

# F-REDD Newsletter

Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project  
Oct. 2019 - Dec. 2019

## 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.

## Promoting the forest monitoring system using satellite imagery! - Deforestation monitoring training in Oudomxay -

In northern Laos, the conversion of forests into agricultural land is a major driver of deforestation and forest degradation. For the implementation of REDD+, it is urgently necessary to develop a forest monitoring system, improve forest monitoring technologies, and promote the utilization of this system for forests that should be protected.

F-REDD has been working on the development of a monitoring system using satellite images since 2018. The forest monitoring system consists in that, first, forest officers use Google Earth Engine to identify deforestation areas by analyzing the satellite images. Then, they use an application on a tablet to input the respective information on deforestation areas at each site after field inspection with concerned parties. Finally, they provide administrative guidance to the violators and inform the law enforcement agency if necessary. This forest monitoring system is being introduced in the provinces of Luang Prabang and Oudomxay, which are the target provinces of F-REDD.

In December 2019, a joint monitoring training was held for forest officers in Luang Prabang and Oudomxay. Moreover, in the last dry season in early 2019, forest monitoring trainings were held for the forest officers in Luang Prabang, and forest monitoring trials using the system were done in 6 villages of Luang Prabang. This year, forest monitoring trainings will be carried out during the dry season in 2020 (January to April), and our target for implementing forest monitoring using the system will be expanded to cover 21 villages in Luang Prabang and Oudomxay.

In the 2019 training, the forest officers of Luang Prabang Province gave feedback about their forest monitoring experience at the training during the last dry season and gave advice on how to operate PCs and tablets to the forest officers of Oudomxay Province. The active knowledge sharing was done by the leading province of Luang Prabang, and both provinces were actively involved in the training.

F-REDD will continuously follow-up with both Luang Prabang and Oudomxay and expects that in the near future the forest monitoring system will be promoted from the two provinces to the northern provinces in Laos as a tool to prevent deforestation.



Classroom training (above and middle)  
and field training of the forest  
monitoring system (below)

## REDD+ Safeguards consultations were held

REDD+ Safeguards are precautionary measures to avoid or reduce the social and environmental risks of negative impacts caused by REDD+ activities<sup>\*1</sup>. Countries planning to receive the result-based payments of REDD+ should submit, in advance to UNFCCC<sup>\*2</sup>, a REDD+ safeguards report outlining the status of the implementation of safeguards in their work. Thus, F-REDD is assisting Laos in preparing its REDD+ safeguards report.

As part of this support, a total of five consultations (twice at the national level, three times at the regional level) were held. The consultations were done by setting the safeguards as themes, particularly "Transparent and effective national forest governance structures" and "Respect for the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities", and targeting the main involved actors as five groups, which are government, local community, private sector, civil society, and development partners. As sufficient consideration on social customs, languages, and gender is important to encourage free and fair discussion, especially for the local community group. RECOFTC<sup>\*3</sup> was selected as a partner to enhance the neutrality and transparency of the consultations.

The results of the consultations will be submitted to the UNFCCC Secretariat in the middle of this year as part of the REDD+ safeguards report for Laos. In this way, Laos' REDD+ efforts are progressing, slowly but surely.

\*1: <https://redd.unfccc.int/fact-sheets/safeguards.html>

\*2: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)

\*3: International non-profit organization specializing in community and forestry (<https://www.recoftc.org/>).



A consultation workshop  
In the northern region



Discussion in a group work

## Main Activities Conducted

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

◆ Evaluation of forest strategy 2020 and examination of the direction of forest strategy 2030 (*ongoing*)

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

◆ Revision of Forest Type Map 2019 (*ongoing*)

◆ Implementation of additional field surveys for the revision of Forest Type Map 2019 (*completed*)

### Output 3: Support National REDD+

◆ Provision of advice for the negotiations on Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)

Carbon Fund (*ongoing*)

◆ Consultations for the preparation of REDD+ safeguards report (*completed*)

◆ Coordination between Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and JICA in the Green Climate Fund (GCF) REDD+ project (*ongoing*)

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

◆ Livelihood improvement activities based on the PAREDD Approach expansion (*ongoing*)

◆ Arrangement of the management policies by sector in the protection forest management plan (*completed*)

◆ Deforestation monitoring system training for forestry officers of Oudomxay Province (*completed*)

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## Events in the Next Quarter

**Feb.**  
Final Workshop of PPT-PPTA Protection Forest  
Management Plan

JICA Headquarters' Mission

REL / MRV Technical Working Group Meeting



**MAF**  
Ministry of  
Agriculture and  
Forestry



Japan International  
Cooperation Agency