



# Lao PDR: Emission Reductions Program

## OVERVIEW

In Lao People's Democratic Republic (Lao PDR), forests covered much of the country's surface area in the 1970s, but have depleted to about 51% of its total land area since the late 1990s. Forest loss has been closely linked with interests in land-based investments, and has been driven primarily by shifting cultivation, agricultural expansion, logging and plantation agriculture. The Emission Reductions Program covers six provinces: Houaphanh, Luang Prabang, Oudomxay, Luang Namtha, Bokeo, and Xayabouly.

### Outcomes of the Lao PDR Emission Reductions Program:

- Improved land use management
- Conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
- Implementation of sustainable practices that reduce emissions
- Enhanced land and resource tenure security
- Strengthened adaptive capacity and institutional systems for low-emission and climate-resilient planning and development

### REDD+ activities (forest protection and enhancement):

- Improve provincial, district, and village level land use planning
- Improve land tenure security
- Promote and implement climate-smart agricultural practices
- Implement and scale up village forest management plan
- Implement and scale up sustainable forest plantations

## AT A GLANCE

- Crediting period:**  
January 2019 – December 2024
- Annual Forest Emissions Baseline (Reference Level):** 11.5 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Total estimated emission reductions under the Program (gross):** 12.6 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e
- Scope of FCPF ER Payment Agreement:**  
8.4 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e / 42 million
- Key impacts:** Reduced emissions, increased ecosystem resilience, enhanced livelihoods of forest-dependent people
- CORSIA Eligible:** No

## PROGRAM LOCATION



## PROGRAM GOALS

<b>Increased ecosystem resilience</b>	<b>Enhanced land and resource tenure security</b>	<b>Improved forest law enforcement and monitoring</b>	<b>Scale up sustainable forest management</b>	<b>Enhanced livelihoods for forest-dependent people</b>
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## COUNTRY PROFILE

<b>7.5</b> POPULATION millions	<b>231</b> LAND AREA 1,000 square kilometers	<b>15.5</b> GDP \$ billions	<b>62.2</b> FOREST AREA % land area	<b>0.2</b> DEFORESTATION avg. annual %	<b>16.7</b> TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS % of total land area
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## WORK TO DATE

- **ERs generated to date:** 3.2 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e net
- **Estimated emission avoidance:** 66%
- **Estimated emission removals:** 34%
- **Vintage:** 1 January 2019 - 31 December 2021

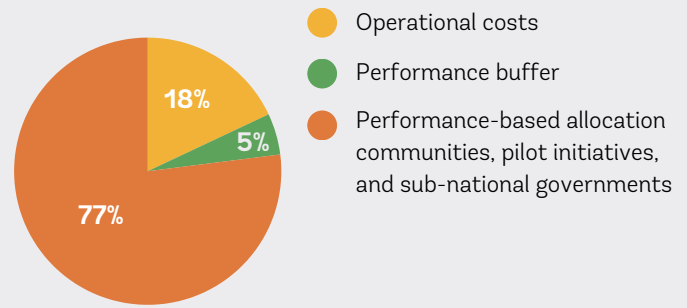
### Safeguards system:

- The Lao National Safeguards Information System has been approved and established
- All safeguard documents are cleared and publicly disclosed
- The Grievance Redress Mechanism is based on existing policies and will be further revised for the REDD+ project
- A Gender Action Plan has been developed to advance gender considerations in the program

### Non-carbon benefits:

- Improved land tenure governance
- Enhanced food security
- Improved forest health, bio-diversity, and ecosystem services
- Recognition of local knowledge and customary uses
- Improved environmental monitoring and management
- Increased market for sustainably produced products

## BENEFITS SHARING AGREEMENT



### Main reversal risks identified and mitigated (additionally, a discount to reported emissions is applied to compensate)

- Lack of broad and sustained stakeholder's support
- Lack of institutional capacity and/or vertical/cross sectoral coordination
- Lack of long-term effectiveness in addressing underlying drivers of deforestation
- Exposure and vulnerability to natural disturbances

### Registry:

- Lao PDR uses the World Bank's Carbon Asset Tracking System (CATS) as its transaction registry

### Transfer of title:

- Lao PDR has the authority to transfer title to generated and verified FCPF ER credits.

## CASE STUDY: COLLECTIVE LAND TENURE

In parallel with the ER Program, an assessment of customary tenure systems in Lao PDR was undertaken to identify opportunities to advance the recognition and formalization of collective customary land tenure for forest areas.

Subsequent regional sharing of best practices has advanced the development of programs to recognize collective land rights in forest areas. Securitization of land tenure contributes to community protection of forests.



## ABOUT THE FCPF

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous People's organizations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

[Lao PDR Country Profile](#)  
[Emission Reductions Program Document](#)  
[1st ER Monitoring Report \(ER-MR\)](#)  
[Country Partnership Framework](#)

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## COUNTRY CONTACTS

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Learn more about the FCPF Standard:

