



Readiness Fund REDD+ Country
Participants Progress Report
Lao PDR

v. 2018



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 delivered within your country during the last year?
 - For example, strategy / policy drafting, stakeholder consultation events, capacity building / training, awareness raising initiatives
 - 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

Strategy and policy

- Drafting and finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy through the TWGs and stakeholder consultations; Expected to be approved by MAF in September 2018.
- Drafting /revising the Forestry Law and Land Law. Both Laws are scheduled to be submitted to the National Parliament for approval in the October 2018;
- Started preparation and negotiation on the FLEGT VPA;
- Submission and endorsement of the R-Package;
- Development, submission and approval of the ER-PD (CF18 Meeting, June 2018);
- Preparing and submission of the National FREL and FRL for REDD+ to the UNFCCC (January 2018)
- Drafting and finalizing the SESA and ESMF (including the CEP, FGRM and Gender Action Plan) – the final draft is expected in September 2018;
- Preparing the REDD+ Communication Strategy;

Key Stakeholder consultations and capacity building

- National REDD+ Task Force meetings (3 meetings in August 2017; December 2017 and June 2018), with participation by the NTF members, representative of six Technical Working Groups (TWG) and REDD+ advisors;
- TWGs meeting on FREL (August 2017) open to all interested stakeholders (e.g. Government; INGOs, CSOs, Private; Educational Institutions);
- To exchange information and lessons learnt on CliPAD's experiences and achievements made regarding Village Forest Management (VFM), the Free Prior Informed and Consent (FPIC), Village Development Funds (VDF), Livelihood improvement activities and Provincial REDD+ Readiness, 70 representatives from the Department of Forestry, the TWG(s) and six Provincial Forestry Offices and Planning and Investment Offices (Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Oudomxay, Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Champasak), visited Houaphan in March during a three days lasting study tour.
- Forestry Sub-Sector Working Group meeting (3 meetings: August 2017; December 2017; June 2018);
- Workshop on REDD+ Self-Assessment (Gov, Education Institutions, Private sectors and CSOs) Research in collaboration between NUoL and CIFOR. (October 2017);
- FLEGT-REDD+ linkages meeting (August 2017)
- Provincial REDD+ Action Plan (PRAP) Consultations in four of six provinces of the ER Program (many meetings organized between the late July and September 2017 include one in each of four provinces, one in each of all districts of the four provinces and one in each selective village cluster in each of all districts;
- Agriculture and Land Sector consultation meeting on the NRS and the ER-PD (organized December 2017).
- Land tenure assessment and consultation meetings (November 2017) under the ER Program preparation process *(Some more details of the stakeholder consultations and capacity building refers to the Annex 3: Stakeholder and TWG Meetings of the Lao PDR Readiness Package Self-Assessment Report, dated February 2018)*

2. What were the main REDD+ readiness-related achievements in your country during the last year?

- For example, x number of individuals attended REDD+ consultations (sex disaggregated, if available), national REDD+ strategy was finalized, government formally adopted national REDD+ related policy/s, NFMS was established, partnership agreement with private sector association signed

- Advanced drafting of the National REDD+ Strategy. (Expected to be approved by MAF in September 2018.)
- Progress on revising the Forestry Law and Land Law. (Expected for both laws to be approved by National Parliament in October 2018);
- The R-Package was completed, submitted and accepted by the FCPF (PC25 Meeting, March 2018)
- The Lao PDR ER-PD for 6 Northern Provinces was completed, submitted and accepted by the CFP (CF18 Meeting, June 2018);
- The National FREL Report of Lao PDR was finalized and submitted to the UNFCCC (January 2018). The Report is currently going through UNFCCC's technical review and modification;
- Drafting and finalizing the SESA and ESMF (including the FGSM and Gender Action Plan) – the final draft is expected in the Sep 2018;
- REDD+ Communication Strategy for Lao PDR finalized and under process of approval.
- The PRAPs for Luang Prabang and Houaphan have been approved (December 2017; January 2018 respectively)
- PRAPs for Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Sayaboury and Oudomxay have been finalized and waiting approval.

3. 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

- Implementation of some of the planned activities was delayed due to unavailability of the key members of Government (eg. NRTF members, MAF and DoF leaders, PRTF members and so on) with many other important commitments, and time constraints due to heavy workload.
- Raising awareness, knowledge and understanding among policy makers and the public regarding the balancing

socio-economic development, poverty reduction, agricultural development, and sustainable management and conservation of forests was challenging and time-consuming.

- Overwhelming workload for the REDD+ process as Lao PDR had to work simultaneously on the ER-PD Preparation and the REDD+ Readiness Activities during the report period of 2017-2018.
- There is still lack of private-partnership models and incentives to involve of private sectors.
- While there were some involvement of civil society in REDD+ Process in Lao PDR so far, they need more supports and encouragements in the coming years.

4. What are the main REDD+ readiness-related activities that you hope to deliver 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

- Complete four key elements of REDD+ Readiness (i.e. NRS, SIS, NFREL, NFMS);
- Completing requirements for the ER-PD which will lay the ground for national REDD+ full implementation, including: BS Plan, , SESA and ESMF (including the Community Engagement Framework, FGRM and Gender Action Plan)
- Issuing a PM Degree on REDD+, (also required for the ER Program as requisite for ERPA negotiation)
- Capacity and Preparation – capacity building in the target provinces of the ER Program to operationalize the provincial REDD+ Office; Extend the REDD+ institutional arrangement to two additional provinces in the South; Rearrangement of REDD+ TWGs; Assessment of REDD+ Task Force at both national and sub-national levels; Decide public-private partnership model to engagement with private sector; Mobilizing financial resources for the ER Program implementation including developing funding proposal to GCF and other potential sources.
- Establish a third party monitoring framework for community engagement in the REDD+

SECTION B: READINESS PROGRESS

5. 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:

Complete	The sub-component has been completed
Significant progress	Significant progress
Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
Further development required	Further development required
Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
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	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #2e7d32; color: white;">Complete</td> <td style="width: 50px;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #4caf50;"></td> <td style="text-align: center;">x</td> </tr> </table>	Complete			x	<p><i>Significant Progress Achieved.</i> The REDD+ management and co-ordination structures are</p>
Complete						
	x					

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
Arrangements	Yellow	functional, and operate in an open and transparent manner. Regular and Ad-Hoc meetings with related offices and established TWGs have been organized to ensure good REDD+ coordination and implementation. The REDD+ Division has increased its staff capacity to cover areas such as PRAP formulation, Communication, Stakeholder Engagement, MRV, Safeguards and monitoring and evaluation.	
	Orange		
	Red		
	N/A		
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Complete	Progressing well, further development required. Important results obtained with regard to stakeholder consultations at different levels in Northern, Central, and Southern regions of Lao PDR, through SESA consultations, PRAP preparations, and engagement around the National REDD+ Strategy. However, communicating on REDD+ issues has been challenging, given the fact that it is a complex and abstract concept, and that it is yet to be operational. The rating of this component reflects the need for further work to develop sub-national level institutions and build capacity for implementation	
	Green		
	Yellow		X
	Orange		
	Red		
	N/A		
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation			
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Complete	Significant Progress Achieved. The updated assessment of land use change and deforestation drivers was very technically comprehensive, and used the recent (2015-2016) land cover map to inform the analysis. Drivers were also identified through three main approaches; namely 1) a land-use change analysis based on national wall-to-wall maps; 2) a spatial drivers' analysis (based on the global Hansen tree forest cover loss data and attribution of disturbances for changes), and 3) stakeholder consultations. Barriers and constraints to addressing drivers were well developed in the National REDD+ Strategy development process.	
	Green		X
	Yellow		
	Orange		
	Red		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	Complete	Significant Progress Achieved. The National REDD+ Strategy has been drafted through wide stakeholder consultation and input. The development of the strategy was a participatory, technical and rational process that identified and selected strategy interventions using multi-criteria analysis and review of underlying drivers to addressing deforestation drivers as well as appropriate policies and measures needed. Due to high national ownership of the NRS, stakeholders agree that significant progress has been made. They recognize, nonetheless, that further work will be needed to develop action plans to implement the NRS.	
	Green		X
	Yellow		
	Orange		
	Red		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	Complete	Progressing well; further development required. A REDD+ decree is under preparation, which will address issues including on nesting of REDD+ projects at different scales, REDD+ RBPs, and its relation to the Benefit Sharing Plan.. Articles related to REDD+ have been newly developed in the revised Forestry Law (under drafting).	
	Green		
	Yellow		X
	Orange		
	Red		
	N/A		
Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	Complete	Progressing well, further development required. A detailed and thorough SESA process was conducted that involved consultations as well as validation exercises at sub-	
	Green		
	Yellow		X

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)	Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)						
	<table border="1"> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td></tr> <tr><td>N/A</td><td></td></tr> </table>					N/A		national and national levels. The REDD+ Strategy process has incorporated the outputs from SESA process. The SESA process was used to influence the development and prioritization of the strategy options, and where safeguard issues were found, mitigation actions have been identified. A draft ESMF has been produced and the final draft is expected in September 2018.
N/A								
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels								
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	Complete							
		X						
	N/A							
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards								
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	Complete							
		X						
	N/A							
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Complete							
		X						
	N/A							

SECTION C: NON-CARBON BENEFITS

6. 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

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

The final draft National REDD+ Strategy outlines a suite of intervention options to promote, sustain, and enhance livelihoods these are further re-enforced in the ERPD and are clearly mentioned in many programs/sub-programs and

interventions, namely:

- Program and intervention 1 (1.3) *Demonstrate good practices, and develop diverse livelihood models based on local potentials and provide financing and opportunities for agriculture production;*
- Program and intervention 4 (4.3) *Demonstrate good practices and develop various livelihood models based on local potentials, promote and develop local livelihood alternatives through income-generating activities including ecotourism;*
- Program and intervention 5 (5.2) *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.*

7. 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

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

All programs and interventions of the NRS are designed to protect biodiversity through reducing or avoiding forest clearing. Importantly two program (4B and 5B) aim particularly to protect forest biodiversity by Management of Forest Fires, and promoting forest biodiversity through Forest Restoration Development.

SECTION D: FINANCE

8. 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)
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EXAMPLES:

\$500,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	10/2013	Public /Private	Grant /Loan /Other
\$250,000	Ministry of Forestry	01/2014	Public /Private	Grant /Loan /Other

\$14,508,000	JICA (through F-REDD Project)	2011	Public	Grant
\$8,320,000	German Gov. (through CliPAD Project)	2011	Public	Grant
\$1,059,000	SUFORD	2011	Public	Grant
\$625,000	RECOFTC	2011	Public	Grant
\$1,650,000	LEAF Project	2011	Public	Grant
\$133,000	SNV	2013	Public	Grant

\$8,175,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant	2014	Public	Grant
\$707,000	UN-REDD/FAO	2014	Public	Grant

9. 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)
\$ 2.4 mil	BMZ (Germany Gov)	Public	Grant
\$ Exact figure to be confirmed	Proposal to GCF for supporting ER-Program	Public	Grant / Loan / Other
\$ Exact figure to be confirmed	Result Based Payment Proposal to GCF	Public	Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other
\$		Public / Private	Grant / Loan / Other

SECTION E: FCPF PERFORMANCE

10. 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				X	

involvement of multiple stakeholders (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes)					
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Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

Support from the FCPF has been critical in many ways for the development and advancement of REDD+ in Lao PDR. Notwithstanding, there are issues, particularly as pertain to safeguards requirements that are not clear when it comes down to actual implementation. For example, the safeguard requirements of the Bank and Carbon Fund, as they relate to activities that have commenced before the ER-PD, or activities funded by the private sector. More specific guidance on the application of safeguards in real situations would be welcomed.

11. 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

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