

# FORESTRY AND LAND USE



Winrock harnesses science, technology and innovation to enhance livelihoods and address environmental and social challenges related to **Forestry and Land Use**.





Our **Forestry and Land Use** programs draw from a half-century of leadership in strengthening forestry institutions. We collaborate with partners using an adaptive learning approach. Together, we identify best practices and tools for improved forest and land use management and increased resilience.

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## Methodology

**Forestry and Land Use** decisions involve complex and highly sensitive problems. Governments must protect valuable natural resources. At the same time, they must ensure viable economic livelihoods for their citizens, livelihoods that often depend directly on using land and natural resources. Winrock's **Forestry and Land Use** services help governments reconcile competing sectoral priorities and consult with civil society, the private sector and local populations. Sustainable and resilient solutions best emerge from inclusive processes that give careful consideration to the interaction between **Forestry and Land Use** plans, development priorities, ecosystem services, water resources, and food and commodity production.

Winrock engages multiple stakeholders to improve the governance of large tracts of land. We develop and apply tools, technologies and data to enable evidence-based decision-making on environmental and social issues. We develop the capacity of local individuals and institutions to use cutting-edge, science-based approaches – including ecosystems accounting and remote sensing analyses – to improve the stewardship of precious forests and land.

Winrock's **Forestry and Land Use** programs work towards the realization of the United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goal on the sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems. Working with partners, we develop, apply and share best management practices in targeted geographies. Our innovative approaches to reaching sustainable agreements on the use of protected natural resources and inclusive governance of shared resources are recognized globally.

Winrock's tools and approaches help local stakeholders monitor and analyze:

- land use changes,
- forest growth and loss,
- biodiversity,
- carbon stocks,
- GHG emissions and removals,
- water use and availability,
- cropping patterns,
- soil and nutrient loss, and
- siltation of reservoirs.

Winrock seeks the right balance between protecting natural resources and creating conditions for people to achieve better livelihoods. We believe in sharing information openly and widely. We strengthen collaboration and enhance the sustainability of solutions through a commitment to achieving widespread agreement on goals and what data to collect to measure progress.

We work with governments while also focusing on the needs of communities. This approach generates consistent impact, and promotes:

- Fact-based, efficient land use;
- Arrested natural resource degradation;
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions;
- Improved livelihoods;
- A growing corps of people with evidence-based decision-making skills;
- Best practices for finding environmental and social solutions;
- Persuasive examples of geographically sensitive, sustainable livelihood solutions;
- Protection of biodiversity;
- Reduced conflict over limited natural resources; and
- Measurable progress toward agreed objectives.



## 🔍 CASE STUDIES

### Vietnam Forests and Deltas Program

Maintaining ecologically viable forests often means reconciling the competing demands of agricultural production, ecosystem services and development. The **Vietnam Forests and Deltas** program has improved forest management in the country's key watersheds. It has assured future water supplies, while training more than 3,000 farmers to grow rice using less water. This program draws on more than ten years of work by Winrock with policymakers in Vietnam, and has devised ways for forest owners and forest-dwelling communities to be compensated for the economic value of protecting water quality, reducing siltation in hydroelectric reservoirs, and protecting natural landscapes critical to national tourism.

### Supporting Forests and Biodiversity Project

Similar work in Cambodia under the **Supporting Forests and Biodiversity** project has engaged more than 24,000 people in improving the conservation and governance of over 900,000 hectares of priority forest landscapes. The program strengthened the landscape management capacity of national and subnational authorities. It also helped bring about the designation of 431,684 hectares as the **Prey Lang Wildlife Sanctuary**.

### Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Winrock's innovative approaches to **Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+)** are well-recognized globally. As part of the **Lower Emissions from Asia's Forests** program, Winrock developed cutting-edge methodologies and climate change curricula. Sixty universities across the region have adopted the curricula to help educate tomorrow's leaders about climate change. A cohort of inspiring young women has been able to access the curricula through the **Asia Pacific Gender Leadership Initiative**.

These initiatives have brought together targeted communities, governments, development partners and land management agencies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from over one million hectares of forest across the region.

### Palm Oil Production

The establishment of palm oil plantations on carbon-rich peat soils is a significant driver of deforestation in Southeast Asia. As a result, greenhouse gas emissions associated with **palm oil production** are high. Working with the **Packard Foundation**, Winrock is collaborating with regional and local governments, civil society, and large palm oil producers to create a pathway toward a 'Green District' in Siak, Indonesia. This landscape-based low emission development approach aims to increase economic production and smallholder livelihoods. At the same time, it will minimize greenhouse gas emissions through improved land use planning and peatland water table management.

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ABOUT OUR  
PROJECTS

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