Mekong Sentinel Landscape

Coordinated by:
Rhett Harrison (ICRAF), Aaron J.M. Russell (CIFOR)
Yunnan Province (Xishuangbanna prefecture)

Laos (Luang Namtha, Oudomxay provinces),

Thailand (Chiang Rai province)

Myanmar (Shan State)

- Evergreen and semi-deciduous rainforest ecotypes
- High species richness
- High ethnic diversity
- Economic integration: forest resource extraction and capital driving land use change from China
Rubber expansion in XSBN
Rubber in the region
Problem

Reduction of forest cover and simplification of formerly multiuse landscapes has led to an erosion of ecosystem services. Externalities are often borne by segments of society who have benefited little from rubber income, causing increased disparities in wealth and social unrest.
Environmental impacts

- Increased water-use, especially in dry season
- Reduced soil fertility and nutrient cycling
- Increased soil erosion
- Increased GHG emissions
- Reduced value of landscape for conservation
- Local climate effects → prolonged dry season
Important landscape for conservation
Mekong SL Partners

Core Mekong SL Partners:
ICRAF (lead), CIFOR, National University of Laos, Kunming Institute of Botany, Mae Fae Lueng University Thailand

Possible partner synergies:
IWMI, CIAT, UNEP, Stockholm Environment Institute, Chiang Mai University, Khon Kaen University, National Forestry and Agriculture Research Institute (Laos), Centre for Environment and Development (CDE, Swiss), East-West Centre (United States), Goettingen University (Germany), RECOFTC, Forestry University (Myanmar),
CGIAR Co-locating scientists

• ICRAF: Rhett Harrison, Jianchu Xu, Zhuangfang Yi, Huafang Chen, Dietrich Schmidt-Vogt; Delia Catacutan, Anne Tergeggen, Haiying Yu, Xing Mai, Peter Mortimer, Sailesh Ranjitkar
• CIFOR: Aaron J.M. Russell, Grace Wong, Krystof Obidzinski, Mrigesh Kshatriya, Mike Dwyer, Moira Moeliono, Maarit Kallio, Rob Cole; Thu Thuy Pham; Carol Colfer, Christine Padoch, Louis Putzel, Terry Sunderland, William Sunderlin, Nick Hogarth.
• Bioversity: Riina Jalonen
• CIAT: Rod Lefroy, Keith Farney
• IWMI: Kim Geheb
• CCAFS: TBD
Mekong partnership development

May 2012 - Proposal dev: CIFOR and ICRAF-Kunming

Nov. 2012 – stakeholder workshops (Vientiane and Kunming)
• CGIAR centers
• Lao research institutions
• Lao/Mekong development and conservation institutions
• Chinese research institutions

May 2013 – Key Mekong partner meeting
• Key Mekong SL partners (CIFOR, ICRAF, CIAT, RECOFTC, NUoL, Yunnan Institute of Environment, XTBG)

Feb 2014 – NUoL MOU coordination meeting
• MOU signed with NUoL;
• Lao project coordination and synergies meeting
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