

REDEFINING ENERGY AND CLIMATE POLICY IN THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES: ANALYZING INSTITUTIONS AND INITIATIVES IN THE MEKONG REGION (RECLAIM) 2013–2014 Finland Futures Research Centre

Location of the action: Lao PDR, Cambodia, Finland

Total costs of the project: 453 000 €

Funded by: Academy of Finland

Length of the project: 1/2013–12/2014

Project partners: Unit for Social and Environmental Research (USER), Chiang Mai University, Thailand; Royal University of Phnom Penh (RUPP), Cambodia; Ministry of Environment (MoE), Cambodia; National University of Laos (NUOL), Laos; Ministry of Energy and Mines (MEM), Laos

RECLAIM project analyses the opportunities and challenges that emerge when climate change initiatives are introduced in the least developed countries, specifically herein Laos and Cambodia. The research examines whether it is possible to simultaneously pursue development, mitigation and adaptation and how this will affect to poor and vulnerable groups. The aim is to identify and analyse the drivers, actors and institutions that influence climate compatible development. The research addresses these questions through quantitative analysis of energy-economic systems and development pathways as well as qualitative research on the actors and forces shaping climate policies. The aim of the quantitative analysis is to provide useful information for future planning through defining a framework within which the future energy needs and related climate policies can be assessed.



Qualitative analysis focuses on the development, adaptation and mitigation nexus in Laos and Cambodia. The research themes include analysing the possible trade-offs and synergies of mitigation initiatives with poverty reduction, governance of climate change adaptation and the move from one-off energy initiatives to a more coherent approach to support a transition to a pro-poor low-carbon pathway. One example of these attempts is benefit-sharing approach, which means the revenue and profits from energy projects are directed to support the local communities and environment.

The climate mitigation initiatives studied in RECLAIM are:

- Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM)

The project includes field trips in both countries, as well as two seminars in each project year. The dissemination of results will take place in Laos and Cambodia in January 2015.



Contributors to the project:

- Jyrki Luukkanen (FFRC)
- Visa Tuominen (FFRC)
- Mira Käkönen (FFRC)
- Jarmo Vehmas (FFRC)
- Louis Lebel (USER)
- Dany Va (RUPP)
- Try Thuon (RUPP)
- Ponlok Tin (MoE)
- Khampone Nathavong (NUOL)
- Khamso Kouphokham (MEM)
- Saykham Voladet (NERI)
- Noora Stenholm (FFRC)

Lebel, L., Va, D., Thuon, T., Voladeth, S., Kallayanamitra, C. & M. Käkönen (2015, forthcoming) The framing and governance of adaptation projects in Lao PDR and Cambodia.

Luukkanen, J., Akgün, O., Pasanen, T., Keskiäli, I., Panula-Ontto, J., Kaivo-Oja, J., Tuominen, V., Vehmas, J. & H. Lakkala (2014) Energy Dependence and Potential for Renewables. Analysis of Future Trends and Potentials for Renewable Energy Development in Cambodia and Laos in B. Sudhakara Reddy & Sergio Ulgiati (eds.). Energy Security and Development-The Changing Global Context. Cambridge Scholars Publishing, United Kingdom.

Käkönen, M., Lebel, L., Karhunmaa, K., Va, D. and T. Thuon (2014) Rendering Climate Change Governable in the Least-Developed Countries: Policy Narratives and Expert Technologies in Cambodia. Forum for Development Studies 41(3): 351–376.