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.

The review of third-party VVB has begun for the realization of performance

Through cooperation with F-REDD 2, Laos submitted an Emissions Reductions Monitoring Report to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Carbon Fund, in December 2022, to present the results of implementation of the Lao Emission Reductions Program （Note [1]). The Validation and Verification Process by third-party Validation and Verification Body (VVB) officially started in May 2023.

This Validation and Verification Process involves a rigorous review process where the accuracy of the emissions reductions estimated and reported to the FCPF Carbon Fund by Lao PDR. The estimation methods must satisfy internationally acknowledged technical standards, such as the IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories and the GFOI Methods and Guidance Documentation (MGD) for REDD+, and be in compliance with the set of requirements of the Carbon Fund. The data used and the results of the estimation must be fully transparent, so that the VVB is able to reproduce the same results. The review process can take at least six months to complete, and may take more than a year in some countries, so it is not an easy road.

To address this review process, the Department of Forestry (DOF) created a team led by the REDD+ Division and Forest Inventory and Planning Division. F-REDD 2 will support the team in overall coordination and also provide technical back-stopping. Since the previous project, F-REDD, JICA has consistently supported Lao PDR's ER Program from the conceptual stage. F-REDD 2 will continue to provide dedicated support by fully utilizing its knowledge and experience.

[1] The FCPF is a trust fund for REDD+ administered by the World Bank. The Carbon Fund intends to provide results-based payment to 18 countries. For more information on Laos, click here.

Analyzing the forest area. Mutual learning of DOF staff has also been progressing.

On-site verification of the analysis results through satellite imagery.

The PDMS is being expanded to central and southern Laos.

Under F-REDD, the Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) was developed; using satellite imagery, the PDMS strengthens the monitoring methods and implementation system to enhance forest monitoring. As reported in the previous Project News, the PDMS had been deployed in six provinces of northern Laos; since then, in collaboration with the World Bank and the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the PDMS has been extended to central and southern Laos and is being deployed in 10 of the 18 provinces of Laos.

PDMS introductory training was first conducted in January 2023 in Savannakhet Province in central Laos. Following this training, monitoring teams were established in each of the target districts of F-REDD 2 and the World Bank's Lao Landscapes and Livelihoods Project. With this, the full-scale operation of the PDMS has commenced in Savannakhet. Further introductory training is planned for four additional provinces in October and November, at the end of the rainy season.

In February 2023, in cooperation with the WWF's Forest Restoration for Resilience and Development (FORRED) project, another PDMS introductory training was conducted for the National Park Office, which manages Xe Pien National Park in southern Laos, and provincial and district officials from the provinces of Champasak and Attapeu. Subsequently, both F-REDD 2 and the FORRED project are implementing the forest monitoring activities, and F-REDD 2 is also providing technical follow-up support.

F-REDD 2 has received continuous positive feedback, with PDMS users saying that they can more accurately assess the deforestation situation using satellite images and that the PDMS is easy to use and very user-friendly. At the same time, as users have become more familiar with using the system, they have also made some suggestions for improving the questionnaires for field surveys. Moreover, consideration also needs to be given about how Laos can utilize the accumulating store of data to more effectively enforce the law and control illegal activities. F-REDD 2 will discuss these issues with our counterparts and further develop the PDMS to strengthen forest law enforcement in Laos.

PDMS introductory training for forest officers
in Xe Pian National Park.

Using the PDMS to identify forest clearance sites
in Xe Pian National Park.

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