Methods for Biomass Estimation and Forest-Cover Mapping in the Tropics

Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) in Lao PDR

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Presentation Overview

• Background Information about Laos Response to Climate Change and REDD

• Lao Government Perspectives on REDD and Activities

• Issues and Key Challenges
Background information


- **Set up** National Steering Committee on Climate Change, in May 2008

- Development of strategy on Climate Change, approved in March 2010.
Members:
1. Vice Minister of MEM
2. Vice Minister of MIT
3. Vice Minister of MCWT
4. Vice Minister of MPH
5. Vice Minister of ME
6. Vice Minister of MIC
7. Vice Minister of NSTA
8. Vice Minister of MIF
9. Vice Minister, Deputy Head of WREA
10. Vice Chair of Land Management Authority
11. Vice Chair of Lao Front for Construction
12. Three Mass Organizations
13. Vice Chair of Chamber of Commerce.

Chair by Deputy PM

MPI
Vice Chair

WREA
Standing Vice Chair

MAF
Vice Chair

Assistant & International Consultant

Board:
- Resolutions &
- Policy Guidance

NSCC Secretariat (DoE)

NSCC
• Policy Implement.
• Supervise Activities
• Control Activities

Climate Change Office

Admin.

Technical

International TA

Adm. & Finance
IT, Website
Monitor/Evaluate
ETA, Workshops

GHGI Unit
V&A Unit
CDM Unit
Energy Efficiency
Lao perspectives on REDD

- Lao government recognise the important of the issue and would like to participate with other nation to protect the environment
- REDD enhances forest and biodiversity conservation
- REDD promote to achieve the National Forest Strategy
- Source of financial resources
- Creating incentives for rural communities in the management of forest resources
- Contribution towards poverty alleviation and alternative to shifting cultivation
REDD Implementation in Laos

- Beginning stage
- Participate in FCPF of WB
- Supporting pilot activities for REDD
- Consultation and preparations of REDD readiness
- Public awareness raising campaigns
- Capacity building trainings (e.g. nation, provincial, district)
Some Activities

• Set up Redd task force to develop national Redd strategies, 2008
• Study on drivers of forest degradation and deforestation, 2009
• Public awareness raising by DoF, Nuol, National front, NLMA, etc, since 2008
• Established national forest information center, at FIPD, 2010
• Develop readiness preparation proposal (RPP) to WB, Agust, 2010
• Current:
  • REDD Pilot projects ie. CliPAD, and other related to REDD project, conservation projects ie. SUFORD, etc.
  • New institutional arrangement for REDD to widen stakeholder participation, under the Climate Change Committee
• Since 1943 forest cover (> 20% canopy) in Lao P.D.R has declined from 70 to 41.5% in 2002 (FIPD)

• Average loss of forest about 134,000 ha per annum equivalent to 0.6% of the total land area

Source: DOF (2002)
Main Drivers of Deforestation

- Commercial timber logging
- Shifting cultivation
- Forest fires
- Large infrastructure development projects
- Land use conversion (i.e. industrial plantation and agriculture)
Pilot projects for REDD

- WB/FCPF - preparation of national REDD readiness
- KfW – feasibility study on conservation and REDD
- Finland - production forest management and REDD
- WWF - conservation forest and REDD
- JICA – community forestry and REDD
National Forest Information

- National forest inventory 1990, 2005 using systematic inventory technique
- Other forest cover assessment 1992 and 1997 (FCMP/GTZ)
Key Issues

• Insufficient scientific data and information to support REDD development

• Weak institutional framework and limited human resource

• Unclear resource and land tenure
Key Challenges

- Developing spatial information techniques including forest cover mapping as well as carbon stock accounting
- Developing monitoring and verification system
- Human capacity building (i.e. central, local and communities)
Opportunities

• Collaboration with international organizations and share lesson learned from other REDD countries

• Developing “MRV” technique

• Developing remote sensing and analysis techniques

• Developing knowledge on carbon credit and market

• Joint research on REDD (i.e. assessment, monitoring, resource tenure and benefit sharing)
Thank you