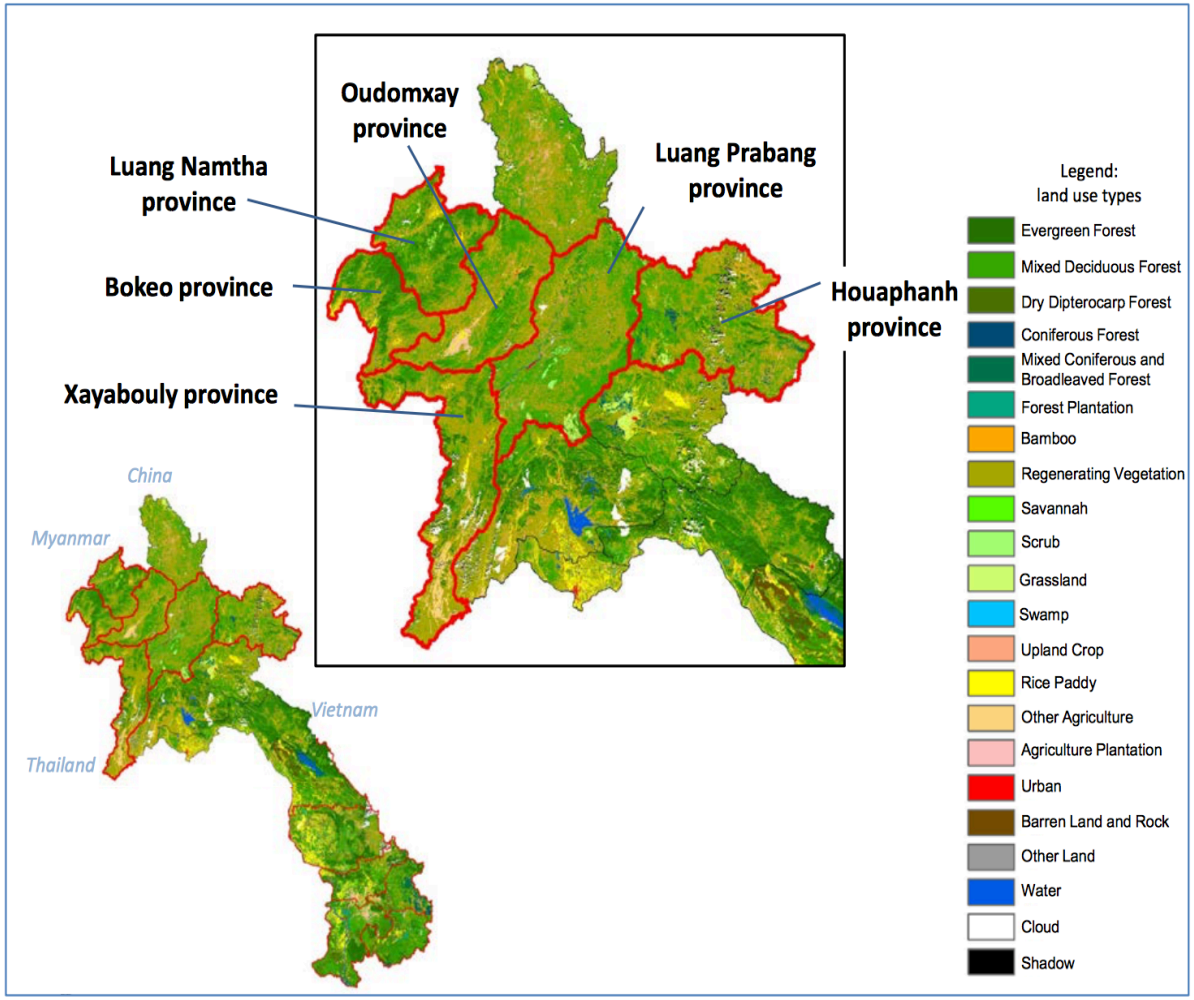
"Upgrading" and Verified Emission Reduction

(2018 – Onwards)

Objective: Systems "upgraded" and national mechanisms for monitoring and verification of emission reductions is operational

Emmision Reduction Program

Government proposed six northern provinces for the ER program



Main REDD+ Projects/Programs

Project	Donor	Focus	Scope
CliPAD	KfW/GIZ	Sub National Piloting	Houaphan Province
PAREDD	JICA	Sub National Piloting	Luang Prabang Province
SUFORD-SU	WB/FIP Finland	Sustainable Forest Management in Production Forests, Forest Landscapes, Village Forestry, monitoring	13 of 17 rural Provinces
Lao Forest Investment Plan (FIP Laos)	FIP/WB/ADB/IFC	3 projects: SUFORD-SU (WB); smallholder plantations (IFC); ecosystem services (ADB)	Multiple provinces
FLEGT	European Union/GIZ	Law Enforcement	Multiple Provinces
LEAF	USAID/SNV	REDD+ Technical Inputs	Multiple Provinces
ENRICH	SNV	Carbon Stock Enhancements	Faculty of Forestry
FPREP	JICA	Forestry Policies and Capacities	National Level
NFIS	JICA	Mapping and Biomass Assessment at National Level	Country-wide
FIM/FPP	JICA	Capacity building ; facilities, equipment	Country-wide
Project Level Activities	RECOFTC, WWF, SNV,WCS	Various activities, NGO and private.	Multiple Locations

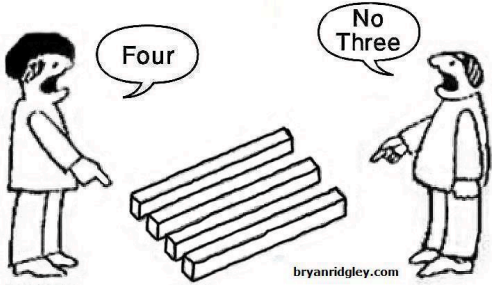
Subnational Piloting

Mitigation And Enhancement

REDD+ Technical Systems and Policy

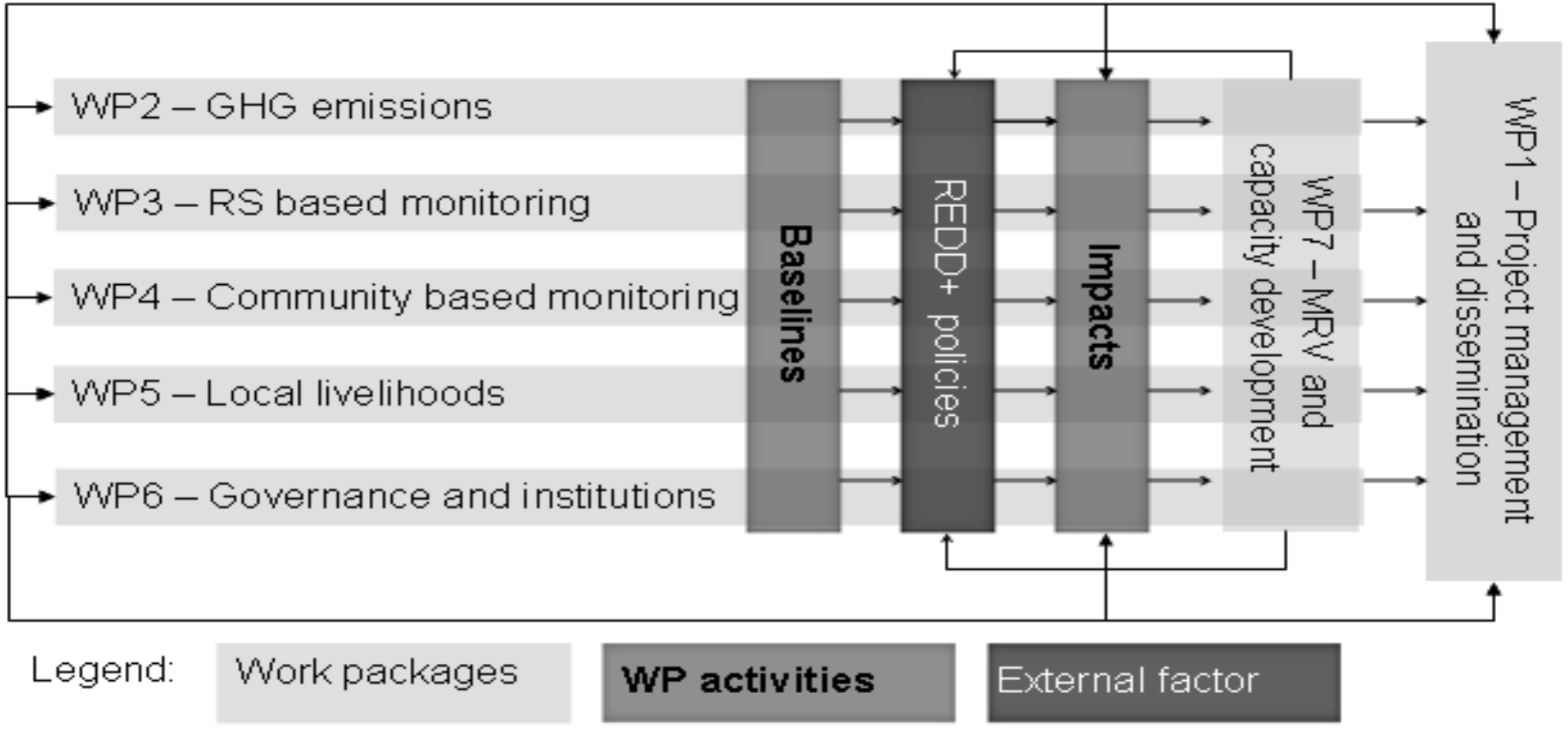
Evolving REDD+ Institutional Arrangements

REDD+ under DOF, MAF		REDD+ under DFRM, MONRE
REDD+ National Task Force Under DG of DOF	→	REDD+ Task Force Under DG of DFRM
DOF REDD+ Office	←	DFRM REDD+ Office and *DOF REDD+ Office*



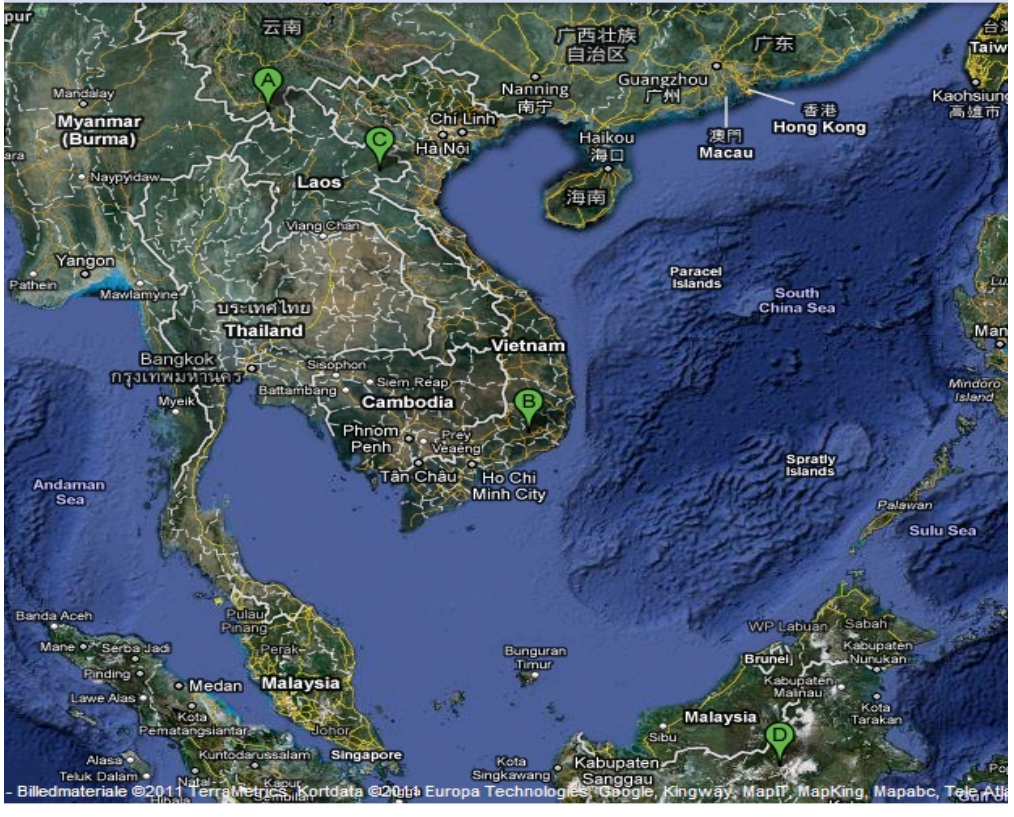
I-REDD+ Project

I-REDD+ Project Overview



I-REDD+: Project Sites

- Vietnam: Nghe An Province, Con Cuong District
- China: Yunnan Province, Xishuangbanna Prefecture, Manlin Village, Xiangming Township
- Laos: Nam Et Phou Loeuy National Protected Area, Luang Prabang/Huaphan Provinces
- Indonesia: Kutai Barat Regency, East Kalimantan



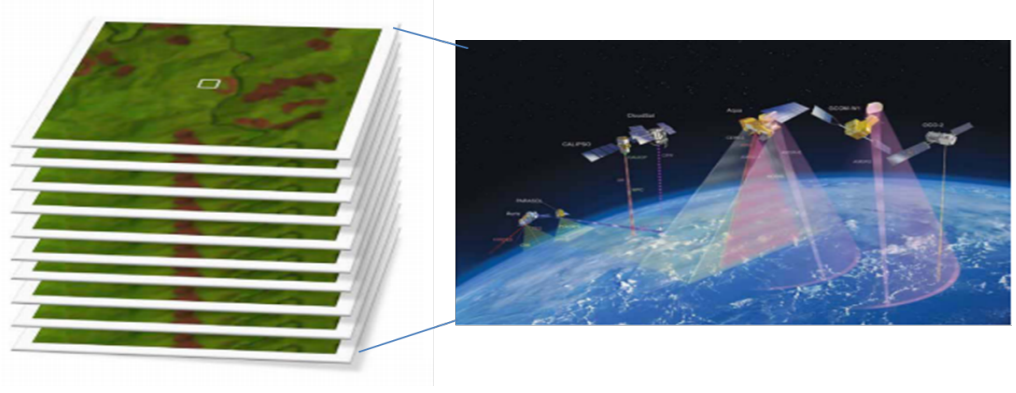
I-REDD+ Project Partners

Organisation		Country
University of Copenhagen	UCPH	Denmark
Leibniz Institut für Agrarentwicklung in Mittel- und Osteuropa	IAMO	Germany
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	UBER	Germany
University of East Anglia	UEA	United Kingdom
The University of Edinburgh	UEDIN	United Kingdom
Institut de Recherche pour le Développement	IRD	France
Universität Bern	UBERN	Switzerland
Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences	KIB	PR China
Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies, Hanoi University of Agriculture	CARES	Vietnam
National University of Laos	NUOL	Laos
Yayasan WWF Indonesia	WWF-IND	Indonesia
Center for International Forestry Research	CIFOR	International
World Agroforestry Centre	ICRAF	International
Nordic Agency for Development and Ecology	NORDECO	Denmark

Methods

WP 2: Emission

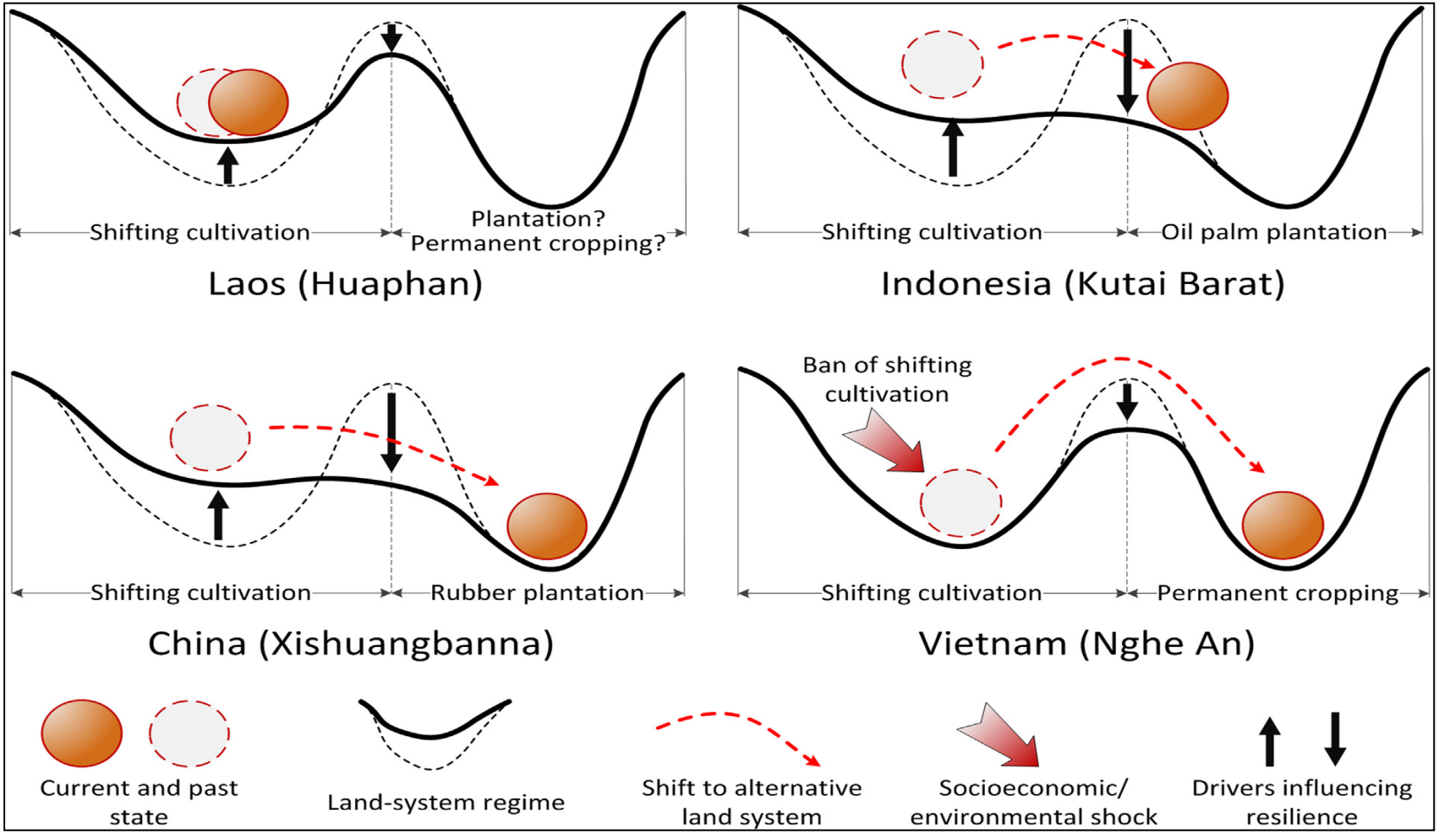
WP 3: Forest cover and land use change



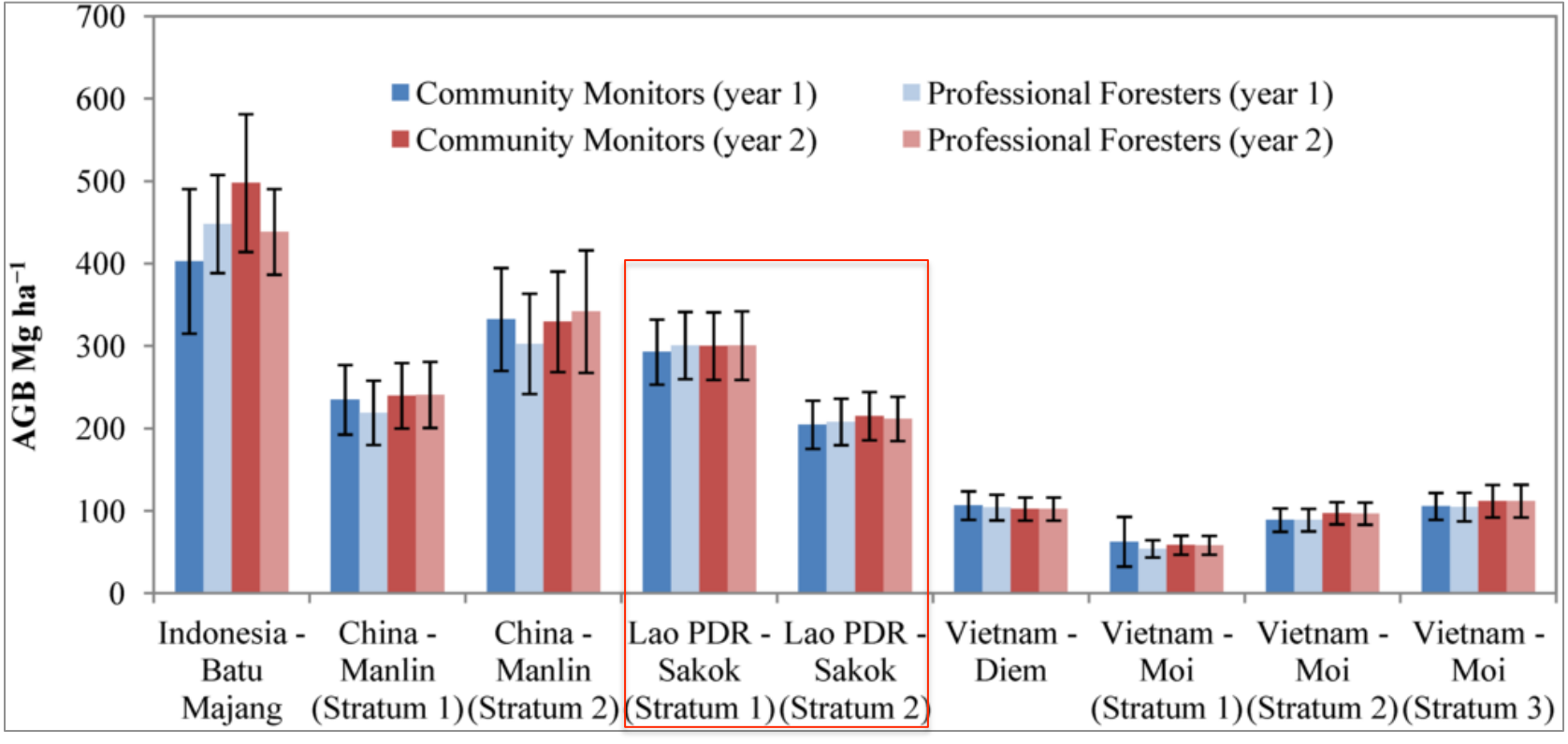
WP 5: local liveiihoods

WP 7: Governance and institution

Changes of Land Use Systems



Estimated above-ground woody biomass



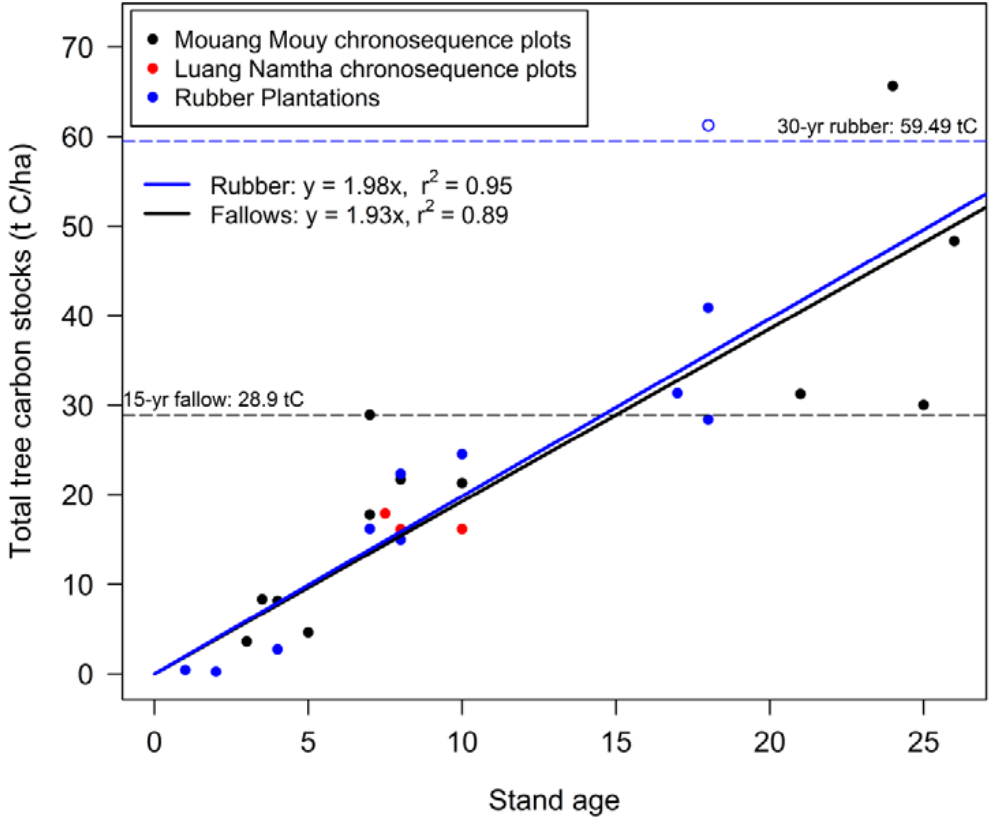
Compared above ground woody biomass measured by local communities and professional foresters (similar results but higher expenses measured by professional forester)

Carbon Stock Assessment

Similar carbon stock in the secondary forest in Luangnamtha and Viengkham district

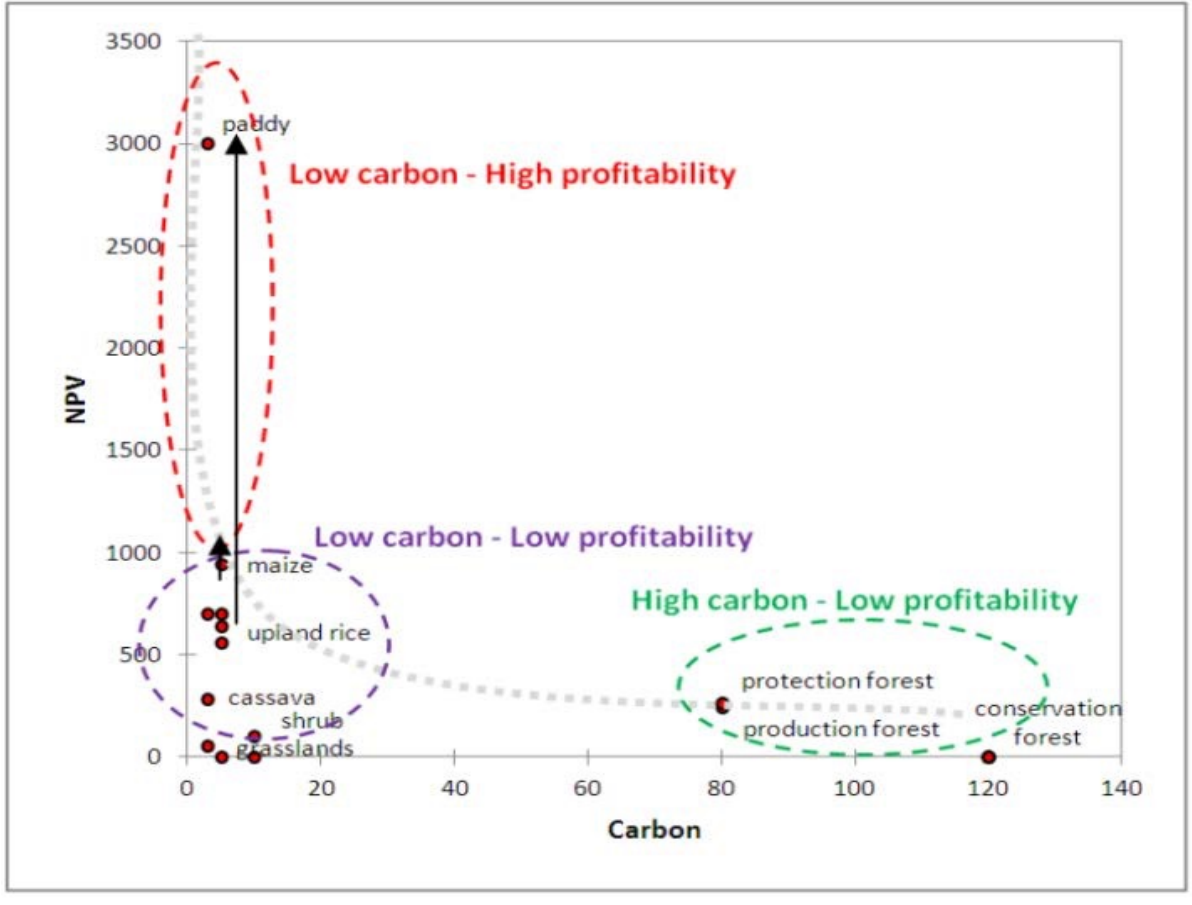
Carbon stock

- ❑ Secondary forest: 1.93 tC/ha/yr-1
- ❑ Rubber plantation: 1.94 tC/ha/yr-1
- ❑ Secondary forest; age 15yr can store carbon 29 tC
- ❑ Rubber plantation 30 yr can store 59 tC

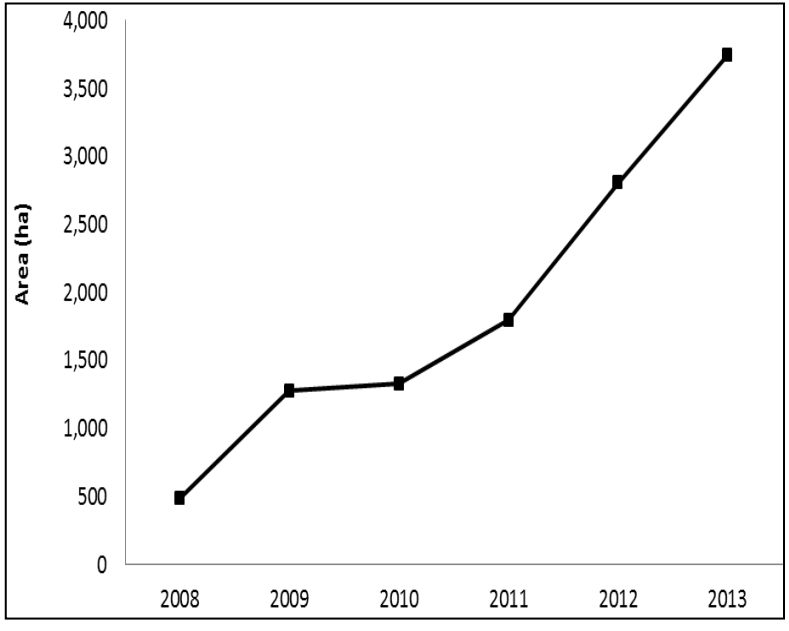


LU Profitability VS Carbon Sorage

- Forest areas often served high carbon storage, but provide low profit to local communities
- Land use by local community often serves high benefits from community but stores lesser forest carbon compared to forest area



Maize Cultivation Boom in Laos



Highlight Some Findings

1. Reference emission level is difficult to define and may not be able to predict the uncertain futures

2. Current crediting approach, relying on performance-based payments and prediction fort the future carbon dynamics, it is highly risky and may not lead to the expected emissions reductions

3. Many underlying drivers of deforestation and degradation difficult to address. Change are beyond the control of national or sub-national institutions (e.g. rubber, palm oil, …cash crops)

4. Carbon stocks in mosaic landscapes and degraded forests may be underestimate

Highlight Some Findings

5. Forest degradation need be monitored at different scales and need to involve local people in the process
6. Roles and responsibilities of organizations related REDD+ are not clear defined
7. Requirement of REDD+ is is rather high, may not able to applicable
8. Local government authorities consider poverty reduction policy more important than forest conservation

http://www.iredd.dk

Conclusion

I-REDD+ aim to explore the impacts of REDD+ activities on resource governance and livelihoods, but these difficult to be seen due to REDD+ are not really implemented on the ground

Thank you for your attention