



ECOSYSTEMS PROTECTION

Introduction

MAREK TURČÁNI



Do You know which species is the biggest threat for ecosystems?

History of czech foresters in Laos

prof. Erich Václav (1930-2018)

He has spent years 1986-1989 in Luang Prabang,

He helped to establish agroforestry plantations, he wrote textbooks for agroforestry, helped to establish national park.



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Introduction

Ecosystems in south-east Asia are under extreme pressure!!!

LAOS is surrounded by countries with lack of cheap wood!

Here is extremely important tasks for Laos government.



THREATS

Developing economy in Laos,

High demand of wood in surrounding countries,

Global change



THREATS

Developing economy in Laos:

The running economy brings opportunities to people – they want better life,

They will need new houses, new fields for crops,

Internal demand for wood will increase.



THREATS

Surrounding countries:

Vietnam – traditionally trade with vietnamese dragoon,

China – short border, but the nation is buying the wood from the whole world,

Thailand – stronger economy, Kambodia – transit country.



NEEDS

It is important, that government is doing important steps – to stabilize situation.

Lao People's Revolutionary Party – It is really needed, that top politicians will be informed about necessary steps,

Laos Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith had announced a ban on illegal timber exports heading to Vietnam in mid-2016.



Global Forest Watch figures which showed 191,031 hectares of forests had disappeared from Laos in 2014, a huge rise on the 80,543 lost in 2008,

The government's ambitious target of increasing forests from 42 percent to 65 percent coverage by 2020 are likely to fall short.

THREATS

Illegal logging:

Still continues,

Loss of biodiversity and also genetic biodiversity,

It is necessary to prepare short, middle and long-term plans for cutting.

THREATS

Climate change

Changes may bring longer periods of drought,

Increasing number of fires,

Changes in environmental conditions, when some of tree species would not be able to adapt to new conditions.



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THREATS

Invasive species for native forests

The situation is well documented from many countries eg. Japan,

Those invasive species often break natural barriers,

Only quick system of prevention and eradication may help.



THREATS

Increasing number of plantations

This is the way how to fulfill increasing demands of society,

On the other hand, the plantations are formed by non-native species at majority,

There must be precise survey system how to eliminate entry of invasion species.



THREATS

Lost of biodiversity

Decreasing area of native forests and increasing area of plantations may cause imbalance in biodiversity,

It is very probable, that due to huge losses the area of protected forests will have to be increased.



- **Constitution of the Lao People's Democratic Republic**
- The 2003 Lao Constitution (Articles 19) provides that all organizations and citizens have an obligation to protect the environment and natural resources of Lao PDR, including its land surfaces, underground resources, forests, animals, water reserves, and the atmosphere.



- **Forestry Law 2007**
- The main law related to forestry in Laos is the 2007 Forestry Law.
- This is the main law addressing forestry issues in Lao PDR. It lays out measures and regulations for the sustainable management, conservation, development, use and inspection of forest resources and forest land. The text addresses the need for stable forest resources to ensure protection of the Laotian people, environment, and water resources.



Hope

- **Decree on Sustainable Management of Production Forest Area, No 59/2002**
- This Decree identifies and establishes the management responsibilities for Production Forest Areas. It aims to establish principles that create sustainable management systems in all Lao PDR.
- **Environmental Protection Law, No 02-99/NA**
- The Environmental Protection Law specifies necessary principles, regulations and the measures for managing, monitoring, restoring and protecting the environment. Its basic principles state that in all cases forest impacts and environmental remediation measures will be its priority consideration, while restoration options will be secondary. Part II also details the prevention of environmental degradation and gives details on the environmental impact assessment process.



- **Forestry Sector Strategy 2020 (FS2020)**
- This is the official guide for the sustainable management and development in Lao PDR's forestry sector. It also includes the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (NGPES), which is the leading document for Lao PDR's overall national rural development program. FS2020 presents a significant policy goal in the Forest Strategy that aims to restore Lao PDR forest cover to 70% by the year 2020. The policy identifies the need for natural regeneration of over 6 million hectares of unstocked forests. Its development and promotion are through the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.



Hope

Increasing effort to educate Laotian people.

This is only possibility how to improve land optimal using via higher expertise of local people,

Important part of the system is sending people to study abroad and on opposite – bring international experts for teaching and long-term stays.



Questions?

It is really important to realise, that ecosystem conservation is very complex problem,

It starts from political decisions and strategies and ends in the most remote villages by implication,

Except of political and legislative issues, the forest protection is important discipline for conservation of existing natural forest and future plantations,

The students at universities **MUST** be well informed and educated about whole complexity – for better future of Laos people.

