



Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry-Lao PDR



Japan International Cooperation Agency

PAREDD

Participatory Land and Forest
Management Project for
Reducing Deforestation in Lao
PDR

**working together
with communities to
reduce deforestation**

INTRODUCTION

We cannot talk about REDD or Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation without including climate change in the discussion. Although scientists are still split on how much deforestation contributes to the global carbon emissions, one thing is clear: deforestation and forest degradation are serious threats to our environment. The topics in this brochure are arranged logically to help readers better understand how PAREDD works under the REDD+ framework.

What is climate change?

To understand climate change, we must first understand what 'climate' is and how it is different from 'weather'. On the other hand it is important to know that the gaseous layers surrounding the earth are all together called atmosphere. The difference between weather and climate is time. Weather is a condition of the atmosphere on a day-to-day basis, and climate is the atmosphere's characteristics over relatively long periods of time, such as several decades or centuries. When we talk about climate change, we talk about changes in long-term averages of daily weather. So we can simply define climate change as a change in long term weather patterns.

What causes it?

Human activities like manufacturing, driving and cutting down forests cause carbon dioxide to be released into our atmosphere. The increased concentration of carbon dioxide and other gases, collectively known as greenhouse gases, makes our atmosphere store more heat from the sun, thereby increasing the temperature on earth resulting in global warming. This is also known as the greenhouse gas effect. Carbon dioxide has a bigger impact on global warming than other gases, because of its higher proportion, as compared to other greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Atmospheric temperature largely determines weather and climate patterns. So a change in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere can trigger unexpected changes in our weather systems and ultimately, earth's climatic patterns. The higher the temperature, the more severe the weather conditions become.





What is REDD+?

REDD stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation. The '+' represents other environmental benefits that could be derived from managing forests properly e.g. watershed management, biodiversity conservation, etc. We can define REDD+ in two ways. First, we can simply define REDD+ as a global climate change mitigation strategy to address problems arising from deforestation and forest degradation i.e. carbon emissions, habitat loss. Within this context, we can simply say that it is a global initiative to reduce carbon emissions in the atmosphere from deforestation.

Second, we can define REDD+ as a mechanism for incentivizing countries to protect or to maintain long-term high quality and at least the same quantity of forests and compensating them for the income they would have gained by converting the forest into agriculture or other land uses. One crucial element of REDD+ is who and how will this mechanism be funded. Where will the money come from and what standards will be used to determine how much incentives should be distributed. One option for financing REDD+ includes a carbon market. In this case, developed countries and private companies fund the development and implementation of REDD+. Another option is through bilateral agreements between governments selling carbon and governments willing to buy their carbon.

PAREDD AND THE REDD+ FRAMEWORK

What is PAREDD?

PAREDD is a technical cooperation project between the government of Lao PDR and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), launched for developing a “System for Reducing Deforestation” through participatory land and forest management. This system is an approach to mitigate deforestation and forest degradation at village and village cluster levels in Northern Laos. Specifically, PAREDD aims to address the current threats to forests in Northern Laos by developing a participatory land and forest management system. These threats are increasing shifting cultivation and expansion of commercial crop cultivation. By its description, PAREDD is fundamentally a REDD+ project.

Why should PAREDD be a REDD+ Demonstration Project?

In rural areas where there is high incidence of poverty, a pure conservation or protection approach in forest management does not usually work for a long time because rural people would inevitably turn their interests to more profitable activities such as logging and converting forests into agricultural land. PAREDD as a REDD+ project could demonstrate that there are also environmental and monetary benefits in forest conservation. In addition, the success of the PAREDD project could contribute to developing REDD+ implementation at national and sub-national levels, and could be replicated not only in Laos but also in other Southeast Asian countries.





DEFORESTATION IN LAO PDR

National – Lao PDR

In Laos, the rate of deforestation is estimated at 108,000 hectares every year from 1992 to 2002. In the northern parts, forest cover decreased by 8.4% during the same period or roughly about 95,000 hectares per year.

Luang Prabang Province

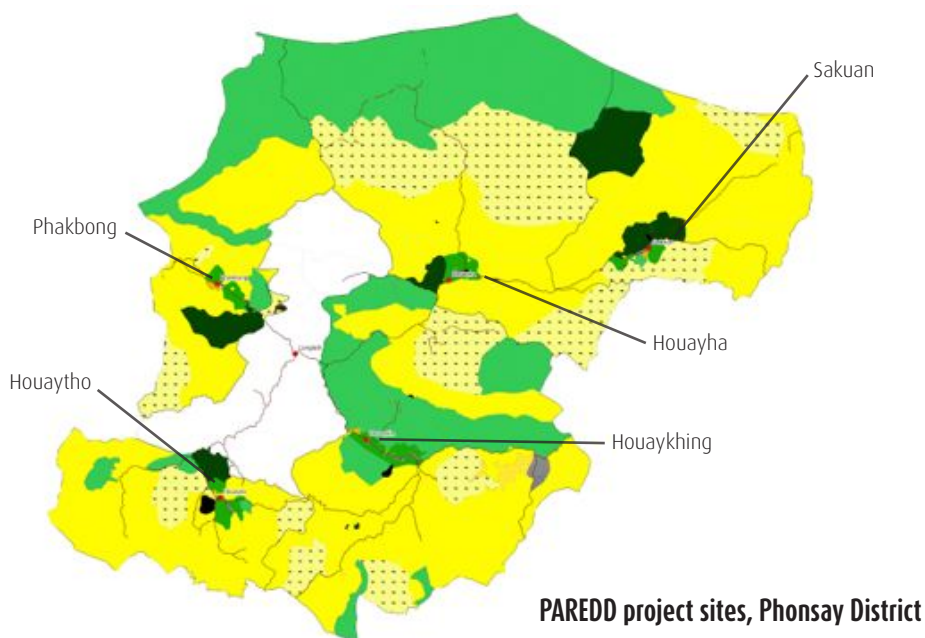
Below, maps show a dramatic change in forest cover in PAREDD project sites from 1993-2006. The deforestation is caused by slash and burn farming, agricultural expansion, and migration and population increase represented by the red dots. Other factors believed to be contributing are: fuel wood consumption, forest fire, large-scale concessions, and illegal logging.

1993



2006





PAREDD project sites, Phonsay District

PROJECT INFORMATION

Implementing Agencies

PAREDD is operated by the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (DOF/MAF) in close coordination with the Department of Agricultural Extension and Cooperatives, MAF (DAEC/MAF) and the Department of Forest Resource Management, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (DFRM/MONRE) as well as Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO), Luang Prabang Province; and the District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (DAFO).

Period

The project will be implemented from August 2009 to August 2014.

Project sites

The PAREDD project is implemented in two districts (Xiengnguen District and Phonsay District) in Luang Prabang Province. In all, the project covers 9 villages.

Project purpose

A system of reducing deforestation and degradation, contributing to REDD+, is developed through participatory land and forest management.

Project Outputs

1. A system of reducing deforestation and degradation at village and village cluster level (i.e. PAREDD approach) is designed through the improvement of the Community Support Programme Tool (CSPT) developed by the preceding FORCOM project;
2. A system of reducing deforestation and degradation at village and village cluster level is operational in selected village clusters;
3. Changes in forest cover and/or carbon stock, and socio-economic conditions are made clear in and around the PAREDD sites;
4. A REDD+ demonstration project, adapting the PAREDD approach as a mitigation measure, targeting one of the PAREDD sites, is formulated; and
5. A system of reducing deforestation and degradation is proposed as a mitigation measure for climate change under REDD+.

PAREDD activities focus on assisting villages and village clusters in becoming ready for REDD+ by building the capacity of local stakeholders in forest and land use management, and by facilitating the process of obtaining credits for the carbon stored in community-managed forests.



THE PAREDD APPROACH

Mitigation measure for reducing deforestation and forest degradation

The PAREDD Approach is a mitigation measure for reducing deforestation and forest degradation at the village/village cluster level and follows a simple project strategy called “plan, do, see.”

The approach starts with the establishment of Land and Forest Management Committees (LFMC) within the existing village structure.

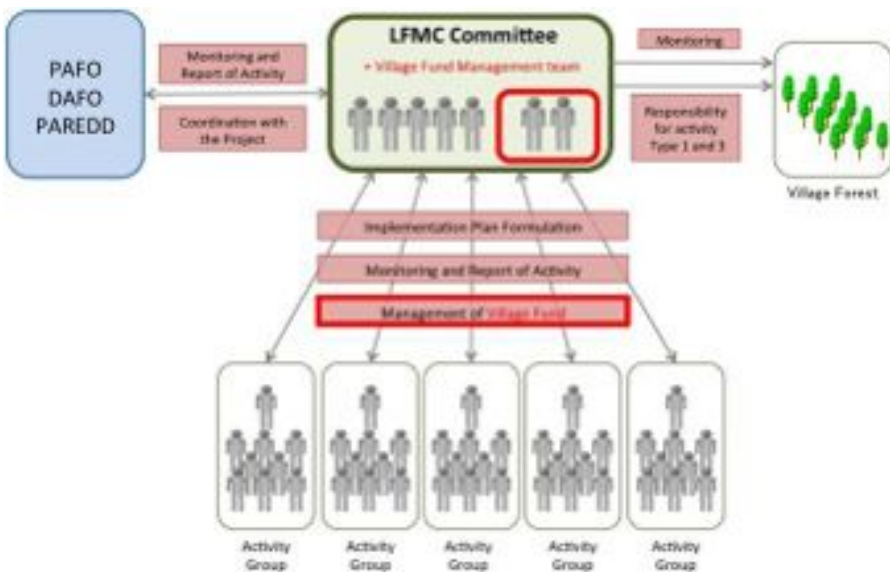
The Approach aims to realize four principles through 11 steps of planning, implementation and monitoring stages. These four principles are:



Principle 1: Community

Formulation of structure for community based land and forest management

PAREDD supports the installation of village land and forest management committees (LFMC). LFMCs are expected to play a central role in overall project management at the village level.



Principle 2: Stability

Regulation for community based land and forest management

Slash and burn land use is one of the main causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Northern Laos. The project supports land use zoning and its regulation in order to control excessive land use in forest areas and to attain the right balance between forest and agricultural land use zones.

Principle 3: Own initiative

Ongoing activities for forest management and livelihood improvement

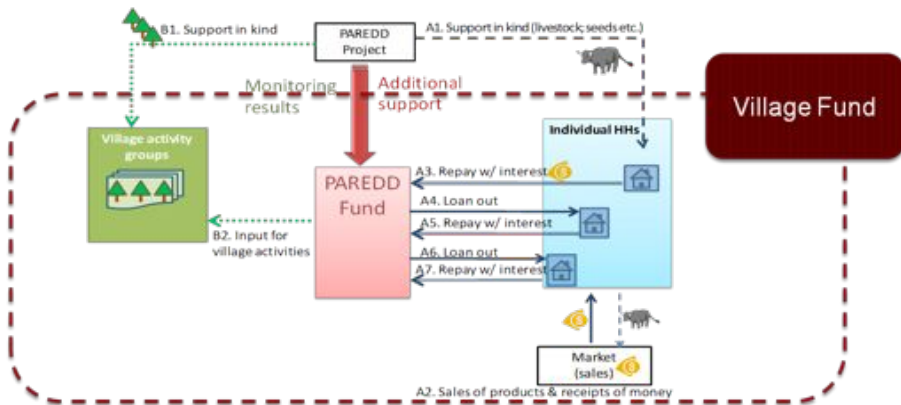
The project provides financial and technical assistance for a series of activities related to community based forest management and livelihood improvement.

The project will set up a village fund for sustainable fund management. Participants of livelihood improvement activities are responsible for repaying their loans when their activities bear fruit and receive incomes. The repayment will then be used by other villagers for starting their new activities. This system is called a “revolving fund” in which limited funding is revolved among interested villagers. This mechanism enables for an effective and sustainable use of limited funding and gives greater opportunities for many villagers to participate. Part of the net earnings of the fund would then be used for village activities such as those contained in their management plans i.e. forest protection, livelihood improvement, and waste management.

Principle 4: Sustainability

Fund management

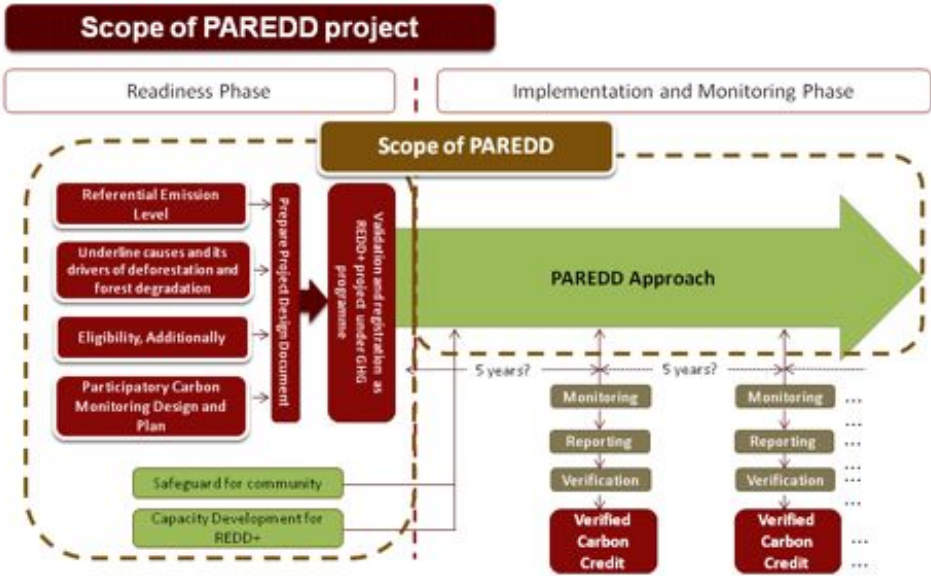
The Village Fund is focused mainly on the principles of sustainable development, rather than profit. This feature does not only address the sustainability of PAREDD’s approach, but also reflects its recognition of the importance of self-reliance. Within this context, PAREDD could also be considered as a catalyst for capacity development, and strengthening community forest management.



Scope of PAREDD under the REDD+ Framework

Based on the recommendation of the Joint Consultation Mission by the Government of Laos and JICA in June 2011, PAREDD activities shall support the full range of REDD+ requirements such as determining the referential emission level, socio-economic safeguards, and mitigation activities. PAREDD aims to facilitate the registration of GHG sequestration projects under the Suitable Carbon Market in order to generate carbon credit at the project level and help communities prepare for REDD+ requirements.

Preparation for REDD+ Demonstration





Solving the puzzle

The PAREDD Project may just have all the pieces to solve this puzzle

One village at a time

By the end of the project, PAREDD envisions government officers and community residents to have built their capacities in land and forest management, and attained harmony and balance between forest conservation and livelihood improvement.

Following a participatory approach that is often time-consuming and difficult to implement could pose several challenges, but PAREDD firmly believes it can be done. The deforestation puzzle, this modern-day plague can be solved, one village at a time.

Mr. Khamle Soulideth, Village Head, Houaykhong Village, Xiengnguen District, Luang Prabang Province, expresses his optimism for the success of the project:

"With the support and facilitation of the Project, we were able to better understand our environment and its problems in recent years. Because of this, we will do our best to use our land properly so that future generations will enjoy the benefits of our forest and natural resources."



CONTACT US

Luang Prabang Project Office
Phone: (+856) 71 254378
Fax: (+856) 71 254379
E-mail: paredd@gmail.com

PAREDD VTE Office
c/o Department of Forestry
P.O. Box. 2932
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel & Fax: +856-21-22253



Printed on recycled paper