

REDD Readiness Progress Fact Sheet

COUNTRY: Lao PDR

October 2013

1. R-PP Preparation and FCPF Readiness grant

- \$200K FCPF REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) Grant Agreement signed in October 2009; this fund closed (86% disbursed) in March 2013.
- R-PP submitted for consideration by FCPF PC at PC7 (November, 2010), a revised version of the R-PP was submitted to the FCPF Secretariat in February 2011.
- World Bank Staff Assessment note was reviewed and approved by management on October 1, 2012 conditional on clarification of the implementing agency; Clarification on FCPF implementing agency received on June 5, 2013.
- Expected date for FCPF REDD+ Readiness grant signature is November 2013; Launch expected January 2014.
- Lao PDR selected as FIP (Forest Investment Program) pilot country in June, 2010. The FIP-IDA project (P130222) approved by FIP Steering Committee on April 3, 2013 and World Bank Board of Directors on May 31, 2013.

2. National REDD Readiness Management Arrangements

A new Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) was formed in June 2011. The mandate of MONRE, including the Department of Forest Resource Management (DFRM) relative to REDD+ was spelled out in a PM Decree in November 2011. The DFRM has responsibility for REDD+ implementation in Protection and Conservation Forests. The Department of Forestry (DoF) within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) has territorial responsibility for REDD+ implementation in Production forest and in non-state forest areas under village management. These responsibilities were spelled out in a PM Decree in June 2012. Both ministries are piloting REDD+ implementation in their respective territories.

In a letter dated June 4, 2013 clarification was provided that DOF will be the Implementing Agency (IA) for FCPF and DFRM will be the IA for REDD+. It has been agreed among four Ministries (MAF, MONRE, and the Ministries of Planning/Investment and Finance) that DoF will lead FCPF implementation with active participation from DFRM. This arrangement takes advantage of DOF's implementation experience and staff and is expected to facilitate coordination with FIP implementation which is also under DOF management. The arrangement will also ensure that capacity of DFRM will be supported by FCPF along with support coming from ongoing German and Japanese REDD+ resources.

3. Stakeholder Consultations and Communication

Extensive consultations were held during R-PP development and sub-national REDD+ discussions with stakeholders were held in June to August 2012. Additional consultations will begin once the grant agreement is signed and the SESA preparation is underway.

4. REDD Strategy Preparation

Will be undertaken once the grant agreement is signed.

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5. Implementation Framework

The implementation framework has been clarified with the PM decrees and the agreement among ministers referenced in section 2 above and will be further clarified at the operational level during implementation and through the development of the National REDD+ Strategy.

6. SESA

TORs for SESA and ESMF have been developed and reviewed by the Bank Regional Safeguards Secretariat (RSS). Recommended revisions have been incorporated.

7. Development of a Reference Scenario

Will be developed based on discussions with the government and other bilateral donors during the project implementation.

8. MRV

Bi-lateral development partners, notably Germany, Netherlands, Japan and Finland, continue to assist the Lao Government in building capacity in forest monitoring, forest mapping, and community-based approaches for carbon mapping.

Lao PDR is part of the USAID-funded LEAF program (Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests), which is building capacity and strengthening regional collaboration in forest monitoring and the piloting of techniques that can be applied in the national REDD+ readiness process.

9. Other