



## Global agendas versus local realities Implementing policy relevant research for upland development in Lao PDR

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## Outline

- Reconciling global, national and local agendas
  - Conservation - development trade-offs in Laos
  - From research & development projects to a broad-based impact on policies and institutions
- Reshaping the relations between land use science and policy
  - Methodology integration as support to knowledge capitalization
  - From an observatory of LU changes to a policy platform: implementing REDD across levels
- Challenges ahead: from “governance landscapes” to “landscapes governance”

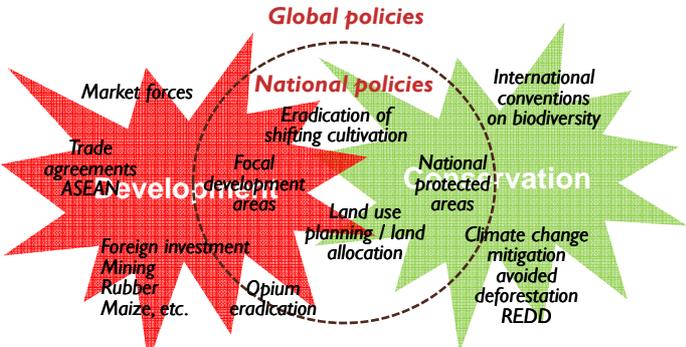
## Reconciling global, national and local environment-development agendas

- Conservation-development issues in the northern uplands of Lao PDR
  - A country rich in natural resource but with high poverty rate
  - Transition from subsistence agriculture to commercial farming encouraged by the government to exit from list of least developed countries by 2020



## Reconciling global, national and local environment-development agendas

- Conservation-development issues in the northern uplands of Lao PDR
  - Trade-offs between endogenous and exogenous drivers of change between conservation & development goals between places and paces



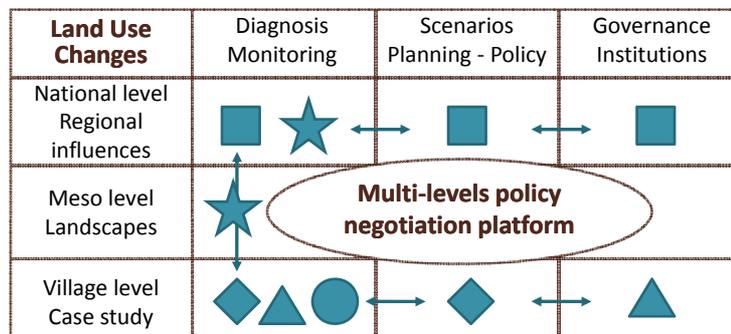
Extreme diversity – rapid changes → Context sensitive, adaptive policy framework

## Reconciling global, national and local environment-development agendas

- From research & development projects to a broad-based impact on policies and institutions
  - Most of development efforts are project driven: great influence of bilateral and multilateral donors on national policies, but...
    - dispersed efforts in time and space
    - poor coordination
    - little impact on policies
  - A comprehensive strategic framework for poverty eradication: the National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy (2004)
    - Multilateral agencies support the government in mainstreaming the Millennium Development Goals defined at the global level in the NGPES
    - Donors coordination with government: 2005 Paris Declaration and 2007 Vientiane Declaration on aid effectiveness to strengthen governance, improve development performance, and enhance development outcomes
    - Working group on Uplands Development to formulate a coordinated approach

Enhancing projects effectiveness → Multistakeholder policy dialogue  
 Need for a methodological framework for knowledge integration

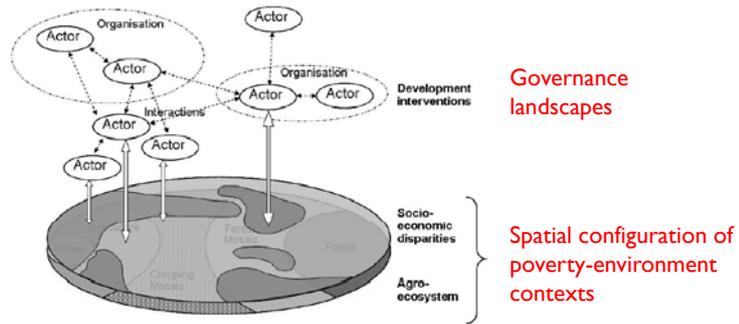
## Policy- research framework across scales: integration of existing projects towards a land use policy negotiation platform



Methodology integration as support to knowledge capitalization

## Reshaping the relations between land use science and policy

- Project I: NRRC-WREA -> Top-down approach



Development contexts as conjunction of an agro-ecological diversity and spatial variations in development interventions on the meso-scale

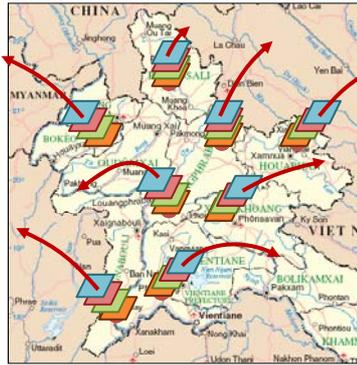
## Policy- research framework across scales: integration of existing projects towards a land use policy negotiation platform

Land Use Changes	Diagnosis Monitoring	Scenarios Planning - Policy	Governance Institutions
National level Regional influences	□	□	□
Meso level Landscapes	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; display: inline-block;"> <b>Multi-levels policy negotiation platform</b> </div>		
Village level Case study			

□ → WREA - Swiss National Centre of Competence in Research North-South

## Reshaping the relations between land use science and policy

### • Project 2: NAFRI-CatchUp: Comprehensive Analysis of Trajectories of Changes in the Uplands

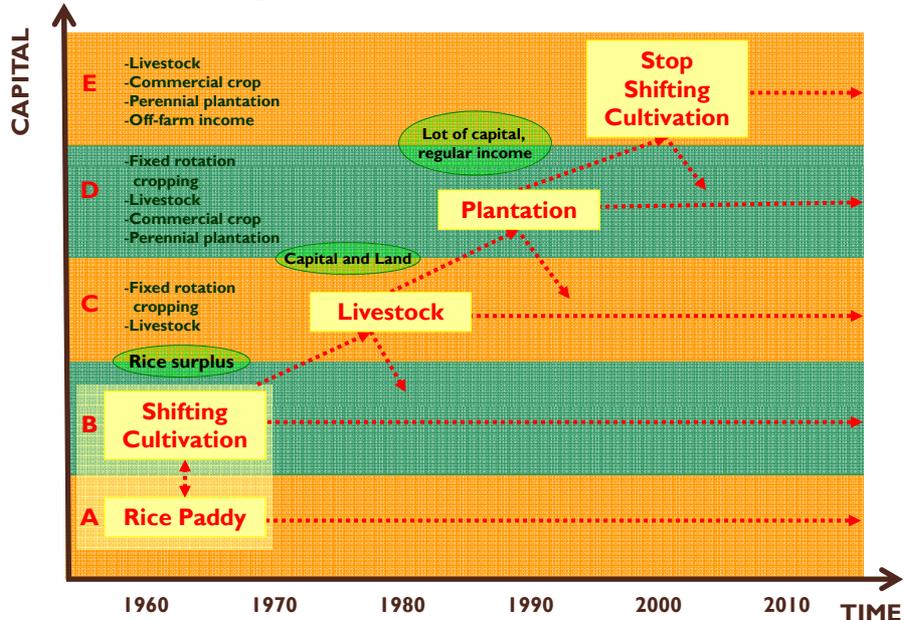


A bottom-Up approach to LUCC

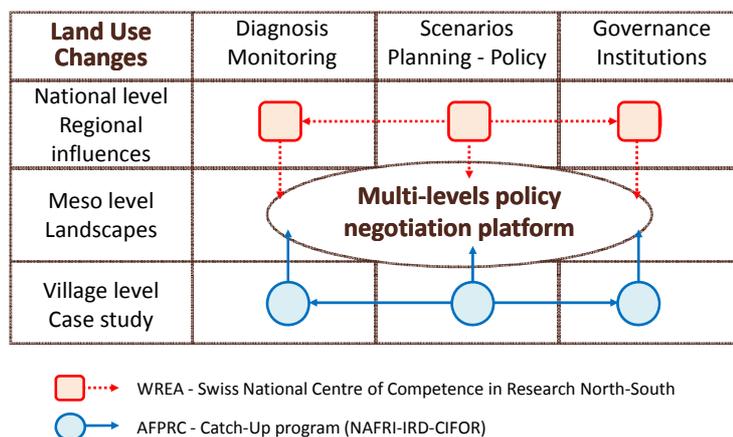
- Network of case study sites
- Monitoring LU Changes through:
  - Household surveys,
  - Participatory landscape analyses,
  - Chronological series of LU maps,
- Meta-analysis of case studies
- Revisit previous case studies
  - Capture diversity in a limited number of trajectories of LU change
  - Locate villages that evolve along the same trajectories

- - Understand drivers of changes / explore causality relations
- Generalize location-specific knowledge to higher levels

## Farming system differentiation process

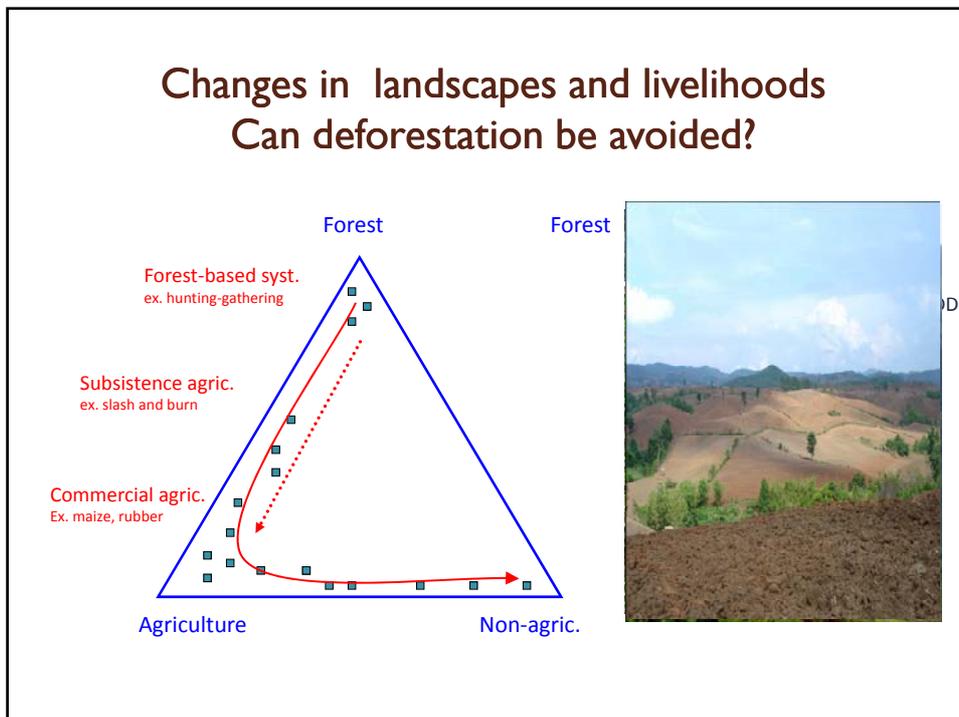
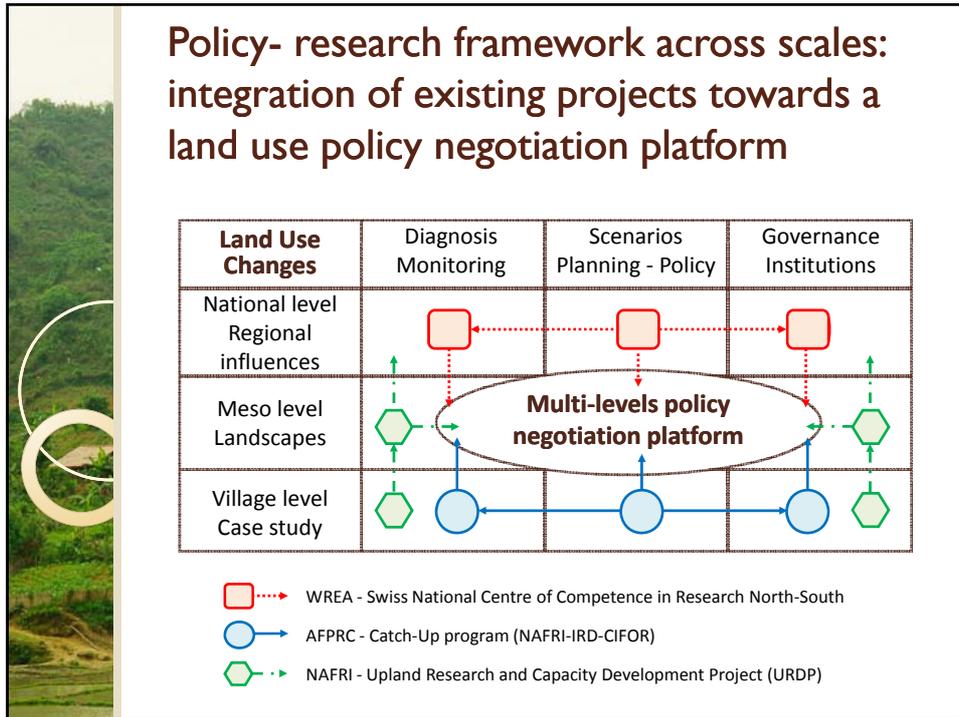


## Policy- research framework across scales: integration of existing projects towards a land use policy negotiation platform

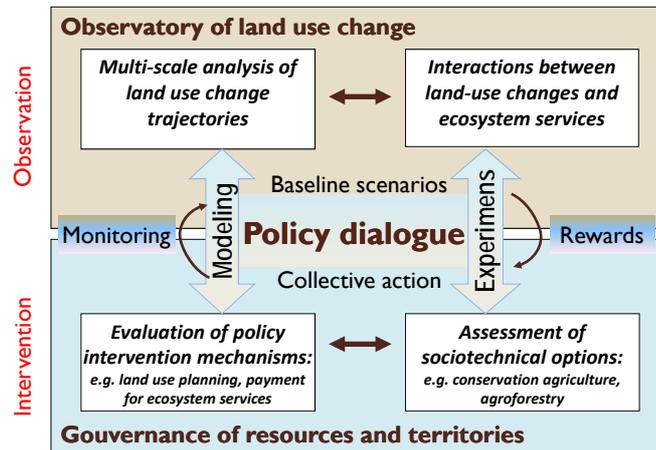


## Reshaping the relations between land use science and policy

- Project 3: NAFRI-URDP: Upland Research and Capacity Development Project
  - Improving research capacity and setting new research directions,
  - Building partnership with local stakeholders to support the development of village clusters as focal points for interactions, exchanges and support to local communities,
  - Networking and collaborations to improve information and knowledge sharing processes and capacities.



## Knowledge and tools for policy dialogue: REDD example



## Challenges ahead

- From “governance landscapes” to “landscapes governance”
  - Action-research: need to be confronted to real situations of decision – negotiation – co-management (Nam Khan IWM)
  - Empowering different stakeholder groups to get into the policy dialogue (legitimacy)
- Outcome monitoring – collective learning
  - Participatory process - level of decentralisation?
  - Long term commitment – institutional strengthening (not bounded to a single big project, provides more flexibility and sustainability of the whole research network)