

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.

Forestry Law revision approved

The final draft of the revised Forestry Law — reported in F-REDD Newsletter Vol. 11 (December 2018) — was deliberated and approved in the National Assembly on June 13, 2019. After editorial modifications have been made, the revised law will be implemented by presidential decree at the end of this August. Major revisions include the reinforcement and refinement of regulations on logging and forest conversion, the establishment of a timber legality assurance system in line with FLEGT*, and the development of policies related to forest environmental services, including REDD+. The revised law also clearly specifies the participation of local communities in forest management, the official recognition of village forests in state-managed forests, and the creation of

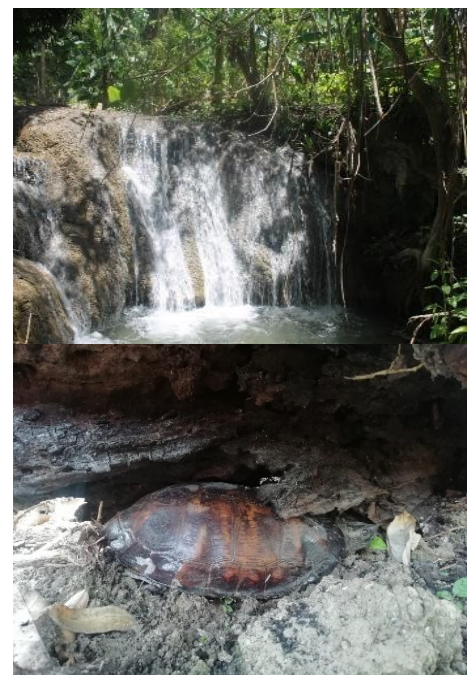
a village forest management planning system that includes commercial logging in village forests. F-REDD has proactively supported the revision process — through the translation and distribution of drafts, by gathering opinions from development partners, and by facilitating the exchange of opinions with the Lao government drafting team, among other activities — so that the revision is more effective and realistic. F-REDD will continue to support the preparation of the ministerial decrees necessary for the implementation of the revised Forest Law.

* FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade): an approach developed in the EU that aims to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting the trading of legally produced timber(see <http://www.euflegt.efi.int/what-is-flegt> for more details).

Feasibility study for eco-tourism

Luang Prabang Province is a top tourist destination in Laos with its beautiful streetscapes and nature. In 1995, it was designated as a World Heritage Site. The F-REDD project site is located in this province in the Phou Pheung-Phou Pha Thoun-Tat Kuang Si Provincial Protection Forest Area (PPT-PPTA), where the Kuang Si waterfall and other places of natural beauty are situated. This protected area is visited by a large number of tourists every year.

Ecotourism is attracting attention as a means of sustainable development that effectively uses these kinds of local tourist attractions and opportunities, promoting the tourism industry while also conserving forests and increasing the income of local communities. F-REDD has been conducting a feasibility study on ecotourism in PPT-PPTA since February 2019, in order to explore its tourism potential. Through this study, it has become clear that stories about local history and traditional culture remain in the villages. The establishment of trekking routes and tourism facilities for the promotion of homestays in some villages have been proposed as ways to potentially attract tourists. F-REDD will continue to provide facilitative support to attract private investment by sharing the feasibility study results with the provincial tourism officers.



The Nan River that flows through the protected area has waterfalls (above) and wild animals (below) that can attract tourists.

Forest Management Activity in Oudomxay Province is progressing



Socio-economic survey (above)
The officer of Luang Prabang Province
provided technical training (below)

JICA has been supporting participatory forest management in Luang Prabang Province for many years and decided to extend its support to Oudomxay Province, starting in April 2019. As a result of discussions with provincial officers, five villages were selected as project sites. All of them sit in the basin of Beng River — the major river in the province — and are upstream from the project sites of the Asian Development Bank's Rural Infrastructure Development Project. The Beng River not only serves the basic needs of the local population, such as by providing drinking water, but it is also used for agriculture and hydroelectric power generation. In this upstream area, deforestation and degradation are spreading due to slash-and-burn agriculture and the expansion of farmland. There is an urgent need to strengthen forest management in the catchment area.

F-REDD conducted a socio-economic survey in each village to understand the profiles of the villages and the forests within them, and then proceeded with activities such as the establishment of village forest management committees, reviews of village land use plans, and cardamom planting. The agricultural and forestry extension officers of Luang Prabang Province, whose capacity has been strengthened with support from JICA, provided technical training to their counterparts in Oudomxay Province before the start of these activities.

Main Activities Conducted

Output 1: Support forestry sector at the central level

- ◆ Forestry Law revision (*completed*)

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

- ◆ 3rd National Forest Inventory (field biomass survey) (*completed*)
- ◆ Development of the Forest Type Map 2019 (*ongoing*)

Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ Preparation for the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Preparation of the Safeguard Report to be submitted to UNFCCC (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Coordination related to the JCM-REDD+ (*ongoing*)

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

- ◆ Training and activities for PAREDD Approach expansion (*ongoing*)
- ◆ Preparation for the Deforestation Monitoring trials during the dry season (*ongoing*)

Contact

Project Office

Kouvieng Street, Sisaket Village,
Chanthabouli District,
Vientiane Capital, Laos
Tel & Fax: 021(22)2536

Project Website

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

Events in the Next Quarter

Jul.

Complete the report of the 3rd National Forest Inventory
Safeguard Technical Working Group meeting

Aug.

Complete the preliminary Forest Type Map 2019 (tentative)

Compile the preliminary results of M(RV)

Sep.

Forest Sub-Sector Working Group meeting
National REDD+ Task Force meeting
Preparatory meeting for the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA)



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