

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.

Remote Sensing Training at the University of Maryland

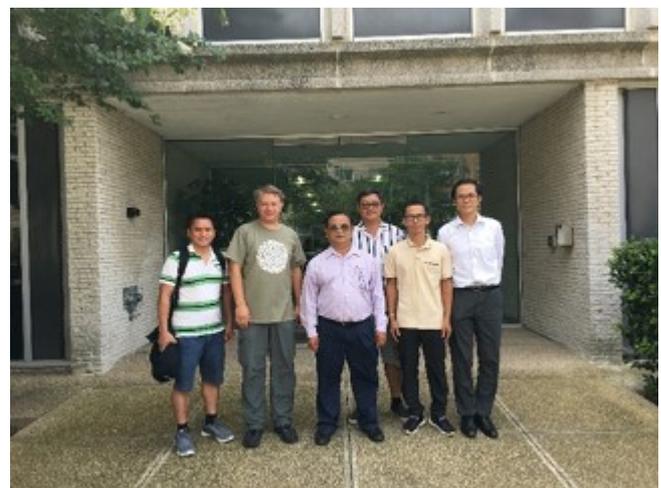
At the end of July 2019, the University of Maryland (UMD) in the United States organized a two-week forest Remote Sensing (RS) training for four RS technicians and researchers from the Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF-DOF) and National University of Laos (NUoL). In order to facilitate the training sessions for the Lao participants, one F-REDD expert also joined the RS training. UMD developed a groundbreaking satellite-based monitoring system that uses RS technology to estimate global deforestation and to monitor forest-cover change annually. Moreover, Lao PDR utilized the data generated by this system in producing its Reference Emission Level (REL). *¹

The training participants learned about the latest and yet still-evolving forest monitoring technologies, and received hands-on training in capturing time-series changes in land cover by using the actual data generated for Laos through UMD's system. Finding the technology featured in the sessions very interesting, the participants were motivated to use it in their own work. However, even the latest system will not provide a 'one-size-fits-all' solution for forest monitoring activities in Lao PDR. The participants are expected to lead the way in adopting and utilizing what they learned at the training in the context of Lao PDR. F-REDD will continue to support this process.

*¹ Reference Emission Level (REL) : also called FREL / FRL (Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level) is a baseline or a benchmark to measure changes in greenhouse-gas emissions and removals related to forests.



Forest Monitoring Training at UMD.



The training participants and lecturer.

Training in Japan

Six forestry officers from the MAF-DOF and Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices in Oudomxay Province visited Japan for 12 days in September 2019, with the purpose of learning Japan's practices in rural development utilizing forests, the forestry industry, and local resources. In order to gain an understanding of Japan's forestry policy, the participants attended lectures at the Forestry Agency and JICA on the Forest Planning System, the Mountain Villages Development Policies and JICA's international cooperation projects on forestry. Furthermore, the participants visited the prefectures of Miyazaki and Saitama, where they learned the local operations in forestry, timber processing, forest conservation, forest management such as erosion and flood control, and their efforts on rural development, specifically their promotion of cultivating mushrooms and vegetables as local agricultural products. The challenges faced by rural Japanese villages in Miyazaki and Saitama are very similar to those in Laos and, moreover, the participants were able to observe various efforts being made by these communities to overcome them. As a result, they approached these lectures seriously, showing keen interest as they listened and asking so many questions that each visit went over the scheduled time limit — so that, ultimately they might be able to utilize what they learned about rural development and forest management in Laos. F-REDD will provide support in various aspects so that the fruits of this training are utilized in the remaining project activities to produce tangible outcomes.



Visiting a mushroom farmer in Saitama Prefecture.



Visiting a forest product distribution center in Miyazaki Prefecture.

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+

- ◆ 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

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Events in the Next Quarter

Oct.

Complete reporting of the 3rd National Forest Inventory
Preliminary consultation meeting for the safeguards report to be submitted to the UNFCCC

Nov.

Complete the preliminary Forest Type Map 2019 (tentative)

Report the preliminary results of MRV

Regional consultation meetings on the safeguards report to be submitted to the UNFCCC

ERPA negotiation meetings

Dec.

Forestry Sub-sector Working Group meeting

National consultation meeting on the safeguards report to be submitted to the UNFCCC

Forest degradation monitoring workshop held by Silva-Carbon program



MAF
Ministry of
Agriculture and
Forestry



Japan International
Cooperation Agency