Improve Forest Law Enforcement and Introduce Regular Joint Patrolling through the Forest Law Enforcement Action Plan

The Forest Law Enforcement Action Plan is one of the tools for forest authorities to apply for forest resource protection. This plan aims to prevent and conserve forest resources, enhance sustainable forest management, and increase biodiversity in the forest areas, and it also facilitates and assists the local authorities in Oudomxay, Luang Namtha and Bokeo provinces by gathering and input the related laws and legislations such as Forest Law, Aquatic-Wildlife Law, Forest Strategy up to 2020, Forest Inspection Strategy by 2020 to further implement in their places.

Conduct regular joint patrolling

The village forest patrolling route has been identified and the Provincial Office of Forest Inspection (POFI), the District Office of Forest Inspection (DOFI) and the villagers have conducted regular patrolling to serve their responsibility in protecting natural forest resources within the village's forest area. In 2019 7 joint patrols in each province have been successfully conducted already.

Dissemination of forest law and related regulations

Provincial of Forestry Inspection in Oudomxay

Joint forest patrolling

Cooperation on transboundary biodiversity conservation through employing an advanced fire monitoring system in Laos

Forest fires during the dry season, as well as illegal wildlife poaching, can seriously endanger forest resources. In order to comprehensively prevent this, PAFO, DoF and APFNet established the forest watcher system in Nam Ha Protected Area, Luangnamtha Province. In this project a first forest watcher tower, together with the high-tech command center, were established. During another APFNet project, a second tower was established and electricity supply issues fixed. These towers can now automatically monitor a radius of 15km, being both able to automatically detect fires and manually detect poachers. This activity was undertaken by with Nam Ha Protected Area (Luang Namtha, Lao PDR) in cooperation with Shang Yong Natural Reserve (Yunnan, China), which has its own forest watcher tower.

Forest Fire Watcher Tower

Training on how to use the command center

Forest fire watcher tower

Top of forest fire watcher tower

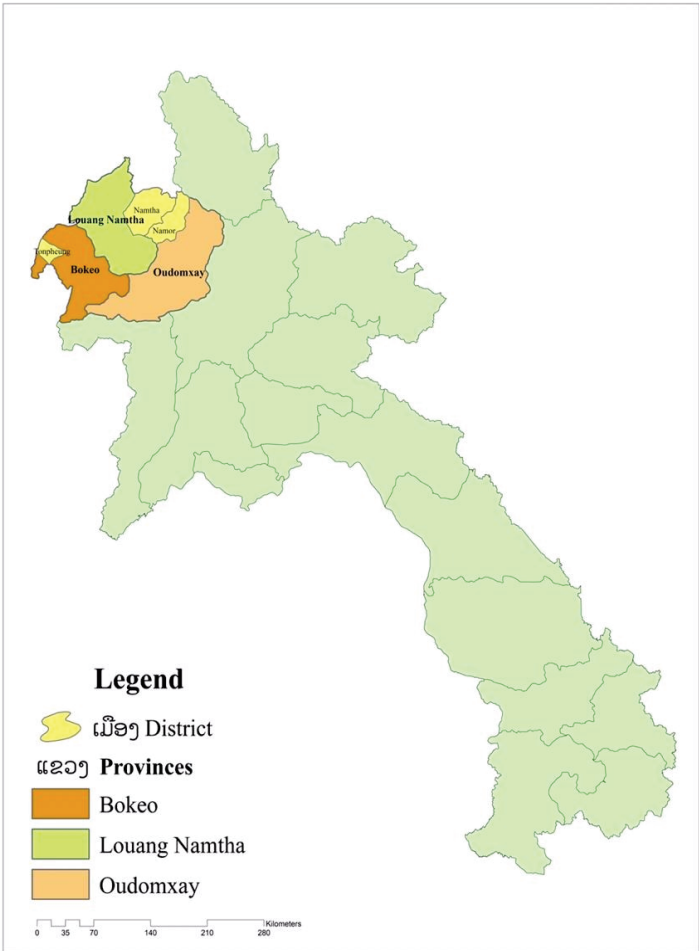Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

APFNet
Asia-Pacific Network for
Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation

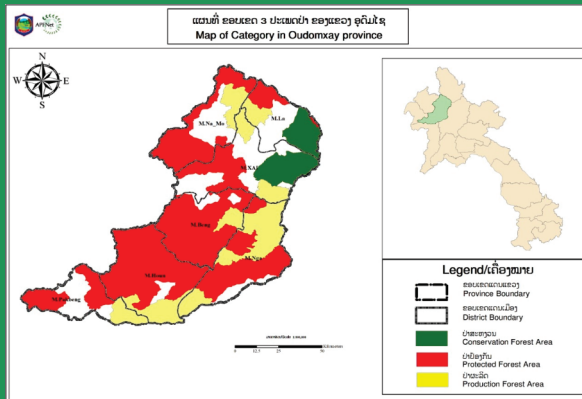## Sustainable Forest Management Project in the Northern Provinces of Lao PDR

Department of Forestry,
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR

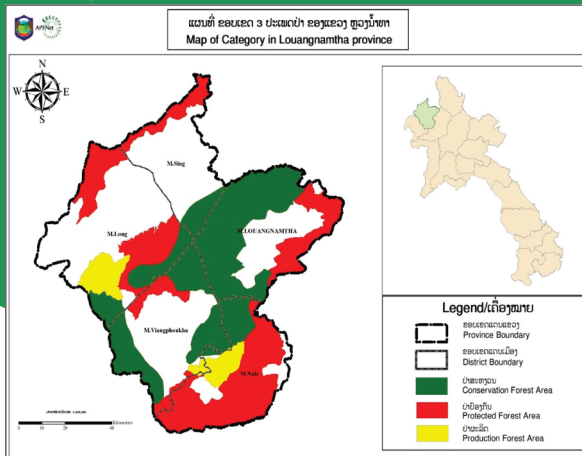### Sustainable Forest Management Project in Northern Provinces of Lao PDR

Legend

ເມືອງ District

ແຂວງ Provinces

- Bokeo
- Louang Namtha
- Oudomxay

The Target Provinces and Districts
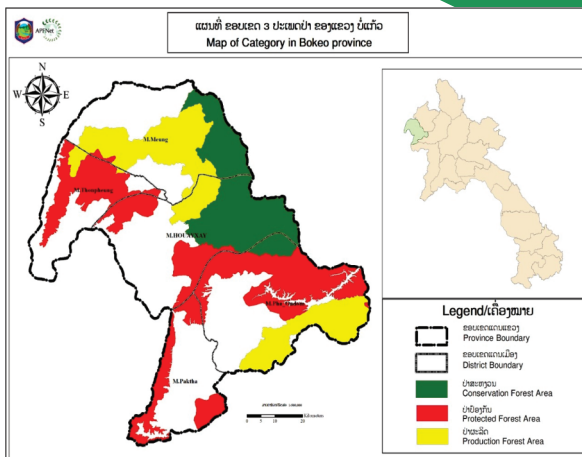
1. Oudomxay Province

2. Luang Namtha Province

3. Bokeo Province

Introduction

Laos is an economy strongly dependent on agricultural production, as well as on the forests surrounding most of the rural communities. Forests provide livelihoods, such as food, fuel and construction materials to the people of Laos, yet their sustainable supply is seriously threatened. To address this threat, APFNet signed an agreement with the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) on March 31, 2014 for a project called "Sustainable Forest Management Project in the Northern Provinces of Lao PDR", which has a total funding of USD 3.6 million, of which USD 3 million are granted by APFNet. The project will demonstrate best management practices for sustainable forest management, NTFP production, as well as transboundary cooperation. As the project Executing Agency the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao PDR is responsible for the project coordination and implementation, while the district and provincial forest departments, Nam Ha National Protected Area, as well as Shan Yong Natural Reserve of Yunnan, will get involved in the project as the key partners.

Project Overview

The Forestry Strategy 2020 of Lao PDR, adopted by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in July 2005, set the objective of increasing forest cover from 47% to 70% by 2020. The strategy aims to generate a sustainable supply of forest products, preserve unique and threatened habitats and promote environmental conservation and protection.The three northern provinces of Laos (Luang Namtha, Oudomxay and Bokeo), where 11 of the 19 districts and 334 villages are identified as very poor communities, are endowed with rich forest resources which play an important role in maintaining the livelihood of local communities, promoting rural development and Protecting the environment and biodiversity. However, deforestation and forest degradation in the three provinces remain a great challenge and have posed threats to the sustainable management of forest ecosystems and the sustainable development of local communities. It has become a common goal and task of the central and provincial governments to reverse the trend of deforestation and forest degradation by taking effective measures, including strengthening land-use planning, promoting restoration and rehabilitation of degraded forests, improving livelihoods, conserving biodiversity and facilitating the participation of local communities in forest management.

Goal and Objectives

The project will mainly carry out land use planning, restoration, and rehabilitation of degraded forest land, NTFP development, forest law enforcement, and transboundary biodiversity conservation in the three targeted provinces, and focus on helping local authorities and communities to sustainably manage forest resources by exploring and demonstrating effective approaches on forest restoration and forest management, which can help to generate a sustainable flow of benefits to closely related stakeholders. it will also strengthen the capacity of forest law enforcement, promote transboundary cooperation on biodiversity conservation; and facilitate the sharing of the information and knowledge of best practices on forest restoration and rehabilitation.

Project agreement signing

Output and Achievements

Forest Land Use Plans at Village and District Levels in the 3 Target Provinces

Forest Land Use Plans (FLUPs), as well as village forest management plans for each of the 3 demonstration villages, were drafted by the consultant team from FIPD on the basis of achieving a reasonable balance between ecological protection, biodiversity conservation, village development land resources availability.

· The 5 year FLUPs at district and village levels have been further developed and officially released by district authorities
· The 5 year village forest management plans and the annual operational plans for the villages Nampheang, Houayhom, and Donegneun have been produced and approved by the respective district governor

The final version of the FLUPs was developed by the Village Forestry and NTFP Management Division working group. Additionally, forest land use zoning maps for the 3 pilot villages have been produced.

Forest Restoration and Rehabilitation (FR&R) sites in two provinces

Around 120 hectares were identified to be demonstration areas for forest restoration, about 50 ha in Luangnamtha and 70 ha in Oudomxay province. This activity was completed in August 2019, where the majority of each of the villages in the two previous mentioned provinces participated. It was also supported by the District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (DAFOs), the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFOs), as well as the Central Project Management Office (CPMO). As many as 20,000 seedlings were planted in each province, where the restoration design was created by experts from the Yunnan Academy of Forestry. A variety of species were planted, including: *Afzelia xylocarpa, Dalbergia cultrata, Dalbergia cochinchinensis, Xylia xylocarpa, Pometia pinnata, Pterocarpus marcrocapus, and Dysoxylum sp.*

Planting in Luangnamtha   Marking of areas in Oudomxay

Developing NTFPs in the pilot villages

Around 20 households were selected for NTFP demonstration sites in the three target villages. The selected species are mostly native species from Lao PDR, such as agar wood, cardamom, sugar palm and rattan, while some, such as Macadamia and *Ammomum tsaoko* were ordered from China. All were planted in the target villages in FR&R areas around the project sites. Luangnamtha and Bokeo planted 31,600 seedlings on around 46 ha, while in Oudomxay around 9,800 seedlings were planted on 26 ha.

NTFPs planting site   Macadamia seedlings before planting