



# UN ESCAP Embassy of Sweden

Second Regional Workshop:  
Participation for Sustainable Development

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#ActionForTheGoals



Embassy of Sweden

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## Session 5: MR G – 1<sup>st</sup> Floor SDG 15 – Life on Land

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## Inclusiveness and equity at the heart of Life on land

SDG 15 – The Goal is to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss.



# Session 5: SDG 15 – Life on Land

## Trends on implementation

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**Table 1. Forest cover and forest cover change in the Greater Mekong Subregion<sup>1</sup>**

	Forest area 2015 (1,000ha)	land area (1,000ha)	Forest area as % of land area (2015)	1990-2000 Area change 1,000ha/yr (%)	2000-2010 Area change 1,000ha/yr (%)	2010-2015 Area change 1,000ha/yr (%)	1990-2015 Area change 1,000ha/yr (%)
Cambodia	9,457	17,652	53.6	-139.8 (-1.1%)	-145.2 (-1.3%)	-127.4 (-1.3%)	-139.5 (-1.2%)
Lao PDR	18,761	23,080	81.3	-111.9 (-0.7%)	129.0 (0.8%)	189.2 (1.0%)	44.7 (0.2%)
Myanmar	29,041	65,755	44.2	-435.0 (-1.2%)	-309.5 (-0.9%)	-546.4 (-1.8%)	-407.1 (-1.2%)
Thailand	16,399	51,089	32.1	300.6 (2.0%)	-76.2 (-0.5%)	30.0 (0.2%)	95.8 (0.6%)
Viet Nam	14,773	31,007	47.6	236.4 (2.3%)	240.1 (1.9%)	129.0 (0.9%)	216.4 (1.8%)
Total for GMS	88,431	188,583	46.9	-149.7	-161.8	-325.6	-189.7 (-5.1%)

- Forest loss continues
- Undervaluation of forests, poor enforcement of regulations, ineffective land policies and lack of or unclear tenurial rights
- Forest increased from plantation and afforestation and reforestation



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## Trends on implementation link other SDGs

- Although forest governance laws indeed exist, they are often times prone to systematic failures in the implementation, compliance, and enforcement of such laws.
- Growing inequality forest depending community and other sector
- Limited roles of CSOs and minorities, and the lack of recognition of the rights and needs of rural communities, especially ethnic groups
- Women and elderly head of household are among the poorest and has vital relationship with forest resources



V4  
MF | Voices for  
Mekong Forests

**ADDRESSING FOREST GOVERNANCE CHALLENGES**  
in the Greater Mekong Subregion

Policy brief





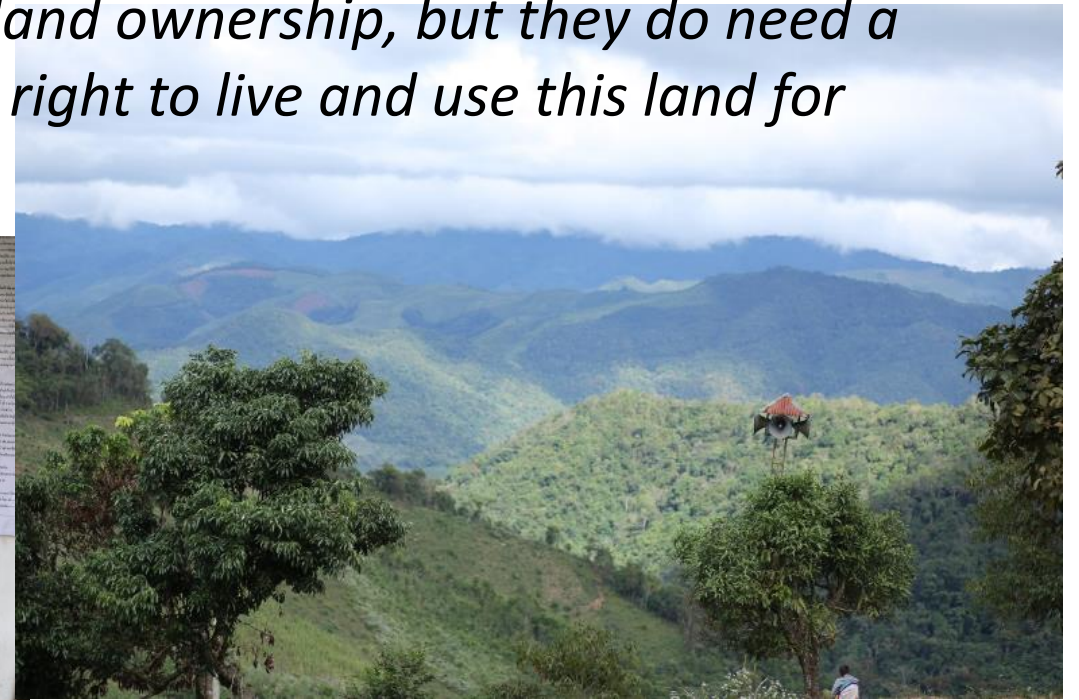
## Session 5: SDG 15 – Life on Land #ActionForTheGoals Overview of Challenges

**underlying driver for forest cover change in the region is governance**



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*“What local communities need right now might not be documents stating their land ownership, but they do need a legal recognition of their right to live and use this land for their livelihoods,”*



- *Dong Praya, Bue Klue, Nan province, Thailand*

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### Exciting/inspirational participatory initiatives:



*Facilitation of multistakeholders to ensuring Inclusiveness and equity at the heart and empowering the dialogues by having information access and open discussion*

- ✓ *Landscape collaboration*
- ✓ *Forest governance*
- ✓ *Private sector engagement and business development*
- ✓ *Public Action and inclusion*



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Exciting/inspirational participatory initiatives:



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# THANK YOU

Local people hold the key to healthy forests  
[www.recoftc.org](http://www.recoftc.org)

