

Change Project

Village Forest Development through Forest Landscape Restoration



Introduction/ National Context

- While Laos is trying to develop a market economy it remains very much subsistence based. Compared to regional peer countries, Laos has been less successful in translating growth - upwards of 6% annually for the past 10 years pre Covid - into job creation and poverty reduction.
- The countries unemployment level is currently 23.4% but this figure is somewhat misleading because significant parts of the population are subsistence farmers and are not actively seeking formal employment. So being subsistence farmers, the population outside urban areas is dependent on local natural resources for livelihood.
- Laos push to a market economy has been primarily been from logging forest, legal or otherwise, and to a lesser extent agricultural expansion.
- In 2019 forest cover was measured at 62% (14.7 million ha).
- People's ownership and village administration are the main factors determining the success of forest restoration in degraded forest area. In the past, the government has put various measures in place to enable people to protect forests, plant trees and restore degraded forest to become rich forests again in their villages. However, there has been many constraints to be addressed to encourage people and local authorities to implement tree planting program and forest restoration within each village boundary so as to contributing to increase forest cover of 70% of the total land area.

Project objectives

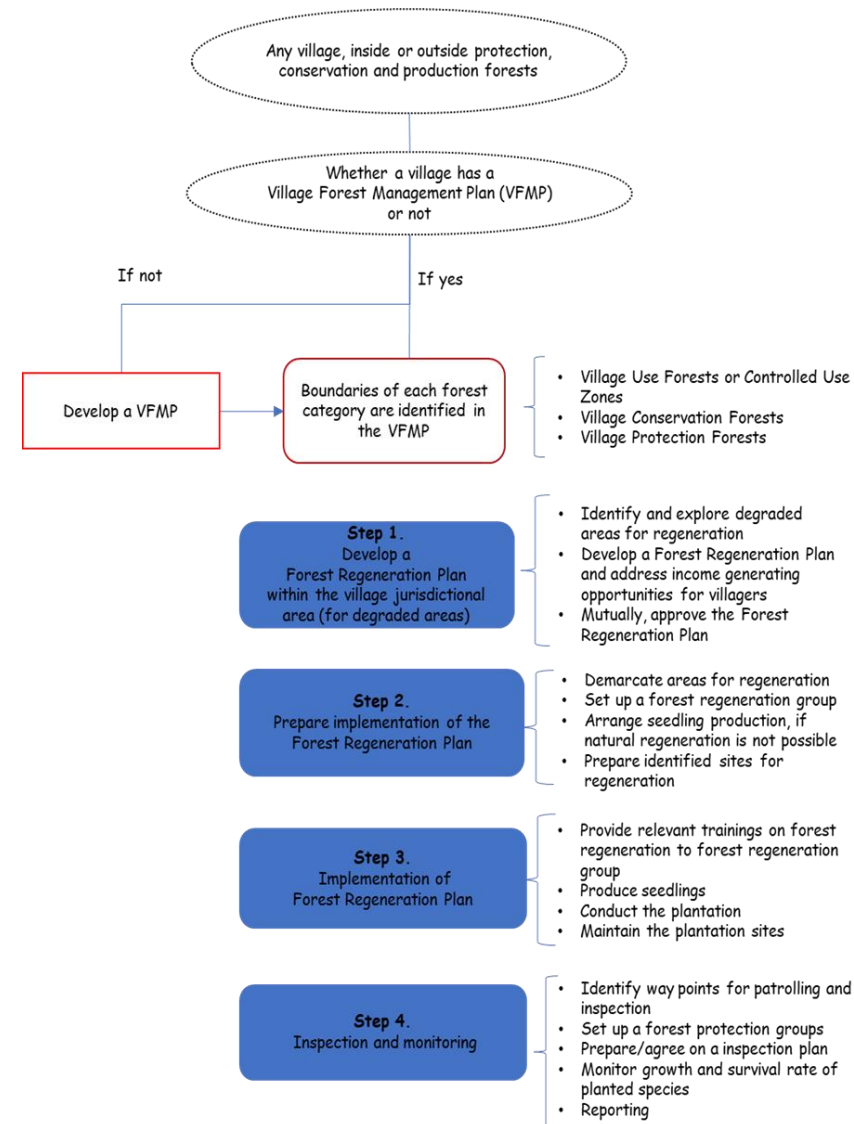
- This CP is designed to strengthen the capacity of forestry technicians and villagers to manage, protect and restore forests within their village management areas to increase forest values in term of economic and social welfare, as well as to contribute to environmental protection, to be sources of livelihood and poverty reduction.

Identify barriers

- No Market system in place.
- Policy/Law not active in the field.
- No project to assist in the area where it should be.
- Land tenure in PFA (Land use planning) uncontrolled.

Process in village-based forest restoration

Village-based Forest restoration can be carried out in every village in and outside of the protection forest, conservation forest and production forest that have village forest management plan, which includes four steps as outlined below:



Implementation procedures

Step 1: Development of village-based forest restoration plan

Output-The villages have a map of degraded forest area or barren land area within village boundary in accordance with the village forest management plan.

Step 2: Preparation to implement village-based forest restoration plan.

Output-People and forestry technicians have sufficient knowledge and skills to undertake forest restoration activities as defined in the village-based forest restoration plan.

Step 3: Implementation of village-based forest restoration plan.

Output-The activities defined in the village-based forest restoration plan shall be carried out each year. The responsible villagers and forestry technicians have capacity to produce seedlings, planting and regenerating of forest and to manage and protect the plantation.

Step 4: Monitoring

Output-Tree plantation and restoration forest are grown up and become rich forest within village boundary.

Thank you.