



LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity
ສະຫງວນ ພິ ດຣາ ສະຫງວນ

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Department of Forestry

Annual Review of REDD+ Activities in Lao PDR
2011

Vientiane
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
1. INTRODUCTION	5
1.1 Background	5
1.2 Purpose	5
1.3 Report Outline	5
2. NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION	6
2.1 Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF): State of REDD+ Readiness	6
2.2 Forest Investment Program (FIP)	8
2.2.1 Protecting Forests for Sustainable Ecosystem Service Delivery	9
2.2.2 Smallholder Forestry Project	10
2.2.3 Scaling-up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management	10
3. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL REDD+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES	11
3.1 Forest Strategy Capacity Development Program (FSCAP)	11
3.2 Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development Project (SUFORD)	12
3.3 Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD)	14
3.4 Sub-national REDD projects in Lao PDR by the Wildlife Conservation Society	17
3.5 Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation in Lao PDR (PA REDD)	19
3.6 Forest Information Management (FIM)	20
3.7 Forest Preservation Programme (FPP)	22
3.8 REDD+ Pilot in Xe Pian NPA by WWF	24
3.9 Study on the Strengthening of Methodological and Technological Approaches for Preventing Deforestation and Forest Degradation within the REDD+ Implementation Framework : Application in Lao PDR	25
3.10 Avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation in the border area of southern Laos and central Vietnam for the long-term preservation of carbon sinks and biodiversity (CarBi) (WWF)	27
3.11 Lowering Emissions from Asia's Forests (LEAF)	28
3.12 SNV-Lao PDR Assessment of Implementing a REDD project in Nam Xam National Protected Area, Huaphanh	30
3.13 Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD in Asia Pacific with RECOFTC	30
3.14 Linking Forest Communities in South East Asia to the Voluntary Carbon Market (FAO) TCP-RAS-3210	33
3.15 I-REDD	35

3.16	Using Forests to Enhance Resilience to Climate Change (CIFOR)	36
3.17	Making the Mekong Connected – Developing Carbon and Biodiversity Assets for Multi-functional Landscapes in the Upper Mekong	37
4.	AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES	38
4.1	National Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building Activities	38
4.2	Provincial Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building Activities	39
4.3	International Conferences	42
5.	INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES	45
5.1	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	45
5.2	REDD+ Partnership	46
ANNEX	POSITIONS ON REDD+ UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE NATIONAL REDD+ TASK FORCE	1

LIST OF TABLES

Table 2.1	FIP Financing Allocations and Cofinancing for Programs and Projects in Lao PDR	9
Table 2.3	Tentative Schedule for FIP Program Approvals and Milestones	9
Table 3.1	SUFORD Project Implementation	13
Table 3.2	List of Technical Assistance for the Forest Preservation Program	23
Table 4.1	National Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building	38
Table 4.2	Provincial Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building	39
Table 4.3	International Participation in Selected Conferences and Seminars by Lao delegates in 2011	43

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 2.1	Organogram of REDD+ Decision Making and Implementation	6
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ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AWG-LCA	Ad-hoc Working Group on Long term Cooperative Action
AWP	Annual Work Plan
AOP	Annual Operations Plan
CarBi	Carbon and Biodiversity program
C & I	Criteria and Indicators
CCBA	Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance (Standard)
CCO	Climate Change Office
ClIPAD	Climate Protection for Avoided Deforestation
CoC	Chain of Custody
CoP	Conference of Parties
CoP17	17 th Conference of Parties
CTS	Case Tracking System
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forestry Office
DFMU	District Forest Management Unit (DAFO)
DFRM	Department of Forest Resource Management
DIMEX	Department of Import and Export
DOF	Department of Forestry (MAF)
DOFI	Department of Forestry Inspection (MAF)
DOP	Department of Planning (MAF)
EGDP	Ethnic Group Development Plan
FCMS	Forest Cover Monitoring System
FDF	Forest (Resource) Development Fund
FIP	Forest Investment Program
FIPD	Forest Inventory and Planning Division (DOF)
FMA	Forest Management Area
FMP	Forest Management Plan
FPP	Forest Preservation Program
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GIZ	German International Cooperation
GIS	Geographical Information System
GVD	Grouping of Villages for Development
GVFO	Group of Village Forestry Organizations
HCV	High Conservation Value
HCVF	High Conservation Value Forest
IDA	International Development Agency
IFC	International Financial Cooperation
ITP	Industrial Tree Plantation
JICA	Japanese International Cooperation Agency
KfW	German Development Bank
LAN	Local Area Network
LEA	Lao Extension Approach
LEAF	Lowering Emissions from Asia's Forests
LEERS	Law Enforcement Reporting System
LKTS	Lesser Known Timber Species
LNFC	Lao National Front for Construction
LWU	Lao Women's Union
LWIA	Lao Wood Industry Association
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MDB	Multilateral Development Bank
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MFA	Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Finland
MIS	Management Information System
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MOF	Ministry of Finance
MOIC	Ministry of Industry and Commerce
MRV	Monitoring Reporting and Verification
NAFES	National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service (MAF)
NAFRI	National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (MAF)
NEC	National Environment Committee
NGPES	National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy
NPSC	National Project Steering Committee
NTFP	Non Timber Forest Product
NUOL	National University of Laos

Annual Review of REDD+ Activities in Lao PDR 2011
Department of Forestry, Lao PDR

PAREDD	Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation
PAFO	Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office
PFA	Production Forest Area
PFS	Provincial Forestry Service (PAFO)
PHI	Pre-harvest inventory
PM	Prime Minister
PROFOR	Program for Forests
PSFM	Participatory Sustainable Forest Management
PSP	Permanent Sample Plot
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Centre for Asia Pacific (now known as The Center for People and Forests)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation
REL	Reference Emissions Level
Sub-FMA	Sub forest management area
SPCP	Stakeholder Participation Consultation Planning
SUFORD	Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development Project
TA	Technical Assistance
TFESSD	Trust Fund for Program for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development
TFT	Tropical Forest Trust
TNA	Training Needs Assessment
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change
VBED	Village based enterprise development
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard
VD	Village Development
VDC	Village Development Committee
VDU	Village Development Unit
VFO	Village Forestry Organization
WB	World Bank
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) has become an important driver in project development in the forest sector over the past three years in Lao PDR, and 2011 was no exception. In 2009, pilot activities and new projects under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) sponsored mainly by bilateral government efforts were driving REDD+ project development in Lao PDR. In 2009, the Department of Forestry and REDD Task Force committed considerable time planning and preparing documents for donors to support future REDD+ activities in Lao PDR.

During 2011, a number of new projects and proposals were submitted to the Department of Forestry, however, the source of the proposals was not from bilateral donors, but from the private sector, NGOs and regional REDD+ programs. As a result, considerable capacity building was done throughout 2011 at national and provincial levels focusing on raising public awareness on REDD+, increasing the Lao Government's capacity to monitor and report forest information, and engage in stakeholder consultations.

There are several main achievements of the Department of Forestry and REDD+ Task Force in 2011 which deserve attention:

1. The reestablishment of the REDD+ Task Force to include new members
2. The Department of Forestry and REDD+ Task Force issued its plan for the future set up of the REDD+ office based on the R-PP. The REDD+ Office will remain under the Department of Forestry at a division level, in light of government restructuring.
3. Lao PDR submitted its Forest Investment Plan to the Forest Investment Program (FIP)

In addition, over **USD 90 million** in finance is either under implementation or planning in Lao PDR from a variety of multilateral, bilateral development partners, Non-governmental Organisations, and International Research Organisations. If regional projects are included, some **USD 120 million** of REDD+ projects are under planning or implementation. These projects and their activities are described in the report and summarised in the tables below.

Multilateral Development REDD+ Projects in Lao PDR

Project	Implementing institutions	Financing institutions	Timeframe	Finance (USD)
R-PP Preparation	DoF, REDD+ Task Force	World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	2010	200,000
R-PP Implementation	DoF, REDD+ Task Force,	World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	2011-2013	3.4 Million
Forest Investment Program FIP	DoF, DOFI, NAFRI, NAFES, DFRM, PAFO, DAFO, VFU	World Bank, Asian Development Bank, International Financial Corporation	2012-2017?	30 Million
Sub-total				33.6 Million

Bilateral Development REDD+ Projects in Lao PDR

Project	Implementing Institutions	Financing Institutions	Timeframe	Finance (USD)
FSCAP	DoF	JICA	2010-2014	2 Million
MRV Methodologies	DoF	Japan MAFF	2009-2012	1.8 Million
Forest Resource Information Management Center	DoF, (FIPD)	JICA	2010-2014	6 Million
SUFORD	DoF, DOFI, NAFRI, NAFES, PAFO, DAFO, VFU	Government of Finland, World Bank	2009-2012	20 Million
SUFORD (additional)	DoF, DOFI, NAFRI, NAFES, PAFO, DAFO, VFU	Government of Finland	2011-2012	2.5 Million
CliPAD TC	DoF, PAFO, DAFO	GIZ	2010-2012	2.65 Million
CliPAD TC (additional)	DoF, PAFO, DAFO	GIZ	To be programmed	2.65 Million
CliPAD FC	DoF, PAFO, DAFO	KfW	2011-2018	13.2 Million
PAREDD	NAFES, PAFO, DAFO	JICA	2009-2014	4 Million
Sub-total				54.8 Million

Non-Governmental Organisation REDD+ Projects

Project	Implementing Institutions	Financing Institutions	Timeframe	Finance (USD)
Nam Et Phou Louey REDD+ feasibility study	WCS, DoF, PAFO, DAFO	Blue Moon Fund, US Wildlife and Fisheries services	2010-2012	155,765
Xe Pian REDD+ Pilot	WWF, MNRE, DFRM, DoF, MoD	WWF, Öbf	2011-2012	137,000
Advancing Understanding of Natural Forest Carbon Stock Enhancement	SNV, DoF, PAFO, DAFO	German Government (BMU)	(2010-2014) In the pipeline	1.4 Million (with Vietnam)
Sub-total				1.7 Million

Regional REDD+ Projects in Lao PDR and Other Countries

Project	Implementing Institutions	Financing Institutions	Timeframe	Finance (USD)
Grassroots capacity building for REDD+ in the Asia Pacific	RECOFTC, DoF, NAFES, NUoL	NORAD	2010-2013	1.8 Million
Linking Forest Communities to the Voluntary Carbon Market in SE Asia (Regional)	FAO, DoF	FAO	2010-2012	474,000
I-REDD	University of Bern, CIFOR, NUoL	EU	2011-2014	3.3 Million
Lowering Emissions from Asia's Forests (LEAF)	Winrock, SNV, Climate Focus, DoF, PAFO, DAFO	US AID	2011-2015	20 Million
Making the Mekong Connected	ICRAF, NAFRI	GIZ, BMU	2009-2013	3 Million
CarBi	WWF, DFRM	German Government BMU, WWF Germany	2011-2014	2.53 Million
Using Forests to Enhance Resilience to Climate change	CIFOR, NAFRI, DoF, SUFORD	TFESSD with PROFOR	2011-2012	550,000
Sub-total				31.654 Million

These regional REDD+ projects report the gross value of the project distributed over a number of countries, and the national amount for Lao PDR is unavailable.

These projects provide important opportunities to develop and strengthen REDD+ in Lao PDR. The Lao Government restructured its ministries in 2011. Of relevance to REDD+, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE) was established, and under it, the Department of Forest Resource Management (DFRM). At this stage, REDD+ will remain under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, at the Department of Forestry. Nonetheless, the new government structure will mean additional REDD+ institutional strengthening directed at MNRE and its provincial offices will be needed in the near future.

In addition to national developments, Lao officials were active throughout 2011 within the international climate change negotiation processes, that led to important REDD+ decisions on safeguards, reference levels and financing at the 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) in Durban, South Africa.

The Department of Forestry would like to thank the following donors and organisations for assisting Lao delegates with financing that supported their participation in the numerous national, regional and international processes and meetings throughout 2011; Redd+ Partnership, Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO), German Technical Cooperation (GTZ), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), RECOFTC, REDD+ Partnership, Lao Institute for Renewable Energy, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Woods Hole Research Centre, and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) has become an important driver in project development in the forest sector over the past two years in Lao PDR. During 2009, REDD+ pilot activities and new projects under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) sponsored mainly by bilateral efforts, provided the basis for momentum in project development. In 2010, project activities financed through multilateral channels received more attention with Lao PDR named as one of the first pilot countries under the Forest Investment Program (FIP), as well as Lao PDR's agreement to join the REDD+ partnership. Furthermore, Lao PDR's R-PP was endorsed in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) Participants Committee meeting in October 2010. During 2011, regional REDD+ projects entered Lao PDR, further expanding the scope of the already present national bilateral and multilateral REDD+ projects. In addition some 9 private companies approached the REDD+ Task Force expressing interest in voluntary carbon market opportunities. Finally, the Forest Investment Program investment Plan was submitted and accepted by the FIP sub-committee in November 2011, achieving the Department of Forestry's (DoF) milestones for the year.

1.2 Purpose

The purpose of this report is to improve and facilitate communication and information on REDD+ and climate change activities related to forestry in Lao PDR between the Government of Lao PDR, project implementers and donors. This report aims to enhance internal communication within government departments by informing government officials on activities, reports and policy processes that are under implementation or planning for REDD+. The report also aims to enhance external communication by providing information useful for stakeholder decision making and share information and results between projects and interested parties. This is the third annual review of REDD+ activities since 2009.

1.3 Report Outline

This report is intended to give a broad overview of all work done on REDD+ in Lao PDR during 2011. Following this introduction, Section 2 reviews the outcomes of Lao PDR's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) and Forest Investment Program investment plan. Section 3 then reviews current bilateral, multilateral, regional and NGO project activities and reports which supported REDD+ development in Lao PDR throughout 2011. Section 4 of the report reviews REDD+ capacity building and awareness raising activities in Lao PDR, mainly driven by organisations financed by donors and NGOs. Finally, in Section 5, the international processes that are driving REDD+ will also be reviewed, especially with respect to Lao PDR's participation in the United National Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the REDD+ partnership and the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

2. NATIONAL REDD+ STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION

2.1 Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF): State of REDD+ Readiness

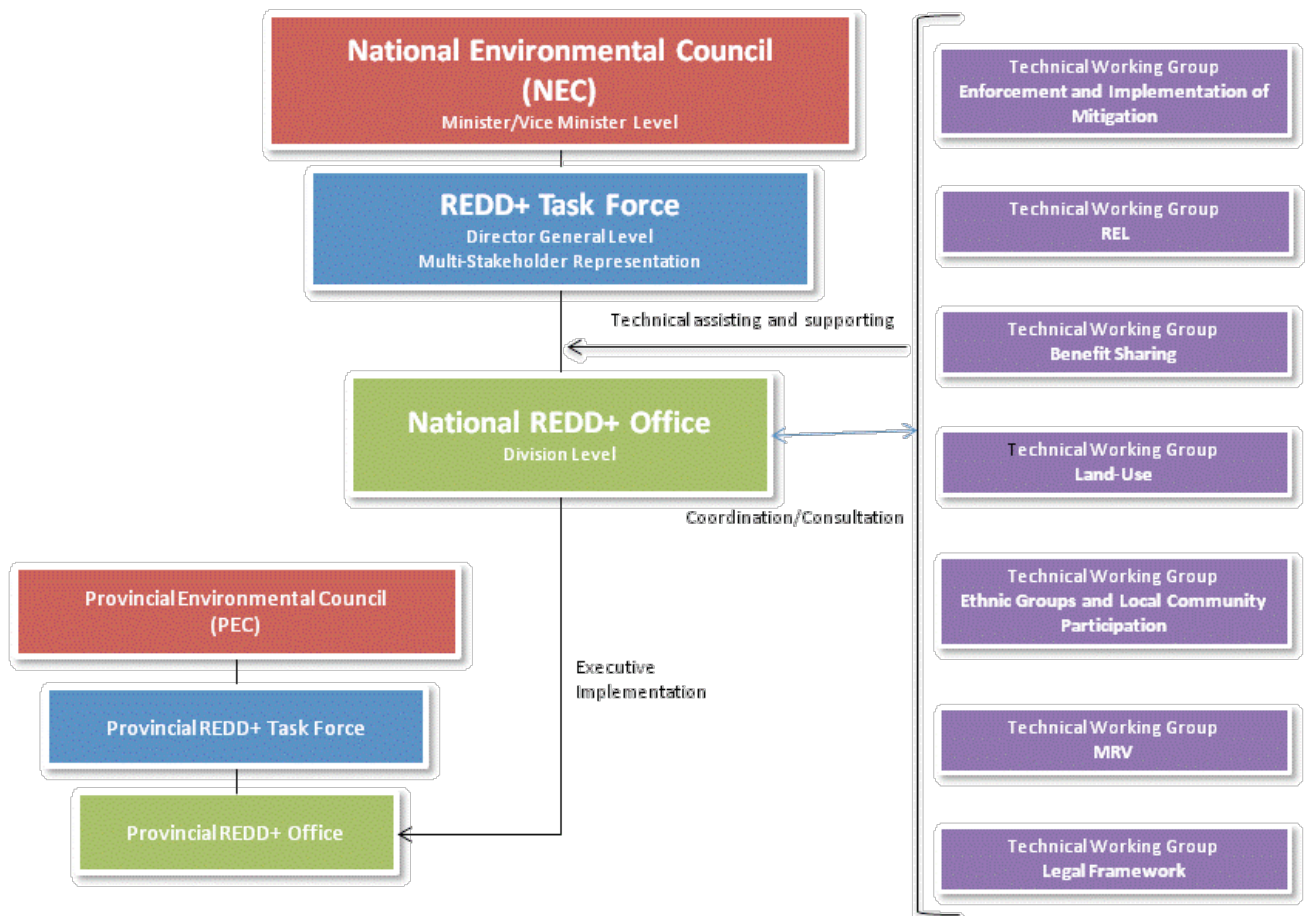
For further information, please contact Khamsene Ounekham: ounekham_k@yahoo.com or Ms Khamla Phonsavat: kphonsavat@worldbank.org.

STATUS: Under preparation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2011 onwards
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Department of Forestry, REDD+ Task Force
FINANCE: USD 3.4 Million World Bank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Lao PDR's R-PP was assessed by the FCPF at the 7th Participants Committee meeting in November 2010, a revised version of the R-PP was submitted to the FCPF in February 2011. Lao PDR was selected as a FIP pilot country (see next section for details) and the focus of 2011 was to complement the R-PP work plan with the FIP investment plan. Lao PDR submitted its R-PP progress report in February 2011 and the FCPF assessment note will be produced in February 2012.

The REDD+ Task Force was re-established in 2011 and expanded its inclusion of representatives from different ministries. The following organogram illustrates the roles and responsibilities of the various decision making and implementation bodies.

Figure 2.1 Organogram of REDD+ Decision Making and Implementation



Based on the organogram, the National Environment Committee (NEC) is at the ministerial level and has the role of a policy decision making body. The NEC is chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and its members of which are minister or vice minister level. The mandate of the NEC is to provide advice to the Government on decisions related to the environment and climate change issues.

The REDD+ Task Force is chaired by the Director General of DoF and includes government staff representatives from multiple ministries, civil society organisations and representatives from the private sector. The REDD+ Task Force's key role is to coordinate REDD+ activities in Lao PDR and consult between different stakeholders. Currently all REDD+ activities are coordinated, facilitated and promoted by the REDD+ task force which include:

1. Management of the FCPF process
2. Promotion and coordination of planning/implementation of REDD+ projects and pilots
3. Participation in and observation of the international climate change negotiations
4. Capacity building through workshops and seminars

The REDD+ Task Force will be empowered to establish a number of Technical Working Groups (TWG), including; Reference Emissions Levels (REL), Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV), Stakeholder Consultation, Land-use Planning, Carbon Registry, REDD+ Strategy, and others as required. The REDD+ Task Force will also support the establishment of similar structures at the provincial level in those provinces where REDD+ activities are taking place or are planned for the Readiness phase.

The REDD+ Task Force will be supported by the new REDD+ office to be formally established in 2012 with full time staff allocated to manage the implementation of REDD+ readiness activities funded by the FCPF.

In addition the REDD+ Office:

1. Coordinates and monitors other REDD+ related activities in Lao PDR
2. Monitor international negotiations and processes, such as the UNFCCC and REDD+ Partnership
3. Organise stakeholder coordination and implement the Stakeholder Participation and Consultation Plan (SPCP)
4. Prepare draft regulations for submission to the REDD+ task Force and National Environment Committee for consideration
5. Prepare detailed proposals for how different forms of REDD+ related funding will be managed and distributed
6. Develop a carbon registry
7. Prepare technical reports and progress reports for the REDD+ Task Force and NEC

The rearrangement of ministries and their departments will be clarified based on the National Conference Programs due in March 2012.

2.2 Forest Investment Program (FIP)

For further information contact Mr Khamsene Ounekham from Dept of Forestry: ounekham_k@yahoo.com, Ms Khamla Phonsavat: kphonsavat@worldbank.org, Mr Bouaphanh Phanthavong: phanthavong2020@hotmail.com

STATUS: Under preparation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2012 onwards
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry,
Department of Forestry
FINANCE: USD 20-30 million Forest Investment Program of the Climate Investment Funds through the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and International Financial Corporation

The FIP Sub-Committee met in November 2011 to review the Investment Plan for Lao PDR (Document FIP/SC.7/4) and endorsed the Investment Plan as a basis for the further development of the projects foreseen in the plan for USD 30 million in grant funding. In February 2012, Lao PDR submitted amendments and the plan is fully approved.

The document, and comments from the Sub-committee, can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/sites/climateinvestmentfunds.org/files/FIP%204%20Lao%20PDR%20IP.pdf>

The sub-committee approved a total of USD1 million in FIP funding as preparation grants for the following projects to be developed under the investment plan:

1. USD 500,000 for the project “Protecting Forests for Sustainable Ecosystem Services (PFSES)” (ADB); and
2. USD 500,000 for the project “Scaling-up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management (Scaling-up PSFM)” (World Bank).

The Sub-committee takes note of the estimated budget for project preparation and supervision services for the projects referenced above and approves a first tranche of funding for MDB preparation and supervision services as follows:

3. USD 245,000 for the project “Protecting Forests for Sustainable Ecosystem Services (PFSES)” (ADB); and
4. USD 245,000 for the project “Scaling-up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management (Scaling-up PSFM)” (World Bank).

A summary of the project and program concepts under FIP with their respective requested grant amounts, expected co-financing and preparation grant request is presented on the next page.

Table 2.1 FIP Financing Allocations and Cofinancing for Programs and Projects in Lao PDR

Project and Program Concepts under the FIP							
Program Project Concept Title	MDB	Requested FIP Amount USD million			Public/Private sector	MDB co-financing USD million	Preparation grant Request USD mill.
		Total	Grant	Loan			
Protecting Forests for Ecosystem Services	ADB	13.34	13.34	0	Public	20 + 20	0.5
Small holder forestry project	IFC	3.3	3.3	0	Public Private	10 (private sector loan)	0.3
Scaleing up PSFM	WB	13.33	13.33	0	Public	17.1 + 8.29 + 15	0.5
Total		30	30	0		90.39	1.3

The tentative schedule for program approvals and milestones is given in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2 Tentative Schedule for FIP Program Approvals and Milestones

Program Project Concept Title	FIP Sub-Committee Approval	MDB Board Approval
Protecting Forests for Ecosystem Services	June 2012	July 2012
Small holder forestry project	September 2012	October 2012
Scaleing up PSFM	May 2012	August 2012

2.2.1 Protecting Forests for Sustainable Ecosystem Service Delivery

This initiative will build on ongoing projects supported by Asian Development Bank (ADB), German International Cooperation (GIZ), Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and the German Development Bank (KfW), which are REDD+ related and will be implemented in both Watershed Protection Forest Areas (WPFA) and NPA areas.

Incremental FIP financing administered by ADB will support the following activities:

1. Piloting PSFM or co-management (in 2-3 WPFAs and 1-2 NPAs between which the BCC Project is creating connectivity)
2. Piloting village and smallholder forestry (in villages involved in the BCC Project), providing alternative more productive and remunerative farming systems to reduce areas used for shifting cultivation and allow secondary to continue growing and sequester carbon and restoring forest cover on denuded land where co-benefits from biodiversity and water conservation are secured.

3. Strengthening the legal, governance, incentives, and REDD+ framework (using bilateral grants and FIP grant coursed through ADB as the designated MDB)
4. Identifying forest outside the designated state forest areas with High Conservation Value and developing PES to ensure their protection
5. Implementing legal, governance, incentives, and REDD+ frameworks, using bilateral grants and FIP grant resources.

2.2.2 Smallholder Forestry Project

These will focus on developing alternative livelihoods for communities interested in engaging in smallholder forestry and are likely to be concentrated in areas where the selected private enterprises have been licensed to operate. Smallholders will be provided opportunities to participate in agroforestry models that are linked to private enterprise production and value addition operations. Participation of private enterprises will be limited to those that can meet GOL requirements and IFC engagement criteria, and participation of interested stakeholders. The projects will have the following components:

1. Industrial Tree Plantation (ITP) development; in concession areas funded by private industry directly or with IFC financial support (subject to IFC review and approval procedures).
2. Smallholder woodlot development (in partner villages of selected private enterprises based on agroforestry models)
3. Strengthening collaboration of communities with the private sector and capacity building at the farmer level
4. Support for farmer land ownership through PLUP, land allocation, and titling on a pilot scale (contributing to the enabling environment theme).

2.2.3 Scaling-up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management

This initiative will build on the experience of SUFORD which is currently being implemented in 18 PFAs located in 9 provinces and on GEF financed activities in 2 NPAs. The FIP supported project is expected to be implemented starting in 2013 with IDA and Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland co-finance and will expand PSFM coverage in PFAs and PAs and undertake piloting level activities in WPFAs. The project is expected to include the following components:

1. Participatory sustainable management of classified forests including: SUFORD financed PFAs plus additional PFAs (to be identified) in 4 provinces in Northern Lao PDR and in GEF4/GEF5 financed NPAs (5)
2. Pilot village land and forest management, covering selected village forests adjacent to PFAs and WPFAs identified under component 1.
3. Pilot smallholder forestry and village development, covering selected villages participating in PFA/NPA management (to be implemented in unclassified forest areas)
4. Developing and implementing legal, governance, incentives, and
5. REDD+ frameworks across all forest types with a focus on law enforcement, inter-ministerial coordination, and engagement of provincial authorities on land use planning and allocation.

3. NATIONAL AND SUB-NATIONAL REDD+ PROJECT ACTIVITIES

3.1 Forest Strategy Capacity Development Program (FSCAP)

For further information contact Mr. Kota Hiranuma (*khiranuma747@gmail.com*).

<p>STATUS: Under Implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2010-2014 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: Department of Forestry, Provincial Forestry Section, and District Agriculture and Forestry Office, Village Forestry Units FINANCE: USD 2 Million from the Japanese International Cooperation Agency FOCAL PROVINCES: Salavan</p>

The Forestry Sector Capacity Development Program (FSCAP) continues on from the Forestry Strategy 2020 Implementation Promotion Project (FSIP), which was completed in 2010. It works at the central government level with the Department of Forestry, focusing on capacity development and formulation and implementation of the Forest Strategy 2020 (FS2020) REDD+ and other activities. In addition, the FSCAP project works with Provincial Forestry Section and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices with capacity development and implementation of the 5 year plan and other plans that support the FS2020. Finally, FSCAP has activities that build capacity with Village Forestry Units (VFUs) in Salavan Province.

The overall goal of the FSCAP is to promote sustainable forest resource management in Lao PDR. To achieve the overall goal, the project has 2 focused objectives.

1. Improve the capacity for formulating plans, policies and institutional framework for forest sector management including REDD+.
2. Improve the capacity for managing the implementation of selected strategic policies identified as high priority. Specifically, the FS 2020, National Climate Change Strategy and the MAF 5 year plan (2011-2015)

The most important FSCAP activities that support the coordination of REDD+ related activities and preparation of REDD+ implementation include:

1. Stakeholder consultations such as Forestry Sub-Sector Working Group were conducted and Japan's projects (PAREDD, FIM, FPP etc.) were coordinated.
2. Institutional set up including mandate for REDD+ office and technical working groups for REDD+ implementation was prepared and proposed to NEC.
3. Provincial work plans in all provinces were formulated. Their complete implementation will lead to forest cover 65% in 2015 and contribute to REDD+ implementation.
4. Draft guideline for demarcation of 3 forest types in Luang Prabang was developed. This guideline should be improved and disseminated to all the provinces. This activity will be base for future activities such as land tenure, carbon registry and benefit sharing etc.
5. Draft guideline for establishment of village forestry unit (VFU) in Saravan was developed. This guideline should be improved and disseminated to all the provinces. Further collaboration with Village Forestry Organisations (VFO) will be important. They are expected to play the important role in REDD+ activities such as carbon registry, MRV and benefit sharing etc.

6. Support to Lao delegate participation in REDD+ regional and international meetings and conferences (e.g. COP 17 of the UNFCCC, REDD+ Partnership).

In addition to the draft guidelines and work plans drafted and developed in 2011 mentioned above, the FSCAP project has produced the Report for REDD+ institutional set up (in Lao language).

3.2 Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development Project (SUFORD)

For further information contact Mr Esa Puustjärvi (esa.puustjarvi@indufor.fi) and Ms Majella Clarke (majella.clarke@indufor.fi).

<p>STATUS: Under Implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2009-2012, (phase III in planning) IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: DoF, DOFI, NAFES, NAFRI, Provincial and District Forest Offices, Village Forestry Organisations/Units FINANCE: World Bank USD 10 million, Government of Finland USD 12 million FOCAL PROVINCES: Khammoune, Savanakheth, Salavan, Champasak, Xekong, Attepué, Bolikhamxay, Vientiane Province and Xayabouli</p>
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From 2003 to the present the Government of Lao PDR, assisted by the International Development Association (IDA) and the Government of Finland (MFA), has been implementing the Sustainable Forestry and Rural Development Project (SUFORD). The Development Objective of the project is to achieve the sustainable management of natural production forests to alleviate rural poverty. SUFORD provides support to forest policy formulation and reform, forest land classification and demarcation of natural production forests, investments in improving the management of production forests and village development on the ground, and broad technical advice, training, and capacity building. With respect to REDD+, the SUFORD project:

1. Facilitates intersectoral coordination and cooperation for equitable benefit sharing for local communities
2. Strengthens the impacts of PSFM through continued operational support to field implementation, improvements in forest management quality through better internal control and capacity building, and independent certification
3. Facilitates improved consultation with ethnic groups
4. Develops and implements a program on forest and wildlife law enforcement
5. Supports a REDD+ demonstration site in the Dong Sithuane PFA

Table 3.1 SUFORD Project Implementation

Province	No. of PFAs	No. of Districts	No. of Villages	Total PFA Area (ha)
Attepue	2	3	38	112 899
Vientiane	2	6	114	168 958
Bolikhamxay	2	4	43	157 775
Xekong	1	2	42	91 853
Xayabouli	1	3	74	95 224
Salavan	2	6	93	128 961
Savanakhet	2	5	78	210 456
Champsak	2	3	79	68 557
Khammoune	2	4	162	245 652
Total	16	36	723	1 280 335

The main REDD+ outputs from the SUFORD project for 2011 include:

Continued support to the Lao delegation to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change: includes preparation of national positions, regular briefings and reports for the REDD+ Task Force, Department of Forestry, Department of Forestry Inspection and Climate Change Office.

REDD+ demonstration site: Additional financing was received from the Government of Finland to support technical advisors for the development and testing of a REDD+ Monitoring, Reporting and Verification system, and the development and testing of a safeguards system.

List of REDD+ related reports/guidelines from 2011

- Sawathvong, S., Vesa, L. & Clarke, M. (2011) Providing Timber Supply from Natural Forests in Lao PDR: the Role of Mining and Hydropower Concessions. Conference Paper.
- DoF (2011) Annual Review of REDD+ Activities in Lao PDR 2011. SUFORD AF Project. Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- DoF (2011) Forest Cover Assessment 2010 Lao PDR. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- DoF (2011) Community Forestry and REDD+. Conference Paper delivered by Mr Sengrath on Community Forest Development in the Context of Climate Change, Kunming, China, June 6-17th, Division of Planning, Department of Forestry.
- Clarke, M. (2011) The Opportunity Cost of Natural Regeneration and Restoration in Champasak, Salavan, Savanakhet and Khammoune. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- DoF (2011) REDD+ Project Due Diligence. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR. (Under review)
- Clarke, M. (2011) Analysis of the Potential Carbon Value of Forest Restoration in Natural Production Forest Areas of Lao PDR. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- Clarke, M. (2011) Roadmap for Piloting Low Carbon Village Development Activities. Thapanthong District, Savanakhet Province. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR

- Clarke, M. (2011) Marginal Abatement Cost Curves for Forestry in Lao PDR. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR (under revision).
- Clarke, M (2011) Technical Report on Opportunity Costs and REDD in Salavan Province Lao PDR. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR.
- DoF (2011) Guidelines on the Establishment of Permanent Sample Plots. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- DoF (2011) Ethnic Group Participation Strategy – Implementation Approach. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR
- DoF (2011) Gender Mainstreaming Strategy – Implementation Approach. SUFORD AF Project, Department of Forestry, Vientiane, Lao PDR

3.3 Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD)

For further information on the GIZ Technical Component, please contact Mr Georg Buchholz georg.buchholz@giz.de or Mr Gabriel Eickhoff gabriel.eickhoff@giz.de. For further information on the KfW Financial Component, please contact Mr Dietmar Braetigam dietmar.braeutigam@gfa-group.de.

STATUS: Under Implementation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2009-2018 (first phase TC Module 2009-2012; FC Module 2011-2018)
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: MAF, DoF, Provincial and District Agriculture and Forestry Offices
FINANCE: GIZ (2.0 million EUR until 2012, additional 2 million EURO committed but not programmed yet), KfW (10.0 million EURO)
FOCAL PROVINCES: Sayaboury and Houaphan Provinces

The CliPAD Program is a development initiative by the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) supported by the German Government assisted by technical (through GIZ) and financial cooperation (through KfW) to address the loss and degradation of its natural forests causing high levels of greenhouse gas emissions, as well as to improve the livelihood of rural communities and to conserve its precious biodiversity. The overall goal of the CliPAD focuses on the development of suitable framework conditions and pilot models for effective forest conservation in and around NPAs on the basis of the international discussion on REDD+. This directly depends on good REDD+ framework conditions and joint development measures from a number of stakeholders.

The Technical Cooperation Module in particular aims at supporting the actors involved in forest conservation to develop suitable framework conditions and pilot models for effective national and sub-national forest conservation in and around NPAs on the basis of the international discussion on REDD+. To achieve this, the actors are supported in the following processes:

- Initiation of the national REDD+ policy dialogue and the development of a REDD+ regulatory framework,
- Consideration of the overall land use planning processes incorporating ecological services/values such as forest carbon and the potential for

payment for these by conducting village land use planning in Nam Phui via the PLUP procedure,

- Identification of local REDD strategies through conservation agreements/contracts and rehabilitation of pilot areas, as well as arrangements for user rights for local communities,
- Development of sustainable financing models for NPA including a business plan geared towards the emerging forest carbon market, identification of potential investment either from public or private funds as well as the development or update of a management plan for one NPA,
- Documentation and sharing of lessons learned for the international processes (e.g. REDD+ Partnership, UNFCCC) and conduction of the Impact oriented Monitoring and Evaluation system.

The Financial Cooperation Module will contribute to achieve overall program purpose by achieving its defined outcome to '*demonstrate the technical and economical feasibility of REDD in National Protected Areas (NPA) and adjoining areas, and involved authorities and communities receive performance based payments through a REDD benefit sharing and distribution mechanism*'. Its support will include targeted provision of technical and administrative advisory services, as well as investments into REDD readiness, carbon and benefit monitoring, NPA management, law enforcement, mitigation activities, as well as benefit sharing and distribution mechanism.

Main outputs and results of the Technical Cooperation Module from 2011 include:

- Introduction to multiple institutions of the core principles and practices of REDD+ concepts and policies through an extensive REDD+ training course at the national level.
- Support for establishment for the national institutional REDD+ framework
- Introduction and workshops on concepts of Reference Emission Levels (RELs); Measurement, Reporting and Verification; and other national REDD+ institutional systems,
- Coordination and input on a revised national land cover classification system,
- Introduction to key policy bodies on possibilities for a national nested approach, including the harmonization of current projects into the national REDD+ system,
- Establishment of formal collaboration between the Forest Inventory and Planning Division (FIPD) and key technical aspects of the CliPAD project MRV system,
- Facilitated and held workshop on the formal beginning of a process on revisions to the National forestry law,
- Development of Social Safeguards procedure on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with piloting at the sub-national level in the Sayaboury Province
- Development of CliPAD information material and REDD awareness material and participation at workshops to introduce and promote the programme and REDD+ in Laos,
- Support to a delegate from the Lao National Front for Reconstruction and Development to participate at COP17.

The Financial Cooperation Module started end of April 2011 with an initial inception phase of 6 months, during which important preconditions for its implementation have been achieved. Project infrastructure has been setup,

working modalities were established and existing project concepts and planning frameworks were harmonized with the TC module, as well as refined based on a thorough situation analysis and a sequenced and participatory process involving relevant authorities, partners and donor initiatives at national and local level. Main outputs so far include the Inception Report and the first Annual Work Plan, as a basis for implementation starting in December 2011.

Specific achievements of the Technical Cooperation Module related to the **Nam Phoui National Protected Area** include:

- Finalization of REDD+ Technical Feasibility Assessment on the sub-national implementation of the proposed demonstration activity,
- Support to the review and revision of the Nam Phoui National Protected Area Management Plan,
- Community Legal Education (CLE) campaign on the Forestry Law through University of Laos in Nam Phoui target villages
- Environmental awareness campaigns in Nam Phoui target villages and Elephant Festival in Sayaboury
- Implementing GIS and GPS training to support PLUP process in target districts and NPA
- Implementation of an updated, ground-based, Participatory Land Use Planning (PLUP) process for the purposes of REDD+ sub-national project implementation,
- Piloting of first season of agricultural extension activities through the field training and testing of BioChar,

Specific achievements of the Technical Cooperation Module related to the **Nam Et Phou Louey National Protected Area** (with WCS) include:

- Piloting of alternative livelihood development through improved livestock development in selected NEPL villages
- Development of a REDD+ Technical Feasibility Assessment on the sub-national implementation of the proposed demonstration activity in partnership with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS),
- Undertook joint-study on the drivers of deforestation and degradation in the Nam Et Phou Louey Landscape with WCS.

List of REDD+ related reports and guidelines from 2011

Integrating Conservation, Development and Participatory Protected Area Management - Lessons learned from Nam Phui, Nam Et Phou Louey and Hin Nam No

Antje Fischer
November 2010

Methodology Assessment on Forest Carbon Measurement at CliPAD Programme Sites - Report on Staff Exchange

Solichin
December 2010

Investigation of the Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Nam Phui National Protected Area, Lao PDR

Colin Moore, Jeremy Ferrand & Xaisavan Khiewvongphachan
April 2011

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in the Legal Context of Lao PDR
Manolinh Thepkhamvong (internal draft version to be finalized soon)

Biochar applications as a complementary approach for REDD in Laos
Bryan Hugill
October 2011

Technical Feasibility Assessment of the Nam Phui National Protected Area
REDD+ Project in Lao PDR
Colin Moore, Gabriel Eickhoff, Jeremy Ferrand & Xaisavan Khiewvongphachan
September 2011

Piloting Free, Prior and Informed Consent in Laos – FPIC Briefing
Katharina Goetze
October 2011

*Feasibility Study to develop a fire-derived emissions methodology in Nam Phui
NPA, Lao PDR*
Scott Alexander Stanley (internal draft version to be finalized soon)

Nam Phui National Protected Area – History, Ecology and Protected Area
Management
Antje Fischer
2011

Nam Et-Phou Louey National Protected Area – History, Ecology and Protected
Area Management
Antje Fischer
2011

Nam Phui National Protected Area – Brochure
Antje Fischer
2011

3.4 Sub-national REDD projects in Lao PDR by the Wildlife Conservation Society

For further information contact Mr. Colin Moore (cmoore@wcs.org), REDD
Technical Advisor, Wildlife Conservation Society – Lao PDR.

<p>STATUS: Under implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: March 2010- March 2012 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: Department of Forestry, Provincial and District Forest Offices FINANCE: USD 155,765 from the Blue Moon Fund and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service FOCAL PROVINCES: Houaphan Province, Bolikhamxay Province</p>

The Government of Lao PDR is currently working with the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) under the international *Convention on Biological Diversity* to plan for and manage two large landscapes under the *Program of Work for Protected Areas*. These landscapes are, i) the Nam Et Phou Loey National Protected Area (NEPL NPA) in north-eastern Laos and, ii) Bolikhamxay province in central Laos,

including the Nam Kading National Protected Area (NK NPA). Additionally, these two areas have been selected by the Lao PDR REDD Taskforce as two sub-national REDD demonstration priority sites. As such, WCS has collaborated with various partners to undertake feasibility assessments of both sites to determine how REDD projects focused on the voluntary carbon market might be developed and implemented to provide long-term sustainable financing for NPAs while achieving the “triple benefits” of, i) reducing deforestation and degradation, ii) conserving biodiversity, and iii) improving local livelihoods.

Beyond these feasibility assessments, WCS has supported and provided input to ongoing REDD policy discussions in Lao PDR, including possible amendments to the forestry legal framework and forest classification methods that better accommodate international REDD requirements.

Nam Et Phou Loey National Protected Area (with CliPAD)

Nam Et Phou Loey National Protected Area (NEPL NPA) ranks high in the Lao national protected area system for contributing the highest biological diversity of any protected area in the Northern Highlands region of the country and supports the most important tiger populations remaining in Indochina. In this landscape, WCS has provided technical and financial support since 2003 for the GoL to establish a management unit responsible for this 595,000 ha area.

During 2010 WCS entered into a partnership with the CliPAD program to assess the technical, operational and financial feasibility of a REDD project in the NEPL NPA to generate carbon finance from the voluntary carbon markets. Since then, a detailed analysis of the drivers of deforestation affecting the NPA was conducted, as well as a historical analysis of land cover changes using remotely sensed images. These important inputs are currently being used to assess the final feasibility of numerous REDD project scenarios focused in and around the NEPL NPA. Final results of the feasibility study, which will identify both the priority REDD activities and areas of intervention in the NEPL NPA, are expected end of 2011.

Bolikhambxay province in central Laos, including Nam Kading National Protected Area (NK NPA)

Bolikhambxay province in central Lao PDR, includes the Nam Kading National Protected Area (NK NPA), four provincial protected areas and another 617,369 ha of Watershed Protection Forest. The NK NPA, covering 1,570 km², contains the largest block of high quality dry evergreen forest remaining in Indochina and the provincial protected areas and watershed protection areas contain many unique Annamite endemics such as a recently discovered forest dwelling ox called the Saola. In this landscape, WCS has provided technical and financial support since 2005 for the GoL to train and employ over 80 NPA staff to engage in preliminary NPA land use planning and zoning, outreach and education, ongoing enforcement for natural resource protection and management, as well as monitoring of law enforcement and wildlife to measure compliance.

A pre-feasibility study conducted in 2010 indicated the NK NPA had a moderate potential of generating carbon finance through the voluntary carbon markets. The study showed that the implementation of the NK NPA Management Plan, supported by international donors, has been effective in reducing deforestation within the NPA to negligible levels (0.04% between the years 2005 – 2009). Further work is currently being done to resolve technical issues such as leakage

risks and the potential to identify a representative reference area before identifying the best strategy to develop both the NK NPA and the Nam Groung South Forest Protection Area as REDD demonstration activities. Decisions on a future strategy to develop these sites as REDD demonstration activities will be made during the first quarter of 2012.

3.5 Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation in Lao PDR (PA REDD)

For further information contact Mr Makoto Daimon daimonpa@gmail.com and Mr Namura Takayuki namura.takayuki@gmail.com.

<p>STATUS: Under implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 5 years from Aug 2009 to Aug 2014 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service, Provincial and District Forest Offices FINANCE: 4 million USD Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) FOCAL PROVINCE: Luang Prabang</p>

From August 2009, in cooperation with the government of Japan, the government of Lao PDR are implementing the Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation (PAREDD). PAREDD aims to develop an approach for reducing deforestation and forest degradation in Northern Lao PDR thorough participatory land and forest management. The developed approach is expected to contribute for REDD+ implementation in Lao PDR. After the launch of PAREDD, it was recognised that the environment surrounding REDD+ as the countermeasure for global warming is changing drastically. The government of Lao PDR also is accelerating its activities for constructing the domestic component of REDD+.

Under such circumstance the PAREDD project aims not only to develop an approach for reducing deforestation and forest degradation based on participatory land and forest management at village level. Simultaneously, the project aims to register a GHG reduction project under VCS programme in order to generate carbon credits at the project level.

PAREDD is operational in Houaykin Village Cluster, Phonsay District, Luang Prabang Province, located in and adjacent to Nam Pa National Protection Forest. The area is used specifically for REDD+ demonstration. In addition, the Houaykhot Village Cluster, Xiengngun District, Luang Prabang Province, located in Phu Chom Nge District Conservation Area.

There are three main outputs and results from PAREDD from 2011. Firstly, PAREDD has implemented agriculture and forest land zoning in 4 target villages in Xieng Ngun District. Secondly, PAREDD has completed surveys on the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation in Xiengngun nad Phonsay Districts, and finally, PAREDD has conducted sample plots surveys for biomass data in Xiengngun and Phonsay districts.

There have been several REDD+ reports and manuals produced under the PAREDD project in 2011. These are:

1. 1st draft of manual on planning stage of PAREDD approach (mitigation approach for deforestation and forest degradation at village level).
2. Report of forest change factor study for PAREDD project

The REDD+ demonstration activities that have been planned for the following years include:

- Development of Referential Emission Level including forest cover change analysis with satellite image processing and development of biomass extension factor and allometric equation for estimation of forest carbon stock.
- Development of the methodology for community carbon monitoring
- Preparation of Project Document for validation as REDD+ project under VCS for March 2013.

3.6 Forest Information Management (FIM)

For further information contact Hideto Yamazaki (hideto_yamazaki@kk-grp.jp) for program, Masamichi Haraguchi (masamichi_haraguchi@kk-grp.jp) for technical.

STATUS: Under Implementation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2010 (July)-2013(Mar)
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: DOF/FIPD (Forest Inventory Planning Division) and Kokusai Kogyo Co.,Ltd.
FINANCE: 475 million YEN: Grant Aid managed by JICS (Japan International Cooperation System) and basic design by JICA
FOCAL PROVINCES: Whole Provinces (National Level) but Luang Prabang for feasibility study with PAREDD

The objective of the program is to improve the system for forest information management in order to contribute to sustainable forest and land management as well as to mitigate climate change through establishing the ability for development and management of forest base maps using multiple satellite information. The program proposes several important tasks to achieve the program objective:

- Establishment and construction of Forest Resource Information Centre
- Procurement of equipments for Forest Information Management, such as satellite imagery analysis, database development and sampling field surveys
- Capacity building to establish the system for Forest Information Management, data collection/analysis with remote sensing, GIS/database and filed survey

The expected outcomes from the program include providing the forest base map and related database for the implementation of national REDD program, and enhanced capacity building opportunities and training for government officials to support a Lao led process on REDD.

List of technical assistance activities are as below.

1. Satellite imagery and GIS analysis using LANDSAT imagery taken around 1990 and 2000 / (basic level: including conceptual lectures)
2. Satellite imagery and GIS analysis using SPOT 4 and 5 imagery taken around 2005 (intermediate level)
3. Satellite imagery and GIS analysis using multiple satellites such as ALOS, SPOT5 and Rapid Eye to be taken in 2010 (advanced level)
4. Field surveys planning and implementation necessary for the satellite imagery and GIS analysis to be taken in 2010
5. Development and management of the basic database on forestry throughout all of the technical assistance activities
6. Change detection by means of forest base maps to be developed in 2010 and ALOS imagery to be taken in 2011

Establishment and Construction of Forest Resource Information Centre:

The construction of the Centre is completed and the opening ceremony is held on December 6th, 2011 and FIPD is awarded from Lao government.

Procurement of equipments for Forest Information Management:

Almost all of the equipments, such as satellite imagery analysis, database development and sampling field surveys, are completed and setup/stored in FIPD/Forest Resource Information Centre. Satellite imagery, such as ALOS (PRISM, AVNIR-2 and PALSAR), RapidEye and SPOT of fiscal year 2010 are successfully collected and delivered. The available satellite imagery procured so far is listed as below.

Satellite		Year(Fiscal)	Area	License/Remark
ALOS	PRISM	2010	Whole country	Value-added license/ Processed imagery is free distribute
	AVNIR-2			
	PALSAR			
RapidEye		2010	Whole country	Single user license (DOF)/ cloud free
		2009	Luang Prabang	
SPOT		2010	14 scenes	Multiple user license (Three organization)
		2009	2 scenes (LPQ)	
		2005	Whole country	

Capacity building to establish the system for Forest Information Management:

The technical assistance activities 1 to 4 are completed and activity 5 and 6 are under implementation at the time of writing this report.

- Activity 1 is conducted as cooperation with AIT (Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand) as basic training for over 20 FIPD staffs in Lao PDR to enhance basic knowledge of remote sensing and GIS.
- Activity 2 is conducted as intermediate training for 3 leading engineers and 1 manager of FIPD in Japan for practical on the job training and preparatory study for 2010 forest base map development.
- Activity 3 is conducted with most of staffs of FIPD as on the job training at FIPD/Forest Resource Information Centre based on the knowledge and

experience acquired through Activity 1 and 2 using collected/procured satellite imagery and equipments, such as ERDAS IMAGINE, eCognition and ArcGIS. Draft version of forest cover map covering whole country is almost completed.

- Activity 4 is conducted with most of staffs of FIPD as on the job training at FIPD/Forest Resource Information Centre. About 2400 plots survey were planned and conducted by FIPD staffs (the member of remote sensing analysis). All the survey data are complied and reviewed (challenging issues) for satellite imagery analysis and forest field survey planning in fiscal year 2011.
- Activity 5 is being conducted with FIPD staffs and national consultant supervised by Japanese consultant. Prototype database called FoCAS (Forest Carbon Assessment System) to collect and management of field survey data is designed and developed. Prototype database for satellite and analysis data management to archive and search spatial data is also developed and operate.
- Activity 6 is being prepared currently. Pilot survey on scaling up the methodology for integration of satellite imagery for REDD is conducted by consultant and achieved tips for ortho-rectification and haze reduction and shared with FIPD staffs. Feasibility study of landcover change detection using PALSAR is prepared in Luang Prabang with cooperation of PAREDD.

List of REDD+ related reports/guidelines etc from 2011:

All the documents related to the technical assistance activities are under the final review of JICA and should be available soon (Draft version is available. Please ask contact person).

3.7 Forest Preservation Programme (FPP)

For further information contact Hideto Yamazaki (hideto_yamazaki@kk-grp.jp) for program, Masamichi Haraguchi (masamichi_haraguchi@kk-grp.jp) for technical.

<p>STATUS: Detail design is completed approved by DOF and MoNRE IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2012(February)-2015(Mar) IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: DOF, FIPD, PAFO, DAFO FINANCE: 1,000 million YEN: Grant Aid managed by JICS (Japan International Cooperation System) FOCAL PROVINCES: Whole Provinces (National Level) but Luang Prabang for REDD+ feasibility study with PAREDD</p>
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The objective of the Programme is to provide assistance in combination of equipment provision and technical assistance in order to improve the capacity of forest conservation, information technology utilization and implementation environment at the forestry sector of Laos at both local and central levels.

The expected outcomes are to:

1. Improve forestry management capacity of local governments technically and physically.
 - Develop forestry information and acquire necessary material and equipment for forestry study and develop human resources.

2. Improve forestry management capacity at DOF technically and physically.
 - Construct a prototype of database of protection forest and conservation forest.
 - Develop a dissemination system (web publishing system) of forestry information including GIS data.
 - Establish forestry information (Forestry Agency Reporting System) management network.
 - Acquire necessary material and equipment related to the above and develop human resources.
3. Enhance training skills of forestry related educational institutions.
4. Achieve complimentary technical assistance for the planning of protection forest management in light of REDD.

Table 3.2 List of Technical Assistance for the Forest Preservation Program

TA	Name of Service	Purpose
TA1	Instruction of Operation and Maintenance for Equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To transfer technologies on how to use equipment for forest survey • To conduct IT and GIS training to improve abilities on forest information management
TA2	Forest Information Network System Development & Training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To construct prototypes of protection forest and conservation forest database to manage forests in an integrated/efficient way • To construct a data distribution system using a map server to use the integrated data effectively in decision-making on policies
TA3	Development of Forestry Information (Forestry Agency Reporting System) Control Network System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To prepare an internet environment in specified PFS offices. • To implement DOF Reporting System on-site training in the specified PFS offices.
TA4	Supplementary Technical Support to PAREDD Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To set REL/RL in the PAREDD activity area by understanding REDD+ • OJT through everything from field surveys to RS/GIS analysis and data management.
TA5	Creation of a Guideline on Protection Forest Management Planning (Draft)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create guidelines on protection forest management planning based on PSFM in Lao. • To setup framework to demonstrate creating protection forest management plan.

3.8 REDD+ Pilot in Xe Pian NPA by WWF

For more information please contact Somphone Bouasavanh at:
somphone.bouasavanh@wwfgreatermekong.org or Kathryn Michie:
kathryn.michie@wwfgreatermekong.org.

<p>STATUS: Under Implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2011-2012 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: DoF, PAFO, DAFO, WWF FINANCE: EURO 104,619, WWF Austria, In-kind technical contribution from ÖBf FOCAL PROVINCES: Champasak, Attapeu</p>

The REDD+ pilot project is based in the Xe Pian National Protected Area, Champassak (Pathoumphone and Khong Districts) and Attapeu (Sanamxay District) Provinces, Lao PDR.

The Xe Pian National Protected Area REDD+ Project aims to establish a source of sustainable financing to continue and enhance protection of Xe Pian NPA, considered one of the top three most biologically important protected areas in Lao PDR and among the top ten in Southeast Asia. With only 13 staff and over 240,000 ha of unique wetland and lowland forest habitat, the park suffers from insufficient resources to be properly managed and regulated.

WWF Austria, along with international experts from Österreichische Bundesforste (ÖBf) have mobilized funds and technical resources to undergo a feasibility study to assess the carbon stocks and deforestation trends in and around Xe Pian.

The beginning of fieldwork and engagement with NPA, military and government staff counterparts began in March, with fieldwork Phase 1. This work aimed to classify forests and set the sample size for the next phase of fieldwork.

In November, ÖBf staff presented progress and lessons learned at a joint Xe Pian and Xe Sap ("CarBi" project) REDD+ Workshop in Pakse, Laos. Xe Pian counterparts had a chance to create a dialogue with the international experts from ÖBf, and Xe Sap counterparts were introduced to the lessons learned from Xe Pian Prefeasibility Study.

Following this workshop in Pakse, two 4-5 person teams made up of ÖBf experts, WWF staff, district military and forestry staff, and NPA staff conducted 2 weeks of forest plots in Champassak and Attapeu Provinces. Following VCS guidelines, almost 45 plots were assessed, with plans to assess 30 more plots when the waters recede and access is less limited in early 2012.

It is clear that the project PDD will need to take into consideration future threats to the park, specifically unplanned mosaic deforestation and degradation. Further PDD research is planned for 2012.

List of REDD+ related reports/guidelines etc from 2011:

- Prefeasibility report (Draft): Securing Sustainable Financing for Xe Pian NPA through REDD+
- Forest Carbon Stock Change Analysis Xe Pian National Protected Area (NPA), Lao PDR
- Guidelines for REDD Field Measurements in Xe Pian National Protected Area, Lao PDR

3.9 Study on the Strengthening of Methodological and Technological Approaches for Preventing Deforestation and Forest Degradation within the REDD+ Implementation Framework : Application in Lao PDR

For further information contact Satoshi FUJITA (satoshifujita1@gmail.com) and/or Mitsuru NASU (mi.nasu@ajiko.co.jp)

STATUS: Under implementation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2009-2012
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd.
FINANCE: Forest Agency, MAFF, Japan 1.8 million USD
FOCAL PROVINCES: Bolikhamxay and Luang Prabang

The pilot sites encompass two provinces of Bolikhamxay (BLK, Khamkeut district) and Luangphabang (Luang prabang province and Pakxeng district).

The main objectives of the study are (1) to assist the forestry sector efforts in a variety of ways for establishing a REDD+ mechanism, (2) to implement technological development for enhancing the monitoring system for deforestation and forest degradation utilizing remote sensing, GIS and forest cover simulation analysis technologies, and (3) to provide technical transfer and capacity building assistances to relevant organizations through the study activities and training programs in Lao PDR and Japan.

The items for studying in fiscal 2011 (Japanese fiscal 2010) are as follows:

1. Accuracy verification of land use/cover maps of LPB province and BLK's Khamkeut district prepared utilizing medium resolution satellite images and field surveys based on visual interpretation of pan-sharpened images by ALOS/AVNIR2 and field surveys
2. Additional preparation of land use/cover maps in five periods for future forecasting of forest cover of Pakxeng district, LPB province
3. Development of forest biomass classing (High, Medium, and Low) techniques for estimating wall-to-wall distribution of the forest carbon stock
4. Ray state analysis of Pakxeng district
5. Village survey on socio-economic and geographic conditions for conducting future forecasting simulation and analysis of forest cover (20 villages in Pakxeng district)
6. Future simulation of forest cover in three differing scenarios based on the MCA (Markov-Cellular Automata) model (Pakxeng district and LPB province)
7. Forest survey geared to preparation of a forest carbon stock calculation model

8. Analysis of tree height measurement accuracy based on ground forest survey and multi-temporal ALOS/PRISMs analyses
9. Development of the Tier 2 level forest carbon stock estimation technique based on tree height measurement, forest biomass classing and limited forest survey on the ground
10. Design of forest management compartments and forest GIS database
11. MRV system design
12. Technology transfer and human capacity development activities

The main outcomes of the study were as follows:

1. Results of the accuracy analyses of the land use/cover maps showed the accuracy of 85-90%.
2. An indicator referred to as “biomass class” was examined in order to conduct more detailed wall-to-wall analysis of deforestation and forest degradation. Targeting Khamkeut district in BLK province, biomass classing of the Current Forest over three phases (1993, 2000, 2007) was implemented, and was used to estimate forest carbon stocks..
3. Historical trend analysis of forest cover change using land use/cover maps of three periods (1993, 2000 and 2007) for the entire area of LPB province, and five periods (1993, 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2007) for Pakxeng district showed, over the entire area of LPB province, Current Forest was depleted by 14.6% and Unstocked Forest increased by 14.5% between 1993 and 2007. In Pakxeng district, the area ratio of Current Forest was overtaken by Unstocked Forest sometime around 2004~2005.
4. In setting the reference scenario, the forecasting model was constructed under three differing scenarios (BAU, pessimistic and optimistic scenarios). Simulations of the future forest cover change were implemented based on the MCA spatial simulation model with a set of biophysical and socioeconomic driving variables. It was ascertained that spatial forecasts of Unstocked Forest are relatively good and that, in the area comparison, the actual areas of Current Forest and Unstocked Forest showed extremely high (99%) concordance with the simulation results. Following the successful calibration of the MCA model, future forest cover changes were simulated up to 2014 under the three scenarios. The simulated future forest cover changes under different simulation scenarios provide important insights, which can be used by decision makers for REDD+ preparedness activities.
5. In order to improve the accuracy and efficiency of estimating forest carbon stock, a forest carbon stock vs. mean tree height vs. forest biomass model was constructed upon conducting correlation analyses among these parameters at forest survey plots, ALOS/PRISM's tree height measurements, and biomass interpretation data. Tree height measurement was carried out at 2 km grid intersection points (plots) of LPB province (1021 plots) and Khamkeut district (388 plots). Through conducting visual interpretation of pan-sharpened ALOS/AVNIR2 images, forest was classified according to biomass classes (High, Medium and Low) at the same 2 km grid intersection points. Biomass classing based on Landsat and Spot image analyses was conducted according to object. Finally, wall-to-wall forest carbon stock estimation maps of three time periods were prepared for Khamkeut district in BLK province. Looking at changes in area and carbon stock from 1993 to 2007 according to each biomass class, the ratio of forest classed as High is decreasing 35% for both items, while the ratios classed as Medium and Low are slightly decreasing 3 and 2% and 7

and 8%, respectively. The rate of decline in forest carbon stock from 1993 to 2007 (15%) is higher than that of in forest area (12%) indicating the usefulness of wall-to-wall analysis of the forest carbon stock.

6. Conceptual design of MRV system and forest management compartments for national, sub-national and project levels were discussed and some examples were given.

List of REDD+ related publications

- "Progress Report on The study on the strengthening of Methodological and Technological Approaches for Reducing Deforestation and Forest Degradation within the REDD Implementation Framework: Application in Lao PDR", March 2011, Asia Air Survey Co., Ltd. (<http://www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/redd-rdc/ja/reference/list-02.html>)
- "Spatial Simulation Modeling of Future Forest Cover Change Scenarios in Luangprabang Province, Lao PDR", *Forests* 2011, 2(3), 707-729, August 2011 (<http://www.mdpi.com/1999-4907/2/3/707/>)
- "A Case Study on MRV System for REDD+ in Lao PDR", presented at the International Seminar on REDD+ ,Forest and Forest Products Research Institute, Tokyo,16- 17 February, 2011.

3.10 Avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation in the border area of southern Laos and central Vietnam for the long-term preservation of carbon sinks and biodiversity (CarBi) (WWF)

For more information please contact Fanie Bekker: fanie.bekker@wwf.panda.org or Kathryn Michie: kathryn.michie@wwfgreatermekong.org.

STATUS: Early Implementation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2011 - 2014
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: DFRM, PAFO, DAFO, WWF
FINANCE: 1.9236 Million Euro (Government of Germany ICI-BMU and WWF-Germany)
FOCAL PROVINCES: 2 Countries (Laos and Vietnam), 4 Provinces, 2 in Laos (Saravane and Xekong (Xe Sap NPA) and 2 in Vietnam (Quang Nam and Hue)

The CarBi project, a transboundary effort between Lao PDR and Vietnam, aims to pursue the 'avoidance of deforestation and forest degradation in the border area of southern Lao PDR and central Vietnam for the long-term preservation of carbon sinks and biodiversity'. REDD+ sustainable financing is one of three components in Lao PDR that comprise the project, along with a Protected Area and Timber Trade component. Sustainable management of an approximately 200,000 ha transboundary forest area (133,500 ha of which is in Lao PDR), rich in species and carbon, composed of four Protected Areas and two connecting forest corridors, will be developed and implemented over the course of the four-year project. In Lao PDR, this project focuses on the area in and around Xe Sap NPA.

The REDD+ component aims to establish the requirements for REDD+ pilot projects in both countries and for the border areas, including REDD+ readiness measures, carbon accounting for historic and future development, baseline carbon assessment, avoidance measures, and benefit sharing mechanisms.

Harmonization between national agencies and actors will aim to produce a feasibility study for a trans-boundary PDD, the first of its kind in the region. Training materials and widespread capacity building will be essential for the success of this project.

The CarBi project commenced mid-year with inception workshops in Lao PDR and Vietnam that began a dialogue with key stakeholders, including national, provincial and district government counterparts concerning the project. Shared work plans for each component have been developed with these stakeholders.

The MRV decision-making process got underway later in the year – with workshops in Pakse, Lao PDR and in Hue, Vietnam. The focus of these meetings was on MRV (Measurement, Reporting, and Verification) capacity building and initial recommendations from the two countries on technological solutions for forest carbon quantification and change detection.

This MRV decision-making process will culminate in a trans-boundary MRV workshop in Vietnam early in 2012 to come to an agreement between the stakeholders and the two countries on an appropriate project MRV system for this transboundary project.

Terms of Reference (ToR) regarding the feasibility assessment for the trans-boundary Project Design Document (PDD) is being drafted for release in 2012.

3.11 Lowering Emissions from Asia's Forests (LEAF)

For further information contact Mr Keu Keomuanvong (kkeomuanvong@snvworld.org), Country Manager LEAF

<p>STATUS: Under implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2011-2015 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: DoF, PAFO, DAFO, SNV, in partnership with Winrock International and Climate Focus FINANCE: USD 20 Million USAID Regional Budget (for 6 countries) FOCAL PROVINCES: Houaphanh and Attapeu</p>

The LEAF programme is working in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, PNG, Thailand and Vietnam. LEAF/Lao PDR is focusing on the province of Houaphanh, (districts of Vieng Xai and Xam Tai), and on one southern province (to be determined; Attapeu, Sekong or Champasak). In addition to interventions at subnational level the programme will provide capacity building at national level and further exchange and sharing within the region.

LEAF started in 2011 as a regional programme with the goal to strengthen capacities in six Asian countries to reduce emission of greenhouse gasses from the forestry and land use sector, as well as supporting the countries to benefit from emerging REDD+ frameworks. The programme works on 4 interlinked objectives: (i) sharing and replicating successful approaches through regional platforms and partnerships; (ii) improving policies and establishing incentives for GHG reductions; (iii) strengthening technical capacities to assess forest carbon stocks and monitor changes; (iv) conduct pilot activities to demonstrate innovative and effective approaches to low carbon development.

In January USAID commissioned the implementation of LEAF to the consortium of SNV/Netherlands Development Organisation, Winrock International and Climate Focus. A delegation mission presented the programme to DOF and to a selected audience of national level stakeholders in March. The programme was formalised with a MoU between DoF and the consortium in November. A local team has been hired and started working in July on site selection for piloting innovative approaches in land use and forest management, and on assessments which will support decisions on intervention strategies.

A rapid assessment has been conducted describing the current status of relevant laws, policies and institutions and identify a short-list of opportunities for LEAF activities. This short-list forms the basis for the development of the final country strategies for policy related activities. The final report of the assessments will be published and shared in each of the LEAF countries, and further discussion will be initiated with the REDD+ office and the donor community to ensure coordination for defining the right niche where LEAF experts can complement existing expertise and initiatives as well as links to LEAF pilot projects.

Representatives of the national government and two national LEAF staff members have taken part in the first regional sharing workshop and capacity building on RELs held in August 2011 in Bangkok. The workshop focused on the technical issues surrounding reference emissions levels (RELs), as well as the financial aspects of REDD+ and began exploring the best methods to develop regional collaboration. Robust and accurate RELs are a baseline from which countries will be able to monitor emissions reductions, and position themselves to potentially receive payments for these reductions under initiatives such as Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+).

In Houaphanh province fact finding visits have taken place to scope the potential for piloting Low Emission Development Plans. This is a concept whereby spatial and socio-economic analysis will be applied at a given land use planning unit to identify an optimal suite of local measures and necessary policies to realise economic development while lowering carbon emissions, within the scope of the intervention. Necessary preconditions that have been identified are increasing awareness and capacities for both government staff and community members. In order to ensure ownership by the communities of the process and the outcomes social and environmental co-benefits will be captured. Engagement and participation will be sought through participatory forest monitoring to track carbon emission. LEAF explores the options for the development of a sub-national REL and MRV system in this area.

Workplans for 2012 have been developed.

List of REDD+ related reports/guidelines etc from 2011

- “Road to REDDiness – Making RELs Work” ; Workshop Proceedings, Bangkok, August 23-25, 2011
- Workshop presentations (same, Bangkok, August 23-25)
- LEAF Annual Report 2011 (expected December 2011)
- Rapid Assessment of Institutional, Political and Legal setting in LEAF countries (expected January 2011)

3.12 SNV-Lao PDR Assessment of Implementing a REDD project in Nam Xam National Protected Area, Huaphanh

The following is a separate report of a study that was commissioned in November 2010 as an independent initiative of SNV/Netherlands Development Organisation, before the start of LEAF. The study outline was presented to the REDD+ Task Force in December 2010, but the report was produced only in 2011. The outcomes of the study will be used as inputs for LEAF

Report:

Title: "Socioeconomic Assessment and Analysis of Drivers for Deforestation and Forest Degradation in the Landscape of Nam Xam National Biodiversity Conservation Area (NBCA), Huaphanh Province"

The report reflects the socio-economic conditions and the drivers of deforestation in the landscape inside and around the Nam Xam NBCA, an area of 70,000ha. About 14,000 people in 36 villages rely to a greater or lesser extent on nature and forest resources that the park offers, for both household consumption and trading. The field work was conducted in November/ December 2010, the study was completed in June 2011. SNV's LEAF project will use the results of this study as input for its interventions in Xam Tay district.

The park was demarcated in 2008, followed by forests regeneration on 15,000 hectares of former swidden land. Communities on average lost 70% of their land to the park and were not compensated nor provided with alternative land or livelihood options. As a result, those who were affected continue their traditional practices inside the park and the park staff doesn't have the resources to address the issues.

The main driver of deforestation and forest degradation is continued shifting cultivation, with population growth and market investments as underlying factors. Next in line are (ii) unsustainable exploration of natural and forest resources like NTFPs and game; (iii) tree harvesting for domestic purpose (construction and fuel); and (iv) the expansion of commercial agriculture (i.c. maize and cassava) into the forest. A potential driver of deforestation is the construction of a hydropower dam on a section of the Nam Xam river inside the park for which a feasibility study is ongoing.

Absence of appropriate land use planning, combined with lacking management facilities of the NBCA, and lacking livelihoods alternatives for villagers cause the current trends of deforestation and forest degradation to continue. Appropriate intervention strategies are needed addressing both sustainable resources management and exploring economic opportunities outside park boundaries. Incentives from REDD-related initiatives can bring new prospects to forest dwellers' livelihoods.

3.13 Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD in Asia Pacific with RECOFTC

Please contact RECOFTC's Lao National Coordinator, Ms. Thongsavath Boupha: thongsavathboupha@yahoo.com or lao@recoftc.org, for a complete list of the participants or any other additional project information or Dr Chandra Silori: chandra.silori@recoftc.org.

STATUS: Phase I completed, Phase II under implementation

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD:

Phase I Aug 2009 to July 2010, Phase II Aug 2010 to July 2013

IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: Donor: Norad; Regional Implementing NGO: RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests; National Implementation by: Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos, Department of Forestry, Government of Lao PDR, National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service, Government of Lao PDR

FINANCE: USD 1.8 million for regional coordination and implementation in Indonesia, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Vietnam for 3 years

Project Provinces in Lao PDR are:

- Luang Prabang
- Huaphan
- Xayaburi
- Xieng Khouang

Because of their sheer numbers in and around forests, local communities and indigenous peoples will play a vital role in the success or failure of REDD+ projects. People whose livelihoods are most closely linked to forest resources often have the greatest direct interest in the welfare of forests. To be able to participate with their full potential in the planning and implementation of REDD+ projects, these stakeholders must have full, clear, and culturally appropriate information about REDD+ processes. Through this project, RECOFTC, together with national partners, identifies their knowledge gaps and thoroughly and effectively shares vital information.

For Phase II of the project (August 2010 - July 2013), objectives in Lao PDR include the integration of updated national REDD+ strategies into the REDD+ capacity building events and awareness raising, the development of more diversified training modules to reach a greater variety of ethnic groups, and the continued attachment of the training program to the activities of the national REDD+ policies and frameworks of the national government.

The main outputs for 2011 from the Grassroots capacity building include:

- **Action Plan agreed upon and gathered lessons learned:** Feedback and inputs for the current Action Plan was agreed upon by multiple stakeholders at our national-level inception workshop of the project's phase II (August 2010 to July 2013). This joint effort is helping us coordinate our activities nationally and complement other ongoing REDD+ initiatives. A total of 38 people from our national-level implementation consortium and interested experts provided inputs.
- **Clarified stakeholder needs:** Our capacity building needs assessment showed the need for sufficient local language training materials. It also indicated high local interest in more case studies of successful REDD+ projects and programs in other countries. Through revisiting the needs assessment we improve and better target our training materials and share experience with other project countries.

- **Trained national- and provincial level trainers:** We trained staff from various government institutions related to land and forest resource management, employees of a national university, representatives of CSOs and international non-government organizations. These participants are now better equipped to train other grassroots groups at provincial and commune levels in the REDD+ concept, national REDD+ policy, carbon markets, and other related topics. These trainings were organized in partnership with the National University of Laos and the Department of Forestry.
- **Regional Training Programme on Free, Prior and Informed Consent in REDD+:** RECOFTC organized a regional training programme in Bangkok in July 2011 on Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in REDD+. This programme was attended by a total of 17 participants, which included 5 participants from Lao PDR. The participants from Lao PDR included National Coordinator of Grassroots Project, one representative from national partner organization, NUoL, and three representatives from Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA). Following this training programme, RECOFTC is now in the process of finalizing a training manual on FPIC in REDD+, which will soon be available on its website.
- **Regional Reflection Workshop for Grassroots Capacity Building Programme for REDD:** Held in Dhulikhel near Kathmandu in Nepal from September 20-23, 2011. A total of 48 participants attended the workshop, including three participants from Lao PDR.
- **Trained media stakeholders:** Held on the Campus at the National University of Laos, our REDD+ training for journalists attracted 17 participants from print media and television. The participants are now well informed where to source the right kind of information on REDD+ and how such information can be presented to the stakeholders through print and electronic media.
- **Training Material:** To support our trainings a REDD+ Glossary and a REDD+ Training Manual for Trainers, both in Lao language will be published in the coming months.
- **Grassroots level training program:** NAFES is preparing for the grassroots level training programs, which will be held next year. Currently non-reading material such as posters explaining the causes and impact of climate change, leaflets with pictures, and a calendar are being developed.
- **REDD+ capacity building for PAREDD project staff:** RECOFTC has entered into a partnership with PAREDD project in Luang Prabang. Leveraging its experience from the ongoing grassroots capacity building project, RECOFTC will organize REDD+ training of trainers programme for Extension staff of Luang Prabang PAFO, and Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO, and community level awareness raising in the target village of PAREDD project in three districts - Xiengngun, Phonsay and Phonthong of Luang Prabang Province in coming months.

The following list is a summary of the publications developed in 2011 from the Grassroots capacity building for REDD+ in the Asia Pacific:

- FPIC in REDD+ Guidebook (downloadable from our website):
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/Free-Prior-and-Informed-Consent-in-REDD-.php>)
- REDD+, Governance and Community Forestry (downloadable from our website):
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/REDD-Governance-and-Community-Forestry.php>
- Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ Project Brochure in English and Lao (downloadable from our website):
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/uploads/wysiwyg/docs/NORAD%20grassroots%20briefs/Norad%20Grassroots%20Annual%20Report%202011.pdf> and
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/uploads/wysiwyg/docs/NORAD%20grassroots%20briefs/RECOFTC%20Lao%20170811%20new.pdf>
- Annual (2010-11) Progress Report of Grassroots Project (downloadable from our website):
<http://www.recoftc.org/site/uploads/wysiwyg/docs/NORAD%20grassroots%20briefs/Norad%20Grassroots%20Annual%20Report%202011.pdf>)

Upcoming publications:

- REDD+ Glossary in English and Lao Language
- REDD+ Training Manual for Trainers in Lao Language
- A Training Manual on FPIC in REDD+ in English language

3.14 Linking Forest Communities in South East Asia to the Voluntary Carbon Market (FAO) TCP-RAS-3210

For further information, please contact Kinnalone Phommasack: kinnalone.ph@gmail.com.

STATUS: Under Implementation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2019-2012 (April)
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: DoF, NAFES, NAFRI, Savanakhet Provincial Forestry Section, Savanakhet Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service and Thapanthong District Forest Office, Village Forestry Organisations/Units,
FINANCE: FAO USD 50 000
FOCAL PROVINCES: Savanakhet, Regional (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines and Thailand)

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and its partners initiated a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) project “Linking communities in Southeast Asia to forestry-related voluntary carbon markets”. The project will be implemented over a two-year period and will focus on strengthening regional capacities, and developing information sharing mechanisms related to VCM access. The project will also work at establishing linkages with other ongoing initiatives in order to ensure sustainability and scaling-up of the actions.

The components of the program include site based soil carbon measurements, enhancement of forest carbon stocks with restoration of 15ha of degraded Dry Dipterocarp forest, the development of low carbon village development plans in 2 pilot villages, and the testing of a REDD+ benefit sharing system using the forest resource development fund, which would finance the low carbon village development activities. All activities will be used to develop institutional REDD+ capacity and raise awareness of REDD+ in the 2 pilot villages. So far the SUFORD project has assisted this project by producing:

- An inception report
- Report on Low carbon village development pilot activities, with village consultations
- Criteria and indicators for village selection for low carbon village development pilot
- Action plan for engagement with villages on restoration and low carbon village development
- Field plan for soil carbon measurement and restoration of 15 ha and purchase of supporting equipment
- Progress report
- Report on the national workshop and awareness raising at Savanakhet Provincial staff and 2 village forestry organisations.
- Purchase of the Green charcoal licence to support low carbon village development

Report on Activities for Low Carbon Village Development in SUFORD

Under the FAO financed project mentioned above, and linking with capacity already built in SUFORD's village development, 2 villages (Backkumkham and Nongsavanh) will now pilot low carbon village development activities financed through the demonstration disbursement for low carbon village development. Low carbon village development relies on the same concept as low carbon growth economies; that is, it has a development strategy that reduces and/or substitutes greenhouse gas emissions from the carbon combustion process. Village development activities are low carbon if they:

- Reduce fuel wood dependence and usage
- Reduce combustion of fossil fuels (e.g. gasoline and petrol consumption)
- Improve land productivity without increasing emissions
- Improve energy access to households through renewables
- Increase energy efficiency
- Sequester CO₂
- Improve carbon capture and storage in biomass and/or a carbon pool
- Reduce the use of inorganic fertilizers (and associated N₂O emissions)

The report summarises the potential activities that can be piloted for low carbon village development noting important issues for implementation, such as cost, availability, feasibility, access, national capacity and transferability.

3.15 I-REDD

For further information, please contact Dr Ole Mertz: om@geo.ku.dk.

<p>STATUS: Under implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2011-2014 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos FINANCE: USD 3.3 million for regional coordination and implementation in Indonesia, Lao PDR, China, and Vietnam</p>
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The I-REDD project commenced in 2011 January in Lao PDR and is financed under the European Commission's 7th Framework Programme. The University of Copenhagen, Denmark is the lead implementing agency, and partners with Leibniz-institute of Agricultural Development in Central and Eastern Europe, Germany (IAMO), Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Germany (UBER), University of East Anglia, United Kingdom (UEA), University of Edinburgh, United Kingdom (UEDIN).

Institut de Recherche pour le Développement, France (IRD), University of Bern, Switzerland (UBERN), Kunming Institute of Botany, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China (KIB), Center for Agricultural Research and Ecological Studies, Hanoi University of Agriculture, VIETNAM (CARES), National University of Laos (NUOL), World Wildlife Foundation Indonesia (WWF-IND), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), World Agroforestry Centre (ICRAF), and the Nordic Agency for Development and Ecology, Denmark (NORDECO).

The specific objectives of I-REDD+ are to develop and test methods for:

1. Quantifying GHG emissions and removals from the dominant forest types and agricultural systems of the study area. These include secondary successional vegetation – e.g. grass and bushes, young open-canopy tree communities, and mature closed-canopy tree communities. The project will analyse all five approved C-pools (above- and belowground C-stocks in vegetation, litter, dead wood and soil C-stocks) and fluxes of non-CO₂ GHGs. This will allow us to understand the trade-off between effort and accuracy which is crucial to the cost-effective implementation of REDD+.
2. Developing remote sensing and community based methods for monitoring of land use change and C-stocks in areas with forest and alternative land use systems. These methods will be verified with results from specific objective 1.
3. Assessing potential disbursement mechanisms for REDD+ payments under different global payment scenarios and different governance and institutional structures in the case countries.
4. Assessing the benefits and costs of REDD+ for livelihoods at local levels (REDD+ rent vs. opportunity and transaction costs) as well as socio-cultural 'costs' of changing lifestyles and development pathways.
5. Developing and testing a monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) system within five critical areas of relevance to REDD+: GHG emissions, land use change, forest resources, governance, and livelihood impacts.
6. Informing the development of future REDD+ implementation policies in the light of the above, including their feasibility given the opportunities and constraints of methods and the new knowledge obtained.

7. Investigating country-specific differences and develop approaches that are appropriate in a range of different institutional, political, and socioeconomic settings. The potential for cross-border leakage will also be part of this analysis.

Disseminating the methodological advancements and thematic insights to local, regional and national and international stakeholders through training, collaboration and publications of policy briefs, guidelines, and high-impact journal publications. The international policy arena negotiating the REDD+ mechanism is a specific target for I-REDD+ dissemination. These include UNFCCC conferences and UN-REDD events.

The first I-REDD+ workshop was held on 22-26 February 2011 in Vientiane, Laos, hosted by the National University of Laos. The main purpose of the workshop was to ensure that all project participants meet and discuss the activities in the seven work packages. The main outputs of the workshop were detailed planning and division of task in each work package and development and coordination of field work in Indonesia, Laos, Vietnam and China in 2011 and 2012. In addition, the first general assembly and scientific steering committee meetings were held during the workshop.

I-REDD+ research will take place in Nam Et Phou Louey, Luang Prabang Province. The field site coordinator is National University of Laos and field activities will begin in October 2011.

3.16 Using Forests to Enhance Resilience to Climate Change (CIFOR)

For further information, please contact Dr Aaron Russell: a.russell@cgiar.org.

STATUS: Under implementation
IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2011-2012
IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: CIFOR, NAFRI, DoF, SUFORD
FINANCE: USD 500,000 from PROFOR
FOCAL PROVINCE: Savanakheth Province Lao PDR (also in Honduras and Burkina Faso)

CIFOR has received funding from the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Program for Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Development (TFESSD) and the Multi-Donor Trust Fund for Program for Forests (PROFOR) within the World Bank for a project documenting the impacts of forest management regimes on non-timber sectors, particularly agriculture, non-timber forest products, water and energy, in Lao PDR, Honduras and Burkina Faso. This study falls within CIFOR's research area of 'Enhancing the role of forests in adapting to climate Change Adaptation Research Domain, and incorporates three methodological approaches: modeling of ecosystem services under climate change scenarios, comparative institutional analyses of forest management governance structures and processes, and comparative economic analysis of forest management approaches.

This study aims to analyze the roles of forested/agro-forestry landscapes in enhancing climate change resilience of stakeholders in two to three countries. The study will review the relevant literatures related to forests and socio-ecological resilience. For selected countries, this study will assess climate change impact scenarios, the roles that forests play in provision of ecosystem services that are

key for resilience, and through the use of economic and other valuation tools, assess how their governance could be improved. For selected case studies within representative landscapes, this study will analyze forest-based vs non-forest based adaptation strategy impacts and policy measures and associated institutional/governance arrangements that would promote the use of forest-based adaptation measures for climate change resilience. The study is targeted towards decision-makers and development practitioners.

3.17 Making the Mekong Connected – Developing Carbon and Biodiversity Assets for Multi-functional Landscapes in the Upper Mekong

For more information on Lao PDR, please contact Dr Horst Weyerhauser horstweyerhaeuser@fastmail.fm or Dr Pheng Sengxua phengsx@hotmail.com. For more information on the regional project, please contact Xu Jianchu j.c.xu@cgiar.org.

<p>STATUS: Under implementation IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: 2009-2013 IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES: National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute FINANCE: EUR 2.3 million from the German Government (BMZ and GIZ) COUNTRIES: Lao PDR, China, Myanmar and Thailand</p>

This project aims to support development of carbon and biodiversity assets for multifunctional landscapes in the Upper Mekong region: the multifunctional landscape-corridors that protect secondary forests with a high conservation value and stepping stones with agroforestry systems and framework species in the quadrangle areas of China's Yunnan Province, Laos, Myanmar, and Thailand along the Mekong River.

The goal of the project is to support enhanced and connected multifunctional landscape corridors with both positive livelihood and environmental benefits, managed by smallholder farmers through integrated management and financial mechanisms; and hence contribute to sustainable land-use policies and practices. The purpose is to identify and develop landscape corridors, stepping stones, and framework species within secondary vegetation and agricultural landscapes in the region. The proposed project seeks to build regional, national, and local capacities for improving livelihoods and landscapes with integrated conservation and development mechanisms.

The project will have seven major outputs: a) the multifunctional landscape corridors with stepping stones and framework species identified; b) land-use dynamics for each stepping stone assessed; c) biodiversity and carbon assets assessed; d) opportunities for carbon financing and biodiversity offset determined; e) capacity of national partners and key stakeholders enhanced.

4. AWARENESS RAISING AND CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES

4.1 National Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building Activities

National workshops, consultations and trainings were held throughout 2011 as the Lao Government started its work with donors and projects towards building REDD+ Readiness. The themes focused on introducing REDD+ to different stakeholders, capacity building for Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV), and consultations between different stakeholders. Most of the national level events were sponsored through bilateral donors. The table below provides a summary of these events.

Table 4.1 National Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building

Month	Place	Training	Participants	Organiser
February	FIPD, Vientiane	Workshop (Results of fiscal 2010 study)	FIPD	AsiaAir Survey
March	Vientiane	Inception Workshop in Lao PDR for phase II	38 participants, including: DoF and other Departments under MAF, FoF-NUoL, Civil Society Organizations, and international organizations such as CliPAD, FSCAP, SNV, and PRIMEINVEST.	RECOFTC
July	Vientiane	Private Sector Engagement on REDD+ in Lao PDR	Government staff Private Sector NGOs Donors Project developers	DoF FAO SUFORD CliPAD PAREDD FSCAP Forest Carbon Asia
July	DOF	PCM training	DOF and PFS staff	FSCAP
August Sept.	DOF, Vientiane LPB	Forest GIS inquiry survey	FIPD	AsiaAir Survey
September	FIPD, Vientiane	Practical training of image processing	FIPD	AsiaAir Survey
September	Vientiane	Forest Investment Program Plan Consultation	Government staff NGOs Donors	DoF
October	Vientiane	English training	DOF and PFS staff	FSCAP
November	FIPD, Vientiane	Workshop (Progress report of the study)	FIPD	AsiaAir Survey
November	Campus of the NUoL	Journalist Training for REDD+ in Lao PDR	17 participants, Vientiane Times and national television, freelance journalist, staff from DoF	RECOFTC and NUoL
November	FIPD, Vientiane	Workshop (Progress report of the study)	FIPD	AsiaAir Survey
December	Vientiane	Training of Trainers Programme for REDD+		RECOFTC and National University of Lao
Throughout 2011	Vientiane	REDD+ Training Course	DoF/DOFI Staff Group 1	CliPAD
	Vientiane	REDD+ Training Course	DoF/DOFI Staff Group 2	CliPAD
	Vientiane	REDD+ Awareness raising	National Assembly	CliPAD

Month	Place	Training	Participants	Organiser
	Vientiane	REDD+ Training Course	Lao Biodiversity Association	CiiPAD
	Vientiane	FPIC Training Workshop	DOF	CiiPAD
	Vientiane	MRV Workshop	DOFI/DOFI/NGOs/Projects	CiiPAD
	Vientiane	Forest Law Revision Workshop	Multi-ministerial national level	CiiPAD
	Vientiane	Core Policy Concepts in REDD+	DOFI/DOFI	CiiPAD

4.2 Provincial Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building Activities

In addition to the national workshops, consultations and capacity building activities listed above, on-the-ground REDD+ implementation trainings were held at provincial, district and village levels. The large majority of the training was sponsored and/or held to support the REDD+ demonstration projects (Luang Prabang, Xayabouli, Savanakhet, Champasak). The table below lists the extensive training conducted at the provincial, district and village levels throughout 2011.

Table 4.2 Provincial Workshops, Consultations and Capacity Building

Month	Place	Training	Institutions	Organiser
January	Luang Prabang	WS to formulate 5 year plan	Northern PFS staff	FSCAP
	Luang Nam Tha, Attapeu	Implementation analysis, reporting and project proposal	PFS (conducted by NUOL)	FSCAP
	Vapee District, Saravan	OJT for tree plantation registration	PFS staff	FSCAP
February	Pakse	Project inception workshop	WWF Laos, WWF Greater Mekong, ÖBf, WWF Austria, GAPE, National, Provincial, and District government counterparts	WWF
	Champasak	WS to formulate 5 year plan	Southern PFS staff	FSCAP
	LPB, BLK	Forest survey (OJT)	FIPD, LPB & BLK PAFO, Pakxeng & Khamkeut DAFO	AsiaAir Survey
	Luang Prabang	Basic Forest inventory for Biomass survey	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
	Luang Prabang	Planning Stage of PAREDD Approach including lecture and On the Job training	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD

Annual Review of REDD+ Activities in Lao PDR 2011
Department of Forestry, Lao PDR

Month	Place	Training	Institutions	Organiser
February	Xe Pian, Champassak and Attapeu Provinces	Forest Plot Methodology Training – Phase 1	WWF Laos, WWF Greater Mekong, ÖBf, WWF Austria, National, Provincial, and District government counterparts	WWF
March	All provinces	Seminar for forestry law and regulations	PFS staff, Local authorities	FSCAP
	All provinces	OJT to formulate 5 year plan	All PFS staff	FSCAP
	Xe Pian, Champassak and Attapeu Provinces	Forest Plot Methodology Training – Phase 1	WWF Laos, WWF Greater Mekong, ÖBf, WWF Austria, National, Provincial, and District government counterparts	WWF
	Luang Prabang	Basic GPS and GIS training	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
	Luang Prabang	Basic Forest inventory for Biomass survey	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
	Luang Prabang	Planning Stage of PAREDD Approach including lecture and On the Job training	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
April	Luang Prabang	Basic GPS and GIS training	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
	Luang Prabang	Basic Forest inventory for Biomass survey	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
	Luang Prabang	Planning Stage of PAREDD Approach including lecture and On the Job training	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
May	Luang Prabang	Basic Forest inventory for Biomass survey	Extension staff of Luan Prabang PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD

Annual Review of REDD+ Activities in Lao PDR 2011
Department of Forestry, Lao PDR

Month	Place	Training	Institutions	Organiser
	Luang Prabang	Planning Stage of PAREDD Approach including lecture and On the Job training	Extension staff of Luan Praban PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
June	Luang Prabang	Basic Forest inventory for Biomass survey	Extension staff of Luan Praban PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
	Luang Prabang	Planning Stage of PAREDD Approach including lecture and On the Job training	Extension staff of Luan Praban PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
July	Luang Prabang	Basic Forest inventory for Biomass survey	Extension staff of Luan Praban PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
	Luang Prabang	Planning Stage of PAREDD Approach including lecture and On the Job training	Extension staff of Luan Praban PAFO, Xiengngung DAFO, Phonsay DAFO	PAREDD
August	Sanamxay District, Attapeu Province	Engagement of local people on REDD+ and sustainable forest management mechanism	Community representatives (Village head; Village Forester; representative from Women's group) from 4 villages. 6 Provincial and 2 National government representatives	WWF
	Luang Prabang	Forest GIS inquiry survey	FIPD	AsiaAir Survey
	Pathoumphone district; Champasak province	Engagement of local people on REDD+ and sustainable forest management mechanism	Community representatives (Village head; Village Forester; representative from Women's group from 6 villages. 4 Provincial and 2 National government representatives	WWF
	Saravan	Laos Carbi Inception workshop	WWF Laos, WWF Vietnam, National, Provincial, and District stakeholders; Village Focus International	WWF Greater Mekong Programme

Annual Review of REDD+ Activities in Lao PDR 2011
Department of Forestry, Lao PDR

Month	Place	Training	Institutions	Organiser
September	Vangvieng of Vientiane Province	Internal national and provincial level training on REDD+	21 participants, including: NAFES (National and Provincial), FoF-NUoL, WWF, LBA, PAREDD	RECOFTC
	Luang Prabang	Forest GIS inquiry survey	FIPD	AsiaAir Survey
	Savanakhet	REDD+ Training Introduction and consultation	DAFO and VFOs	FAO-SUFORD
	Savanakhet	REDD+ Training Introduction and consultation	PAFO, PWREO, PAFES, POFI	FAO-SUFORD
October	Luang Prabang	UAV remote sensing survey, MODIS analysis, forest survey (OJT)	FIPD, LPB PAFO, Xieng Ngeun & Phonxai DAFO	AsiaAir Survey
November	Pakse	MRV Technology Recommendations, Lessons Learned from XePian Pre-Feasibility Study	WWF Laos, WWF Vietnam, WWF Greater Mekong, WWF Austria, ÖBf, National, Provincial and District government counterparts	WWF
	Xe Pian, Champassak and Attapeu Provinces	Forest Plot Methodology Training – Phase 2	WWF Laos, WWF Greater Mekong, ÖBf, WWF Austria, National, Provincial, and District government counterparts	WWF
	Sayaboury	FIPC Training Workshop	PAFO/POFI	ClIPAD
	Sayabouri	Biochar Training	Villagers Nam Phui	ClIPAD
	Sayaboury	FPIC consultation/REDD+ introduction	Villagers Nam Phui	ClIPAD
	Sayaboury	Refresher Course PLUP	DAFO Sayaboury	ClIPAD
	Sayaboury	GIS training	DAFO Sayaboury	ClIPAD

4.3 International Conferences

Lao representatives from the Department of Forestry, National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute, Department of Forestry Inspection, Water Resources and Environment Agency and the National University of Lao participated in a number of international conferences to build capacity and share knowledge and experiences on REDD throughout the region, see table below for summary of the majority of seminars and conferences attended.

Table 4.3 International Participation in Selected Conferences and Seminars by Lao delegates in 2011

Date	Place	Seminar/Conference	Participants
January,	Tokyo, Japan	Technical training on REDD+ related technologies	FIPD (two officers)
January	Panama, Cost Rica, Mexico	Study Tour PES and REDD+	DoF, National Assembly
January	Bangkok, Thailand	ASEAN Social Forestry Network	DoF
January	Manila, Philippines	ASEAN Caucus on UNFCCC	DoF
March	Singapore	REDD+ capacity building	DoF, NUoL
March	Hanoi, Vietnam	FCPF PC8	DoF
March	Hanoi, Vietnam	Climate Community and Biodiversity Training	NAFES
April	Bangkok, Thailand	UNFCCC Negotiations	DoF
May	Rome, Italy	Forest Governance and REDD+	DoF
June	Bonn, Germany	UNFCCC Negotiations	DoF
June	Bonn, Germany	REDD+ Partnership	DoF
June	Kunming, China	Community Forestry Development in the Context of Climate Change	DoF
June	Cape Town, South Africa	Meeting of FIP pilot countries	DoF
June	Hue, Vietnam	Hue Inception workshop	DoF, WWF, ÖBf, PAFOs, DAFOs, POFI, NPA officials, Forest guards
July	RECOFTC, Bangkok	Regional Training on Free, Prior, Informed Consent in REDD+	NUoL, LBA
August	RECOFTC, Bangkok	Second Regional Forum on Community Forestry	16 Participants from DoF, NAFRI, NAFES, NUoL, JICA, FAO project and, Private Sector
August	Bangkok, Thailand	Road to REDDiness – Making REL's work	Government staff and LEAF staff from 6 countries (6 participants from Lao PDR
August	Vietnam	PES/REDD+ Study tour	DoF, National Assembly
August	Quang Nam Vietnam	Quang Nam Inception workshop (Carbi)	Government Forestry, Forest Law Enforcement, Research, Extension and REDD+ Officials from Lao PDR and Vietnam
September	Dhulikhel, Nepal	Annual reflection workshop of Grassroots Capacity building project	NUoL
September	Panama city, Panama	REDD+ Partnership	DoF
September	Bangkok, Thailand	Road to REDDiness – making RELs work	DoF
October	Sweden	Study visit to SIDA	DoF
October	Suzhon, China	Forest Conservation	DoF
October	Panama city, Panama	UNFCCC Negotiations	DoF
October	Panama City,	SBSTA Technical workshop	DoF

Annual Review of REDD+ Activities in Lao PDR 2011
Department of Forestry, Lao PDR

Date	Place	Seminar/Conference	Participants
	Panama		
October	Bande Ache, Indonesia	Linking Forest Communities to the Voluntary Carbon Market	DoF, DOFI
November	Da Lat, Vietnam	Forestry Policy training	DoF staff member
November	China	FAO Asia Pacific Forestry	DoF
November	Durban, South Africa	REDD+ Partnership	DoF, NUoL
December	Durban, South Africa	UNFCCC Negotiations	DoF, NAFRI, NUoL
December	Hue, Vietnam	Vietnam MRV technology recommendations	Government Forestry and REDD+ Officials from Lao PDR and Vietnam

5. INTERNATIONAL PROCESSES

5.1 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

The outcomes from the 17th Conference of Parties (COP17) held in Durban in 2011 produced mixed results for REDD+. Going into Durban there were four elements under negotiation for REDD+; the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advise (SBSTA) was mandated to develop guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards referred to in appendix I of decision 1/CP.16 are addressed and respected, modalities relating to forest reference levels and forest reference emissions levels, and modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying REDD+ as referred to in appendix II of decision 1/CP.16.

From the decision 1/CP.16, the Ad hoc Working Group for Long term Cpooperative Action (AWG-LCA) was mandated to reach an agreement in COP 17 for financing for the full implementation of REDD+ (phase 3).

The outcomes from COP 17 include a decision on the “Guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and modalities relating to forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels as referred to in decision 1/CP.16.”

In this decision, the COP requested the SBSTA to:

- a) Consider the timing of the first (safeguards) and the frequency of subsequent presentation of the summary of information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation activities relating to REDD+, with a view of recommending a decision on this matter for adoption by the COP at its eighteenth session;
- b) Consider the need for further guidance to ensure transparency, consistency, comprehensiveness and effectiveness when informing on how all safeguards are addressed and respected and, if appropriate, to consider additional guidance and to report to the COP at its eighteenth session; and
- c) To establish a process to enable technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels when submitted or updated by Parties.

The SBSTA will also consider the views to be submitted by Parties and accredited observers, **by 28 February 2012**, on issues identified in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 72 and appendix II, in particular on how to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and on robust and transparent national forest monitoring systems.

The Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA) did not clearly establish a financing mechanism, deciding to wait until 2012 to resolve technical and policy issues. There was an agreement to consider appropriate market based approaches for REDD+ results based actions. AWG-LCA also requested the creation of a technical paper to explore financing options.

Parties and accredited observers were invited to submit to the secretariat, by **5th March 2012**, their views on modalities and procedures for financing results-based actions and considering activities related to decision 1/CP.16, paragraphs 68-70 and 72.

5.2 REDD+ Partnership

Lao PDR continued to send several delegates to the REDD+ Partnership meetings and workshops. The budget allocated to the REDD+ Partnership during 2010-2011 was about USD 2 Million, of which 85% (USD 1.75 million) was utilised. Meetings were held to coincide with UNFCCC events throughout 2011 and are listed below:

- REDD+ Partnership workshop on finance options for the full implementation of REDD+, 27 November 2011, South Africa, Blue Waters Hotel, Durban
- REDD+ Partnership meeting and workshop on reference levels, 25 November 2011, South Africa, Protea Hotel, Durban
- REDD+ Partnership MRV Workshop , 30 September 2011, Panama, Panama City, Hotel Continental
- REDD+ Partnership Meeting and Safeguards Workshop, 28 September 2011 Panama, Panama City, Hotel Continental
- REDD+ Partnership Workshop, 18 June 2011, Germany, Cologne; Hotel Pullman Cologne
- REDD+ Partnership Meeting, 12 June 2011, Germany, Bonn, Kameha Grand Hotel
- REDD+ Partnership Meeting and Workshop, REDD+ Partnership, 10 April 2011 - 11 April 2011, Thailand, Bangkok

For more information on the above listed workshops, the presentations and agenda's are available at: <http://reddpluspartnership.org/73943/en/>

Voluntary REDD+ Database (VRD)

Partners and Stakeholders recognized the good progress made on the VRD so far and its usefulness in Partners' own work and research on REDD+. They emphasized that a key value added of the VRD is that Partners own it by developing it and using the information, noting also that the VRD is only as good as the data received, and thus encouraged all Partners to provide data.

There was concern that approximately thirty countries have not reported data, which in part reflects a lack of capacity in some countries to do so. In response, Partners and Stakeholders proposed increased support to country reporting efforts and requested the VRD team to follow up with countries that have not yet reported. They also expressed interest in conducting capacity building workshops, on the VRD (for example, to be held back-to-back with other regional or subregional meetings), the questionnaire, and how to obtain the data (included under the approved optional budget).

Another key area of work highlighted was the need to resolve discrepancies in data between funder countries and REDD+ countries, as raised in the October 2011 Partnership meeting. The VRD team reported that the discrepancies identified in earlier reports were significantly reduced, with USD1.15 billion worth of discrepancies having been resolved. The main reasons for discrepancies are that reporting of an arrangement is often done by only one party (in part because there is a difference in opinion on what constitutes REDD+ financing), and that different parties are reporting on different stages in fund disbursement. The VRD team will continue to address all discrepancies through questionnaire process. Some also suggested further clarifying definitions of terms and emphasized the need to continue to use UNFCCC terminology to reduce discrepancies in reporting, though

it was also noted that defining what is REDD+ financing will always be a challenge, and that the Partnership cannot necessarily resolve this challenge.

There was support for follow-up work to the gap analysis commissioned by the Partnership in 2010-2011, building on the concrete data provided by the VRD to determine what kinds of gaps persist over time and how to address them. Some also suggested capturing private financing in the VRD in future.

Participants welcomed the proposals that the VRD team will also develop a new, simpler questionnaire for 2012, potentially web-based, improve the web interface, and enhance collaboration with other data initiatives. There was also a proposal to look at how much funding is available to conduct research activities and how partners could make a more interactive use of the VRD to improve coordination, gap analysis leading to scaling up of actions and finance.

Summary of the Workshop on REDD+ Reference Emissions Levels/ Reference Levels

A panel of representatives from Guyana, Conservation International and Meridian Institute presented their views and experiences with development of forest reference emission levels (REL) and forest reference levels (RL). The panel also included the co-Chair of the SBSTA Expert Meeting on “REL/RL for implementation of REDD-plus activities”, which was held in Bonn, Germany on 14 - 15 November 2011

In presenting practical experiences of REDD+ reference levels, Guyana reported using a combined reference level model and noted that in the absence of accurate data, proxies had been used. He also stressed the need for longer-term efforts to obtain more accurate metrics, which Guyana’s MRV systems is expected to yield. Nepal reported using historical data for REL within a period of 17 years from 1994 to 2012, with 3 intervals, and is using Tier 2 from RL with a target to move to Tier 3. Both remote sensing and field measurements are used to obtain data, and integration of sub-national RL to national one is under way. Nepal also shared their experience with engaging communities in data collection through their community forestry programme. The Meridian Institute was unable to make the actual presentation due to flight cancellations, but their presentation (available on the website) focused on proposed guidelines for RLs, using historic emissions and removals as a basis and adjusting the RL according to national circumstances.

In the discussion among the participants a number of questions and answers were raised, and they expressed a variety of views on the establishment of REL/RL. In summary:

- Given the need to consider cost efficiency and limited data availability, the REL/RL establishment should not be made too complex. A tiered approach could be useful, starting with the existing data, to be continuously improved and eventually including all activities, and seeking to manage uncertainties.
- Use of historical data is a starting point for a REL/RL. These would need to be adjusted for national circumstances by applying a conservative approach principle. Adjustments may include both technical and political considerations, and need to be adequately justified.
- IPCC Tier 1 provides a starting point for all countries. Use of proxies appears possible with Tier 1 for deforestation, and possible even for forest degradation and forest management.

- Use of existing forest definitions is preferable, to the extent possible.
- Terms REL, RL and compensation baseline may be confusing. Some suggestions were made to use “RL” as an overall concept with clarification of activities included.
- Revisions are needed over time. Annual revisions, however, may not be cost-effective and therefore the frequency would need to be longer, for example five years.
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation is an increasingly important REDD+ activity, but data are scarce.
- There is positive experience with engagement of communities in field inventories. This strengthens capacity at the local, with a view to train future resource persons.
- Capacity building is needed at all levels to further understand REL/RL development and for data collection.

Summary from the REDD+ Financing Options Workshop

Partners and Stakeholders met on 27 November, for a half-day workshop on REDD+ financing options

During the discussion, Partners noted that, contrary to the financing data presented, public sources should be the main source of fast-start financing for REDD+, while private investment should play a supplementary role.

Partners also noted that although two presentations largely focused on project approaches, focus was given and examples provided for a better understanding on how to account sub national implementation into a national level approaches and results that are verified at a national level, in order to leverage multilateral financing to the scale that is needed and to maintain consistency with outcomes from COP16. Panelists noted that all projects so far can contribute valuable lessons for REDD+, and agreed that while the bulk of experiences generated so far have been at the project level implementation, these should be nested in national accountability approaches going forward.

This is important to the private sector, because a nested approach would provide clear safeguards and rules for projects to fit into a national system. There are also other non-project-level initiatives that are generating experiences, such as green bonds.

A number of Partners also raised the role of the private sector as a driver of deforestation, the importance of addressing leakage, and to what extent participation of the private sector should be voluntary. These key issues point to the importance of conducting social analysis, identifying the roles and functions of companies, and linking activities across sectors and across geographic areas, in order to achieve greater results from REDD+ projects. The panel responded that financial incentives must be a reality in order to convince individuals and companies to leave forests untouched, and safeguards must be in place to ensure this is done effectively. Furthermore, housing projects *within a national approach* is the only way to control leakage and have permanence.

Partners also discussed what arrangements the Partnership and others could make for “latecomer” countries that have not yet put in place the structures needed in their countries to reach 2012 targets. The panelists highlighted that capacity building is needed, but that the international community is building a long-term

system, so countries can learn from those that have progressed more quickly and can ramp up very quickly. In this way, the system inherently allows for capacity to be built and for countries to “catch up” and sharing knowledge and lessons learned. South-South cooperation will also be needed.

ANNEX POSITIONS ON REDD+ UNDER CONSIDERATION BY THE NATIONAL REDD+ TASK FORCE

The following positions on REDD+ were presented to the REDD+ task force prior to the 17th Conference of Parties in Durban. The REDD+ Task Force is currently considering these positions on Reference Levels, MRV, Safeguards and financing the Phase III full implementation of REDD+.

Reference Levels

Paragraph 71 (b) of decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of that decision, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level¹ or, if appropriate, as an interim measure, subnational forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, in accordance with national circumstances, and with provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties;

Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 recognized that in the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to: (b) Develop modalities relating to paragraphs 71 (b) for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session.

The SBSTA at its 34th session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

Scope and Purpose

The REL and RL is considered as a benchmark for assessing a country's performance in reducing total emissions and increasing removals associated with REDD+ activities implemented by the Party. The comparison is needed to assess whether and how policies and measures implemented for REDD+ have resulted in quantifiable mitigation actions, and is expected to be used to determine the appropriate REDD+ financing and incentives for a particular Party.

Modalities for the development by non-Annex I Parties of forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of decision 1/CP.16 should be flexible in order to reflect national circumstances and allow widest participation of countries, thus minimizing international displacement, implementing REDD+ activities for mitigating climate change. (b) Characteristics, including elements listed in paragraph 1 of appendix I to decision 1/CP.16

Therefore, REL and RL should be the expected amount of emissions and removals that would have been occurred if REDD+ activities had not been implemented.

For each national or subnational unit as an interim measure for phase 1 and 2, or when totaled in sum reaching a national scale, Parties may set a reference emission levels including emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation only or may set a reference level including all emissions and removals associated

with all REDD+ activities, namely deforestation, forest degradation, forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The REL and RL are valid for the whole duration of REDD+ activities and shall be recalculated periodically as agreed by the Parties, such as every five [5 years].

Modalities for the Construction

The RL and REL should be characterized by transparency, accuracy and participation.

Pursuant to the principle of flexibility and respect for national circumstances, Parties may opt to use a REL or a RL depending on national circumstances.

The REL should include emission reduction from deforestation and forest degradation.

The REL should be based on historical data only so assuming a constant impact on forest emissions of drivers that cause deforestation and forest degradation and that shall be addressed by the implementing policies and measures for REDD.

Historical data used REL and RL may refer to a period encompassing the most recent years for which data is available, but including at least 1990, 2000 and 2005.

The RL should take into account carbon stock losses and gains and other emissions occurring on forest land, including those associated with change of use from forest to any other land use.

In particular countries that have maintained high levels of Sustainable Management of Forests (SMF) and conservation of their forest stocks will be allowed to adjust their RLs so that these efforts will be adequately recognized.

RL, based on historical data, should take into consideration the impact of human induced variables that drive emissions and removals in forest land and their expected change in the period to which the reference level is applied, so that the historical data are adjusted by means of Development Adjustment Factors (DAF) in order to determine the RL.

The DAF should be built on national circumstances determined by the use of the most recent relevant information, for example, last years' carbon stock changes and other emissions from the forest sector, per capita Gross Domestic Product (GDP), local and international prices of forest and agricultural goods, etc.

To avoid inconsistencies in methods, carbon pools and lands reported for setting the REL and RL and those used for accounting during the commitment period, the REL and RL could be subject to technical corrections when and if needed.

Setting the REL and RL may start by estimating activity data utilizing the freely available Landsat satellite global data set for 1990, 2000 and 2005, provided by NASA, and estimating carbon stocks changes using IPCC default value tables.

Process for Communication

REL and RL should be submitted to the COP, be subject to an independent assessment made by an expert review team equitably composed by Annex I and Non Annex I experts assisted by the UNFCCC secretariat and adopted by the COP.

Other Relevant Issues

REL and RL could be further modified to take into account the need to ensure that the total amount of net changes in emissions and removals accounted by mitigation activities implemented under the REDD+ mechanism account for a net reduction in emissions or enhancement of removals.

Monitoring, Reporting and Verification

Paragraph 71 (c) of decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of that decision, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system for the monitoring and reporting of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, with, if appropriate, subnational monitoring and reporting as an interim measure, in accordance with national circumstances, and with the provisions contained in decision 4/CP.15, and with any further elaboration of those provisions agreed by the Conference of the Parties.

Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 recognized that in the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to (c) Develop, as necessary, modalities for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest-related emissions by sources and removals by sinks, forest carbon stocks, and forest carbon stock and forest-area changes resulting from the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of this decision, consistent with any guidance on measuring, reporting and verifying nationally appropriate mitigation actions by developing country Parties agreed by the COP, taking into account methodological guidance in accordance with decision 4/CP.15, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session.

The SBSTA at its 34th session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/2. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

Most of the necessary elements regarding MRV for REDD+ have already been agreed by the Parties and discussions under SBSTA should be focused on missing elements only.

Monitoring: Decision 4/CP.15 contains guidance on the National Forest Monitoring Systems which should be based on a combination of remote sensing and ground-based forest carbon inventory. Reference materials could also be retrieved from the outcomes of the technical workshops and expert meetings organized by the Secretariat in the previous years. Countries should be allowed to have a “tiered

approach” in setting their national forest monitoring system according with the approach used in the IPCC Guidelines and Guidance that Parties agreed to be used, in their most recent version as adopted or encouraged by the COP as a basis for estimating anthropogenic forest-related greenhouse gas emissions and removals.

Measuring: Measurements should be consistent with data requirements for estimating emissions and removals based on IPCC guidance and guidelines as for Decision 4/CP.15. Therefore, collected data should be representative of the whole variability, which is present in the country, of carbon stocks and their dynamic, be free of bias as far as can be judged and ensure spatial and temporal consistency of compiled databases.

Reporting: in paragraph (c) of Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 the Parties agreed that MRV for REDD+ should remain consistent with any guidance for Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) (paragraphs 60 to 64 of decision 1/CP.16). In particular:

1. *National Communications:* in paragraph 60(b), the Parties agreed to enhance reporting in National Communications, including inventories, with additional flexibility given to least developed country parties and small island developing states;
2. *Frequency:* in paragraphs 60 (b) and (c), the Parties agreed that National Communications should be submitted every four years, with biennial update reports submitted consistent with their capabilities and level of support provided for reporting;
3. *Content:* in paragraphs 60, 60 (c) and 64, the Parties have agreed to provide national greenhouse gas inventories, including a national inventory report, and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received.

Therefore, Parties should set a permanent national system able to ensure continuity in the planning, preparation and management of the information to be reported, including its archiving, quality assurance (QA) and quality control (QC) and publication.

Verification: in paragraph 63 of decision 1/CP.16, the Parties agreed to conduct international consultations and analysis of the biennial reports under the SBI, in a manner that is non-intrusive, non-punitive, and respectful of national sovereignty and legislation, with the aim to improve transparency of mitigation actions and their effects, through analysis by technical experts in consultation with the Party concerned and through a facilitative sharing of views that will result in a summary report.

The procedures for monitoring, reporting and verification described above should apply to all phases of REDD+; noting that lower tiers for monitoring and reporting being consistent with IPCC Guidance and Guidelines may be implemented while national forest monitoring systems are being implemented, and therefore not fully operational, and that verification shall not include procedures set to ensure full equivalence of Party's carbon units. Accuracy of monitoring and reporting may improve depending on the support received.

Measurement, reporting and verification of the support provided by Annex I Parties to Parties not included in Annex I for activities referred to in paragraph 70 to decision 1/CP.16 should be carried out by an expert review team equitably

balanced between members of developed and developing countries selected from the roster of experts of the Convention and supported by the secretariat in consultation with relevant national authorities in accordance with countries different capacity and capabilities.

Safeguards

Paragraph 71 (d) of decision 1/CP.16 requested developing country Parties aiming to undertake the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of that decision, in the context of the provision of adequate and predictable support, including financial resources and technical and technological support to developing country Parties, in accordance with national circumstances and respective capabilities, to develop a system for providing information on how the safeguards referred to in appendix I to this decision are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities referred to in paragraph 70 above, while respecting sovereignty.

Appendix II to decision 1/CP.16 recognized that in the development of its work programme, the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice is requested to: (b) Develop, *inter alia*, guidance relating to paragraph 71 (d) of this decision, for consideration by the COP at its seventeenth session;

For all phases the SBSTA has therefore been requested to develop guidance with the view to assist developing country Parties to develop a system for providing information on how safeguards indicated in Annex I of Decision 1/CP.16 will be addressed and respected throughout implementation.

The SBSTA at its 34th session invited Parties and accredited observers to submit to the secretariat, by 19 September 2011, their views on the issues identified in paragraphs 28-30 of document FCCC/SBSTA/2011/22. It requested the secretariat to compile the submissions by Parties into a miscellaneous document for consideration by the SBSTA at its thirty-fifth session.

Characteristics

Guidance, provided by SBSTA, on the system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected should be:

- Consistent with the elements identified in paragraph 1 of Annex I to decision 1/CP.16;
- Flexible, including taking into account national circumstances and evolving conditions in the country;
- Nationally led and developed, respect national sovereignty, legislation, diversity and socio-economic conditions;
- Consistent with national development priorities, strategies, institutions, processes, so as to build upon existing infrastructure and national expertise;

Furthermore, transparency, regularity, consistency, reliability and broad participation should be guiding principles of the system.

Responsibility for the system on informing how safeguards are addressed and respected should remain with the relevant national authorities.

Guidance developed by the SBSTA should take into account national circumstances and should not be a prejudice to official national information systems.

Design

The systems for providing information on how safeguards are respected should be an integral part of REDD+ strategy and therefore should be simultaneously developed and implemented in phases so that the financial sources and levels of complexity supporting the design and development of the system can be identified and dealt with progressively.

The collection and type of information provided should be in conformity with relevant decisions by the Parties along with the relevant national regulations, procedures and modalities related to the implementation of safeguards (scope, standard, methods for gathering and processing information, presentation and assessment). Local institutions and existing information systems on forest related activities should be used.

Provision of information

Information on how the safeguards referred to in Appendix I to decision 1/CP.16 are being respected throughout implementation of REDD+ activities should be provided only for supported actions and should be consistent with the level of development of the national REDD+ strategy and its agreed phases.

Information on safeguards should be regularly reported by the official authority, the National Focal Point to the UNFCCC, through existing systems such as national communications consistent with country capability and the level of technical and financial support received as part of the whole REDD+ strategy.

Potential barriers, including barriers, if any, to providing information on addressing and respecting safeguards

Providing and gathering of information and participation of stakeholders should be adjusted to the existing national processes and modalities and the implementation must be progressive and consistent with the financial support provided and in accordance with national circumstances, policies and capabilities.

Phase III REDD+ Financing for Full Implementation

Rationale

Paragraph 77 of decision 1/CP.16 requested the Ad Hoc Working Group on Long term Cooperative Action under the Convention to explore financing options for the full implementation of the REDD+ results-based actions (these actions require national monitoring systems) referred to in paragraph 73 of that decision (results-based demonstration activities, and those evolving into results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified) and to report on progress made, including any recommendations for draft decisions on this matter, to the Conference of the Parties at its seventeenth session.

Noting the following:

- Decision 1/CP.16 recognized the crucial role of REDD+ to mitigate climate change;
- Substantial delay in the disbursement of fast start funding that was agreed by many Annex I Parties in Copenhagen and re-affirmed in paragraph 95 of decision 1/CP.16; The back-tracking by developed countries on the promise of new and additional financing; Much of the funds that have been disbursed so far are in fact old and re-packaged [*Official Development Assistance* financial resources];

Progress made elsewhere in related areas of REDD +, notably modalities for MRV, reference levels and guidance on a system for providing information on safeguards;

The work of the Transitional Committee for the design of the Green Climate Fund.

Decision 1/CP.16 specifically provides for adequate and predictable REDD+ support to developing countries [paragraph 71], notably: Scaled-up, new and additional, predictable and adequate funding to be provided [paragraph 97]

Funds may come from a wide variety of sources, public and private, bilateral and multilateral, including alternative sources [paragraph 99].

For REDD+ actions to be effective, significant global financial resources must be mobilized that are transparent, adequate, predictable and sustainable over time. Sources should include:

- Increased Official Development Assistance
- Auctions of authorized allowance units (AAUs)
- Carbon taxes and other levies, transport levies, Tobin tax
- Private sector investment
- Cap and trade market instruments, etc.

These sources should be administered and disbursed through a REDD+ window in the Green Climate Fund under the authority and guidance of the COP.

For phase 3 financial resources should come from a flexible combination of fund based and market based sources.