

# 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 Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF-DOF) is the implementing agencies of F-REDD.

## Designing and developing the National Forest Monitoring System

The developing countries implementing REDD+ are required to monitor and report the REDD+ activities transparently through step-wise development of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). The consensus on the scope and roadmap of the NFMS in Laos has been developed through the REL/MRV Technical Working Group and other technical discussions. It was agreed that the NFMS would be developed, as the first step, to advance the function to measure (M of MRV\*) emission and removal of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>).

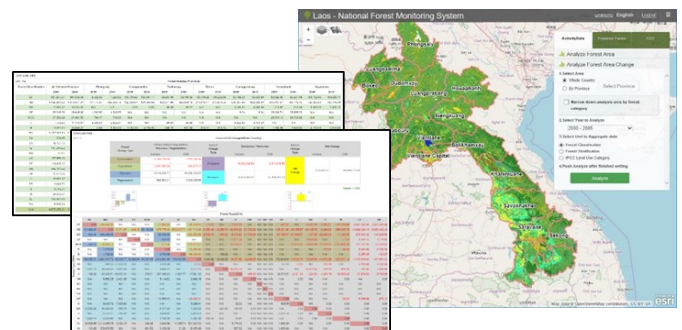
The NFMS prototype is already set up in the server of the Department of Forestry (DOF), and stores the satellite image data and the Forest Type Maps (2000, 2005 and 2010), Forest Cover Change Maps, the results of the National Forest Inventory (NFI), and other related data. Also, using these data, NFMS can calculate the areas/change areas of the forest types at national or provincial level, and also calculate CO<sub>2</sub> emissions/removals and their changes.

The function development and data installation at the first stage will be completed through final check of the system in December 2017. Prior to this, the training for management and operation of the NFMS will be conducted for three weeks in November with the purpose of the capacity development of DOF officials to maintain, operate and improve the NFMS sustainably.

From 2018, the F-REDD is aiming to support further development of the NFMS based on extracted issues and sorted out measures in the

NFMS trial operation and improvements and feedback. Furthermore, the F-REDD is aiming to expand its functions such as forest monitoring and will continue to support improvement of the NFMS in collaboration with other donors.

\*MRV: is the system to carry out the measurement, reporting, and verification of the REDD+ results of emission reductions of greenhouse gases.



CO<sub>2</sub> emissions/removals change (left) and Forest Type Map (right) shown on the NFMS.

## Protection Forest management planning in Luang Prabang Province

F-REDD is supporting the formulation of the Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP) in Luang Prabang province, which describes the drivers and measures of deforestation and forest degradation in the province. One of these measures is to strengthen the capacity of the Protection Forest management for the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) in Luang Prabang. The Protection Forest occupies roughly 60% of the area of Luang Prabang province and 60% of the actual forest cover remains in the Protection Forest area. How to manage the Protection Forest properly is a very important challenge as rapid deforestation, mainly due to expansion of agricultural land, advances in the province.

Consulting with the PAFO, the F-REDD selected Phou Pheung - Phou Pha Thoun - Tat Kuang Si Protection Forest Area (PP-PPT-TKS PFA) of 34,000 ha as a pilot site, which still remains relatively intact despite its vicinity to Luang Prabang City, and started to formulate the Protection Forest management plan.

The information related erosion and flood control was collected by analyzing satellite imagery and using the Digital Elevation Models of the

target area and also through the village interview survey. For instance, intact forests free of disturbance in the last 15 years, important water sources and rivers, and previous or potential land-slide areas have been identified. Biodiversity was also taken into account for the planning. The Project developed a list of the endangered species of wild animals and plants inhabiting PP-PPT-TKS PTA and also collected the habitat location data.

There have been villages existing in the PP-PPT-TKS PTA from a long time ago and other land use like shifting cultivation has been observed. Considering this, the PP-PPT-TKS PTA was classified based on the collected information into a Total Protection Zone (TPZ), which is to be prioritized for protection; and a Control Use Zone (CUZ), which allows for certain uses. The forest management is now under development for each zoning area. It is also expected that the PAFO will strengthen the structure and capacity of planning and implementation of Protection Forest management through this pilot planning.



The boundary of the Protection Forest Area was confirmed and topographical information was also collected through the interview survey at village level (upper photo). The water management area under the Water Supply State Enterprise was confirmed (lower photo).

## Training in Japan 2017: Multiple Use of Forest



Takao Forest Fureai (rapport) Promotion Center implements forest conservation and management in Mt. Takao in collaboration with local people (upper photo). In a patchwork forest where NPO Sanson-juku is trying to convert a plantation forest into a wild forest by planting hardwood species (middle photo). Exchange of views was held in the showroom made by wood products in Morotsuka Village (lower photo).

F-REDD implemented the training in Japan with the theme of "Multiple Use of Forest", as scheduled every year for the purpose of strengthening the capacity of government officials in Lao PDR. Three officials from the Department of Forestry and three officials from the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office in Luang Prabang participated in the training.

The trainees had lectures provided by the Forestry Agency of Japan and the FAIRWOOD PARTNERS<sup>\*1</sup> regarding the Clean Wood Act in Japan which was enforced for the purpose of promotion of utilization and trade of legally logged woods. The trainees learnt the importance of management of legal wood exportation as well as of tackling illegal logging, which has been strengthened since last year in Lao PDR.

The lecture regarding various spatial uses of forests in the Forestry Agency of Japan was followed by the related site visits. The trainees visited Takao Fureai (rapport) Promotion Center and Mt. Takao where the forest education for children and students and the forest management involving regional volunteers are implemented. They were very interested in how to involve locals in forest management, which is a very important issue in Lao PDR. The trainees also observed the forest therapy in Yame City, Fukuoka Prefecture, which is promoted and run by the city. Both achievements of forest utilization and the city revenue were good learning experiences for the trainees. They also visited the NPO Sanson-juku in the same city, which is working on rural development involving volunteers from overseas and urban residents, and learned the example of the forest management promoted by the citizens.

A good practice was seen at Morotsuka Village where local government is supporting indi-

vidual families and local companies for promotion of the forestry industry. The village office leads the way to obtain Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) certification, provide financial and institutional support for the wood processing plants and create new marketing channels of those wooden products. In contrast, the Miyazaki Southern Forestry Office showed the Profit Sharing Forestry<sup>\*2</sup> continuing in the state forests, which is descended from the Obi Forestry<sup>\*3</sup> in the Edo period. The operation system brings merits of both the administrative revenues and the interest of local residents. Comparing good practices in Japan seemed to have stimulated the trainees even though they have different systems or structures.

Although this training incorporated a wide range of fields based on the theme, the coordination between local government and local residents is the key for appropriate forest management. This training seemed to be very useful for letting the trainees think about the various systems or relationships to be adopted for forest management and conservation in Lao PDR.

<sup>\*1</sup> FAIRWOOD PARTNERS: programs or activities jointly conducted by FoE Japan and the Earth and Human Environment Forum for preventing illegal logging in developing countries and promoting the use of legal timber in wood importing countries including Japan. <https://www.fairwood.jp/eng/>

<sup>\*2</sup> Obi Forestry: forestry land and operation method formed by the silvicultural policy of the Obi domain in the Edo period. The logging profit was allocated to both the domain and the people engaged.

<sup>\*3</sup> Profit Sharing Forestry: a forestry operation in which a plantation is jointly conducted by land owners and engaged workers. Logging profit is allocated to both parties at a predetermined ratio.

## Main Activities Conducted

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

- ◆ Training in Japan 2017 held in September (*completed*)
- ◆ 2nd Forest Sub-Sector Working Group Meeting (*completed*)

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

- ◆ Development of the National REL Report for UNFCCC (*ongoing*)
- ◆ ERPD drafting on REL/MRV part for FCPF-CF (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Development of the NFMS (*ongoing*)

### Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ 5th REL/MRV TWG meeting (*completed*)
- ◆ ERPD drafting for FCPF-CF (*ongoing*)

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

- ◆ Final consultation for the development of the Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (*completed*)
- ◆ Information collection and data analysis for Protection Forest management planning as priority policy piloting (*ongoing*)

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## Events in the Next Quarter

- Oct.  
Project Mid-term review
- Nov.  
Training for management and operation of the NFMS
- Dec.  
FCPF-CF ERPD consultation (central and regional)  
6th REL/MRV TWG meeting



MAF  
Ministry of Agriculture  
and Forestry (MAF)



Japan International  
Cooperation Agency