



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

TAP Review: Lao Readiness Package

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Milestones towards REDD+ Readiness

Key achievements that have been registered between 2007 and 2018:

- Development of an R-PP in 2010 which laid the foundation for the national REDD+ Strategy
- Joined the FIP in 2012
- Production of Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs) - based on studies in each Province of Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation
- Preparation of a National REDD+ Strategy – expected to be approved in 2018
- Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) as an input to the ER-PD
- ER-PD produced in 2018
- Submitted a REL/RL to the UNFCCC in January of 2018.

Strategic Ambition and Vision I

National REDD+ Strategy specifies programs and strategic interventions over three phases, (2018-2020), (2021-2025), and (2026-2030) with **5 core interventions areas** namely:

- Development of sustainable agriculture in coordination with forest protection measures
- Infrastructure and mining development including resettlement and urban expansion in coordination with forest protection measures
- Sustainable timber harvesting and forest management (wood and forest products)
- Turning pioneering shifting cultivation to sedentary cultivation, controlling forest fires and forest restoration (carbon stock enhancement)
- Development of sustainable commercial tree plantations

Lao Strategic Vision and Ambition II

The strategic vision and ambition appears adequate but needs supportive policies and measures that will make it feasible.

- Alignment with Lao's REDD+ Strategy (2025) and Vision 2030
- Increase of Forest Cover to from an estimated 58% in 2015 to 70% - 6 million ha of natural regeneration, 500,000 ha planted
- ER Program Area – 6 Northern Provinces covering 35% of National territory
- ER Targets – net ER and enhanced removals 21.6 million tCO₂e against the 2005-2015 RL

The Self Assessment Process

- Was effected through three main meetings; the Core REDD+ Team and Development Partners, the Technical Working Group Members and the National REDD+ Task Force.
- Each group discussed the criteria and thereafter agreed on the colour rating - ratings from each group were combined to generate overall ratings for each set of criteria.
- Key achievements were identified and areas that needed additional action were agreed upon and listed after each summary rating
- A list of planned actions are listed in a work plan for readiness which will be concluded in 2020.
- In general, the document is comprehensive and clearly structured in line with the R-Package Assessment Framework.

Summary of the self-assessment results of Laos

REDD READINESS COMPONENT AND SUB-COMPONENT	PROGRESS INDICATOR
Component 1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	
Sub-component 1a	Yellow
Sub-component 1b	Yellow
Component 2 REDD+ Strategy Preparation	
Sub-component 2a Assessment of land use, Land use changers, Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Green
Sub-component 2b REDD+ Strategy Options	Green
Sub-component 2c Implementation Framework	Orange
Sub-component 2d Social and Environmental Impacts	Yellow
Component 3 Reference Emissions Level/ Reference Levels	Green
Component 4 Monitoring systems for Forests and Safeguards	Yellow
Sub-component 4a National Forest Monitoring System	Yellow
Sub-component 4b Information System for Multiple Benefits, other Impacts, Governance and Safeguards	Orange

Main Observations by the TAP I

- The assessment provides a clear picture of stakeholder participation and also what appears to be, an honest view of where the weaknesses are
- A list of planned actions are presented in a work plan for readiness which will be concluded in 2020.
- Coordination among other sectors which are crucial to REDD+ (forestry, agriculture, mining, transport infra-structure and others) – remains a challenge but not adequately reflected in the self-assessment.
- Engagement with the private sector is also weak while it could play a critical role in agricultural value chains that could help reduce rural poverty
- From the assessment, the aspects of implementation and public disclosure appears to be weak and more should be done

Main Observations by the TAP II

- The drivers, barriers have been sufficiently analysed and used to formulate a National REDD+ Strategy with the five programs.
- Going forward, the ER-PD should consider developing and proposing guidelines on carbon rights which has not been adequately resolved, particularly for forest lands under communal ownership.
- Cost-benefit analysis to estimate the scale of their emission reduction potentials – still pending, as are policy and technological innovations to achieve the objectives of the National REDD+ Strategy
- The resolution of legal issues, such as those regarding carbon rights and rights to transfer ER titles are still pending.

Recommendations

- Based on the TAPs observation, much more needs to be done on cross-sectoral and vertical coordination among sectors and at the various levels of government to implement the NRS
- Lao should equally identify and propose policy and technological options particularly in the agriculture and forest sectors that would facilitate the desired levels of emission reductions
- Based on comments regarding capacity for RL/REL and MRV, and the monitoring of safeguards, - a comprehensive capacity development plan to implement the National REDD+ Strategy is needed
- Priority should also be given to the resolution of issues of carbon rights and benefit sharing arrangements

Thank You!

