



Drivers Affecting Forest Changes in the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)

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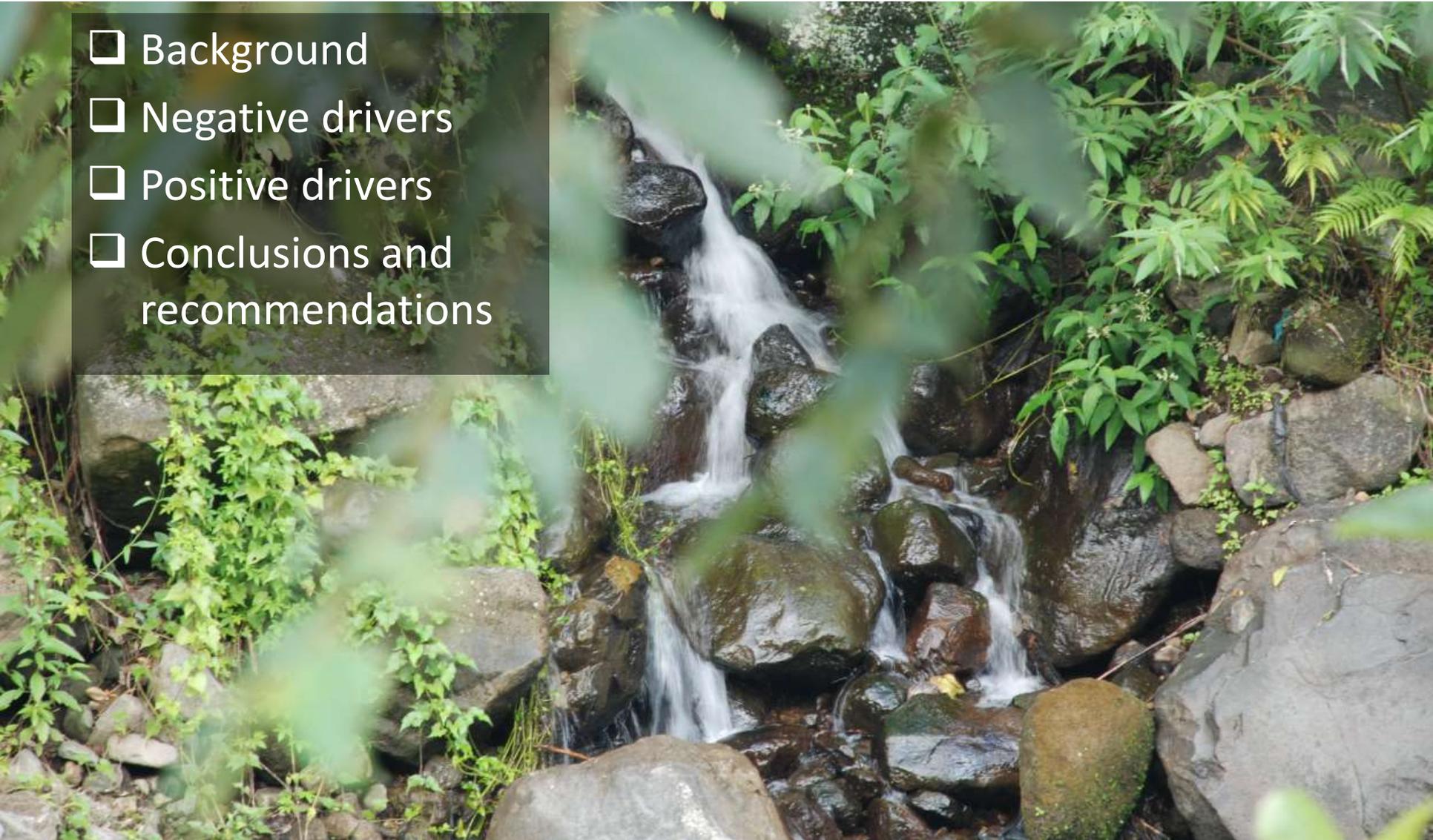
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Structure

- Background
- Negative drivers
- Positive drivers
- Conclusions and recommendations





Background

Myriad studies on drivers of deforestation/degradation under REDD+



Background

Lack of understanding on the so-called “positive drivers” that promote SFM, conservation, afforestation and reforestation

Objectives

- ❑ To assess both positive and negative drivers in GMS
- ❑ To provide policy relevant recommendations



Forests and forestry in the GMS

- ❑ Forest area ≈ 90 million ha (48% of total land area)
- ❑ Rapid changes in the GMS in the last two decades
- ❑ Loss of 8 million ha between 1990-2000

Table 1. Forest cover and forest cover change in the GMS (FAO, 2010)

Country	Forest area 2010 (sq km)	Forest area (% of land area) 2011	Annual change in forest area (%)		
			1990-2000	2000-2005	2005-2010
Cambodia	100,940	57%	-1.1	-1.5	-1.2
Lao PDR	157,510	68%	-0.5	-0.5	-0.5
Myanmar	317,730	48%	-1.2	-0.9	-1.0
Thailand	189,720	37%	-0.3	-0.1	+0.1
Viet Nam	137,970	45%	+2.3	+2.2	+1.1
Greater Mekong Subregion	903,870	48%	-0.5	-0.3	-0.4

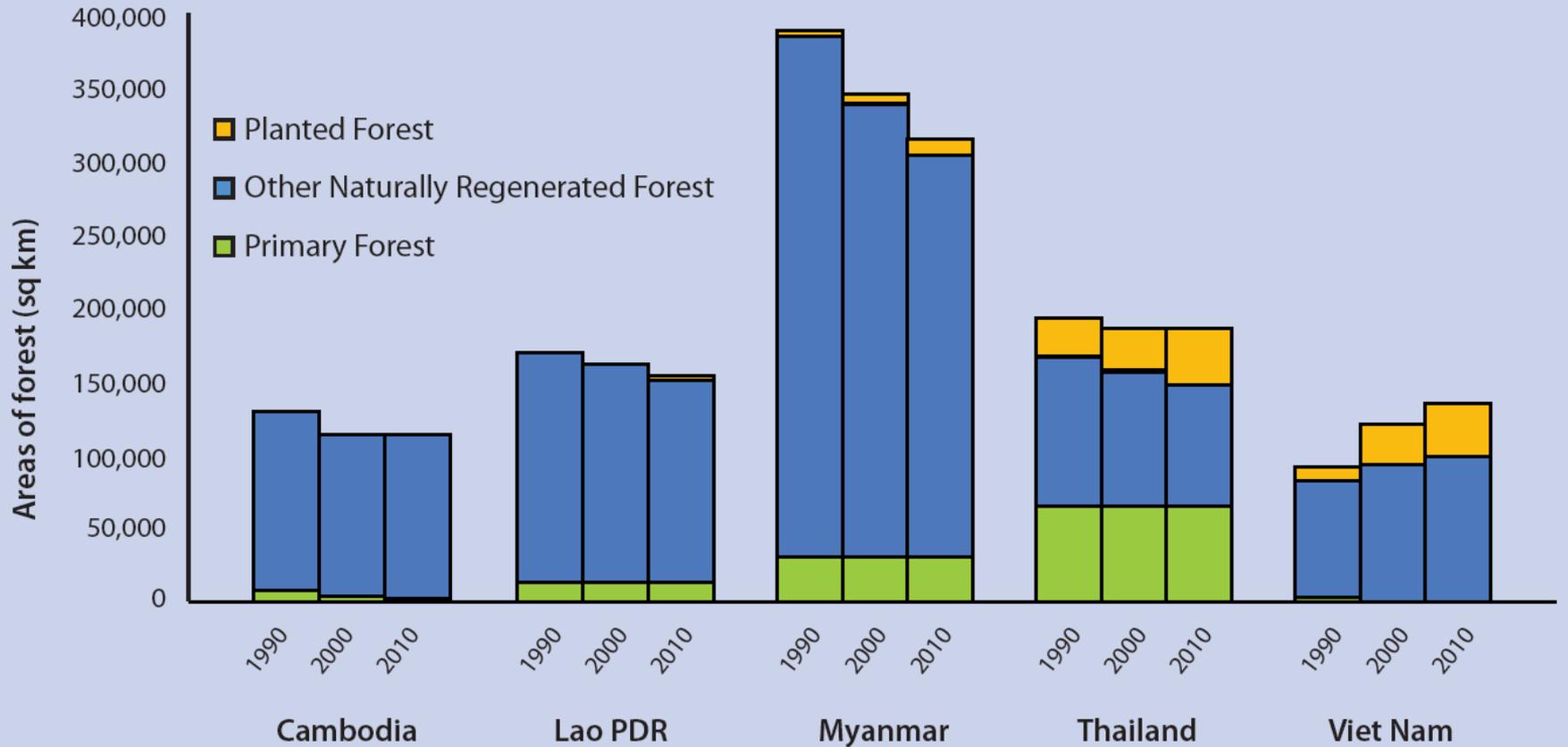


Figure 2. Changes in forest types in the GMS countries since 1990

What derives forest change?

- ❑ Direct drivers: activities that directly alter forest cover
- ❑ Indirect drivers: wider and larger factors/processes



Negative drivers (direct)

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- Expansion of agriculture and plantation estates
 - Infrastructure and roads
 - Mineral and gas exploitation
 - Dam and water infrastructure
 - Illegal logging
 - Forest fires

Negative drivers (indirect)

- Demographic change
- Economic change
- Governance



A scenic landscape featuring lush green mountains in the background and a calm river in the foreground. The mountains are covered in dense vegetation, and the river reflects the surrounding greenery. A small boat is visible on the river in the distance.

Positive drivers (direct)

- Planting new forests
- Participatory forestry
- Increased awareness
- Increased demand for green products
- Establishment of protected areas, nature reserves, national parks, etc

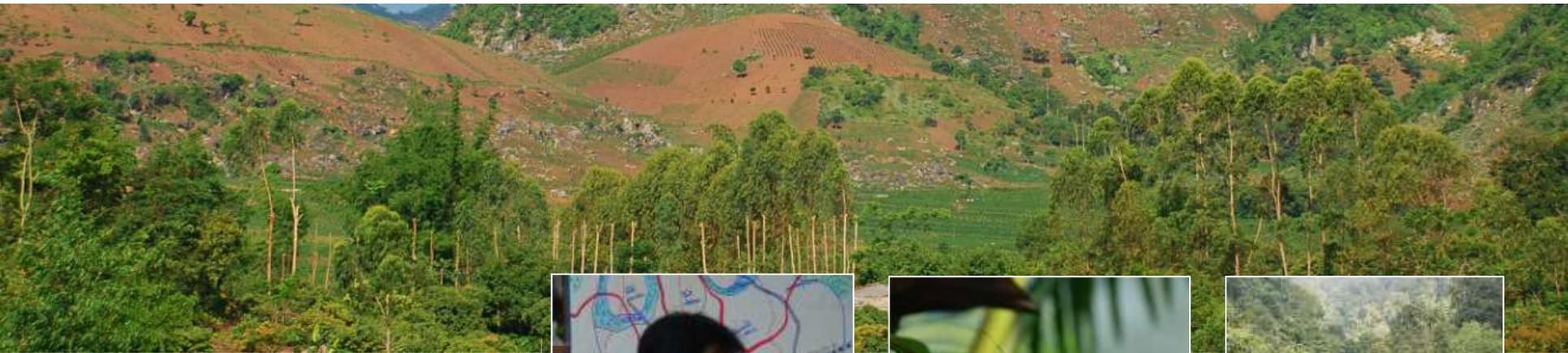
Positive drivers (indirect)

- ❑ Cultural and technological development in support of forest protection
- ❑ Growing opportunities for SFM
- ❑ Growing international investment, e.g. GEF, GCF, FLEGT, REDD+
- ❑ Incentive for conservation such as PES
- ❑ International pressure for sustainability



Conclusions

- ❑ Mekong forests have undergone high deforestation rate
- ❑ Forest loss driven by demand for land and modernization
- ❑ Opportunities exist to save and restore GMS forests
- ❑ Many initiatives but more need to be done



Recommendations

- ❑ Fostering inter-sectoral coordination
- ❑ Create enabling policies and regulatory framework
- ❑ Promote integrated land-use planning
- ❑ Create incentives for SFM
- ❑ Engage private sector
- ❑ Integrated research and capacity building



Acknowledgement

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