

# F-REDD Newsletter

## Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project

Nov. 2015 - Jan. 2022

### 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 Sub-Sector Working Group (FSSSWG) held in September 2021

The Round Table Meeting (RTM), held once a year, is the highest forum for policy dialogue between the Government of Laos (GoL) and development partners. The RTM process has a three-fold structure. Under the RTM there are 10 Sector Working Groups (SWG) covering all sectors; one of them is the SWG on Agriculture and Rural Development (SWG-ARD). The Forestry Sub-Sector Working Group (FSSSWG) is one of the sub-sector working groups under the SWG-ARD, open not only to concerned government agencies but to multi- and bi-lateral cooperation agencies, NGOs, CSOs, and other organizations. Each WG is co-chaired by a representative from the GoL and a development partner. The FSSSWG's co-chairs are the Director General of the Department of Forestry and the Senior Representative of JICA Laos Office. F-REDD supports the Planning and Cooperation Division, which is the FSSSWG's secretariat, in setting the meeting date, agenda, and other matters.

Due to restrictions resulting from prevention measures for COVID-19, the FSSSWG meeting was held on 3 September 2021, almost one year and three months after the previous meeting in June 2020. The main agenda item was the draft of the Forestry Strategy 2030 (FS

2030), which is to replace the FS 2020, and a presentation was done on the outline of the draft FS 2030. After the presentation by the Department of Forestry, the discussions focused on forest cover changes for the last 20 years, the main causes of the changes, future forest policies, new goals, targets, and programs. The participants had a lively exchange of opinions on other agenda items including the progress in the negotiations of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement for the EU's Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and on REDD+. Incorporating the comments received through the FSSSWG, the draft FS 2030 will be updated and distributed for another round of consultation by the GoL and development partners for its finalization by early September and submission to the cabinet meeting for approval in late October. F-REDD will support the secretariat in collecting comments, along with independently exchanging opinions on the structure and content of the draft FS 2030.



Photo: The FSSSWG

## UNFCCC technical analysis of the REDD+ MRV<sup>1</sup> is now complete

The REDD+ results<sup>2</sup> of Lao PDR, which were submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in July 2020, were accepted after a six-month technical analysis by the UNFCCC that started in November 2020<sup>3</sup>. The UNFCCC confirmed Laos' achievement of an emissions reduction of approximately 12.8 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e and increased removals of 1.9 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e for 2015-2018. Lao PDR is the twelfth country globally and the third country in Southeast Asia, after Malaysia and Indonesia, to achieve this milestone, demonstrating the country's strong commitment to REDD+.

F-REDD, which was responsible for providing technical assistance, was able to support the entire REDD+ MRV process very efficiently by leveraging its experience in the technical assessment of Reference Emission Levels (RELs) back in 2018-2019. By building on this experience with Lao PDR, we hope JICA's support for REDD+ countries makes further progress.

\*1: A system to carry out the Measurement, Reporting, and Verification of the results of greenhouse gas emissions reduction and removals.

\*2: See Vol. 17 and Vol. 18.

\*3: Disclosed under the UNFCCC REDD+ Web Platform.

(<https://redd.unfccc.int/submissions.html?country=laos>)

## First NFMS TWG meeting convened and three sub-groups launched

F-REDD is supporting the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) of Lao PDR. Since the scope of NFMS can be broad, reflecting each country's circumstances, Lao PDR has planned to start by building the capacity needed for REDD+ MRV and then gradually expanding to link with other activities such as forest monitoring and safeguard monitoring. To facilitate this kind of gradual expansion, the REL/MRV Technical Working Group (TWG) has been reorganized into the NFMS TWG, under which three new sub-groups on MRV, Forest Monitoring, and Data Management have been established.

In line with this new structure, the first NFMS TWG meeting was held on July 29. In addition to the presentation of each sub-group's work plan, there was a report on the results of the UNFCCC REDD+ MRV technical analysis, the status of preparations for the FCPF

Carbon Fund MRV in 2022, and a presentation on the forest area analysis by FAO. One day was not enough for the lively exchange of ideas and discussions. With various contributions and support from the partners, the NFMS in Laos will evolve further.



Photo: The first NFMS TWG meeting

## 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
- ◆ Hold the FSSSWG
- ◆ Support for formulating a draft Prime Minister's decree on the Management of Protected Forests

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

- ◆ Support for implementation of the NFMS roadmap, including improvement of the accuracy of forest degradation and reforestation monitoring
- ◆ Update NFMS web-portal
- ◆ Improvement of the provincial deforestation monitoring system (PDMS) and preparation for expanding to other areas.

### Output 3: Support National REDD+

- ◆ Support for GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payment
- ◆ Support for the launch of the NFMS TWG and the convening of the first NFMS TWG
- ◆ Support for updating the Laos REDD+ web-portal
- ◆ Support the formulation of a draft regulation on forest carbon trading by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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

- ◆ Completed

## 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 Half Year

### October - February

- Support for GCF REDD+ Results-Based Payment
- Capacity building training for the future of NFMS, etc.
- Final Joint Coordinating Committee meeting
- Project closing



MAF  
Ministry of  
Agriculture and  
Forestry



Japan International  
Cooperation Agency