

# TABI: The AgroBioDiversity Initiative

## National Steering Committee meeting

4 October, 2013

- Report on Implementation of Year 1 (Phase 2)
- Proposal: Workplan and Budget for Year 2

Outcome 3: Integrated spatial planning and ABD knowledge management and exchange tools support evidence based decision making.

# Output 3.1: Livelihood, ABD and Agro-ecosystem baselines and surveys are completed, secondary data accessed and selected studies undertaken.

## Outputs

- a. Primary ABD baseline (by 're-call') gathered in **103 villages** : all 69 villages in Chomphet District, in 18 villages in Ponsai and 15 villages in Phoukodt, regarding
  - NTFPs (?? NTFPs, about ?? Species)
  - Wood (?? Species)
  - Aquatic (?? Species)
  - Wildlife (?? Spcies)
  - Agricultural crop diversity
- b. Households level income and land baseline (by re-call) undertaken in 10 villages in Ponsai and 10 village in Phoukodt.
- c. Fisheries baselines (**catch surveys**) started in some key fishing villages in Luang Prabang
- d. mushroom baseline started in Chomphet District
- e. The available national land concession inventory is available. A pilot updated in XKH is currently in discussion.
- f. New national roads datasets has been acquired and processed and is used.

## Output 3.1: Plan for year 2

The baselines to:

- (a) understand the diversity and status of key agro-biodiversity:
- (b) understand current ABD and livelihoods situations as a basis for action,
- (c) to analyse and measure the impact of the project.

Will include:

- mushrooms in Chomphet District;
- NTFP, wood and aquatic, wildlife: in remaining villages in Ponsai and Phoukoudt Districts, and in Thathome District (Xieng Khouang), and in the FLUP watershed villages in Houaphan; and
- aquatic baselines related to fish and shrimp SPAs, and fish pass construction and monitoring

Also need 'cleanup' of all data before databasing, a challenging task due to diversity of ABD and the diversity of local names, languages etc.

Selected studies undertaken in relation to

- State forest delineation - in relation to village land and forests - in all Districts of Target Provinces,
- soil carbon in shifting cultivation landscapes; and
- land concessions.

## Output 3.2: Integrated spatial analysis is conducted and contributing to enhanced spatial planning and greater knowledge of multifunctional upland landscapes.

### Outputs

- a. Baseline survey data are put inot MS access DB.
- b. Numerous spatial datasets available in GIS DB.
- c. Coherent FLUP database available of all FLUP Goombans and villages
- d. On-the-job trainings were held
- e. Provincial level maps with land concession, planned hydropower dams, to be flooded villages, different level of forest protection etc produced and distributed
- f. Different maps produced for SDC, MAF, MONRE, Province and district authorities LP & XK,
- g. Study in Nambak district on consequences of the large rubber land concession of agriculture system and livelihoods.
- h. Two articles related to shifting cultivation dominated landscapes in northern Laos and related socio-geography of shifting cultivations region published in “Human Ecology” journal.

## Output 3.2: Plan for year 2

The main focus in year 2 will be on:

- further developing the ABD and FLUP related databases (structure and reporting formats) ;
- supporting the new MAF Department of Agriculture Land Management and Development in setting up spatial databases (focus on LUP related data) and respective management systems ;
- facilitate the review and delineation of 'state forests' in all Districts of LPB, HPN and XKH
- Provide request-based information and data services

## Output 3.3: TABI-generated results, spatial products and lessons learned are systematically collated and disseminated in widely accessible media formats and forums.

### Outputs

- Only one Newsletter produced, in June 2013, due to late engagement of Media officer.
- SPA Portfolio developed as first draft, and loaded onto TABI website.
- SPA Summaries under development
- TABI SPA and LUP activities were broadcast over state television, radio and sometimes in the newspapers.
- LUP platform is online, and has been presented at various meetings.
- FLUP maps have been distributed at all levels.
- Various improvements done on LUP Platform, e.g. document mapper etc. and TABI maps, data and village agreements are online.
- Map CD
- Web site - Not updated because (a) NAFRI staff responsible not available (long term training) and (b) no communication officer was found and engaged until the end of the year

# Output 3.3: Plan for year 2

- The TABI SPA Profiles finalised, published and uploaded ;
- “TABI Update” newsletter - 3 to 4 issues a year. (if required, this could be transformed into an “ABD newsletter”, rather than a TABI newsletter) ;
- The “ABD Calendar” for 2014, in both (i) desk and (ii) wall calendar formats;
- The TABI website format/structure will be fully revised, and all information updated to the structure and content of phase 2;
- The FLUP website will be continued;
- The TABI Maps CD will be updated every 3 to 6 months; and
- The results of, and communication materials from TABI will proactively be feed into, and displayed at events based on arising opportunities.
- In addition, TABI will continue to develop activities with MAFs communications team to regularly publish via local mass media of television, newspaper and radio.
- Make and print maps for relevant stakeholders

## Output 3.4: Knowledge sharing and learning networks established to foster discussion and collaboration about ABD among diverse stakeholders

| Year 1 plan   | Achievement   |
|---|---|
| a. At least 1 ABD knowledge sharing workshop held per year in collaboration with key stakeholders, with at least 30% attendance by CSO, private sector and 30% women. | a. An ABD knowledge sharing workshop was held in May2013, focused on ABD subprojects, attended by 85 persons from HPN, XKH and LPB, of whom 47 % were women, but only 5 % from CSO. |
| b) At least 1 thematic (gender, LUP) or actor oriented platforms (policy, extension, private sector) established to share and promote ABD lessons.                    | b) Unclear indicator – a ‘platform’ like the FALUP website, or like a subsector working group ‘platform’ – which is addressed in Outcome 4 ??                                       |



# Output 3.4: Plan for year 2

The Knowledge sharing and learning networks established that will continue to be developed in year 2 include:

- ABD forum events will be held in each Province (not one like year 1) and invite not only SPA managers but any interested stakeholders;
- A national conference on NTFPs and village forestry will be organized;
- TABI also aims to strengthen the national ABD community and its regional linkage, for example through joint events or contribution to newsletters with networks such as SEA NTFP-exchange program.

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Outcome 4: Government policies promote ABD conservation and sustainable use, and land management, for improved food security and livelihoods in upland communities.

OP4.1: CBD Secretariat coordinating the implementation of the CBD and its NBSAP.

OP4.2: ABD and livelihood inserted, discussed and acted upon in 'sector development' platforms.

OP4.3: ABD concerns integrated into improved agricultural and forestry and lands policies, legal framework and mechanisms.

## Output 4.1: CBD Secretariat coordinating the implementation of the CBD and its NBSAP.

- TABI CU/SO did not work closely with the CBD Secretariat – because they are too busy with other projects. But the CBD Secretariat did hold various meetings during the year
- International wildlife day supported by (a) producing banners which were displayed across Vientiane streets, (b) producing T-shirts for distribution to University students.
- Produced clear maps (satellite image maps and topo maps) of all the National Conservation Forests for distribution to and use by Central and Provincial level
- Produced the ABD yearly desk Calendar
- TABI was not approached to support the production of the report for COP 11

## Output 4.1: Plan for year 2

- The CBD Secretariat in the MONRE's DFRM will be supported as they require, and as they have time to accept assistance from another IDA project (as they are very busy).
- Thus, TABI may support the conduct of meetings and workshops, the development of promotional materials related to the CBD, CBD related national and provincial events, and CBDs Secretariat attendance at International Meetings.

## Output 4.2: ABD and livelihood inserted, discussed and acted upon in 'sector development' platforms.

- ABD was raised in the Forestry sSWG meeting – TABI proposed to revise the forest categories in Lao PDR to make them more realistic and actually manageable.
- ABD was raised in the Uplands sSWG meeting, and inputs provided to its Upland Strategy – although TABI inputs not much used by this strategy ?
- ABD was raised and discussed in the land sSWG by TABI
- The ToR for the potential ABD sSWG was drafted and reviewed by the SWG-ARD, who have agreed to its formation.
- TABI results feed into LIWG, Forestry Law WG of the Forest sSWG, the Land Policy meetings and forums, and the Lands sSWG,
- Deputy Minister of MAF made field visit to TABI sites in LPB.
- The Xieng Khouang Provincial Governor and Deputy made field visit to TABI sites in XKX.
- The NSC of TABI made field visits to TABI in LPB and XKH, there were also some visits by the high ranking leaderships like the Vice-Prime Minister accompanied by many ministers and department DGs.

## Output 4.2: Plan for year 2

- Operation of the new Agro-Biodiversity subSector Working Group. This sSWG will meet at least twice in this year 2 and bring together stakeholders working in ABD to review key policies and issues and share lessons learned from activities ongoing, and to create linkages and synergies between stakeholders and projects;
- contribution to
  - the Uplands sSWG,
  - the Forest sSWG, and
  - the Lands sSWG, and
  - the LUP Task Force; and
- contribution to any other platforms, workshops, meetings, as opportunities arise.

## Output 4.3: ABD concerns integrated into improved agricultural and forestry and lands policies, legal framework and mechanisms.

- Presentation to Dr Madam Souvanpheng (president economic, finance and planning committee of NA) about the problem of spatially incoherent policies in Laos (e.g. forest management zones, or shifting cultivation story etc.). Another presentation was given to the national land policy elaboration GOL team (including NA representatives) concerning the draft article for the policy that TABI has contributed on data and information sharing and transparency
- Presentation about land issues in Laos and Integrated Spatial Planning at Quarterly Development Partner Meeting at UN (this include most heads of development partner agencies as well as various ambassadors etc).
- The following policy achievements were not specified as indicators, but were undertaken:
  - TABI participated in the mixed GoL and projects forum to discuss and develop the new forestry law. One of the main focus of TABI input was to propose to revise and improve the current statement of “3 forest categories in Lao” to a much more realistic and nuanced and both villager and ABD friendly statement .
  - TABI provided editorial comments to various versions of the Land Policy.

# Output 4.3: Plan for year 2

- Drafting of at least 2 key policy briefs;
- contribute to (provide key input into) the revision of Forestry Law;
- contribute to the revision of the Land Law;
- develop the revised Forest and Land Use Planning toolkit which will, in effect, be a policy document;
- contribute to revision or improvement of any other relevant legal instrument, as opportunities arise.