

<b>Project title (Acronym)</b>	<b>Trade Investment and Connectivity for Agriculture and Forestry (TICAF)</b>															
<b>LA / CSO (type)</b>	LAs: provincial, districts, villages CSO: iNGO, local CSOs, Private Sector representation, cooperatives, producer groups OTHER: mass organisations, think tanks/academia															
<b>Implementing Partner(s)</b>	AFD, GIZ, ILO, Government of Laos															
<b>Country/countries, region</b>	LAO PDR															
<b>Budget (specify EU funding amount, if applicable)</b>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>1. <b>Green cup</b>: Support <b>sustainable coffee and tea production</b> through community-based, inclusive and climate-resilient practices, promoting gender equality</td> <td>EU = 9 M€ France /AFD = 4.65 M€ <b>+2 M € (2026)</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. <b>PROFEB</b>: Greater local, especially women's, participation in <b>stronger forest-based value chains</b> for sustainable forest use and conservation.</td> <td>EU = 11M€ Germany = 18.9 M€ <b>+5 M. € (2026)</b></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. <b>SOLAR II</b>: Enhanced <b>social protection, occupational safety</b> and respect for labour rights in coffee, tea, and forestry sectors, focusing on informal workers and women.</td> <td>EU = 3.5 M€</td> <td> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. <b>Sustainable Agrifood System Sector project (SASSP)</b>: Climate resilient and gender-sensitive nutritious food production and agrifood value addition increased through increased responsible <b>private investment</b> in agriculture and forestry</td> <td>EU ACGF = 8.9 M€ ADB loan = 35.7 M€ Other loans = 11.6 M€</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>5. <b>National Road 2 (East segment) and rural roads</b>: Improved <b>connectivity to regional/international markets</b> and trade facilitation</td> <td>EU/EFSD+ blending = 8.4M€ (grant) EIB = +39.6M€ (loan) WB = 80M€ (loan) Australia = 6.1M€ (grant) Government = 2M€ KfW = 24.6 M€ (grant)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	1. <b>Green cup</b> : Support <b>sustainable coffee and tea production</b> through community-based, inclusive and climate-resilient practices, promoting gender equality	EU = 9 M€ France /AFD = 4.65 M€ <b>+2 M € (2026)</b>		2. <b>PROFEB</b> : Greater local, especially women's, participation in <b>stronger forest-based value chains</b> for sustainable forest use and conservation.	EU = 11M€ Germany = 18.9 M€ <b>+5 M. € (2026)</b>		3. <b>SOLAR II</b> : Enhanced <b>social protection, occupational safety</b> and respect for labour rights in coffee, tea, and forestry sectors, focusing on informal workers and women.	EU = 3.5 M€	 	4. <b>Sustainable Agrifood System Sector project (SASSP)</b> : Climate resilient and gender-sensitive nutritious food production and agrifood value addition increased through increased responsible <b>private investment</b> in agriculture and forestry	EU ACGF = 8.9 M€ ADB loan = 35.7 M€ Other loans = 11.6 M€		5. <b>National Road 2 (East segment) and rural roads</b> : Improved <b>connectivity to regional/international markets</b> and trade facilitation	EU/EFSD+ blending = 8.4M€ (grant) EIB = +39.6M€ (loan) WB = 80M€ (loan) Australia = 6.1M€ (grant) Government = 2M€ KfW = 24.6 M€ (grant)	
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<b>Is it a Global Gateway project?</b>	YES															
<b>Funding modality</b>	Grants & loans															
<b>Funding sources</b>	Grants: EU, France, BMZ, KfW, Australia; Loans: EIB, ADB, WB															
<b>Implementation period</b>	2024 - 2030															
<b>Thematic development area (5 words)</b>	Green and Inclusive Economy															
<b>Short description, including target beneficiaries and their engagement/reactions thus far (300 words)</b>	<p>This <b>Team Europe Action</b> supports <b>Lao PDR's Green Growth Strategy</b> by boosting <b>sustainable, inclusive trade, investment, and connectivity</b> in <b>coffee, tea, and forestry value chains</b>. Part of the <b>Green TEI</b>, it aligns with the <b>EU Green Deal, Indo-Pacific Strategy (2021)</b>, and <b>Global Gateway Strategy (2022)</b>, funded by the <b>EU, Germany, France, and European Financial Institutions</b>.</p> <p>The Action intends to support Lao PDR's Green Growth Strategy, by contributing to a greener, sustainable and more inclusive growth through increased domestic production, processing, exports, national revenue, and decent job creation in the coffee, tea and forest-based value chains. The action aligns with national strategies (e.g., National Forest Strategy 2035, Agriculture Development Strategy 2030) and global commitments (e.g., NDCs, Biodiversity Action Plan, Disaster Risk Reduction). <b>TICAF counts five components:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Sustainable rural development</b> (agriculture, coffee, tea);</li> <li>2. <b>Forest governance and biodiversity conservation;</b></li> <li>3. <b>Labour rights and social protection</b> in target sectors.</li> </ol>															

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4. <b>Responsible private investment</b> (via EFSD+ grants and guarantees) and</li> <li>5. <b>Connectivity for market access</b> (e.g., National Road 2 upgrades).</li> </ol> <p><b>Synergies</b> include links to <b>Global Gateway ASEAN initiatives, STAF (Skills in Tourism, Agriculture, Forestry), and SDGs 1, 2, 5, 8, 13, 15, 16, and 17.</b> TICAF was designated a <b>Global Gateway flagship</b> in 2024.</p>
<p><b>Lessons learnt, key messages and results relevant for future EU programming (300 words)</b></p> <p><b>FORESTRY SECTOR</b></p>	<p><b><u>Strategic learning</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Stakeholder Engagement &amp; Consultation:</b> Proactive, early engagement is critical for ensuring public understanding before regulatory roll-out. Community-led planning is the only approach for sustainable land use including forest landscape restoration (FLR), ensuring long-term buy-in and responsiveness to local needs. Participatory process is a must. Private sector involvement is key—strengthened partnerships for mutual benefits are essential for scaling restoration and income generation efforts.</li> <li><b>2. Capacity Building &amp; Training:</b> Pre-training capacity assessments improve learning outcomes far more than generic workshops. Continuous training and technical coaching for Districts staff and villages are vital to apply restoration techniques effectively.</li> <li><b>3. Policy &amp; Governance Challenges</b> Rushed regulatory timelines risk poor review and costly post-implementation revisions—realistic deadlines are needed. Legal inconsistencies and fragmented responsibilities hinder sustainable management—unified frameworks and clear roles must be established.</li> <li><b>4. Livelihoods &amp; Incentives:</b> Linking restoration to direct livelihood benefits (e.g., income generation) dramatically boosts community participation, ownership, and long-term commitment.</li> <li><b>5. Enforcement &amp; Coordination Gaps:</b> Weak coordination between Districts and villages on law enforcement (e.g., livestock damage, forest fires, encroachment) undermines protection efforts. Stronger multi-stakeholder collaboration—between government, communities, CSOs and private sector—is essential for effective forest governance.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Major Achievements 2025-2026</u></b></p> <p><b>CONSERVATION:</b> Hin Nam No National Park was successfully inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2025, establishing the first transboundary site in Southeast Asia with Vietnam.</p> <p><b>SKILLED LABOUR:</b> We launched the <b>Forestry Scholarship Programme, awarding 100 scholarships</b> to students across three universities with 78% female participation in Bachelor degrees.</p> <p><b>PRIVATE SECTOR INITIATIVES:</b> <b>Fourteen winning projects were selected and received \$173,000 in funding</b> to modernize wood processing and non-timber forest product value chains through the Innovation Challenge.</p> <p><b>PARTNERSHIP:</b> promotion of <b>Forest Landscape Restoration partnerships between Private Sector, Communities and Government (2 MoU signed)</b> with the Mineral Water Company and with Chalernxay Company to restore degraded forest and generate sustainable local incomes.</p>

	<p><b>POLICY DIALOGUE: The government officially endorsed the Rubber Decree in April 2026</b>, which provides a formal regulatory framework for the sustainable use of rubber wood; <b>Enhanced understanding of EU DR</b> among all stakeholders (GoL national and provincial level, PS, iNGO/CSOs); Review of <b>wood supply strategy and wood processing export roadmap</b>.</p>
<p><b>Replicability words)</b> (100</p>	<p>Adopt a landscape approach.            Ensure early involvement of all stakeholders and convene regular Multi-Stakeholders Dialogue (MSD) to reflect on various concerns and interests.            Trust is key, it takes years to build, and seconds to destroy.            Capacity building is needed at all levels.            Regular coordination for coherent approach and effective delivery and impact.</p>