



Status of REDD+ in Lao PDR

Institutions, Frameworks
and Pilot Activities

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Outline of Presentation

- Summary
- Progress on Frameworks and Systems
- Progress on Institutions
- Approaches
- Progress on Pilot Activities
- Challenges and Gaps
- Next Steps in 2012

Summary

◉ 2010

- ◉ Lao PDR Drafts R-PP Document and Submitted to FCPF
- ◉ Adopts national and sub-national (market-based) approaches,
- ◉ REDD+ demonstration activities start: GIZ/KfW and JICA.

◉ 2011

- ◉ Lao PDR Finalizes R-PP Document
- ◉ Rearrange of REDD+ Task Force
- ◉ Creation of New Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
- ◉ Explores ways to integrate national and sub-national projects through nesting

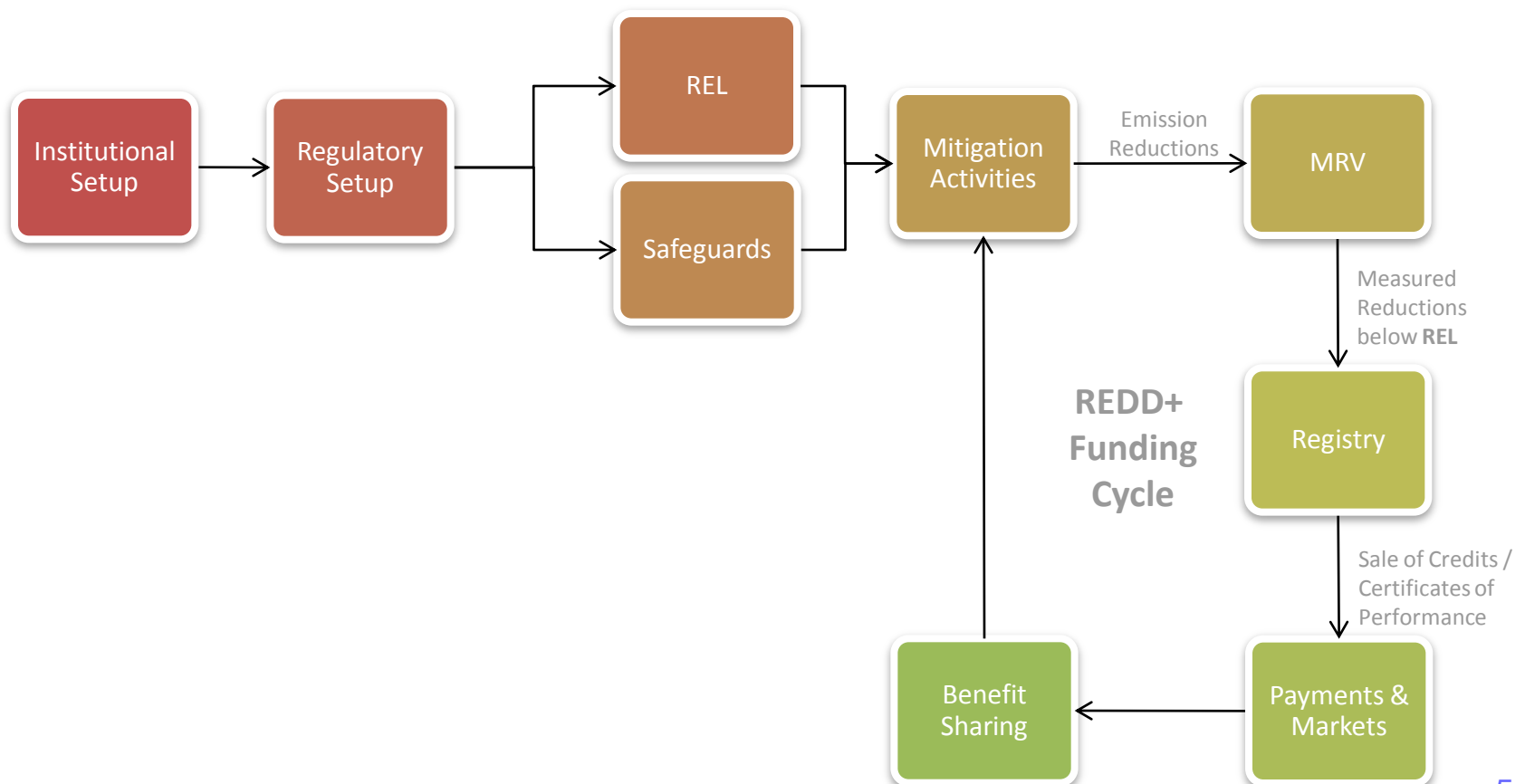
◉ 2012

- ◉ Planned establishment of National REDD+ Office
- ◉ Discussions on multiple Technical Working Groups
- ◉ Forest Law Legal Framework begins revision process

Frameworks and Systems

- Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is currently in the process of revising forest law legal framework.
 - First legal basis for REDD+ in Law
- REDD+ Safeguards are currently being piloted by the Department of Forestry in at least 1 Demonstration Activity
 - Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)
 - CCBA Certification
- Systems currently under discussion:
 - Reference Levels
 - Inventory Systems
 - MRV System
- Forest Law Legal Framework
- Benefit Sharing and Distribution
 - Timeframe for revision is selected: June 2012

Flow of Major Processes in REDD+



Safeguards

- **Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** Process developing guidelines is under way:
 - Partner with CSO (LBA) to develop FPIC guidelines
 - Consultation with relevant stakeholders, including:
 - Lao Front for Construction
 - Women's Union
 - Pilot conducted by CliPAD-GIZ in one of REDD+ Sub-National Demonstration Activity: Nam Phui NPA (CliPAD-GIZ)
 - REDD+ capacity building at “grassroots level” by RECOFTC

Benefit Sharing and Distribution

- ◉ **Key Regulatory Objective:** Clarification of carbon tenure and how to make carbon legally recognized by law;
- ◉ Once carbon tenure can be legally defined, it can be more clearly understood how to distribute performance-based benefit sharing.
- ◉ One potential benefit sharing system, timber in production forests is being reviewed for use in REDD+ by DOF with the support of SUFORD.

Institutions

- ◉ **Ministerial Control**

- ◉ Some aspects of REDD+ will be shared between MAF (through DOF) and MONRE (through DFRM).

- ◉ **The National REDD+ Office**

- ◉ Will be established as soon as February, 2012

- ◉ **Technical Working Groups**

- ◉ Established by REDD+ TF, Closely linked Coordinator Units in Office
 - ◉ Multi-stakeholder Technical committees that combine government, expert and INGO input in the creation of new guidelines and recommendations to the REDD+ Task Force

National Environmental Council (NEC)

Minister/Vice Minister Level

REDD+ Task Force

Director General Level
Multi-Stakeholder Representation

Technical assisting and supporting

National REDD+ Office

Division Level

Coordination/Consultation

Provincial Environmental Council
(PEC)

Provincial REDD+ Task Force

Provincial REDD+ Office

Executive
Implementation

Technical Working Group
**Enforcement and
Implementation of Mitigation**

Technical Working Group
REL

Technical Working Group
Benefit Sharing

Technical Working Group
Land-Use

Technical Working Group
**Ethnic Groups and Local
Community Participation**

Technical Working Group
MRV

Technical Working Group
Legal Framework

National and Provincial Systems

- Regional government and organizations will eventually be responsible for implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy on the provincial and district levels.
- **Provincial REDD+ Offices** will be established to coordinate Provincial REDD+ activities.
- One option being explored is through a national jurisdictional and nested REDD+ system.
 - **Provincial Jurisdictions** become independent REDD+ systems that operate within the national REDD+ system.
 - **Projects** are seamlessly nested within each Provincial jurisdiction.

Japan's Projects in the Forestry Sector of Lao PDR

Issues in the Forestry Sector of Lao PDR

【Capacity Development】

Need for capacity development to formulate and implement policies including the Forestry Strategy 2020 and Strategy on Climate Change

【REDD+】

Need for addressing rapid deforestation and forest degradation due to economic growth

【Forest Information】

Need for development of forest information which contributes to sustainable forest management and REDD+ implementation



Support policy formulation and implementation

REDD+ Pilot Project

Useful tool for sustainable forest management and improvement of villager's livelihood

Develop forest information in Lao PDR

Forestry Sector Capacity Development Project (FSCAP)

Coordinate Japan's projects

【Period】 October 2010 to September 2014

【Objective】 Capacity development of the forestry sector for formulation and implementation of policies including REDD+

【Activity】 Support development of MAF 5 year plan, Provincial 5 year plan, REDD+ related activities, coordination of donor consultation, coordination of Japan's projects etc.

Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation in Lao PDR (PAREDD)

【Period】 August 2009 to August 2014

【Objective】 The system of reducing deforestation is developed through participatory land and forest management in Northern Laos

【Activity】 Develop the approach for reducing deforestation at village level, support the activities including forest management and livelihood improvement, monitor forest cover/carbon stock and socio-economic change etc.

Forest Preservation Program (FPP)

【Period】 2010 to 2013

【Objective】 Capacity building for application of forest information by equipment procurement and technical assistance for forest preservation planning in forestry sector

【Activity】 Procured equipments training, Forest information network system development, Reference emission level setting, Protection forest management plan (draft) development

Forest Information Management (FIM)

【Period】 2010 to 2012

【Objective】 Capacity building for development and management of national level forest base data necessary for reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation

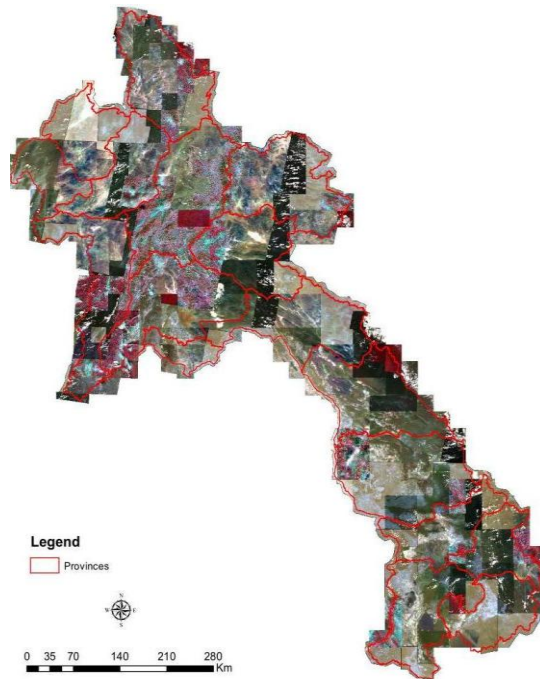
【Activity】 Construction of forest information center, Equipment procurement for forest base map development, Technical assistance for forest survey and remote sensing,

Technical support

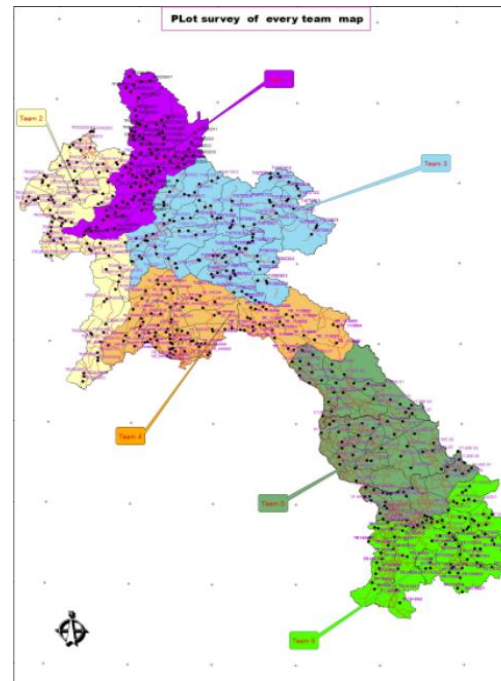


Forest Information Management Program (FIM)

Development of 2010 Forest base map



Implementation of Field Survey Whole Laos country



Capacity Building for Remote Sensing / Data Base / Field Survey



Integrating Existing Activities

- One of the most important existing systems currently in place is the JICA funded **Forest Information Management Program (FIM)**,
 - 2010 forest base-map
 - National biomass database
 - Historical forest cover maps (1990, 2000, 2005).
- Through a cooperation between **DOF-GIZ-JICA** and **LEAF**, three REDD+ systems will be developed **using FIM's work**:
 - National, Provincial and District Reference Emission Levels (**RELs**)
 - National Measurement, Reporting & Verification System (**MRV**)
 - National Biomass Database

Progress on MRV and RL/RELS

- **Overall**

- Proposed Modification to National Forest Inventory Classification System in 2011 (**led by FIM**)

- **Building National RL/REL**

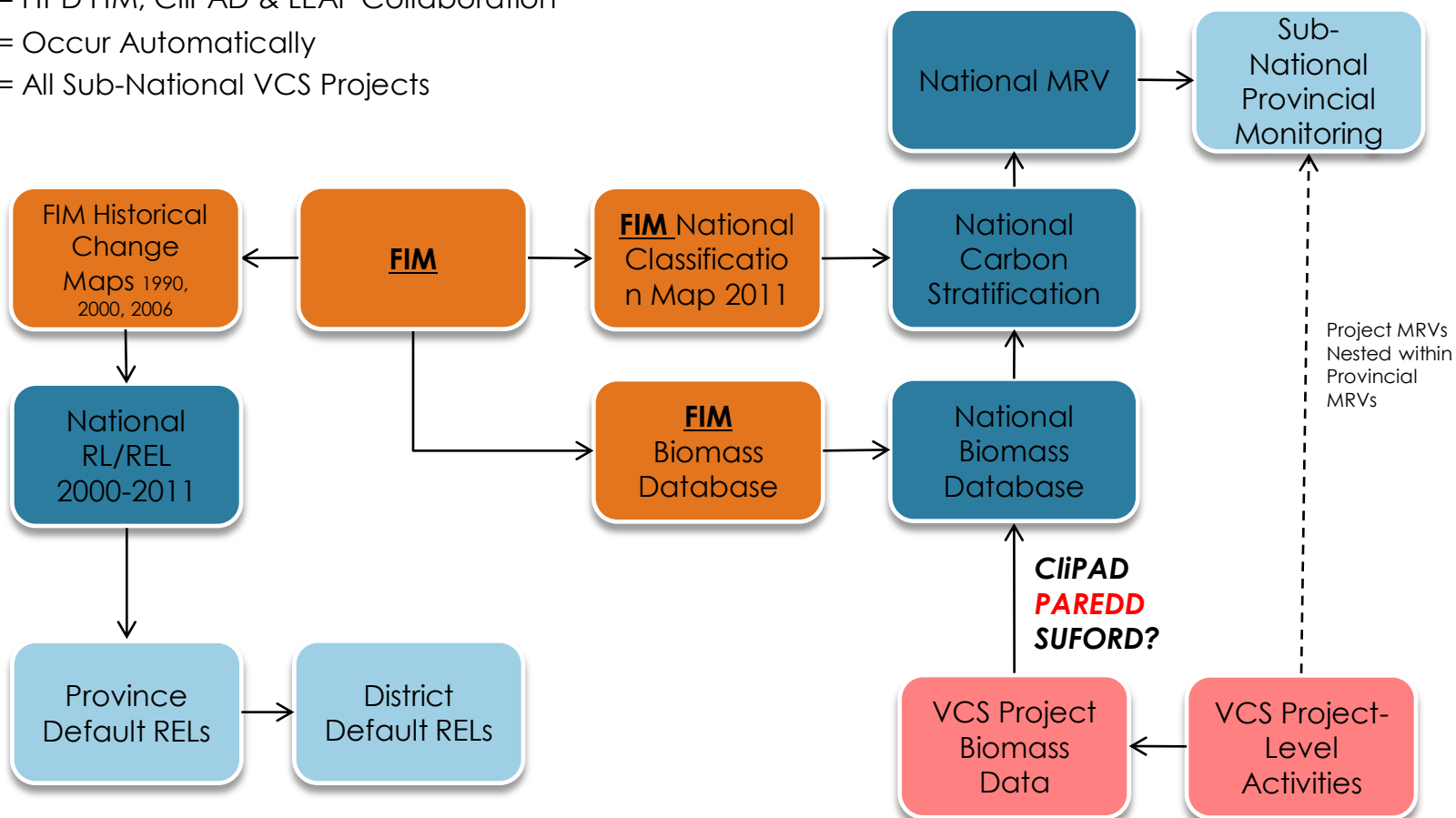
- Currently establishing forest cover maps for 2000, 2006 & 2011
 - Convert **FIM biomass database information** into a National Carbon Biomass Database, to supply data on national carbon stocks,
 - Convert historical forest cover change from 2000 to 2011 into the national REL for Lao PDR.

- **Building the National MRV**

- National forest cover map will be stratified into a national carbon map **using FIM and REDD+ project data**,
 - Wall-to-wall satellite monitoring to track changes in forest cover and strata layers (*every 1-2 years*)

Progress on MRV and RL/REs

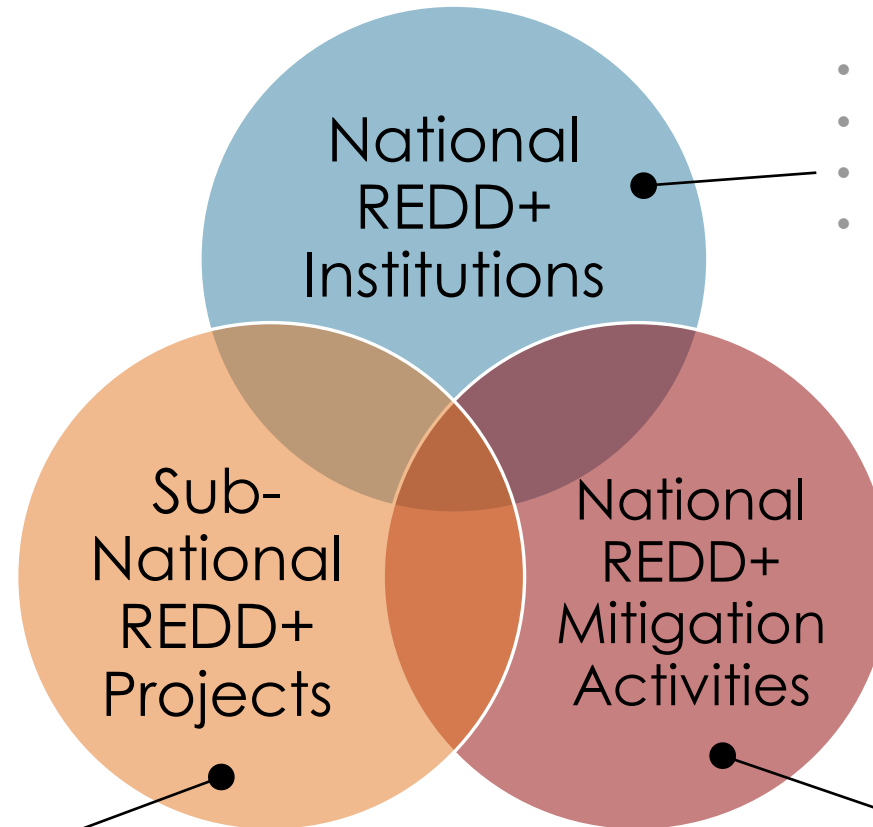
- = FIPD & FIM
- = FIPD FIM, CliPAD & LEAF Collaboration
- = Occur Automatically
- = All Sub-National VCS Projects



Approaches

- Lao PDR envisions three primary aspects of its National REDD+ System
 - **National REDD+ Institutions**
 - REDD+ Offices, Task Force and Policy
 - **National REDD+ Mitigation Actions**
 - Implemented by government at provincial levels
 - **Sub-National REDD+ Projects**
 - NGO and Private Sector Projects

Approaches



- REDD+ Task Force
- REDD+ Office
- REDD+ Systems
- REDD+ Policies and Regulations

- Private Sector REDD+ Projects
- Bilateral REDD+ Projects
- NGO REDD+ Projects

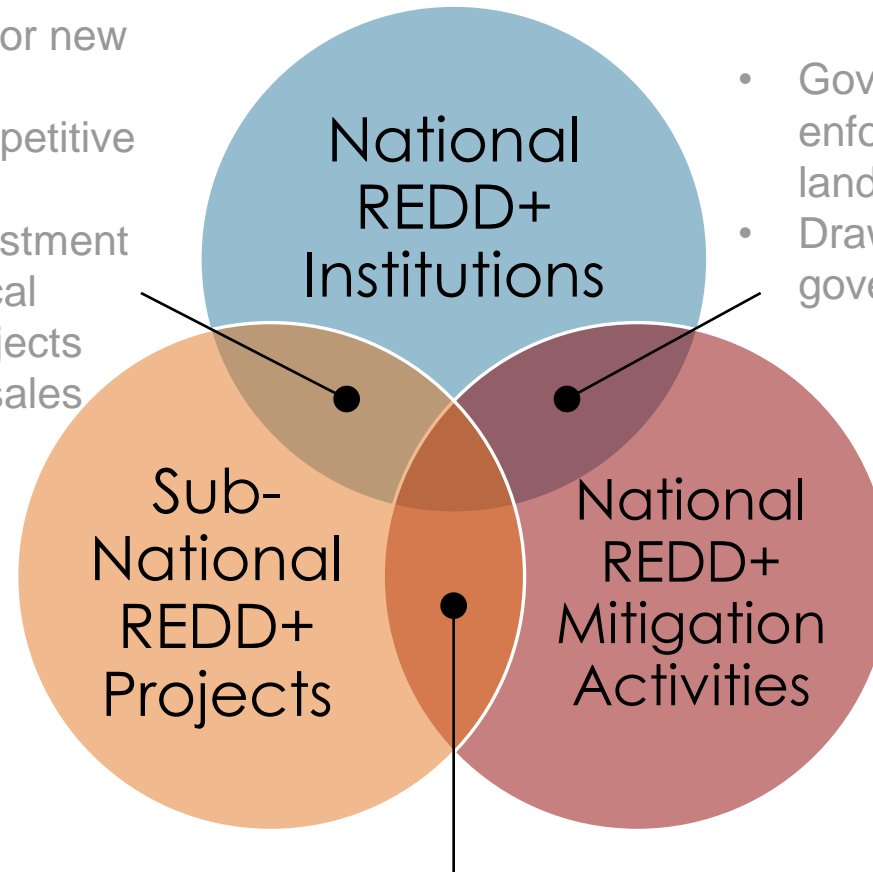
- Provincial (Jurisdictional) Activities that strengthening existing forest protection.
- National, Provincial and District

Approaches

- Each of these three areas overlap with each other to create systems that interact in strategic ways:
 - Increases government enforcement,
 - Creates an overall system that harmonizes provincial and project level activities,
 - Creates clear processes and requirements that are commercial for private sector projects,

Approaches

- Clear procedures for new projects
- Commercially competitive regulations
- Private sector investment
- Social and biological safeguards for projects
- Taxation of credit sales



- Government-based enforcement of forest and land laws
- Draws government-to-government investment

- Nested Approach
- Jurisdictions (provinces) and Projects both able to sell to carbon market under VCS

REDD+ Target Issues

- Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Laos:
 - Large-scale shift from local subsistence to cash-crop agriculture,
 - Large-scale agroindustry (rubber & palm)
 - Under managed and illegal logging
 - Hydropower
- Strategies at different jurisdictional levels:
 - **National Level** – Policy, institutions, project coordination and governance
 - **Provincial** – Policy, institutions and law enforcement,
 - **District** – Implementation of provincial policies
 - **Sub-national** – Independent REDD+ Projects by Private and NGO actors.

Progress on Pilot Activities

- REDD+ demonstration activities are normally prioritized based on existing gaps in the REDD+ Readiness process,
 - **Example:** The new LEAF program (USAID) will largely help fill existing gaps in MRV and REL development.
- Private Sector is expected to play a critical role in helping to build a new sector through investment in the development of their own projects.

Current Pilot Activities

○ Current Activities Supporting National Framework:

- Readiness, Policy and Frameworks
 - FCPF, World Bank
 - FIP, World Bank
 - CliPAD, German Government – GIZ/KfW

○ Current Sub-National Activities:

- *Market-Based Projects (VCS):*
 - CliPAD, German Government – GIZ/KfW
 - **PAREDD/PAREDD+, JICA**
 - **SUFORD**, Finnish Government
 - Wildlife Conservation Society (**WCS**)
 - World Wildlife Fund (**WWF**)
 - Approximately 4-5 private sector project developers
- *Non Market-based Sub-National Projects:*
 - **LEAF Project**, SNV/Winrock International/Climate Focus
 - **PAREDD/PAREDD+, JICA**
 - **CliPAD**, German Government – GIZ/KfW

Private Sector Involvement

- Private sectors are able to initiate and promote REDD+ activities in a unique way. They are able to:
 - Develop their own projects that target specific, high-potential REDD+ areas,
 - Act flexibly with government,
 - Reach many different markets and buyers of credits,
 - Respond quickly to international standards and safeguards,

Private Sector Involvement

- Several technical tools are available to guide the private sector in Laos:
 - Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)
www.v-c-s.org
 - Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS)
www.climate-standards.org
 - Winrock International – “*Technical issues related to implementing REDD+ Programs in Mekong Countries*”
 - SUFORD Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) Design Guidelines 2009
 - RPP 2011 – Lao PDR
<http://www.forestcarbonasia.org/other-publications/forest-carbon-partnership-facility-readiness-preparation-proposal-rpp-lao-pdr/>

Challenges and Gaps

◉ **Current Challenges and Gaps Include:**

- ◉ Refinement of national forest definitions still in process
- ◉ Carbon stratification of forest cover base-map has not yet been started
- ◉ Certain forest types in Laos are particularly difficult to differentiate using remote sensing (e.g. bamboo and low density mixed forests),
- ◉ Funding and schedule for future satellite monitoring is uncertain.
- ◉ National Standard Operating Procedure for biomass data collection,
- ◉ MRV system does not yet exist, only in conceptualization phase.

◉ **Capacity Building Needs:**

- ◉ Overall capacity building on MRV approach and technical processes,
- ◉ Capacity building on carbon stratification,
- ◉ Standardized processes for remote sensing,

Final Comments

- Laos is developing a nested MRV system to simultaneously monitor and track **provincial** and **project** performance.
- **Piloting in 3 provinces** monitoring against Provincial Reference Emission Levels and market-based VCS projects.



Thank You.

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