

# GREEN ECONOMY TRANSITIONS IN LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES (GET-LDC) 2014–2018

## Finland Futures Research Centre

Location of the action: Cambodia, Lao PDR

Total costs of the project: 1 000 000 €

Funded by: Academy of Finland

Length of the project: 9/2014–8/2018

Project partners: Viikki Tropical Resources Institute (VITRI), University of Helsinki, Finland (consortium partner); Royal University of Phnom Pehn (RUPP), Cambodia; National University of Laos (NUOL), Laos

The concept of green economy is predicted to replace sustainable development as the new driving force of environmental action. A green economy is defined as low-carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. Although the concept has received various critics, there is little empirical research related to its policy expectations or concerns. Developing countries rich in natural resources, such as Cambodia and Laos, may be able to benefit from green growth by having the opportunity to jump-start their transition towards a green economy. This project proposes a new framework to analyse green growth transitions in Cambodia and Laos and other developing countries in two extremely natural resource dependent sectors; forestry and energy.

The project consists of five phases. The first phase, scoping, includes streamlining the approach and engaging relevant stakeholders in different sectors in both countries.



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Second and third phase examine the role of energy and forests on three scales (local, national and international) with multidisciplinary materials and methods. The interaction between the scales is also studied. The results of the analyses are utilised in the fourth phase where different modeling tools are used for future scenario building. These models engage and combine both forest and energy sectors. Fifth phase is the synthesis. Future workshops are arranged in both Cambodia and Laos with the same actors as in the scoping phase. The results are disseminated and the scenarios are further developed based on the feedback and interaction with the stakeholders.

The consortium has solid experience of the research topic and methods as well as extensive networks of stakeholders in the target region. FFRC brings in their expertise and research networks related to energy governance in the Mekong region. VITRI has extensive experience from forest governance research in Southeast Asia. The project will produce policy relevant results for Finland's development cooperation, development finance institutions and the development actors in Cambodia, Laos and other natural resource dependent LDCs.



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