


REDD+ in Struggle: Case of Institutional Reforms in Laos

A scenic landscape of Laos featuring rolling green hills, dense forests, and distant mountain peaks under a clear sky. The foreground shows lush green hills with some cleared areas, leading to a valley with more forested hills. In the distance, several sharp mountain peaks rise above a layer of low clouds or mist. The sky is a pale, clear blue.

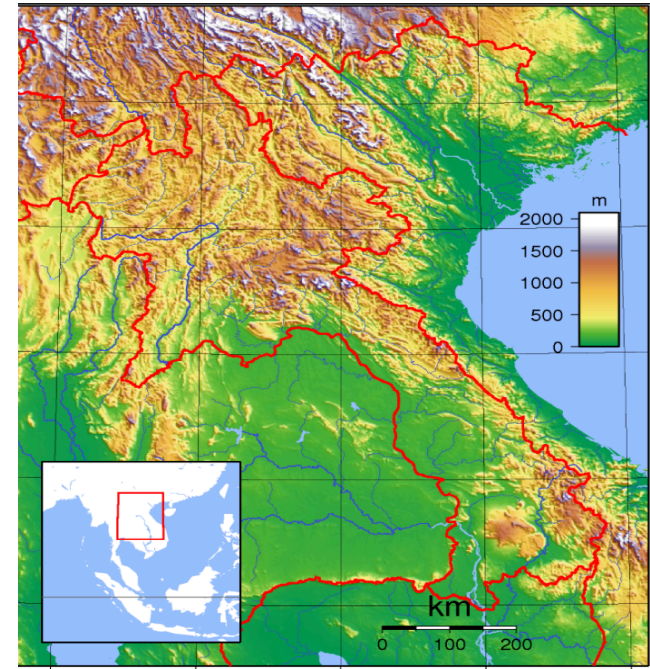
Sithong Thongmanivong, PhD
Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos
sithong@nuoledula

Content

1. Introduction
2. REDD+ status in Laos
3. Highlight some result from the I-REDD+ study

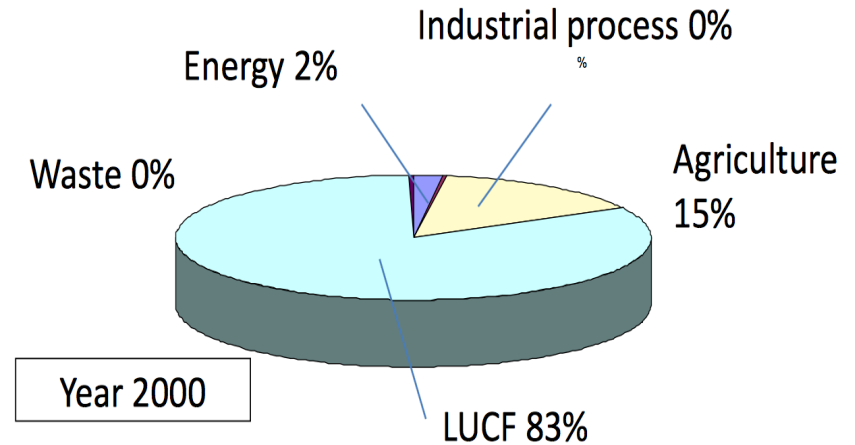
Introduction

- ❑ 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, especially since 2000
- ❑ Rapid economic development, increase pressure on the natural resources
- ❑ Ending poverty and sustainability becoming more and more challenge and controversial issue



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

Laos SDGs

17 global goals + 1 national goal



Goal 1: No poverty



Goal 2: Zero hunger



Goal 3: Good health and well-being



Goal 4: Quality education



Goal 5: Gender equality



Goal 6: Clean water and sanitation



Goal 7: Affordable and clean energy



Goal 8: Decent work and economic growth



Goal 9: Industry, innovation, infrastructure



Goal 10: Reduced inequalities



Goal 11: Sustainable cities and communities



Goal 12: Responsible consumption, production



Goal 13: Climate action



Goal 14: Life below water



Goal 15: Life on land



Goal 16: Peace, justice and strong institutions



Goal 17: Partnerships for the goals

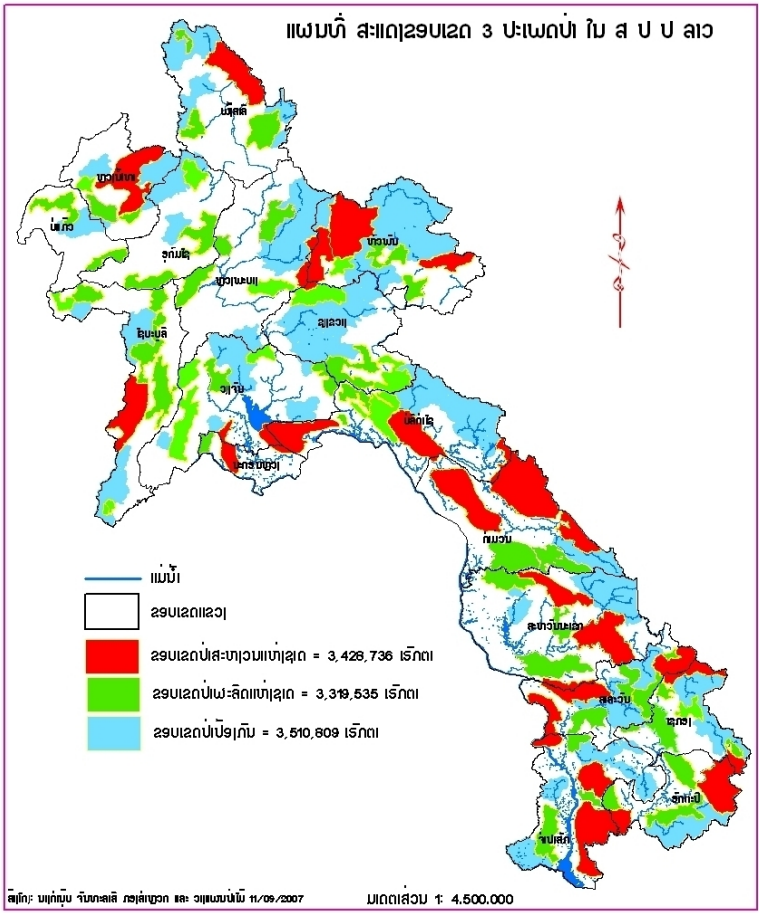


Goal 18: Lives safe from UXO

Forest Land Area

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

Total forest cover (%) of country area \approx 41 %



Forest Cover Change

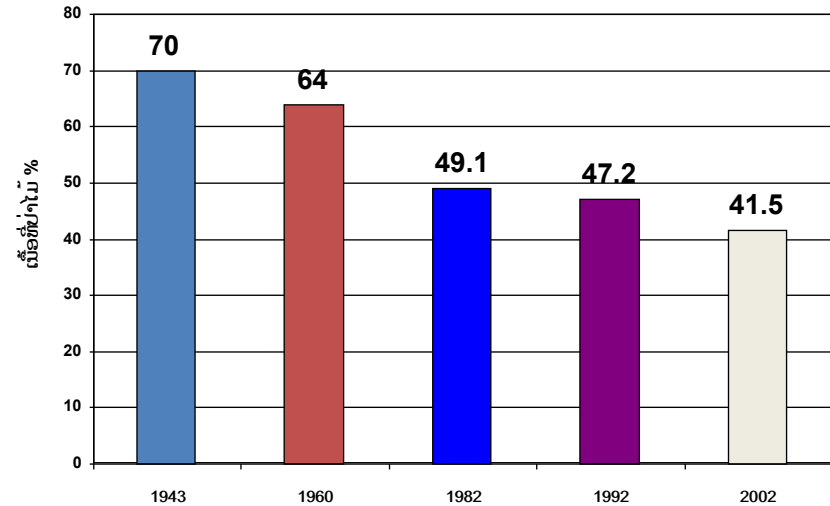
Three forest categories are recognized under Forestry Law for the purpose of preservation and development

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 Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD+)



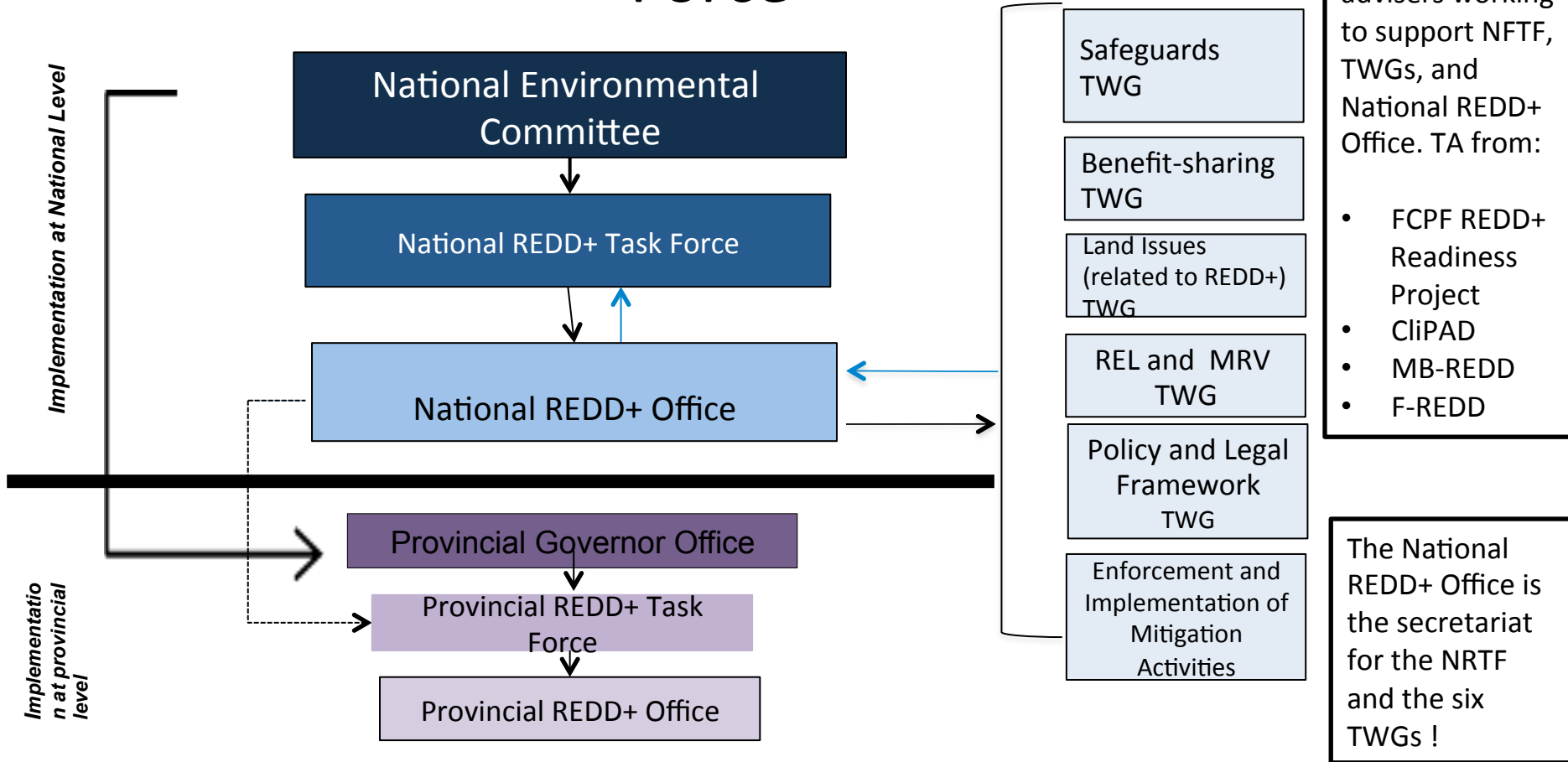
Laos Perspectives on REDD+

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



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

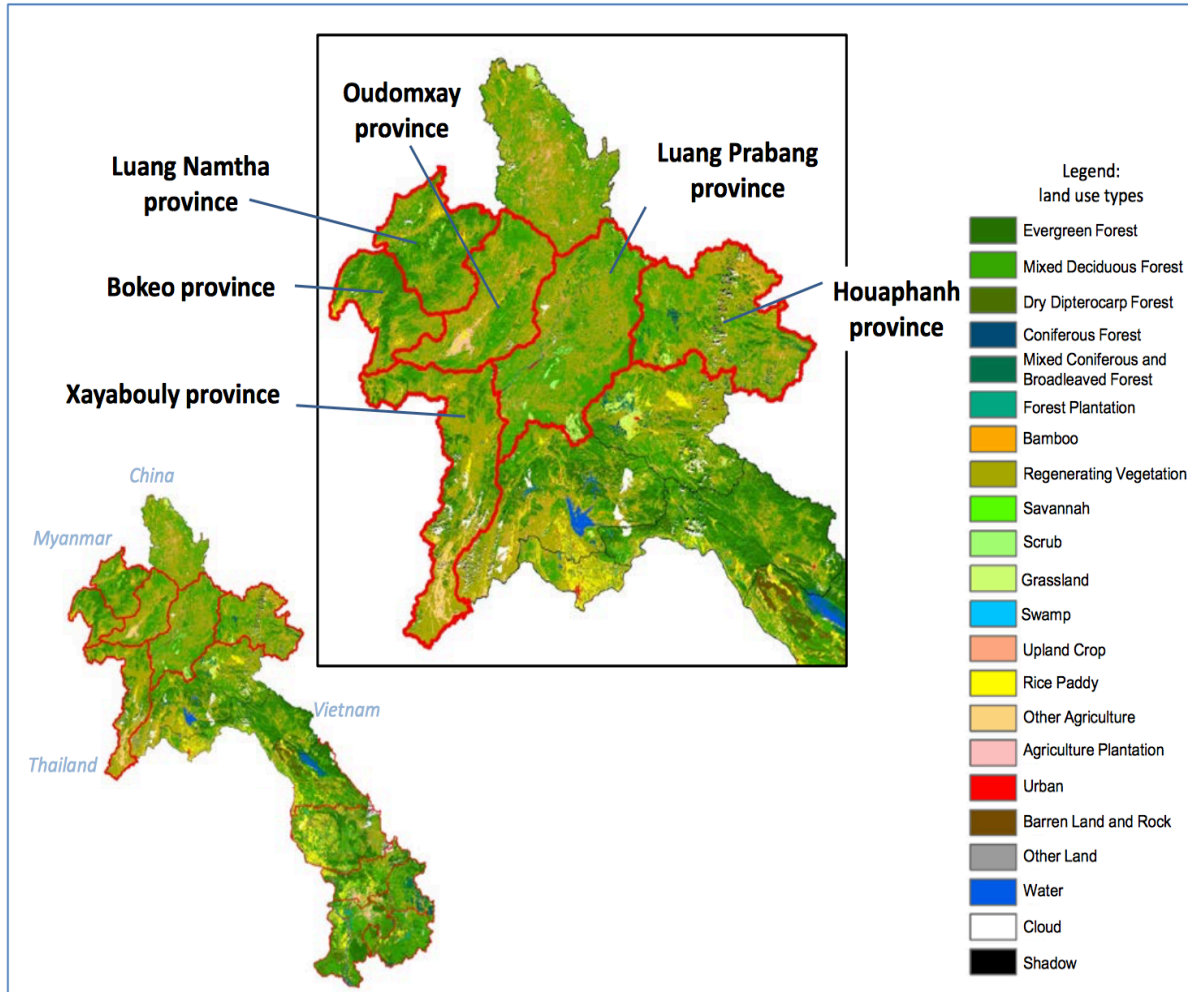
“Upgrading” and Verified Emission Reduction

(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

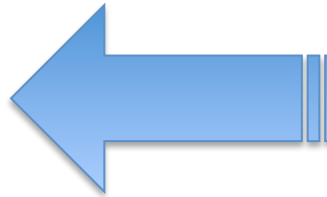
Project	Donor	Focus	Scope	
CLIPAD	KfW/GIZ	Sub National Piloting	Houaphan Province	Subnational Piloting
PAREDD	JICA	Sub National Piloting	Luang Prabang Province	
SUFORD-SU	WB/FIP Finland	Sustainable Forest Management in Production Forests, Forest Landscapes, Village Forestry, monitoring	13 of 17 rural Provinces	Mitigation And Enhancement
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	REDD+ Technical Systems and Policy
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	

Evolving REDD+ Institutional Arrangements

REDD+ under DOF, MAF

REDD+ National Task Force
Under DG of DOF

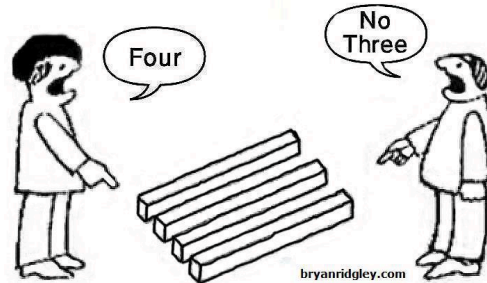
DOF REDD+ Office



REDD+ under DFRM, MONRE

REDD+ Task Force
Under DG of DFRM

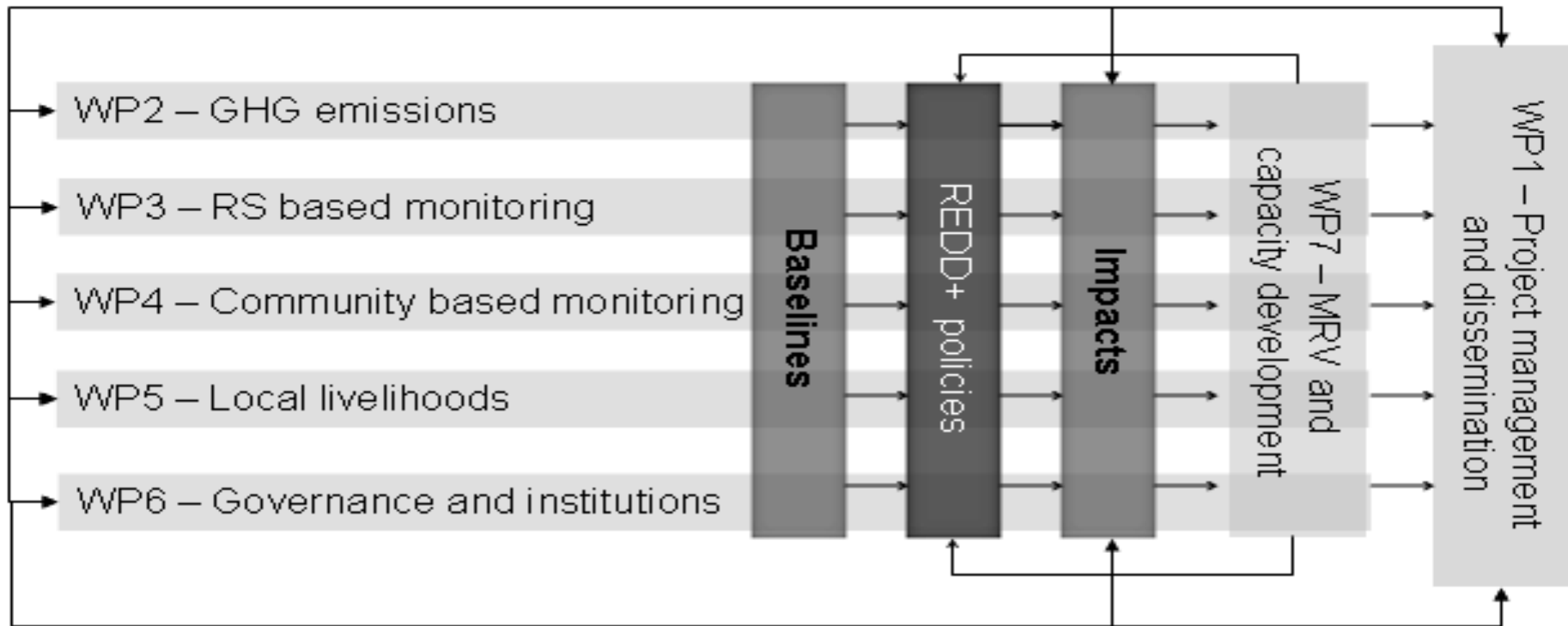
DFRM REDD+ Office and
DOF REDD+ Office



I-REDD+ Project



I-REDD+ Project Overview



Legend:

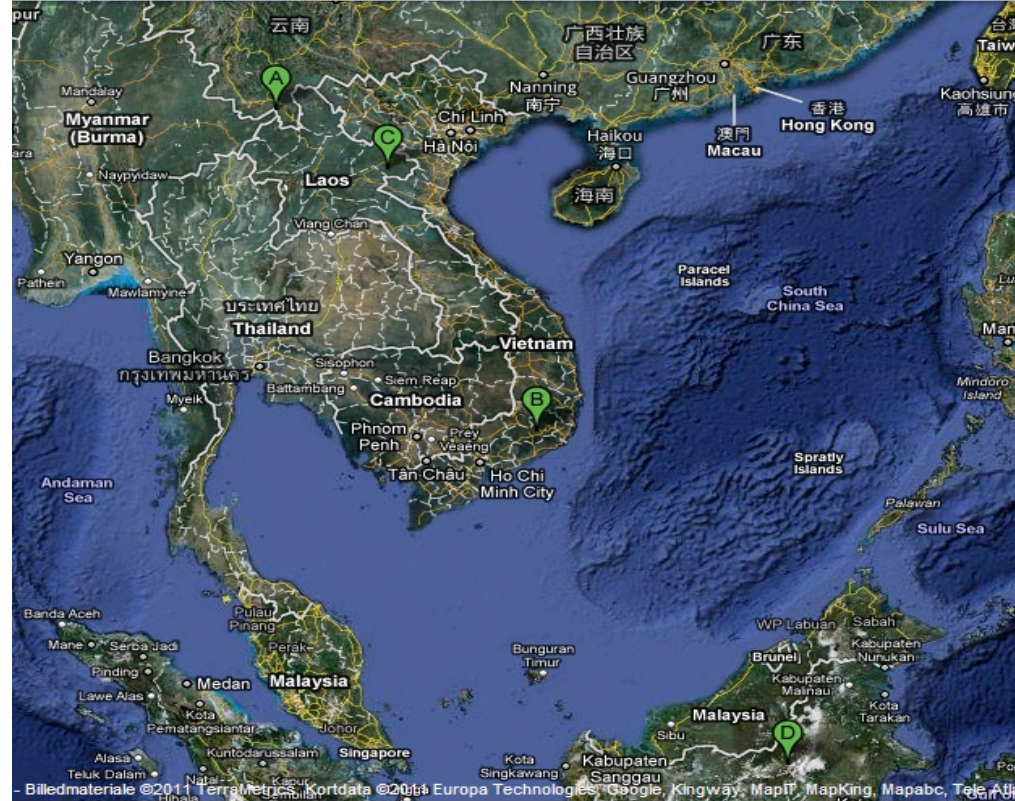
Work packages

WP activities

External factor

I-REDD+: Project Sites

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



I-REDD+ Project Partners

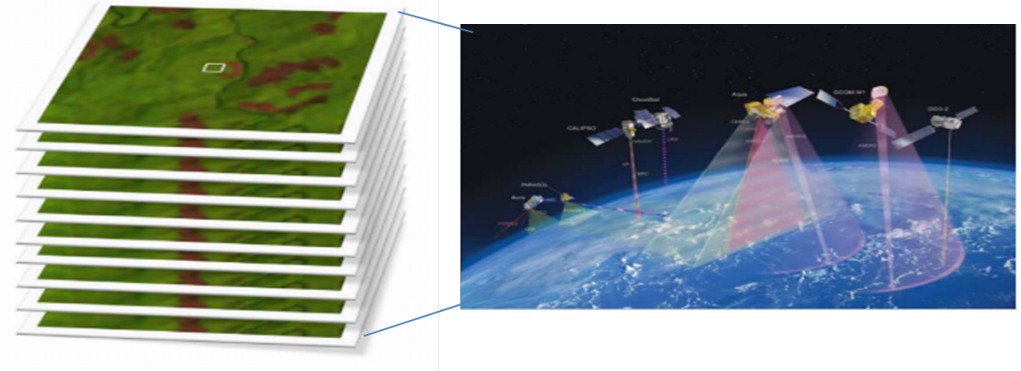
Organisation		Country
University of Copenhagen	UCPH	Denmark
Leibniz Institut für Agrarentwicklung in Mittel- und Osteuropa	IAMO	Germany
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	UBER	Germany
University of East Anglia	UEA	United Kingdom
The University of Edinburgh	UEDIN	United Kingdom
Institut de Recherche pour 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



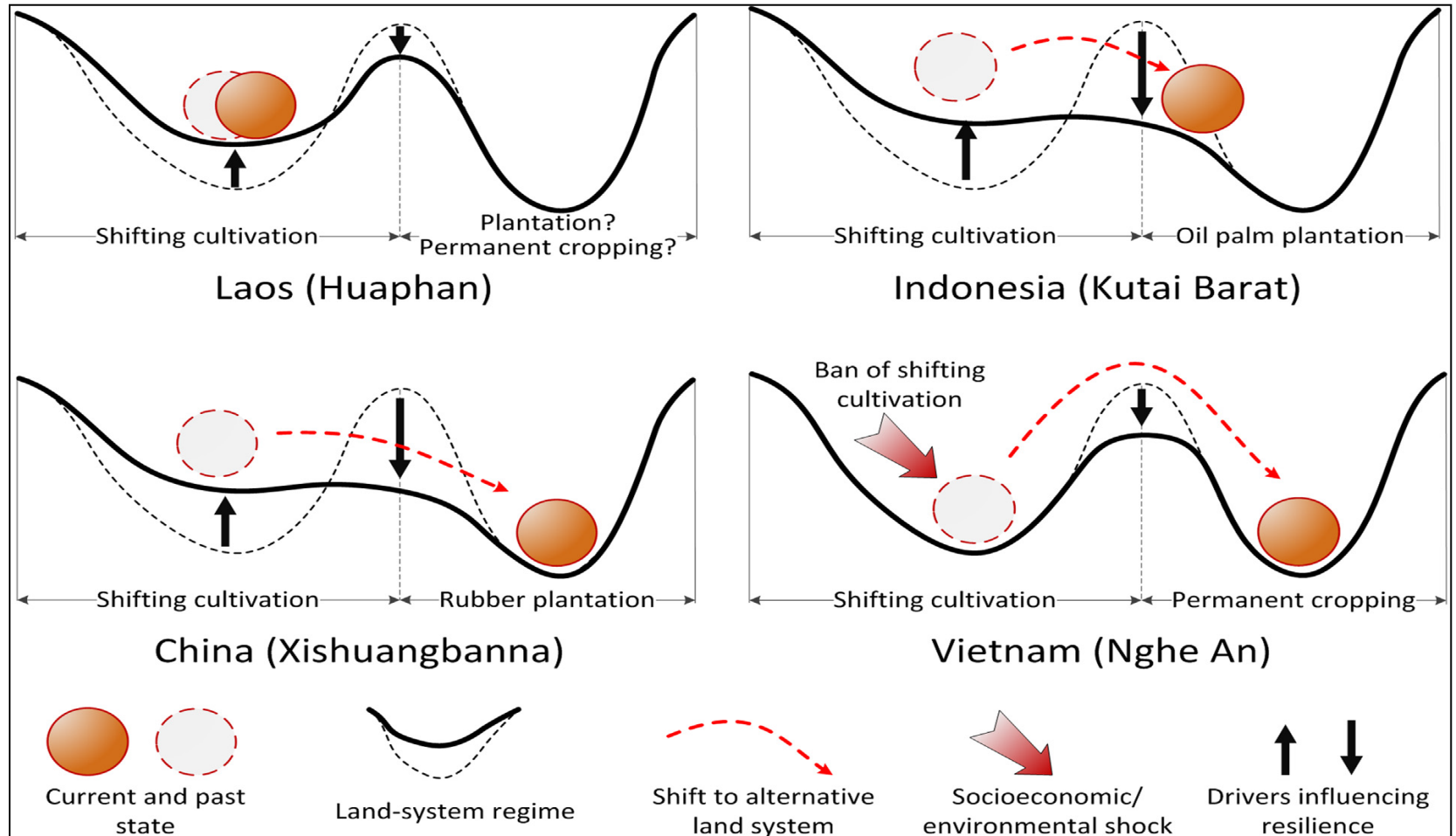
WP 5: local livelihoods



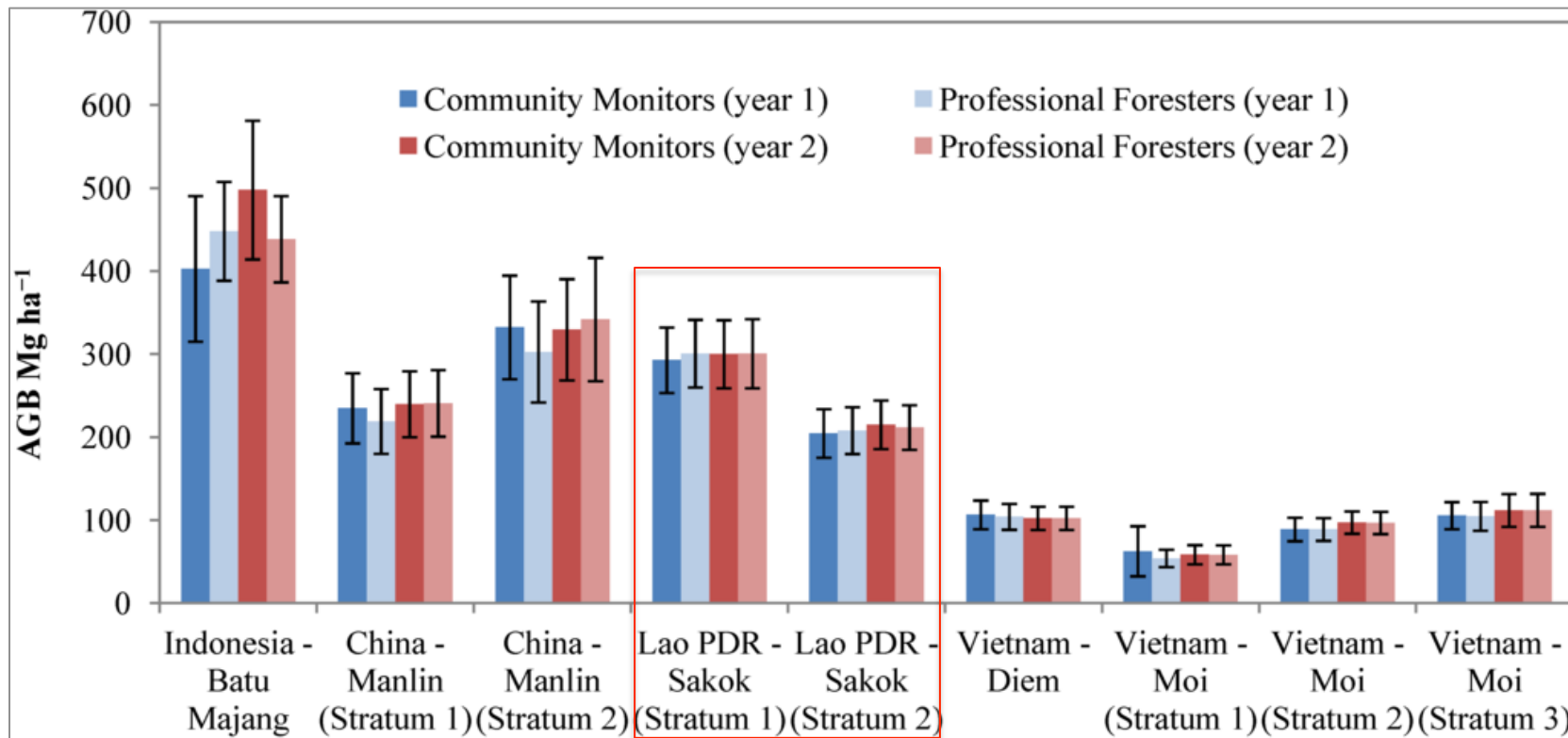
WP 7: Governance and institution



Changes of Land Use Systems



Estimated above-ground woody biomass



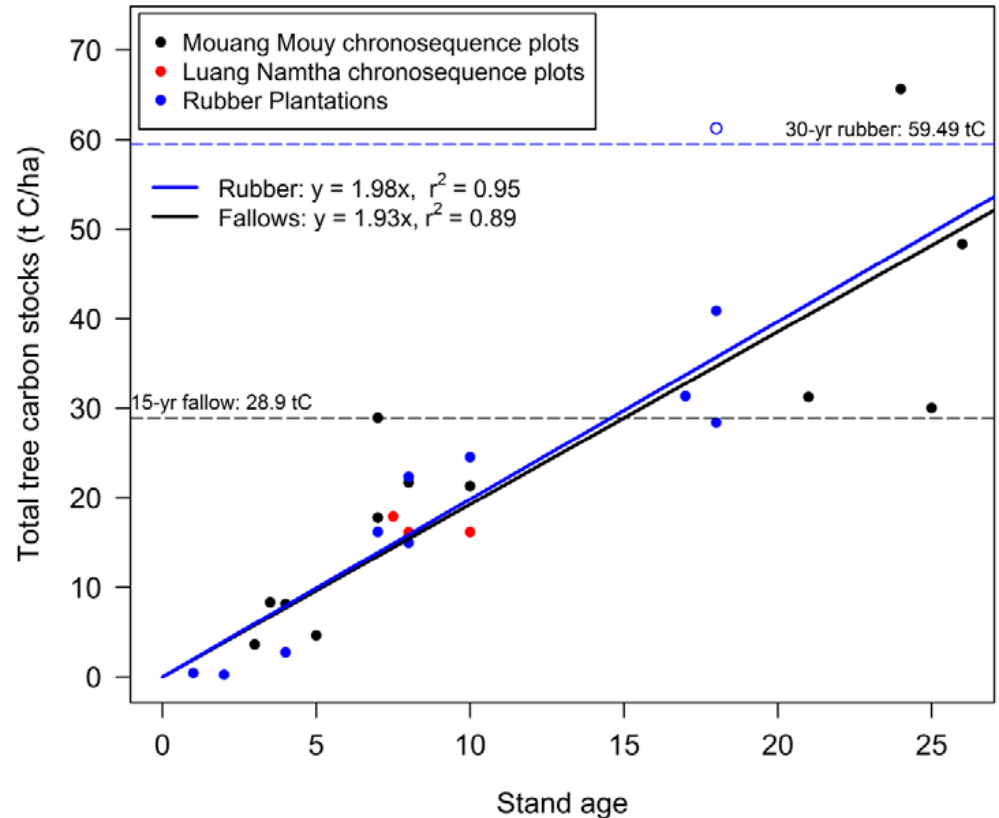
Compared above ground woody biomass measured by local communities and professional foresters (similar results but higher expenses measured by professional forester)

Carbon Stock Assessment

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

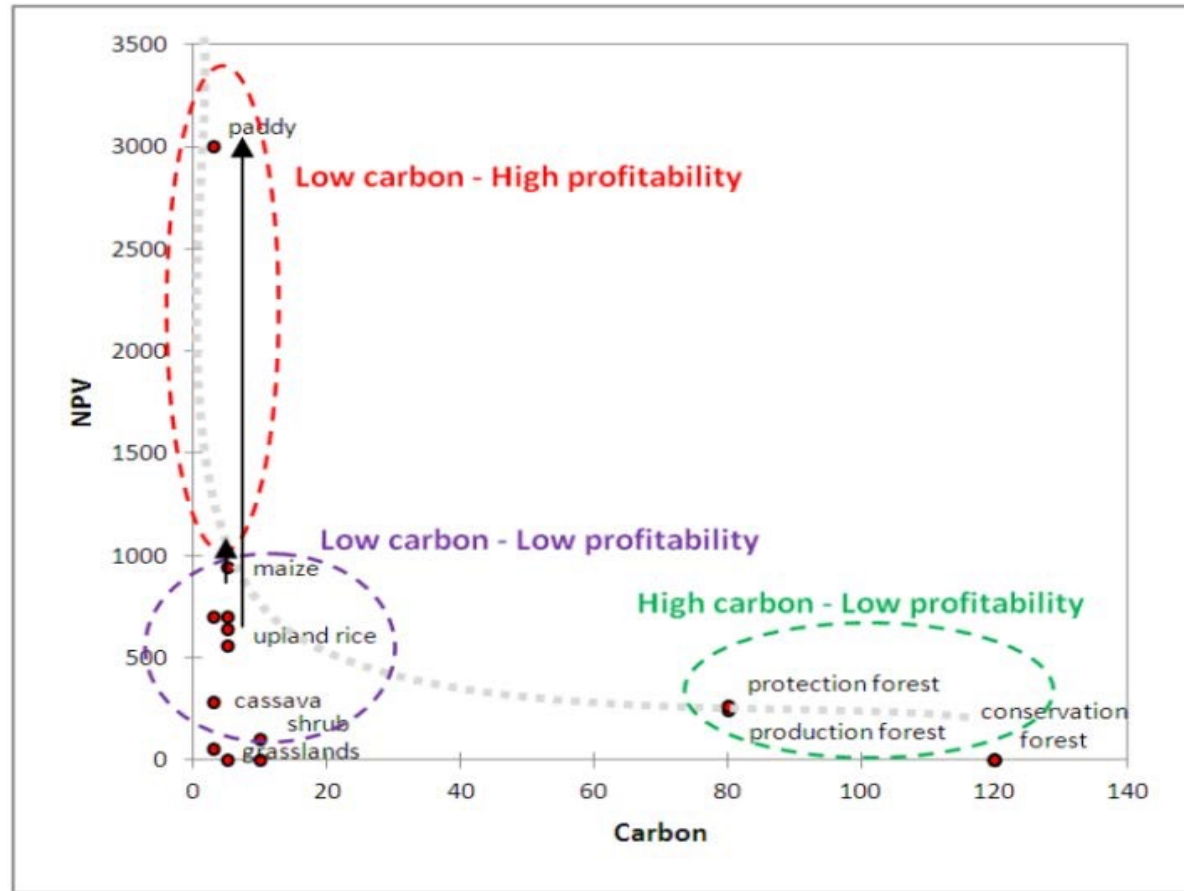
Carbon stock

- ❑ 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

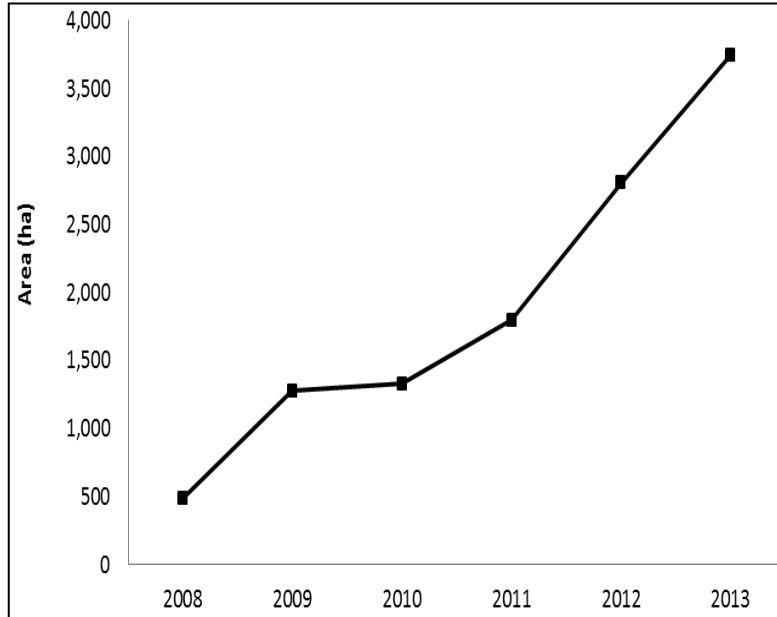


LU Profitability VS Carbon Storage

- 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 for 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



I-REDD+ Policy Brief no. 1

The forgotten challenges of a

I-REDD+ Policy Brief no. 3

Opportunities for REDD+ in forests and co

Key messages

1. Emission reductions from forest degradation and carbon regeneration in mosaic mountainous areas of Southeast Asia can make a significant contribution to REDD+.
2. To achieving these emission reductions, REDD+ policy must encourage forest conservation and provide appropriate incentives for channeling investments and support to these areas.

Three challenges in locally managed landscapes

So far, most of the focus has been on primary forests.

Why focus on forest degradation?

Forest degradation was an additional issue at COP13 in Bali in 2007 as it was avoided forest degradation could be a more important problem than deforestation in terms of carbon losses. But there is little attention to address forest degradation in the Bali Action Plan for the following reasons:

- carbon stocks and dynamics are less well known than in primary forests and deforestation
- measuring and monitoring carbon stocks is more complex when forests are in secondary growth
- degraded forests are often found in complex mosaic landscapes with different elements of old forest, fallow, agriculture and plantations.

I-REDD+ Policy Brief no. 4

Lessons for REDD+ from complex mosaic landscapes

Six lessons emerge from the I-REDD+ research project in Southeast Asia indicating a rapidly closing window of opportunity for REDD+. This is especially the case in mosaic landscapes where many types of mature and degraded forests co-exist with agriculture and other land uses and where land use changes are occurring very rapidly.

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