

F-REDD 2 Newsletter

The Project for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management in Collaboration with REDD+ Programs and REDD+ Funds (F-REDD 2)
Feb 2022 - Jan 2027

The F-REDD 2 was formulated under the Government of Laos and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), aiming to support access to and the implementation of REDD+ results-based payments, to strengthen the capacity for sustainable forest management through the implementation of the Forest Strategy 2035, and to further promote the implementation of REDD+ actions.

F-REDD 2 enters its third year, starting with a JICA mission's visit to Laos

The F-REDD 2 project is entering its third year. After a reinvigorating year-end holiday, we have come back and started work on the tasks that lie ahead.

In the midst of this, a JICA mission visited Laos in mid-February 2024. They started in Vientiane, where they discussed the outcomes of past cooperation with the Department of Forestry and expectations for the remaining three years. Following that, the mission then met with experts from the World Bank project, the German International Cooperation Agency (GIZ) project, and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), who shared their own expectations about the significance of JICA's support and collaboration. We have a renewed desire to work together with the government and other partners toward the common goal of promoting forest conservation in Laos.

The mission then moved on to Savannakhet Province, meeting there with their provincial counterparts, after which the mission visited Phine District and met with villagers to learn about their livelihoods and their relationship with the forest. Later, the mission also visited deforested areas detected by the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) and joined in to observe forest monitoring conducted using a drone. Despite exhibiting a bit of nervous energy, the district gov-

ernment staff were able to demonstrate the skills they had gained and successfully completed the flight, taking aerial photos of the deforested areas as intended.

The team will continue to push forward with many more activities this year. Please stay tuned.



Listening to villagers at a village school
(February 2024, JICA mission)



A deforested area appearing unexpectedly within a conservation forest, detected by the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (February 2024, JICA mission)



Preparing a drone for aerial photography
(February 2024, JICA mission)

Paving the way to the 4th Lao National Forest Inventory

The Department of Forestry (DOF) of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) is planning the fourth National Forest Inventory (NFI) for the coming 2024-2025 dry season. Previously, the Forest Inventory and Planning Division (FIPD) conducted the second and third NFIs in 2016 and 2019, respectively, with technical assistance from the Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project (F-REDD), the predecessor to F-REDD 2. NFIs survey forested areas at sample plot locations to assess forest status and forest resources, including forest carbon stock. For instance, some of the main outputs of the second and third NFIs were the carbon stock estimates for the five natural forest classes required to produce the emission factors used for the National Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL/FRL).

The methodological approach will be improved for the fourth NFI, with significant revisions to the sample and plot design for an enhanced statistical robustness. In addition, permanent plots will be established, enabling re-surveying in the future to assess forest cover change and the tree growth.

To test the proposed revisions under real conditions in the field, a Pilot Study was conducted by the FIPD in late March and early April 2024, with the support of the SilvaCarbon program and the facilitation of the F-REDD 2 project. For this, participants were divided into three teams, plus a Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) team, to survey six plots each in three different districts (Pek in Xiengkhouang Province, Bolikhan in Bolikhamxay Province, and Phin in Savannakhet Province). Additionally, two experts from the United States Forest Service joined the study, providing insightful guidance to the whole team on establishing permanent plots and conducting measurements on the first two days in Bolikhamxay Province and then closely following the QA/QC team to provide support in Xiengkhouang Province.

The outcomes of the Pilot Study are currently being analyzed to refine the sampling and plot design.

The final proposal and plan for the fourth NFI will be discussed by the DOF during the third quarter of 2024 (Q3 2024).



FIPD team measuring horizontal distance



An expert from the US Forest Service providing guidance on diameter at breast height (DBH) measurement.

Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS), developed and operated by JICA, approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry as an official forest monitoring tool of Lao PDR

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) has approved the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) as an official forest monitoring tool. This decision is an important step forward in the fight against deforestation.

The PDMS uses advanced remote sensing technology and satellite imagery to monitor deforestation in near-real time. The system enables local forest officials to collect and analyze data on deforestation in an effective and efficient manner. Additionally, it also allows them to take appropriate actions, such as issuing administrative guidance to violators.

The PDMS was developed and has been in operation since 2019 through the Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project (F-REDD), a JICA technical cooperation project. It is currently in operation in 15 of the 18 provinces in Laos, with the cooperation of other donors such as the World Bank, Germany and NGOs. F-REDD 2 has provided support for strengthening forest monitoring and promoting PDMS implementa-

tion through meetings and training with relevant departments. The official approval of the PDMS is the result of recognition of its performance in the provinces, as well as the expectation that the PDMS will play an important role in forest conservation efforts in Lao PDR.

Nevertheless, some challenges have been reported in implementing the PDMS. For example, there is a limited number of forest officers for forest patrols and frequent staff turnover, making it necessary to establish a management team that can provide ongoing capacity building for local forest officers. Furthermore, from the perspective of PDMS sustainability, it is necessary to establish a system administrator so that the system can be maintained and managed with local resources. To address these challenges, F-REDD 2 will continue to work to further strengthen forest monitoring, providing technical support for the institutional establishment of a monitoring system at the central level and for capacity building.



MAF agreement letter No. 2761
(24 May 2024)



Central level meeting for PDMS approval
(Oct 2023)

Contact

F-REDD 2/DOF Office

Kouvieng Street, Sisaket Village,
Chanthabouli District,
Vientiane Capital, Laos
Tel & Fax: 021(22)2536

F-REDD 2/FIPD Office

Phontong Swath Village, House No.
386, Unit 44, Chanthabouly District,
Vientiane, Laos



Ministry of Agriculture
and Forestry



Japan International
Cooperation Agency

Facebook

