



#TEAMEUROPE

#TEAMEUROPE

ກອງປະຊຸມຄະນະຊີ້ນຳການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດ ຂອງ ແຜນງານ ການຮ່ວມມື ລະຫວ່າງ ທີມເອີຣົບ ແລະ ສປປ ລາວ ເພື່ອ
ເພີ່ມທະວີການຄ້າ, ການລົງທຶນ ແລະ ການເຊື່ອມໂຍງແບບຍືນຍົງ ແລະ ທົ່ວເຖິງ ຂອງຂະແໜງກະສິກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້

(TICAF) - ອົງປະກອບ ປ່າໄມ້/

ໂຄງການປົກປັກຮັກສາ ແລະ ນຳໃຊ້ ລະບົບນິເວດ ປ່າໄມ້ ແລະ ຊີວະນາໆພັນ

ໃນ ສປປ ລາວ (ໂຄງການ ProFEB)

ວັນທີ 13 ພຶດສະພາ 2026, ໂຮງແຮມ Crown Plaza, ນະຄອນຫຼວງວຽງຈັນ

**Technical Steering Committee of the
TICAF – Forest component /
Protection and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity in Laos (ProFEB)**

13 May 2026, Crown Plaza Hotel, Vientiane Capital



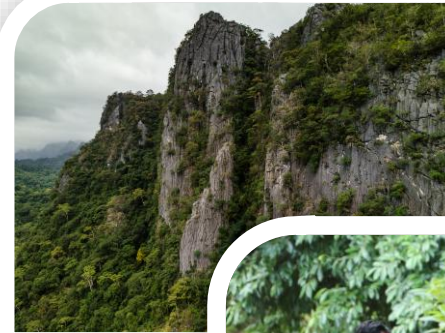
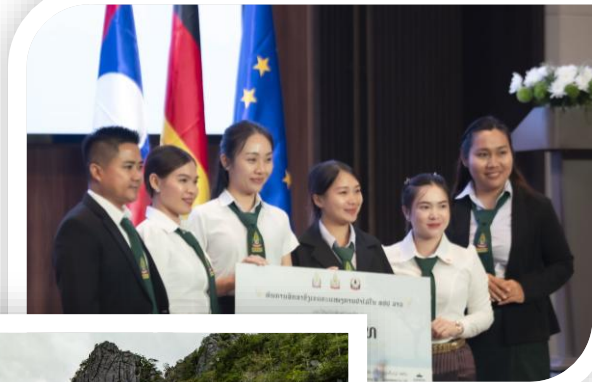
Co-funded by
the European Union

Implemented by

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Agenda

1. Overview of GIZ ProFEB III
2. Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection
3. Department of Forestry (Protected Area Management Division)
4. Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)
5. Department of Forestry (REDD+ Division)
6. Department of Forestry (PFA Division)
7. Department of MSME Promotion (DOSMEP), MOIC
8. Department of Heritage
9. Faculty of Forest Science, NUOL
10. Next Steps, Summary, and Final Q&A



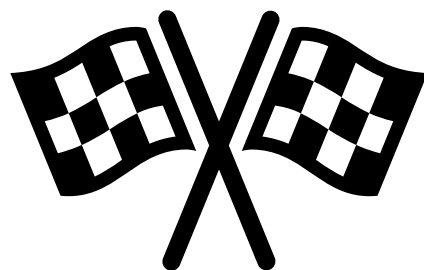


Team Europe Partnership with Lao PDR to increase sustainable and inclusive trade, investment and connectivity in the agriculture and forestry sectors (TICAF)

Programm name	Team Europe Partnership with Lao PDR to increase sustainable and inclusive trade, investment and connectivity in the agriculture and forestry sectors (TICAF)
Project name	TICAF – Forest component / Protection and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity (ProFEB)
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Agriculture and Environment (MAE)
Comissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Cofinance by	European Union
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Duration (EU)	04/2024 – 06/2027
Budget	20,63 Million EUR: 11 Million (EU) + 9,63 Million EUR (BMZ)



The Specific Objective of the Action is increased participation of local communities, particularly women, in strengthened forest-based value chains for sustainable use and conservation of forests.



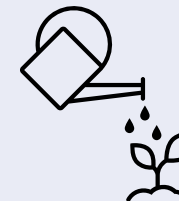
Specific objective indicator 1

Number of **policy instruments** issued or adopted supporting an inclusive, biodiversity-friendly and productive forest sector



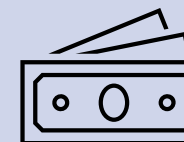
Specific objective indicator 2

Area (ha) of forests planted, restored or conserved with smallholders / villagers (including company out grower schemes and other initiatives with private sector)



Specific objective indicator 3

Number of Micro-, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) that confirm an increase in **value added**





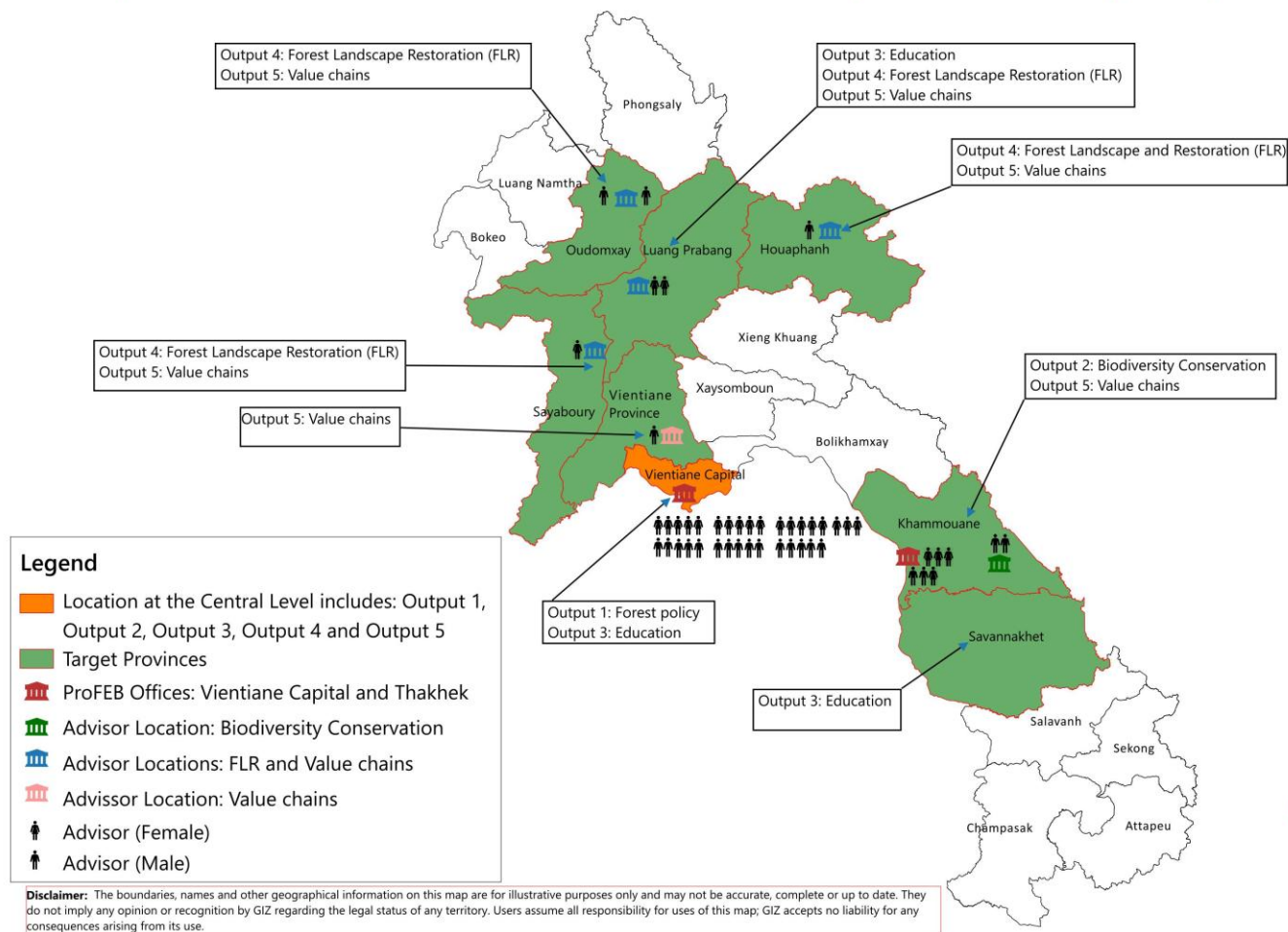
Steering structure

Steering Body	Members	Meetings	Purpose
Strategic TICAF Steering Committee Meeting	high-level representatives from MAF, MPI, MoF, MoHA, Provinces, EU Delegation, BMZ, GIZ, AfD and other concerned Ministries	1 x year	take stock of progress and challenges, exchange on policies, and provide strategic guidance
Technical TICAF committee for forestry / ProFEB	MAF, MPI, MoF, MoHA, Provinces, EU Delegation, BMZ, GIZ, AfD and other concerned Ministries	1 x year	technical discussions on specific sector progress and challenges and include policy dialogue
ProFEB Coordination Team	Project coordinator & GIZ project director	ongoing	ensure the overall coordination and coherence of the Action, day-by-day coordination of the Action
Output / process specific steering structure	e.g. UNESCO steering committee, National and Provincial steering and coordination committees under I-GFLL/SU-I-GFLM, etc.	Process specific min. 1 x year	process specific

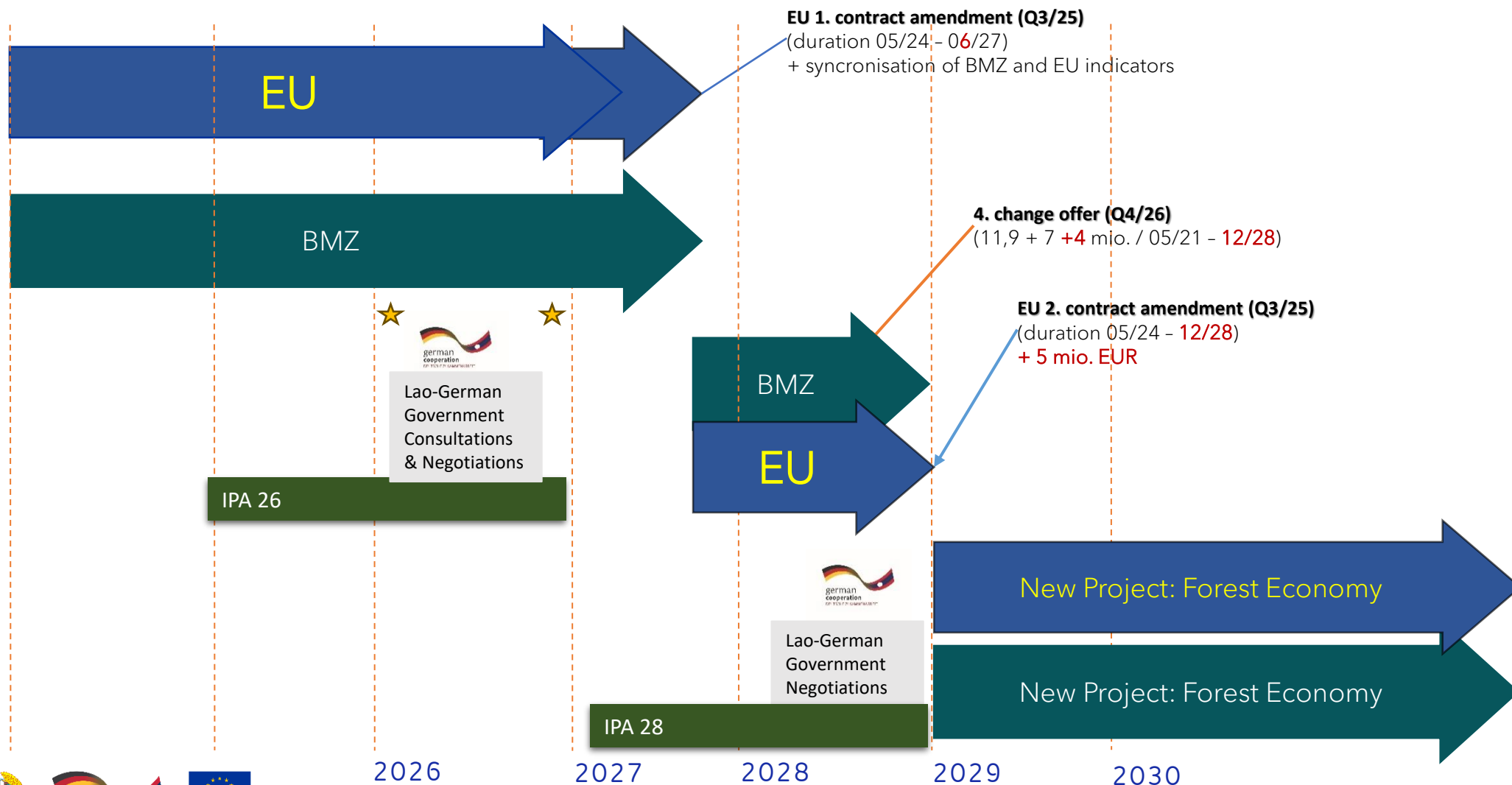




Project Area Overview: Protection and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity (ProFEB) in Lao PDR



Implemented by
giz
GIZ - German Development Cooperation
GIZ - German Development Cooperation
GIZ - German Development Cooperation





#TEAMEUROPE

ProFEB Project - Gender Participation

Across all events/activities, ProFEB engaged

Female 2,572 | Male 4,462 participants

We placed

224 women &

649 men

at the decision-making table



36,6
PERCENT



63,4
PERCENT



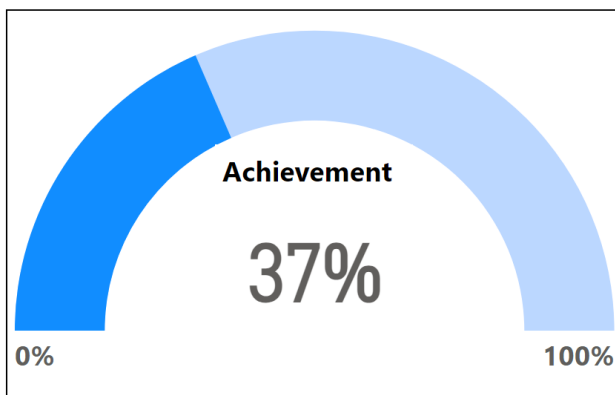
Implemented by
giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit



Output 1: Forest Policy

EU Output indicator 1.1

Formats for cross-sector (EU) policy dialogue to enhance the forest governance applied. **Timeline: 12/2026**



Baseline

Target: 2 formats,
(1-International and 2-National)

Description of progress

National format:

- One Forest Policy Dialogue on Forest Restoration

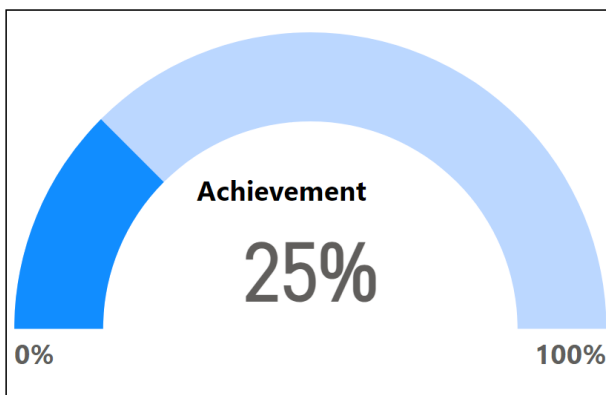
International format:

- no progress

EU Output indicator 1.2

Number of solutions to bottlenecks that are hindering development of selected wood and non-wood forest product value-chains developed by multi-stakeholder groups (based on existing sub-sector working groups).

Timeline: 12/2026



Baseline

Target: 4 Proposals

Description of progress

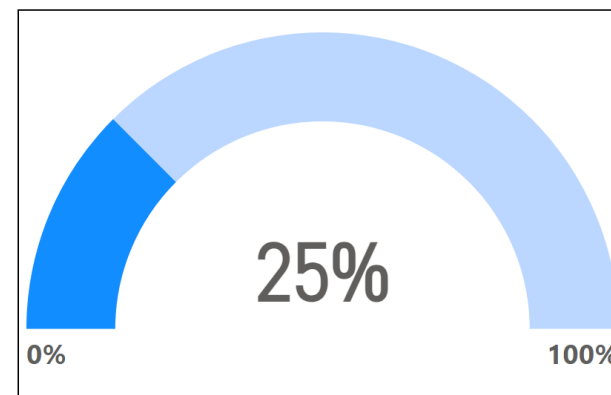
Policy area 4:

- Rubber decree was officially approved

EU Output indicator 1.3

Number of supported policy instruments piloted for sustainability criteria and product quality along the value chain.

Timeline 12/2026



Baseline

Target: 4 policy instruments

Description of progress

- Dissemination of rubber decree among multi-stakeholder group
- Preparations for EUDR TOT ongoing



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Zusammenarbeit seit 1973

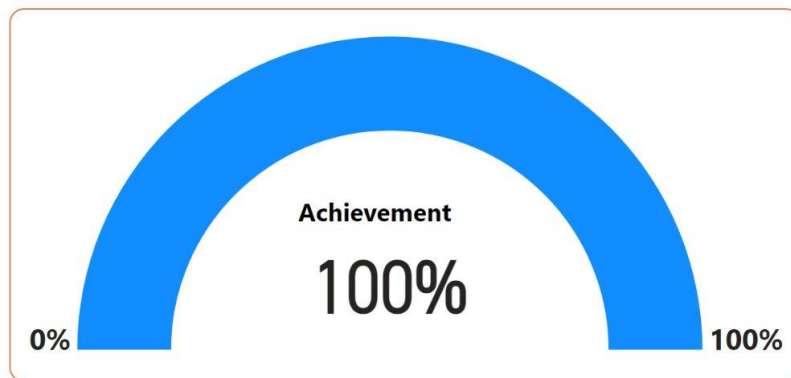


Output 2: Biodiversity Conservation

Output 2: Biodiversity conservation

EU Output indicator 2.1

An action plan for gender-responsive management of the transboundary nature conservation landscape Hin Nam No and Phong Nha-Kẻ Bàng in compliance with the Green List standard has been coordinated between Laos and Vietnam. **Timeline: 12/2025**



Baseline

Target: 1 Action plan

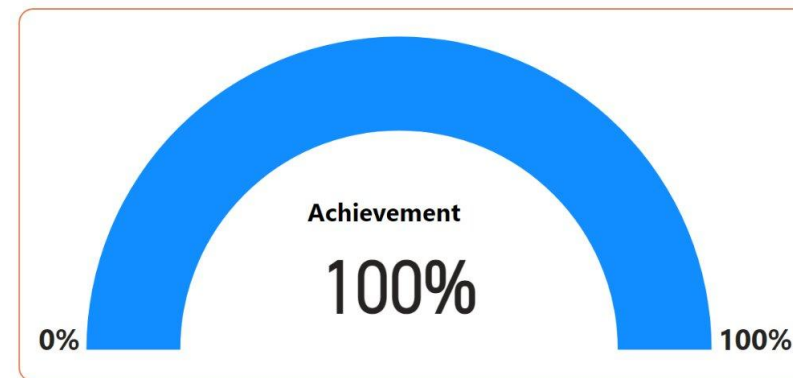
Description of progress

The transboundary framework is currently being finalized

EU Output indicator 2.2

An action plan to curb illegal wildlife trade, which includes participatory and gender-responsive measures, has been agreed by a multi-stakeholder forum.

Timeline: 12/2025



Baseline

Target: 1 inter-institutionally agreed action plan

Description of progress

The action plan is currently being finalized



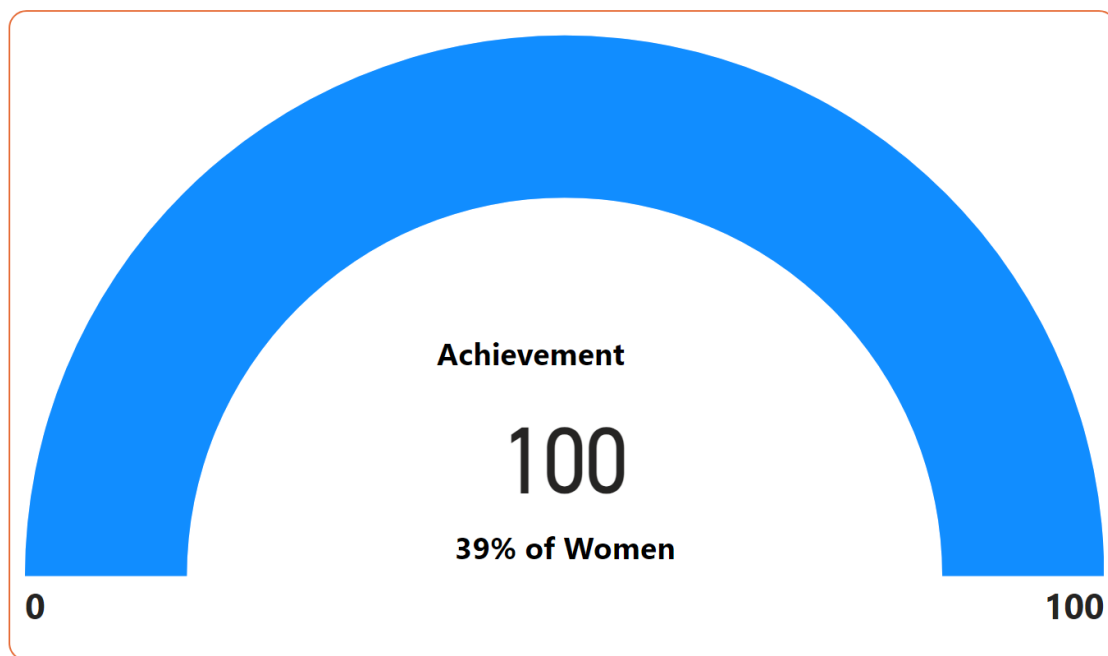
Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit mbH
Zusammenarbeit seit 1973



Output 3: Education

EU Output indicator 3.1

Number of scholarships provided to university students (50% women) enrolled in relevant courses or programmes (e.g. on FLR, sustainable forestry, agroforestry, NTFP, wood processing, conservation management). **Timeline: 06/2027 (50% are women)**



Baseline

Target: 100 Students received scholarship, 50% are women

Description of progress

awarded scholarships:

* 14 Bachelor (11 female = 78,6%)

* 77 Master (24 female = 31,2%)

+ 9 PhD (4 female = 44,4%)

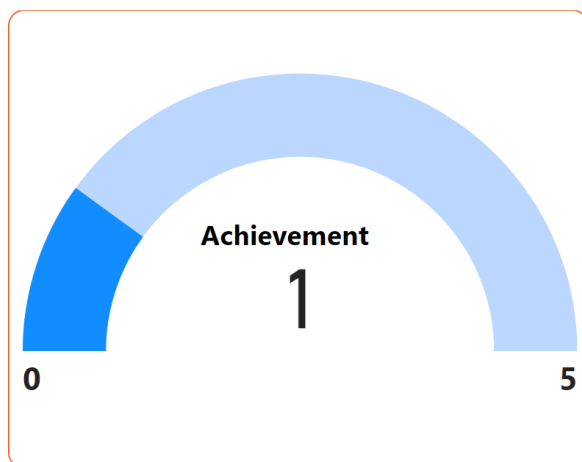


Implemented by
giz
Education Development
for Sustainable Growth
Zusammenhalt. Seit 2007. GIZ

Output 4: Forest Landscape and Restoration (FLR)

EU Output indicator 4.1

Number of initiatives in partnership between government, research institutes, companies and villagers for forest biodiversity conservation and enhanced ecological connectivity at landscape level (in all types of land). **Timeline: 12/2026**



Baseline

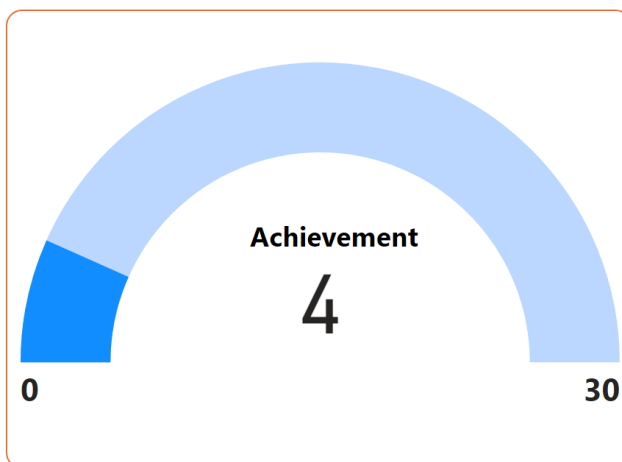
Target: 5 partnerships

Description of progress

1 partnership engagements have been signed: one cooperation agreement with a mineral water company

EU Output indicator 4.2

Number of village forests with restoration activities linked to market options, incl outgrower schemes. **Timeline: 06/2027**



Baseline

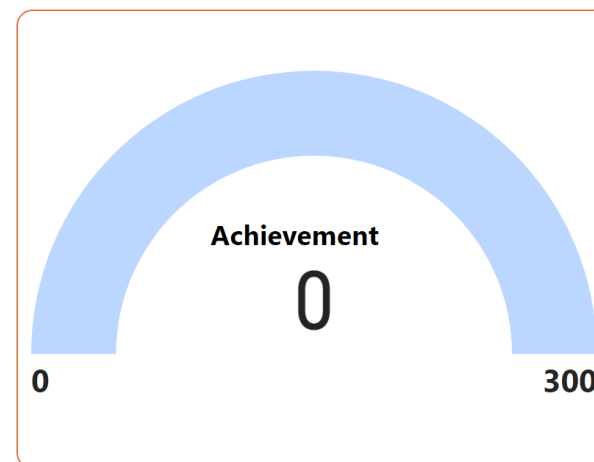
Target: 30 forests

Description of progress

Development of FLR village action plans in 4 villages; the remaining villages will be addressed in the next quarter

EU Output indicator 4.3

Number of villagers (% women) confirming that they benefit from forest landscape restoration (FLR). **Timeline: 06/2027**



Baseline

Target: 300

Description of progress

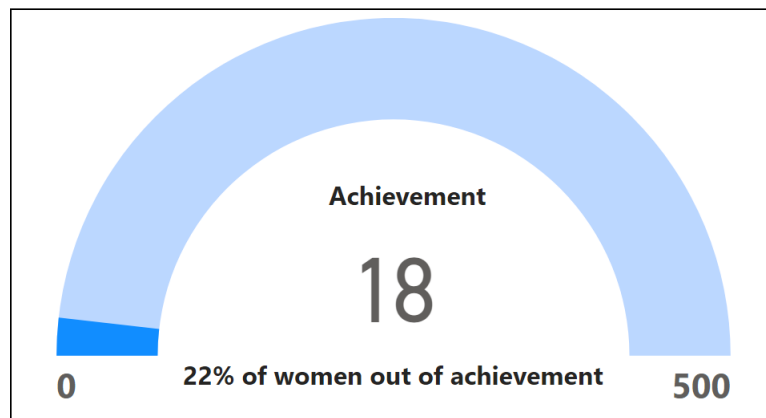
Finalize the survey questionnaire, create the data collection form in ODK, and conduct interviews to collect the required data



Output 5: Value Chains

EU Output indicator 5.1

Number of producers (% women) involved in forest-based production models participating in initiatives for improved market access. **Timeline: 03/2027**



Baseline

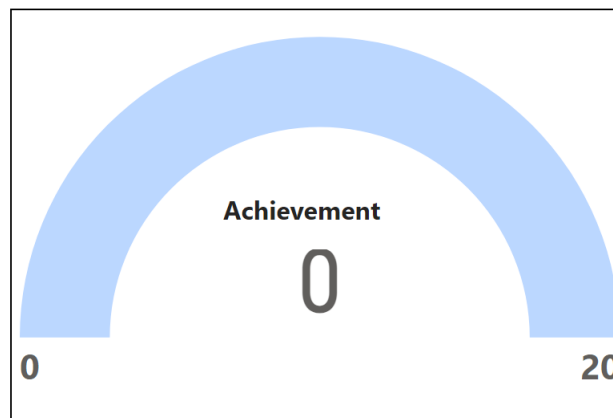
Target: 500 smallholders
(30% of women)

Description of progress

Participants: 18 (4 f + 14m)
* 7 producers (3 f + 4 m)
* 9 private sector persons (0 f + 9 m)
* 2 CSO/ associations (1 f + 1 m)

EU Output indicator 5.2

Number of MSME with business plans for sustainable production in compliance with sustainability standards. **Timeline: 03/2027**



Baseline

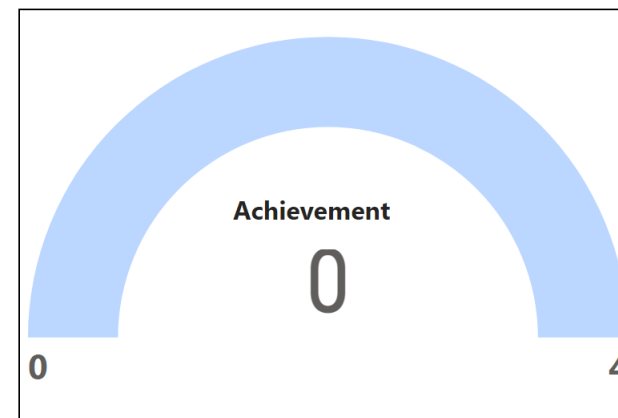
Target: 20 MSMEs

Description of progress

Concept note of ECCIL finalised; Grand Agreement about to be sent to HQ

EU Output indicator 5.3

Number of new commercial partnerships among smallholders, MSMEs and larger companies for sustainable supply chains, incl. outgrower schemes. **Timeline: 03/2027**



Baseline

Target: 4 partnerships

Description of progress

Several potential partners are identified; two CP are in the concept phase together with Output 4

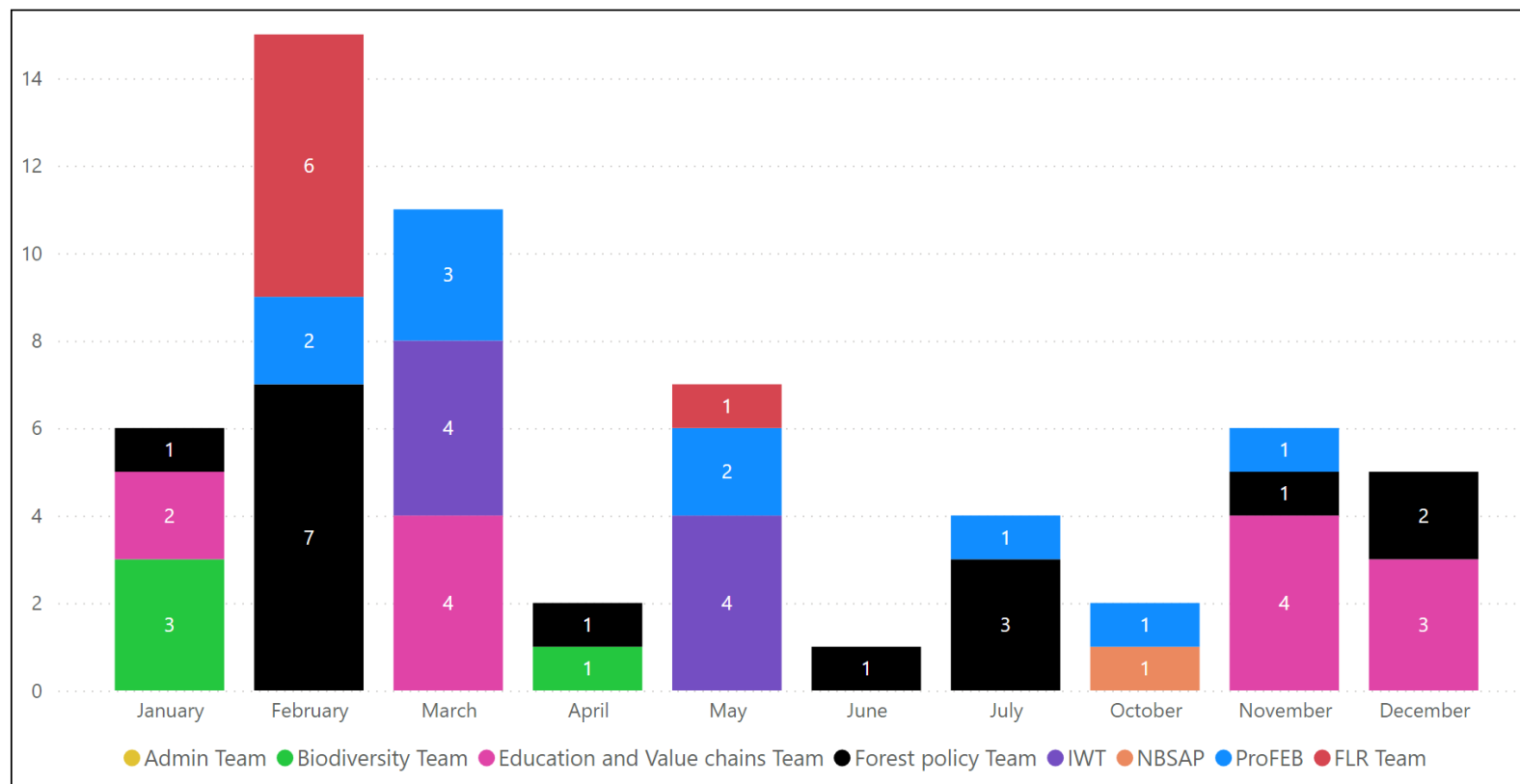


Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Zusammenarbeit seit 1973



59

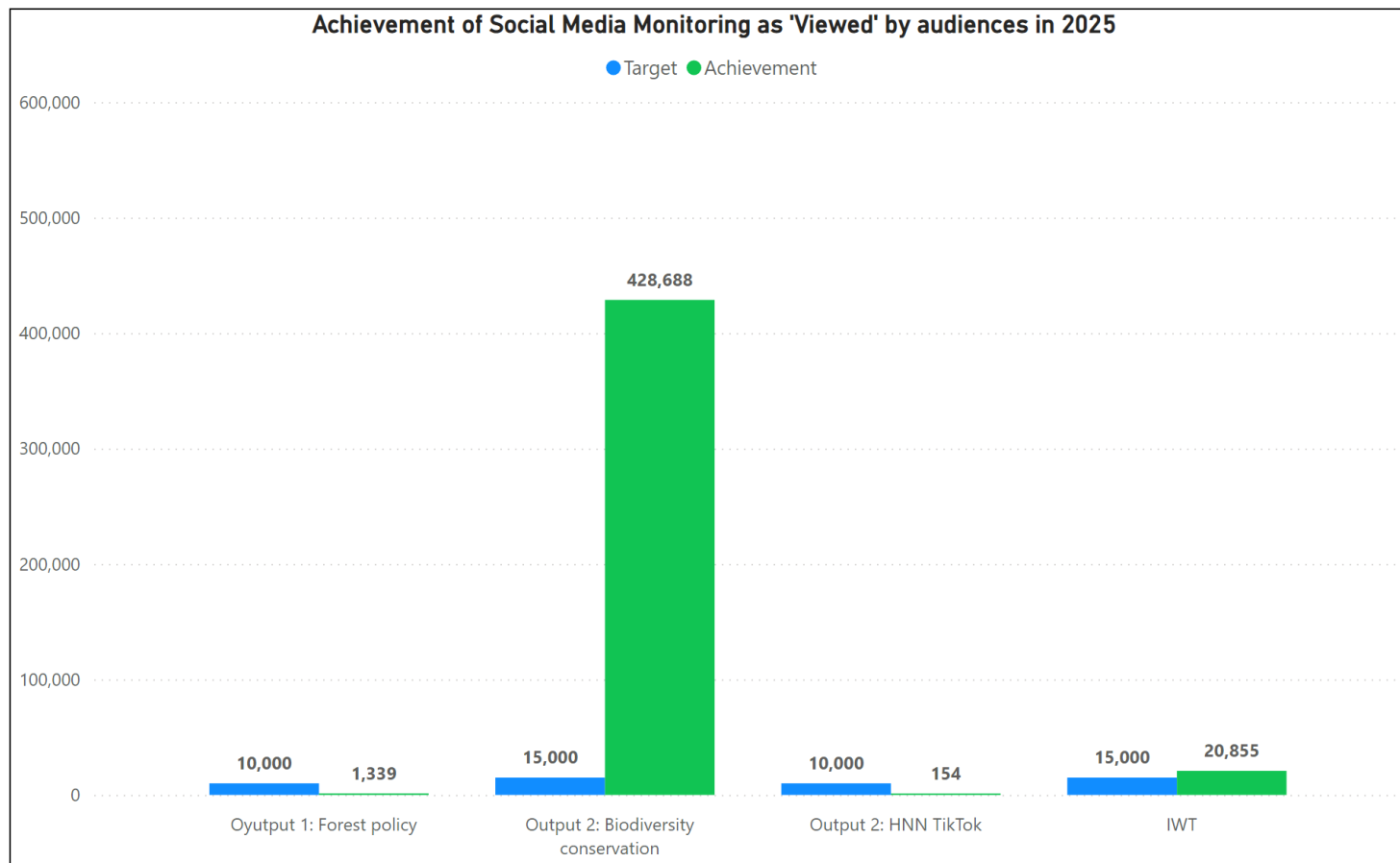
Cumulative positive feedback, 2024–2026



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit mbH



ProFEB Social Media Monitoring Achievement in 2025



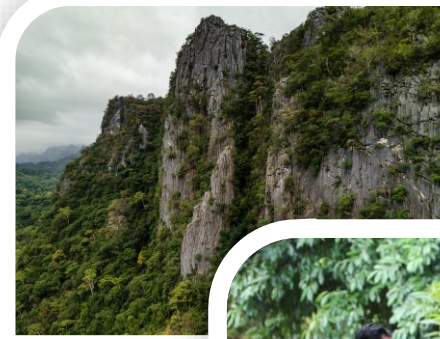
Highlight significant reached
'Viewed' by audiences, link:
<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1PnuktpqR/>



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit mbH

Agenda

1. Overview of GIZ ProFEB III
2. Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection
3. Department of Forestry (Protected Area Management Division)
4. Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)
5. Department of Forestry (REDD+ Division)
6. Department of Forestry (PFA Division)
7. Department of MSME Promotion (DOSMEP), MOIC
8. Department of Heritage
9. Faculty of Forest Science, NUOL
10. Next Steps, Summary, and Final Q&A



Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection

Achievements

Strengthening National Forest Governance and Compliance:

- Drafted sub-legislation to enforce Lao Timber Legality Assurance System and approved key connected regulations, including a decision on confiscated timber.
- Enhanced capacities on the contents of the EU Deforestation Regulation and practical geolocation collection through Trainings (EUDR TOT).
- Defined a strategy to implement PMO 11 in a target district through a multistakeholder coordinated approach to develop a PMO 11 district Roadmap.

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade and Strengthening Enforcement:

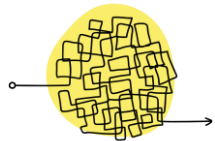
- Developed Action Plan to Combat Illegal Wildlife Trade in Laos (2026-2030), comprising eight programmes, focused on law enforcement, demand reduction, community support, and sustainable financing.
- Conducted two consultation workshops in 2025, to consolidate feedback from agencies and partners for the final strategy.



Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection

Challenges & Lessons Learnt

Strengthening National Forest Governance and Compliance:



Technical complexity of TLAS sub-legislation drafting requires careful consideration of practical implementation steps on the ground, including harvesting and processing processes.



Ongoing Procedural Development and Complex Coordination across multiple departments and provinces continue to slow progress, particularly for Gender Training, NPA Roadmap, and PMO 11.

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade and Strengthening Enforcement:



IWT affects many levels of government, including provincial and local levels; careful coordination is necessary.



Pre-training capacity needs assessment leads to more targeted and effective learning outcomes (e.g., Gender Training).



Local ownership and community-led planning are critical for successful implementation at district level.



Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection

Next Steps

Strengthening National Forest Governance and Compliance:



Clarify the functioning of the TLAS within sub-legislation by focusing on licensing mechanisms and supply-chain monitoring, ensuring the legislation is finalized, enacted, and disseminated to stakeholders.



Develop a practical guidance document on gender mainstreaming in forestry legislation for policymakers, drawing on findings from the May 2025 gender training.



Develop a policy options paper on strengthening law enforcement in protected areas, informed by the February 2026 study trip.



Develop a district roadmap for Prime Ministerial Order 11 implementation in Phiang District.



Department of Natural Resources and Environment Inspection

Next steps

Combating Illegal Wildlife Trade and Strengthening Enforcement:



Define standard operating procedures between DNEI, PNEI, Lao WEN, and PWEN (focus on Khammouane).



Strengthen protected area management by assessing capacity gaps, improving coordination among enforcement agencies.



Develop education toolkits, training local groups for community engagement in wildlife conservation (including women and youth).



Establish baseline data through surveys and camera traps, building capacity of rangers and communities in Hin Nam No.



Enhance cross-border cooperation between Hin Nam No–Phon Na-Ke Bang World Heritage Site to combat illegal wildlife tourism.



Department of Forestry (Protected Area Management Division)

Achievements

- **Developed a Transboundary Action Plan (TAP)** between Hin Nam No National Park and Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park, laying a 25-year strategic framework (2025–2050) for joint cooperation, shared responsibility over Outstanding Universal Value, and coordinated management while respecting each park's independence.
- **Developed a 5-Year Co-Management Plan (2026–2030)** for Hin Nam No National Park, forging a practical framework to protect natural and cultural values, strengthen inclusive governance, and improve operational effectiveness.



Department of Forestry (Protected Area Management Division)

Challenges & Lessons Learnt



Early and close coordination between Lao and Vietnamese counterparts is essential for organizing consultations, and communication responsibilities must be clearly assigned from the start.

Communication focal points from both sides should be appointed to ensure effective communication and a common understanding between the two parties.



Department of Forestry (Protected Area Management Division)

Next steps

- **Finalise the Transboundary Action Plan between** Hin Nam No and Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Parks to build a solid foundation for long-term cooperation in managing the shared World Heritage Property.
- **Begin implementing key priorities of the Transboundary Action Plan**, including establishing a governance structure, harmonising regulations across both countries, and exploring joint sustainable tourism, branding, and marketing opportunities.



- **Finalise the Five-Year Co-Management Plan (2026–2030)** for Hin Nam No National Park.
- Develop **Financing Solutions** for Hin Nam No, including Payments for Ecosystem Services, Conservation Agreements, nature-based tourism
- **Expand the Hin Nam No Buffer Zone to incorporate Khoun Xe-Nong Ma National Protected Area**, in line with the World Heritage Committee's recommendation, ensuring a Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process is undertaken with local communities.



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GmbH

Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)

Achievements

Forest Governance & Policy Reform:



Endorsed a Decree on the Economical and Sustainable Use of Rubber and Rubber Trees, officially coming into force on 20 April 2026, establishing a formal regulatory framework for the sector.



Assessed the Wood Processing Export Roadmap, identifying the need for updates by reviewing current implementation, setting new objectives, and placing stronger emphasis on timber availability.



Organised a Forest Policy Dialogue on the Sustainable Use and Conservation of NTFPs and Timber Species in Lao PDR, aimed at updating the timber and non-timber species lists.



Implemented by
giz German Technical Cooperation
GIZ - German Technical Cooperation
Zusammenarbeit mit 160 Ländern

Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)

Achievements

NTFP Market Development & Value Chain Strengthening:

- **Delivered** training on honey export standards to the EU, targeting government representatives and producers (November 2025).
- **Conducted** a demand and potential assessment of wild tea in Oudomxay Province (November 2025 - March 2026).
- **Assessed** potential producer groups for formal registration across six target provinces (November 2025 - ongoing).
- **Carried out** field visits for value chain data collection and village selection across six target provinces (March 2025 - ongoing).



FLR & Partnerships:

Advanced a multi-agency and donor initiative for the development of a national Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services (PFES) scheme as sustainable financing mechanism:

- Finalised the draft of Feasibility Study.
- Facilitated a high-level exchange between VNFF and EFPF on PFES fund channeling.



Implemented by
giz
GIZ - German Development Cooperation
GIZ - German Development Cooperation
GIZ - German Development Cooperation

Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)

Challenges & Lessons Learnt

Forest Governance & Policy Reform:



Capacity and time constraints in technical expertise delayed the assessment of the wood export roadmap, prolonging consultation processes and creating coordination challenges among MAE, MOIC, and key stakeholders.



Misunderstandings and misinterpretations

arose among stakeholders following the online publication of the Rubber Decree.



Early and proactive stakeholder engagement in regulatory rollouts is essential, with plain-language summaries and FAQ supplements accompanying future decrees to ensure accurate public understanding and prevent misconceptions.

FLR & Partnerships



PFES - The political mandate is established, but bridging the gap between **statutory policy** and **operational measures** is the main challenge.



PFES - require further clarity: securing financing outside the state budget, defining the PFES area, and determining rate calculations and payer obligations.



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Zusammenarbeit seit 1973

Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)

Challenges & Lessons Learnt

NTFP Market Development & Value Chain Strengthening:



Government restructuring

at all levels disrupted coordination, requiring clear documentation and continuous engagement with new counterparts to maintain momentum.



Rapidly changing local context

requires regular data updates and context-responsive approaches to address land-use shifts, livelihood changes, and youth migration.



Fragmented value chain actors

and informal producer groups require gradual formalisation, starting with foundational governance and trust-building.



Seasonal dependency among producers necessitates aligning interventions with seasonal cycles to maximise effectiveness.



Forest-based value chains as secondary livelihoods

limit scaling and formalisation, requiring targeted support in business planning, accounting, and market access.



Implemented by
giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GmbH

Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)

Next Steps

Forest Governance & Policy

Reform:



Implement a targeted multi-channel dissemination and awareness campaign to clarify the key provisions of the Rubber Decree, ensuring consistent understanding across all relevant stakeholders.

Organise a Forest Policy Dialogue on Wood Business to gather stakeholder input, complete the assessment, and finalise the updated Wood Export Roadmap through a committee-led process.



Department of Forestry (Timber and Non-Timber Forest Products Business Management Division)

Next Steps

NTFP Market Development & Value Chain Strengthening:



- **Carry out** a baseline study on rubber wood processing (May 2026 - April 2027).
- **Conclude** producer group registration across all target provinces (by October 2026).
- **Conduct** field visits across the six target provinces.
- **Deliver** trainings to producers and MSMEs.
- **Establish** commercial partnerships between producers, MSMEs, and buyers to strengthen market linkages.

FLR & Partnerships:



PFES:

- **MoU** between EFPF and VNFF on PFES fund management.
- **Finalisation** of Feasibility study and draft Decree on PFES.



Department of Forestry (REDD+ Division)

Achievements

Village based FLR implementation:

- **Completed consultations across 31 target villages and cluster selection processes have been completed** in 4 target provinces (**ODX, HP, LPB, & SYB**), involving 7 DAEOs.
- **Developed FLR Action Plans in all forest categories** were developed for pilot implementation in one village of each 7 target districts (Sopbao, Viengxai, XiengNgern, Nan, Hongsa, Sayaboury and Xai).
- **Delived capacity building** on FLR and drone training was carried out at Chiang Mai University, Thailand in Jan 2026 and FLR training in 4 target provinces in Feb 2026.

Partnership development with private sector:

- Signed agreement with **Mineral Water Company (LPB)** in March 2026 on collaboration for FLR co-investment models, restoration needs and investment opportunities.



Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Department of Forestry (REDD+ Division)

Challenges & Lessons Learnt



- Participatory Land Use Planning (**PLUP**) and Village forest management planning (**VFMP**) are key steps for FLR engagement.
- **Limited capacity** in forest degradation assessment and FLR techniques to better identify and prioritize FLR activities.
- **Continuous training and technical coaching for DAEO staff and village communities** are essential to strengthen capacities and improve the application of forest restoration techniques.
- **Stronger coordination is needed between DAEO and villages** on law enforcement, particularly regarding livestock damage, forest fires, and encroachment within forest boundaries.
- **Restoration activities highly depend on the seasonality.** Proper seed collection planning and early community involvement improves seedling quality and restoration success rates.
- **Linking restoration activities with livelihood benefits** helps increase community participation, ownership and long-term commitment.
- **Private sector engagement** remains relatively limited and requires further strengthening to support long-term and large-scale restoration efforts.



Department of Forestry (REDD+ Division)

Next Steps

Village based FLR implementation:



Continue implementing FLR Action Plans across all target villages, integrating practical restoration with on-the-job training and academic engagement.



Provide nursery management training to all 31 target villages through DAEO staff to build local technical capacity.



Establish a dedicated funding window with the Environment and Forest Protection Fund (EFPF) for FLR activities at provincial, district, and village levels.



Partnership development with private sector and CSO initiative:



Engage the Friends of PhatadKe Association (FPTK) and Souphanouvong University to facilitate partnership with a mineral water company and strengthen local community participation in Luang Prabang.



Continue supporting eco-tourism development in Oudomxay through the Association for Mutual Assistance (AMA) in collaboration with Namkat Yorla Pa.



Strengthen the partnership with Xaychalern Company Co., Ltd. through BNDA support to promote the sustainable use of bamboo leaves whilst advancing forest restoration efforts in Houaphan.



Link PFES policy discussions and restoration masterplan development to private sector engagement.



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Zusammenarbeit seit 1973

Department of Forestry (Production Forest Areas Division)

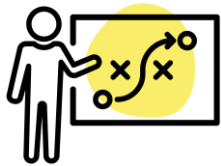
Achievements

- **Organised a Forest Policy Dialogue** that generated key recommendations for the Lao Restoration Masterplan.
- **Developed the first draft of the Lao Restoration Masterplan**, laying the foundation for provincial consultations and identification of priority restoration areas.
- **Conducted an expert study on Production Forest Area (PFA) management**, producing forest cover change maps for three PFAs to inform the Restoration Masterplan.



Department of Forestry (Production Forest Areas Division)

Challenges & Lessons Learnt



Technical and legal difficulty in site selection highlight the need for standardised methodologies and integrated land-use assessments to guide restoration planning in the Masterplan.



Unclear and fragmented responsibilities within Production Forest Areas across village, provincial, and central levels underline the importance of clearly defined roles and stronger coordination mechanisms at all administrative levels.



Legal inconsistencies across policies and frameworks. Harmonize and update the legal framework to ensure coherence and support restoration goals.



Department of Forestry (Production Forest Areas Division)

Next Steps



Organize regional workshops to gather further feedback on the Masterplan, engaging provincial and local stakeholders to refine priorities and ensure alignment with local contexts.

Integrate finalized PFA study findings—especially on modelling partnerships with the private sector—into the draft Masterplan, and complete and endorse the plan.



Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GmbH



#TEAMEUROPE

Q&A



Implemented by
giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit



#TEAMEUROPE

Group Photo & Coffee Break



Implemented by
giz Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit

MOIC – Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (DOSMEP)

Achievements



Study Trip to Germany:



Study and exposure visit to the imm furniture trade fair and furniture manufacturing enterprises in Cologne/ Germany with 10 delegates (January 2026)

- 7 delegates from MSMEs from the furniture and wood processing sector (thereof 5 from the provinces and 2 from VTE capital)
- 1 delegate from the Lao Furniture Association (LFA)
- 2 delegates from the government (DOF and DOSMEP)



Innovation Challenge:

- Timeline from November 2025 to March 2026
- More than 50 applications received
- 14 winning projects selected by jury
- Winning projects received a combined funding of USD 170,000
- Implementation of their pilot activities over six months (April-October 2026)



Implemented by
giz German-Lao cooperation
giz gmbh
Zusammenarbeit
2023-2026

MOIC – Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (DOSMEP)

Challenges & Lessons Learnt



Study Trip to Germany:



Limited access to practical training and safety knowledge among workers highlights the need for short, hands-on courses to strengthen technical skills and workforce capacity.



Limited understanding of certification and export requirements underlines the importance of targeted guidance on standards and market preparation to support international market access.



Limited Access to Finance for machinery upgrades and safety improvements constrains SME modernisation, highlighting the need for targeted financial support and exposure to innovation.



MOIC – Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (DOSMEP)

Challenges & Lessons Learnt



Innovation Challenge:



Participant identification requires targeted scouting mechanisms to effectively reach and select suitable candidates.



Varying participant readiness across experience levels and project maturity calls for differentiated support streams to maximise overall impact.



Capacity gaps in core business skills such as budget planning remained underdeveloped despite the pitch training, highlighting the need for more comprehensive capacity support.



Misaligned expectations on seed funding underscore the importance of clearly communicating eligible and non-eligible costs throughout the process to manage expectations effectively.



Structured coaching and mentoring proved highly effective in improving pitch quality, confirming their value as essential components for future programmes.



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GmbH
Friedrichshagen, Berlin 12623, Germany

MOIC – Department of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprise Promotion (DOSMEP)



Next Steps



Implement the 14 Innovation Challenge winning projects, followed by evaluation and identification of scale-up potential (April - October 2026)



Continue supporting private sector actors to improve market access and promote new technologies and innovation, including NTFP exhibitions and study visits to trade fairs.



Roll out the Five-Year MSME Development Plan.



Implemented by
giz
Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
Zusammenarbeit seit 1973

MCT - Department of Heritage and Fine Arts

Achievements



- **Inscribed Hin Nam No National Park** as a UNESCO World Heritage Site (July 2025) — the first natural World Heritage Site in Laos and the first transboundary World Heritage Site in Southeast Asia, jointly designated with Phong Nha-Ke Bang National Park in Vietnam.
- **Celebrated the handover** of the World Heritage Certificate to provincial authorities in Thakhek.
- **Raised awareness of the Outstanding Universal Value** of Hin Nam No National Park among provincial and district authorities, relevant sectors, and local communities.

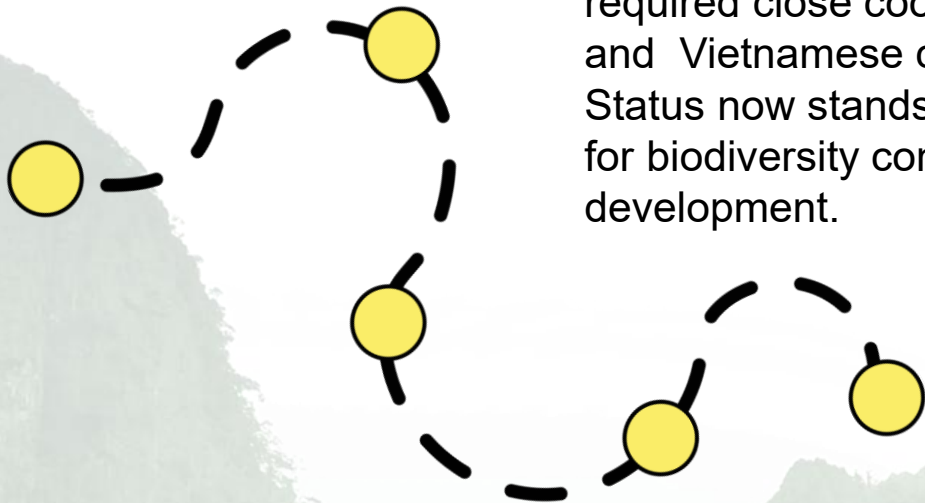


MCT - Department of Heritage and Fine Arts

Challenges & Lessons Learnt



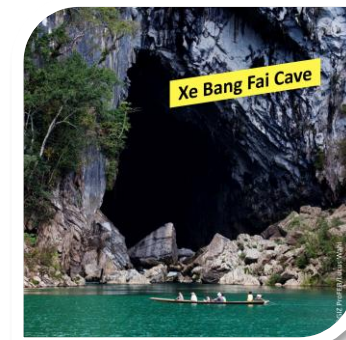
Lengthy and technically demanding UNESCO nomination process required close coordination with cross internal government agencies and Vietnamese counterparts, yet proved worthwhile as World Heritage Status now stands as a symbol of national pride, opening opportunities for biodiversity conservation awareness and sustainable tourism development.



MCT - Department of Heritage and Fine Arts

Next Steps

- **Leverage the World Heritage status** to advance tourism development, financing, and nature conservation.
- **Continue raising awareness** of the Outstanding Universal Value of Hin Nam No National Park at national and provincial level.
- **Develop mechanism and regulations** for managing the Natural World Heritage Property.
- Seeking comprehensive support on preparing the **Nomination Dossier for Nakai-Namtheun National Park.**



Faculty of Forest Science, NUOL

Achievements



Forestry Scholarship Programme:



Launched the ProFEB scholarship programme in academic year 2025/26, in partnership with three national forestry faculties and Laos' three largest timber plantation companies, awarding

100 scholarships

across three degrees:



78,6
female

14 Bachelor

31,2
female

77 Master

44,4
female

9 PhD



Implemented by
giz
GIZ - German Development Cooperation
GIZ - German Development Cooperation
GIZ - German Development Cooperation

Faculty of Forest Science, NUOL

Achievements



Hand-over of IT Teaching Equipment to FFS:

Handed over of **78 pieces of IT teaching equipment**, such as laptops, desktop computers, Geo-Information Systems (GIS)/ Remote Sensing (RS) laboratory, projectors, printers and toners.



Implemented by
giz
GIZ - German Institute for
Cooperation International
Zusammenarbeit

Faculty of Forest Science, NUOL



Challenges & Lessons Learnt



Student recruitment and programme attractiveness remain weak, requiring more modern positioning and greater relevance to current market needs are required.



Limited English proficiency among some staff constrains effective international engagement and collaboration.



Misalignment between donor and university processes has occasionally reduced implementation efficiency, highlighting the need for better procedural coordination.



Insufficient institutional positioning of the Faculty of Forest Science within the national and regional higher education landscape limits its visibility and impact. This hinders critical exchanges between students, teachers, researchers, and management.



Internal coordination gaps between faculties and departments, compounded by ongoing organisational reform, continue to hinder operational effectiveness.



Faculty of Forest Science, NUOL



Next Steps



Establish a shared strategic vision to guide departmental development and external engagement.



Strengthen faculty cohesion by aligning departments under a common focus to reinforce collective identity and visibility.



Consolidate international partnerships through proactive coordination, ensuring individual research excellence contributes to the Faculty's overall profile and impact.



Implemented by
giz
GIZ - German Institute for International Cooperation
GIZ - German Institute for International Cooperation
GIZ - German Institute for International Cooperation



Thank you for your attention

Contact and more information:

Dr. Martin Nowack

Project Director

Protection and Sustainable Use of Forest Ecosystems and Biodiversity (ProFEB)

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

P.O. Box 9233, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Physical address: [GIZ-ProFEB Vientiane Office](#)
Sidamduan Village, Asean Road, Vientiane Capital.

T: +856 21 253 824

E: martin.nowack@giz.de

I: GIZ ProFEB <https://www.giz.de/en/worldwide/66110.html>

I: FLEGT: <https://flegtlaos.com/>

I: Hin Name No: <https://hinnamno.org/>

I: Lao Wildlife Heroes <https://laowildlifeheroes.org/>

THE GLOBAL GOALS For Sustainable Development



Implemented by
giz
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GmbH