

# F-REDD Newsletter

## Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project

Nov. 2015 - Sep. 2021

### 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.

## National REDD+ results of Lao PDR reported to the UNFCCC

There is good news since the previous issue (Newsletter Vol. 17).

The national REDD+ results of Lao PDR were officially submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) as a REDD+ Technical Annex to the First Biennial Update Report (1st BUR)\*1. Lao PDR is the 15th country in the world and the third country in Southeast Asia, following Malaysia and Indonesia, to submit a REDD+ Technical Annex in accordance with UNFCCC decisions on REDD+.

This achievement is the fruit of the cooperation of F-REDD and the Lao PDR Department of Forestry (DOF) since last year, including the preparation of forest type maps and a national forest inventory survey for the estimation of emissions reduction and removal. Also important was cooperation with the Ministry of Natural

Resources and Environment (MONRE), which is responsible for preparing the BUR and is the national point of contact for the UNFCCC. A set of technical reports\*2 explaining the details of the calculation of results has been made available on the DOF website.

The UNFCCC's technical analysis of the submitted REDD+ results will begin in November. In addition to ensuring the transparency of the REDD+ results in Laos, the technical analysis is required for application for the REDD+ Results-Based payment of the Green Climate Fund (GCF). It is also a useful opportunity for Lao PDR to enhance its capacity on REDD+ carbon accounting.

\*1: <https://unfccc.int/BURs>

\*2: <http://dof.maf.gov.la/en/publications/>

## Scaling up of Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System

F-REDD has developed a satellite-based Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) as a tool that utilizes satellite images for deforestation monitoring, and has strengthened the implementation system for forest monitoring at the provincial and district levels. F-REDD conducted deforestation monitoring of village forest areas during the dry season (January to April) in 2020 in cooperation with the forestry sections of the provinces of Luang Prabang and Oudomxay. As a result, 55 cases of deforestation were reported on 19,600 hectares of village forest area in 16 villages of Luang Prabang, and 82 cases on 19,000 hectares of village forest area in 5 villages of Oudomxay. According to a review by forestry officers who actually used the PDMS in the forest monitoring, the PDMS is a tool that is simple and practical enough to be used even without expertise in satellite image analysis or GIS, and it enabled more effective and efficient monitoring.

The PDMS developed and tried this time is planned to

be expanded to other areas in the future. F-REDD will continue to support the expansion of PDMS implementation in three northern provinces, including Luang Prabang, in collaboration with the REDD+ implementation project funded by the GCF. In addition, Oudomxay has expressed its intention to expand the PDMS to other districts by using funds from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) project.



Inspection of deforestation area with villagers

## Work for REDD+ Results-Based Payment of Green Climate Fund (GCF) in full swing

The previous issue reported that JICA, as an Accredited Entity of GCF, will support the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) in accessing REDD+ Results-Based Payment. As a first step, JICA submitted a Concept Note to the GCF Secretariat on 13 September. Since then, the GoL and JICA have been working on the preparation of the Funding Proposal (FP) with the aim of submitting it in April 2021 and review and approval by the 30th Board Meeting around November 2021. The FP also needs to include a summary of the project using the REDD+ Results-Based Payment funds (tentative name: GCF/JICA Project), which is an important item for review by GCF.

For this reason, the DOF established a Task Force (TF) consisting of representatives of the relevant divisions, and selected four landscapes as candidate pro-

ject sites with F-REDD based on forest change status and analysis of other large-scale forest conservation projects. The landscapes are combined areas of adjacent conservation and protection forests in five provinces in southern Laos. In order to obtain the agreement to conduct field surveys on the four landscapes as candidate sites, a meeting was held in the city of Pakse in southern Laos on 28 September with representatives of the five provinces, the Director General of the DOF, the survey team, and F-REDD members.

At the meeting, the outline of REDD+ and Results-Based Payment, as well as the process of selecting candidate sites, were explained. Agreement was obtained to conduct a survey of the candidate sites. After the meeting, the first round of the survey was conducted over one week. Going forward, F-REDD will conduct surveys more focused on purposes and target areas and, through consultations with the TF, finalize the GCF/JICA Project proposal, which will be outlined in the FP.

## 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
- ◆ Organization of a meeting of the Forestry Sub-Sector Working Group

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

- ◆ Completion of reconstruction of NFMS (National Forest Monitoring System) using IT equipment and software procured through FCPF
- ◆ Preparation of NFMS Roadmap
- ◆ Preparation for improving monitoring of forest degradation and restoration

### Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ Submission of 1st BUR and REDD+ Technical Annex
- ◆ Preparation of FP, field survey and meeting in southern region for GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payment

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

- ◆ Implementation of the PDMS and review meeting
- ◆ Technical training on organic fertilizer for vegetable cultivation and on livestock raising (Luang Prabang)
- ◆ Support for tree plantation activity (technical training and seedlings) (Oudomxay)

## Contact

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### Project Website

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



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