

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.

2nd REL/MRV TWG Meeting held

The 2nd meeting of REL/MRV TWG was held on 2nd September with a total of 30 participants from the DFRM, DOF, and development partners concerned.

The meeting confirmed the submission schedule of REL to the UNFCCC and the FCPF Carbon Fund (FCPF CF), and agreed on the need to establish a REL drafting team to task this work. As Lao PDR is aiming to develop the RELs for both the UNFCCC and the FCPF CF in parallel, precise scheduling and careful management of the drafting process will be required.

The stepwise development of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was another topic discussed. The NFMS for Lao PDR was agreed to focus on supporting the MRV as its first step, and gradually expand its function to include other monitoring information.

Moreover, the Government of Lao (GoL) reported the results of National Forest Inventory (NFI) for the dry season 2015-2016, and also shared their initiative of reviewing the forest

and land classification system, as well as the definitions of deforestation, forest degradation and reforestation.

Furthermore, the Technical Working Group (TWG) — currently only five members officially appointed — suggested to introduce the 'assistant system', which would consist of adding more members to the TWG from the relevant departments, with the aim of strengthening the TWG foundation as well as providing more capacity building opportunities for the technical staff. The idea was highly welcomed and endorsed by the participants.



2nd REL/MRV TWG meeting



TV conference connecting Vientiane and Tokyo

Technical meeting with the WB MRV expert

There are opportunities to access various technical advices through the World Bank (WB), as Lao PDR is a participant country to the Readiness Fund and the Carbon Fund of FCPF. The forest carbon measurement and accounting is one of the technical fields which have drawn high interest due to its fast-evolving nature, and, not to mention, its system of performance-based payments. With such a background, the WB suggested the GoL to send their MRV expert to Vientiane to have a technical meeting with the GoL staff and development partners to discuss the proposed approach on the REL/MRV.

In the technical meeting the F-REDD experts, who are supporting the REL/MRV, made presentations on the basic strategy and some key methodologies which are considered for the Lao PDR's FCPF CF program. The WB expert also made a presentation on the key points of the Methodological Framework of FCPF CF and gave technical feedback

regarding the approach on the presented REL/MRV. Then, the meeting was opened for free discussion.

At the end of the meeting, it was generally agreed that the presented strategy and methodologies of the REL/MRV are generally reasonable. It was also very meaningful to realize some challenges to improve the technical soundness of REL/MRV.

What is FCPF???

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership — established under the WB and sponsored by developing countries and other partners — with the aim of promoting REDD+. The Lao PDR joined the Readiness Fund in 2008 and the Carbon Fund in September 2016.

The Carbon Fund is designed to pilot performance-based payments for emission reductions and removals by REDD+

programs in the participant countries. After joining the Carbon Fund, Lao PDR needs to prepare a detailed project document (ERPD) within 18 months. The F-REDD has been supporting Lao PDR to become a participant country from the initial stage, and it will continue to assist the preparation of ERPD in general and the determination of technical details of REL/MRV in particular.

(For more information, see the FCPF website

<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/>)

REDD+ training for the TWGs

The National REDD+ Task Force and the six TWGs have been established to promote REDD+ in Lao PDR. However, the awareness-building of REDD+ and the capacity improvement of these members are seen to be in urgent need. Therefore, to address this issue, the GoL and development partners including F-REDD jointly conducted two REDD+ trainings for the members of six TWGs — one in July and another in August.

Through the trainings it was confirmed that the six TWGs need to closely collaborate in implementing REDD+. Moreover, each TWG also agreed to play their role to contribute to the development of National REDD+ Strategy from their standpoints.

REDD+ in Lao PDR is now ready for full-scale implementation. Moreover, by having the six TWGs in operating, the coordination role of the National REDD+ focal points will become even more important.



TWGs divided into groups for in-depth discussion

1st PRTF meeting and Workshop on addressing drivers of deforestation



1st PRTF meeting participated by multi-sector representatives

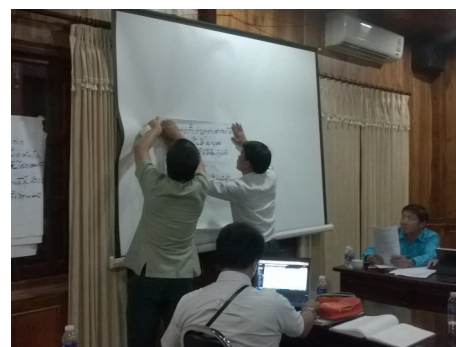
In addition to the support to the central government, F-REDD is also supporting the REDD+ readiness of Luang Prabang Province.

The 1st meeting of Provincial REDD+ Task Force (PRTF) was held on 28th July, following the establishment of the PRTF and the Provincial REDD+ Office (PRO) in May. A representative from the DFRM participated in the meeting to explain the overview and progress of REDD+ in Lao PDR. Furthermore, the meeting confirmed the objectives and the terms of reference (ToR) of the PRTF.

In the following week, on 5th August, another workshop was held to discuss the necessary policies and measures for addressing deforestation and enhancing forest conservation. This workshop was designed to build on the results of the deforestation and forest degradation drivers analysis, which was surveyed in February (reported in our Newsletter Vol. 2). The meeting invited the representatives from forestry sector of the province and districts, and also from other sectors including hydropower and mining, which are considered as the causes of deforestation. The participants reviewed the recent forest cover trends in their province and discussed

how each sector can contribute to protect and increase their forests. The results of discussion were noted as important inputs to develop the provincial REDD+ action plan.

It is a big challenge to harmonize conflicting interests when pursuing forest conservation and economic development at the same time. This is why the PRTF consists of members not only from the forestry sector, but also from other stakeholder groups, such as agriculture, industry, civil society, and women's groups. This diverse range of stakeholders will continue to further discuss ways to realize sustainable management of forests and REDD+ in Luang Prabang.



presentation by each sector on their roles in forest management

Main activities conducted

Common activity

- ◆ F-REDD project website opened (*completed*)
- ◆ Technical meeting with the WB REL/MRV expert (*completed*)

Output 1: Support forestry sector at the central level

- ◆ REDD+ training for the TWGs (July and August) (*completed*)

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

- ◆ Compilation of the results of NFI dry season 2015-2016 (*completed*) and preparation for the NFI dry season 2016-2017 (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Establishment of REL drafting team (*ongoing*)

- ◆ Development of Forest Type Map 2015 (*ongoing*)

- ◆ Conceptualization and development of NFMS (*ongoing*)

Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ 2nd REL/MRV TWG meeting (*completed*)
- ◆ Development of ERPD for the FCPF CF (*ongoing*)

Output 4: Support Luang Prabang Province REDD+ Readiness

- ◆ 1st PRTF meeting (*completed*)
- ◆ Workshop on addressing drivers of deforestation (*completed*)

Events in the next quarter

Oct.

Workshop for the development of provincial REDD+ action plan in Luang Prabang Province

Kick-off and technical trainings of the NFI dry season 2016 - 2017

Nov.

2nd Joint Coordination Committee meeting (to be decided)

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