

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.

The 6th Joint Coordinating Committee Meeting

Upon agreement about the extension of the project duration of F-REDD until September 2021 between the Government of Lao PDR and JICA, the 6th Meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was held on 6 November 2020. In the meeting, a wide range of issues were discussed and agreed to as follows:

1. The work plan until September 2021 and revision of the Project Design Matrix (PDM) ;
2. The necessity of formulating guidelines for the demarcation of forestland boundaries as defined in Article 68 of the revised Forestry Law;
3. Consideration of the Department of Forestry's (DOF) request for support for the development of a method for the economic valuation of environmental services and the biodiversity of forestlands for cases in which they are converted to other land uses as defined in Article 82 of the revised Forestry Law;
4. The possibility of revision of the Funding Proposal to the Green Climate Fund (GCF) in accordance with the possible revision of the GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payment Pilot Program's modality;
5. Organizing a workshop on the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) with con-

cerned stakeholders (the PDMS was introduced by a staff member from the Forestry Section of Luang Prabang Province at the meeting).

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and restrictions on international travel, only detailed activities until March 2021 were agreed on. Detailed activities from April to September 2021 will be discussed again and agreed on later, in accordance with the pandemic situation.



The 6th Meeting of the JCC

NFMS (National Forest Monitoring System) learning session held through web-meeting.

Due to COVID-19 travel restrictions, the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) learning session was held online, connecting Laos and Japan. A total of 46 participants from the FIPD (Forest Inventory Planning Division), REDD+ division, DCC (Department of Climate Change) and other agencies joined the two-day session on 10-11 November.

The session shared information about the progress of REDD + in Lao PDR, contents of the NFMS Roadmap, contents and issues related to the NFMS web-portal^{*1},

and the implementation of the PDMS and challenges thereto.

According to participants, the session was useful since, in addition to the lectures, there were many chances to deepen understanding through questions and discussions. Some F-REDD counterparts facilitated the session by supplementing the explanations by the Japanese experts for other Lao participants.

*1: <https://nfms.maf.gov.la/>

ERPA for the FCPF Carbon Fund has been signed

After being selected as an FCPF Carbon Fund^{*1} country in June 2018, Lao PDR prepared an Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank. In December 2020, Lao PDR became the ninth country in the world and the third in Asia to sign an ERPA. This will open up the possibility for Lao PDR to receive a Results-Based Payment equivalent to USD 42 million by achieving REDD+ results (emissions reduction and removal) in six northern provinces from 2019 to 2024.

During the preparation of the ERPA, F-REDD cooperated with other development partners to support the Lao PDR government on issues including emissions reduction monitoring, safeguards and benefit sharing. To support the realization of REDD+ results, F-REDD is currently collaborating with GIZ to implement the I-GFLL project using the GCF fund^{*2}, and also continuing the capacity building of the DOF together with the Sil-

vaCarbon Program and the World Bank to prepare for the emissions reduction monitoring scheduled for 2022 and 2025. As REDD+ Results-Based Payment becomes closer to reality, we hope that forest conservation in Lao PDR will be further expedited.

*1: FCPF (Forest Carbon Partnership Facility). A REDD+ fund administered by the World Bank as the trustee. The Carbon Fund of the FCPF plans to provide Results-Based Payment to 18 countries. <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/country/lao-pdr>

*2: The project supports forest conservation in three northern provinces in order to realize REDD+ Results-Based Payment by the FCPF Carbon Fund. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/project/fp117>

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

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

◆ Preparation for the UNFCCC Technical Analysis

Output 3: Support National REDD+

◆ Preparation of Funding Proposal, southern region

consultation and field survey for the GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payment

Submission for Safeguards report to UNFCCC (<https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=lao>)

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

◆ Completed

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

Events in the Next Half Year

April-June

- National consultation on the draft Forest Strategy 2030 under FSSWG framework
- Introductory trainings and implementation of the PDMS implementation in I-GFLL provinces
- Finalization of the UNFCCC's MRV Technical Analysis Report
- Continuation of improvement of forest degradation and restoration monitoring

July - September

- Final Joint Coordinating Committee meeting
- Project closing



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Ministry of
Agriculture and
Forestry



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