

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.

1st REL/MRV TWG Meeting held

Forestry sector of Lao PDR has agreed to establish six Technical Working Groups (TWGs) to promote REDD+. The 1st meeting of REL/MRV TWG was held on 27th April with a total of 30 participants from DFRM, DOF, MONRE Department of Disaster Management and Climate Change, and development partners concerned. Mr. Linthong, the Director of Forest Inventory and Planning Division (FIPD) of DOF, chaired the meeting, and F-REDD supported the meeting as a lead partner.

The meeting discussed the TWG's work plan towards 2020 and experts from F-REDD presented the basics of some key topics under the TWG, such as REDD+, REL, MRV and NFMS. The presentation included issues for Lao PDR and was followed by a lively exchange of views. It was a highly useful opportunity for the participants to foster shared understanding of the roles and planned activities of the TWG.



Presentation of the basics of REL

NFI 2015-2016 Dry Season completed

The National Forest Inventory (NFI) for the dry season of 2015 - 2016 which targeted four provinces (Houaphanh, Khammouane, Xiengkhouang, and Sekong) has been completed. During the survey, Mr. Linthong, the Director of DOF-FIPD, and Mr. Somvang, the Director of Protection Forest and Conservation Forest Inventory Service of DFRM, also inspected the survey to check the progress as well as the operational issues. The findings will be incorporated into the plan for the next NFI 2016-2017 Dry Season.

The country-wide NFI will continue in the dry season of 2016 - 2017 and the results will become basic data for estimating forest carbon change, which are essential for REL and MRV. From the experiences of NFI 2015-2016 Dry Season, the survey structure will be further improved to ensure a high level of accuracy.



Field inspection by DOF and DFRM directors

Participating in the "REDD+ Financing" Workshop

One of the main topics on REDD+ at international negotiations is how to accelerate forest conservation through financing. In order to find some clues on this topic, the staff from DOF, DFRM and Ministry of Finance, and an expert from F-REDD participated in the workshop on "REDD+ Financing" (co-hosted by UN-REDD, FCPF and REDD+ Partnership) held on 25th - 27th May in Bangkok. As many developing countries are in their transitional stage from 'REDD+ readiness' to 'implementation' and 'results-based payment', the workshop aimed to share the knowledge and experiences on how to explore financing options, and also to discuss expectations and challenges regarding REDD+ financing.

The workshop invited 12 other Asian countries, international organizations, and financial sector representatives. The participants discussed the following: the need of capacity building of stakeholders; forest conservation actions and shift to low-emission agriculture and forestry; and necessity of developing a fair and transparent financing mechanism. The workshop offered good entry points for Lao PDR, which will soon start developing its national REDD+ strategy, to look ahead to the financial aspects of REDD+.



DOF staff at Workshop

REL/NFMS training in Japan hosted 4 project counterparts

F-REDD provides its counterparts various training opportunities, such as in-country trainings and On-the-Job Trainings (OJT) in Lao PDR, and also trainings in Japan. The 1st counterpart training in Japan was held from 13th to 24th June, and four counterparts from DFRM and DOF traveled to Japan to enhance their understanding, particularly on REL and NFMS.

For instance, REL and MRV are required to be consistent with national greenhouse gas inventory. As it is important for REDD+ officers to understand such issues, the training course started from general knowledge on REL and greenhouse gas inventory, and went on to the simulation exercise on developing REL. Such combination of 'basics' and 'practice' has proved to be effective for enhancing the learning of the counterparts who participated.

Then, the counterparts visited the Forestry Agency of Japan to learn from the experiences of Japan. This includes the methodology of forest carbon estimation in its national greenhouse gas inventory, UNFCCC's technical as-



REL simulation exercise



Visit to a forest in Tenryu

essment of REL, and Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM; a bilateral mechanism advocated by Japan aimed at supporting low carbon development) guideline for REDD+ projects, which is under development.

They also had a chance to visit the forest of Nakayama Forest Limited Partnership Company in Tenryu, a renowned plantation forest area of Japan which has been managed well for generations. As sustainable management of forests is a challenge for Lao PDR, the counterparts listened carefully to the explanations of the aforementioned company, and raised questions on the use of GIS, supply-chain of harvested wood, and so forth. The fact that the forests have been certified as Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) forests also seemed to draw their interest.

We are expecting the counterparts to further contribute to REDD+ and forest management back in their home country by using the knowledge and skills obtained through this training course.

Main activities conducted

Output 1: Support forestry sector at the central level

- ◆ Training (REL/NFMS) in Japan *(completed)*

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

- ◆ Forest Type Map 2015 development: change detection between 2010 – 2015 *(ongoing)*
- ◆ NFI 2015-2016 Dry Season *(completed)*

Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ Support of the 1st REL/MRV TWG meeting *(completed)*
- ◆ Participation in Regional Knowledge Exchange: "REDD+ Financing" *(completed)*

Output 4: Support Luang Prabang Province REDD+ Readiness

- ◆ Facilitation of the establishment of Provincial REDD+ Task Force (PRTF) and Provincial REDD+ office (PRO) *(completed)*
- ◆ Collection and analysis of information for Provincial REDD+ strategy development *(ongoing)*

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Events in the next quarter

- Jul**
Joint-training for National REDD+ Task Force
- Aug**
12th Forest Sub-Sector Working Group (FSSWG) meeting
Luang Prabang Province REDD+ Task Force meeting/technical workshop
- Sep**
2nd REL/MRV TWG meeting



MONRE
Ministry of Natural Resources
and Environment



MAF
Ministry of Agriculture and
Forestry



Japan International
Cooperation Agency