

# REDD + ANNUAL COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORTING (with semi-annual update)

**COUNTRY: Lao PDR**

**PERIOD: September 2014 to August 2015**

**Background:** This country reporting framework has been developed following the structure of the FCPF Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, its logical framework and Performance Measurement Framework (PMF), so as to facilitate and systematize the data analysis. The semi-annual country reporting should provide the FCPF's Facility Management Team (FMT) with indications of REDD+ countries' progress towards the achievement of their readiness activities and the implementation of their Emission Reductions programs overtime, in a way that data are easily consolidated and provide indications on the level of achievement of the FCPF output, outcome and impact indicators as defined in the FCPF M&E Framework.

**Report preparation:** Submitted country reports should draw upon the country M&E system for REDD + (component 6 of R-PP) and should be prepared in consultation with members of REDD task force or equivalent body. Inputs from stakeholders including IPs and CSOs should be integrated into national reporting, and divergent views indicative of lack of consensus on specific issues should be recorded in the country report.

**Reporting schedule:** It is expected that the annual progress country reporting will be submitted to the FMT by August 15<sup>th</sup> each year. The reporting should be based on a self-assessment of progress. An update of this country reporting will also be submitted by March 15<sup>th</sup> each year.

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## 1. SUMMARY OF REPORT

This section should provide a short description of FCPF support in country (bullets on FCPF-financed activities only). Information should summarize progress, key achievements with a focus on higher level results and important issues/problems that arose during the reporting period. Highlights of next steps in following period should also be provided (key bullets only).

### SUMMARY:

*The FCPF Grant for REDD+ Readiness Preparation to Lao PDR (or RPP implementation supports) has been effective from August 2014 (the Grant Agreement signed). Following the effective date of the Grant, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) assigned the Project Management Team (PMT) housing at REDD+ Office under Department of Forestry (DoF). Members of PMT consist of REDD+ Office under DoF and REDD+ Division under Department of Forest Resource Management (DFRM) of Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource (MONRE). The PMT member from DFRM is the acting head of the Secretariat to the National REDD+ Task Force (NRTF).*

*The NRTF of Lao PDR has been established in 2008, and currently chaired by the DG of DFRM. The key roles of NRTF are to oversee and guidance the REDD+ issues and activities in Lao PDR as well as consult amongst different stakeholders at all levels. NRTF is empowered to establish a number of Technical Working Groups (TWG) including TWG on Reference Emissions Levels, MRV, Stakeholder Consultation, Land-use Planning, Carbon Registry, REDD+ Strategy and benefit sharing. NRTF members meet regularly (normally one every three months). During the reporting period, there were three meetings of NRTF.*

*During the reporting period, some key progresses can be described as follows:*

- *In regarding to institutional arrangement. NRTF agreed to establish six REDD+ TWGs by their next meeting scheduled on this 3rd September 2015. The six REDD+ TWGs include TWG on Legal Framework, Land Use Coordination, SES, Enforcement and Implementation of Mitigation, REL/MRV and Benefit Sharing.*
- *With support from FCPF, FIP (SUFORD-Su) and NFIS (National Forest Information System), wall-to-wall LULUCF mapping for 2010, 2005 was completed, 2000 is underway.*
- *Outreaching of REDD+ Readiness Activities and proposed action plans during the FCPF period through consultation meetings at the national and sub-national levels were organized (one meeting in central and eight meetings in provinces)*
- *Drafting ToR for REDD+ TWGs*
- *Consultation with the two project piloting provinces (Houaphan and Champasack) over provincial REDD+ institutional arrangement are under way (Houaphan province already establish Provincial REDD+ TF), and it is expected that the establishment of both Provincial REDD+ TF and Provincial REDD+ Office (Unit) will be completed by October 2015.*

*In regarding to the management and coordination, the FCPF has provided supports to the NRTF Secretariat (REDD+ Division of DFRM):*

- *Office equipment to provide REDD+ staff with good working environment*
- *Facilitating in coordination meetings of the Secretariat with other agencies and stakeholders and projects*
- *The meetings of NRTF (usually every three months)*
- *Capacity buildings*
- *Consultation workshops at both national and provincial levels (eg. Meeting about ER-PIN)*
- *Following up the international REDD+ moment*

*Some key tasks in pipeline of the FCPF Project in Laos include:*

- *Completing the procurement plan, particularly the selecting technical consulting firm to assist and to provide the technical supports on the development of the strategy, REL/MRV, SIS and other REDD+ Preparation tasks. The project advertised REOI for the interest firms during May-June 2015, and at the end of deadline, the projects received seventeen of submissions. The project planned to engage the technical consulting firm by December 2015. The hiring consulting firm will technically assist the works of the REDD TF Secretariat, in particular the following areas:*
  - *Readiness Process Management and Stakeholder Consultation*
  - *REDD+ Strategy Development*
  - *Implementation Arrangements*
  - *Reference Emission Level and Monitoring Systems*
- *During the three months, the project will support the REDD TF Secretariat prepare annual work plan include the annual work plans of the REDD TWGs.*

*Some challenges and problems*

*During the first year of the project implementation, many tasks and activities were behind the schedule. The main problems included: slow implement of procurement plan including hiring a technical consulting firm; insufficient of resource (include human resource) in the REDD+ TF Secretariat team under DFRM*

*which is very importance body to push the plan of establishing the REDD+ TWGs, and REDD+ Office at the provinces. Many activities of REDD+ Readiness Preparation will be carried by the REDD+ TWGs (and after the Groups are established).*

## **2. MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS AND RESULTS DURING THE PERIOD**

*The section below should provide qualitative and quantitative data on the progress towards expected results along the following subsections. Information is to be provided cumulatively. If the information requested is not available or not relevant at the time of the reporting, mention “does not apply – n/a”.*

Amount of non-FCPF investments received under R-PP process (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.):	
<b>Source:</b> Government of Germany (CliPAD Project through GIZ and KfW)	<b>Amount provided:</b> 14 mil. Euro
<b>Source:</b> Japanese Government (FIM Project, PAREDD Project, NFIS)	<b>Amount provided:</b> 9 mil. US Dollar
<b>Source:</b> USAID through Regional Project (LEAF) through SNV	<b>Amount provided:</b> (budget allocated for Lao – NA)
<b>Source:</b> NORAD through Regional Project (Grassroots Capacity Building for REDD+ in Asia) through RECOFTC	<b>Amount provided:</b> (budget allocated for Lao – NA)
Amount of non-FCPF investments received for implementation of activities relevant to ER Programs (e.g. FIP, bilateral donors, private sector), if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.2.B.i.):	
<b>Source:</b> FIP (through three sub-projects: SUFORD-SU or SUPSFM; IFC smallholder forestry project, protecting forest for ecosystem services)	<b>Amount provided:</b> Total of current amount (approximately) 59.5 mil. US Dollar (exclude GoL contribution – in kind) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SUFORD-SU (46.3 mil. US Dollar), additional funds for this sub-project come from WB (19 mil. US\$) and Government of Finland (14</li> <li>- Smallholder forestry (0.3 mil. US Dollar)</li> <li>- Protecting forest for ES (12.8 mil. US Dollar)</li> </ul>
<b>Source:</b> CliPAD Project supported by Gov. of Germany also invests in ER	<b>Amount provided:</b> (as indicated above)
<b>Source:</b> PAREDD Project supported by Gov. of Japanese also invests in ER	<b>Amount provided:</b> (as indicated above)

**Describe how stakeholders are participating and engaging in REDD+ decision making processes (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.A):**

**Provide examples of how IPs and CSOs are represented in institutional arrangements for REDD at the national level.**

*REDD+ TF comprises of members from different agencies including Lao National Front for Construction and Woman Union to represent ethnic minorities, and to represent women. There are regular meetings of National REDD+ TF to discuss and make decisions over various issues of REDD+ relating to policy, work plans, project activities and so on. The IP voices are heard through their representatives.*

*Six Technical Working Groups of REDD+ to be established will be housed at different relevant agencies, and members of TWG will comprise of advisor and consultation groups, and it should be opened to any members of public those are interested in joining.*

*There will be also a number of consultation meetings and workshops where all relevant groups and representatives of different communities can participate, and share their thoughts.*

*Website for forest management and REDD+ will be developed to update and to share information relating to REDD+ and forest management.*

**Examples of stakeholder engagement platforms in country which meet regularly to discuss and provide inputs to the REDD+ readiness process (FCPF M&E Framework 3.2.a.):**

**Frequency:**

*REDD+ TF meets (usually one every 3 months)*

*Encourage the relevant SCOs to organize a platform to discuss REDD+ issues, and*

*REDD+ TWG on Safeguards is proposed to be chaired by the National Lao Front for Construction, and Deputy Chair by Women Union. The TWG will have an advisory group with opened to all interests groups, and TWG will have regular meeting with their advisory group*

*Agreed on ToRs for the NRTF and the TF Secretariat (REDD+ Division)*

*Agreed to establish six technical working groups, and assigned the Secretariat to work with the relevant agencies to prepare the draft details on how to set up each TWG.*

*Agreed to establish the Provincial REDD+ TF and Secretariat (provincial REDD+ Office) in the two pilot provinces.*

Examples of resources made available to enable active participation of IPs , CSOs and local communities in national REDD+ readiness.

*Not available (but in the coming year, FCPF will support REDD+ TF Secretariat to encourage the CSOs to organise a platform to discuss and to exchange issues and information relating to REDD+)*

Number and type of policy reforms initiated, completed or underway complying to REDD+ standards, if any (FCPF M&E Framework Indicator I.3.B.):

**Number of policy reforms during the reporting period that are:**

Underway:

- National Land Management Policy (revised) ?
- Forestry Law (one reason of revising to incorporate REDD+)
- Forestry Strategy (up to Year 2020)
- NIDC for Lao PDR is drafting during 2015

**Completed:**

Please describe these policy reforms:

In draft revised Forestry Law, there are new adding articles mention about the forest carbon in relating to REDD+.

Forest Strategy review aims to monitor the implementation in past years, and to update some areas to align it with other relevant strategies such as agriculture strategy and climate change strategy that developed after the forest strategy.

Design of national REDD+ Strategies addresses indicators for enhancement of livelihoods of local communities and for biodiversity conservation (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 3.B.*):

Provide examples of how national REDD Strategies address livelihoods of local communities and biodiversity conservation.

The process of a national REDD+ Strategy development is about to start.

### 3. PROGRESS AT R-PP sub component level

#### 3.1. REDD Readiness Progress

As a synthesis of the following output level assessments, please briefly describe here the progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package (*FCPF M&E Framework Indicator 1.A.*): up to 300 words, if applicable
















**Progress made during the reporting period in developing the country Readiness Package:**

Not started yet.

Please indicate which of your country R-PP components and sub-components have received support from FCPF through the Readiness Preparation Grant (>3.4 million USD)

Components	Sub-components	Support from FCPF (Yes/No)
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	yes
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	yes
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	yes
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	yes
	2c. Implementation Framework	yes
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	yes
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		yes
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	yes
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	yes



Level of overall achievement of planned milestones according to approved FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD) (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.b.):																	
<u>Planned Milestones:</u> To be determined during the next two months.	<u>Level of Achievement</u> <sup>1</sup> :	<u>Tracking</u> <sup>2</sup> : <table border="1"> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Significant progress</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Progressing well, further development required</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td>X</td> <td>Further development required</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Not yet demonstrating progress</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td>Non Applicable</td> </tr> </table> <p>Please explain why:</p>			Significant progress			Progressing well, further development required		X	Further development required			Not yet demonstrating progress			Non Applicable
		Significant progress															
		Progressing well, further development required															
	X	Further development required															
		Not yet demonstrating progress															
		Non Applicable															






<sup>1</sup> Countries are expected to provide data on the overall level of achievement of planned milestones as defined in their Readiness Preparation Grant Agreement, and, if applicable, on their Supplementary Grant Agreement for an additional grant of up to \$5 million. For instance, under their Preparation Readiness Grant Agreement (>3.4 million USD), Countries should provide data on (i) the support to the Coordination of the REDD+ Readiness Process and Multi-Stakeholder Consultations; (ii) the contribution to the Design of a National REDD+ Strategy; and (iii) the preparation of a National Reference Scenario for REDD+

<sup>2</sup> The level of achievement of planned milestones according to approved RF grant will be summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of an overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale "Non Applicable" can be selected.











This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework

Degree of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component and sub-component (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.c.).











Countries are expected to rate progress toward the implementation of R-PP sub-component only once a year, as part of the reporting submitted by August 15<sup>th</sup> each year











	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
R-PP Component 1 – Readiness Organization and Consultation	<b>Sub-Component 1a</b> – National REDD+ Management Arrangements <i>Purpose: setting-up national readiness management arrangements to manage and coordinate the REDD-plus readiness activities whilst mainstreaming REDD-plus into broader strategies</i> <i>Country Self-Assessment Criteria: (i) accountability and transparency; (ii) operating mandate and budget; (iii) multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration; (iv) technical supervision capacity; (v) funds management capacity; (vi) feedback and grievance redress mechanism</i>	To be determined during preparing annual work plan				Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why:		






<sup>3</sup> The level of achievement of planned milestones per R-PP component should be self-assessed and reported, as well as summarized through progress scores related to the synthesis of this overall achievement, qualitatively expressed on a four-color 'traffic light' scale and then briefly explained. In case the assessment is not applicable, a fifth color scale 'Non Applicable' can be selected. This 'traffic light' scale is based on the system contained in the R-Package Assessment Framework, The R-Package assessment criteria are included to assist countries identify, plan and track their readiness preparations progress with the core aspects and desired outcomes of readiness preparation activities as contained in R-Package Assessment Framework.






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
	<b>Sub-Component 1b</b> – Consultation, Participation, and Outreach <i>Purpose: broad consultation with and participation of key stakeholders for future REDD+ programs, to ensure participation of different social groups, transparency and accountability of decision-making</i> <u>Country Self- Assessment Criteria:</u> (i) participation and engagement of key stakeholders; (ii) consultation processes; (iii) information sharing and accessibility of information; (iv) implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes	To be determined during preparing annual work plan				Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why:		
R-PP Component 2 – REDD+ Strategy Preparation	<b>Subcomponent 2a:</b> Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance <i>Purpose: identification of key drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, as well as activities concerning conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks</i> <u>Country Self- Assessment Criteria:</u> (i) assessment and analysis; (ii) prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest enhancement; (iii) links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities; (iv) actions plans to address natural resource right, land tenure, governance; (v) implications for forest law and policy	To be determined during preparing annual work plan				Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development required
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why:		



	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
	<b>Subcomponent 2d:</b> Social and Environmental Impacts <i>Purpose: Ensure compliance with the Common Approach and prepare a country specific Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) analysis of social and environmental safeguard issues; (ii) REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts; (iii) Environmental and Social Management Framework</i>	To be determined during preparing annual work plan				Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				Please explain why:		
R-PP Component 3 – Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	<b>R-PP Component 3</b> - Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels <i>Purpose: Development of the general approach to establish a REL/RL</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) demonstration of methodology; (ii) use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances; (iii) technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPCC guidance and guidelines</i>	To be determined during preparing annual work plan				Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				And explain why:		






	Sub-component	Progress against annual targets		Tracking <sup>3</sup> (Please select your light rating)		
		Planned milestones	Achievements			
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	<b>Subcomponent 4a:</b> National Forest Monitoring System <i>Purpose: Design and develop an operational forest monitoring system and describe the approach to enhance the system over time</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) documentation of monitoring approach; (ii) demonstration of early implementation; (iii) institutional arrangements and capacities- Forests</i>	To be determined during preparing annual work plan				Significant progress
	<b>Subcomponent 4b:</b> Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards <i>Purpose: Specify the non-carbon aspects prioritized for monitoring by the country</i> <i>Country Self- Assessment Criteria: (i) identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues; (ii) monitoring, reporting and information sharing; (iii) Institutional arrangements and capacities – Safeguards</i>	To be determined during preparing annual work plan				Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				And explain why:		
						Significant progress
						Progressing well, further development required
						Further development
						Not yet demonstrating progress
						Non Applicable
				And explain why:		

Disbursement rate of FCPF-financed Readiness Fund Grant (>3.4 million USD), in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):				
	Rate	Tracking		
RF Grant - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements	350,000	Please select your rating:		
				Up to 10% variance with plans
				Between 10-25% variance with plans
				Between 25-40% variance with plans
			X	More than 40% variance
				Non Applicable

Disbursement rate of Total R-PP Budget in percentage (FCPF M&E Framework 1.3.d.):				
	Rate	Tracking		
Total Budget in R-PP - disbursement rate vs. planned disbursements (including other funding sources and FCPF Readiness Grant)		Please select your rating:		
				Up to 10% variance with plans
				Between 10-25% variance with plans
				Between 25-40% variance with plans
				More than 40% variance
			X	Non Applicable

### 3.2. Engagement of stakeholders within the approach to REDD +

Examples of actions/activities where IPs, CSOs, and local communities participate actively, if relevant (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.a.):	
Action/activity:	Describe IP, CSO, and local community participation:
REDD+ Grass Root Capacity Building supported by Norad through RECOFTC;	The project working with a local CSOs carrying out REDD+ awareness raising
Proposed advisory groups for REDD+ TWGs	CSOs/NGOs or ethnic representatives will be encouraged to form the groups to provide advises to the relevant REDD+ TWGs on the issues relating to local people and ethnic groups.

Number of IP and REDD country CSO representatives (men/women) having been successfully trained by FCPF training programs (FCPF M&E Framework 3.1.b.):					
Please list the training conducted:	Duration (# of days)	# of participants # of men / # of women			Targets in terms of number of men and women to be trained by country to be defined
					
					
					
				X	Non Applicable

### 3.3. Knowledge sharing

Has your country developed and published REDD+ knowledge products with FCPF support:	
Yes/No:	Please provide the list of published REDD+ knowledge products, if any during reporting period :
No	

How many people have been reached by these knowledge products, if any:	
Overall number by product:	
# of Men:	
# of Women:	

Have some experts of your country participated in any South-south learning activities? If yes, how many (men and women)?		
Yes/No:	List the South-South learning activities:	# of men: (IP/CSO representatives, private sector representatives) 10 (2)
Yes	In the past year, there are 15 people in the South-south learning activities/ knowledge exchanges (eg. ARKN-FC) in the past year (but non-FCPF support).	# of women: (IP/CSO representatives, private sector)



		representatives) 5 (1)
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#### 4. ISSUES, CHALLENGES AND RISKS

This section should present any problems, difficulties or constraints faced by the country in making progress towards the intended REDD+ results (outputs, outcomes and possible impacts), the main causes and their expected effect on the work plan. Actions that have been taken to overcome or manage these constraints/flaws/problems identified should be stated. Each problem/constraint should be stated as a separate point, along with associated proposed changes in work planning for the next six month/year to address it, as relevant.

It is expected that the country monitors any changes in the assumptions that underpin the logic of intervention of FCPF at the national level and other significant risks that may arise. This section should explain through a narrative any changes in the level of risk associated with the different assumptions, or describe new risks that may have emerged and have a significant bearing on the national work-planning with respect to FCPF support for the next year and beyond, along with the associated measures required to address this change.

Even though some key issues such as the institutional arrangement and REL development have been progressed well recently. However, there are many challenges ahead, particularly to coordinate the works and activities amongst different REDD+ TWGs, to speed up building capacity to the key agencies responsible or play important roles in REDD+ Readiness Preparation (including local CSOs, ethnic group representative and private sectors). Significant supports to the REDD+ TF Secretariat are required, and to provide that in sufficient and timely manners is quite challenging.

## 5. MAIN LESSONS LEARNED

This section should be used to provide information on important lessons learned since the beginning of the readiness process. It is expected that this section will be fairly substantial, making reference to different lessons learned, analysis documents developed, and/or experiences made in dealing with issues of particular interest to REDD+.

- Strong coordination and cooperation can be built through the REDD+ TF platform with regular meetings and clear work plans. Recently, REDD+ TF has taken significant steps to work closely with DoF and relevant Departments to establish REDD+ TWGs with support of the FCPF project, and there are also many important activities ahead requiring the coordination and cooperation.
- Strong Secretariat is required to ensure that the supports of different REDD+ Projects in Lao PDR to REDD+ Readiness Preparation are supplementary each other, and accordingly to the R-PP of the country.

