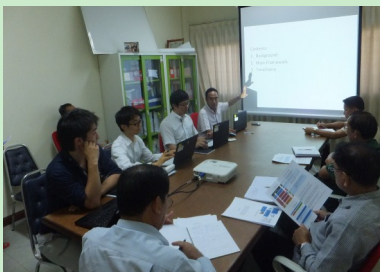NFI pilot survey

Output 3: Support to the national REDD+

This component supports development of national strategies and institutions for REDD+, and also strengthens the capacity of the government to manage and coordinate REDD+ at the national level. In coordination with other development partners, formulation of national REDD+ strategy, steering of NRTF and the six Technical Working Groups, and realization of Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) (a bilateral mechanism advocated by Japan aimed at supporting low carbon development), are the areas to be supported. Through these support, Lao PDR will be able to advance in its REDD+ readiness, implementation, and meet the requirements for receiving and distributing carbon benefits.

<Activities supported in Output 3 >
- Technical inputs to the national REDD+ policies and institutions.
- Support to the coordination role of DFRM and DOF in national REDD+.
- Indirect support to the introduction of JCM-REDD+ in line with its progress.

Meeting on REDD+ policies with the implementing agency staff

Output 4: Support REDD+ readiness in Luang Prabang Province

Luang Prabang Province is located in the northern mountainous region and affected by serious deforestation and forest degradation mainly caused by slash and burn agriculture and infrastructure development. In order to address such issues, Output 4 supports the province to be able to implement REDD+. For example, institutional structure, provincial REDD+ strategy, forestry policies and forest monitoring will be the main issues to be supported, so that the province can become 'REDD+ ready'. The foundation to expand PAREDD Approach - a participatory land and forest management approach developed by PAREDD Project as a measure to mitigate deforestation - will be also strengthened.

< Activities supported in Output 4 >
- Establishment of institutional framework for implementing REDD+ in the province.
- Piloting of priority forestry policies related to REDD+.
- Development and operationalization of forest monitoring in the province.
- Enhancement of cooperation on REDD+ between the central level and provincial level.
- Strengthening of the foundation to expand PAREDD Approach to other areas in the province.

Land under slash and burn agriculture in Luang Prabang

Lao PDR Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project

1. Background of the Project

The forest cover rate in Laos, which was more than 70% in 1940's, dropped to 40% in 2010 due to infrastructure development, such as hydropower, mining, and road, and conversion to agricultural land attributable to population increase and expansion of commercial crop production. In response to such serious deforestation and degradation of forests, the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) formulated the "Forestry Strategy to the year 2020" (FS2020) with the goal of restoring the forest cover rate to 70% by 2020. In addition, recognizing REDD+ as an opportunity for forest conservation and generation of benefits for local people, the GoL established the National REDD+ Task Force (NRTF) and has been working on various elements of REDD+.

Meanwhile, the institutional reform in 2011 saw the Department of Forest Resource Management (DFRM) of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) adopting the administration of Protection Forests and Conservation Forests, while the Department of Forestry (DOF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) continues to administer the Production Forests and other forests. In one way, this institutional reform responded to the developing needs of forestry sector, but it also caused some challenges, such as unclarity over division of forest management responsibilities, and an imbalance in the number of personnel in the respective authorities. Furthermore, capacity building of forest management of local level agencies is also in urgent need.

While REDD+ requires accurate information of forest resources, for example through use of satellite imagery, GoL is still limited in its capacity to gather, analyze and adequately use such data for REDD+. This is another area which the country needs further improvement.

Against such background, the purpose of the Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project (F-REDD), is to strengthen 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 level (Luang Prabang as the pilot province).

2. Project summary

Luang Prabang

Project Term:
Nov 2015 - Oct 2020

Implementing Agency:
MONRE-DFRM, MAF-DOF

Project Site:
Vientiane Capital,
Luang Prabang Province

Vientiane

3. Project objective and the four outputs

Project objective

The objective of the project is to strengthen the capacity for sustainable forest management through incorporation of REDD+ into the sector strategy and improvement of forest resource information.

Output 1: Support the forestry sector at the central level

This component supports formulation and implementation of forestry policies, as well as promotion of sector coordination at the central level. The "FS2020", is expected to be revised by reflecting the changing environment of the sector and to become a new mid-to-long-term sector strategy. The revision of Forest Law is currently under debate. Through series of technical support and capacity development activities, the implementing agencies at the central level will be enhanced in their ability to formulate and implement forestry policies. At the same time, support will be provided to promote sector coordination. Thereby, the basis for sustainable forest management will be strengthened.

< Activities supported in Output 1 >
- Revision of the FS2020 which defines the forestry policy and goal.
- Development of other key regulations and policies of the sector.
- Capacity building (e.g. trainings) on forestry policies/REDD+, participation in international conferences.
- Support to sector coordination.

illegal logging confiscated in Luang Prabang Province

Output 2: Support the measurement of emission reductions and/or removals as a result of REDD+ implementation

This component supports measurement of reduced emissions and/or enhanced removals of forest-related greenhouse gases, through the improvement of forest resource information and by using the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS). Technical and institutional aspects of NFI, FREL/FRL, MRV and NFMS will be developed in line with the international REDD+ requirements, such as those of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNNFCCC). The outputs from the past cooperation by Japan and other development partners will be further utilized. The results from this output will be used as the foundation for Lao PDR to report the progress and results of REDD+ implementation to the international community.

< Activities supported in Output 2 >
- Development of forest type maps for 2015 and 2018.
- Implementation of the 2nd National Forest Inventory (NFI) as the nationwide forest survey.
- Development of Forest Reference Emission Level/Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) which estimates the amount of future emissions and removals of forest-related greenhouse gases.
- Development of Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system to assess the results of REDD+ activities against FREL/FRL.
- Development and operationalization of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries) is a mechanism whereby the developed countries provides economic incentives to developing countries for the mitigation of greenhouse gas emissions adopted in the 2015 Paris Agreement under UNFCCC.