Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation in Lao PDR

Source(s):

- *Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation in Lao PDR Project Document*
- *Interview with Japan International Cooperation Agency, 2010.9.6 (*2)*
- *JICA webpage providing basic project information (Japanese, English)* *(*3)*

Project location

The project covers two target areas: 1. Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation in Lao P.D.R. (PAREDD) sites, 2. FORCOM (the Forest Management and Community Support Project) sites (p. 17).

1) PAREDD sites: As of January 2010, the project is in the process of selecting appropriate PAREDD sites in Luang Prabang province based on a forest cover change map and statistics.

2) FORCOM sites: These are located in 9 districts of 6 Northern provinces (Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Houaphan, and Vientiane).

http://www.discoveryindochina.com/laos/map/index.htm

Forest area and types

Forest area: yet to be determined

Forest type: evergreen broad-leaved forest (*2)

Forest management and use context

The northern upland area is mountainous and remains one of the poorest regions in the country. Out of 72 nationally designated poverty districts, 45 are located in the north, which include the 30 poorest districts. Poverty incidence is much higher among the various ethnic minority groups which make up about two-thirds of the northern upland population. Almost 90 percent of the rural households in the north depend on subsistence agriculture for their livelihoods, while forests and forest resources also play an important role in their livelihoods (pp. 1-2).

Northern upland farmers have traditionally practiced shifting cultivation mainly to produce upland rice. Such traditional practices, however, are undergoing substantial changes partly due to government policies aiming at stabilising pioneering shifting cultivation and promoting sedentary and commercial agriculture, and partly due to the market forces prompting the production of cash crops and rubber for export to China, Thailand and Vietnam. As a result, the areas under shifting cultivation, especially areas for upland rice, have decreased in the northern upland since 1995, while those of cash crops (e.g. maize) have increased (p. 2).

From 2004 to 2009, the Government of Lao PDR (GOL) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) jointly implemented the Forest Management and Community Support (FORCOM) project, which developed the Community Support Programme Tool (CSPT) to provide alternative livelihoods in order to stabilise shifting cultivation (p. 1).

Rates and drivers of deforestation and degradation

Rate of deforestation: 1940s – 70% forest cover, 2002 – 41.5% forest cover (*3)

Drivers of deforestation

The transition from subsistence agriculture toward commercial agriculture has affected the land and forest use patterns as well as rural livelihoods in the northern upland area. Land conversion for industrial plantations and commercial agriculture development are competing with upland rice cultivation for available land, and such competing land use, if not managed properly, can cause land and forest degradation (p. 3).

Deforestation is caused not only by internal land uses but also external drivers from outside of village boundaries such as large-scale plantation concessions and illegal logging (p. 7).

Necessary conditions for the selection of target area is that the area still has a certain level of remaining forests but deforestation and forest degradation are occurring due to slash and burn agriculture or shifting cultivation (p. 17).

Project proponents (p. 1)

- The Government of Lao PDR:
  - Department of Planning (DOP)
  - National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service (NAFES)
  - Department of Forestry (DOF)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)

Implementation timeframe

August 2009-August 2014 (p. 28)

The project is likely to continue after an evaluation in 2014 (*2)

Project goals

The overall goal, which is to be achieved within three years after the project termination, is that the system of REDD (reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) is applied in the northern part of Laos (p. 17).

PAREDD aims to develop the REDD system within the 5 year project duration. The system is expected to contribute to both reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and improving livelihoods. The following metrics are used (p. 18):

- In the PAREDD sites where project activities have been implemented for more than 2 years, the rate of deforestation is reduced or the forest cover is increased compared to baselines.
- Where PAREDD activities have been implemented for more than 2 years, more than 50% of villagers' livelihoods have improved.

Implementation activities (pp. 19-23)

"The system of reducing deforestation" is defined as an approach to mitigate deforestation and forest degradation at village and village cluster levels in northern Laos. The system of reducing deforestation consists of the following (p. 6):

1) Land and Forest Use Planning at Village and Village Cluster Levels

2) Activities for Reducing Deforestation

3) Land/Forest Cover, Land Use and Forest Carbon Stock Monitoring at Village and Village Cluster Levels

At the beginning of the project, planning, implementation and monitoring stages of the REDD system will be designed (Output 1). In the selected project sites, the system will be implemented at the village and village cluster levels (Output 2). After the implementation, the outcomes and impacts of the system will be monitored in terms of forest cover, forest carbon stock and socio-economic aspects (Output 3). The experiences from Outputs 1, 2, and 3, including lessons learned on the systems implementation, will all form the basis in preparing a set of recommendations under Output 4, which will serve not only for attaining the project purpose, but also for moving a step forward towards the overall goal.

Output 1: The system of REDD is designed through the improvement of the Community Support Programme Tool (CSPT).

Activities for Output 1

1.1 Identify lessons learned and issues in FORCOM sites for CSPT improvement.

1.2 Consolidate CSPT to align with upland development initiatives.

1.3 Improve CSPT for integrating into the system of reducing deforestation.

1.4 Identify recommended activities for reducing deforestation based on information from agriculture and forestry.

1.5 Design the planning stage of REDD based on the official manual on agriculture and forest land use planning.

1.6 Design the monitoring stage of REDD

1.7 Draft an operational manual on REDD

Output 2: The system of reducing deforestation is implemented in PAREDD sites.

Activities for Output 2

2.1 Select 2 or 3 clusters as PAREDD sites.

2.2 Provide training for extension staff on the planning and implementation stages of REDD.

2.3 Formulate village land and forest use plan with villagers' participation.

2.4 Implement activities for reducing deforestation

2.5 Modify the operational manual draft on the planning and implementation stages of REDD.

The project will provide active support for the capacity building of Lao counterpart staff (C/Ps) for the implementation of REDD. Trained C/Ps together with Japanese experts will assist in planning and implementation stages of REDD in the target villages and village clusters. Trained District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO) staff and Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) staff will provide training and technical support to villagers for the implementation of activities. Following the land and forest use planning, activities for reducing deforestation will be selected through consultation with the villagers. It should be noted that the selection will be based not only on villagers' needs but also on the feasibility of the activities of their choice and/or the scope of activities recommended by the project.

Output 3: Changes in forest cover/carbon stock and socio-economic conditions are monitored in and around the PAREDD sites.

Activities for Output 3

3.1 Identify underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation.

3.2 Establish a baseline for monitoring on changes in forest cover/carbon stock.

3.3 Prepare baseline data on socio-economic conditions.

3.4 Monitor forest cover/carbon stock.

3.5 Monitor socio-economic conditions.

Output 4: The system of reducing deforestation is proposed as a mitigation measure for climate change.

Activities for Output 4

4.1 Assess the outcomes and impacts of the system of reducing deforestation in the PAREDD sites.

4.2 Consolidate the system of reducing deforestation based on the assessment.

4.3 Organize workshops to share the results of the system of reducing deforestation.

4.4 Make recommendations based on the finalized system of reducing deforestation and its implementation results.

Actors' roles and responsibilities (p. 30)

NAFES (National Agriculture and Forestry Extension Service)	• To be responsible for overall implementation of the project as the main counterpart agency. • To provide guidance and support on policy and technical matters concerning agriculture and forestry extension, especially land and forest use planning and activities. • To coordinate with other departments of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry for effective implementation of the project.
DOF (Department of Forestry)	• To provide necessary support on technical matters pertaining to the implementation of the project, especially on the monitoring of forest cover/carbon stock. • To provide guidance on zoning and management of forest and forest land and information about REDD issues as the Chair of the REDD Task Force.
PAFO (Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office)	• To be in charge of planning, implementing and monitoring of the project activities. • To provide necessary guidance and support for DAFO staff in implementing

	project activities. • To cooperate and collaborate with local authorities concerned.
DAFO (District Agriculture and Forestry Office)	• To take responsibility of the field activities. • To coordinate with local authorities concerned within the district including Agriculture and Forestry Technical Service Centres and villages.
JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency)	• To set out the new project concepts and overall implementation structure for addressing participatory land and forest management for reducing deforestation in the northern part of Laos (p. 1).

Community participation

The project gives priority to developing an approach to community-based forest management and livelihood improvement for reducing deforestation and forest degradation at village and village cluster levels. In order to ensure the sustainability of the project, the project plans to enhance the capacities of local agencies and villagers so that trained human resources will be able to contribute to agriculture and forestry development in upland areas (p. 13).

Project financing

Budget (from the Japanese government) (p. 24)

General budget: US$1.6 million (not committed: based on budget plan as of Jan. 2010)

Item	Amount (US$)
Local implementation cost	1,317,389
Equipment	23,333
C/P training	262,267
TOTAL	**1,602,989**

Marketing and selling of forest carbon credits through a voluntary carbon market or carbon offset buyers are not included in the scope of the project (p.6).

Benefit sharing

A mechanism that enables efficient input-output flow of finance should be devised with input being budget for activities and output being potential carbon credits arising from reduced carbon emission. Possible options of such a financial mechanism include a revolving system and a village development fund. A financial mechanism must enable equitable and effective distribution of potential benefits from carbon credits (p. 20).

The target groups, who will benefit through the process in which the project outputs are produced, are 1) villagers and extension staff of the districts in which the PAREDD sites are located; 2) C/P staff of the project, staff of the DOF and NAFES, as well as DAFO/PAFO staff in the PAREDD sites (p. 17).

Emissions and removals with and without project

No data

Monitoring

For the designing of the monitoring process (Activity 1.6), the project will design how to assess the effects

and impacts of the REDD system implementation on the changes on both land/forest cover and forest carbon stock at the village and village cluster levels. A balanced approach of remote sensing and ground truthing surveys should be adopted to meet REDD requirements (p. 20).

The system of reducing deforestation is expected to contribute to livelihood improvement and poverty reduction in the target villages as well. Therefore, monitoring of socio-economic conditions will be carried out in the target area (p.22).

Reporting

No data

Verification

No data

Risks and risk management

No data

Progress and plans

Latest information incorporated in this profile was from interview with JICA in Sept. 2010

Links:

Project-related documents

- 事業事前評価表（技術協力プロジェクト）
- Kenichi Takano(Chief Advisor of PAREDD)(2011): Outline and progress　PAREDD project （English）
  http://www.forestcarbonasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/10/110627REDD-ws-PAREDD.pdf
- プロジェクト概要
- 『ラオス国 森林管理・住民支援プロジェクト フェーズ２（森林減少抑制のための参加型土地・森林管理プロジェクト）詳細計画策定調査報告書』(2009.11)
- Sakamaki K.(2011)Presentation materials for the workshop on Forest Conservation(REDD+),Gender and Social Condition held by UNDP/JICA　(English,Japanese)

Others