



**Annual Meeting
for Sectoral Working Group on
Agriculture and Rural Development**

**Enforcement of Regulatory Framework
for Forestry**

**Department of Forestry
18th October 2024**

Outline

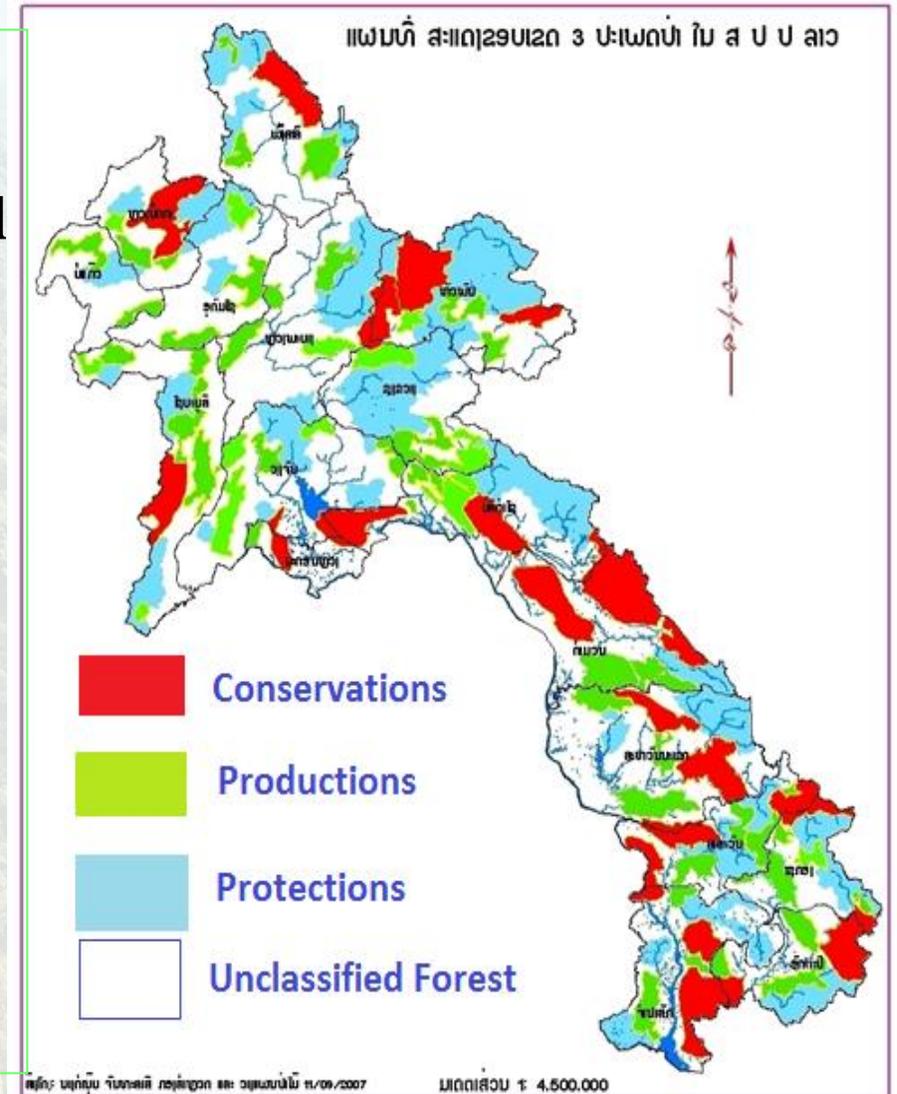


1. State of Forest and Forest Classification
2. Forestry Development
3. Forest Strategy and Vision
4. FLEGT-VPA
5. Future Direction/priority areas

State of SFM and Forest classification

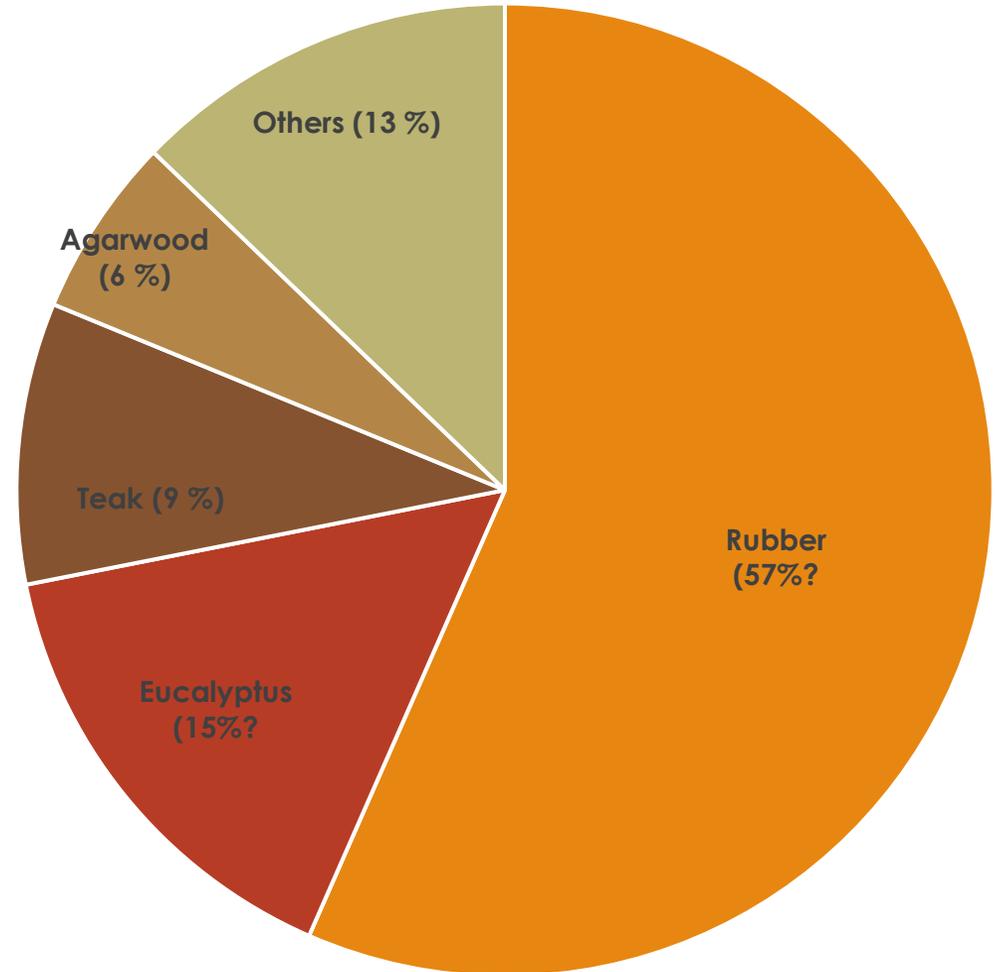
Forest cover increased from 41.5% (9.8 million ha) in 2002 to currently 62% (14.7 million ha) of its total country land area:

- ❑ Conservation Forest (4.8 million ha),
- ❑ Production Forest (3.1 million ha)
- ❑ Protection Forest (7.9 million ha)
- ❑ Forest that are not classified (about 3.37 million ha)



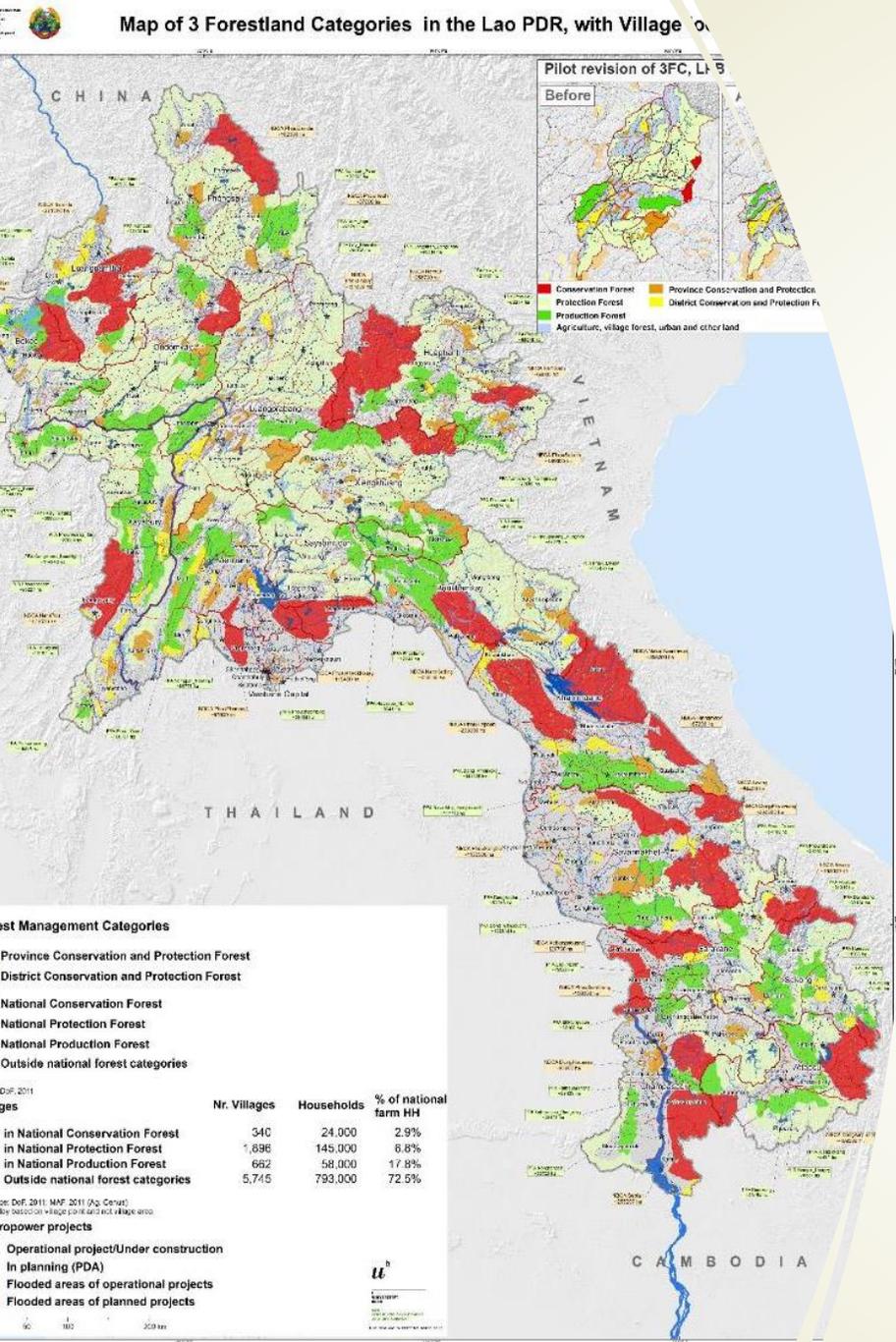
Forestry Development

- Lao PDR focuses on forest conservation, restoration and tree planting for commercial and environmental protection purposes
- Up-to 2024, Lao PDR planted trees in the degraded forestland and bare land reached to 592.556 Ha. Planted species include rubber, Eucalyptus, Teak, Agarwood and others



Update on Forestry Regulatory Framework Development

- National Forestry Strategy for 2035 and Vision for 2050
- Prime Minister's Order No. 11/GOV., dated 21 July 2023
- Prime Minister's Decree on Protected Areas No. 219/GOV., dated 6th June 2023;
- Prime Minister's Decree on Protection Forest Areas No. 02/GOV, dated 4th Jan.2024;
- Prime Minister's Decree on Production Forest Areas No. 01/GOV., dated 4th Jan. 2024;
- Instruction of the Department of Forestry, MAF, on Forest Carbon Management No. 3640/DoF., dated 8th Jul. 2024;
- Others



National Forestland Policy and Vision

- National Land Use Master Plan: 70% of land area delineated in three Forestland Categories
- Forest policy goal to increase the country's forest cover to 70% of the country's land area
- 3,167 villages inside forestland (>275,000 families)
- The government emphasizes that the people and forest must co-exist in a harmonious relationship
- Forest conservation and protection go hand-in-hand with the development of people's livelihoods

Forestry Strategy to 2035 and vision 2050

Forests, forest lands, environment and biodiversity in Lao PDR are well conserved, protected and developed in a green and sustainable manner. Forests and forest lands cover 70% of the country's land area. Forest can provide ecosystem services that play a key role in socio-economic development and livelihood of the Lao people living in forests paving the way for poverty alleviation.

Programme I: Forest Resource Conservation

Action Plan

1. Survey and demarcation of forest
2. Survey, demarcation, and allocation of forestlands
3. Conservation of forest and forestland
4. Conservation of biodiversity, tree species, NTFPs, aquatic and wildlife
5. Preventing, combating encroachment, and destruction of forest resources

Programme II: Forest Development, Forestry Sector and improvement of livelihood of villagers

Action Plan

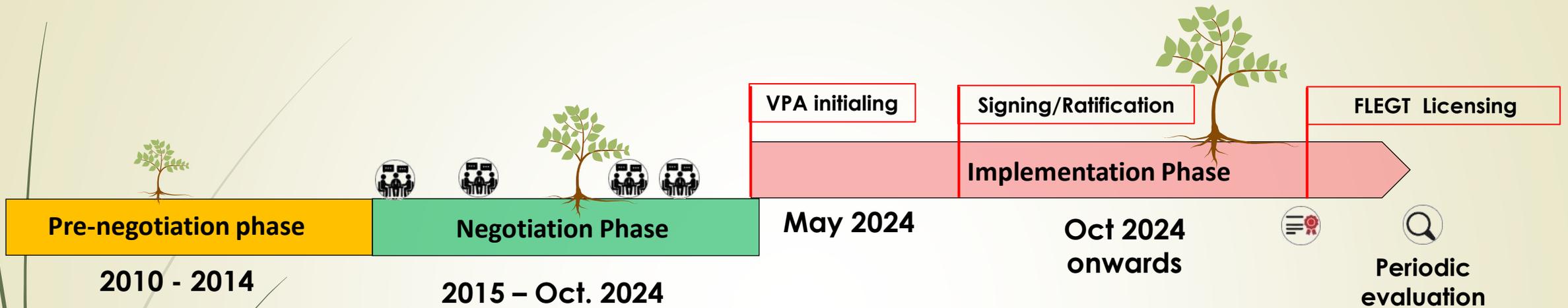
1. Planting trees and NTFPS
2. Rehabilitating degrade forest
3. Development of aquatic and wildlife
4. Development of the forestry sector
5. Improvement of livelihoods of people in forest areas

Programme III: Management of forest and forestland use

Action Plan

1. Manage the use of wood, non-timber forest products, aquatic animals and wildlife
2. Manage forest and forestland uses
3. Recognition of forest and forestland use right of local people
4. Processing wood and NTFPS
5. Forest ecosystem service

FLEGT VPA Process in Lao PDR - Status



Achievements

- An unprecedented multi-stakeholder structure for timber legality negotiation is established
- A Timber Legality Assurance System (**TLAS**) has been developed and will be implemented
- Lao PDR has incorporated TLAS into:
 - Lao Forestry Law No 64/PM (2019) and
 - Lao Forestry Strategy 2030 with Vision to 2050.

Challenges

- Capacity building and outreach of legal requirements is a lengthy process
- The EU has recently published a new regulation requiring legality and deforestation-free due diligence
- The VPA continuation has been questioned by the EU since 2022

Future Direction/Priority Areas

Priority Activities

1. Sustainable management of 3 Forest Categories
2. Biodiversity Conservation and Management of Tree Species and Wildlife
3. Prevention of Forest Encroachment and Destruction by Law Enforcement
4. Planting Trees and NTFPs for Processing and villagers' income
5. Forests Restoration for Protecting the Environment and Biodiversity
6. Development of Wood and NTFP Processing and Nature Tourism Industry
7. Forest Carbon Credits Trading

Mid-term Targets

1. Increase forest cover to 70% of the country's land area
2. Jobs and income for improvement of local livelihoods and to national economy
3. Enhance ecosystem services and resilience to natural disasters
4. Aiming to reduce at least 55 million (tCO₂e) to contribute to NDC

Long-term Vision

- Healthy Forest and Forest Resources contribute to
1. national socio-economic development
 2. improvement of people's livelihoods
 3. Protection of biodiversity and the environment



Thank you!