

# LAO UPLANDS INITIATIVE

landscape of opportunities



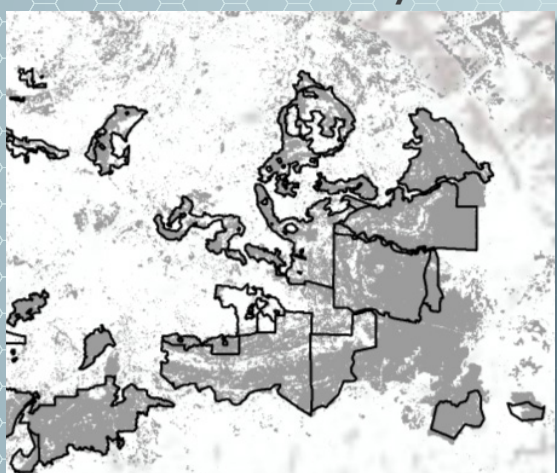
## Landscape approaches

An avenue for agrobiodiversity & agroecology in the Lao Uplands

Thatheva Saphangthong, Jean-Christophe Castella, Michael Victor, Micah Ingalls, Pascal Lienhard

### Why a Landscape Approach for the Uplands in Lao PDR?

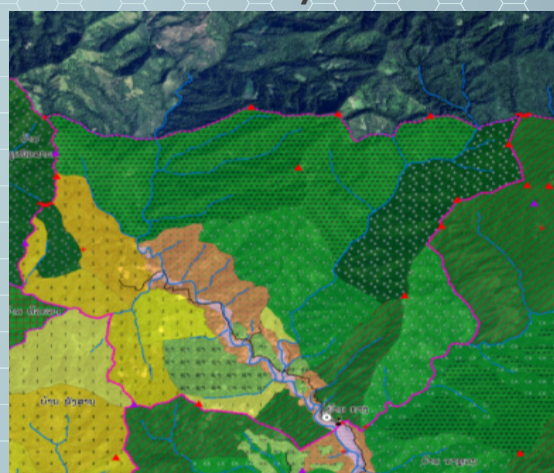
#### Tenure Insecurity



#### Unclear Boundaries



#### Transboundary Resources



#### National Forest Targets



#### Negotiating Trade-offs



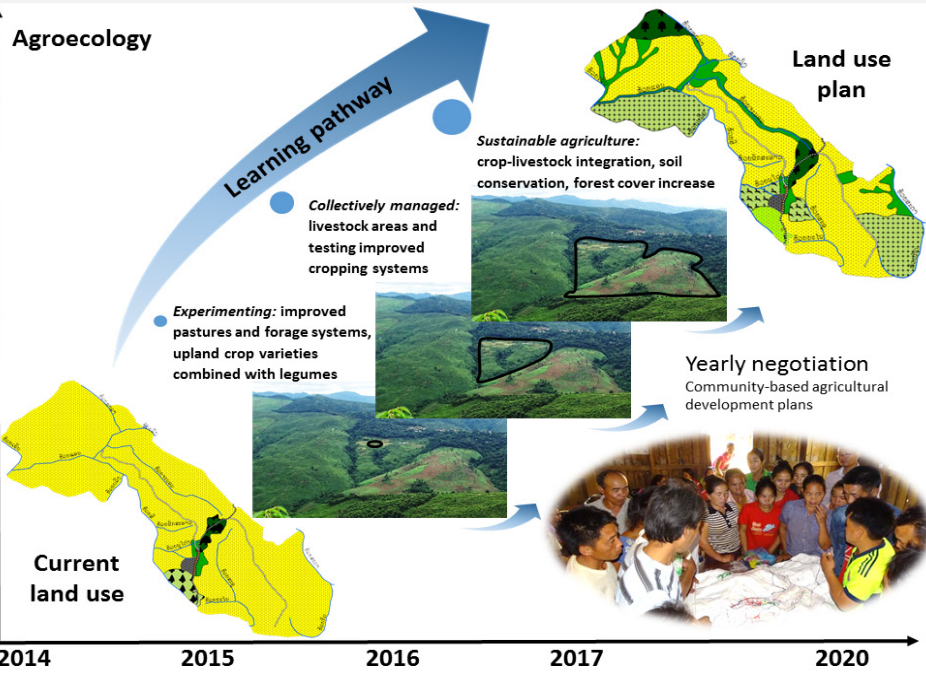
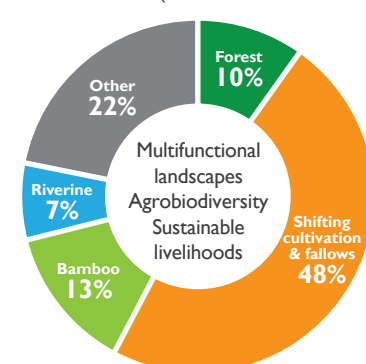
#### Sustainable Development



Multifunctional landscapes support food security and promote the resilience of upland livelihoods

- ▶ New pressures relating to commercial agriculture, large-scale land investments and socioeconomic changes means that innovative solutions are needed to enable smallholder farming systems that leverage natural capital and enhance multifunctional landscape values.
- ▶ Diversified landscapes enhance farming systems' capacity to resist or recover from economic or environmental shocks through multiple income generating activities
- ▶ Addressing stabilization of shifting cultivation in a realistic and practical manner requires clear policy guidelines about the legal status of complex landscape mosaics in the uplands.
- ▶ The transition from traditional shifting cultivation systems to modern agroforestry systems requires to provide a legal status to the complex landscape mosaics that are the basis of uplands livelihoods.

Shifting cultivation fields and fallows provide 48% of total average income of upland households (five times that of forests), TABI-CDE



### How to Maintain Multifunctional Landscapes?

- ▶ Participatory Land Use Planning is used to strike a balance between productivity increase and forest conservation goals at the local level; PLUP translates green growth policy into multifunctional landscapes;
- ▶ Integrated landscape approaches engage local communities in co-designing their own development pathway towards ecological intensification of agriculture as negotiated during the PLUP;
- ▶ In the transition from traditional shifting cultivation systems to modern agroforestry systems the scenarios initially revolve around the transformation of crop-livestock-forest interactions;
- ▶ Issues related to local land use rights (both individual and communal) and forest land allocation within three forest categories need to be addressed in the land law to preserve the complex landscape mosaics that ensure the resilience of upland communities and ecosystems.

