

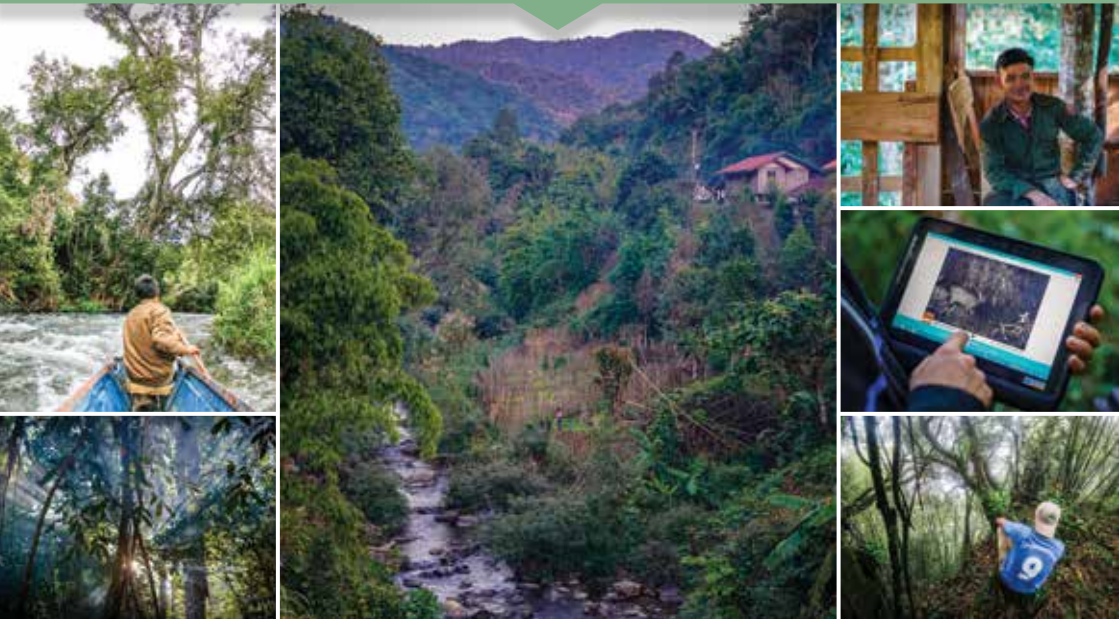


WORKING  
BETTER TOGETHER

## SUMMARY

European Joint Programming for Lao People's Democratic Republic 2016-2020

# Environment & Natural Resources



### OVERALL OBJECTIVE

The focus of European Joint Programming in this sector is for rural and poor communities to benefit from healthy and sustainably managed forest ecosystems and secure access to land.



European Partners and the Government of Lao PDR drafted three specific objectives in this sector. To date, results are mixed, with notable progress with respect to the climate change readiness of relevant national institutions and significant steps towards a broad governance reform process for sustainable forest management, with an effectively enforced ban on illegal logging. However, ambitious goals on the protection of threatened species are lagging behind, and concerns remain regarding the process of land reform, which should aim at ensuring secure access to land in line with the voluntary guidelines on the responsible governance of tenure of land, fisheries and forest in the context of national food security.

## SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

**SO 1 – Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss**

Expected results of European JP support in this sector are that:

- Illegal logging is reduced and forests are managed sustainably
- The loss of biodiversity and threatened species is halted and illegal trade with wildlife reduced
- As a result of new government policy, progress has been made in ensuring that timber harvested and traded is of legal origin, and forest management plans have been prepared for 40 Production Forest Areas (PFAs).

**SO 2 – Ending poverty and hunger, achieving food security, improved nutrition and promoting sustainable agriculture**

The expected result of support in this sector is that land rights and access to land is secured for rural and poor communities in the target areas. Well-functioning systems for better land management and administration are being established and strengthened, forming a solid basis for country-wide roll-outs through the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment.

**SO 3 – Combat climate change and its impacts through Government action**

The expected result of support in this sector is that institutional structures to address the impacts of climate change are functional at national and provincial level.

Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+) is a UN-developed mechanism that creates a financial value for the carbon stored in forests by offering incentives for

developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands and invest in low-carbon paths to sustainable development. By 2018, the Lao PDR had made substantial progress towards the country's preparedness for REDD+ at the national level.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

The Resolution on Land Management and Development, approved in Q3 2017, forms the basis for the revision of the land law.

- Prime Minister Order 15, issued in May 2016, prohibits the export of round wood and semi-finished timber products and is being implemented effectively.
- Prime Minister Order 05, issued in May 2018, orders strict compliance on the management and inspection of most endangered species (CITES Appendix I and II, and Wildlife and Aquatic Law Prohibited and Management List).

## LAO-GERMAN LAND PROGRAM

The Land Management and Decentralised Planning programme (LMDP) projects sought for rural communities, including women and marginalised groups in three provinces, to participate in planning and decision-making regarding land and to reap sustainable benefits from national and local economic development. The projects have contributed to improved land governance, including land use planning at all levels and enhanced tenure security for rural communities.

Perceived tenure security

No land title 50%

With land title 90%

Target districts: 13  
Target beneficiaries: 420,000

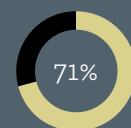
Documented tenure received through project: 19% (80,000 people)

Land parcels registered since 2015: 35,457

Titles issued since 2015: 25,432



Rural areas



In name of or including woman

Animal, plant & fungus species threatened with extinction



2015 212 2017 223

In figures, the World Bank estimates that **natural resources** (forestry, agricultural land, hydropower, and minerals) comprise **MORE THAN HALF** of Lao PDR's total wealth

± 30%  
The hydropower and mining sectors alone generated about one third of the country's economic growth. 2005 to 2013

**2010 to 2012**  
Total timber imports from Lao PDR to Vietnam, Thailand and China almost doubled

X2



## JOINT PROGRAMMING CONTRIBUTION IN THIS SECTOR FROM 2016 TO 2020

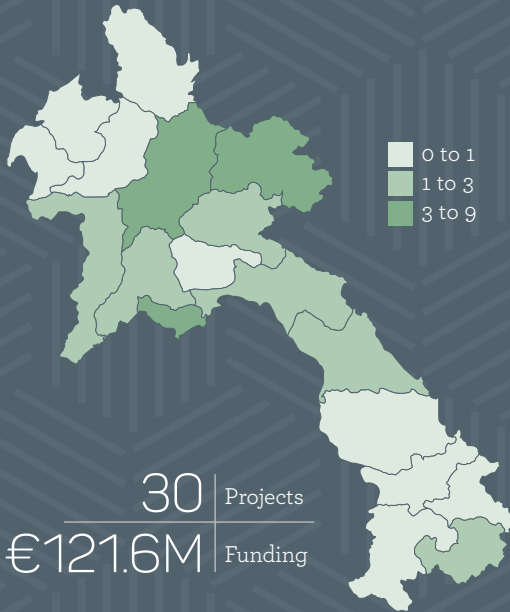


European Partners, in particular the EU, France, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg, Switzerland and the

UK, have contributed significantly through joint implementation of their portfolios with the Lao partners to sector achievements.

Overall coordination on this sector is ensured by **Germany**, as co-chair of the Natural Resources & Environment Sector Working Group.

The map below shows the provincial distribution of Environment and Natural Resources programmes funded by European partners. These consist of a mix of site-specific targeted initiatives and more centrally managed actions targeting sound policy reforms.



## CASE STUDY

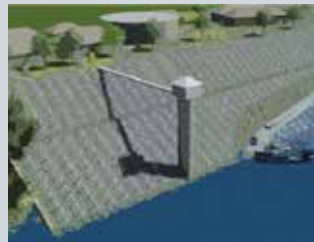
### WCS Mekong Drivers Partnership

This pilot initiative supports several conservation enterprises that connect income-generating livelihood activities with conservation gains, providing a positive incentive for behavior change, whilst reducing pressures on forests and wildlife. Through ecotourism activities at **Nam Et-Phou Louey National Park**, encounters with wildlife by visitors on tours translates into incentive bonuses for the local communities: 1,100 households from 14 villages earned \$5,000 in community dividends and \$30,000 in service provider wages in 2017 through the Nam Nern Night Safari.

## IN FOCUS

### Vientiane Capital Water Treatment Plant

A new water and wastewater treatment plant, funded through a tied aid loan from Hungary, will protect the environment by helping to filter sewage from households and factories, removing chemical substances and waste, before water is piped into natural waterways.



The pictures show the survey of the existing drainage system and the river bank protection plan in the framework of the water and wastewater treatment project of Vientiane Capital.



PHOTOS FRONT PAGE: Nam Et Phou Louey National Park © WCS. National Animal Eco-tourism activities within Nam Et Phou Louey National Park © Dominique le Roux

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