

# 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.

## Progress and future plan discussed at the 2nd JCC Meeting

The second meeting of the Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) was held on November 10, 2022 in Vientiane.

The purpose of this meeting was for the Government of Lao PDR and JICA to jointly review the progress and achievements made since project commencement in February 2022, as well as to discuss the plan for 2023. The meeting was co-chaired by Mr. Bounpone SENGTHONG, Deputy Director General of Department of Forestry, and Mr. Noriyuki ITO, Senior Representative of the JICA Laos Office. It was attended in person by approximately 30 participants representing JCC members, project counterparts and experts, with JICA headquarters and some project experts joining online.

Since the first year of F-REDD 2, activities have been moving in top gear. Support is being given for the revision of the Prime Minister's Decree on Protection Forests, the reporting of emission reduction results to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) Carbon Fund, the rolling out of the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) to a total of 14 provinces, and the preparation of a landscape management prototype for Savannakhet Province, all of which are underway. One merit of F-REDD 2 is its collaboration with

various donors and projects. In particular, since Laos transitioned to post-COVID-19 in May, opportunities for such collaborations have resumed in earnest; furthermore, the number of invitations to workshops abroad extended to F-REDD 2, together with the counterparts, have increased.

We are looking forward to providing our full support in 2023, which will be another breathtaking year, with tangible results in sight.



2nd JCC Meeting

## Promoting forest landscape management in Savannakhet Province

Lao PDR has three forest management categories: Conservation Forest, Protection Forest, and Production Forest. Forest management at the landscape level is considered an effective approach to protecting vast forest areas in a geographically-integrated way, with efficient use of limited human, financial, and operational resources.

F-REDD 2 supports institutional set up and capacity building for REDD+ implementation in Savannakhet Province ([https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/](https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/laos/028/news/general/220620.html)

[laos/028/news/general/220620.html](https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/laos/028/news/general/220620.html)). As a part of this support, work is progressing on setting up an institutional arrangement and developing a management plan prototype for a forest landscape which consists of two Conservation Forests and two Protection Forests in the province. The aim is to propose a concept and methods that enable the integrated management of multiple forest management categories adjacent to each other.

F-REDD 2 has already discussed the approach to prototype development and has agreed on general

steps regarding how to proceed. The prototype, for example, will include the zoning of areas for strict protection and for controlled use by local communities, as well as options for forest management activities.

In December 2022, forest rangers from the province and districts visited 16 sample villages around the targeted forest landscape to conduct a survey of the natural resource use and livelihood conditions of village residents. From the survey results, the Project will prepare potential activities that will improve the management of the targeted forest landscape and alternative livelihood options which reduce dependence on forest resources.



Interviewing in a target village

## Remarkable progress made in the Lao Emissions Reduction Program in 2022

On December 20, 2022, Lao PDR completed and submitted the Emission Reductions Monitoring Report to the Carbon Fund of the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). This report, through the first Measurement, Monitoring, and Reporting (MMR) effort, compares emissions and removals in the six northern provinces during the monitoring period of 2019-2021 with the reference period of 2005-2015.

F-REDD 2 worked with the Department of Forestry (DOF) in the implementation of the MMR and production of the final report. For example, technical support was provided to the Forest Inventory and Planning Division (FIPD) to update the satellite image-based “Forest Type Map 2022”, from which activity data are estimated through a sample-based estimation approach. Activity data that illustrate forest cover changes are then multiplied with an emission factor to calculate emissions and removals. F-REDD 2 also helped the DOF in coordinating with the World Bank, which is the trustee of the FCPF, and collaborating with partners such as Silva Carbon.

In line with the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement signed with the Carbon Fund in December 2020, Lao PDR is aiming to generate and sell emissions reductions in the amount of 3,400,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>e<sub>q</sub> for the

period of 2019-2021. The revenue will become the source for funding activities of the “Governance, Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods in Northern Lao PDR Project”.

During the first half of 2023, the Emissions Reductions Monitoring Report will be reviewed by a third-party entity. F-REDD 2 will continue to work beside the DOF on this review process to unlock the long-awaited results-based payment.



Interpretation work by the FIPD to estimate activity data from the Forest Type Map 2022

## Scaling up of the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System across Lao PDR

F-REDD 2 has developed a satellite-based Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) as a tool that uses satellite imagery to monitor deforestation and to strengthen forest monitoring. F-REDD 2 has also worked towards strengthening monitoring methods and the implementation structure at the provincial and district levels. As a result, the number of provinces implementing the PDMS is increasing.

In collaboration with the I-GFLL project, which is sup-

ported by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and GIZ, F-REDD 2 provided technical training and implementation follow-up on the PDMS to three northern provinces (Luang Prabang, Houaphan and Sayaburi) in 2022. As a result, around 300 cases of deforestation were reported from January to September 2022. In November, the PDMS was also introduced in the remaining three northern provinces (Bokeo, Luangnamtha and Oudomxay) using funds from the World Bank. Now, all

six northern provinces under the FCPF Carbon Fund Emission Reduction Programme (GFL) have the system in place.

From 2023 onward, through collaboration with other donor projects, the PDMS will also be introduced to the central provinces (Savannakhet, Vientiane, Bolikhamxay, Xaysomboun and Xiengkhouang) and the southern provinces (Champasak and Attapu). This will bring the PDMS presence to 14 out of 17 provinces across Lao PDR.



PDMS training for province and district forest officers

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