

# F-REDD 2 Newsletter

The Project for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management in  
Collaboration with REDD+ Programs and REDD+ Funds  
Feb 2022 - Jan 2027

## The Project for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management in Collaboration with REDD+ Programs and REDD+ Funds (F-REDD 2)

The F-REDD 2 was formulated under the Government of Laos and JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency), aiming to support access to and the implementation of REDD+ results-based payments, to strengthen the capacity for sustainable forest management through the implementation of the Forest Strategy 2035, and to further promote the implementation of REDD+ actions.

## Launch of The Project for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management in collaboration with REDD+ programs and REDD+ funds (F-REDD 2)

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has been providing support to the forestry sector in Laos PDR. Since 2014, the Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project (F-REDD) has supported a wide range of initiatives with synergistic effects, from the central government to local governments, and from policy support to forest information management and field-level activities.

In February 2022, the Project for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management in Collaboration with REDD+ Programs and REDD+ Funds (F-REDD 2) was launched to support access to and the implementation of funds from the Green Climate Fund (GCF), to strengthen the capacity for sustainable forest management through the implementation of the Forest Strategy 2035 (Note [1]), which is a future priority for the Lao PDR forest sector, and to further promote the implementation of REDD+ (Note [2]) actions.

On March 17 of the same year, the first Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) (Note [3]) Meeting was held as the kick-off meeting for F-REDD 2. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Sousath SAYAKOUMMANE, Director General of the Department of Forestry (DOF) and Mr. Toshio NAGASE, Chief Representative of the JICA Laos Office. It was attended by 22 participants, representing JCC members and concerned agencies such as the DOF, other line ministries and institutes, the Provincial Agriculture and Forest Office of Savannakhet, JICA Laos Office, Embassy of Japan (online) and the F-REDD Project (with some international experts joining online). At the JCC Meeting, an outline of F-REDD 2 was presented, questions were asked and discussions

held, and JCC members agreed to start the implementation of F-REDD 2.

It was decided to have quarterly meetings in the future to regularly share progress and issues of F-REDD 2 between related parties. The first quarterly meeting was held on June 13, 2022.

[1] The Forest Strategy 2035 is the strategy currently being developed. The draft strategy sets forth the vision of restoring forest cover to 70%, managing and developing forest resources, protecting biodiversity, conserving watersheds, improving environmental quality, and mitigating global warming.

[2] REDD+ is an aid mechanism by which international society provides economic incentives to developing countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

[3] The JCC is a forum for making decisions and creating and approving plans in F-REDD 2.



The 1st JCC Meeting in Vientiane

## 2022, a crucial year for the Lao MRV and NFMS

As part of the requirements of the FCPF (Note [1]), Carbon Fund Emissions Reduction program, this year Lao PDR will submit the first Emission Reduction Monitoring report, which will outline the emission reductions and removals enhancement measured in six northern provinces during the monitoring period of 2019-2021 in comparison with the reference period of 2005-2015. This effort, designated as the first MMR (Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting), is similar to MRV (Measurement, Reporting and Verification). F-REDD 2 provides direct support to the Department of Forestry (DOF), particularly the Forest Inventory and Planning Division (FIPD), which is in charge of updating the satellite image-based “Forest Type Map 2022” necessary for MMR. This map is being completed with priority given to the six northern provinces and will cover the whole country later this year for the purpose of the national MRV. F-REDD 2 is also facilitating discussions with the World Bank, the DOF (REDD+ Division), and the Silva-Carbon program (US) to consider Technical Correction to the reference level by bringing in new approaches and up-to-date techniques. The report is due in December 2022.

In order to coordinate the initiatives for NFMS development, including MRV, forest monitoring, and data management components, the 3rd National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) Technical Working Group Meeting was held on June 9. In addition to the presentation

of each sub-group’s work plan, there were additional presentations from Dr. Chittana from the Faculty of Forestry Science of National University of Laos on forest fire mapping, from the Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) on community-based fire management under their FLOURISH project in Bokeo and Xayabouly, and from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) on Forest Foresight about an early warning system for early detection and predicting deforestation.

[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> (external site)



The 3rd NFMS Technical Working Group (TWG) Meeting

## Expectations for the GCF REDD+ results-based payment

The Green Climate Fund (GCF) was established in 2010 as a UNFCCC fund to support developing countries in their efforts to combat climate change. One of the programs supported by the GCF is the REDD+ Results-based Payment Program (Note [1]). Following the completion of the first phase of the Program, the UNFCCC is currently preparing to launch its second phase in 2022.

Lao PDR has been listed as a “pipeline country” following the submission of a concept note in September 2020. Drafts of the funding proposals as well as annexes on safeguards and gender, which are necessary for future application, are also being prepared. The Government of Laos and JICA have agreed that JICA will be the GCF Accredited Entity (i.e. applicant of the funding proposal) for the Lao PDR in applying for the Program.

With expectations for the launch of the second phase of the Program, a JICA mission visited Vientiane in June for discussions with Lao PDR. This was the first visit to Vientiane in two and a half years, since January 2020, before COVID-19 struck the world.

Since there has been a period of interruption in the preparation of the Funding Proposal and some personnel changes as well at the Lao Department of Forestry (DOF) during that time, F-REDD 2 organized a refresher meeting prior to the JICA mission to take stock of the process taken through the present and the content of the application.

During the subsequent two-day mission on June 16 and 17, both the DOF and JICA confirmed their strong desire to apply for GCF REDD+ results-based payment and the envisaged process.

GCF REDD+ results-based payment is an important opportunity for Lao PDR to further advance forest conservation. F-REDD 2 will support Lao PDR to obtain this opportunity.

[1] <https://www.greenclimate.fund/redd> (external site)



JICA mission and DOF meeting for GCF REDD+ results-based payment

## Kick-off Meeting of F-REDD 2 in Savannakhet Province

F-REDD 2 supports institutional set up and capacity building for REDD+ implementation in Savannakhet Province. At the start of F-REDD 2, a kick-off meeting was held for officials from the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) and District Agriculture and Forestry Office in Savannakhet Province. First, the progress of REDD+ in Laos was introduced, then the F-REDD 2 activities and work plan were explained for discussion and comment.

Until now, JICA technical cooperation in the forestry sector has been implemented mainly in northern Laos, but this is the first time that a project will be implemented in central and southern Laos. In Savannakhet Province, the expansion of the cultivation of cash crops such as cassava is leading to deforestation in conservation forest areas, and the meeting presented an opportunity to hear about the high expectations and interest of provincial- and district-level officials on the issue.

The kick-off meeting was co-chaired by the Deputy Director General of the Department of Forestry (DOF) and the Deputy Director General of the PAFO. Counterparts from the DOF at the central level introduced REDD+ and explained the outline of F-REDD 2. The Lao counterparts took the initiative in project management; we look forward to the implementation of activities under Laos' ownership.



F-REDD 2 Kick-off Meeting in Savannakhet Province



Agricultural land conversion and deforestation near a National Conservation Forest Area

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