

LAO PDR LANDSCAPE INVESTMENT PLANS



Sectors: Forestry, Agriculture, Water, Tourism, Biodiversity



Services: Sustainable Financing, Investment

The Lao PDR Livelihoods Landscape (LLL) project supports the Government of Lao PDR in achieving its vision of a productive forestry sector built on sustainable management of forest landscapes and high-quality private investment that restores degraded areas and reduces pressure on natural forests and globally significant biodiversity. Members of the Symmetry team prepared Landscape Investment Plans for five priority landscapes, covering eight Provinces and 49 districts.

The Landscape Investment Plans

While investment opportunities differed across the landscapes, which covered the Greater Nam Et Phou Louey Landscape in the North, the Northern Annamites, Khammouane Biodiversity Complex landscape, the Greater Phou Khoa Khouay Landscapes in the Central region, and the Savannakhet Conservation and Production Landscape in the South, a number of opportunities to attract finance and investment were identified.

1. There is good potential for agricultural development pathways, which are less damaging to forested areas, through (i) the enhancement of agricultural productivity, for example, through better access to improved seeds; (ii) support for products which contribute to forest protection (e.g. agroforestry coffee and cardamom) or products which are best grown combined with trees (e.g. forest tea); (iii) expansion of irrigated agriculture; and (iv) support for rural-urban migration, supporting people to access jobs in urban areas.
2. Develop plantations and plantation-based industries, around districts which have an abundance of underproductive Production Forest Areas (e.g. Bualapha in Khammouane Province).
3. Nature -based tourism. Facilitating targeted investments increasing tourist capacity infrastructure, as well as better capturing revenue and rent from existing tourists; for example, in the Khammouane landscape.
4. Access to finance for forest protection through schemes which attract payments for ecological services. Some of the schemes highlighted include conservation public-private partnerships, biodiversity offsets, wildlife credits, forestry bonds, impact investment, carbon markets and watershed protection schemes.