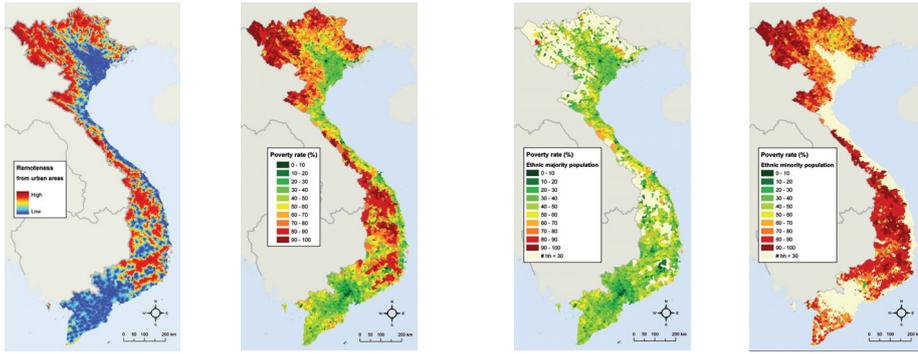


Poverty – Environment Interactions at Meso-scale

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Spatial dimension of poverty and inequality in Vietnam

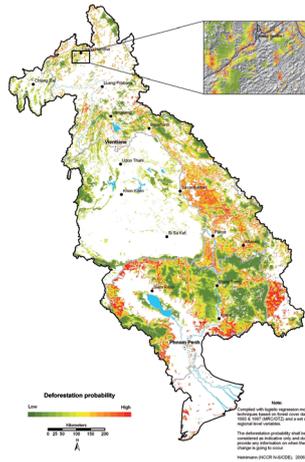


Small area estimated poverty statistics for Vietnam reveal clear spatial patterns in human well-being, with a strong upland - lowland disparity. Although uplands are the poorest areas of the country, most poor live in the better-off and well accessible lowlands. These spatial patterns have socio-demographic underpinnings that are relevant to pro-poor policy-making.

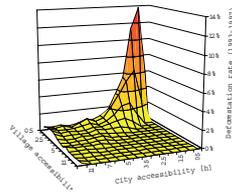
While physical accessibility to local services is a determining factor for poverty incidence in Vietnam, actual access is only partly determined by physical distances, but more so by socio-cultural distances, defined mainly by ethnicity. Social distances therefore largely determine actual access to services and resources, and are therefore a key parameter to sustainable development.

Socio-economic characteristic

Patterns of land cover change in the Lower Mekong Basin



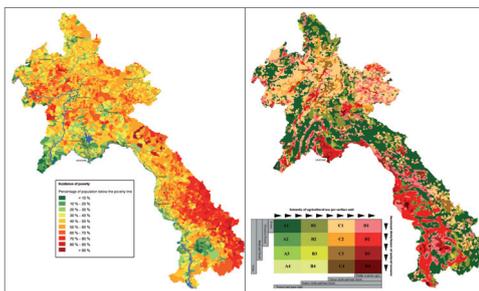
It is not the dense forest types that show the highest level of human interference but by far the secondary forests and shrubby vegetation types. Considering the ecological value of these vegetation types, as well as their importance for the livelihoods of the rural population in the Mekong Region, greater emphasis has to be placed on the sustainable management of the areas concerned.



The deforestation rates observed in protected areas in Laos, which are lower by 50% when compared to other areas are not mainly attributable to protection measures (only 14% are) but are rather related to the remote location of these areas in regions with very low population densities.

Environmental status and dynamics

Discovering and characterising the poverty - environment nexus in Lao PDR



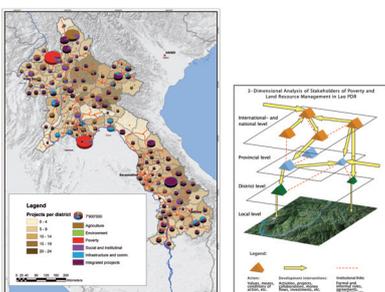
Considering the current and future dynamics, heterogeneities and dependencies in the region, economic development can neither be understood nor planned independently of natural resource management; and vice versa.

The novel land cover mosaic approach revealed that approximately 28% of the country's landscapes are under swidden agriculture, 20% are under permanent agriculture, and only 8% combine both types.

First results reveal some general trends: 10% of the Lao population still live in forested landscapes without any agricultural activity; swidden landscapes are occupied by about 20% of the population, stemming predominantly from ethnical minorities and manifesting high poverty rates.

Poverty-environment nexus

Decision-making on human – environment systems: a meso-level analysis of governance landscapes



Knowledge-based decision-making is a prerequisite for the sustainable management of human-environment systems. However, a strong disconnection between decision-making and knowledge availed by research is often prevailing due to mismatching levels of spatial and politico-administrative scales and lacking awareness and understanding of the multi-level and multi-locational nature of decision-making processes.

Linking governance landscape to key sustainability indicators shall allow to identify promising and diverse pathways leading to equitable trade-offs and sustainable management of human-environment systems.

Decision-making structures