



Readiness Fund REDD+ Country
Participants Progress Report
THAILAND

Period: July 2019 – 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.

SECTION A: NARRATIVE SUMMARY

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

The FCPF Grant for REDD+ Readiness Preparation for Thailand has been effective from 17 June 2016 (the Grant Agreement signed) and will terminate on 31 December 2021. The Readiness Preparation for Thailand consists of 4 components and during the reporting period, some key progresses can be described as follows:

1.1 Component 1: Support Readiness Organization and Consultation.

Progress and Achievement:

1. The new procurement plan has been given no-objection for 6 groups of shopping activities (for Central and Regional offices' equipment, furniture and necessary hardware) which have been approved via STEP system.
2. Five Regional REDD+ Offices (Upper North / Lower Northern / North-eastern / Central, Eastern and Western / Southern) and nine Forest and Climate Change Education and Action Centres have been established and functioned.
3. Three Technical Working Groups (TWG) were established for the development of (1) FRL and MRV, (2) REDD+ Strategy and (3) REDD+ Communication Strategy
4. Four trainings entitled "Principles and Concepts of the REDD+ Framework and Climate Change in the Forestry Sector (For the public sector Civil society and private sectors)" were organized during March – July 2019. About 200 participants from the Northern, Central, Western, Eastern and North-eastern regions were attended.
5. Four training workshops on the Strengthening Knowledge, understanding, lesson summaries and formulation of

response plans for the Red Plus mechanism and forestry climate change were taken place in 4 regions during 12 – 28 February 2020. The participants were from government organizations, local communities, local administrators, private sectors, academic sectors and REDD+ officers in total number of participants was 320.

6. The Development Communications Strategy and Assess Information and Media Products for Thailand REDD+ (CS-5) has been completed. The TWG meetings of CS-5 package were organized on 8 April 2020 and 18 May 2020 to review the quality of deliverables.
7. Two annual PSC meetings for FCPF Thailand were conducted on 18 January 2019 and 17 October 2019.
8. The World Bank missions for FCPF were conducted during 21 – 25 January 2019, and 10 -13 June 2019, accordingly.
9. The World Bank Technical Meeting was conducted during 15 – 16 October 2019

1.2 Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Progress and Achievement:

Activities under this component support the development of a REDD+ strategy including: supporting analytical work to inform REDD+ strategy development; conducting consultations and studies on key issues related to REDD+, including, identifying drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and respective REDD+ strategy options, forest governance, land tenure, and benefit sharing arrangements; undertaking the SESA and preparing an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); reviewing existing Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (FGRMs), and as necessary, establishing or strengthening the FGRM(s); designing a safeguard monitoring system; and supporting the elaboration of the draft REDD+ strategy

1. The National REDD+ Strategy and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for the REDD+ Mechanism in Thailand Contract (CS-6) for REDD+ National Strategy/SESA was signed on 12 June 2019. Given the contract period of 12 months which will end by June 2020. The DNP has worked closely with the consultant to ensure that activities will be on track and completed on time and with no delay. Additionally, DNP hired an external expert to help review all consultants' reports.
2. During the implementation of CS-6, the external expert reviewing during 7 - 31 January 2020 together with several meetings with the World Bank team, it was noted that many of the issues relating to timing and sequencing of the deliverables were far behind schedule. The performance of the Consultant Team did not meet the generally accepted professional standards and practices, and did not observe the sound project management that was expected. All reports were unqualified and needed urgent tremendous improvement to meet the TOR requirement and FCPF standard.
3. The National Expert Consultation (NEC) meeting to follow up the CS-6 package was held on 24 February 2020 at the Maruay Garden Hotel, Bangkok. The meeting was participated by the representatives from consultant company (AESA), the World Bank Office Bangkok (WBOB), the DNP and related national and external experts. The focus of the meeting was to receive updated information on the progression and situation of CS-6 package. The DNP also wanted to express their concerns regarding the performances of the Team leader and key experts and the delay of the reports. There were several issues, comments and concerns raised by the DNP, WBOB and experts, such as the project management and team functions, project timeline, reports quality, report progression and the comprehensive plan for the rest of project time period.
4. The contract of CS-6 Package was expired on 11 June 2020 and is now closing. There has no further implementation effective from the consultant company since the closing date. In general, the consultant company cannot complete and submit all deliverables under the Contract Term of References (ToR). The DNP is now evaluating the quality of some reports which submitted before closing date. To continue the National REDD+ Strategy and related tasks the DNP is now working closely with the World Bank to establish new contract completed and fulfill these components.

1.3 Component 3: Forest Monitoring and Emissions.

Activities under this component support the development of a reference emission level ("REL") and monitoring, reporting and verification system ("MRV"), including supporting the establishment of a REL. Develop models for emissions estimations; supporting the technical design and proposal for enhancing the national forest inventory and monitoring system to support REDD+; compiling, analysing and disseminating information on the latest national forest inventory; and providing training to government officials and other stakeholders on MRV and software programming

Progress and Achievement:

1. DNP signed agreement with FAO for “Technical Assistance for the Development of REDD+MRV system and Forest Reference Level for Thailand” on 6 September 2018 and the closing date was on 30 September 2019.
2. The 1st no-cost extension was approved for the closing date in 31 January 2020.
3. The 2nd no-cost extension was approved for the closing date in 30 June 2020.
4. The meeting between DNP, FAORAP and World Bank team on October 16, 2019, the FAO project team committed to submit the final FRL by January 30, 2020. The draft FRL was duly submitted on January 10, 2020. In time for reviewing and amendment, and in order to have a document ready for discussion during the visit of DNP officials to FAO HQ in Rome on 13-17 January, 2020.
5. During the Rome mission, it agreed for further improvement of the FRL. FAO needs to improve FRL, in particular to reduce the Confidence Intervals of the green house emission and removal estimation, and thus the accuracy of the FRL. Hence, FAO will produce (i) a national forest cover map for the year 2006 – 2007 to compliment the 2017 – 2018 map production (ii) forest change map (iii) the stratified area estimate that will be part of the calculation of Activity Data for the FRL, and (iv) manuals and methodologies for analysing activity data, emission factor and FRL construction.
6. The final draft report on FRL and National Forest Monitoring System from FAO were submitted and reviewed by the TWG on 1 November 2019. The TWG found that the produced maps were low in accuracy and the emission factor presented a high value of confidential interval (CI) effecting FRL. The improvement of FRL was strongly recommended.
7. The workshop on Technical Working Group (TWG) was taken place at the Mida Hotel, Nakorn Pathom between 10 -11 June 2020. The workshop was aimed to present the progressions on Activity data Methodology, Forest Reference Level (FRL) and Emission Factors, and to receive comments from the TWG on related issues.
8. To ensure the quality and timely delivery of the activities under this component, DNP has approved for the 3rd no-cost extension of the new closing date on 30 September 2020.

1.4 Component 4: Forest Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Activities under this component are to support the management and coordination of REDD readiness activities, financial and procurement services, as well as monitoring and coordination of the overall operation.

Progress and Achievement:

- The project implementation status:
 - The 2nd no-cost extension of the Project was approved for new closing date on 31 December 2021
 - New Manager has been appointed recently, Mrs. Sunee Sakseau.
 - The Project Operation Officer was trained on STEP application.
 - The Project Technical Officer was hired, start working in October 2019.
 - The contracts of consulting services of the external expert to review CS6 package and MTR; and the Auditing Firm were signed.
 - The Auditing Firm has been appointed since January 2020. The Project’s Financial Statement Fiscal Year 2018 and 2019 have been audited. The Auditing Report has been submitted to the World Bank.
- Fund flow and Disbursement. DA replenishment has been undertaken at least on a quarterly basis to avoid making the account inactive. Cumulative expenditure of the project has reached US\$ 1,558,929 as of 30 June 2020, representing the disbursement rate of 43.30% against the project grant fund of US\$ 3,600,000.
- Budget Plan. The budget plan and procurement plan has been revised to cover the project 2nd extension closing date up to 31 December 2021. The revised Project Budget/Work Plan of FY20 to FY21 was revised, and got No Objection via the STEP.
- Submitting the Mid-Term-Report (MTR). As per the provisions in the grant agreement, the country prepares a MTR once significant progress has been made with REDD+ Readiness implementation.

Typically, countries prepare their MTR once they have disbursed around 30-50% of the Readiness Grant. The MTR is a self-assessment by the country and by relevant stakeholders involved in REDD+ readiness based on the FCPF's Readiness Assessment Framework. The followings are the summarized of Thailand MTR background and preparation:

- The Thailand R-PP MTR may not possible to present for the PC Meeting in March, original plan for the submission, due to the delay of large consultant packages' reports, CS6 and CS7. Later, Thailand was informed that the PC Meeting was postponed.
- DNP was informed that delaying submission of the MTR is possible. Thailand is going to try to make it to the September/October PC meeting. In this case, DNP will request for the 2nd extension of the program closing date.
- With regard to procedure, DNP was informed that MTRs can be able submitted either for i) virtual review and endorsement by the FCPF PC or ii) for in-person presentation and review as part of a PC meeting agenda. The DNP, with closely communication with the TL and supports from the expert, completed the MTR (draft) and submitted to the FCPF Secretariat on 1 July 2020 for 1st reviewing.

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

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- Political barriers, many policies and National Plan were crested to support REDD+ activities and forest management implementation but it still lack and insufficient to provide support in the implementing stage.
- The lack of knowledge and experiences on the REDD+ implementation.
- Changing the internal institutional arrangement and decision making,
- The project cannot recruit for the Financial and Accountant Assistants to support the implementing the activities. Due to delay in recruitment for individual consultant, the project has insufficient staff to hold all the activities and preparing the technical and financial report on time.
- The project implementation was delay due to insufficient of resources including human resources to support implementation and only few staff can write and read and clearly understand English language.
- Some capacity building and consultation cannot gain for the proper participation due to too many meeting and consultation and harvesting period.

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

- Submission on FRL to UNFCCC ,
- National Forest Monitoring System and Measurable, Monitoring and Reporting system,
- Complete the National REDD+ strategy,
- Finalisation of Safeguards information System and Social and Environment Strategic Assessment.

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	X There are many activities were done under this component and has progress for the capacity building and institution arrangement for REDD+ readiness.
	4 Significant progress	
	3 Progressing well, further development required	
	2 Further development required	
	1 Not yet demonstrating progress	
	0 N/A	
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	5 Completed	X Sub-component 1 b is still in the process to analyse the stakeholder and outreach mechanism strategy. In the same time all the progress was done by the government budget such media, website and consultation meeting with the CSOs and other stakeholders. The Communication Strategy has been completed with fruitful outputs.
	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	X Component 2 just start to implement in late June 2019 and in the process to review the document, data and other. The project contract is expired and the DNP on the processing to establish new contract to complete the component.
	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	X
	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	
	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	X	
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	5	Completed		
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress	X	
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	5	Completed		
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress	X	
	0	N/A		
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels				
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	5	Completed		Component 3 was started from September 2018, and the work was in progress and expected to be finalized within September 2020.
	4	Significant progress	X	
	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		
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required	X	
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	5	Completed		
	4	Significant progress	X	
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	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	No	(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:

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	No	(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

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)
\$ 3,600,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation 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)
\$ 600,000	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (In-kind contributions)	06/2016	Public

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:

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:

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 issues that we faced last year are

- STEP and Client system are not friendly for user and the manual is difficult to understand. It takes long time to understand and process the work. This issues also effect on the delay of project implementation.
- It was difficult to recruit for responsible personal who has knowledge on REDD+ and the FCPF/WB process for the R-PP project.
- Lack of formal mechanism to coordinate actions of REDD+ Technical Working Groups; the responsibilities assigned to the members of TWGs, especially the some staffs from the DNP which REDD+ are additional responsibilities, therefor it is difficult for them to engage effectively.

Working in two language, to promote national understanding and to meet international requirements, has been a major challenge. It is difficult to looking for he competent translators who understand the technical context, therefore the national technical staff end up spending considerable amounts of time undertaking the translations themselves.