

# 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.

## Launch of F-REDD Term 2

The Term 2 of F-REDD started in February 2018.

This term will be implemented until October 2020 as the second half of the 5 Year Project (Nov. 2015 - Oct. 2020). The Project has reached an important phase to review the progresses and achievements made in Term 1, expand the support contents in Term 2, and wrap-up the entire achievements of the 5 Year Project. The 4th Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) meeting was held on 27th February — chaired by Mr. Sounsath SAYAKOUMMANE, Director General of Department of Forestry, and co-chaired by Mr. Shunsuke SAKUDO, Senior Representative of JICA Laos Office — with the purpose to foster a common understanding on the project activities for the Term 2.

Additional activities, such as support of the revision of Forestry Law and the preparation of REDD+ readiness in Oudomxay Province, were agreed. Support of the development of international REDD+ mechanisms were committed, including the technical assessment process and the modified submission of the national FREL<sup>\*1</sup> submitted to UNFCCC in January this year and the submission of the ERPD to the Carbon Fund under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)<sup>\*2</sup>. Moreover, collaboration with other donors to access the Green Climate Fund (GCF) is under consideration.

The Lao forestry sector has reached an important phase because the preparation of the next Forest Strategy for post-2021 shall be started soon, the National REDD+ Strategy will move into the implementation phase after its approval, and the government needs to continue the efforts to fight against illegal logging. F-REDD with the Lao forestry sector will continue to provide support to overcome these important challenges.

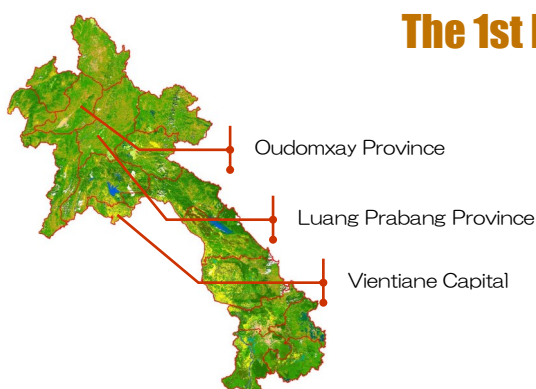
\*1 can be downloaded from <http://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=lao>

\*2 can be downloaded from <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/lao-people%E2%80%99s-democratic-republic>



Photo above: Mr. Sayakoumane (left) and Mr. Sakudo (right)

Photo below: F-REDD expert presentation



## The 1st Draft of ERPD is submitted to the FCPF Carbon Fund

As reported in the previous Newsletters<sup>\*1</sup>, F-REDD is supporting the submission of Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPD) to the Carbon Fund under the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF-CF).

As a proposal to the FCPF-CF, Lao PDR is preparing a detailed program to implement REDD+ in the 6 Northern provinces, which requires to meet strict requirements prescribed in guidelines for ERPD. Many requirements have been set for carbon accounting, and thus, F-REDD is playing an important role in supporting activities on the field of forest resources information, which mainly are FREL<sup>\*2</sup>, MRV<sup>\*3</sup> and NFMS<sup>\*4</sup>. (Continued on next page)

(Continued from the previous page) The drafted ERPD has already gone through several reviews by the World Bank and FCPF before its submission. Following the country visit by the FCPF Technical Advisory Panel (TAP) in early March, which discussed the technical details of proposed program, the 1st official draft of the ERPD was submitted to the FCPF-CF in March. The experts from Lao government, F-REDD and other donors will continue to work together as a team to have the program accepted as smoothly as possible.

\*1 Quarterly newsletter vol.4, etc.

\*2 Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL): is a baseline or a benchmark to measure changes in greenhouse-gas emissions and removals related to forests.

\*3 MRV: is the system to carry out the measurement, reporting, and verification of the results of emission reductions and removals of greenhouse-gas.

\*4 National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS): is the system for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities. It is used as the basis to estimate forest related greenhouse-gas emissions and removals.



Presentation by the Lao PDR delegates at the FCPF meeting in Washington D.C.

## Start of Technical Assessment of the National FREL Report



TV conference with the Assessment Team

Lao PDR submitted the National FREL Report to the UNFCCC in January 2018 under extensive support of F-REDD. The Assessment Team (AT), which consist of two experts of 'Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)' selected by UNFCCC, is currently assessing the report. After the initial correspondences through emails from February to March, a TV conference was held during the 'assessment weeks', two weeks, in late-March between the AT and Lao side (Lao drafting team supported by F-REDD). After the intensive discussions during the 'assessment weeks', the exchange of opinions is still ongoing through emails. Lao PDR will submit the modified FREL report by the end of May 2018 reflecting these discussion results. Then, the AT will reassess the modified FREL Report and will have further discussions with Lao PDR. Finally, the final assessment report will be released in November 2018.

In the future, when Lao PDR applies for the REDD+ results-based payments, such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the assessed FREL will become a benchmark for Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of the emissions reduction and removals. Therefore, this assessment activity is recognized as important by the Lao counterparts.

## Main Activities Conducted

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

- ◆ Preparation of the Draft of Forestry Law revision (*ongoing*)

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

- ◆ Technical Assessment of UNFCCC on the National REL Report (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Preparation for the web-portal publication for ensuring transparency of the NFMS registry (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Preparation of the roadmap for the NFMS/Registry development and expansion (*ongoing*)

### Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ FCPF Carbon Fund: review by the Technical Advisory Panel (TAP); submission of advanced draft ERPD (*completed*)

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

- ◆ Preliminary Survey for formulation of pilot activities on Oudomxay Province (*completed*)
- ◆ Preparation of the draft of Protection Forest management planning as a PRAP priority piloting (*ongoing*)

### Common activities

- ◆ 4th JCC meeting (*completed*)

## Contact

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### Project Website

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/laos/O18/index.html>

## Events in the Next Quarter

Apr.  
Annual Workshop

May  
6th REL/MRV TWG meeting  
Submission of the revised FREL report to UNFCCC  
FCPF Carbon Fund: review by TAP and Carbon Fund participants; submission of final draft ERPD



MAF  
Ministry of Agriculture  
and Forestry



Japan International  
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