



Readiness Fund REDD+ Country Participants Progress Report Template

**Lao REDD+ Programme Report
01 July 2019 – 30 June 2020**

v. 2020

FCPF Readiness Fund: REDD+ Country Participant Annual Progress Report

About this document

This template is for use by Readiness Fund (RF) REDD+ Country Participants to report their annual progress on REDD+ readiness activities in general, and on FCPF-supported activities in particular. The data provided through these reports represents a central information source for measuring progress against the FCPF's expected results and performance indicators, as articulated within the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework.

Report preparation

Reports cover progress through 30th June of each year.

When preparing the report, RF REDD+ Country Participants should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD+ (component 6 of the R-PP) and should consult members of the national REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated, with any divergent views recorded as appropriate. Detailed, indicator-by-indicator definitions and reporting guidance are provided within the FCPF M&E Framework (<https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/monitoring-and-evaluation-0>).

Reporting schedule

Completed reports should be submitted to the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) by **15th July** every year.

1. In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities and achievements delivered within your country during the last year?

- Activities - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
- Achievements - For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalised, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed
- Please be as specific as possible, e.g. name, date and number of participants in consultation events (sex disaggregated, if available), name of policy being drafted, institutions involved in policy drafting

Activities

- National REDD+ Task Force meeting held in September 2019 and provided guidance on finalization of the NRS. Apart from NRTF members representatives of six Technical Working Groups (TWG), DoF senior staff, representatives from the ER Program provinces and development partners participated in this meeting
- Numerous TWG meetings held on priority areas of safeguards, benefit sharing plan, MRV, and legal issues given the focus was on completing all requirements leading up to ERPA signature
- Consultations with the TWG held on developing the Safeguards Information System (SIS) and field research undertaken
- Meetings with Provincial REDD+ Task Force (PRTF) to endorse Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs), provide an update on progress and approval of future plans
- Field research and consultations in ER provinces, and other provinces to develop SIS
- At the national level, public awareness raising on REDD+, sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation at the annual That Luang Festival in November 2019 in Vientiane. The REDD+ stall displayed posters and exhibits related to REDD+ in Lao PDR
- At the provincial level, Provincial REDD+ Office in collaboration with PAFO carried out public awareness raising through diverse events, including local festivals, and the national plantation day
- Capacity building at provincial and district levels on Training of Trainers, GIS training; forest survey and mapping; patrolling; information technology; and financial and procurement procedures

- Annual cross province exchange workshops on lessons from implementation of FCPF project activities and REDD+
- Multiple consultations, meetings discussions, and hosting of World Bank physical and virtual missions to prepare ERPA package for signature.

Achievements

- ERPA Preparation: The focus has remained on completing all the requirements for the ERPA and all milestones have been completed
- Term Sheet: The Term Sheet was negotiated and agreed with the Carbon Fund
- ERPA Drafts: Two draft ERPA received and are under review with formal negotiations scheduled to be completed within Quarter 3 2020
- Safeguards: The package of safeguards documents were completed and received clearance and disclosed on the DoF website. These include SESA, ESMF, EGPF, RPF and PF
- Advanced Benefit Sharing Plan: The work on the BSP through the year resulted in its acceptance as Advanced. The Advanced Draft BSP was disclosed on the DoF website
- ERPA Legal Documentation: All legal documentation related to the Program Entity ability to transfer ERs; sub-agreement; and reversal management completed and submitted to the CF
- National Forest Management System: Multiple consultations and discussions have clarified improvements to the NFMS that will also meet the requirements of ERPA monitoring and verification
- Monitoring, Measurement and Reporting: A consortium of Development Partners has been established that will provide technical support to MMR and develop feasible response through improved methods. A work plan has been developed and adequate funds secured
- National REDD+ Strategy: The NRS review has been undertaken and it is now aligned with the Forest Law 2019. The NRS is expected to receive approval in Quarter 3 2020 along with the on going revision of the Forest Strategy 2030 that is currently being drafted
- Safeguards Information System: A first draft of the SIS has been prepared including a work plan
- Safeguards Due Diligence for potential retroactive ER: Significant preparatory work undertaken for the Due Diligence process that will be finalized by Quarter 4 2020
- Capacity Building: Over 1,000 participants received training through different events. In addition a capacity building needs and gap assessment has been undertaken for REDD+ implementation. A capacity building plan with themes and modules has been developed to strengthen national and sub-national institutions for project implementation
- The land use, land use change assessment for 2019 has been completed and is in the process of receiving MAF approval
- The GoL received financial support from the Green Climate Fund and other partners for implementation of the ERP and will be executed by the GIZ. A launch workshop was held in June 2020
- Significant progress made in discussions with the GCF with an agreement that Lao PDR would submit a concept note and associated documents to request results-based payments for the period 2015 to 2018. The concept note is expected to be ready in Quarter 4 2020
- National and provincial public awareness events on REDD+ with outreach to approximately 4,000 persons and 7,500 communication products distributed

2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the last year?

- For example, lack of engagement from key stakeholders, political barriers, limited funding

- While the availability of professionals with experience of REDD+ requirements and familiarity with Lao PDR has improved this still remains a challenge
- Availability of senior government staff, representatives of development partners and TWGs has improved but can still lead to delays
- Developing a response to NFMS and MMR remained a challenge during the early part of the year but with substantial efforts continues to be resolved with support from development partners
- COVID -19 restrictions emerged as a significant challenge but this was mitigated through use of virtual meetings, virtual appraisal, and protocols for improved communication

- Several meetings, field visits, and events however had to be cancelled and postponed due to COVID-19 including data collection for SIS development and REDD+ awareness

3. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver, and achievements anticipated during the next year?

- For example, hold x consultation events, submission of R-Package to the PC, finalisation of SIS, commission research into REDD+ strategy options

- NRS approved by GoL and launch workshop held
- Continue to strengthen NFMS development and MMR framework
- FPF capacity building initiated
- Review ERPA package
- Closure of negotiations and ERPA signature
- Finalizing the Advanced Draft BSP for the ERP
- Establish National Project management Unit for implementation of ERP
- SESU established
- Completing the safeguards due diligence for potential retroactive ERs under the ERPA
- SIS established
- Safeguards capacity enhanced
- PRAPs revised and updated; and additional PRAPs initiated
- Concept note and package to GCF for results-based payment submitted

SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

4. Please provide your own assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components: (Indicator OV.1.B: Number of FCPF supported countries that have in place a National REDD+ Strategy, FREL/FRL, NFMS and SIS; Output 1.3 indicators)

Progress rating key:

5	Completed	The sub-component has been completed
4	Significant progress	Significant progress
3	Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
2	Further development required	Further development required
1	Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
0	N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation				
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	5	Completed		Significant progress National REDD+ management arrangements functioned effectively and were instrumental in completing all the requirements for ERPA signature. The ERPA package of documents was completed and the agreement will be signed in the
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		months ahead. The REDD+ Division continued to coordinate all the activities.
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	5	Completed	X	Significant progress Lao REDD+ has undertaken extensive consultations at the national level, provincial, district and community levels in the ERP area. REDD+ awareness raising materials were distributed to ERP provinces and districts. Separate consultations were undertaken on legal documentation and the draft Benefit Sharing Plan. Consultations in other regions of Lao were undertaken to develop the SIS.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation				
Sub-component 2: REDD+ Strategy	5	Completed		Significant progress The NRS approval has been held back to ensure the NRS is aligned with Lao policies, laws, and regulations. There are anticipated revisions to existing laws and policies during the 2019-2020 period. . The Forest Law 2019 has already been approved and the Forest Strategy 2020 is being revised. A draft of the revised Forest Strategy 2030 is expected shortly and thereafter the NRS will be revised, and submitted for GoL approval.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	5	Completed		Significant progress The national land use assessment as of January 2019 and NFI 3 have been completed. This data and changes in land use and underlying drivers have been analysed and reflected in the review of FS2020 and preparation of FS2030. In addition, changes in emissions and removals for 2015-2018 are being estimated against the national FREL/FRL, and the resulting report will be submitted to the UNFCCC later in 2020. GoL also plans to propose these REDD+ results to the GCF REDD+ results-based payment pilot programme.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	5	Completed		Significant progress The REDD+ strategy options have been identified after analysis and consultations and aim to address key drivers. The NRS incorporates options that will: -promote development of sustainable agriculture; -promote infrastructure development in coordination with forest protection; -transform pioneering shifting cultivation to sedentary cultivation and control forest fires and promote forest restoration; and, -manage commercial tree plantation programmes and forest rehabilitation.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2c:	5	Completed		Significant progress The Lao REDD+ implementation framework is
	4	Significant progress		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Implementation Framework	3	Progressing well, further development required		well developed and functioned well through the year. The NRTF meeting was organised and provided policy guidance. TWG meetings continue to be held as required. An addition to the framework is the GoL decision to utilise the Forest Protection Fund (FPF) as a mechanism to receive and manage income and payments from carbon credits and results-based payments under REDD+. A capacity building plan has been developed and will be implemented between 2020 onwards.
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	5	Completed	X	Completed The safeguards package was completed and disclosed. This includes SESA, ESMF, EGPF, RPF and PF. In addition the Advanced Benefit Sharing Plan was also approved and disclosed. http://dof.maf.gov.la/en/gfll-project-safeguard-documents-for-public-comments/ A capacity building plan has been developed and training and resource material in Lao language is under development.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels				
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	5	Completed		Significant progress The plan during the past year was to prioritise capacity building and to upgrade software and hard ware resources. Both these objectives were achieved through organisation of capacity building programmes and procurement of software and equipment. These steps will strengthen the ability of the Lao REDD+ programme to meet future requirements related to improvement and further development of the National Forest Monitoring System, reference emission levels and reporting under the ERP.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards				
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	5	Completed		Significant progress Based on discussion, consultation and planning, the following actions are underway: a detailed multi-year NFMS plan is being prepared; a Technical Note has been drafted that will prioritize ER reporting schedules and requirements to ensure ER reports are of high quality and ready for submission to the Carbon Fund. In addition a Bank financed work package will be implemented to support potential technical improvements to the FREL and ERP.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 4b: Information System for	5	Completed		Progressing well, further development required There is improved understanding of the diverse policy and information tools that will contribute to this sub-component. The NRS incorporates
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required	X	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	2	Further development required		elements of livelihoods and co-benefits; and, the Forest Strategy 2030 is expected to have increased focus on biodiversity. Considerable progress has been made in developing the SIS based on a national approach. Several consultations and field research have been undertaken and drafting of the SIS continues.
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		

SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

5. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at livelihoods; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates livelihoods)?

(Indicator 3.2.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods)

Yes		(delete as appropriate)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

The NRS provides a suite of intervention options to promote, sustain, and enhance livelihoods and these are further re-enforced in the ERPD and are mentioned in many programmes and sub programmes and interventions namely:

- Demonstrate good practices, and develop diverse livelihood models based on local potentials and provide financing and opportunities for agriculture production;
- Demonstrate good practices and develop various livelihood models based on local potentials, promote and develop local livelihood alternatives through income-generating activities including ecotourism;
- Promote participation of private sector and individuals in applying the commercial and smallholder tree plantation models by households and community in order to compensate or reduce the use of wood from natural forests and to generate income for local people.

6. Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity (e.g. one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation)?

(Indicator 3.3.b: Number of RF REDD+ Country Participants whose REDD+ Strategies include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity)

Yes		(delete as appropriate)
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If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

All programmes and interventions of the NRS are designed to protect biodiversity through reducing or avoiding forest clearing. Two specific programmes aim particularly to protect forest biodiversity by management of forest fires, and promoting forest biodiversity through forest restoration development.

SECTION D: FINANCE

(Please complete in US\$ ONLY)

7. Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e. fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included:

(Indicator 1.B: Amount of finance received to support the REDD+ Readiness process (disaggregated by public, private, grants, loans))

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)

\$8,175,000	FCPF Readiness Grant -- WB	2014	Public	Grant
\$5,500,000	JICA -- F-REDD 1	2015	Public	Grant
\$17,500,000	KfW -- ICBF	2015	Public	Grant
\$2,800,000	GIZ -- CLiPAD	2019	Public	Grant
\$7,900,000	KfW -- VFMP	2019	Public	Grant
\$22,700,000	GIZ-GCF-- I-GFLL	2020	Public	Grant

8. Please detail any ex ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you hope to secure in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$4,000,000	JICA -- F-REDD 2	Public	Grant
\$42,000,000	ERPA -- Carbon Fund	Public	Other
\$To Be Decided	GCF RBP	Public	Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

9. To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

(Indicator 4.B: Participant Countries' assessment of FCPF's role within and contribution to national REDD+ processes)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a central influence on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved the quality of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved national capacities to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X
The FCPF's support has helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes				X	

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

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10. To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products (**publications, seminars, learning events, web resources**), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements: (Indicator 4.3.a: Extent to which FCPF learning, evidence and knowledge products are used by Participant countries)

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We regularly access FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information				X	
FCPF knowledge products are relevant to our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
FCPF knowledge products are sufficient to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements				X	
The FCPF website is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

We would welcome additional and frequent webinars especially on technical issues related to the NFMS and MMR.

SECTION F: FINAL COMMENTS

11. If appropriate, please provide any further comments or clarifications relating to your work on REDD+ Readiness during the last year:

The preparation of the ERPA package during the last year has enhanced capacity of the Lao REDD+ programme especially with regards to NFMS and MMR. Once ERPA signature is completed the Lao REDD+ programme will continue to prioritize development of the NFMS and the MMR framework to ensure readiness for reporting and verification.