

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

ERPД approved by FCPF-CF

This is an update on a topic discussed in previous issues^{*1}. F-REDD has been providing support for Lao PDR's preparation of an Emission Reduction Program Document (ERPД) for submission to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's Carbon Fund (FCPF-CF). Lao PDR's ERPД has now been reviewed and approved at the FCPF-CF's 18th meeting (held in Paris in June). This will make it possible to sell carbon credits to be produced as the result of implementing the REDD+ activities in six northern provinces during 2019-2025.

After submitting the final draft of the ERPД in May, FCPF prepared a Technical Assessment Report^{*2}. Led by the vice minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, a team of representatives from Lao PDR attended this important meeting, which included a presentation of the ERPД, a question and answer session, and the final decision on approval.

Before the meeting, F-REDD helped prepare detailed plans for the meeting and presentation materials. During the meeting, F-REDD provided remote support for informal negotiations by Lao representatives. Now, following this approval, the ERPД program will move to the implementation stage, alongside progress on concluding an agreement on results-based-payment with the FCPF. To enable Laos to secure the best possible results, F-REDD plans to provide further support at the national level and in the target provinces of Luang Prabang and Oudomxay.

*1 See vols. 4, 9, etc. *2 These documents can be obtained from <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org>



The Laos representative team participating in the 18th FCPF-CF meeting in Paris

Survey delineating the boundaries of protection forest in Luang Prabang Province

Aiming to strengthen management of protection forest in Luang Prabang Province, F-REDD has been providing support for pilot activities in the Phou Pheung-Phou Pha Thoun-Tat Kuang Si Provincial Protection Forest Area (PPT-PPTA) located within the province (see vol. 8) and in May completed a survey to delineate the boundaries of protection forest.

Various issues have emerged, including failure by local villages to grasp the existing boundaries of the PPT-PPTA and failure by the boundaries in certain cases to reflect actual land use, topography, or other conditions. These factors and ambiguity concerning the status of these lands have rendered it difficult to implement management of the protection forest. Accordingly, consultation meetings were held in nearby villages to confirm and revise existing protection forest boundaries. In addition, field surveys have been done to revise portions of the boundaries, and GPS coordinates have been obtained to record the boundaries on maps.

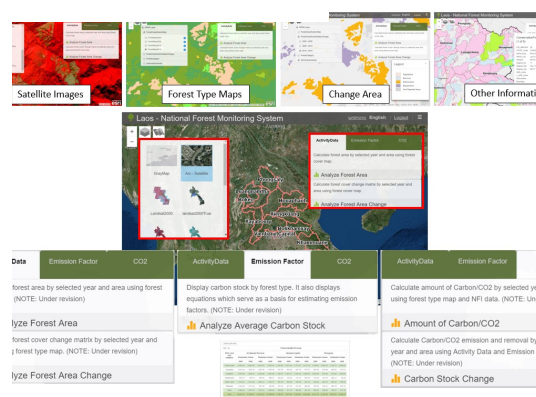
Protection forest boundaries agreed to with the villages were confirmed in the form of an MOU concluded between each village and the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) in Luang Prabang. Beyond this, the participation of central government forestry officials in the survey facilitated the smooth submission of survey results to the central government. These boundaries are expected to be approved as official protection forest boundaries in the future when the relevant formal procedures are completed.



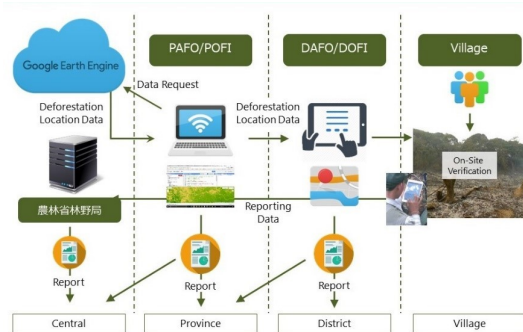
The boundaries of the protection forest were confirmed and their GPS coordinate data recorded

National Forest Monitoring System and Near real-time Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System now being developed

Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), REDD+ participating countries are required to accurately measure and report greenhouse gas emissions reduction and removal based on REDD+ activities in a transparent manner by developing and utilizing a National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). The NFMS for which F-REDD is providing support for development in Lao PDR already includes information such as satellite imagery, forest type maps, forest change maps, and national forest inventories. A function has already been installed to apply this data to calculate the area of interest by forest type, CO₂ emissions and removal, as well as changes in each of these, both nationwide and by province. Currently, to ensure transparency, progress is being made on revisions to the NFMS in preparation for access by public. Additionally, efforts are underway to expand the system step by step to allow centralized management of data related to REDD+ through registration of all REDD+ projects and programs



Overview of Lao PDR's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)



Conceptual diagram of the Near real-time Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System

within Laos and the addition of an emissions reduction registry function.

In 2018, F-REDD started providing support for the development and trial implementation of Near real-time Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System. The most significant factor resulting in deforestation in Laos is the conversion of land use from forestry to agriculture, therefore monitoring the expansion of slash-and-burn agriculture and commercial crop cultivation into forest areas and taking appropriate measures as required is indispensable. However, such activities in these areas are still not fully functional, due to lack of clarity in forest demarcation and in definitions of monitoring structures and implementation methods. Plans call for the development and trial introduction of Near real-time Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System to use satellite imagery for early detection of deforestation, thereby enabling various appropriate measures, including checking the current situation through on-site patrols by forestry officials and responding appropriately. Plans also call for storing information on deforestation collected using this monitoring system in the NFMS database for use in various reports.

Main Activities Conducted

Output 1: Support forestry sector at the central level

- ◆ Preparing draft amendments to the Forestry Law (*ongoing*)

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

- ◆ Responding to technical review of forest reference emissions level (FREL) reports by the UNFCCC and submitting revised FREL reports (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Trial public release of the NFMS on the Web Portal, and preparing a roadmap for content revision and addition of functions including carbon registry (*completed*)

Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ Submitting (final) ERPD to the FCPF Carbon Fund and responding to the technical review and final review (*ongoing*)

Output 4: Support Luang Prabang Province REDD+ Readiness

- ◆ PPT-PPTA boundary delineation survey for protection forest management planning as a PRAP priority pilot (*completed*)

Common activities

- ◆ Formalization of forest definitions and land classifications established by the DOF/FIPD (*completed*)

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Project Website

<https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/laos/018/index.html>

Events in the Next Quarter

Jul.
National REDD+ Task Force meeting

Aug.
6th REL/MRV TWG meeting



MAF
Ministry of Agriculture
and Forestry



Japan International
Cooperation Agency