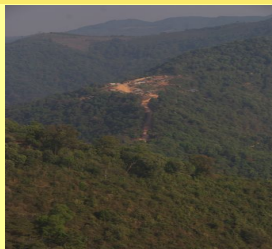


Profile of PAREDD site

= Phakbong village in Phonxay district =

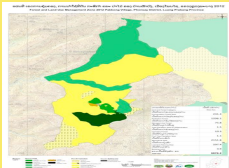
Phakbong, a target village of PAREDD, is attached to Houaykhing village cluster. It is about 27 km away from Phonxay district centre to the east or approximately 51 km from Luang Prabang. Elevation of the village is about 1,200 m ASL.



Phakbong village was established in 2001 by merging with Houaysoi village following the government policy of village consolidation. It is situated along the main road that can be used only during the dry season but strategically important as it is connected to Xiengkhouang province. On the East and South, Phakbong has border with Longlad village (already migrated); on the West it borders Phakhok village; and on the North it borders Pakxeng district.

Phakbong village has 82 households (as of 2011) and a population of 467 inhabitants, out of which 236 are women. It is a Khmu village with a lone Lao family. Villagers practice traditional shifting cultivation for planting rice as their main occupation and grow crops and raise livestock for additional incomes. Non-timber forest products are also a lucrative source of cash income for villagers. They are elephant foot yam (*houa doukdeua*), bamboo moth, *meuak* tree bark (*peuak meuak*), broom grass, cardamom, paper mulberry, etc.

Phakbong is still a poor village. For home lighting, villagers use solar panel. Other basic infrastructures available in the village include a primary school, a water supply system and mobile phone introduced to the village by a private company in 2011. All of the households in the village have their own latrine built by Lao Red Cross. When falling sick, villagers use stock of medicines in the village, for non-serious case, and for serious case they have to go to Houaykhing where a health post is there and/or to Phonxay district.



← Land use zoning map produced by PAREDD

News from NAFReC

Recently, the Northern Agricultural Research Centre, with the financial support from PAREDD, has completed the installation of boundary posts and signboards for the Phouchomngae conservation area. This is the 1st phase of the total 5 phases planned by the centre (1 phase = 5,000 m in length).

Purpose of the installation is not only to demarcate the boundaries but to make villagers understand clearly the conservation area as well. In 2000, Phouchomngae conservation area was about 2,500 ha, but due to the lack of boundary posts, the area had since reduced to presently 800 ha as a result of the encroachment by villagers.



PAREDD

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The Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation



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A reminder of what have been implemented in Xiengngeun district

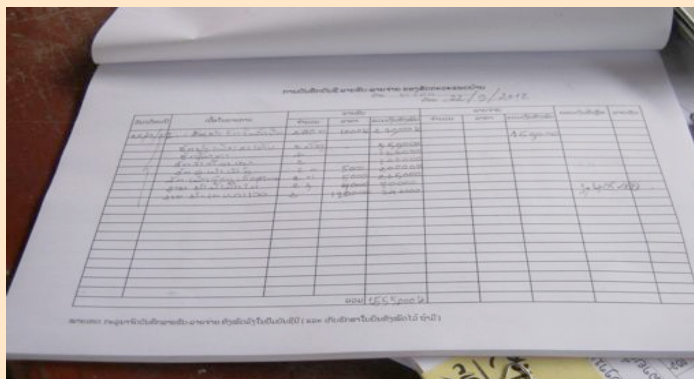
= Villagers face challenges and tackle with them =

All target villages of the project in Xiengngeun District, Implementation Stage of PAREDD Approach was almost completed, and we are in so called Monitoring Stage as continuous follow up for growth of benefit by project input. Several plantations were implemented by **Type 1** activity. But we face lack of care some cases. Each activity group has completed to procure livestock, seed fish and materials to ready for production. And some of participants already got reproduction. Here also remains some problem such as lack of record keeping. VVS acts vaccination program twice, and also deliver treatment for infectious diseases for support livestock raising not only participants but also all households who owned any livestock. 2nd vaccination program (for Poultry only) conducted September, was first trial with payment for vaccine and medicine fund that expected to realize sustainable implementation of livestock care. Such as fund management is sensitive issue because it is public money for common interest. This sensitivity remains in Village Revolving Fund too. Input of **Type 2** activity by the project will be source of Village Revolving Fund as pre-agreed by all residents, and 1st participants of Type 2 activity will repay it within pre-fixed period with pre-fixed interests to revolve 2nd candidates. Result of this revolving, it is expected to expand the fund own. **Type 3** activity already completed all villages to develop village meeting room as community space and it frequently use by residents

Above each activity looks isolate program but it is mutually related and supports each other to develop whole village life and environment. How we can maximize the effect of everybody's involvement until today. It is time to put all processes in order, keep records of each group and recognize present situation, create mechanism of trouble shooting and problem solution lead by the **Land and Forest Management Committee**. We expect LFMC to take more strong initiative for all issues in village such as umbrella, and also expect each resident to participate/ cooperate to tackle any issue of village under the above umbrella.



Updating inventory of medicine stock for VVS in Houaykhot village



Accounting book of VVS

Handing over the project for road and bridge improvement into Houaykhong village

On September 7th, a ceremony for handing over a JICA funded project for the upgrading of an access road and construction of a bridge into Houaykhong village was held with the participation of invited guests from the relevant district line offices, staff and all villagers.



Everybody hopes that the new infrastructure will help improve the livelihoods of villagers and boost the socio-economic development of Xiengngeun District in general and Houaykhong village in particular. The total costs of construction is 645 million Kips and took 5 months to complete.



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Xiengngeun district