



Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD)

Creating incentives to reduce emissions from deforestation

Context

Laos has one of the highest forest cover rates in Southeast Asia and is rich in natural resources like water and minerals. Over 70% of the population lives near forests, relying on them for 20% of their livelihood. Since the 1960s, however, forests have diminished dramatically due to agriculture, infrastructure development, and timber exploitation, contributing 78% of natural greenhouse gas emissions and threatening biodiversity and livelihood.

To combat this, this Government of Lao PDR has introduced ambitious Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets, a timber export ban, a new forest law, and large scale REDD+ (Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) projects. The six provinces targeted by Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD) project account for over 40% of Laos' deforestation and forest degradation in the past 15 years.



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Project Title	Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Project regions	Houaphan, Sayabouri, Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay and Bokeo, Vientiane Capital
Leading executing agency	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)
Duration	July 2019 to March 2027

Objective

Laos succeeds in reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by promoting sustainable forest management and fostering the conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Approach

With €51.1 million from Green Climate Fund (GCF) €11.5 million from BMZ, CliPAD covers six provinces in northern Laos, aiming to mitigate 11.7 million tCO₂e and protect two million hectares of forest. Beyond environmental benefits, the project improves rural livelihoods and promotes gender equality by providing women with access to training, leadership roles, and decision-making opportunities within forest management initiatives.

Outputs

The project addresses the following output:

- Strengthening the environment for REDD+ implementation through financing and improving legal and regulatory frameworks, thereby reducing barriers at national and sub-national level.
- Promoting Sustainable and Deforestation Free Agricultural Practice (PSAP) as well as production systems and supply chains.
- Fostering sustainable forest landscape management and conservation, by introducing Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) and Village Forest Management Plans (VFMP) and implementing a measurement reporting, verification (MRV) systems.

Partners

In partnership with the Government of Lao PDR, CliPAD works alongside BMZ, Asia Development Bank, Japan International Cooperation Agency, International Fund for Agriculture Develop, KfW Development Bank, World Bank, and private sectors, fostering broad-based support.



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Impact

By 2024, Participatory Land Use Planning and Village Forest Management Planning reduced land conflicts by 30%, while 80% of households adopted sustainable farming techniques, boosting yields and income.

- **Reduced Land Conflicts**

PLUP and VFMP have significantly decreased boundary disputes and improved cooperation on fire prevention and forest regeneration among villages.

- **Improved Farming Practice**

Adoption of sustainable agricultural methods has empowered farmers, enhancing crop productivity and household incomes.

- **Strengthened Climate Resilience**

Over 270,000 people now benefit from increased resilience against climate impact through better-managed forests and diversified livelihoods.

- **Restored Forest Ecosystems**

Reduced shifting cultivation has revitalized forests, leading to a 35% increase in Non-Timber Forest Products, boosting biodiversity and local economies

About GIZ Laos

GIZ, as part of German Development Cooperation, has been active in Laos since 1993, mainly on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Currently, GIZ is implementing numerous projects in three core areas: a) rural development, b) conservation of nature and natural resource and c) sustainable economic development and d) good governance.

Please visit www.giz.de/laos for further information.

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On behalf of **Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)**