

# 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.

## Lao PDR's approach to GCF

The Green Climate Fund (GCF)<sup>\*1</sup> was established in 2010 as a part of the UNFCCC's financial mechanism to support climate change mitigation and adaptation actions in developing countries. GCF is playing a central role in climate financing — the amount pledged by contributors reached US\$ 10.3 billion for the period of 2015-18 and, further, additional contributions were announced by the Parties at UNFCCC COP24 last year. This article reports on how Lao forestry/REDD+ is trying to approach GCF and the role of F-REDD.



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FAO, GIZ, and JICA are currently playing leading roles in Lao PDR in the following three phases: 1) GCF funding for readiness; 2) funding for the GCF project; and 3) REDD+ results-based payment.

FAO's "Incentive mechanisms for private sector engagement under REDD+ in the Lao People's Democratic Republic", the first phase, aims to create an enabling environment for the promotion of "green agriculture" in the agricultural and forestry sectors, as well as in the Emissions Reduction (ER) Program (see below). Here, F-REDD will pursue synergy with its support for the revision of the Forest Strategy, revision of the Forestry Law, and various REDD+ policies.

As for GIZ's "Implementation of the Lao PDR Emissions Reduction Programme through improved governance and sustainable forest landscape management", the second phase, under the lead of GIZ as an Accredited Entity, JICA, ADB, FAO and other entities, are formulating a co-financing project with GCF to implement the ER Program for the FCPF Carbon Fund<sup>\*2</sup>. If this project is realized, JICA will provide Technical Assistance (TA) to the central level and the two northern provinces. As a result of this, GCF funds will be utilized in the on-site activities, and so it is expected to leverage the JICA TA support roughly three to four times.



The "National REDD+ Results-based payment (currently under consideration by JICA)", the third phase, supported access to REDD+ results-based payment at the national level for the period of 2015 to 2018. F-REDD has been acting as the main supporter of the national REL and NFMS, and is also cooperating on the formulation of the National REDD+ Strategy, meaning that its contribution has extended to three of the four pre-conditions for REDD+ results-based payment. F-REDD is currently preparing to support the first national MRV and REDD+ results report to the UNFCCC. By connecting these to REDD+ results-based payment, the long-awaited financial mechanism of REDD+ will be finally realized.

Along with Lao PDR's approach to GCF, the support of F-REDD is evolving. We will keep you updated.

\*1: <https://www.greenclimate.fund/home> \*2: F-REDD contributed to the formulation and acceptance of the FCPF Carbon Fund Emission Reduction Program and is currently supporting its implementation. Please see past newsletters, Vol. 9 and Vol. 10.

## New JICA employee's On-the-Job Training Report

Left: Observing livestock (one of the livelihood improvement activities) at a Project site

Right: From left: counterpart officer; JICA officer, Ando; JICA expert, Namura; and a project staff member



Hello, my name is Takehiro ANDO. I joined JICA in April 2018. As part of JICA's On-the-Job Training (OJT) program for new employees, from 1-4 October I had a chance to work with the F-REDD Project and take part in monitoring the outcomes of the PAREDD Project (a REDD+ pilot project in Luang Prabang Province, implemented from 2009-2015). This article reports on the activities in which I was involved.

I took part in the following two activities under F-REDD's Luang Prabang component in support of provincial REDD+ readiness.

- i. Monitoring of PAREDD Project sites
- ii. Planning for the expansion of the "PAREDD approach": a method to reduce deforestation and forest degradation at the village level
  - i. The PAREDD Project introduced several livelihood improvement activities as an alternative to slash-and-burn agriculture, which is considered to be a driver of deforestation. One of these activities is livestock rearing, I visited one village and observed how they take care of their livestock. The number of livestock has been in-

creasing over the past few years, marking the steady and continuous expansion of such activity. It was memorable to see the villagers cheerfully talking about their pigs and goats. Such results will be used as lessons to expand the PAREDD approach to other villages.

ii. In order to expand the PAREDD approach, we discussed how it can be most effectively guided to the villages around the provincial Protection Forest, where F-REDD provides support. As the counterparts (C/Ps) had a deep understanding of the PAREDD Project and actively led the discussion at the meeting, Mr. Namura (a JICA expert) limited his intervention only to keep the flow of the meeting moving. According to him, it is important to encourage the C/Ps to take ownership and lead the meetings. I felt that the capacity of the C/Ps is improving and the development of specialists in the field of forestry is steadily increasing under this principle.

Since the OJT, I have been back at JICA headquarters and am now in charge of the water supply sector for Lao PDR. Although the area I am currently responsible for is not forestry, I will always keep in mind that the rich forest fosters water resources for our water supply.

Thank you very much to everyone who gave me this valuable opportunity.

## Main Activities Conducted

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

- ◆ Drafting the revised Forestry Law (*ongoing*)

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

- ◆ Preparation for 3rd NFI survey (*completed*)
- ◆ NFMS Country Needs Assessment (*ongoing*)

### Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ 6th REL/MRV Technical Working Group meeting (*completed*)

- ◆ Follow-up actions following the acceptance of ER Program (*ongoing*)

### Output 4: Support REDD+ Readiness in Luang Prabang Province and Oudomxay Province

- ◆ Training and activity for PAREDD Approach expansion (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Preparation for a test run of the Near real-time Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System this dry season (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Kick-off meetings at provincial, district, and village levels in Oudomxay Province (*completed*)

## Contact

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### Project Website

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

## Events in the Next Quarter

Feb.  
Forest Sub-Sector Working Group meeting

Mar.  
5th Joint Coordination Committee meeting  
Project Annual Workshop  
7th REL/MRV Technical Working Group meeting



MAF  
Ministry of  
Agriculture and  
Forestry



Japan International  
Cooperation Agency