

# F-REDD Newsletter

Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project  
Nov 2015 - Oct 2020

## Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project (F-REDD)

The purpose of F-REDD is to enhance the capacity of forestry sector through strengthening policies, effective incorporation of REDD+, and improvement of forest resource information as the foundation of sustainable forest management (SFM) in both central and provincial levels (Luang Prabang as the pilot province). The Department of Forest Resource Management, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE-DFRM), and the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF-DOF) are the implementing agencies of F-REDD.

## Inception Workshop presented the F-REDD activities

The Inception Workshop was held on February 24th, 2016 chaired by Mr. Vongdeuane Vongsiharath, Director General of MONRE DFRM as the Project Director. The purpose of the Workshop was to introduce F-REDD widely to the counterparts as well as other development partners, and to facilitate collaborations in the future activities.

In addition, the following issues were discussed: the importance of harmonizing the revision of Forest Strategy 2020 and the formulation of the National REDD+ Strategy; the differences in the results of forest cover between the Forest Type Maps and Forest Cover Assessment survey; and the need of investment support to the field-level activities in Luang Prabang in order to realize result-based payment from the FCPF Carbon Fund.



Mr. Vongsiharath (right) and  
Mr. Singsavanh (Project Manager) (left)

## 10th FSSWG discussed a variety of issues



A variety of topics were presented

The 10th Forest Sub-Sector Working Group (FSSWG) was held on February 12th, 2016 at the Department of Forestry. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Vongdeuane Vongsiharath, Director General of MONRE-DFRM and co-chaired by Ms. Saeda Makimoto, Senior Representative of JICA Laos Office. A total of 60 people from government agencies, universities, research institutes and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) participated in the meeting.

A variety of topics were shared and discussed, starting with the MONRE Strategy towards 2025, other topics included Forest Cover Assessment 2015 which surveyed the national forest cover rate, economic evaluation study of Non Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), Asian Development Bank (ADB) / Biodiversity Conservation Corridors (BCC) project for the purpose of biodiversity conservation, and so forth. The Terms of References (TORs) of FSSWG and the Village Forest Working Group were also introduced and the meeting confirmed the approval process.

## Launching of the National Forest Inventory

The National Forest Inventory (NFI) – a nationwide forest survey – supported under F-REDD, was originally planned for the dry season of October 2016 – June 2017. In order to ensure adequate process control and further capacity building of the counterpart staff, the project decided to launch the NFI from February 2016, nearly eight months ahead of schedule. The survey will collect important base data for the estimation of carbon stock in the forests of Lao PDR.

The survey is currently on-going in four provinces; Houaphan, Xiangkhouang, Khammouane, and Xekong. Mr. Thongphath Vongmany, Vice Minister of MAF, chaired the kick-off meeting on 5th February, expressed a strong commitment of the government towards successful implementation of the survey and agreed that MAF would co-finance NFI from their own financial resources.



NFI field survey using a tablet device with  
automated survey program

## Assisting the launch of REL/MRV TWG

It is essential for a REDD+ country to establish Reference Emission Level (REL) – a benchmark for assessing the performance of implementing REDD+ activities – and Measuring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system – a system to “measure”, “report”, and “verify” the performance against REL – in line with the decisions adopted by the Conference of Parties (COP) of UNFCCC. The government of Lao PDR decided to establish the REL/MRV Technical Working Group (REL/MRV TWG) under the National REDD+ Task Force as a forum to discuss these issues. Furthermore, it is also important for F-REDD to closely collaborate with the REL/MRV TWG, as the support by F-REDD to REL and MRV will be intensively discussed and reviewed in the REL/MRV TWG meetings.

As a leading partner of REL/MRV TWG, F-REDD took a facilitative role on drafting the TOR, developing the work plan, and enhancing coordination among the TWG members. F-REDD will continue to play a key role in assisting the launch of the REL/MRV TWG in the next quarter, and will keep the group lively through active participation of the related organizations.



Pre meeting of REL/MRV TWG



Maps used for 'DD survey'

## 'DD survey' in Luang Prabang

The Deforestation and Forest Degradation Drivers Analysis Survey (DD survey) targeting all districts in Luang Prabang Province was conducted in mid-February. DD survey is an important process for the development of Provincial REDD+ Strategy, since identification of drivers will serve as the basis for discussing the countermeasures to avoid and control deforestation and forest degradation.

The counterpart teams from Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment, and Provincial Office of Agriculture and Forestry visited each district and conducted a group meeting with the forestry officers from the district who have good knowledge of the local situation. Satellite maps which indicate recently-deforested areas were used to visualize the state of forest of the district. Detailed information about the situation and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were collected for further analysis.

## Main activities conducted

### Output 1: Support forestry sector at the central level

- ◆ 10th meeting of Forest Sub-Sector Working Group
- ◆ Preparation for a training program in Japan in June

### Output 2: Support measurement of emissions reduction and removal through implementation of REDD+

- ◆ Launching the National Forest Inventory
- ◆ Change detection on satellite imagery for the development of Forest Type Map 2015

### Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ Preparatory meetings to support launching the REL/MRV TWG
- ◆ Joint consultation meetings for FCPF Carbon Fund provinces (6 provinces)

### Output 4: Support Luang Prabang Province REDD+ Readiness

- ◆ Deforestation and Forest Degradation Drivers Analysis Survey in Luang Prabang

### Common activity

- ◆ Inception Workshop

## Contact

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## Events in the next quarter

Apr  
Analysis of DD survey results

Apr  
1<sup>st</sup> REL/MRV TWG

May  
11th FSSWG

Jun  
Training in Japan (FREL/FRL and NFMS)



**MONRE**  
Ministry of Natural Resources  
and Environment (MONRE)



**MAF**  
Ministry of Agriculture and  
Forestry (MAF)



Japan International  
Cooperation Agency