



Sustainable Forest Management Project in Northern Part of Lao PDR



April, 2022

Introduction

Laos' economy is basically linked to agriculture production, villagers in rural areas rely on forest resources for their livelihoods such as food sources, fuel and construction woods, and herbal medicines, but these supplies have become severe threats to forest resources. To encounter such threats, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has signed an agreement with Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation (APF-Net) on 31st March 2014 to conduct the project entitled "*Sustainable Forest Management in Northern Part of Laos*", with funding of USD 3.6 million in which 3 million is granted by APFNet. This project aims to show the best sustainable forest and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) management practices including the Laos-China transboundary cooperation. For this, MAF plays an important role in coordination, but the key implementation partners are the Provincial Forestry Section under Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO), District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO), Namha National Protected Area and Zangyong Park of Yunnan province.

Project Overview

Forestry Strategy 2035 of Lao PDR intended to increase forest cover from 41.5% (9.8 million hectares) in 2002 to 62% (14.7 million hectares) by 2020, and Targets to be achieved in 2035 has set out 7 targets as follows: 1. Identify, allocate and manage forestland to cover 70% of the country's land area, 2. Increase forest cover to 70% of the country's land area, 3. The forestry business is developed, and able to generate certain income contributing to the improvement of livelihoods and the development of the national economy, 4. Encouraging and promoting the settlement and occupation of people living in forest areas to build a family economy through commercial production and to create a cooperative economy in various forms based on the potential of each locality to improve the livelihood of poor households living in forest areas, 5. Improve the quality of forest and forestland to ensure biodiversity conservation, as a habitat for plants and animals, protection of water resources and environment; 6. Strictly implement forest legislations to prevent, combat and address deforestation and forest degradation, aiming to reduce at least 55 million (tCO₂e), 7. Develop forestry sector to be strong, modern and able to implement policy guidelines of the Party and State, strategic plans to achieve the targets, and support domestic and foreign investment, international and regional integration.

To provide sustainable forest products, to preserve the uniqueness, degraded habitats and to promote environmental protection. The project covers three target provinces in the northern part of Laos such as Luang Namtha, Oudomxay and Bokeo provinces, composing of 19 districts of which 11 districts and 334 villages are still poor. Potentially, the project area also surrounds by abundant forest resources, which play an important role in improving the livelihoods of local people, promoting rural development, protecting the environment and biodiversity. However, deforestation and forest degradation in the three provinces remain a major challenge for



Sustainable Forest Management in Northern Provinces of Lao PDR

Project title:	Sustainable Forest Management in Northern Parts of Lao PDR [2014P1-ASEM]
Supervisor agency:	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR
Executing agency:	Department of Forestry
Total budget in USD:	3,563,433.00
APFNet grant USD:	2,982,573.00
Start date and Duration:	01/08/2014 to 31/ 07 /2019, 60 months and extended to the 02/28/2022
Site location:	Nampheang village, Namor district at Oudomsay province, Houayhom village, Namtha district at Luang Namtha province Don ngeun village, Tonpheung district at Bokeo province Nam Ha National protected Area, Lao PDR and Shang Yong Natu-

Objective and Goal:

The project aims to carry out land use planning, regeneration of degraded forests, NTFPs development, enforcement of forestry law, and enhancement of transboundary biodiversity conservation. It is needed to strengthen the capacity of local staff and villagers to sustainably manage forest resources by raising awareness, demonstrating techniques, comprehensive methodology in forest regeneration and management. At the same time, it shall be helped to generate incomes for villagers and to enhance transboundary cooperation between Laos and China in biodiversity conservation.

Output:

- ♦ Forest Land Use Plans of Village and District
- ♦ Natural Regeneration and Enrichment Planting in Degraded Forest
- ♦ Development of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)
- ♦ Patrolling
- ♦ Cooperation on transboundary biodiversity conservation by using an advanced forest fire monitoring system in Laos
- ♦ Forest Law Enforcement and Instruction on Patrolling

Output and Achievement



Forest Land Use Plans of Village and District

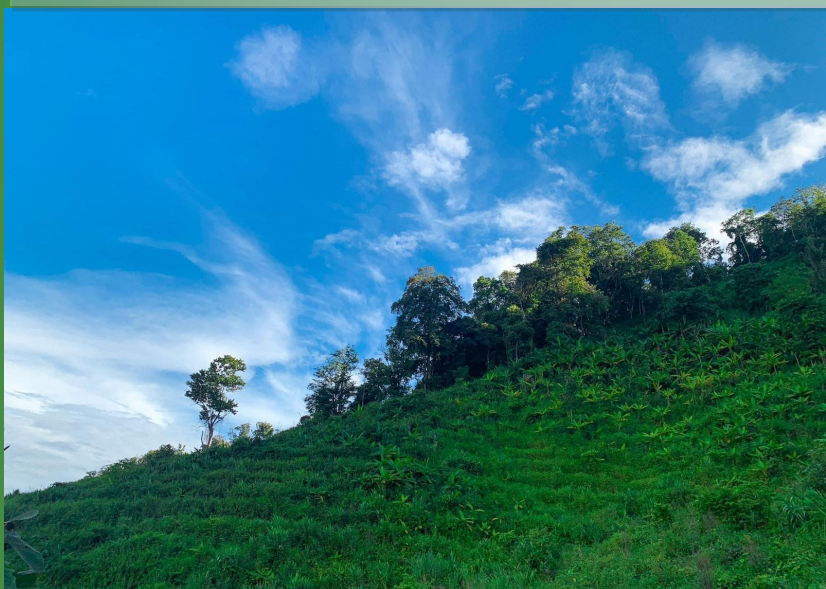
Forest land use plans of villages and districts in provinces are developed (Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, and Bokeo).

Village forest management plans are created for Nampheng village of Namor district in Oudomxay province, Huayhom village in Luang Namtha district and province, and Donengeun village of Tonpheung district in Bokeo province, after the village's maps have been demarcated then the signboard and the poles (100 m per one pole) of areas marking have been set up in all forest types (especially in risky areas) and other land-use types.



Natural Regeneration and Enrichment Planting in Degraded Forest

In total, forest regeneration areas cover 174 hectares in three provinces, including 90 hectares in Oudomxay, 54 hectares and 30 hectares in Bokeo. The regeneration activity has been carried out from 2014 to 2021 through the cooperation between the National Project Management Unit, PAFO, DAFO and villagers in three villages.



Development of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)

NTFPs planting has been completed in 73.99 hectares, which include seedlings of various species such as 90,000 seedlings of cardamom, 15,000 seedlings of *Boehmeria*, 3,000 seedlings of *Machilus Kurzii*, 10,500 seedlings of rattan, 4,500 seedlings of sugar palm, 1,500 seedlings of *Aquilaria Crassana*, 2,500 seedlings of *Macadamia* imported from China.

- **Luangnamtha** Province completed the planting of cardamom (23,000 seedlings, 18 households) on 9.2 ha, macadamia (750 seedlings, 2 households) on 2.1 ha (imported from China), and *Boehmeria* (15,000 seedlings) on 9 ha.
- **Oudomxay** Province completed the planting of cardamom (49,000 seedlings, 25 households) on 14.6 ha, macadamia (700 seedlings, 4 households) on 1.59 ha, agarwood (450 seedlings) on 0.7 ha and *Machilus kurzii* (3,000 seedlings) on 2 ha.
- **Bokeo** Province, completed the planting of cardamom (18,000 seedlings, 87 households) on 6 ha, macadamia (1,050 seedlings, 9 households) on 2.3 ha, in addition, the project also supported to plant more sugar palm (4,500 seedlings) on 8.5 ha, agarwood (1,500 seedlings) on 6 ha and Rattan (10,500 seedlings) on 12 ha.



Patrolling Activity

Provincial Office of Forest Inspection's team in coordination with DAFO (forest inspection unit) and villagers have identified patrolling routes and have regularly patrolled to protect the natural resources in the village boundary. Every months, Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI) have supervised and monitored the patrolling activities in three provinces.



Training and Study tours

The PPMO have been developed a details training package to upgrade the skill of forestry staffs on GIS software, financial accounting and the capacity of forestry inspection staff on investigation and arrestation processes. This year the project already has been conducted three training: GIS, GPS training, financial management, investigation and arrestation processes, the training organized by PPMO in Luang Namtha. All the staff who participated in the training learned lessons, shared and gained additional experience from the training, which can then be applied to the actual work.



Local communities training

The project staffs have been conducted a field training for restoration on the real site the staffs showed them how to do restoration and silvicultural techniques including site preparation, group planting and enrichment plant-

Study tours

The domestic study tour for 30 representatives from the target provinces and central level have been conducted on 15-28.11.2021. This activity aims to provide a chance for villagers from target villages to exchange and share their experience in three provinces (Louang Prabang, Viengchan and Bolikhamxay), the villagers from each village have been seen the activities in the companies and project site of WWF.

NTFPs Processing Company in Louang Prabang the villagers they had a good opportunity to discussed on NTFPs line Marketing and the way how to sell their NTFPs' product to the company.

Rattan Processing Company in Viengchan the villagers they had a good opportunity to discussed and saw the Rattan processing as furniture (Chairs, tables and etc.)

Rattan planting in WWF project, the villagers they had a good opportunity to discussed and shared the ideas for improving each other like "what trick how to planting, maintain, cultivating of Rattan" and the villagers can also bring back the best practices to apply in their own places.



Workshop Activity

The workshop between APFNet and AFoCO project for 34 representatives from the target provinces and central level have been conducted on 26-28.02.2022. This activity aims to provide a chance for villagers from target villages to exchange and share their experience, the central level chooses AFoCO project due to the activity there are similar with our project. The AFoCO project is the Village-Based Forest Rehabilitation project in Lao PDR is located in Paksong and Sangthong, the overall objective of the project is to increase forest cover by the restoration of degraded forest areas, strengthen capability of government agencies and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, and contribute to poverty reduction by providing direct income to local people, particularly, the poor. The villager of each project had had a good opportunity to discussed and shared the ideas for improving each other like: the trick how to maintenance the trees and NTFPs, group management to produce and maintenance the seedling in Nursery, the villagers also have been



to see the project site and nursery in Paksong it's seem like the AFoCO project is doing well in NTFPs management due to the project encouraged the villagers to planting the Cardamom and produce the Cardamom seedlings and sell by themselves, this can make the villagers to earn and get more income with this activity, this is the best of this project that we can bring back to apply in our own project.



Cooperation on trans-boundary biodiversity conservation by using an advanced forest fire monitoring system in Laos



Illegal hunting and forest fires during the dry season have severely damaged forest resources. To prevent such problems, APFNet provided financial support to build of the first forest fire monitoring tower ever in Namha National Protected Area (NPA) including an advanced technology monitoring station. This tower covers the monitoring of forest area within a 15 km radius, which automatically detects forest fire and hunting. This activity has been carried out by the Management Unit of Namha NPA, Luang Namtha province, Lao PDR in cooperation with Zangyong Park of Yunnan province, China.



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