

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

Confirmation of Government Agreement to Participate in the Forest Investment Program

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| 1. Country submitting confirmation of agreement to participate: |
| Lao People's Democratic Republic |
| 2. Name of Government submitting confirmation: |
| The Government of Lao People's Democratic Republic (GOL) |
| 3. Name and contact information of designated FIP Government Focal Point: |
| Mr. Oupakone ALOUNSAVAT, Director, Planning Division, Department of Forestry |
| 4. Please provide a short statement confirming of your interest in participating in the FIP as a pilot country under the FIP. |
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| 5. What are the primary goals and objectives for REDD+ in your country? |
| <p>The Forestry Strategy to the Year 2020 (FS 2020) sets the objectives and targets of the sector development as follows:</p> <p><u>Objective in FS 2020</u></p> <p>The overall objective of the forestry sector development is to contribute to poverty eradication, which is also a national development objective.</p> <p>The major sector targets, which must be achieved to contribute to poverty eradication are;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) To improve quality of existing forested area so as to recover forest cover rate to about 70% of the total land area by naturally regenerating up to 6 million ha and planting trees up to 500,000 ha in temporary unstocked forest areas as an integral part of rural livelihood support system including stable water and forest products supply and mitigation of natural disasters.2) To generate a sustainable stream of forest products for domestic processing and consumption, and many of them for eventual export generating adequate household incomes, contributing to the country's foreign exchange resources and fiscal revenue, and increasing direct and indirect employment.3) To preserve the existence of many species and unique habitats, which are threatened with extinction4) To conserve environment including protection of soil, conservation of watershed and climate. <p>GOL considers REDD+ can contribute to achievement of these objectives and targets as follows;</p> |

First, compensation or payment through REDD will contribute to proper implementation of land use plans and forest zoning/management on the ground. For example, except Production Forest, local people have little benefits from living in and around Protection or Conservation Forests. Payment for forest conservation will encourage them to participate in sustainable management of these forests. Payments should reach people and organizations who have actually contributed forest conservation according to plans and zoning

Second, preparation and establishment of REDD will greatly contribute to capacity building from central to local levels including villagers in various REDD related areas from forest carbon monitoring to land use planning/implementation and forest management. It is expected capacity building and payment will also strengthen forest and land related institutions in general for better resource management.

6. (a) Briefly outline the current status of REDD+ in your national climate change and forest-related policies and development plans.

REDD+ is identified as one of important and potentially beneficial mitigation measures in the Strategy on Climate Change of the Lao PDR, which was endorsed by GOL in Mar 2010.

Sustainable forest management is one of four main goals of the Agriculture and Forestry Development Plan for 2010-2015, which is to be endorsed by GOL in Jun 2010, and REDD+ is one of four main policy areas to achieve this forest goal.

(b) Which existing national and sectoral strategies and programs are particularly relevant in your country for the process of REDD+?

The National Growth and Poverty Eradication Strategy sets overall growth and poverty eradication targets and the four main intervention areas, one of which is agriculture and forestry.

The national Climate Change Strategy provides strategy and action plans for adaptation and mitigation of climate change.

FS 2020 is the key document of GOL for guiding forestry sector development

7. The FIP Design document provides for the establishment, or identification of an existing, cross-cutting multi-stakeholder national level steering committee to assist in program planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation¹. How would you plan to manage the FIP institutionally in terms of which Ministry would lead, which government agencies would be involved, what other stakeholders would be involved and how they be indentified and engaged, how would it link with any existing climate change or cross-sectoral coordinating structures?

The first High-level (Ministerial) meeting on REDD+ is going to be organized on May 25th followed by a first Stakeholder Consultation on Readiness Preparation Proposal of FCPF. Participants will include decision makers of key Ministries including Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Land Management and selected Provinces, international organizations, donors, main projects, NGOs, private sector, and representatives from mass-organizations, which have networks in all villages and ethnic groups.

At the working level, a REDD Task Force consisting of representatives from concerned Ministries and Departments has been active under MAF. The Department of Forestry has been the lead agency in REDD matters and RED TF chair is Director General of DOF.

Future national level steering committee will be shaped through consultation at various levels including high-level and final decision will be made by GOL. It is most likely that the REDD Task Force will play secretariat roles for a national REDD steering committee. Given needs for large amount of support for various REDD institution development and REDD program implementation, it is envisaged that the national REDD steering committee will oversee all investment activities including FIP as well as REDD mechanism development.

8. How do you plan to engage other bi- and multilateral development partners, especially those contributing to REDD+ and other forestry activities in your country?

Bi- and multilateral development partners active in REDD+ will be core members of the national REDD steering committee in order to ensure smooth REDD activity implementation and efficient coordination between activities and supporting partners including FIP.

9. How do you plan to involve relevant non-government stakeholders, including NGOs, Indigenous peoples groups and the private sector, in the FIP process?

Although depending on outcomes of planned consultations and interest, it is envisaged that representatives of NGOs and private sector will be members of the national REDD committee. Due to no-existence of indigenous peoples groups or representatives, villages and local communities involved in REDD demonstration activities will be consulted at various stages of REDD/FIP process and the changes in their livelihood and forest/land uses will be closely monitored together with bio-diversity for feedback into the national process.