



WB Appraisal - CEO Endorsement (CEO) entry – Full Sized Project – GEF - 7

Lao PDR Landscapes and Livelihoods Project

Part I: Project Information

GEF ID

10499

Project Type

FSP

Type of Trust Fund

GET

CBIT/NGI

☐ CBIT

☐ NGI

Project Title

Lao PDR Landscapes and Livelihoods Project

Countries

Lao PDR

Agency(ies)

World Bank

Other Executing Partner(s):

Lao PDR Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)

Executing Partner Type

Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Focal Areas, Biodiversity, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Mainstreaming, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Land Degradation, Sustainable Land Management, Integrated and Cross-sectoral approach, Drought Mitigation, Sustainable Pasture Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Sustainable Forest, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Income Generating Activities, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Land Degradation Neutrality, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Demonstrate innovative approach, Deploy innovative financial instruments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Stakeholders, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Community Based Organization, Communications, Strategic Communications, Behavior change, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Trade Unions and Workers Unions, Beneficiaries, Private Sector, Individuals/Entrepreneurs, SMEs, Awareness Raising, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Gender Mainstreaming, Gender-sensitive indicators, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Gender results areas, Participation and leadership, Access and control over natural resources, Access to benefits and services, Capacity Development

Rio Markers**Climate Change Mitigation**

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Submission Date

11/19/2020

Expected Implementation Start

3/31/2021

Expected Completion Date

8/31/2027

Duration
84In Months

Agency Fee(\$)
699,863.00

A. FOCAL/NON-FOCAL AREA ELEMENTS

Objectives/Programs	Focal Area Outcomes	Trust Fund	GEF Amount(\$)	Co-Fin Amount(\$)
BD-1-1	Mainstream biodiversity across sectors as well as landscapes and seascapes through biodiversity mainstreaming in priority sectors	GET	2,627,250.00	20,000,000.00
BD-2-7	Address direct drivers to protect habitats and species and Improve financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of the global protected area estate	GET	2,000,000.00	9,000,000.00
LD-1-3	Maintain or improve flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through Forest Landscape Restoration (FLR)	GET	1,539,726.00	10,000,000.00
LD-2-5	Create enabling environments to support scaling up and mainstreaming of SLM and LDN	GET	1,200,000.00	11,000,000.00
Total Project Cost(\$)			7,366,976.00	50,000,000.00

B. Project description summary**Project Objective**

to promote sustainable forest management, improve protected area management, and enhance livelihoods opportunities in selected landscapes in Lao PDR.

Project Component	Component Type	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Trust Fund	GEF Project Financing(\$)	Confirmed Co-Financing(\$)
Component 1. Investing in Natural Wealth and Resilience in the Forest Landscape	Investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To build natural capital from improved forest landscape management. - To strengthen management of PAs for biodiversity conservation and tourism opportunities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Relevant agency and village capacity raised to manage their respective forest areas in 5 targeted landscapes. - Improved landscape management practices supported in conservation forests (8 PAs), production forests (11 PFAs), protection forests (5 PtFAs), and in over 600 village forests in the 5 targeted landscapes. - Collaborative Management in 8 PAs. - Extension and outreach in 200 guardian villages; 	GET	6,541,976.00	24,993,254.00

- Village forest and land use planning conducted in 200 guardian villages;

- Over 200 villages' Village Conservation Agreements developed and approved;

- Biodiversity assessed and monitored.

- PA patrolling arrangements fortified in 8 PAs.

- Enabling activities to facilitate private sector participation in nature-based tourism within the targeted protected areas

-To strengthen sustainable forest management (SFM) and landscape restoration in production, protection, and village forests.

- Upgrade park facilities using climate resilient and energy efficient practices

- State forest management planning and zoning in selected PFAs and PtFAs;

- Village forest and land use planning and zoning in village forests;

- Village forest management and restoration, contributing to maintain and increase forest cover and contributing to climate mitigation

- Extension and village advisory services in 400 villages in PFAs and PtFAs;

- Enabling activities for private investment in environmentally and socially sustainable industrial tree plantations conducted;

- Research and development for production forestry conducted;

- Building and maintaining green infrastructure and natural solutions from natural and climate hazards such as flood, landslides, fire and drought in the targeted landscapes, forest areas, and villages.
Examples: a) small irrigation plus forest protection in 650 ha command areas with inter-village MOUs, b) construction and maintenance of park facilities and trails, and c) slope stabilization through SLM.

Component 2. Livelihoods Opportunities from Sustainable Forest Landscapes	Investment	No GEF financing - To improve forest-smart livelihoods opportunities, vocational skills, and nature-based tourism development in targeted landscapes	Village Livelihoods Block Grants distributed to Village Development Funds in over 600 forest villages in the targeted landscapes and forest areas.	GET	9,245,000.00
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strengthen forest-
smart village
livelihoods in targeted
landscapes

- To improve
employment and
livelihoods
opportunities for
people in villages
supported by the
project.

- To strengthen
development of
nature-based tourism
by encouraging
private sector
participation,
especially small and
medium enterprises
(SMEs) in and around
PAs.

- Vocational training
undertaken for
villagers in target
villages in target
landscapes and as
scholarships to
provincial technical
vocational education
and training (TVET)
centers for selected
villagers.

- Nature-based
tourism business
leveraging facility is
established and
providing a) Advisory
services to tourism
companies on product
development, market
surveys, etc.; b)
Financing for small
public infrastructure,
marketing, and other
aspects of the local
enabling environment

for tourism development in accordance with private sector investment plans and public destination management plans; and c) Training and capacity building for the management and staff of the applying SME .

Component 3. Institutions, Incentives, and Information	Technical Assistance	<p>To strengthen institutions, policies, incentives and information for sustainable forest landscapes.</p> <p>-To strengthen institutions and policies for forest landscapes</p>	<p>- Support government institutions to strengthen and develop relevant public policy, strategy, regulations, and guidelines, and to meet various international commitments;</p> <p>- A GoL-led multisector and multi-stakeholder coordination platform established and implementing;</p> <p>- Implementation of capacity building on landscapes for GoL to inform decision-</p>	GET	350,000.00	8,420,270.00
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making, manage
trade-offs and mutual
opportunities across
sectors;

-To strengthen
institutions and
policies to reduce
forest and wildlife
crimes

- Relevant public
policy, strategy,
regulations, and
guidelines in
coordination with
among agencies as
relevant strengthened
and developed;

- Participating in and
meeting various
international
commitments such as
CITES, in coordination
with among agencies
as relevant;

- Developing and maintaining public awareness efforts and local networks on how to reduce wildlife and forest crime in coordination with among agencies as relevant.

- Strengthening and implementing a GoL-led multi-agency coordination platform on reducing wildlife and forest crimes (Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network, or Lao WEN);

- Carry out field activities by relevant national agencies, in cooperation among agencies when and where relevant;

- Supporting the capacity of provincial agencies to implement field activities through Provincial Wildlife Enforcement Networks (P-WEN) in selected provinces.

- To strengthen information, monitoring, and planning to support better landscape-level decision making
- Enhancing and implementing policy framework for Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEA) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA);
- Monitoring and reporting on UNFCCC NDC implementation;
- Building capacity to carry out natural capital accounting for decision making;
- Enhancing the policy framework on land tenure recognition inside forestlands;
- Action research and impact assessments on key project themes: a) impacts on livelihoods, jobs and poverty, b) impacts on landscape valuation and ecosystem

services, c) impact of landscape governance modalities, including collaborative PA management and village forestry, d) gender, e) resilience, and f) wildlife law enforcement and zoonotic disease prevention as part of the One Health approach.

Component 4. Project Management, Monitoring and Learning	Technical Assistance	To maintain and enhance project management, monitoring and learning.	Fiduciary and technical teams established and operational. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning. Strategic communication, partnerships and investment coordination.	GET	330,000.00	6,341,476.00
Sub Total (\$)					7,221,976.00	49,000,000.00
Project Management Cost (PMC)						
GET					145,000.00	1,000,000.00
Sub Total(\$)					145,000.00	1,000,000.00

Total Project Cost(\$)	7,366,976.00	50,000,000.00
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C. Sources of Co-financing for the Project by name and by type

Sources of Co-financing	Name of Co-financier	Type of Co-financing	Investment Mobilized	Amount(\$)
GEF Agency	World Bank IDA	Loans	Investment mobilized	34,000,000.00
GEF Agency	WB Canadian Clean Energy and Forest Climate Facility (CCEFCF)	Loans	Investment mobilized	16,000,000.00
			Total Co-Financing(\$)	50,000,000.00

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The baseline scenario, leverages World Bank's IDA and CCEFCF credits to which GEF is fully blended (reflected as loan as there is no option for credit support).

The World Bank and Lao PDR are regularly engaged in lending dialogue which is captured in periodic Country Partnership Framework and technical assistance on a number of issues and sectors. The World Bank is a key partner also in the development of national legislation and development planning priorities, such as the preparation of the 9th National Socio Economic Development Plan (2021-2025) which has a strong focus on Green Growth.

D. Trust Fund Resources Requested by Agency(ies), Country(ies), Focal Area and the Programming of Funds

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
World Bank	GET	Lao PDR	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,627,250	439,589
World Bank	GET	Lao PDR	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,739,726	260,274
Total Grant Resources(\$)					7,366,976.00	699,863.00

E. Non Grant Instrument

NON-GRANT INSTRUMENT at CEO Endorsement

Includes Non grant instruments? **No**

Includes reflow to GEF? **No**

F. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)
PPG Required



PPG Amount (\$)				PPG Agency Fee (\$)		
Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount(\$)	Fee(\$)
				Total Project Costs(\$)	0.00	0.00

Core Indicators

Indicator 1 Terrestrial protected areas created or under improved management for conservation and sustainable use

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,000,000.00	1,458,000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 1.1 Terrestrial Protected Areas Newly created




Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00




Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Total Ha (Expected at PIF)	Total Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 1.2 Terrestrial Protected Areas Under improved Management effectiveness

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)
1,000,000.00	1,458,000.00	0.00	0.00

Name of the Protected Area	WDPA ID	IUCN Category	Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Total Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Total Ha (Achieved at TE)	METT score (Baseline at CEO Endorsement)	METT score (Achieved at MTR)	METT score (Achieved at TE)
Hin Namno NP	VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		94,000.00			66.00		
Khouan Xe Nongma NPA	VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources		54,000.00			62.00		

Lavine Laverne NPA	VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	86,000.00		19.00	
Nakai-Nam Theun NP	II – National Park (designation in process, to upgrade from category VI)	National Park	600,000.00	420,000.00	60.00	
Nam Et - Phou Louey NP	VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	400,000.00	400,000.00	58.00	

Phu Hin Phoun NPA	VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	150,000.00	24.00	
Phu Khao Khuay NPA	VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	200,000.00	33.00	
Tor Sip NPA	VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	Protected area with sustainable use of natural resources	54,000.00	11.00	

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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51000.00	50000.00	0.00	0.00
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Indicator 3.1 Area of degraded agricultural land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 3.2 Area of Forest and Forest Land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
51,000.00	50,000.00		

Indicator 3.3 Area of natural grass and shrublands restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

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Indicator 3.4 Area of wetlands (incl. estuaries, mangroves) restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)

Indicator 4 Area of landscapes under improved practices (hectares; excluding protected areas)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
961500.00	800000.00	0.00	0.00

Indicator 4.1 Area of landscapes under improved management to benefit biodiversity (hectares, qualitative assessment, non-certified)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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912,500.00

400,000.00

Indicator 4.2 Area of landscapes that meets national or international third party certification that incorporates biodiversity considerations (hectares)

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Type/Name of Third Party Certification

Indicator 4.3 Area of landscapes under sustainable land management in production systems

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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49,000.00

400,000.00

Indicator 4.4 Area of High Conservation Value Forest (HCVF) loss avoided

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
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Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted
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Indicator 6 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Mitigated

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	11865000	34515860	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	33900000	0	0	0

Indicator 6.1 Carbon Sequestered or Emissions Avoided in the AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)	11,865,000	34,515,860		
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)	33,900,000			

Anticipated start year of accounting	2021	2021
Duration of accounting	20	20

Indicator 6.2 Emissions Avoided Outside AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use) Sector

Total Target Benefit	(At PIF)	(At CEO Endorsement)	(Achieved at MTR)	(Achieved at TE)
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO ₂ e (indirect)				
Anticipated start year of accounting				
Duration of accounting				

Indicator 6.3 Energy Saved (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Total Target Benefit	Energy (MJ) (At PIF)	Energy (MJ) (At CEO Endorsement)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at MTR)	Energy (MJ) (Achieved at TE)
Target Energy Saved (MJ)				

Indicator 6.4 Increase in Installed Renewable Energy Capacity per Technology (Use this sub-indicator in addition to the sub-indicator 6.2 if applicable)

Technology	Capacity (MW) (Expected at PIF)	Capacity (MW) (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at MTR)	Capacity (MW) (Achieved at TE)
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Indicator 11 Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by gender as co-benefit of GEF investment

	Number (Expected at PIF)	Number (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Number (Achieved at MTR)	Number (Achieved at TE)
Female	52,500	200,000		
Male	52,500	200,000		
Total	105000	400000	0	0

Part II. Project Justification

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project interventions will take place.

A project map is presented as Annex later.

The project would invest in specific sites within priority forest landscapes within the Greater Annamites and other priority areas. These 5 priority landscapes, along with targeted provinces, districts, protected areas, and villages within them, have been selected according to agreed criteria (see tables below for selection criteria and a short description of the selected landscapes). The operation aims to convene and coordinate action in five initial priority large landscapes within nine provinces, and a prefecture, and scaling up as more experience is built. Initial provinces include Houaphan, Louang Prabang, Xiengkhouang, Xaysonboun, Bolikhamxay, Vientiane Province, Khammouane, Savannakhet, and Vientiane Prefecture.

Brief description of the Annamite Range. The Annamite Range is a mountain range of eastern Indochina. It extends approximately 1,100 km through Laos, Vietnam, and a small area in northeast Cambodia. The highest point of the range is 2,819 m high Phou Bia mountain in Xiengkhouang Province, Lao PDR. Most of the Annamite crests are on the Lao side. The eastern slope of the range rises steeply from the plain, drained by numerous short rivers. The western slope forms significant plateaus before descending to the banks of the Mekong. The range itself has three main plateaus, from north to south of Lao PDR: Phouane Plateau (Xiengkhouang), Nakai Plateau (Khammouane) and Bolaven Plateau (Champasack). Lao PDR lies mostly within the Mekong basin, west of the divide, although most of Houaphan Province and a portion of Xiengkhouang Province lie east of the divide. The geologically complex range comprises mainly limestones, sandstones, granites, and gneisses in the north and in the south an exposed, folded crystalline basement overlain in several places by basaltic lava flows. The Annamite mountains also form an important tropical seasonal forest global ecoregion, the Annamite Range Moist Forests Ecoregion. The range is home to rare and endangered species such as the recently discovered Annamite rabbit and the antelope-like Saola, the Douc langur, the large gaur, the Chinese pangolin and the Indochinese tiger.

The project would establish a framework for additional landscapes to join the program once additional funding is secured. This work will require more innovation, more financing, more inter-sectoral coordination, and a much greater scale if the country is to meet its resilience and low carbon objectives while achieving its plan to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status.

Criteria for landscape Selection

N o.	Criteria for Selection	Note
1	Protected area value in terms of global biodiversity significance	Focus is on the uniqueness of the biodiversity. Includes national parks, national and provincial protected areas, as well as species and habitat management areas, and potential for World Heritage Site designation.
2	Nature-based tourism potential	Tourism occurs throughout the landscape across multiple natural and built assets.

	ai in the landscape	
3	Active or high potential for forest plantation investment in Production Forest Areas	Industrial plantations are expanding, which has potential for poverty reduction by creating jobs and securing livelihoods while also providing opportunities for more sustainable land use by reducing pressure on native forest and protected areas. Growing demand for land has the potential to change land use patterns in the country, requiring environmentally, socially and fiscally sound private investments and good governance.
4	Production Forest Area suitable for implementing village forestry and participatory SFM	Includes areas that (a) have been independently assessed for FSC Forest Management or Controlled Wood certification, (b) have recently implemented village forestry or SFM investments, or (c) are important for connectivity of forest cover across the landscape. Village forestry could restore forest cover and secure the production functions of these forests.
5	National Protection Forest suitable for securing watershed services and implementing village forestry	Includes National Protection Forests important for connectivity of forest cover across the landscape. National Protection Forests are the largest land use category in Lao PDR and are highly degraded. Village forestry could restore forest cover and secure the watershed functions of these forests to reduce risks from flooding, erosion, and drought.
6	Presence of natural hazards to villages and infrastructure in or downstream from the forest estate	Flood risk maps are under preparation. There seems to be an overlap between areas with flooding recurrence and areas with potential forest plantation expansion. Project preparation would include a vulnerability assessment of landslide, flood, and drought risks.
7	Illegal wildlife or timber trade present in the area	Parts of the illegal wildlife and timber trades are geographically defined in and around protected areas, along certain transportation corridors, gateways, or access points.
No.	Supporting Criteria	Note
8	Poverty rates by Province or District	There is a reasonably strong correlation between poverty rates, forest cover, remoteness, and ethnic minorities.
9	Commitment of the province and key stakeholders to take a multi-sector spatial approach	GoL experience in multisector spatial planning and development: (a) protected area management plans developed by multi-sector protected area supervisory committees, (b) forest landscape management frameworks prepared, and (c) preparing larger-scale land use plans and river basin management plans.
10	Commitment of villagers to participate in the project.	Project resources would center on participatory community approaches to village forestry, conversation and livelihoods, and could complement sustainable private sector engagements in industrial plantations and nature-based tourism.

Criteria for district selection

No.	Criteria for Selection
1	Districts in production or protection forests in targeted landscapes
2	Districts with a significant area of intact forest, or with real potential for forest restoration
3	Districts with economic opportunities for wood products or NTFPs from VFM
4	Districts with high potential to establish environmentally and socially sustainable plantation forests

5	Districts that have demonstrated support for PSFM or VFM
6	Districts vulnerable to forest fire, floods, droughts, erosion and landslides, and opportunities for climate and disaster risk reduction.

Criteria for PA selection

N o.	Criteria for Selection
1	PA in LLL target landscape
2	PA supporting internationally and national significant biodiversity
3	PA with Nature-based tourism potential

Criteria for village selection

N o.	Criteria for Selection
Villages inside or around PAs (supported under Component 1.1 and 2.1.1)	
1	Guardian villages located in immediate proximity to high biodiversity zones within or bordering targeted protected areas
2	Guardian villages located in immediate proximity to (proposed) nature-based tourism assets
Villages inside PFAs and PtFAs (supported under Component 1.2 and 2.1.2)	
3	Villages with relatively good forest cover, and interest to adopt VFM and take advantage of economic opportunities for wood products and NTFP
4	Villages with stated desire to restore degraded village forests
5	Villages in which the administration and most of the community are supportive of VFM or who have been trained in PSFM
6	Villages vulnerable to forest fire, floods, droughts, erosion and landslides, and opportunities for climate and disaster risk reduction

PRIORITY LANDSCAPES, PROVINCES, AND DISTRICTS	
Province/District	Characteristics of the Landscape
<i>Landscape 1. Greater Nam Et - Phou Louey</i>	
Provinces: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Houaphan Province Luang Prabang Province Xieng Khouang Province Districts: ^[1] <p><i>Houaphan:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Et 	<p>Nature-based tourism. Nam Et - Phou Louey is one of the first two designated national parks in the country. The site protects a rich biodiversity representative of the northern Highlands. It is currently best known for its 'Nam Nern Night Safari', one of the best nature-based tourism experiences. Options to expand nature-based tourism experiences within the reserve remain high, including the montane peaks, treks, and cultural and historical sites. But this will require greater investment and inclusion by the private sector to realize its potential.</p> <p>Illegal wildlife trade. Houaphan Province is a notable transit site for illegal wildlife trade, while Luang Prabang is a major international tourism hub with associated wildlife trade issues and a transit node on the railway link between China and Vientiane.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Xiengkhor · Hiem · Houa Meung · Xone · Xam Neua <p><i>Louang Prabang</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Pakxeng · Phonthong · Phonxai · Viengkhan · Ngoi <p><i>Xieng Khouang</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Phoukhout <p>PAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nam Et - Phou Louey <p>PfAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Phouliew <p>PtFAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nam Sueng - Seng · Nam Et - Nam Xam 	<p>Disaster risks. Forest fires are a perennial problem in Nam Et - Phou Louey National Park and surrounding agroforestry landscapes. There are no organized village fire prevention groups (village conservation volunteers), danger ratings, or creation of firebreaks to mitigate these threats. The area is also vulnerable to floods and landslides.</p> <p>VFM and plantations. Luang Prabang and Huaphan Provinces have the potential to host smallholder teak and NT FP plantations and in the two PtFAs and PFA supported by the project.</p>
<p><i>Landscape 2. Greater Phou Khao Khouay</i></p>	
<p>Provinces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bolikhamxay Province · Xaysomboun Province · Vientiane Province · Vientiane Prefecture <p>Districts:</p> <p><i>Bolikhamxay</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Bolikham <p><i>Xaysomboun</i></p>	<p>Phou Khao Khouay NPA straddles four provinces and seven districts. The southern perimeter districts of the NP A are linked to the Vientiane urban economy, although most of these districts' economies depend on rural livelihoods from forest products. The greater landscape includes industrial plantation and processing facilities managed by three different firms committed to sustainability standards.</p> <p>Nature-based tourism. As one of the closest PAs to Lao PDR's capital and the most well-known PAs in the country, Phou Khao Khouay NPA itself has an un-met potential for supplying nature-based tourism demand and tourism concession models, with excellent road access from three hydropower schemes. The site also has unparalleled potential for increasing awareness and interest in biodiversity conservation by the general public through tourism, as it could easily be marketed and frequented by a wide variety of local markets, including student and school groups, urban civil society, and decision-makers. Its training potential for environmental education aimed at many diverse, domestic target groups is very high.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Hom · Long Xan · Long Xan <p><i>Vientiane Province</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Keo Udom · Thulakom · Thapabath · Kasi · Vang Vieng · Hinher · Feuang · Mad · Meun · Xanakharm <p><i>Vientiane Prefecture</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Xaythany · Pak Ngeum <p>PAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Phou Khao Khouay <p>PFAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Phou Gneuy · Nongpet - Naxeng <p>PtFAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nam Ngiep - Nam Mang 	<p>Illegal wildlife trade. Vientiane Capital is a hub for transnational illegal wildlife trade.</p> <p>Controlled wood certification for SFM. Phak Beuk PFA, Bolikhamxay, and Nongpet Naseng PFA in Vientiane Province are forests currently certified by FSC.</p> <p><i>Potential agreements with tree plantations:</i></p> <p>Vientiane Province. Bourapha company has eucalyptus plantations in Nong Phet - Naxeng PFA stretching over Hin Hom and Maet Districts. Additional concessions in Phou Gneuy PFA span across Xanakharm District and Fuang District. In 2021, Bourapha will have a fully operational plywood mill in Hin Hom District and the intention to build an additional pulp mill if and when the concession agreement is signed.</p> <p>Disaster risk management. Forest fires are a perennial problem in Phou Khao Khouay NPA and surrounding agroforestry landscapes. There are no village fire prevention groups (village conservation volunteers), danger ratings, or coordinated creation of firebreaks. There are three reservoirs inside the NPA which are strategic for Vientiane Capital water supply and will benefit from good forest management to maintain ecosystem services.</p>
<p>Landscape 3. Northern Annamites</p>	
<p>Provinces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Xieng Khouang Province · Xaysomboun Province · Bolikhamxay Province <p>Districts:</p>	<p>Nature-based tourism. Xieng Khouang Province's Tor Sip Provincial Protected Area (PPA) and Phou Samsoum represent nature-based tourism attractions for their unique high-mountain ecosystem and the existing tourism hub of the Plain of Jars, Lao PDR's second United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization World Heritage Site, inscribed in 2019. Tor Sip and Phou Samsoum encompass the second highest mountain (2,700 m) and third highest mountain (2,640 m) in the country and support unique montane forest vegetation and range-restricted biodiversity. Tor Sip PPA in Lao PDR is contiguous with Pu Mat National Park in Vietnam, one of Vietnam's best-managed reserves, with exceptional wet evergreen biodiversity. These mountain landscapes are attractive to</p>

<p><i>xieng knouang</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Khoun · Mokmay <p><i>Xaysomboun</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Thathom · Hom <p><i>Bolikhamxay</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Vienthong · Bolikhanh · Papkading · Xaychamphone · Khamkeuth <p>PAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Tor Sip · Phou Samsoum (pending denomination) <p>PFA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Houy Soup · Pak Buek · Phoupasang - Pounghok · Photume <p>PtFAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nam Mouane - Nam Gnouang 	<p>o tourists, for panoramic scenic views, cool weather, and unusual flora and fauna. Yet, there is negligible tourism, and trans-boundary tourism Memoranda of Understanding with Vietnam could increase visitor numbers from Pu Mat.</p> <p>Disaster risk management. Forest fires are a seasonal problem in the two districts. There are no village fire prevention groups (village conservation volunteers), danger ratings, or coordinated creation of firebreaks.</p> <p><i>Potential agreements with tree plantations:</i></p> <p>Khamseng company requested 3,600 ha in Pak Bua PFA and also in Bolikham District.</p> <p>Mekong Timber Plantations company requested potential 1,130 ha in Phou Tum PFA and also in Bolikham District.</p> <p>VFM. There is potential for smallholder NTFP and eucalyptus plantations in Nam Mouane - Nam Gnouang PtFA.</p> <p>Poverty. The two districts of Mok and Kham have high poverty concentrations.</p>
Landscape 4. Khammouane biodiversity complex	
<p>Provinces:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Khammouane Province · Bolikhamxay Province <p>Districts:</p> <p><i>Khammouane</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Nakai · Gnommalath 	<p>Nature-based tourism. Khammouane Province's prospects for green economic growth and poverty reduction are promising, as the province is blessed with world-class caves, karst mountain landscapes, diverse native forests, and a network of PAs that represent one of the world's top biodiversity hot spots and globally significant biodiversity values. There is a growing market for nature-based tourism throughout the province via 'The Loop', which passes multiple PAs including two of Lao PDR's first three national parks, Nakai Nam Theun and Hin Nam No, as well as Phou Hin Poun NPA and its many caves and adventure tourism options and Khoun Xe-Nong Ma's remote, outback jungles.</p> <p>Illegal wildlife trade. Wildlife and forest crimes severely threaten the biodiversity, including trans-boundary international crimes and small-scale widespread illegal hunters from Vietnam</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boualapha • Hinboun • Khounkham • Mahaxay • Thakek • Xebangfay • Xayboathong <p><i>Bolikhamxay</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Khamkeut <p>PAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phou Hin Poun • Nakai Nam Theun • Hin Nam No • Khoun Xe-Nong Ma's <p>PtFAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dong Phousoy • Nakathing - Nongkapath <p>PtFAs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phoulouang - Phoukhaonok • Lad Duea - Lad yang 	<p>ational crimes and small-scale widespread illegal hunters from Vietnam.</p> <p>Forest products and plantations. At the same time, the province is attracting continued interest from timber producers and in the past had an active timber processing sub-sector. Portions of Nakathing PFA and Dong Phousoi PFA have been certified for controlled wood, with high potential for PSFM and village forestry. Dong Phousoi PFA already hosts sustainable eucalyptus tree plantations from MTP company, and other companies have manifested interest in expanding operations in the PFA. Stora Enso company has manifested interest in Na Ka Tin - Na Ka Pa PFA in Boulapha District while MTP company has requested 600 ha in the same PFA but in Xe Bang Fai and Ma Ha Say Districts.</p> <p>Disaster and climate risks. Khammouane is highly vulnerable to floods, which have increased in severity over the last two decades. In 2019, large parts of the Xe Ban Fai river basin were flooded for over two weeks, with serious damage to the people and the economy. Irrigated rice and other high-value agricultural products are produced downstream, but these farming villages are vulnerable to repeated floods in part due to upstream forest loss and degradation. Nam Theun 2 hydropower facility will face costly erosion risks if neighboring Nakai Nam Theun National Park were to experience significant forest loss and degradation, including forest fires within the watershed.</p> <p>Poverty. Khammouane hosts some of the poorest districts nationwide, and provincial and key stakeholders (like the Nam Theun 2 Power Company [NTPC]) have a long commitment to continuous engagement and support with the most fragile communities.</p>
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Landscape 5. Savannakhet conservation and production landscape

<p>Province:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Savannakhet Province <p>Districts:</p> <p><i>Savannakhet</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Songkhone • Thapangthong • Phin • Xonbuly • Xepon 	<p>Nature-based tourism. Savannakhet Province has a few PAs and nature tourism attractions worth considering, some of which have had initial success in tourism development, including Dong Natad for community-led day treks, the Eld's deer forest, and Dong Phou Vieng and Phou Xang Hae for multi-day treks (these PAs are not funded by the project, but potential private investors could apply to the nature-based tourism business leverage facility). Other parks in the province known for biodiversity that are yet to be developed for tourism but hold potential include Laving Laverne NPA (directly supported by LLL), which has globally significant endemic Annamite species contiguous with Khouan Xe Nongma in Khammouane Province, Xe Bang Nouan NPA, which has gaur and other large species (not funded by LLL), and Xe Champone Wetlands (not funded by LLL), one of two of Lao PDR's Ramsar sites that is habitat for the country's last remaining breeding population of wild Siamese crocodiles.</p> <p>Pulp and paper. The presence of the largest pulp and paper mill in the country (Sun Paper) and existing 30,000 ha private eucalyptus plantation in Xepon District gives the province a high potential for smallholder tree plantations and out-grower schemes but also poses risks of losing access to land and resources for rural forest-dependent</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Vilabuly <p>PAs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Lavine Laverne <p>PFA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Dong Sithouane · Dong Ka Pho 	<p>ns and out-grower schemes but also poses risks of losing access to land and resources for rural forest-dependent communities.</p> <p>Third-party certification. Forest management certification is currently in place in Dong Sithouane PFA while Kapho PFA is certified for controlled wood.</p> <p>Boosting village forestry. Due to the long-term PSFM engagement PFAs, there is high potential to scale up village forestry and enhanced livelihoods opportunities, also taking advantage of economic opportunities and market access from the existing main road connecting Thailand and Vietnam. There is a chance to promote links to Savanakheth University.</p> <p>Disaster risk management (forest fires, flood, drought, and erosion risk). There is a high risk of drought and subsequent flooding. This is the result of unplanned forest fire prevention and of unplanned irrigation and water management, which, exacerbated by climate change, requires more integrated support to stop erosion of agriculture land and possible encroachment into forest areas.</p>
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[1] The following districts are also being targeted by GIZ Improved Governance and Sustainable Forest Landscape Management project: Hiem, Xam Neua, Xone, Phonthong, Phonxai, and Viengkhan.

2. Stakeholders

Please provide the Stakeholder Engagement Plan or equivalent assessment.

The SEP is prepared to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation, throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which the project team will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or lodge complaints about project. The involvement of the stakeholders particularly local population is key to the success of the project in order to ensure smooth collaboration between project staff and local communities and to minimize and mitigate ES risks related to the proposed project activities. The SEP has been prepared as part of the Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) (attached as Annex J of GEF data sheet). The Community Engagement Framework is also included below as reference.

Stakeholder Institution	Project-related role and responsibility
National Government	
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF)	MAF is the main Ministry involved in the project, mobilizing resources and departments at national and sub-national level to coordinate implementation of all project activities. The MAF Vice Minister chairs the LLL National Steering Committee.
MAF Department of Forestry (DOF)	DOF is the project implementing agency, house of the NPCU, leading implementation of all components in partnerships with other relevant agencies. DOF is responsible for management of all three forest categories: conservation, protection, and production, and the implementation of village forest management. DOF technical divisions will coordinate implementation of forest related activities in each forest category.
MAF Department of Agricultural Land development and Management (DALaM)	(i) Participates in Land use planning and restoration, and advise on catchment areas for small scale village irrigation schemes (Component 1). (ii) DALaM will also co-lead with DOF and DOL (MONRE) the advancement of policy framework for land tenure recognition inside the three forest categories (Subcomponent 3.3).
MAF Department of Extension and Technical Agroforestry Processing (DETAP)	(i) Participates in implementation of the extension and village advisory services in component 1, and (ii) support processing and agricultural value chain development (Subcomponent 2.1).
MAF Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI)	Enforces forest and wildlife laws and regulations. It jointly leads implementation of Subcomponent 3.2, with Environmental Police, Customs and DOF, in the coordination framework of the Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network (Lao-WEN).
MAF Department of Agriculture (DOA)	Participate in implementation of (i) the extension and village advisory services in component 1, and (ii) support processing and agricultural value chain development (Subcomponent 2.1).
National Agriculture and Forestry Research Center (NAFRI)	Lead on research activity on productive forestry and other agronomic issues in component 1 jointly with the National University of Laos and others as appropriate.
Environment Protection Fund (EPF)	Supports the NPCU to perform fiduciary requirements, financial management, and procurement for (i) subcomponent 3.2 on strengthening institutions to reduce wildlife and forest crimes, and (ii) MONRE-implemented activities in subcomponent 3.3.
Ministry of Natural Resource	Implements selected activities in subcomponent 3.3 on information for decision support, sp

s and Environment (MONRE)	ecifically: (i) Department of Environment implements the policy framework for Strategic Environmental Assessment and Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ii) Department of Climate Change performs monitoring and reporting for Climate Paris Agreement Nationally Determined Contribution (iii) Department of Land co-leads the advancing the policy framework on land tenure recognition inside forestlands, in partnerships with MAF DOF and DALaM.
Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism (MOICT)	The Department of Tourism participates and advises in nature-based tourism-related activities in the project, specifically: (i) in subcomponent 1.1 supports PA management in the development of tourism strategies, marketing, and infrastructure; (ii) in subcomponent 2.2 advises on tourism-related vocational training options; (iii) in subcomponent 2.3 co-chairs the NBT business leveraging facility's steering committee with DOF and MOIC; and (iv) in subcomponent 3.1 advises on tourism-related policy and enabling activities.
Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MOIC)	Various departments participate and advise in SMEs and Industry related activities including skills development in (i) forestry (subcomponent 1.2, 2.2, 3.1), (ii) nature-based tourism (subcomponent 1.1, 2.2, 2.3, 3.1), (iii) market access for livelihoods activities (subcomponent 2.1, 2.2), and (iv) chain of custody certification and forest-related downstream industries support and policies (subcomponent 3.1).
Ministry of Planning and Investments (MPI)	In cooperation with other ministries, MPI is responsible for granting concession agreements to responsible companies. MPI Department of Planning also hosts the secretariat of the high-level Green Growth Steering Committee, which will inform the strategic direction of the LLL project. Selected departments advise or lead other specific activities.
MPI Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB)	Leads the intergovernmental natural capital accounting working group, and conducts dedicated analysis on landscape valuation (subcomponent 3.3).
MPI Department of Investment Promotion	Participates and advises to improve the enabling legal and regulatory environment for the establishment of socially and environmentally responsible concessions for tree plantations inside PFAs and nature-based tourism investments inside the PAs (subcomponent 3.1).
MPI Department of Planning	Coordinates the mainstreaming of forest and land management and plans in the overall national, provincial, district and village development plans (component 1).
Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT)	Supervises construction and maintenance of selected climate resilient access roads as part of the village infrastructure activity (subcomponent 1.2).
National University of Laos (NUOL)	Conducts applied research in partnership with other agencies as relevant (subcomponent 1.1, 1.2, 2.2, 3.1, 3.3).
Ministry of Finance, Lao Customs Department (LCD)	It jointly leads implementation of Subcomponent 3.2 on strengthening institutions and policies to reduce forest and wildlife crimes, with Environmental Police, DOFI and DOF, in the coordination framework of the Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network (Lao-WEN).
Ministry of Home Affairs Department Combatting Natural Resource and Environmental Crime (DCNEC) – Environmental Police	It jointly leads implementation of Subcomponent 3.2 on strengthening institutions and policies to reduce forest and wildlife crimes, with DOFI, LCD and DOF, in the coordination framework of the Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network (Lao-WEN).
Lao Front for National Development (LFND)	Advises and support project-related activities dealing with ethnic groups, including forest management (component 1) livelihoods development (component 2) and policy and institutional support (component 3).
Lao Women Union (LWU)	Leads the implementation of the LLL Gender Action Plan (see appendix E), which involves most of components and activities at national and subnational levels.

Lao Youth Union (LYU)	Advised and supports project-related activities in the mobilization of youth for active participation, including forest management (component 1) livelihoods development (component 2).
Other relevant ministries	Provide support and advice in activities related to their respective fields.
Private sector	In Lao PDR, forest plantation, wood industry development, and agricultural production and marketing are predominantly private sector activities. Nature-based tourism is also a private sector activity primarily. The private sector plays a vital role in to support the production sectors, through (i) the provision of training, seminars, and workshops on governmental regulations; (ii) technical assistance; (iii) research and extension; and (iv) financial and other support to participant communities.
Sub-national Government	
Provincial and District offices under the above institutions	Implementation, enforcement, information dissemination and gathering.
Village level	
Village Chief	Chairs the Village Committee
Village Committee	Guides planning, implementation and financial management of village level livelihoods activities
Private sector	
Timber plantation companies	Participate in selected national multi-stakeholder dialogues, and can engage in tree out-grower agreements with villages supported by the project if all parties are willing and environmental and social sustainability are ensured.
Tourism companies	Participate in selected national multi-stakeholder dialogues, and can engage in nature-based tourism activities in PAs by accessing the NBT business leverage facility, and/or participating in the development of tourism action plans and investment portfolios for selected PAs.
CSOs	
Wildlife Conservation Society	Support the Government on the management of NEPL NP, and can be contracted for other tasks under the project upon the Client's decision.
International Union for the Conservation of Nature	Support the Government on the management of PHP NPA, and can be contracted for other tasks under the project upon the Client's decision.
Asian Arks	Support the Government on the management of KXNM NPA, and can be contracted for other tasks under the project upon the Client's decision.
Other INGOs	Could join the project as service providers under agreements with the Client.
Development partners	
World Bank	Administers IDA and GEF financing and will provide technical supervision support to Government during project implementation, as well as technical assistance.
GIZ	Implementation of CLIPAD project in the Northern Provinces in the context of REDD+ and the ICBF project in the Southern provinces, with focus on PA management and support to the Government on the management of HNN NP.
IFC	Leads the national dialogue on planted forests and convenes space for public-private-people-partnerships and multi-stakeholder engagement.
ADB	Funds the BCC project on biodiversity corridors in the Southern Provinces, and a national project on tourism implemented by the MICT.

[1] Members include the Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Ministry of Industry and Commerce, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Health, The Lao Women's Union (LWU), the National University of Lao, Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism, and the PRF.

In addition, provide a summary on how stakeholders will be consulted in project execution, the means and timing of engagement, how information will be disseminated, and an explanation of any resource requirements throughout the project/program cycle to ensure proper and meaningful stakeholder engagement.

Stakeholders include communities (villages), groups, or individuals affected by the LLL project and other interested parties. Engagement will be ensured through appropriate information disclosure, consultation, and informed participation. Stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle to support the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks. The WB ESS 10 requires the following:

- Stakeholder engagement is initiated at an early stage of the project development process, and is an integral part of early project decisions and the assessment, management and monitoring of the project.
- Stakeholders are engaged throughout the project life cycle, commencing such engagement as early as possible in the project development process and in a timeframe that enables meaningful consultations with stakeholders on project design.
- The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement will be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project and its potential risks and impacts.
- Meaningful consultations with all stakeholders, by providing stakeholders with timely, relevant, understandable and accessible information, and consult with them in a culturally appropriate manner, which is free of manipulation, interference, coercion, discrimination and intimidation.
- The process of stakeholder engagement includes (i) stakeholder identification and analysis; (ii) planning how the engagement with stakeholders will take place; (iii) disclosure of information; (iv) consultation with stakeholders; (v) addressing and responding to grievances; and (vi) reporting to stakeholders.

Due to movement restrictions related to COVID-19, the SEP will use the flexibility allowed by the extraordinary times, and document the process for future follow-up on any of the steps listed above.

In October 2020, the Department of Forestry conducted virtual consultations of relevant stakeholders at central level and from all 8 participating provinces via e-mail or WhatsApp, in the context of the project's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF). 'Face to face' consultations were also held in Thalath, Vientiane province, October 13, including province, districts and village representatives.

Feedback from the consultations is summarized below:

Virtual consultations:

- 24% out of 84 contacted persons responded via e-mail or WhatsApp.
- Overall agreement on the disclosed ESF documents; questions and clarifications were asked and discussed; general interest in cooperating with the project.

Face-to-face consultations:

- Participants considered LLL a good opportunity to address challenges in forest landscapes;
- Questions were raised and discussed around land issues that could emerge due to private investments;
- Interest was shown in detail about Grievance Redress Mechanisms (GRM), Community Engagement Framework (CEF) and livelihoods support to villages, especially the grants for the most vulnerable households.

Select what role civil society will play in the project:

Consulted only; Yes

Member of Advisory Body; Contractor; Yes

Co-financier;

Member of project steering committee or equivalent decision-making body;

Executor or co-executor; Yes

Other (Please explain)

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Provide the gender analysis or equivalent socio-economic assesment.

1. **The project is gender-tagged, including actions to address the project-relevant gender gaps identified and indicators to measure them, in order to ensure differential impacts are addressed.** A gender analysis informed the development of the Gender Action Plan, aimed at assisting the client to enhance gender equality and contribute to closing targeted gender gaps that could potentially limit the effectiveness of the project. The project design team has taken into consideration gender roles and their implications for project beneficiaries in preparing and implementing forestry, tourism, conservation and livelihoods activities, environment and social framework (ESF) documentation, citizen engagement, and grievance redress arrangements.
2. **LLL's Gender Action Plan (Annex I of GEF dats sheet) has been largely based upon two recent and relevant gender assessments in the context of forest landscapes in Lao that describe key gender gaps, actions to address them, and indicators to monitor progress towards gender-related outcomes.**^[1] These are the Gender Integration Development (GID) study for the Bank-supported Lao PDR Emissions Reduction Program (FCPF, 2019/20). The other was a GIZ-supported gender assessment and gender action plan for an associated project to be financed by the Green Carbon Fund support project to the ER-P (GCF, 2019), the findings of which were incorporated in the GID study.
3. **The study provides a comprehensive assessment of the importance of land-based livelihood activities for women in 6 Provinces of northern Lao, for the four main ethnic groups found in these landscapes (Tai-Kadai, Mon-Khmer, Hmong-Mein and Sino-Tibetan).** It shows that forestry-based activities are generally more important to the latter three groups than the Lao-Tai.
4. **The findings highlight many gender gaps (proportionate differences between men and women) related to access to, use of, and control over both agricultural lands and forests.**^[2] The major gender gaps described in detail in the report are synthesized as follows:
 - a) Less access to communal lands/forests. The study results suggest that communal/customary land areas in many villages have become smaller due to land 'expropriations' by elites and foreign companies, affecting poor households and women disproportionately.
 - b) Lack of inclusion and decision-making power in participatory land use planning. Land use planning approaches have not been fully inclusive of women and other marginalized groups.
 - c) Workloads of women are greater than men. Women's work burdens (home and farm) constrain them from seeking out and undertaking new agroforestry or forest-related livelihood enhancing opportunities. Women spend more time collecting (and selling) NTFP's and collecting firewood than men.
 - d) Lack of awareness of, and benefits from forest landscape-related programs. Few women, and less women than men, are aware of, or benefiting from forest landscape-related interventions/forest-smart activities.
 - e) Lack of gender awareness and capacity within forestry agencies. The study highlighted that the Provincial and District Forestry agencies have a limited awareness of the relevance of gender-responsive measures.

Relevance of these gender gaps for LLL, Actions to address them and Indicators in the RF

5. **This Gender Action Plan includes the following key project-related gender gaps, actions to address them, and indicators to monitor progress:**

6. **Component 1** focuses on investments in natural capital, particularly in national parks and protected areas. It includes support to forest and land use planning and management and aims to catalyze nature-based tourism initiatives (i.e. it also will strengthen human capital).

a) Gaps:

i) The main gender gaps applicable here relate to participation: women and the poorest and minority ethnic community members in many villages have been virtually excluded from both participation and decision-making in land and forest use planning at local and higher levels of governance.

ii) Another gender gap relevant here relates to capacity and lack of technical skills of women to be involved in forest-related initiatives and employment. Compared to men, women have fewer economic opportunities and skills especially in forestry and conservation, and some tourism activities.

b) Actions:

i) Nature-based tourism and other forest/conservation initiatives supported by LLL, such as trainings and creation of new jobs, will ensure they are accessible and applicable to women as well as men.

c) Indicators:

i) PDO Indicator 4: Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions (number of females; target: 50%).

7. **Component 2** main focus of lies in enhancing livelihood opportunities.

a) Gap:

i) Compared to men, women have less access to credit or grants for forest-related activities and livelihood improvements than do men.

b) Actions:

i) Technical assistance and communication efforts will be targeted to women household members on what the village livelihoods block grants are, and how to access, implement, and report on them.

ii) Targeting. In addition, the project will earmark 50% of the revolving funds in the village livelihoods block grants for women-owned or co-owned household subprojects.

c) Gap:

i) Women (and those more vulnerable) have less access to extension and outreach services in the project areas than do men.

d) Actions:

i) LLL will strengthen extension and outreach to mobilize and facilitate village empowerment, resource management, and livelihoods development in an equitable way.

ii) LLL will facilitate the active and effective participation of women in community meetings, locating and timing trainings to accommodate women's work schedules and preferences will enhance equitable participation and outreach. This can be done in coordination with LWU, LNFC, and local women's organizations to build on existing networks and best practices for outreach.

iii) The livelihood activities supported cannot merely increase women's workload, and ideally will lower them (e.g. through less time spent collecting firewood and water, and cooking). The project will explore actions to ensure women can receive direct payments, for example via cellphone, or new local bank accounts.

e) Indicator:

i) IRI Gender Indicator: Villagers using extension or outreach services, number (% female).

f) Gap:

i) Village livelihood grants to communities have been reaching less vulnerable households disproportionately more than the most vulnerable households.

g) Action:

i) A proportion of these grants (20 percent) will be earmarked to ensure they go to the most vulnerable households in the villages supported and female-headed households will be monitored.

8. **Component 3** includes investments in strengthening institutions, incentives and information. It will review legal and policy frameworks and guidelines for protected area management, sustainable production forest areas, as well as village forestry regulations.

a) Gaps:

i) Low participation and capacity of government forest agencies at various levels, including the Lao Women's Union, to implement gender-responsive activities.

ii) forest policy gender gap: laws, regulations and guidelines do not consider gender as an explicit factor in forest protection, user-rights and benefit-sharing.

b) Actions.

i) LLL will engage gender experts to analyze and recommend revisions to relevant regulations and guidelines to reflect gender considerations critical for improved resource management, forest protection, monitoring, equal user rights and benefit-sharing.

ii) LLL will include female representatives on project-related committees, working groups, etc. and ensure local women's views and gender issues are captured in reviews of legal and policy frameworks and policy briefs.

iii) LLL will contribute to actions (e.g. in collaboration with other projects focusing on land reforms) that strengthen village's legal rights to use and benefit from forest lands, and within this, strengthening the rights of women within the village to access and use forest lands.

c) Indicator:

i) IRI Indicator 9: Share of target beneficiaries with a score of 'satisfied' or above on project interventions – females, %.

Enhanced Gender Responsiveness in LLL Management Activities

9. Good gender practices suggest setting targets for the percent of the project implementing team that are women that play managerial/leadership roles, and an additional target of the female staff that are ethnic minorities especially at the local level.

10. **Indicators to monitor project management performance (tracked outside the results framework) will include:**

- a) Percentage of women appointed to managerial positions in the LLL PCU;
- b) Assessment of gender-related outcomes after Year 1;
- c) Resolution of ESF grievances lodged by village women relating to the LLL.

In addition, Impact assessments that include gender-disaggregated data will also be undertaken to analyze a range of impacts on women and vulnerable households.

[1] Gaps, actions and indicators are the 3 areas that address the WB's gender strategy and 'gender tagging' requirement.

[2] While these gaps were identified and verified in the six northern Provinces included in the ER-P, they have been confirmed as being also relevant to the LLL program areas.

Does the project expect to include any gender-responsive measures to address gender gaps or promote gender equality and women empowerment?

Yes

Closing gender gaps in access to and control over natural resources; Yes

Improving women's participation and decision making Yes

Generating socio-economic benefits or services or women Yes

Does the project's results framework or logical framework include gender-sensitive indicators?

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Elaborate on the private sector's engagement in the project, if any.

The project will carefully distinguish between public sector activities financed by the project and private sector investment leveraged by, facilitated by, or coordinated with the project. Core government tasks will be financed by the project, such as PA management, forest restoration, small public infrastructure, licensing, certification, regulation, and other elements of the enabling environment. Environmentally and socially sustainable private sector participation in nature-based tourism and forestry will be encouraged by the project.

Commercial plantation in project documentation refers to industrial tree plantations, which need to sign a concession agreement with the government to establish a commercial operation in selected PFAs. The project will not finance any industrial (or commercial) tree plantation.

The project will support the establishment of smallholder (household) tree plantations in private village land in PFAs and PtFAs as one of the many eligible activities under Village Forest Management. GEF resources will not co-finance Activity 1.2.3 on Village Forest Management.

Forestry:

The need for verified legal and sustainable tropical forest products is increasing rapidly as prerequisites for access to international markets capable of paying higher prices; Lao PDR needs to keep pace with these new market opportunities by transforming the forestry sector into a central pillar of a new green economy. Most major international markets like the European Union (EU), the United States (US) and other countries with green policies increasingly demand proof of legality and/or sustainability of forest management and wood products that they import by way of third party assessed certification of forest management and chain of custody across the supply chain. There is also emerging interest within Asia in legal and certified wood as China, Vietnam, and Thailand are all establishing national standards for timber legality and SFM to meet, and in turn, export market requirements of their trading partners for legal and sustainable wood.^[1]

Additionally, the analytical work also provides a strong context for the market demand. Increasingly forest products importing countries; multi-national and national companies; international financial and funding institutions; and importing/manufacturing/construction federations and associations require wood producers and forest products traders to prove sustainability and/or legality for forest products market access, particularly into industrialized countries in Europe, North America, Oceania and elsewhere. Increasingly Governments have approved green public procurement policies; local governments, city/town planners, engineers and architects have established green building standards and companies have adopted green policies to demonstrate corporate social and environmental responsibility; and development and multi-national commercial banks require proof of compliance with social and environmental safeguards and the Equator Principles respectively. These international markets have become more discerning in their sourcing of sustainable wood production and legal associated wood products trade. Originally, FSC certification was the standard specified by most of these market mechanisms but there has been a significant change in recent years to accept FSC and PEFC and their associated certification systems (e.g. SFI) as reputable, international, independently 3rd party assessed certification systems as proof of sustainability and legality. These combined international markets for solid wood total over three times China's annual wood imports. There is an emerging interest within Asia in proof of production, harvesting and trade in legal and certified wood as

China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand have established or are establishing national standards for timber legality and SFM and Chain of Custody certification to meet export market requirements of their trading partners. Lao PDR has an opportunity to increase both forest certification as proof of sustainability and FLEGT tools (TLAS, VPAs) for proof of legality in forest products production, harvesting and trade.

[1] World Bank 2019, Partnerships and Opportunities for a New Green Forest Economy in Lao PDR: Sustaining Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods

Village Level Engagement

- National micro, smallholder, family or farmer investments at the village level in plantation forests (indigenous or introduced species) with support from the public sector (land-use rights and allocation, certification of land-use, provision of technical support services; provision of nursery stock, access to harvest, market and trade of forest products);
- National micro, smallholder, family or farmer investments at the village level (provide access to land, labor) in fast growing industrial plantation forest out-grower arrangements with support from the Private Sector (provide seedlings, materials, technical advice and access to markets);
- National micro, smallholder family or farmer contractors at the village level working with the Private Sector to gain the experience and the skillsets to provide contract services for national forest restoration and industrial plantation investments (seed collection, nurseries, site preparation, planting, weeding, tending, silviculture, harvesting, transport, marketing, trade);
- Public, Private Sector and village collaboration in the investment and construction of green infrastructure including small-scale irrigation systems, local roads and bridges and local water supplies and reservoirs in target villages; and
- Public, Private Sector and village collaboration on training, construction, piloting and up-scaling of green technologies for watershed management and disaster risk reduction (riparian buffer management, assisted natural regeneration) in target villages.

Policy and Institutional Engagement

The project will build institutional and stakeholder capacities to address key regulatory topics to strengthen environmentally and socially sustainable investment. LLL project will not finance industrial plantations, but will engage stakeholders in addressing governance issues on the following themes:

- Multi-national private sector investments in natural forest restoration and fast-growing industrial plantation forests in Production Forest Areas (PFA) under concession agreements with the GoL (GoL provides land concession agreements with social and environmental safeguards, shares risks and benefits and monitors compliance with agreements, laws, regulations, policies, guidelines);
- National Small-Medium Enterprise (SME) investment in natural forest restoration and fast-growing industrial plantations in PFAs under agreements or approvals with the GoL (GoL provides agreements with social and environmental safeguards, shares risks and benefits and monitors compliance with laws, regulations, policies, guidelines);
- Public and Private Sector collaboration on the further training, piloting and up-scaling of international standards and independently assessed Forest Management and Chain of Custody (CoC) Certification in natural and plantation forests in PFAs, Other Forest Areas and in forest products processing facilities to meet international sustainability and legality standards required of discerning international forest products markets;
- Public and Private Sector collaboration with the national Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) team in strengthening the legal and regulatory frame, piloting and elaboration of implementation arrangements to mobilize the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement, Timber Legality Assurance System and EU Timber Licence to access European forest products markets;

- Public and Private Sector collaboration in establishing an Advisory Technical Working Group on Production Forest Management and a Sustainable Forest Plantations Technical Expert Advisory Group to advise the GoL, investors and other key stakeholders on policy, technical and capacity building issues regarding SFM in production forests; and
- Public and Private Sector collaboration on research and development investments related to natural forest restoration and plantation forest investments to improve regeneration and germplasm, survival and productivity, forest inventory, yields, protection, socio-economic surveys, forest products processing and ecosystem services.

Nature-Based Tourism (NBT)

Protected Area Management

The main objective of NBT activities under LLL sub-component 1.1. (protected area management) is to support public sector management of nature-based tourism in key national protected areas with the goal of leveraging private sector investment. This would include participatory planning and zoning with private sector stakeholders. Key activities at PA level are:

- Establishment of formal private sector working groups. These will inform the production of NBT investment portfolios and benefit from foundational training for protected area managers and private sector stakeholders in the theory and practice of tourism development and management.
- Support the protection of NBT attractions by providing support to public-private tourism partnerships including support for land-use planning, equipment, and technical assistance, and support to community and private sector efforts to safeguard their attractions from threats.

The project will promote the establishment of enforcement regimes in relation to the tourism concessions, and will provide training to tourism concession staff. It will provide training on conducting biodiversity surveys within the tourism concessions. It will also monitor jobs creation in the tourism concessions targeting local villagers. It will also measure funding streams to the PA from the tourism concessions. One main benefit intended from tourism will include jobs/livelihood generation. The project will support the development of enabling environment/regulations. PA entry fees will be used to support park management. Fees that go to park management supporting conservation activities will be included in tourism concession agreements.

Tourism activities at PA level include:

- Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
- Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
- Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
- Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, familiarization trips, etc.);
- Produce tourism investment potential portfolio for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at national workshop;

All these activities are carried on with the PA management unit, and contribute to the PA management plan objectives, which include biodiversity conservation. ESS documents address tourism impacts. Tourism in Lao PDR has been very low compared to Thailand and Vietnam for example. The immediate challenge is to raise revenues for PA management by increasing nature-based tourism sustainably.

NBT Business Leverage Facility & Training

Component 2 of LLL focuses on livelihoods, and under this component (2.3) NBT activities are aimed at providing direct support to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) for training and capacity building of human resources, both private and public, and for small business funds through a support facility to improve existing NBT businesses (through matching grants) and facilitate additional NBT investments in NBT (through challenge grants). The NBT advisory facility's direct support to MSMEs is aimed at facilitating demand-led NBT development. GEF financing will not support Component 2.3 on Nature Based Tourism Business Leveraging Facility.

Policy and Institutional Engagement

- Concessions Policy: This would include coordination with the Ministry of Planning and Investment (MPI) to develop concession fees, application processes, and a control list specific for NBT investment in PAs. It would also support a joint committee on tourism concessions in protected areas and on improving the enabling environment for NBT investment in Lao PDR.
- Enabling environment for NBT in PAs: This would include improving the ease of licensing of NBT tourism businesses, which currently falls between traditional categories for tourism business licenses; and related factors that can improve the facilitation of tourism investment in protected areas and NBT sites (visas, etc.).
- Tourism investment portfolios: There are no official plans or portfolios that identify investment opportunities in protected areas. The project will support the identification of potential products in each target PA in order to attract interested investors and ensure that product development is diverse and environmentally sensitive.

5. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide information on the identified environmental and social risks and potential impacts associated with the project/program based on your organization's ESS systems and procedures

Overall Project/Program Risk Classification*

PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
High or Substantial			

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Elaborate on the types and risk classifications/ratings of any identified environmental and social risks and impacts (considering the GEF ESS Minimum Standards) and any measures undertaken as well as planned management measures to address these risks during implementation.

Please refer to Risk Table in Project Document. In addition please see risk consideration for COVID-19 impact

Response to COVID-19: The risk of economic and logistical disruption from COVID-19 is rated Substantial. The COVID-19-related travel restrictions hinder project preparation, implementation, and supervision. The project will mitigate this risk by adopting a combination of remote-sensing tools for supervision, coupled with field-based consultants that will enable basic monitoring and reporting even in case of total lockdown. Much of the World Bank team is currently based in Vientiane, and reliance on external missions is somewhat reduced compared to business as usual before COVID-19.

Referring to the GEF's Response to COVID-19 (GEF/C.58/Inf.07, May 16, 2020), the project supports GEF's immediate action to deal with the wildlife trade and consumption challenges by promoting targeted campaigns on public awareness and behavioral change, and building law enforcement agencies' capacity to combat wildlife and forest crime.

ESS documents address tourism impacts. Tourism in Lao PDR has been very low compared to Thailand and Vietnam for example. The immediate challenge is to raise revenues for PA management by increasing nature-based tourism sustainably.

GEF resources will not support or be used for any voluntary or involuntary resettlement under this project. More broadly the project has no intention to resettle villages but rather to support villages in and around PAs to work with government PA authorities to carry out collaborative management of PAs and village-designated lands enclaved in or bordering PAs.

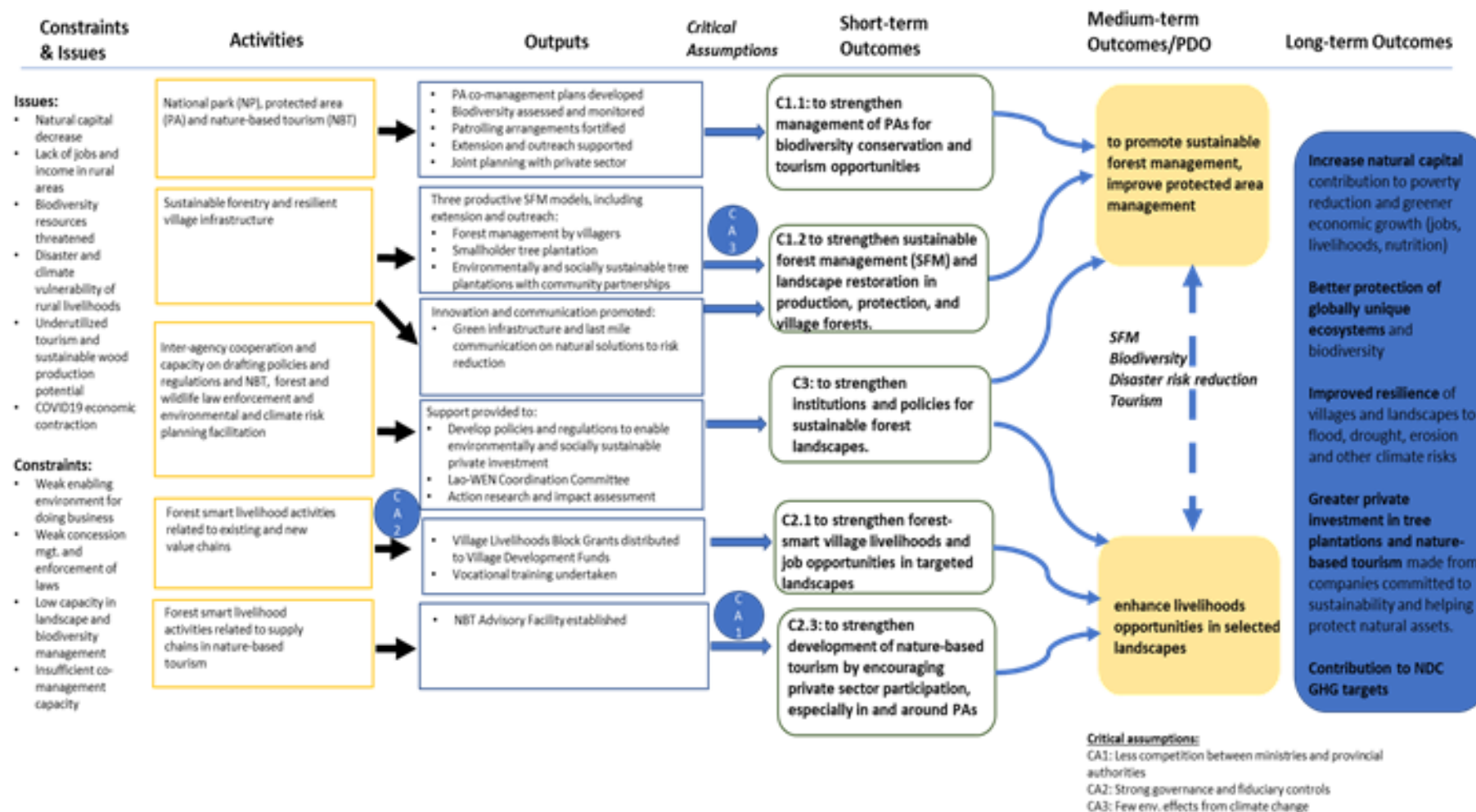
Supporting Documents

Upload available ESS supporting documents.

Title	Module	Submitted
LaoPDR- ESRS-LLL_November 2020	CEO Endorsement ESS	
LaoPDR- ESMF-LLL_Sept 2020	CEO Endorsement ESS	

ANNEX A: PROJECT RESULTS FRAMEWORK (either copy and paste here the framework from the Agency document, or provide reference to the page in the project document where the framework could be found).

The project results framework (below) is based on the theory of change (ToC), shown in Figure 1 below:



1. The project's theory of change is articulated in five steps starting with (a) constraints and issues linked to (b) project activities, which would generate (c) outputs. These outputs in turn would contribute to (d) short and medium-term outcomes, that would lead to (e) sustainable long-term outcomes outside the direct project control and timeframe – such as poverty reduction, job creation, and climate stability. The theory of change is described below:

- a. *Constraints and issues:* To drive a green economic recovery and create jobs and livelihoods, the country has been shifting to a green growth model from an unsustainable development path. That path was based on the liquidation of natural resources which has reduced forest cover and globally significant biodiversity, increased the country's vulnerability to natural disasters and extreme weather events, increased greenhouse gas emissions, and hindered nature-based tourism development. The challenge facing Lao PDR is to manage the transformation to seize the economic opportunities from a sustainably managed forest landscape. The sharp slow-down in economic growth from COVID-19 increases the urgency for a green economic recovery.
- b. *Project activities:* To respond to the challenges, the project would support investments in natural wealth to improve management and governance of the three forest categories in line with the 2019 Forestry Law. Resilient village infrastructure, Village Development Funds, and vocational training would improve jobs and forest smart livelihoods opportunities. The project would build the capacity of stakeholders, institutions strengthen the policy environment. This set of "hard" and "soft" interventions would produce a change in practices and policies in how targeted forest landscapes are managed for conservation, protection and production objectives.
- c. *Outputs:* Project-induced changes include: (i) forest management and land use plans and execution are more participatory, holistic and transparent; (ii) Licensing, partnership agreements, and concessions for plantations and nature-based tourism follow environmental and social sustainability standards; (iii) Stronger and more effective extension is delivered on the ground on forest management, conservation, and livelihoods; (iv) Forest communities actively engage in biodiversity conservation, village forestry, and plantation operations, while institutions cooperate to better combat wildlife and forest crimes, and (vi) Green infrastructure, natural solutions and last-mile information to reduce fire, flood, drought, and landslide risks are available and create green jobs.
- d. *Project outcomes:* With widespread application of the above modified and strengthened practices, key project outcomes would be realized, including (i) improved sustainable forest management and livelihoods opportunities in selected landscapes, (ii) reduced flood, drought, and landslide risks to villages and infrastructure, (iii) good forest cover, balanced with stabilized and sustainable land use, (iv) good nature-based tourism products in and outside protected areas that meet market demand while managing potential over-use, and (v) globally significant biodiversity is better protected and greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.
- e. *Long-term outcomes beyond the project,* assuming continued adoption of changed practices over time and no major exogenous events, would be the consolidation and expansion of renewable natural capital and improved human capital in institutions and villages. Over time, environmentally and socially sustainable plantation forest enterprises and nature-based tourism can continue to provide local high-quality employment and revenues, reduced poverty, global climate stability, biodiversity values and multiple ecosystem services. As such, the project can help transform the Lao economy for more sustainable, resilient, inclusive, greener growth.

Project Results Framework

Project Development Objectives(s)

To promote sustainable forest management, improve protected area management, and enhance livelihoods opportunities in selected landscapes in Lao PD

Project Development Objective Indicators

RESULT_FRAME_TBL_PDO

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
To promote sustainable forest management			
1. Landscape area with maintained or increased forest cover (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	2,000,000.00
1a. Conservation forest (PAs) area with maintained or increased forest cover (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	1,300,000.00
1b. Protection forest area with maintained or increased forest cover (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	400,000.00
1c. Production forest area with maintained or increased forest cover (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	300,000.00
1d. Village forest with maintained or increased forest cover (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	800,000.00
to improve protected area management			
2. Protected areas that score over 50 on the global PA Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) (Number)		3.00	8.00
to enhance livelihoods opportunities in selected landscapes in Lao PDR			
3. Households or Economic Interest Groups engaged in alternative and/or improved traditional livelihood activities supported by the project (Number)		0.00	72,050.00
3a Economic Interest Groups engaged in alternative and/or improved traditional livelihood activities supported by the project (Number)		0.00	50
4. Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions (CRI, Number)		0.00	150,000.00
4a. Beneficiaries of job-focused interventions - Female (CRI, Number)		0.00	75,000.00

Intermediate Results Indicators by Component

RESULT_FRAME_TBL_IO

Indicator Name	PBC	Baseline	End Target
Investing in Natural Wealth and Resilience in Forest Landscapes			
5. Forest area brought under management plans (CRI, Hectare(Ha))		0.00	2,300,000.00
5a. Conservation Forest (PA) under a management plan (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	1,500,000.00
5b. Production Forest Area under a management plan (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	400,000.00
5c. Protection Forest Area under a management plan (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	400,000.00
5d. Village forest under a management plan (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	800,000.00
5e. Production Forest Area certified for controlled wood or SFM (Hectare(Ha))		0.00	250,000.00
6. Land area under sustainable landscape management practices (CRI, Hectare(Ha))		0.00	1,200,000.00
7. Net GHG emissions (Tonnes Co2)		0.00	-10,000,000
8. Beneficiaries using extension or outreach services (Number)		0.00	144,000.00
8a. Beneficiaries using extension or outreach services (females) (Percentage)		0.00	50.00
9. Productive assets built and maintained for improved resilience (Number)		0.00	30.00
9a. Small irrigation or multipurpose small rese			

ervoirs plus village-to-village payments for environmental services to protect forest (Number)	0.00	10.00
9b. Tourism or park management facilities constructed / rehabilitated (Number)	0.00	10.00
9c. Roads constructed / rehabilitated (Number)	0.00	10.00
10. Village conservation agreements approved and annually reported (Number)	0.00	267.00
11. Tourism agreements signed between tourism operators, local villages and relevant PA and other management authorities in targeted forest landscapes (Number)	0.00	10.00
12. Villages entering partnership agreements with environmentally and socially sustainable tree plantation enterprises (Number)	0.00	30.00
13. Households establishing and managing tree plantations (Number)	0.00	200.00
Livelihoods Opportunities from Sustainable Forest Landscapes		
14. Households using Village Development Funds for forest-smart livelihoods activities (Number (Thousand))	0.00	72,000.00
14a. Vulnerable households using Village Development Funds for forest-smart livelihoods activities (Number (Thousand))	0.00	5,000.00
15. Share of target beneficiaries with a score 'Satisfied' or above on project interventions (Percentage)	0.00	90.00
15.a Share of target beneficiaries with a score 'Satisfied' or above on project interventions (females) (Percentage)	0.00	50.00

Institutions, Incentives, and Information		
16. New or revised laws, policies, and regulations drafted and submitted to relevant authority for approval (Number)	0.00	15.00
17. Investigations of breaches of forestry law and wildlife and aquatic law referred to criminal courts at national or provincial level (Number)	0.00	60.00
17.a Referred cases jointly investigated each year (Percentage)	0.00	50.00

B. Monitoring and Evaluation Plan (definitions, data, methodology for the results framework)

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: PDO Indicators

Indicator Name	Definition/Description	Frequency	Data source	Methodology for Data Collection	Responsibility for Data Collection
	<p>This indicator measures the PDO aspects of forest and protected area management at landscape level. The overall change in forest cover area will be recorded according to the GOL's definition of forest (not 'forestland' which is an administrative unit) within the project area. Forest is defined as having a minimum "diameter at breast height" (DBH) of 10cm; minimum crown density of 20%; and minimum area of 0.5ha. This definition was used in the construction of the Forest Reference Emission Level/ Forest Reference Level (FREL/FRL) and formally submitted to the UNFCCC in January 2018 and is used in the Bank/FCPF financed Emission Reduction Purchase, and the national GHG inventory. It is noted that the 2018 definition is different from what Lao PDR used for reporting to the FAO Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) in 2015.</p> <p>Sub-indicators measure the change in area for different categories of forest within the landscape within the project area. These sub-indicators include conservation forest (protected areas and national parks), protect</p>			<p>Remote sensing.</p> <p>The project will distinguish the different forest area by preparing geo-referenced maps with layers for the 3 state forest c</p>	

<p>andscape area maintained or degraded forest cover</p>	<p>ion forest, production forest, village forest, smallholder forest, and environmentally and socially sustainable commercial plantation forests that interface with project-supported villages and that do not displace standing forest. Commercial plantation forests would not include oil or palm as the project will not be supporting these. The project is not financing commercial plantation forests.</p> <p>Village forests according to the 2019 Forest Law: "District administration authorities allocate forests and forestland to village administration authorities to manage, inspect, protect, develop and utilize in accordance with village forest management plans...." Forests under village responsibility may be classified into three categories, mirroring the national designations: namely protection forests that include water resources riparian forests, roadside forests; conservation forests that include sacred forests and cemetery forests; and Village Use Forests. Village forests exist as enclaves within or outside of designated state or provincial conservation forest (PAs), protection forest, and production forest.</p> <p>The overall target of the main indicator is not the sum of the three sub indicators on National PAs, PFAs, and PtFAs (1,300,000 + 400,000 + 200,000 = 2,000,000 ha). The other two sub indicators, Village forests and Plantation forests, represent a sub-set of the three state forest categories, hence their targets are not counted twice in the total of the main indicator.</p> <p>This indicator responds to the SD-OPCS Kiosk Announcement issued on June 8, 2020 and IDA19 Policy Commitment to all IDA operations with more than 20 percent Climate Co-Benefits will incorporate at least one climate-related results indicator to increase the focus on climate outcomes.</p>	Annual	Forest cover assessment	<p>categories, aggregated in the main indicator and disaggregated for the first three sub-indicators (1a, 1b, and 1c).</p> <p>Geo-referenced maps will also be prepared with layers from the village forests mapped under the forest and land use planning activity in component 1 (for sub-indicator 1d.), and for new environmentally and socially sustainable industrial tree plantations (for sub-indicator 1e.).</p>	DOF
<p>conservation forest (PAs) area with maintained or increased forest cover</p>	<p>See mother indicator.</p>	Annual	Forest cover assessment	Remote sensing	DOF

tection fore a with mainta r increased f cover	See mother indicator.	Annual	Forest co ver asses sment	Remote sensing	DOF
oduction fore a with mainta r increased f cover	See mother indicator	Annual	Forest co ver asses sment	Remote sensing	DOF
lage forest w aintained or in ed forest cov	See mother indicator.	Annual	Forest co ver asses sment	Remote sensing	DOF
tected areas t ore over 50 o lobal PA Ma nent Effective Tracking Tool r)	<p>This indicator measures the strength and effectiveness of the GOL's PA authorities in managing PAs and biodiversity in targeted PAs using the globally standardized METT for PAs. Each individual PA is scored separately, and scores are then averaged. This is based on annual assessment and hence non-cumulative targets. By using specific criteria and activities for PAs, variation in management intensity between PAs can be accounted for.</p> <p>The METT tool is customized for Lao PDR.</p> <p>METT would be carried out with third party support to avoid bias from self-reporting.</p> <p>The 8 PAs cover over 1.5 million hectares of conservation forest:</p> <p>Nam Et-Phou Louey NP = 410,720 ha</p> <p>Phou Khao Khouay NPA = 200,000 ha*</p> <p>Tor Sib/ Phou Samsoum = 53,978 ha + 25,558 ha*</p>	Annual	METT sc ore	Scoring exercise by 3rd party	DOF

	<p>Phou Hin Poun NPA = 150,000 ha*</p> <p>Nakai Nam Theun NP = 427,770 ha</p> <p>Hin Nam No NP = 94,121 ha</p> <p>Laving Laverne NPA = 86,000 ha</p> <p>Khoun Xe Nongma PPA = 53,863 ha</p> <p>*Some areas are approximate following PM Decree 164 in 1993. Tor Si b/Phou Samsoum has not yet been defined/designated.</p>				
<p>Households or Economic Interest Groups engaged in allive and/or improved traditional livelihood activities reported by the project</p>	<p>This indicator captures the livelihoods aspects of the PDO statement. It measures the number of households that have added new activities to their livelihood strategies and/or improved existing farm- and forest-related livelihood activities. The latter could be, for example, improvements in the quantity and/or quality in agricultural produce or increased yield of NTFPs through non-destructive harvesting.</p> <p>Both the (i) use of Village Livelihood Block Grants by households and by villages and (ii) livelihoods from improved forest management by households and by villages will be the main elements contributing to the strengthening of livelihood activities. A given household could engage in several new or improved activities but will only be counted once to avoid double counting.</p> <p>The indicator also captures the support to Economic Interest Groups to include new or additional activities into their portfolio of activities. Economic Interest Groups are groups formed around a specific economic activity, for example weaving, and often helps in marketing of the products through improved product design, facilitation of market access and business operation services.</p>	Biennial	Survey reports	Household survey	DOF

conomic Inter oups engage ternative an nproved tradi livelihood act supported by object	See mother indicator.				
eficiaries of j used interve	<p>The indicator measures the number of beneficiaries reached by interventions that contribute to the jobs agenda in operations supported by the World Bank.</p> <p>The indicator captures the cross-cutting nature of the jobs agenda, as <i>beneficiaries</i> (disaggregated by gender) may be individuals, workers, households, farmers, microenterprises, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and other target groups that benefit from Bank Group-supported operations in different sectors and types of operations. For the purpose of this project only individuals will be considered beneficiaries.</p> <p><i>Jobs</i> are defined as “activities that generate income, monetary or in kind, without violating human rights” (WDR on Jobs, 2013). For the purpose of this project jobs can be full time, seasonal, formal and informal.</p> <p><i>Jobs-focused interventions</i> are those contributing to the jobs agenda that have an explicitly stated and substantive link to creating more, better, and/or inclusive jobs.</p> <p><i>More jobs</i> refers to direct and indirect employment linked to increased firm performance, hiring, and/or self-employment/entrepreneurship.</p> <p><i>Better jobs</i> imply higher productivity and earnings, better benefits, better working conditions, and/or improved income protection, for example.</p> <p><i>Inclusive jobs</i> are those that offer improved access or that benefit from</p>	Annual	Survey reports	Household survey.	DOF

	<p>targeted interventions to increase the employability of youth, women, the poor, and other disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>For the purpose of this project only individuals will be considered beneficiaries.</p> <p>For the purpose of this project jobs can be full time, seasonal, formal and informal.</p> <p>Measures will be put in place to avoid double-counting.</p>				
Beneficiaries of cused interve :- Female	See mother indicator.	Annual	Survey reports	Household survey	DOF

Monitoring & Evaluation Plan: Intermediate Results Indicators

Indicator Name	Definition/Description	Frequency	Datasource	Methodology for Data Collection	Responsibility for Data Collection
				Field survey	
			Forest man	<p>The target for the mother indicator is the aggregated value of the first 3 sub-indicators (5a, 5b, and 5c) on State PAs, PFAs and PtFAs respectively.</p> <p>Sub-indicators 5d o</p>	

Forest area brought under management plans	This indicator measures the forest areas brought under management plan as a result of the project. To be counted the management plan would have to be approved by the relevant government authority. Forestland classification is based on national definitions.	Annual	Management plans	<p>in village forests, and 5e on PFAs certified, track sub-divisions of the same State forestlands tracked in sub-indicators 5a, 5b, and 5c.</p> <p>Sub-indicators 5d and 5e are tracked to add an additional qualitative level of planning to the existing state forest management plan.</p>	DOF
Conservation Forest Area (PA) under a management plan	<p>Management plans for protected areas can be developed by following relevant guidelines, for example: the IUCN World Commission on Protected Areas Best Practice Guidelines can be used as a reference (e.g., Dudley, Nigel (ed.), 2008, Guidelines for applying protected area management categories; and Thomas, Lee and Middleton, Julie, 2003, Guidelines for Management Planning of Protected Areas.)</p> <p>5 Conservation Forest Areas (PAs) have approved management plans, some of which require updating.</p>	Annual	Management plans	Field survey	DOF
Production Forest Area under a management plan	Forestland classification is based on national definitions. Management plans for production forests can be demonstrated by, for example, certification of SFM (for reference, see OP 4.36, para. 9, or WWF/World Bank Global Forest Alliance, 2006, Forest Certification Assessment Guide: A framework for assessing credible forest certification systems/schemes), or by following relevant FAO guidelines (e.g., FAO, 1998, Guidelines for the management of tropical forests 1. The production of wood, FAO forestry paper 135).	Annually	Management plans	Field survey	DOF

	40 Production Forest Areas have approved management plans, some of which require updating.				
Protection Forest Areas under a management plan	Protection Forest Areas do not have approved management plans at the time of project initiation. It is therefore expected that this sub-indicator will start recording progress some time during implementation. The necessary time will be used by DOF to develop and approve a management system for PtFAs, and individual management plans for PtFAs.	Annual	Management plans	Field survey	DOF
Village forest user management	This sub-indicator measures the cumulative hectareage of delineated village forest area (of villages not inside PAs) that has been brought under a decentralized village-led forest management plan with project support. To be counted the management plan would have to be approved by the relevant government authority. Village forest is defined above (PDO indicator 1) in line with the 2019 Forestry Law. Values are based on average village forest size of 2000 ha x 400 villages supported by the project.	Annual	Management plans	Field survey	DOF
Production Forest Areas certified for controlled wood or	This sub-indicator tracks the hectares of PFAs holding a third party certification of Sustainable Forest Management and/or controlled wood.	Annual	Management plans, certification documents	Field survey	DOF
Land area under sustainable landscape management practices	<p>The indicator measures, in hectares, the land area for which new and/or improved sustainable landscape management practices have been introduced.</p> <p><i>Land</i> is the terrestrial biologically productive system comprising soil, vegetation, and the associated ecological and hydrological processes.</p> <p><i>Adoption</i> refers to change of practice or change in the use of a technology promoted or introduced by the project.</p> <p><i>Sustainable landscape management (SLM)</i> practices refers to a combination of at least two technologies and approaches to increase land quality and restore degraded lands for example, agronomic, vegetative,</p>	Annual	Survey reports, project and activity records	Field survey	DOF

	structural, and management measures that, applied as a combination, increase the connectivity between protected areas, forest land, rangeland, and agriculture land.				
GHG emission	<p>Project net greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are calculated as an annual average of the difference between project gross (absolute) emissions aggregated over the economic lifetime of the project and the emissions of a baseline (counterfactual) scenario aggregated over the same time horizon. Net GHG emissions at the portfolio level are calculated as the sum of project net emissions.</p> <p>Economic lifetime is the lifetime of the underlying assets that the Bank project finances and is usually longer than the implementation period of the Bank project.</p> <p>The indicator value is negative if the project is reducing emissions, and positive if the project is increasing emissions.</p> <p>The indicator is based on an ex-ante estimation performed during project preparation using GHG accounting methodologies as approved by the GPs.</p> <p>GHG accounting is done ex-ante, and the exercise is repeated annually.</p> <p>If the project undergoes major restructuring or is subject to additional financing relevant to GHG accounting, the ex-ante estimation of project net emissions needs to be recalculated at the time of restructuring or processing additional financing.</p>	Annual	Modified Ex-ACT tool	Survey	DOF
	This indicator measures the number of individuals using annually with extension or technical outreach services, provided through the project, in land use planning, decentralized sustainable forest management, land management, conservation, NTFPs, or food production.				

	<p>This indicator corresponds to the World Bank Corporate Results Indicator, "Farmers reached with agricultural assets or services," where the definition of "agriculture" explicitly includes forestry, timber, NTFPs, and natural resource management.</p>				
Beneficiaries using extension or outreach services	<p>Assumptions for estimating the target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 600 villages of which 200 are PA villages and 400 villages are outside PAs. • Average of 120 households per rural village nationwide • Average of 5.5 individuals per household nationwide • Two people per household counted toward the target. Husband and wife of each household are presumed to be the primary recipients of extension or outreach services; others are not counted in the reporting • Half of the recipients of the extension or outreach will be female. 	Annual	Survey reports	Survey	DOF
Beneficiaries using extension or outreach services (female)	Gender indicator. See mother indicator.				
	<p>Resilience indicator. Climate adaptation indicator.</p> <p>This indicator measures the project contribution under both Components 1.1 and 1.2 to building and maintaining critical small infrastructure and natural solutions that are part of Village (community) Action Plans.</p>				
Productive asset and maintenance	These small works aim to boost the economic resilience of villages and	Annual	Project and activity records	Survey	DOF

and maintain or improved re se	<p>d protected areas by supporting economic activities in the face of recurrent floods, droughts, and landslides.</p> <p>These works include such assets as (i) small irrigation (plus payments for environmental services to upstream villages for protecting forest in command areas averaging 650 hectares), (ii) multipurpose reservoirs, (iii) access roads or small bridges and drainage, (iv) slope stabilization using reforestation and revegetation, and (v) tourism and protected area facilities.</p>		Survey reports	Survey	DOF
Small irrigation Multipurpose small reservoirs plus village payments for environmental services to protect forest	This sub-indicator measures the progress on constructing small irrigation schemes which are associated with payments for environmental services (in-kind or in cash) to upstream villages for protecting forest in command areas averaging 650 ha.	Annual	Survey reports	Survey	DOF
Tourism or park management facilities constructed / re ated	This sub-indicator measures the improvement or construction of small infrastructure to promote nature-based tourism development. Examples could be trails, camp grounds, small-scale waste management facilities, small-scale visitor centers in PAs, etc.	Annual	Survey reports	Survey	DOF
Roads constructed rehabilitated	This sub-indicator measures the progress on construction, rehabilitation, and maintenance of climate resilient roads to access nature-based tourism assets, or to improve village access to markets.	Annual	Survey reports	Survey	DOF
Village conservation	<p>Village Conservation Agreements (VCA) are binding between the relevant government authority and the Village Administration.</p> <p>These agreements may address the protection of species, ecological communities, habitats or potential habitats. Based on an approved VCA, participating Guardian Villages in and bordering PAs would access block grants for livelihoods through their respective Village Development Fund under Component 2. VCAs are preceded by the participatory preparation of a Village Forest and Land Use Management Plan.</p>	Annual	Village conservation	Survey	DOF

11/30/2020 agreements a ed and annua orted		Annual	Survival and agreements	Survey	DOF
	<p>*For NEPL, 43 VCAs are already approved and under implementation under LENS2, and would be counted in LLL to track continued implementation.</p> <p>10 VCAs in NNT have also been approved as of July 27, 2020 and will continue to be reported on during LLL.</p>				
<p>urism agree signed betw urism operat cal villages a evant PA and management rities in target est landscap</p>	<p>This indicator measures the number of partnerships (tourism agreements) among Government Authorities, private entities, and villages in nature based tourism established as a result of the project.</p> <p>A tourism agreement is a contract using a prescribed format (concession agreement, memorandum of understanding, or management contract or approval document) that sets out the terms and conditions for the right to use a given PA (district, provincial or a national protected area) and/or certain tourism sites outside of PAs for tourism purposes by a tourism operator.</p> <p>The contract format will be developed by the GOL (DOF).</p> <p>The contract specifies employment benefits for local communities (for example number of full-time equivalent jobs offered to members of local communities and training of these local people for performance in their job) and contribution to the management and protection of the protected area (for example an annual fee) to the GOL.</p> <p>It is signed by the relevant authority, the tourism operator and the heads of the villages within or around the protected area.</p>	Annual	Tourism agreements	Survey	DOF
	<p>This indicator measures the number of villages that enter partnership agreements that have been facilitated as a result of project support to</p>				

<p>lages enterin nership agree : with environ lly and social tainable tree tion enterpris</p>	<p>GOL and villages.</p> <p>A partnership agreement could be an out-grower contract, MOU, or other equivalent, stamped legal agreement among parties.</p> <p>The partnership agreement would articulate local benefits accruing to a specific village or village cluster from the enterprise and other terms such as timeline, land use rights, and so on, as well as responsibilities of villages, individuals, the enterprise, and the government.</p> <p>Partnership agreements counting toward this indicator target would comply with the main elements of the LLL World Bank ESF and IFC sustainability criteria and corporate sustainability commitments by a given enterprise.</p> <p>Participation of ethnic minority villages will be tracked.</p>	Annual	Partnership agreements	Survey	DOF
<p>households est ing and mana ree plantation</p>	<p>The indicator measures the number of smallhold households involved in establishing and managing tree plantations with support provided under the project, whether inputs, extension services, or market facilitation.</p> <p>Smallholder tree plantations are grown on household land. Results will be reported in more detail by value chain which would include, among others, teak, mai theu (for white charcoal), eucalypt, or pine at higher elevations.</p> <p>Where possible, market access will be facilitated with project support (such as part of a village partnership agreement with large enterprises).</p>	Annual	Project records	Household survey	DOF
	<p>COVID 19 response indicator.</p>				

households using Village Development Funds for forest livelihood activities	<p>This indicator measures the total number of households accessing the respective Village Development Funds to implement their own livelihoods activities of choice that are supported under the project.</p> <p>The release of the Village Livelihood Block Grants (VLBGs) to the VDF are contingent on, and must be implemented in compliance with, the approved village forest and land use plans (including Village Conservation Agreements inside PAs).</p> <p>Loans are provided to most HHs, and grants are provided to village-identified highly vulnerable HHs through community-based targeting.</p> <p>The project will support approximately 600 villages total, which amounts to an estimated 72,000 households or 396,000 people.</p> <p>Assumptions: average of 120 HHs per rural village nationally, and 5.5 average people per HH.</p>	Annual	Village Development Funds	Household survey	DOF
Vulnerable households using Village Development Funds for forest-livelihoods activities	<p>This sub indicator measures the community targeting of earmarked 20% resources of the VLBG to the most vulnerable households in the village, disbursed as grants ahead of NR village planning.</p>	Annual	Village Development Funds	Household survey	DOF
Percentage of target	<p>Citizens engagement indicator.</p> <p>This indicator reports the percentage of the beneficiaries among the village population, disaggregated by gender, who perceive that services received by them respond to their needs and demands in the area of livelihoods, resilience and environmental management.</p>				

<p>Share of target beneficiaries with a 'Satisfied' or 'Satisfied' or 'Satisfied' on project in tions</p>	<p>This indicator represents the World Bank's required citizen engagement indicator, in line with the ESF guidance on beneficiary feedback loops.</p> <p>The satisfaction is measured along the dimensions of livelihoods, resilience, and environmental management.</p> <p>Satisfaction will be captured through a set of approximately 20 questions and capture various aspects of beneficiaries' perceptions on livelihoods, resilience, and environmental management. Each response will be scored and contribute to the overall rating.</p>	Annual	Survey reports	Perception survey	DOF
<p>Share of target beneficiaries with a 'Satisfied' or 'Satisfied' on project in tions (female)</p>	<p>Gender indicator. See mother indicator.</p>	Annual.	Survey data	Perception survey	Third party contracted by DOF/PIU.
<p>Number of new or revised laws, policies, and regulations drafted and submitted to relevant authority for approval</p>	<p>This indicator measures the support provided by the project to the GO L to enhance legislation, policy, and regulations (often referred to as "guidelines" in Lao PDR).</p> <p>Support comprises formulation of proposals for laws, policies, or regulations (guidelines) for appropriate level of decision making, conducting relevant analyses, and contributing to relevant working groups.</p> <p>Areas of interest include, among others: production forest management, forest enterprises, timber and wildlife trades, nature-based tourism development and enterprises, concession management, protected area management, land access and tenure, watershed function, green growth, climate change, disaster risk management, resilience, nature-based tourism development, the timber and wildlife trades, and zoonotic diseases.</p>	Annual	Institutional data, legal and policy documents	Document review	DOF

	This indicator is compatible with the CRI “Implemented reforms supporting private sector development (number)”				
Investigations of forest and wildlife and national or provincial level	<p>This indicator measures the capacity of the agencies comprising the Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network (Lao-WEN) (Department of Forest Inspection, Department of Forestry, Environmental Police, Customs Department, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Army) to detect and investigate relevant cases in line with Lao PDR law, policy and international treaties such as CITES.</p> <p>The process of referring a case to the courts is considered a benchmark for investigation quality. Relevant cases could include, for example, CITES I and II listed species, domestic wildlife crimes, encroachment, or high value timber.</p> <p>Lao-WEN is the GOL's interagency network for both wildlife and timber crimes.</p> <p>Provincial Wildlife Enforcement Networks (P-WENs) and District-Wildlife Enforcement Networks (D-WENs) operate under the Lao WEN.</p> <p>Any law enforcement agency can open an investigation but only the Office of the Public Prosecutor can prosecute once a case is sent to the prosecutor's office by a concerned enforcement agency.</p> <p>The indicator and sub-indicator must be reported in the Lao-WEN and P-WEN minutes of meetings as well as receive a case file number.</p>	Annual	Lao-WEN and P-WEN minutes of meetings	Review of Lao-WEN and P-WEN minutes of meetings	DOF
Number of referred cases investigated in 1 year	<p>The sub-indicator on joint investigations measures the capacity of Lao WEN agencies to collaborate across institutions.</p> <p>Investigations that are joint are considered to be a proxy for the function of Lao-WEN.</p>	Annual	LaoWEN and P-WEN meetings minutes	Review of Lao-WEN and P-WEN minutes of meetings	DOF

The indicator and sub-indicator must be reported in the Lao-WEN and P-WEN Minutes of Meetings as well as receive a case file number.				
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ME IO Table SPACE

ANNEX B: RESPONSES TO PROJECT REVIEWS (from GEF Secretariat and GEF Agencies, and Responses to Comments from Council at work program inclusion and the Convention Secretariat and STAP at PIF).

Please refer to Response matrix for GEFSEC, STAP and Council comments provided in the submission package.

ANNEX C: Status of Utilization of Project Preparation Grant (PPG). (Provide detailed funding amount of the PPG activities financing status in the table below:

Non applicable. No PPG has been requested for the project.

ANNEX D: CALENDAR OF EXPECTED REFLOWS (if non-grant instrument is used)

Provide a calendar of expected reflows to the GEF/LDCF/SCCF/CBIT Trust Funds or to your Agency (and/or revolving fund that will be set up)

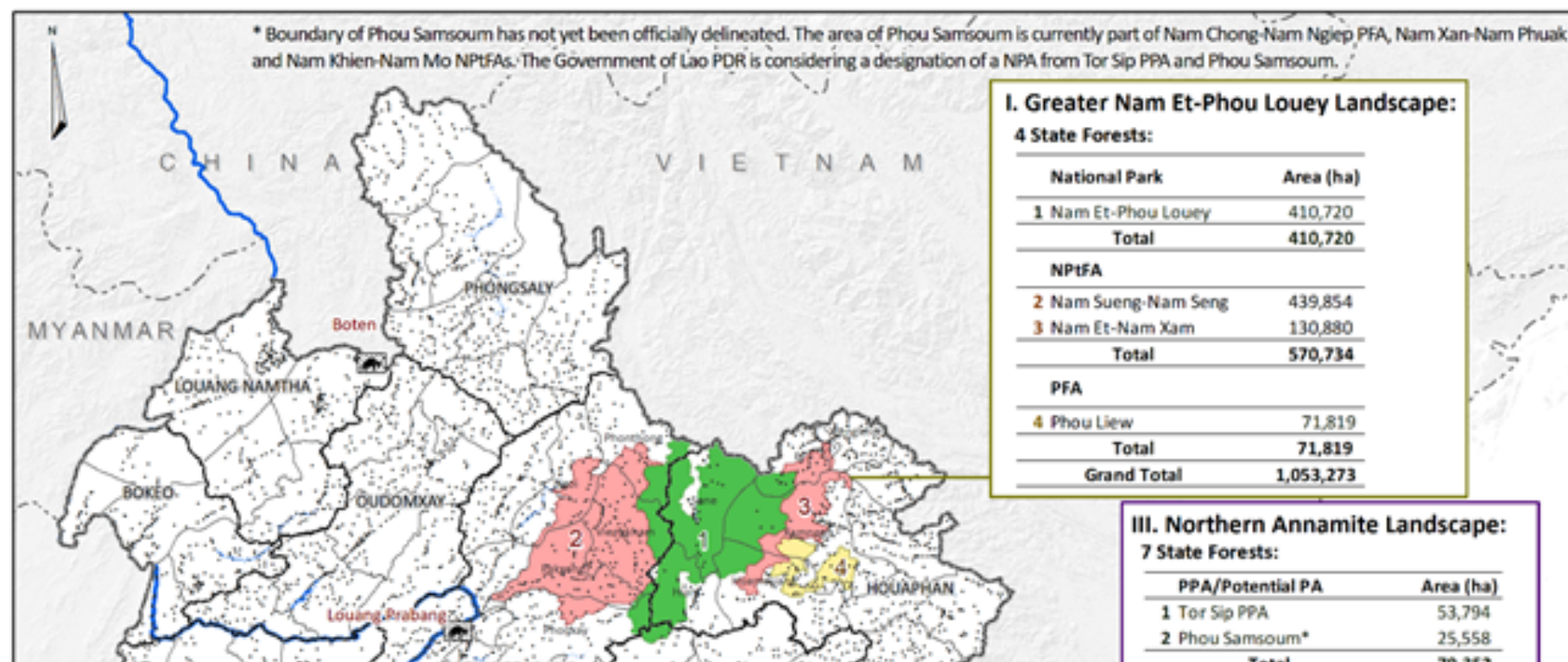
Non applicable

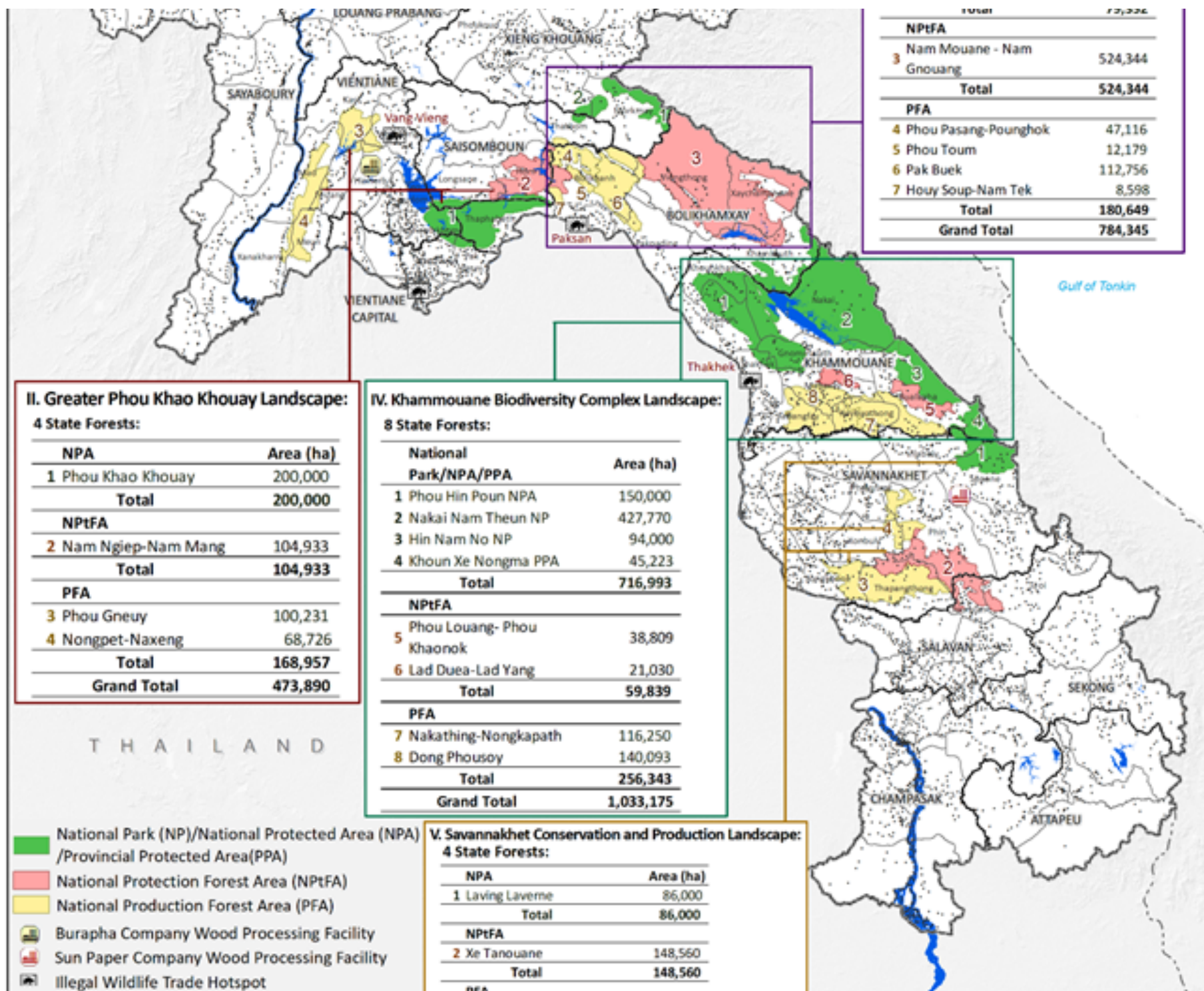
ANNEX E: Project Map(s) and Coordinates

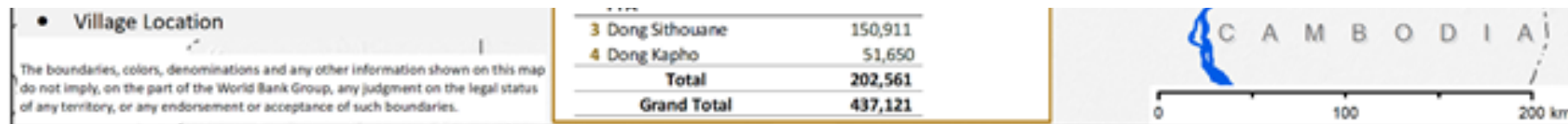
Please attach the geographical location of the project area, if possible.

Number	PA Name	Longitude (X)	Latitude (Y)
1	Nam Et - Phou Louey NP	103°22'06" E	20°05'33" N
2	Tor Sip-Phou Samsoum NPA	103°48'20" E	19°07'41" N
3	Phu Khao Khuay NPA	103°02'07" E	18°24'06" N
4	Phu Hin Phoun NPA	104°47'55" E	17°43'00" N
5	Nakai-Nam Theun NP	105°18'46" E	17°54'26" N
6	Hin Namno NP	105°56'46" E	17°22'24" N
7	Khouan Xe Nongma NPA	106°10'07" E	17°02'30" N
8	Lavine Laverne NPA	106°23'08" E	16°56'11" N

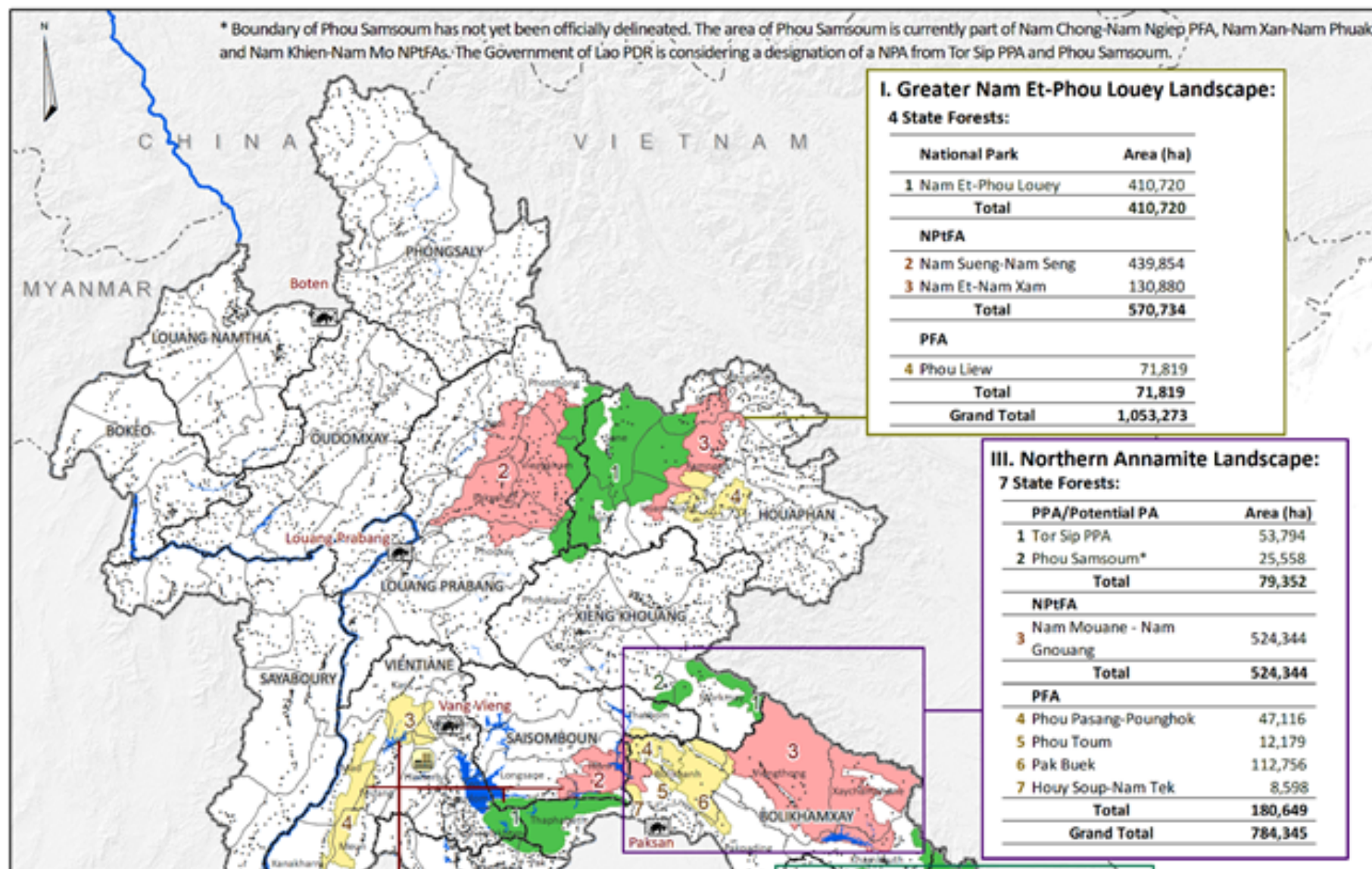
The Target Landscapes of the LLL Project

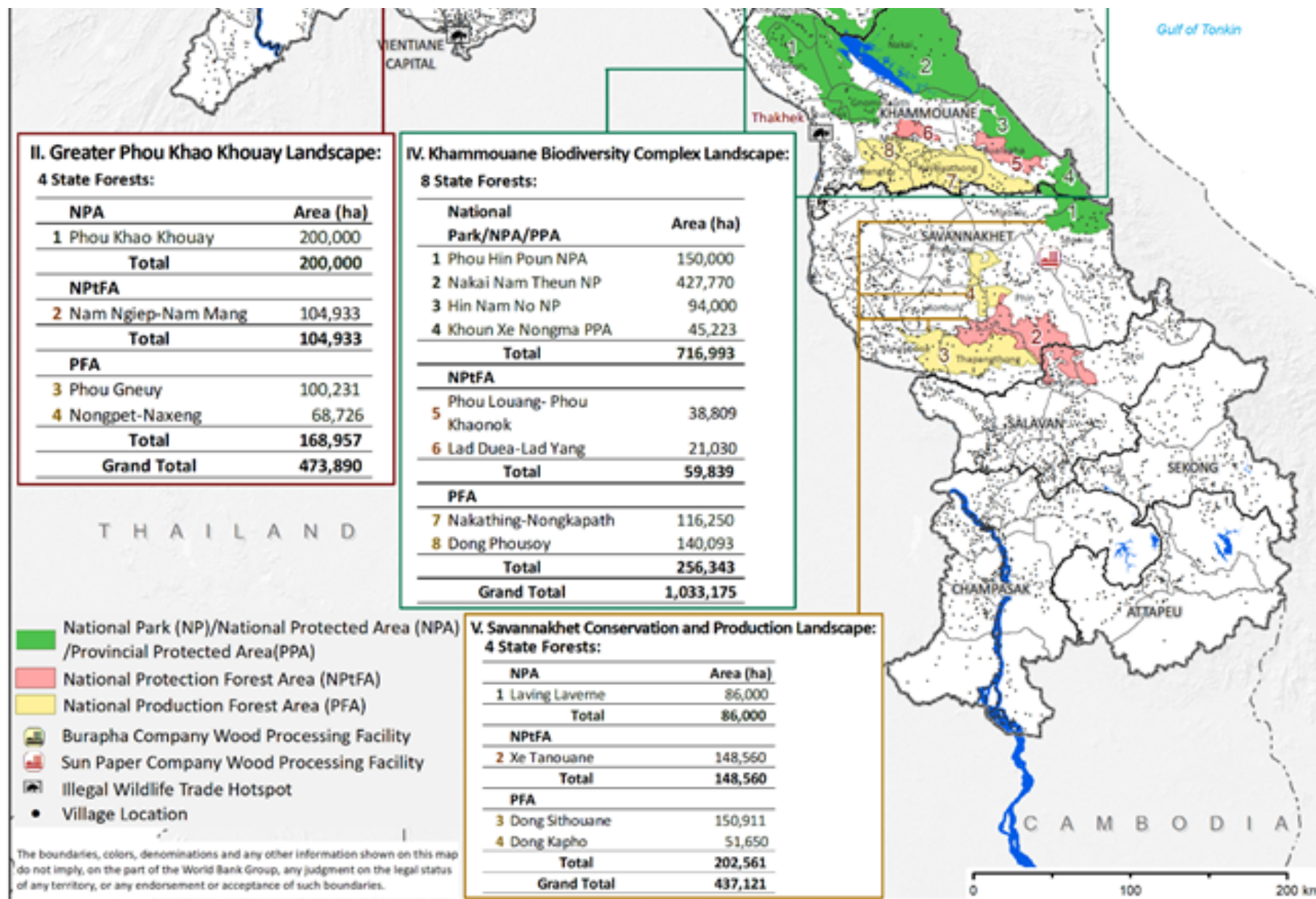






The Target Landscapes of the LLL Project





ANNEX F: Project Budget Table

Please attach a project budget table.

Please refer to the GEF budget table submitted with the package for details.

Government of Lao PDR, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Lao Landscapes and Livelihoods Project (P 170559)



Stakeholders Engagement Plan (SEP)

Draft 4

October 15, 2020

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ACRONYMS

CLIPAD	Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DAEC	Department of Agriculture Extension and Cooperative
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forest Office
DOF	Department of Forestry
DOFI	Department of Forest Inspection
ESF	Environment and Social Framework
ESS	Environment and Social Standards
DOEA	Department of Ethic Affairs
FPIC	Free Prior Informed Consent
FSWG	Forest Sector Working Group
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
GGF	Green Growth Forum
LHD	Learning House for Development
LFND	Lao Front for National Development
LLL	Laos Landscapes and Livelihoods Project
LWU	Lao Womens Union
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
INGO	International Non-Government Organizations
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KFW	Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (Development Bank)
Lao WEN	Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network
LENS 2	Second Lao Environmental and Social Project
LIWG	Land Issues Working Group
LNTA	Lao National Tourism Administration
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MOICT	Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MPWT	Ministry of Public Work and Transportation
MPI	Ministry of Planning and Investment
NAFRI	National Agriculture and Forest Institute
NBCA	National Biodiversity Conservation Areas
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NPA	National Protected Area
NPA	Non-Profit Associations
PA	Protected Area
PFA	Production Forest Area
PONRE	Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment
PRF	Poverty Reduction Fund
PSFM	Participatory Sustainable Forest Management
SCC	Swedish Chamber of Commerce
SEP	Stakeholders Engagement Plan
SUFORD	Sustainable Forestry for Rural Development
UNDRIP	United States Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
VLD	Village Livelihood Development
WB	World Bank
WCS	World Conservation Society
WWF	World Wide Fund for Nature

1. Introduction

The World Bank's Environmental and Social Framework (ESF) came into effect on October 1, 2018. The Framework includes Environmental and Social Standard (ESS) 10, "Stakeholder Engagement and Information Disclosure", which recognizes "the importance of open and transparent engagement between the Borrower and project stakeholders as an essential element of good international practice". ESS10 emphasizes that effective stakeholder engagement can significantly improve the environmental and social sustainability of projects, enhance project acceptance, and make a significant contribution to successful project design and implementation.

As defined by the ESF and ESS10, stakeholder engagement is an inclusive process conducted throughout the project life cycle. Where properly designed and implemented, it supports the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that are important for successful management of a project's environmental and social risks.

1.1 Objective of Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)

The overall objective of this Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is to define a program for stakeholder engagement, including public information disclosure and consultation, throughout the entire project cycle. The SEP outlines the ways in which LLL project will communicate with stakeholders and includes a mechanism by which people can raise concerns, provide feedback, or make complaints about LLL project and any activities related to the project.

The Key Objectives of the SEP as stated in the ESS-10 are to:

1. To identify the roles and responsibility of all stakeholders and ensure their participation in the complete project cycle
2. Establish a systematic approach to stakeholder engagements that will help SPESSE identify stakeholders and build and maintain a constructive relationship with them, in particular project-affected parties
3. Assess the level of stakeholder interest and support for the project and to enable stakeholders' views to be considered in project design and implementation
4. Promote and provide means for effective and inclusive engagement with project-affected parties throughout the project life -cycle on issues that could potentially affect them.
5. Ensure that appropriate project information on environmental and social risks and impacts is disclosed to stakeholders in a timely, understandable, accessible and appropriate manner and format with special consideration for the disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.
6. Provide project-affected parties with accessible and inclusive means to raise issues and grievances and allow EWSC to respond to and manage such grievances.
7. To devise a plan of action that clearly identifies the means and frequency of engagement of each stakeholder
8. To allocate budgetary and other resources in the project design, project implementation, and Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) for stakeholder engagement and participation

This SEP is a living document and will be updated throughout the project lifecycle. It will be:

1. Disclosed prior to project commencement;
2. Be the strategic tool for all project related engagements;
3. Periodically updated and changes validated during project implementation; and
4. Monitored and its effectiveness evaluated towards the end of the project

1.2 Project Description

PDO is to improve sustainable forest management and enhance livelihoods opportunities in selected landscapes in Lao PDR. The Project have four components that together help convene and “crowd in” coordinated actions and investments in priority spatially explicit landscapes to achieve larger impact at scale than would be possible with small fragmented projects.

1. Increase natural capital contribution to poverty reduction and greener economic growth, jobs, and livelihoods
2. Better protection of globally unique ecosystems and biodiversity
3. Improved resilience of villages and landscapes to flood, drought, erosion and other climate risks
4. Greater private investment in tree plantations and nature-based tourism from companies committed to sustainability and helping protect natural assets.
5. Contribution to Nationally Determined Contributions(NDC) GHG mitigation targets through maintained or restored forest cover

There are 4 main project components:

Component 1: Investing in Natural Wealth and Resilience in Forest Landscapes. The objective is to build natural capital in specific landscapes and investment sites throughout the forest estate.

Component 2: Livelihoods Opportunities for Forest Landscapes Sustainability. The objective is to improve natural resource-based livelihoods opportunities and vocational skills development among targeted villages within the forest landscapes supported under Component 1.

Component 3: Institutions, Incentives and Information aims to enhance institutional capacities, policies, incentives, and information across sectors for sustainably deploying natural assets for greener economic growth from the forest estate

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning.

2. Brief Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Since the beginning of the preparation phase in May 2020, five main types of stakeholder engagement activities have taken place: informal communication with government agencies, virtual meeting, kick off meeting, online consultation and consultation workshop in one forest landscape in Vientiane Province.

Table 1: Summary of Previous Stakeholder Engagement Activities

Date	Venue	Objective	Summary of outcome	Participants
18-22 May 2020	Virtual Implementation Support Mission - Scaling-Up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management Project (SUFORD)	Introduction to the project and mission objectives	Present the LLL PAD, Update on progresses Present human resources PSFM model VLD model Present ESF	13 WB team members, DOF, consultants
12 June 2020	Kick-off meeting ESF LLL project	Present workplan Clarify deliverable, templates, contents of documents	Workplan agreed upon by all participants including timeframe and milestone Modalities of consultation for preparation phase	DOF 6, WB 6, Indufor 3
5-10 October 2020	Online consultation	Present SEP, ESCP, ESMF, CEF PPT (both in English and Lao language) and summary versions and link to the MAF website for all stakeholders to access full documents	Comments and feedback provided on the 4 ESF documents	Development partners & INGOs (22 people/ 3 women) Representatives from government agencies at central and provincial level 47 people / 5 women)
13 October 2020	Consultation workshop in a forest landscape in Thalad, Vientiane Province	Present the project and the ESF documents (SEP, ESCP, ESMF, CEF) to representatives from districts and communities located in PtFA, PFA and PA	Comments and feedback provided on the 4 ESF documents	Provincial stakeholders from Vientiane Province, from 9 districts and 9 village chiefs (52 people/7 women)

3. Stakeholders Mapping (Identification and Analysis)

Stakeholders can be defined as groups that have a stake/interest/right in the forest and those that will be affected either negatively or positively by the LLL project activities.

Project stakeholders are defined as individuals, groups or other entities who:

- (i) are impacted or likely to be impacted directly or indirectly, positively or adversely, by the Project (also known as 'affected parties'); and
- (ii) may have an interest in the Project ('interested parties'). They include individuals or groups whose interests may be affected by the Project and who have the potential to influence the Project outcomes in any way.

3.1 Project-affected Parties

The potentially (negatively) project-affected parties include the communities involved in project activities in the forest landscapes (to be refined according to the landscape selected,). However, based on experience gained from similar projects, such as SUFORD-SU, the project activities will not result in any major adverse environmental and social impacts that affect the livelihoods or the lives of the project-targeted beneficiaries; local communities in and around the project area including ethnic and / or vulnerable groups.

3.2 Other Interested Parties

Interested Parties include stakeholders who may not experience direct impacts from the Project but who consider or perceive their interests as being affected by the project and/or who could influence the project and the process of its implementation in some way. Specifically, this category will include the following individuals and groups.

Table 2: Interested parties' stake and interest in the project

Other interested parties	Interest in the project
Other project developpers/agencies	Can help Identify interactions and cumulative impacts with other proposed developments
Private sector	Support plantation and ecotourism in significant areas
Tourism sector	Promote sustainable ecotourism
Non Government Organizations/Civil Society Organizations	Ensure the environmental and social performance of the Project is protecting the environment and affected people and complies with international E&S standards
General public	Interest in the general socio-economic impacts of the project, both adverse and beneficial
Press and media	Inform residents in the project area and the wider public about the Project implementation and planned activities

Development Partners

Development partners will be employed in roles that suit their specific strengths and capabilities. These include, but should not be limited to Forest Sector Working Group, Green Growth Forum, missions for SUFORD and LENS 2 IPFs, REDD+ readiness and ERPA, and others. Informal and bilateral consultations were also held with GIZ and KfW (on biodiversity conservation, PA management, village forestry and REDD+), AFD (SFM, livelihoods, green growth), ADB (biodiversity conservation, FIP), IFC (FIP and sustainable agroforestry), JICA (MRV and emissions reduction monitoring), GEF (Biodiversity and Land Degradation), UNODC (IWT and forest law enforcement), ACIAR (action research agenda and legal support to policy development), WCS (technical support to PA management).

Civil Society Organizations (Local and International Non-governmental Organizations)

Local NGOs and initiative/advocacy groups particularly those focusing on social development issues represent the considerable capacity that the project(s) may tap for disseminating information and raising awareness of the planned activities among the potentially affected communities in the project area.

Several NGOs and other development partners are active in NPAs, most notably the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wide Fund for Nature, and Lao Wildlife Conservation Association (LWCA), and there would be merit in building on some of this activity to add value to and avoid duplication and/or dilution of effort. Land Issues Working Group

In terms of local NPA, the Lao NPA Network / Learning House for Development (LHD) is an informal network of Non-Profit Associations (NPAs) involved in development work in the Lao PDR with the main purpose of enhancing mutual coordination, cooperation and solidarity, sharing information and assistance between network members and for joint capacity building of its members.

Army in the Phou Khao Khuay National Protected Area

The Army units will be involved in certain Project activities as “security personnel”, Project stakeholders and/or beneficiaries. The Army units will not implement any Project activities. The civil works related to development/maintenance of park infrastructure and facilities will be implemented and managed by the Department of Forestry. The Army’s involvement in the Project are as follows:

- (i) Army personnel may participate in joint park patrols and manage checkpoints and receive per diems for their work from the proceeds of Bank financing;
- (ii) Army representatives may be invited as Project stakeholders to meetings and workshops aimed to enhance collaborative management of the protected areas

3.3 Disadvantaged / Vulnerable Individuals or Groups

Disadvantaged / vulnerable individuals or groups are potentially disproportionately affected and less able to benefit from opportunities offered by the project due to specific difficulties to access and/or understand information about the project and its environmental and social impacts and mitigation strategies. It includes poor households, ethnic minorities, women, people with disability, and youth.

While the project envisages to transform different communities and create a lasting impact in the forest landscapes, the probability of certain groups of people feeling discontent is possible. These people could be beneficiaries or non-beneficiaries of the project. Other groups are susceptible to exclusion from, and/or are unable to fully participate in the mainstream consultation processes and as such may require specific measures and assistance to ensure adequate inclusion in project activities. Women and children, elderly, people with disability (both physical and mental) and chronically ill are oftentimes the most vulnerable because of their limited access to information due to physical, social, cultural and structural barriers within the communities. These categories of people will be given particular attention through targeted methods that will enable information sharing and understanding of the nature of project activities and the anticipated positive and potential negative impacts of the project as well as their expectations. Specific meetings and focus groups as well as individual household visits with these groups of people with specific and tailored messages will be used in consideration of their existing challenges.

Another envisaged challenge is low literacy levels in some of the targeted communities that will make it difficult for beneficiaries to read and understand written information related to the project. This challenge is even more exacerbated if the documents are in English. These groups of people will be engaged through interpersonal communication approaches such as meetings, demonstrations, focus group discussions, use of images and illustrations.

The non-beneficiary members of the target communities will also be engaged to ensure that they understand the project targeting processes and capacity and resource limits so that they don’t feel neglected. This situation may likely be experienced in the disbursement of the village livelihood grants.

In many communities, women and girls, despite bearing a huge burden of care and responsibilities, their participation especially where grants and compensations are being made, is very minimal. Therefore, to ensure equal participation of men and women at every level of project implementation, deliberate efforts will be made according to the current government policies aiming to improve the quality of life of women and girls. Women participation in committees will also be encouraged and where any incidences of harassment

and abuse, the responsible committees will ensure such cases are prevented and if they occur, they are successfully concluded.

3.4 Stakeholders from Government Agencies

This category of stakeholders encompasses the leading agencies responsible for overseeing the successful implementation of the LLL Project.

Table 3: Institutions and project implementation role

Institution	Project implementation role
MAF-DOF	Overall PCU to take lead in facilitating and implementing activities related to protected area management, forestry, forest industry, protected areas and livelihood opportunities association with forest development. Responsible for management of all three forest categories: conservation, protection and production. PAMD will also be responsible for leading on tourism investment and management plans and regulatory frameworks for protected areas.
MAF-DOFI	Coordinate with other Lao-WEN agencies to implement activities on forest and wildlife law enforcement.
MAF -DOI	Support design and construction of small irrigation activity.
MIC	[work in progress] Implement activity under Component 1 to strengthen enabling environment for private sector participation in forest production, processing and downstream industries (furniture, lumber, pellets, etc.). Strengthen enabling environment for private businesses to be involved in tourism and to ensure that private businesses and micro (community-based) businesses are registered according to regulations and standards.
MAF-DALM	Land Use Planning, and land assessment and restoration
MONRE	Responsible for integrated spatial planning at large scale, monitoring implementation of the emerging new Land Law and land rights therein, reviewing and approving ESIA's and Strategic Environmental Assessment. MONRE would provide input to DOF on environmental and social aspects of tourism investment and management plans in protected areas and to MOICT on standards for tourism businesses. MONRE-DOL would coordinate with DOF and DALaM for advancement of land tenure recognition inside forestland. MONRE department of Climate Change would coordinate with all sectors to collect inputs and report on NDC.
MOICT	Set standards for nature-based tourism operators and accommodations, coordinate with relevant institutions to provide vocational and skills training, support destination marketing for nature-based tourism sites, and assist MAF/DOF in approval of tourism concessions.
NAFRI	Implement activity on germ plasm and other agronomic issues. Assist in relation to NTFPs and agro-biodiversity in multi-functional landscapes
MPI	Support sustainable private sector participation and partnerships in forestry and nature-based tourism.
LSB	Under MPI, the Lao Statistics Bureau would develop key natural capital and ecosystem accounts to inform project and policy decision making.
Provincial and District offices under the above institutions	As per above.
Environment Protection Fund	To be determined, possibly as host of Lao Wen secretariat.
Other relevant ministries	To provide support in activities related to their respective fields.
Private Sector	In Lao PDR, forest plantation, wood industry development, and agricultural production and marketing are predominantly private sector activities. Nature-based tourism is also a private-sector activity primarily. The private sector plays a vital

	<p>role in several aspects to support the production sectors, through the provision of training, seminars, workshops on governmental regulations, technical assistance, research and extension, financial and other support to participant communities. Potentially companies can provide village development funds at district, village cluster and village levels. In the case of nature-based tourism, the private sector is responsible for employing and training staff and local people, sales and marketing, development and investment in tourism products and services, maintaining standards set by government and non-government institutions, responding to customer demand and dealing with supply and input issues. The private sector is also important as eyes and ears in helping to monitor and report on wildlife crimes inside protected areas.</p>
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3.5 Summary of Project Stakeholders Needs and Methods for Stakeholder Engagement

The table below displays details on stakeholders' characteristics, language needs, preferred notification means and also specific needs stakeholders may have.

Table 4: Summary of Project Stakeholders Needs Methods for Stakeholder Engagement

Stakeholder group	Key characteristics	Language needs	Preferred notification means	Specific needs
Project Affected Parties	Community leaders, women, ethnic group, poor households, people with disability	Ethnic language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation meetings. • Information leaflets and brochures • Posters • Focus Group Discussions • Village meeting • Village speakers • Radio • Information board • Video 	<p>FPIC process Need facilitator in ethnic languages Involved women facilitators to target women Disaggregated FGD with vulnerable groups Gender disaggregated FDG Training</p>
General public	Multi ethnic population	Lao & English language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Press releases in the local media • Social medias • Website • TV 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior access to project information • Lao language translation
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TV • Radio • Reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target area, budget, main activities, stakeholders involved, community benefits <p>Possibility to provide comments</p>
Private sector	Multisectoral	Lao language, English language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices • Workshop • Training • Emails • Whats App (WA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior access to project information • Lao language translation <p>Opportunities of participation, modalities of private sector engagement</p>

Development partners & donors	Multisectoral	Lao language, English language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices • Workshop • Training • Emails • Information board • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior access to project information • Lao language translation • Possibility to provide comments
CSOs	Expertise at field level	Lao, English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices • Workshop • Training • Emails • Information board • Whats App (WA) • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to access project information prior to workshop and events • Lao language translation • Possibility to provide comments
Government agencies	Central, provincial and district level	Lao language	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public notices • Workshop • Training • Emails • Information board • Whats App (WA) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prior access to project information • Lao language translation • Official documents

4. Stakeholder Engagement Program

Stakeholder engagement activities need to provide specific stakeholder groups with relevant information and opportunities to voice their views on topics that matter to them.

Stakeholder engagement is considered both a tool for ensuring good project management and a fundamental principle for guiding the procedure for identifying, assessing and managing environmental and social risks.

4.1 Purpose and Timing of Stakeholder Engagement Program

Engagement during Project Preparation

Three main consultation sessions were initially planned during the preparation phase. Due to the Covid Pandemic, the LLL Project decided instead to hold an online consultation with government agencies and with relevant development partners, international organisations and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Finally, a public consultation was conducted in one forest landscape area and involved representatives from the communities and district offices.

In total, 121 people including 15 women participated in both online and public consultation. This includes online consultation with 47 government staffs (5 women) from seven provinces, central level department, Mass Organizations and various divisions within the Department of Forestry; online consultation with 22 representatives (3 women) from international organizations and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs); and 52 participants during the forest landscape consultation in Vientiane Province with provincial, district and community representatives located in PtFA, PFA and PA (see table 1). 34 people provided comments including 29 government representatives and 5 representatives from international organizations (see in appendix).

The Project will maintain on-going engagement with the national authorities, affected stakeholders and other interested parties to ensure that they are informed about the Project progress, that they receive information on the environmental and social performance, that they can provide feedback on the effectiveness of any mitigation and management measures and that they have the opportunity to raise any concerns or grievances.

Engagement During Project Implementation

The LLL project will rely on several engagement techniques according to the type of stakeholders involved in the project implementation phase.

Table 5: Engagement During Project Implementation

Involvement Techniques	Application and Approach	Stakeholder	Time frame
Information Board (Fact Sheets)	Create an information board containing LLL project information	Government, development agencies, CSOs, community level	Project Implementation Phase (commencing in Year 1 and ongoing)
Regular correspondence (via phone/WA/text message/email/others)	Build a communication platform such as WA group, Personal communication via either phone, text message, WA, email, or other communication devices.	DOF, government agencies, development partners, CSOs, community leaders	Project Implementation Phase (commencing in Year 1 and ongoing)
Public actions	Press release, social media, social medias, website, TV, radio	All stakeholders	Project planning, implementation and completion phase
Participative Public Consultation	Provide two-ways communication mechanism about the LLL project from the village up to national level Facilitation for building trust among the stakeholders. Give an opportunity to the stakeholders to provide feedback and opinions. Distribute non-technical project information to target communities. Facilitate meetings at village level using poster, film, pamphlet, etc. Record the discussion, comments/questions or responses conveyed	DOF, national level stakeholders, provincial and district stakeholders, private sector, development partners, CSOs, PSFM & VLD Teams, project affected persons	Project Planning Phase Project Implementation Phase Project Completion Phase
Formal meeting	Present information of LLL project to the stakeholders. Build trust and mutual respect among the stakeholders. Give an opportunity to the stakeholders to provide feedback and opinions. Distribute technical documents to the relevant groups. Record the discussion, comments/questions or responses conveyed	Government agencies, private sector, development partners, CSOs, community representatives	Project Implementation Phase Project Completion Phase

Involvement Techniques	Application and Approach	Stakeholder	Time frame
Workshop	<p>Present information of LLL project to the stakeholders</p> <p>Facilitation for building trust among the stakeholders</p> <p>Avoid a long and boring "lecture" session</p> <p>Give an opportunity to the stakeholder group to provide feedback and opinions.</p> <p>Use the participative method (including interactive game) to facilitate a group discussion, to share opinions on many problems, to analyze information, and to develop a recommendation and strategy</p> <p>Record the discussion, comments/questions or responses conveyed</p>	National level, provincial level, sub-community level (koumban or district level)	<p>Project Implementation Phase</p> <p>Project Completion Phase</p>
Focus Group Discussion (FGD)	<p>Facilitate a smaller group consisting of 8 – 10</p> <p>All participants share thier views and opinions on targeted thing.</p> <p>Design and facilitate a process in a participative manner</p> <p>Facilitation for building trust among the stakeholders</p> <p>Use key questions as guidelines for facilitating FGD</p> <p>Record the discussion, comments/questions or responses conveyed</p>	Government agencies, develoment partners, villagers, women, ethnic group, vulnerable groups, CSOs	<p>Project Planning Phase</p> <p>Project Implementation Phase</p> <p>Project Completion Phase</p>
Interview	<p>Collect views and opinions</p> <p>Facilitate the stakeholders to talk freely but confidentially about controversial and sensitive problems.</p> <p>Build a personal relation to the stakeholders</p> <p>Build trust through an attractive conversation</p> <p>Recording the interview</p> <p>Use local languages to ensure grassroot voices are heard and recorded</p>	All / any stakeholder type	<p>Project Planning Phase</p> <p>Project Implementation Phase</p> <p>Project Completion Phase</p>
Field Survey	<p>Collect opinions and views from each stakeholder</p> <p>Collect the primary data or the secondary data</p> <p>Record the data</p> <p>Develop a basic database to monitor the impact</p>	All / any stakeholder type	<p>Project Planning Phase</p> <p>Project Implementation Phase</p> <p>Project Completion Phase</p>

4.2 Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

As a standard practice, this SEP in both Lao and English will be released for public review in accordance with Lao regulatory frameworks. Distribution of the disclosure materials will be done by making them available at venues and locations convenient for the stakeholders and places to which the public have unhindered access.

Electronic copies of the SEP will be placed on the website of the Bank and each implementing agencies. This will allow stakeholders with access to Internet to view information about the planned development and to initiate their involvement in the public consultation process. The web-site will be equipped with an on-line feedback feature that will enable readers to leave their comments in relation to the disclosed materials.

The mechanisms which will be used for facilitating input from stakeholders will include press releases and announcements in the media, notifications of the aforementioned disclosed materials to local, regional and national NGOs, relevant professional bodies as well as other interested parties

Brochure/leaflet for the Project will be developed and includes information about the Project in detail. Also, the brochure outlines the environmental and social impact assessment process and provide contact information (email, phone, postal address and fax) for the Public Relations Department of the Project Subcontractor for any grievances.

Table 6: Proposed Strategy for Information Disclosure

Project stage	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Target stakeholders	Percentage reached	Responsibilities
Project Inception	ESCP, SEP, CEF, ESMF	Website Consultation workshop Grassroots consultation in selected landscape	Government agencies, CSOs, INGOs, Development partners, communities, private sector	100% relevant agencies	Indufor, PS
Project Implementation	Updated project's ESF instruments, Planning, budget, monitoring report, mid term review, Feedback of project consultations	Information leaflets, posters and brochures; audio-visual materials, social media and other direct communication channels such as mobile/ telephone calls, SMS, etc; Public notices; Electronic publications and press releases on the MAF websites; Press releases in the local media (both print and electronic);	Project affected parties Other interested parties	100% communities reached 60% households in each community 50% participants are women	PSFM, VLD teams

Project stage	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Target stakeholders	Percentage reached	Responsibilities
		Consultation with vulnerable and marginalized groups using mobile/ telephone calls, SMS, etc. in a culturally appropriate manner; training and meetings, household interviews.			
PSFM	Project information Forest Management Plan	Information leaflets Posters IEC materials Boards Gender disaggregated FGD Process in ethnic languages Training Grievance Redress Mechanisms	Project affected parties Communities Ethnic groups Women Customary leaders Vulnerable households	100% communities reached 60% households in each community 50% participants are women	PSFM team LFND LWU
VLD	Project information Community Action Plan	Information leaflets Posters IEC materials Gender disaggregated FGD Process in ethnic languages Training Grievance Redress Mechanisms	Project affected parties Communities Ethnic groups Women Customary leaders Vulnerable households	100% communities reached 60% households in each community 50% participants are women	VLD team LFND LWU
Nature Based Tourism	Project information NBT plan	Information leaflets Posters IEC materials	Project affected parties Communities	100% communities reached	DOICT LFND LWU DONRE

Project stage	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Target stakeholders	Percentage reached	Responsibilities
		Gender disaggregated FGD Process in ethnic languages Training Grievance Redress Mechanisms	Ethnic groups Women Customary leaders Vulnerable households	60% households in each community 50% participants are women	
Supervision & Monitoring	Monitoring reports, yearly reports	Field visit Consultation Workshop	Project affected parties Other interested parties	Project's outcomes, overall progress and major achievements	Virtual roundtable discussions; Press releases; Press conference; Public meetings; Reports; MAF website
Project Close Out	End of project report	National workshop	Government Project affected parties Other interested parties	Project exit strategy Dissemination final reports	Consultation meetings; information leaflets, posters and brochures; audio-visual materials, social media; Electronic publications and press releases on the MAF websites; Press releases in local media

4.3 Proposed Strategy for Consultation

A range of tools was used and will continue to be used for the stakeholder engagement as part of this Project. These include household surveys, focus groups, community level questionnaires, leaflets and key informant discussions. Stakeholder engagement will continue using these employed mechanisms as required ensuring efficient and effective engagement throughout the life of the project.

Specific methods will vary across different stakeholder groups and stakeholder engagement with vulnerable and minority groups will use specifically designed mechanisms, as needed.

The current context of Covid 19 outbreak affects the Bank requirements for public consultation and stakeholder engagement. In the case of projects under preparation and stakeholder engagement is about to commence or is ongoing, such as in the project E&S planning process, stakeholder consultation and engagement activities should not be deferred, but rather designed to be fit for purpose to ensure effective and meaningful consultations to meet project and stakeholder needs following the Bank's Technical Note on Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings dated March 20, 2020. The note advises to avoid public gatherings (taking into account national restrictions), including public hearings, workshops and community meetings, and minimize direct interaction between project agencies and beneficiaries / affected people, make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, including webex, zoom and skype meetings and rely more on social media and online channels. In situations where online interaction is challenging, information can be disseminated through digital platform (see Annex 1).

At central level

Consultation will take place among relevant Ministries with the coordination of DOF as the lead agency. Besides the line agencies, other groups interested in forest management, livelihood development and ecotourism will be invited to consultations. Among others: development partners, private investors (mainly in forest plantation, agri-business and ecotourism), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) including international NGOs, National University of Laos (NUOL) and the GoL's mass organizations: Lao Women's Union (LWU) and Lao Front for National Development (LFND).

Consultation may take the form of face-to-face meetings and issuance of official letters (submitted at least two weeks ahead of the consultations) to inform affected and interested stakeholders of the purpose of the consultation event.

At provincial and district level

Consultations at province and district level will ensure participation of representatives the line agencies and mass organizations at province and district, plus other relevant stakeholders coming from the civil society, academia or private sector.

Consultation may take the form of face-to-face meetings and issuance of official letters (submitted at least two weeks ahead of the consultations) to inform affected and interested stakeholders of the purpose of the consultation event.

Contents to be discussed during consultation meetings

The project has to prepare in advance a document that summarize the purpose of the main project, its key activities, as well as the purpose of the consultation, including its specific activities that plan to be done. Potential impacts and risks of the main projects, with a focus on the potential impacts and risks resulting from implementation of the activities which the SEP is intended for. Measures designed to avoid such adverse impact and risks, as well as mitigations measures (in case adverse impact cannot be avoided) will be presented and discussed with all the participants.

4.4 Proposed Strategy to Incorporate the View of Vulnerable Groups

Free, Prior and Informed Consent FPIC

Stakeholder engagement practices should adhere to the requirements and are expected to adhere to standards outlined in key relevant international instruments and to uphold the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as stated in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

In accordance with ESS7, FPIC of the affected Local Communities is required in circumstances in which the project or project activities will: (a) have adverse impacts on land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; cause relocation of Local Communities from land and natural resources subject to traditional ownership or under customary use or occupation; or (c) have significant impacts on Local Communities' cultural heritage that is material to the identity and/or cultural, ceremonial, or spiritual aspects of the affected Local Communities' lives.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) is the collective right of ethnic peoples to participate in decision-making and to give or withhold their consent to activities affecting their lands, territories and resources or rights in general. Consent must be freely given, obtained prior to implementation of activities and be founded upon an understanding of the full range of issues implicated by the activity or decision in question; hence the formulation: free, prior and informed consent. The project will build upon the lessons learned from SUFORD and CLIPAD who have piloted piloting FPIC.

1. All project beneficiaries, regardless of their ethnic group or social status, shall be engaged in a culturally relevant way on the basis of a free, prior, and informed consultation aimed at establishing broad-based and sustainable community support for the project
2. Engagement requires that information is available in the appropriate language(s)
3. Community participates in and benefits from forest management and livelihood development activities

Engaging with Women

Climate change affects everybody; however, its impacts are distributed differently. Women have relatively higher dependence on natural resources for subsistence and livelihood. Therefore, women are more likely to be vulnerable to the impacts of climate variations and climate change induced natural disasters. Rural women and men have specific roles, rights, and responsibilities that determine their access to resources and its usage, which translates into varying vulnerability and decision-making power for women and men.

Women's inclusion is a means to achieve gender equality in sustainable management of forests and livelihood development activities. Women's inclusion denotes to their meaningful participation that goes beyond the number of men and women and addresses the gender-gaps for them to have opportunities and choices. Gender equality is important for both performance and safeguard reasons. Addressing gender gaps requires integration of practical and strategic needs of women into LLL project activities at the operational level of subnational planning and broader sustainable development and poverty strategies¹.

Gender mainstreaming can be defined as a process to integrate perspectives and roles of both men and women, as an integral part in designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating plans, policies and programs, so that both men and women can engage equally and benefit equitably. Thus, gender mainstreaming goes beyond simply increasing women's participation - it means recognizing and integrating the experiences, knowledge, and interests of women and men in the decision-making process. In the development context, it means identifying and applying the gender-dimension in goals, strategies, and actions of the development agenda, so that both women and men can influence, participate in, and benefit from development processes².

¹ The Asia-Pacific Workshop on Women's Inclusion for Sustainable Forests and Climate: What Works? USAID-funded Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forest (LEAF) in collaboration with the UN-REDD Programme (UN-REDD) and Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN).

² Gender in REDD+: A handbook for grassroots facilitators. Questions and Answers. Copyright © RECOFTC, November 2013, Bangkok, Thailand

From an institutional perspective, both the Lao Women Union (LWU) and the Committee for the Advancement of Women (NCAW) are involved in the project.

The project commits to follow the National standard from NCAW for participation requirement of women in Agriculture and Forestry ensure that women participate, in decision making & get benefits. The LWU is also involved up to the community level. During consultation involving communities' representatives, village level representative of the LWU will be invited from each village and gender disaggregated FGD to ensure women voices are heard and recorded.

Engaging with Vulnerable and Ethnic Groups

LLL Project has the potential to deliver several benefits to vulnerable and ethnic peoples and other forest-dependent communities, including the sustainable management of biodiversity, the provision of alternative livelihoods, equitable sharing of revenues generated from emissions reductions, etc. However, if not done appropriately, it also presents risks to rights, livelihoods, culture, biodiversity, etc. For the project to succeed, these risks have to be identified, reduced and mitigated, and stakeholders have to be involved at the project/program formulation as well as the preparation and implementation stages in order to ensure that the LLL Project respect ethnic peoples' rights and comply with relevant international obligations³.

There are several modalities of involvement of ethnic group in the LLL Project. This start upstream at institutional level by involving the Lao Front for National Development (LFND), a mass organization as well as the Department of Ethnic Affairs (DOEA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MOHA) both are in charge of ethnic policy issues.

It is not yet possible to determine which ethnic groups will be involved in the consultation at field level as the hotspots are yet to be determined. Nevertheless, we have already inventoried all ethnic groups in all villages in the whole country using the data from the 2015 National census provided by the National Statistic Center (NSC). Once the landscape are defined, the provincial steering committee will recruit ethnic facilitators that will be trained and lead the consultation with village representative at kumban level. The Poverty Reduction Fund III (PRFIII) has recruited and trained community development (CD) consultants in all target districts and about 100 kumban ethnic facilitators to support rural poor villages in participatory process of village development planning and livelihood activity implementation in 43 districts in 10 provinces. As PRFIII will phase out from 6 out of these 10 provinces in March 2021, some of these CD consultants and kumban facilitators could be mobilized and involved as well as the ethnic staff working in the VLD or PFSM district team supported by SUFORD. There are over 20 ethnic groups initially identified in the 5 target landscapes. Customary or ethnic leaders from each community will be involved in the consultation at kumban level. In areas where CSOs are involved, they will also engaged and contribute to facilitate and bridge linguistically and culturally with the communities.

4.5 Timelines

Prior to any events or consultations, the target participants will be informed in advance to ensure full availability. During each project activities at field level the project will provide relevant information in local languages to ensure that the target auditory is informed prior to taking any decision.

The first central level consultation (including participating provinces) on the SEP-ESMP is planned for July 17 at the Department of Forestry. The second central level consultation on the ESMF-CEF (including participating provinces) will take place the last week of August at DOF. The third consultation also planned for the last week of August will take place in one selected province or landscape area and will involve district representatives and community

³ Guidelines on Stakeholder Engagement in REDD+ Readiness, With a Focus on the Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Other Forest-Dependent Communities. April 20, 2012 (revision of March 25th version).

delegates. The ESCP, SEP, ESMF and CEF have refined according to the consultation and the final versions are intended to be submitted to the WB the first week of September 2020.

4.6 Review of Comments

From a general point of view, during each event, an attendance list will be taken ensuring that age, gender, ethnicity and social position are recorded for each participant. The team will also record people's concerns, the content of the activity, main decisions made, plans agreed, etc. During the preparation phase, SEP, ESCP, CEF and ESMP will be shared with project stakeholders in advance to ensure that all have sufficient time to acknowledge the content and formulate comments, feedback and suggestions. Sessions will be organized to provide stakeholders with feedback on how the comments have been taken into consideration.

5. Resources and Responsibilities for Implementing Stakeholder Engagement Activities

5.1 Resources

The Department of Forestry (DOF) will be in charge of organizing stakeholder engagement activities and provide the necessary financial and human resources to undertake stakeholder engagement. A dedicated budget of 201,856 USD is estimated for implementation of SEP and stakeholders engagement activities excluding the cost of consultations which are embedded in various project activities e.g village land use planning livelihood planning exercises, GRM involving direct and indirect stakeholders throughout the project implementation period (see annex 2).

5.2 Management functions and responsibilities

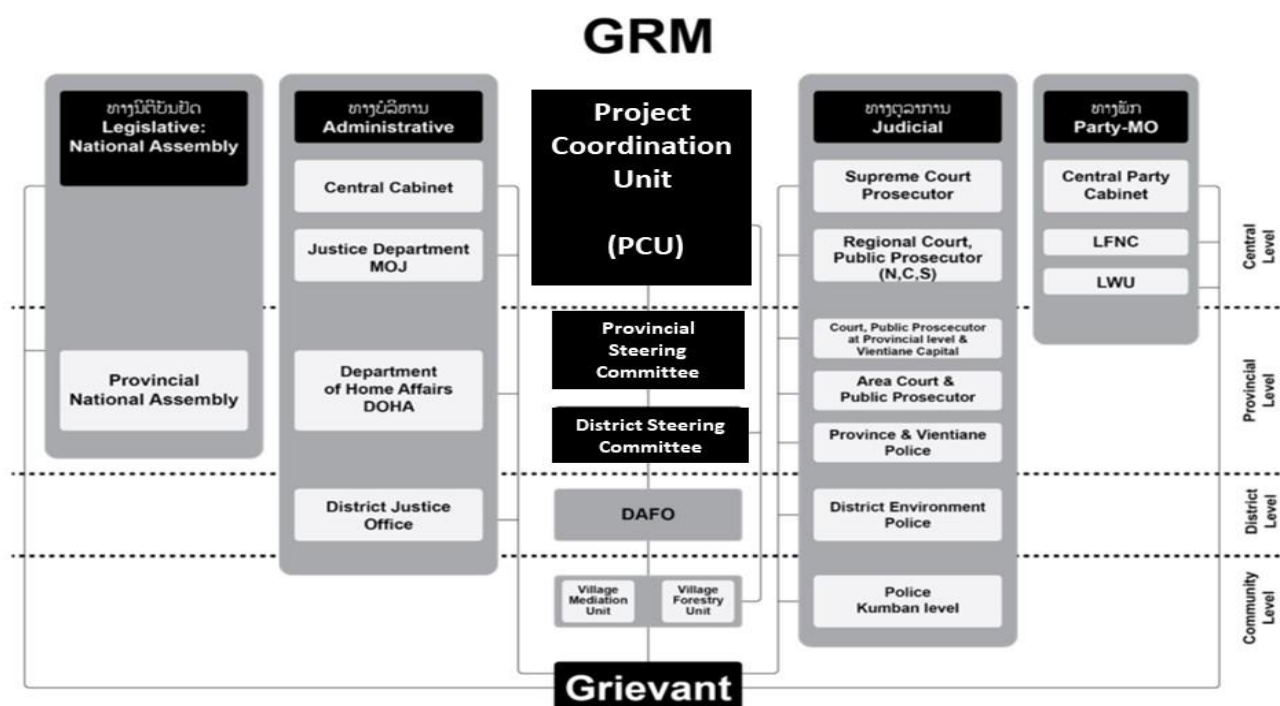
The Government of Lao PDR through the MAF would implement the project using existing institutions at central, provincial, district and village levels, based on their legal mandates. A Project Coordination Unit (PCU) located at DOF provide project services to the ministries and provincial institutions implementing specific activities financed by or linked to the operation. Each institution would have a dedicated project implementation team networked to the PCU to form a robust multisector team that regularly exchanges relevant information across institutions and sectors.

6. Grievance Redress Mechanisms

In compliance with the World Bank's ESS10 requirement, a specific grievance mechanism will be set-up for the project. Dedicated communication materials (GRM pamphlets, posters) will be created to help local residents familiarize themselves with the grievance redress channels and procedures.

A GRM guidebook/manual will also be developed and suggestion boxes installed in each affected municipality and village. In order to capture and track grievances received under the project, a dedicated GRM Management Information System/database is planned. GRM committees at the municipal level will benefit from training on how to receive, respond to, address and close grievances in line with best international practices. Internal GRM training will also take place for project staff. The LLL project's website will include clear information on how feedback, questions, comments, concerns and grievances can be submitted by any stakeholder and will include the possibility to submit grievances electronically. Brief information on GRM with the contact details of responsible persons will be provided in the leaflet to be posted onto billboards in the village offices in all villages.

Figure 1 LLL Grievance Redress Mechanism



Usually grievances in Lao PDR follow the administrative structure from grassroots to the central level. Thus the initial points of contact between the grievant and a project consist of working first with village officials, then if necessary, with district, provincial, and finally central level.

According to an Access to Justice Survey carried out by UNDP and the Lao Bar Association (LBA) in 2009, people were twice as likely to use a customary mechanism as they were the VMU - and five times more likely than they were to go to court.⁴

In addition to these four paths for grievance redress, the LLL project will use a fifth path for grievances related to the project or sub-projects. The remainder of this section describes this mechanism, which uses District, Provincial and National Steering committees to review grievances.

Consultations will be done with a wider range of stakeholders as part of future consultations on the ESF requirement, i.e., the Environmental and Social Management Framework, and the Community Engagement Framework.

6.2 Key Fundamentals for GRM

Conflicts may result from project activities. They will be resolved following a grievance mechanism that is based on the following **key fundamentals**:

1. **Rights and interests** of impacted people, communities', workers and others associated with, or impacted by the project are **protected**.
2. **Concerns** of project participants arising from the project implementation process are **adequately addressed** and in a prompt and timely manner.

⁴ Daviau, S. (2010) People's Perspective on Access to Justice Survey in Lao PDR, An Assessment in Four Provinces of Lao PDR. Ministry of Justice, Lao Bar Association, supported by the United Nations Development Project, Vientiane, Lao PDR.

3. **Entitlements or livelihood support** for project participants are **provided on time** and in **accordance with** the Government and World Bank policies.
4. Project participants are **aware of their rights to access grievance** procedures free of charge.
5. The **grievance mechanism should be in line with existing policies, strategies, and regulations on grievances as defined by GOL**, which require project owners/developers to set up grievance mechanisms starting from the village level, and also follow recent legislation under Decision No. 08/MOJ, dated 22 February 2005 that seeks to strengthen conflict resolution at the grassroots level, by establishing Village Mediation Committee (VMC). With respect to resettlement and complementation, GOL Decree 84/PM requires that the project owners, or developers, put in place a fair and equitable grievance redress mechanism. Specific requirements are described in Part VI of the Decree's Implementing Regulations, and as part of the Technical Guidelines in more detail. Decree 84/PM determines that the prime responsibility for grievance resolution lies with the Project proponent, that are responsible for carrying out the project which may be the source of grievances (such as the access restrictions, entitlements, etc.) and as such, they are best placed to respond to and resolve grievances in the most timely and acceptable method.

6.4 Details of Grievance Processing from Village to Central Level

Step 1: Village Level

A grievant (individual or group of villagers) who has been believes that they have suffered a (perceived or actual) negative impact from the LLL project or program implementation should fill out a grievance form and submit it to the Village Mediation Unit. The complainant may choose to give a direct phone call to hotline number to be establised in each of DAFO or lanscape office.

A formal submission of the grievance is the appropriate complaint mechanism. For ethnic minority or non-literate people, a verbal grievance shall be documented by the VMC, using the form provided and signed, or fingerprinted, by the Grievant for processing.

After receiving the written complaint, the VMC will document the grievance by using the Initial data collection form provided and signed, or fingerprinted, by the grievant for processing. The VMC will keep the Village Grievance Logbook .

The VMC will be required to provide immediate confirmation of receiving a grievance, and should complete an investigation within 14 days of receipt. Then, within 5 days after receipt of the grievance the VMC should meet the Grievant to discuss (mediate) the grievance and advise the complainant of the outcome. If the grievance is either a valid project related grievance that requires investigation and action or compensation, or if the Complainant is not satisfied with the response, the issue shall be escalated within 14 calendar days to the next level, to the District focal point or Grievance Committee (DFP-DGC), for further action.

The facts are then reviewed through a VMC hearing attended by the VMC Head and at least two members of the VMC, the Grievant and up to two witnesses provided by the Grievant.

Step 2: District Level

Grievances that cannot be resolved at the village level will be brought to the District focal point or Grievance Committee (DFP-DGC) that will have 14 calendar days after the receipt to review all available information from the investigation and analyze and investigate each case. Within 30 days, the Committee invites the Grievant to discuss the grievance, and the Grievant is informed of the outcome of the investigation and the decision.

If the Grievant is satisfied with the outcome, the issue is closed, and the Grievant provides a signature, or fingerprint, as acknowledgement of the decision. If the Grievant is not satisfied with the outcome, the Grievant may submit an appeal to the Committee if there is additional relevant information for reconsideration.

The District Grievance Committee will also be in charge of compiling all grievances into a District Grievance logbook.

Step 3: Provincial Level

Strong or unresolved grievances, such as land grabbing cases, will be referred to the Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) that acts as the secretariat and coordinating body for project related issues at provincial level. One member of this office will be designated as the focal point for receiving any grievances. The Provincial Focal Point (PFP) will present the case to the Provincial Steering Committee (PSC) that will be chaired by the Vice Governor of the province. Members of this committee will include the Deputy District Governors of all participating districts, division heads of participating line agencies, and representatives of LWU and LNFC. The PRO will compile all grievances into a Provincial Grievance logbook.

If the Grievant is still dissatisfied with the outcome, the case then may be brought up to the National Steering Committee.

Step 4: Central Level

Grievances that cannot be solved at the provincial level will be sent to the National Steering Committee through a Central Focal Point (CFP) within DOF. The CFP will record and forward the grievance to the National Steering Committee, chaired by the Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Members include DG/DDG level representatives of participating agencies in various ministries (MAF, MONRE, MOIC, MPI, etc.), as well as national leaders of mass organizations like the LNFD and the Lao Chamber of Commerce.

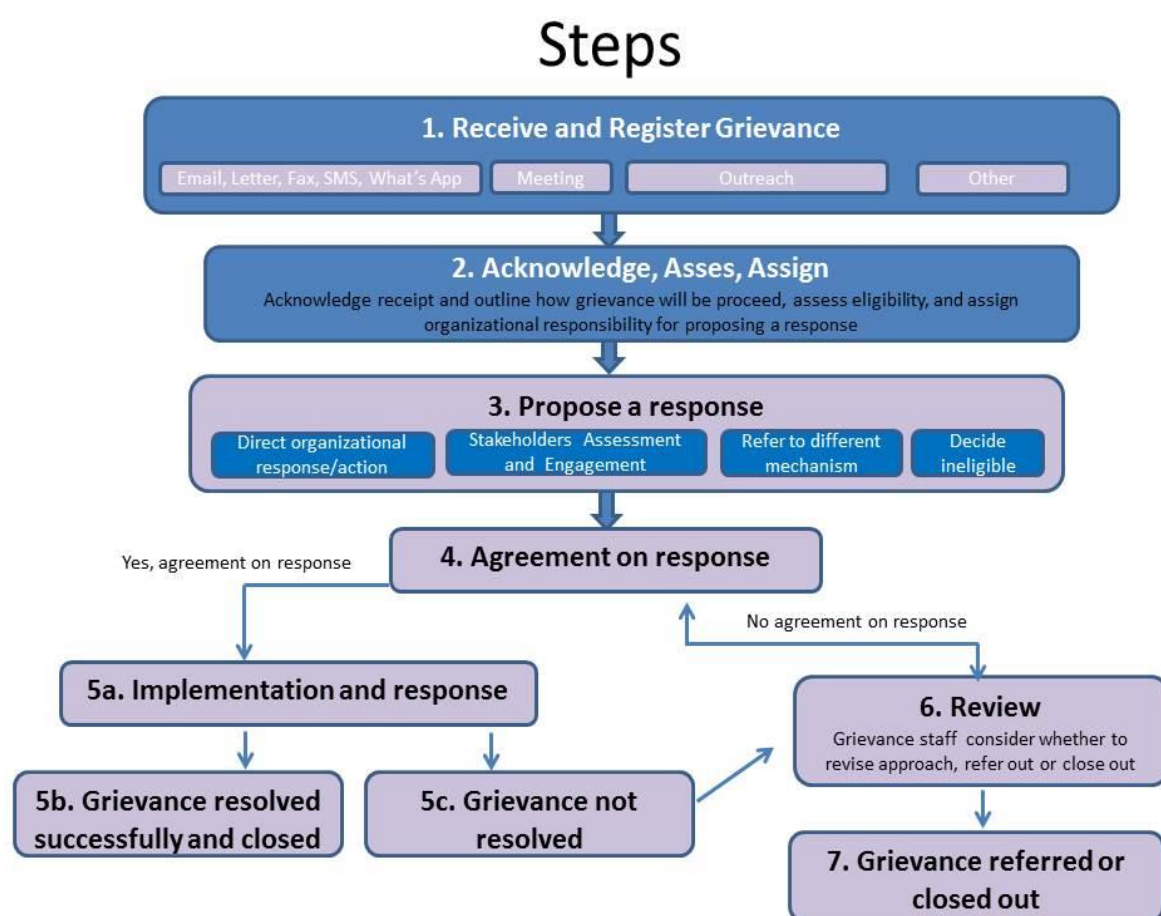
It should be noted that at each level, the grievants are allowed to report their grievances directly to the administrative, judicial, or legislative system, i.e., the provincial or National Assembly. Alternative means of communication are also permitted including direct phone call, WhatsApp and Website where accessible.

The above steps are at no cost to the complainant. Once all possible redress has been proposed and if the complainant is still not satisfied then they should be advised of their right to legal recourse. Following engagement and feedback, the GRM and its operationalization takes into account the needs of various affected groups including from ethnic groups and their representatives to ensure on methods are culturally appropriate and accessible and take account their customary dispute settlement mechanisms. Some sensitive cases of grievances may require a professional to be engaged to help investigate and resolve. Confidentiality shall be preserved for anonymous complaints.

6.5 Steps Process to Redress Grievances

The LLL Grievance Resolution Mechanisms proposes a 7-step process to redress grievance GRM acts as recourse for situations in which, despite proactive stakeholder engagement, some stakeholders have a concern about the organization's actual or potential negative impacts on them.

Figure 2: Steps process to redress grievances



7. Monitoring and Reporting

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of capacity building program implementation in order to ensure that the information presented herein is consistent and is the most recent, and that the identified stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate and effective in relation to the project context and specific stages of the implementation. Any major changes to the project related activities and to its schedule will be duly reflected in the SEP.

7.1 Involvement of Stakeholders in Monitoring Activities

In order to address any potential project risks, and also to give participating villagers opportunities to suggest any measures that may enhance project benefits and further strengthen sustainability of affected people's livelihood, the project will carry out Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E). Those villagers who are negatively affected by the project, especially vulnerable groups, will be given opportunities to voice the concerns they may have or the hardships they may be experiencing. Participatory monitoring is an essential tool for developing community "ownership" of a project, to assess how their plans, customary regulations, etc. are being implemented, and to learn how to improve.

7.2 Reporting Back to Stakeholder Groups

The SEP will be periodically revised and updated as necessary in the course of project implementation in order to ensure that the information presented herein is consistent and is the most recent, and that the identified methods of engagement remain appropriate and

effective in relation to the project context and specific phases of the development. Any major changes to the project related activities and to its schedule will be duly reflected in the SEP.

Monthly summaries and internal reports on public grievances, enquiries and related incidents, together with the status of implementation of associated corrective/preventative actions will be collated by responsible staff and referred to the senior management of the project. The monthly summaries will provide a mechanism for assessing both the number and the nature of complaints and requests for information, along with the Project's ability to address those in a timely and effective manner. Information on public engagement activities undertaken by the Project during the year may be conveyed to the stakeholders in two possible ways:

1. Publication of a standalone annual report on project's interaction with the stakeholders.
2. A number of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) will also be monitored by the project on a regular basis, including the following parameters:
4. number of public hearings, consultation meetings and other public discussions/forums conducted annually;
5. frequency of public engagement activities;
6. number of public grievances received monthly and number of those resolved within the prescribed timeline; and
7. number of press materials published/broadcasted in the local, regional, and national media.

Annex

Annex 1: Technical Note: Public Consultations and Stakeholder Engagement in WB-supported operations when there are constraints on conducting public meetings March 20, 2020

With the outbreak and spread of COVID-19, people have been advised, or may be mandated by national or local law, to exercise social distancing, and specifically to avoid public gatherings to prevent and reduce the risk of the virus transmission. Countries have taken various restrictive measures, some imposing strict restrictions on public gatherings, meetings and people's movement, and others advising against public group events. At the same time, the general public has become increasingly aware and concerned about the risks of transmission, particularly through social interactions at large gatherings.

These restrictions have implications for World Bank-supported operations. In particular, they will affect Bank requirements for public consultation and stakeholder engagement in projects, both under implementation and preparation. WHO has issued technical guidance in dealing with COVID-19, including: (i) Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) Action Plan Guidance Preparedness and Response; (ii) Risk Communication and Community engagement (RCCE) readiness and response; (iii) COVID-19 risk communication package for healthcare facilities; (iv) Getting your workplace ready for COVID-19; and (v) a guide to preventing and addressing social stigma associated with COVID-19. All these documents are available on the WHO website through the following link:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/technical-guidance>.

This Note offers suggestions to World Bank task teams for advising counterpart agencies on managing public consultation and stakeholder engagement in their projects, with the recognition that the situation is developing rapidly and careful regard needs to be given to national requirements and any updated guidance issued by WHO. It is important that the alternative ways of managing consultation and stakeholder engagement discussed with clients are in accordance with the local applicable laws and policies, especially those related to media and communication. The suggestions set out below are subject to confirmation that they are in accordance with existing laws and regulations applying to the project.

Investment projects under implementation. All projects under implementation are likely to have public consultation and stakeholder engagement activities planned and committed as part of project design. These activities may be described in different project documents, and will involve a variety of stakeholders. Commonly planned avenues of such engagement are public hearings, community meetings, focus group discussions, field surveys and individual interviews. With growing concern about the risk of virus spread, there is an urgent need to adjust the approach and methodology for continuing stakeholder consultation and engagement. Taking into account the importance of confirming compliance with national law requirements, below are some suggestions for task teams' consideration while advising their clients:

Task teams will need to review their project, jointly with the PMUs, and should:

- Identify and review planned activities under the project requiring stakeholder engagement and public consultations.
- Assess the level of proposed direct engagement with stakeholders, including location and size of proposed gatherings, frequency of engagement, categories of stakeholders (international, national, local) etc.

- Assess the level of risks of the virus transmission for these engagements, and how restrictions that are in effect in the country / project area would affect these engagements.
- Identify project activities for which consultation/engagement is critical and cannot be postponed without having significant impact on project timelines. For example, selection of resettlement options by affected people during project implementation. Reflecting the specific activity, consider viable means of achieving the necessary input from stakeholders (see further below).
- Assess the level of ICT penetration among key stakeholder groups, to identify the type of communication channels that can be effectively used in the project context.

Based on the above, task teams should discuss and agree with PMUs the specific channels of communication that should be used while conducting stakeholder consultation and engagement activities. The following are some considerations while selecting channels of communication, in light of the current COVID-19 situation:

- Avoid public gatherings (taking into account national restrictions), including public hearings, workshops and community meetings;
- If smaller meetings are permitted, conduct consultations in small-group sessions, such as focus group meetings. If not permitted, make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, including webex, zoom and skype;
- Diversify means of communication and rely more on social media and online channels. Where possible and appropriate, create dedicated online platforms and chatgroups appropriate for the purpose, based on the type and category of stakeholders;
- Employ traditional channels of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, dedicated phone-lines, and mail) when stakeholders do not have access to online channels or do not use them frequently. Traditional channels can also be highly effective in conveying relevant information to stakeholders, and allow them to provide their feedback and suggestions;
- Where direct engagement with project affected people or beneficiaries is necessary, such as would be the case for Resettlement Action Plans or Indigenous Peoples Plans preparation and implementation, identify channels for direct communication with each

affected household via a context specific combination of email messages, mail, online platforms, dedicated phone lines with knowledgeable operators;

- Each of the proposed channels of engagement should clearly specify how feedback and suggestions can be provided by stakeholders;
- An appropriate approach to conducting stakeholder engagement can be developed in most contexts and situations. However, in situations where none of the above means of communication are considered adequate for required consultations with stakeholders, the team should discuss with the PMU whether the project activity can be rescheduled to a later time, when meaningful stakeholder engagement is possible. Where it is not possible to postpone the activity (such as in the case of ongoing resettlement) or where the postponement is likely to be for more than a few weeks, the task team should consult with the OESRC to obtain advice and guidance.

Investment projects under preparation. Where projects are under preparation and stakeholder engagement is about to commence or is ongoing, such as in the project E&S planning process, stakeholder consultation and engagement activities should not be deferred, but rather designed to be fit for purpose to ensure effective and meaningful consultations to

meet project and stakeholder needs. Some suggestions for advising clients on stakeholder engagement in such situations are given below. These suggestions are subject to the coronavirus situation in country, and restrictions put in place by governments. The task team and the PMU should:

- Review the country COVID-19 spread situation in the project area, and the restrictions put in place by the government to contain virus spread;

- Review the draft Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP, if it exists) or other agreed stakeholder engagement arrangements, particularly the approach, methods and forms of engagement proposed, and assess the associated potential risks of virus transmission in conducting various engagement activities;

- Be sure that all task team and PIU members articulate and express their understandings on social behavior and good hygiene practices, and that any stakeholder engagement events be preceded with the procedure of articulating such hygienic practices.

- Avoid public gatherings (taking into account national restrictions), including public hearings, workshops and community meetings, and minimize direct interaction between project agencies and beneficiaries / affected people;

- If smaller meetings are permitted, conduct consultations in small-group sessions, such as focus group meetings. If not permitted, make all reasonable efforts to conduct meetings through online channels, including webex, zoom and skype meetings;

- Diversify means of communication and rely more on social media and online channels. Where possible and appropriate, create dedicated online platforms and chatgroups appropriate for the purpose, based on the type and category of stakeholders;

- Employ traditional channels of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, dedicated phone-lines, public announcements and mail) when stakeholders do not have access to online channels or do not use them frequently. Such channels can also be highly effective in conveying relevant information to stakeholders, and allow them to provide their feedback and suggestions;

- Employ online communication tools to design virtual workshops in situations where large meetings and workshops are essential, given the preparatory stage of the project. Webex, Skype, and in low ICT capacity situations, audio meetings, can be effective tools to design virtual workshops. The format of such workshops could include the following steps:

- o *Virtual registration of participants:* Participants can register online through a dedicated platform.

- o *Distribution of workshop materials to participants, including agenda, project documents, presentations, questionnaires and discussion topics:* These can be distributed online to participants.

- o *Review of distributed information materials:* Participants are given a scheduled duration for this, prior to scheduling a discussion on the information provided.

- o *Discussion, feedback collection and sharing:* □□ Participants can be organized and assigned to different topic groups, teams or virtual “tables” provided they agree to this.

- o □□ Group, team and table discussions can be organized through social media means, such as webex, skype or zoom, or through written feedback in the form of an electronic questionnaire or feedback forms that can be emailed back.

- o *Conclusion and summary:* The chair of the workshop will summarize the virtual workshop discussion, formulate conclusions and share electronically with all participants.

- In situations where online interaction is challenging, information can be disseminated through digital platform (where available) like Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp groups, Project weblinks/ websites, and traditional means of communications (TV, newspaper, radio, phone calls and mails with clear description of mechanisms for providing feedback via mail and / or dedicated telephone lines. All channels of communication need to clearly specify how stakeholders can provide their feedback and suggestions.

- *Engagement with direct stakeholders for household surveys:* There may be planning activities that require direct stakeholder engagement, particularly in the field. One example is resettlement planning where surveys need to be conducted to ascertain socioeconomic status of affected people, take inventory of their affected assets, and facilitate discussions related to relocation and livelihood planning. Such survey activities require active participation of local stakeholders, particularly the potentially adversely affected communities. However, there may be situations involving indigenous communities, or other communities that may not have access to the digital platforms or means of communication, teams should develop specially tailored stakeholder engagement approaches that will be appropriate in the specific setting. The teams should reach out to the regional PMs for ENB and Social Development or to the ESSA for the respective region, in case they need additional support to develop such tailored approaches.

- In situations where it is determined that meaningful consultations that are critical to the conduct of a specific project activity cannot be conducted in spite of all reasonable efforts on the part of the client supported by the Bank, the task team should discuss with the client whether the proposed project activities can be postponed by a few weeks in view of the virus spread risks. This would depend on the COVID-19 situation in the country, and the government policy requirements to contain the virus spread. Where it is not possible to postpone the activity (such as in the case of ongoing resettlement) or where the postponement is likely to be for more than a few weeks, the task team should consult with the OESRC to obtain advice and guidance.

Annex 2: Provisional budget for the SEP

Project stage/ component	Project activities	List of information to be disclosed	Methods proposed	Target stakeholders	Percentage reached	Estimated Budget (\$)	Description	Unit (village/ time/ landscapes)	Unit	Unit cost	Total
Project Inception		ESCP, SEP, CEF, ESMF	Website	Government agencies, CSOs, INGOs, Development partners, communities, private sector	100% relevant agencies	50	Publish on the website	1	1	50	50
Project Implementation		Updated project's ESF instruments,	Information leaflets, posters and brochures; audio-visual materials, social media and other direct communication channels such as mobile/ telephone calls, SMS, etc;	All stakeholders	100% stakeholders reached	5,000	Information leaflets, posters and brochures; audio-visual materials, social media and other direct communication channels such as mobile/ telephone calls, SMS, etc;				5,000

		Feedback of project consultations	Public notices; Electronic publications and press releases on the MAF websites; Press releases in the local media (both print and electronic);	All stakeholders	100% stakeholders reached	300	Feedback of project consultations (2 times) post new on the website and new release in newspaper and online News	10	1	30	300
			Process in ethnic languages	Ethnic groups	100% ethnic representatives reached	30,000	Ethnic interpreters	500	2	30	30,000
		Grievance Redress Mechanisms	Information leaflets, posters and brochures; audio-visual materials, social media and other direct communication channels such as mobile/ telephone calls, SMS, etc;	All stakeholders	100% communities reached 50% are women	10,000	Grievance Redress Mechanisms (comment box)	500	1	20	10,000
PSFM	1.2. Participatory Sustainable Forest Management	Project information Forest Management Plan	Information leaflets	Project affected parties	100% parties reached 50% are women	12,500	Information leaflets	500	50	1	12,500
			Posters	Communities	100% communities	1,750	Posters	500	1	4	1,750

	and Restoration in Production and Protection Forests				reached 50% are women						
			Other IEC materials	Communities	60% households in each community	2,500	IEC materials	500	1	5	2,500
			Video clip	Communities	100% communities reached 50% are women	5,000					
			Process in ethnic languages	Ethnic groups	100% ethnic representatives reached	30,000	Ethnic interpreters	500	2	30	30,000
VLD	2.1. Village Livelihood Development Grants (Agroforestry, NWFPs, etc) 2.2. Vocational Training (forestry, tourism, non- farm)	Project information Community Action Plan	Information leaflets	Project affeted parties	100% communities reached 50% are women	12,500	Information leaflets	500	50	1	12,500
			Posters	Communities	60% households in each community	1,750	Posters	500	1	4	1,750
			IEC materials	Communities	50% participants are women	2,500	IEC materials	500	1	5	2,500
			Video clip	Communities	100% communities reached 50% are women	5,000					
			Process in ethnic languages	Ethnic groups	100% ethnic representatives reached	30,000	Ethnic interpreters	500	2	30	30,000

Nature Based Tourism	1.1. National Parks, Protected Areas, and Nature-based Tourism 2.3. Nature-based Tourism Support Facility	Project information NBT plan	Information leaflets	Project affeted parties	100% communities reached 50% are women	12,500	Information leaflets	500	50	1	12,500
			Posters	Communities	60% households in each community	1,750	Posters	500	1	4	1,750
			IEC materials	Communities	50% participants are women	2,500	IEC materials	500	1	5	2,500
			Video clip	Communities	100% communities reached 50% are women	5,000					
			Process in ethnic languages	Ethnic groups	100% ethnic representatives reached	30,000	Ethnic interpreters	500	2	30	30,000
Project Close Out		Enf of project report/information	Information stands	All stakeholders	100% stakeholders reached	1,250	Government	5	1	250	1,250
		Estimated overall total				201,850					

Annexe 3: List of government agencies consulted online (47 people/5 women)

Nb	Name and Location	List of agencies
I	<u>Huaphan province</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ສຸດວິໄຊ ໄຊສົງຄາມ	PAFO
2	ທ່ານ ກົມຄຳ ສີສົມຮັກ	PA and PtFA
II	<u>Luangprabang province</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ສົມໝາຍ ຄອນສະຫວັນ	PAFO
2	ທ່ານ ຫົງແກ້ວ ພອນສະຫວັດ	PA and PtFA
3	ທ່ານ ໄຊຍະລັກ ສາລີ	PA and PtFA
III	<u>Xiengkhouang province</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ວັນທອງ ດວງດີ	PAFO
2	ທ່ານ ນ. ວິວິນດາ	PAFO
3	ທ່ານ ແສງວົງ ຍອຍສາຍຄຳ	PA and PtFA
IV	<u>Vientiane province</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ພູນສະຫວັດ ຟອງສິນວນ	PAFO
2	ທ່ານ ສົມຈັນ	PAFO
3	ທ່ານ ນ. ອຳໄພວັນ ອາລຸນສະຫວັດ	PAFO
4	ທ່ານ ຄຳຜາຍ ວິໄລເຮືອງ	PA and PtFA
5	ທ່ານ ອຸ້ນເຮືອນ ແກ້ວພິມມາ	PA and PtFA
6	ທ່ານ ນ. ກຸຫຼາບ	PA and PtFA
V	<u>Bolikhamxay province</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ຂັນມິໄຊ ມິພິມວົງ	PAFO
2	ທ່ານ ໄກ	PAFO
3	ທ່ານ ສະມິງ ແສງພະຈັນ	PA and PtFA
4	ທ່ານ ແກ້ວ ອຸດົມ ພັນທະວົງ	PA and PtFA
VI	<u>Khammuane province</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ແສງເພັດ ວິໄລພອນ	PAFO
2	ທ່ານ ບຸນອຸມ ວິໄລພອນ	PAFO
3	ທ່ານ ນ. ວະນິດາ ລັດຕະນະມຸງຄຸນ	PAFO
4	ທ່ານ ຄໍ່າແສງ ແສງທອງນາລິນ	PA and PtFA
5	ທ່ານ ອິນຕອງ ວົງວິໄລ	PA and PtFA
VII	<u>Savannakhet province</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ຄຳສຸກ ແກ້ວ ວິໄລພອນ	PAFO
2	ທ່ານ ບຸນຊ	PAFO

3	ທ່ານ ນ. ສິພັນດອນ ຜົວອ່ອນ	PAFO
4	ທ່ານ ສິນໄຊ	PA and PtFA
5	ທ່ານ ສະໄຫວ	PA and PtFA
VIII	<u>Departments and Mass Organizations</u>	
1	ທ່ານ ສຸລິພົນ ກົມສົ່ງເສີມການລົງທຶນ	Extension and Investment
2	ທ່ານ ຄຳເພັດ ກົມກວດກາປ່າໄມ້	Forest Inspection
3	ກົມແຜນການ ແລະ ການເງິນ	Planning and Finance
4	ກົມສິ່ງແວດລ້ອມ	Environment
5	ທ່ານ ພູນຊັບ ກົມພັດທະນາທີ່ດິນກະສິກຳ	Agricultural Development
6	ແນວລາວສ້າງຊາດ	Lao Front for National Development
7	ອົງການທ່ອງທ່ຽວ	Lao Tourism Authority
8	ມະຫາວິທະຍາໄລແຫ່ງຊາດ	Lao National University
9	ທ່ານ ວົງວິໄລ ວົງຄຳຊາວສະຖາບັນຄົ້ນກະສິກຳ ແລະ ປ່າໄມ້	NAFRI
IX	<u>Divisions within the Department of Forestry</u>	-
1	ທ່ານ ນາງ ເພັດສົມພອນ ພະແນກ ບໍລິຫານ ແລະ ຈັດຕັ້ງ	Administration
2	ທ່ານ ພອນສະຫວັນ ພະແນກ ແຜນການ ແລະ ຮ່ວມມື	Planning and Cooperation
3	ດຣ ອຸປະກອນ ພະແນກ ຄຸ້ມຄອງປ່າໄມ້ບ້ານ	Village Forestry
4	ທ່ານ ສຸນັນທາ ພະແນກ ສັດນ້ຳ ແລະ ສັດປ່າ	Wild animals
5	ທ່ານ ຫົງທອງ ພະແນກ ປ່າປ້ອງກັນ	Protected Forest (PtFA)
6	ທ່ານ ບຸນປອນ ພະແນກ ປ່າສະຫງວນ	Protection Forest (PA)
7	ທ່ານ ຄຳແສນ ພະແນກ ຫຼຸດຜ່ອນອາຍເຮືອນແກ້ວ	REDD+
8	ທ່ານ ສຸລາພອນ ພະແນກ ສົ່ງເສີມບູກໄມ້ ແລະ ຟື້ນຟູ	Plantation and natural regeneration
9	ທ່ານ ວິລາພັນ ພະແນກ ນິຕິກຳ ແລະ ມາດຖານເຕັກນິກປ່າໄມ້	Law and technicality
10	ທ່ານ ຄຳມາ ກອງສຳຫຼວດ ແລະ ວາງແຜນປ່າໄມ້	Forest Inventory and Planning Division

Annexe 4: Comments from the online consultation with government agencies (15 comments)

Nb	Date	Province	Position/Organization	Name	Gender	Contact What's App	Comments
1	10/5/2020	Bolikhamxay	Deputy Director Forestry Division, PAFO Bolikhamxay	Khammixay Miphimvong	man	020 22 111 211	Agree on the content of the documents
2	10/5/2020	Khammouane	PAFO	Vanida	man		Agree on the content of the documents
3	10/5/2020	Vientiane	PAFO	Somchanh	man	020 29 237 777	Agree on the content of the documents 1. Is the issues under human rights only applicable in the Protected Frost or also valid for PFA and PAs; 2. The disaster that may take place due to climate change may affect both men and women 3. Can you explain what is the meaning of non-authorized use of the land? (slope land, land without title certificate, etc.) 4. Would it be possible to provide the list of all stakeholders the project intends to involve?
4	10/5/2020	Vientiane	Deputy Director PA & PtFA, Vientiane Province	Ounheuan Keophomma	man	2022250151	Agree on the content of the documents
5	10/5/2020	Xiengkhouang	Deputy Director PA & PtFA, Xiengkhouang Province	Sengvong yoysaykham	man	020 22 342 099	Agree on the content of the documents
6	10/5/2020	Vientiane	Deputy Director LFNC	Paothao	man	020 55 306 603	Step 1 of CE, should require Lao Front to research and validate ethnic group identity in each village Step 2 of CE: should raise awareness of ethic group and customary leaders Lao Front revised some of the terminology related to ethnicity Ask to change the acronym FPIC form something easy understandable for the communities Should add the main parties e.g. LFNC, MoHA and NA not only UNDRIP In the 4 paths to seek redress approach, adding LFNC to the list of Orgs (no.4) Change Grievance Redress Mechanism to Conflict Redress Mechanism In the stakeholder to implement the project, LFNC is the political relations organization that guides mass organization, the Lao Front for National Construction is responsible for enforcing ethnic policies

							In the section of the Relation with Ethnic, change (DOEA) to be (DEA) Add mass organizations e.g. LNFC
7	10/5/2020	Houaphanh	Director PAFO, Huaphan	Southvixay Sayakham	man	020 22 347 884	Agree on the content of the documents
8	10/5/2020	Louangnamtha	Director PAFO, Louangnantha	Khammeung Sengpachanh	man	020 59 334 999	Agree on the content of the documents
9	10/5/2020	Louangprabang	PA Louangprabang	Xayalack Lasy	man	020 57 777 789	Revise wording but agree on the content of the documents
10	10/6/2020	Vientiane	Sub-CAW-MAF	Sisomphet	woman	020 22 239 722	Inserted Sub-CAW role in key processes including in monitoring an evaluation, and supported gender inclusion through out the SEP and CEF In general, when talking about the community, it should mention both men and women, and when talking about ethnic groups, should include women In the objective section need to add more on protecting / anti the Child labor and violence against women and girls In the gender equality section, the expected increase in participation can be specified as 45% and supporting women to participate in capacity building activities by 50%. The CCA process enhances protections against child labor and violence against women and children In M&E section and the stakeholder from government agencies sections, add Sub-Committee for Advancement of Women (Sub-CAW / MAF) and line management in landscape levels involve in monitoring and evaluation the ESF implementation in cooperate with district and provincial ESF focal points Add Sub-CAW Commission for the Advancement of Women and Mothers and Child in the abbreviation
11	10/6/2020	Xiengkhouang	Director PAFO	Vangthong	man	020 59 393 111	Agree on the content of the documents
12	10/6/2020	Bolikhamxay	PA Bolikhamxay	sameung Sengpachanh	man	020 59 334 999	Present himself to the group
13	10/6/2020	Vientiane	DOFI	Khamphet	man	020 55 787 582	Present himself to the group
14	10/6/2020	Vientiane	Bulapha	Tou Xingbrayyee	man	2099706324	Ask if he is among target participants

15	10/6/2020	Vientiane	LWU	Nee-Onn	woman	<p>The NCAW has been merged within the LWU, Involvement plan: Gender may identify as component 2 Stakeholders from the government agencies is the LWU Article 4.3 in The Consultation Strategy workshop in central level, Page 29 the government public organizations should not separate the (Sub-CAW \ MAF in line management) with LWU because NCAW and LWU already merged Establishing a relationship with a woman states: The Institute, the LWU, (NCAW) are involved in the project implementation, suggested to merged because NCAW is part of the LWU In the Draft of ESP suggest to adjust the Organizational Structure (NCAW) because it is one unit under the LWU</p>
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Annexe 5: List of Relevant Projects, INGOs and Private Sector consulted online (22 people/3 women)

1.	Name	Position/ Function	Project/ Organization	Contacts	Consulted (date/ means)
1	Mr. Nori Kitamura	CTA	F-REDD project, JICA	noriyoshi.kitamura@gmail.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
2	Mr. Eiji Egashira	Expert	F-REDD project, JICA	egashira.eiji@gmail.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
3	Mrs. Akiko Inoguchi	Forestry/ REDD Officer	FAO Lao PDR, UN-REDD project	Akiko.Inoguchi@fao.org	On 05.10./ e-mail
4	Mr. Jens Kallabinski	Project Director	ClipAD/ GIZ (GCF)	Jens.kallabinski@giz.de	On 05.10./ e-mail
5	Mr. Thomas Okfen	Forestry Expert	ClipAD/ GIZ (GCF)	Thomas.okfen@giz.de	On 05.10./ e-mail
6	Mr. Sami Jane	CTA	ClipAD/ KfW	sami.janne@gmail.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
7	Mr. Thobias Goedde	Team Leader FLEGT	FLEGT/ GIZ	tobias.goedde@giz.de	On 05.10./ e-mail
8	Mr. Bastian Flury	Team Leader HNN	HNN/ GIZ	bastian.flury@giz.de	On 05.10./ e-mail
9	Mr. Peter Hansen	CTA	Local Development Project (LDP), LuxDev	peter.hansen@luxdev.lu	On 05.10./ e-mail
10	Mr. Kevin Smith	CTA	BCC Project, ADB	k.smith@bccp-laos.gitec-consult.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
11	Mr. Venevongphet	Project Manager	BCC Project, ADB	venevongphet123456@gmail.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
12	Mr. Adam Starr	Lead Technical Specialist	SAFE Ecosystems Project, UNDP	adam.starr@undp.org	On 05.10./ e-mail
13	Mr. Bounyadeth Phouangmala	Country Program Coordinator	RECOFTC, Lao PDR	Bounyadeth.phouangmala@recoftc.org	On 05.10./ e-mail
14	Mr. Edwin Payuan	VF Coordinator Laos/ Cambodia	RECOFTC, BKK	edwin.payuan@recoftc.org	On 05.10./ e-mail
15	Mr. Francois Guegan	Conservation Director	WWF Lao PDR	Francois.guegan@wwf.org.la	On 05.10./ e-mail
16	Mr. Santi Saypanya	Country Director	WCS, Lao PDR	ssaypanya@wcs.org	On 05.10./ e-mail

1.	Name	Position/ Function	Project/ Organization	Contacts	Consulted (date/ means)
17	Ms. Manoly Sisavanh	Deputy Country Director	WCS, Lao PDR	020 2222 3940; m.sisavanh@gmail.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
18	Ms. Natalia Pervushina	Country Manager	IUCN, Lao PDR	Natalia.pervushina@iucn.org	On 05.10./ e-mail
19	Mr. Chanthasone Phommachanh	Coordinator	SWG/ Lao PDR	Chanthasone_phommachanh@hotmail.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
20	Mr. Cliff Massey	Manager, CSER	Burapha Agroforestry Co., Ltd	Cliff.massey@buraphawood.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
21	Mr. Peter Fogde	CEO	Stora Enso	peter.fogde@storaenso.com	On 05.10./ e-mail
22	Mr. Paul Eshoo	CTA	Asian Arks	pauleshoo@asianarks.org	On 05.10./ e-mail

Annexe 6: Comments from the online consultation with development partners and Civil Society Organizations (5 people/2 women)

No	Name	Project/ Organization	Provided (date/ means)	Comments
1	Mr. Cliff Massey	Burapha Agroforestry Co., Ltd	06.10./ e-mail	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the project documents, and I wish you and the team every success. Regarding the inclusion of private plantation sector I wish to make the comment that this is welcomed as it has been proven that the establishment of plantation forests by companies with a track record of sustainable social and environmental management has provided significant benefits to local communities by creating long term jobs thereby reducing reliance on native forests, and improved infrastructure.</p> <p>When the SEP is rolled I recommend the project team meet with the sector representatives, such as the Lao Plantation Forests Group (LPFG) and have their contributions considered for inclusion in the final project design.</p>
2	Mr. Santi Saypanya	WCS	08.10./ e-mail	<p>Thanks for sharing, a quick look at the document (on the page of list abbreviation), it seems WCS full is wrongly spelled. It was spelled as World Conservation Society. SS</p>
3	Mrs. Paula Williams	F-REDD Project/ JICA	09.10./ e-mail	<p>Nori shared your email with me. Although it is past your deadline, I thought I would still offer a page (attached) of a few very brief comments on your four draft documents. My comments focus on issues that I thought were not explained clearly enough in the text. Some of these issues may be better explained elsewhere, in other project documents.</p> <p>Best regards, Paula</p> <p>2. ESCP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 1.1 how many different E&S focal points, or specialists, will be working with the project? - 2.2 will the GRM for project workers be a separate one from the GRM for villagers? - 4.4 how will GRM counseling hotline work? - CS1 sounds like a lot of staff training on safeguards; how will this relate to understanding of country safeguards? <p>3. ESMF</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - do 20% most vulnerable qualify for grants, or reimburseable loans from village evolving mechanisms?

No	Name	Project/ Organization	Provided (date/ means)	Comments
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - - will project only focus on illegal wildlife trade, or also cover other illegal forest activities, such as illegal logging? - What is a NBT support facility? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4. 5. CEF - why only 20% of VDF for vulnerable people? - How well will revolving funds work, given SUFORD-AF experience? - How much will be done to support VFM? - How does VLUP compare with PLUP? - Three categories of villages are discussed, including those with mixed ethnicities. Will consolidated villages be eligible? - GRM has project structures, but not PAFO? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6. 7. SEP - what is the role of the land issues working group? - Strategies to ensure vulnerable individuals / groups - beyond just improving improving information - What about information in languages other than Lao or English - Targeting vulnerable persons - why the emphasis on individuals rather than households - Document states that Lao Front is in charge of ethnic policy — what is role of Ministry of Home Affairs’ Dept of Ethnic Affairs? - Table 5 need to further elaborate “Lao language translation” — does this mean translation from Lao into ethnic minority languages, or from English into Lao? - Table 7 information board or fact sheets, will these include alternatives for community members who cannot read? - Will the SEP be translated into Lao, or just released for public review in English?

No	Name	Project/ Organization	Provided (date/ means)	Comments
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The document suggests that Poverty Reduction Fund facilitators could help support the project. The same suggestion was made for SUFORD-SU, but to my knowledge, this never happened. - Given all the national grievance mechanisms that exist, why does the Bank insist on an additional project-specific GRM? Why not try, instead, to build up national capacity in existing institutions?
4	Mr. Bastian Flury	HNN/ GIZ	09.10./ e-mail	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Thank you for sharing those documents. I would need more time to go through in detail but from a first glimpse it seems to be all in line with contemporary approaches and best practice. The concerns are more related to the instruments and mechanisms through which measures are implemented: - Some target areas (including Hin Nam No) have a long history of stakeholder participation and inclusive engagement, safeguarding rights, assessing interventions, etc. etc. and I believe it would be highly effective if DoF could identify and use those mechanisms (in case of Hin Nam No this would include Co-Management- and FPIC for World Heritage-related processes and institutions) to fulfill the set standards. - Again, I wasn't able to go through all the documents in detail yet, and maybe that's explained somewhere already, but I wonder whether there is some provision within the ESF to do an institutional stocktaking for target areas and room to identify and adapt existing processes and practices to the requirements and functions of the ESF?
5	Mrs. Manoly Sisavanh	WCS	09.10./ e-mail	This is to acknowledge receipt of your email. I haven't got time to look into this yet. Would comments still be welcome next week, if any?

Annexe 7: List of participants at the consultation with provincial, district and community representatives (Thalad, Vientiane Province, 13 October 2020 (52 people/7 women))

There were 52 participants (7 women) from Vientiane province including representatives from provincial administration (PAFO, Planning, LWU and LFND), representatives from 9 district and 9 villages (one village representative per district) from the Protection Forest Areas (PtFA), Production forest Areas (PFA) and Protection Forest (PAs).

Annexe 8: Comments from the participants at the consultation with provincial, district and community representatives (Thalad, Vientiane Province, 13 October 2020)

Nb	Name	Position	Ethnicity	Comments
1	Mr. Bounthan	Director DAFO Vangvieng District	Hmong	EGDP-Translation issues related to indigenous-local communities mislead district staff. GRM also unclear
2	Mr. Liheu Lialiangseu	Director DAFO Feuang District	Hmong	I understand environment conservation and livelihood development but activities not yet define but impact may be triggered on social side. It's inevitable. Ex, government authorize Burapha to plant trees in PFA so we look for resolution as villages in Feuang district use land in Meun district. Ask guidance from PAFO and we wrote a letter so Burapha seized land from villagers and rubber plantation belonging to villages. We went to survey the reality in the field to ensure accuracy in claim. it revealed not to be true. At least there is a process in place to report issues.
3	Mr. Lataphone Vongphachanh	Director DAFO Meun District	Lao	He asked about how to deal with issues and resolve land conflicts between Meun and Feuang district.
4	mr. Somchanh Chanthilat	Director PAFO Vientiane	Lao	Ask more details about ESS5 as SUFORD as issues regarding land encroachment in PFA so we went to sole issues in Phounguey. Villages use land and plant rubber and other inside PFA so outsider companies support villagers to plant rubber inside PFA. They have rights, company went to deliver land certificate inside PFA. How to solve the issue, how to deal with the issue inside PFA. Villagers Target villages, how to select target villages? Do we target 3 forest categories? How to deal with companies (Burapha) supporting villagers to plant trees inside PFAs. they have budget... villagers usually are eager to participate. How to avoid encroachment. Reforestation areas are not respected, only the signs are left but trees are cut down. Must revise land use in the PFA. In Feuang district one spot declared hot spot for ecotourism In PFA also Phuvieng, Chinese ask to survey mining in Met district so various land use and PAFO will prepare details for eligibility for financial support for ecotourism.
5	Mr. Lataphone Vongson	Village chief, Namphet, Meun district	Lao	Concern about village fund for poor household (20%) is it a grant or loan?
6	Mr. Khamphan	Village chief Vangsong village, Vangvieng	Lao	If villagers prove that they have been using the land inside PFA before the setting of PFA they have the rights to use the land... Perhaps the same for 3 forest categories. Who encroached after that time are illegal users.

7	Mr. Somphet Siphaxay	Deputy Director LFMC, Vientiane Province	Lao	ESS5 about respect cultural issues and religious beliefs??? (ESS7)
8	Mr. Bounthan	Director DAFO Vangvieng District	Hmong	Ask about how to deal and manage areas where private companies have ecotourism activities
9	Mr. Phonexay Sidavong	Deputy director DAFO Sanakham district	Lao	About appointing ESF staff at district level should be appoint someone from environment office in this position?
10	Mr. Sisouphanh	Deputy director DAFO Thoulakhom district	Lao	Good opportunity for villagers inside PA or in between PA and other; villagers involved in deforestation 20-30 ha grazing areas or plantations for some households, how to deal with this issue. About participation issue, many lack professional experience about forestry. Yearly burning of grazing land in the PA, 99% Hmong involved and also 2 lao households. How to deal with access restriction? also 2 vehicles to penetrate the PA and extract resources. How to deal with deforestation and illegal activities in the PA
11	Mr. Liheu Lialiangseu	Director DAFO Feuang District	Hmong	in the last years company support hevea planting, issue about villagers releasing their animals and generate conflicts with plantation? Project may support private plantation, as villagers have reserved land and also sell the land without having any certificate so they encroach, use temporarily and sell the land. We have brought the issue to NA and Party audit. Villagers said want company to come as they get income, labor, working opportunity. Now villagers understand. Before they would refuse but now they are willing to plant trees.
12	Mr. Bouavanh Atkeo	Village chief Nadi village Sanakham district	Lao	We have a project who support hevea (we are the first village) the company rent villagers land for 30 years period. Villagers plant rice or Job's Tears in between for few years. In terms of challenge: according to land certificate, some 20 households don't have the money from renting the land as the company does not pay as they don't have the land certificate. Still the company is using the land and planting trees without paying any money to the households. Also related to PFA, we are located in Phounguey PFA, we are happy to get revolving fund but some villagers use land outside areas authorized, we should survey the land. Villagers agricultural land been encroached by mining company? need to be reviewed as is this authorize by the government? The villagers had land certificate 15 years already but committee from district came to reviewed....
13	Mr. KeoOyn Donvilaychit	Director DAFO Feuang District	Lao	District has forest inside PFA, Boualapha came to get 300 ha and planted 100 ha and will continue 120 ha this year. Issues: according to government for development, but company rent land to villagers without DAFO, also reserved land 3-4 million kip for 30 years so it's not fair so villages loose access to the land/ also impact in PFA: forest fire because of company who rent villagers land impact PFA. or villagers did? WE brought villagers to the law. Rubber plantations mostly small holder as prescribed in the policy. This project could support training, and expert support to guide in the process.
14	Mr. Khamheng Inthasombat	Director DAFO Met District	Lao	38 villages inside PFA we got support from SUFORD, LLL grant 20% will be difficult to manage. It would be nice if the project could support the hiring of assistant as during SUFORD-SU

Annexe 9: Pictures from the consultation with provincial, district and community representatives (Thalad, 13 October 2020)



ANNEX H- GEF Data Sheet: Detailed Component and Activity description (aligned with Appendix B attached for the WB PAD and PID)

Component 1: Investing in Natural Wealth and Resilience in Forest Landscapes

Total financing: US\$31,535,500

IDA financing: US\$ 16,993,524

GEF co-financing: US\$6,541,97

CCEFCF co-financing: US\$8,000,000

Implementation: DOF

1. **The objective of this component is to build natural capital from improved forest landscape management.** The Building natural capital helps secure multiple economic, environmental, climate, and resilience benefits. Climate and disaster risks such as flood, drought, erosion, and landslide risks be reduced by maintaining and restoring forest cover, combined with promoting soil and water conservation structures, small irrigation, and other natural solutions in targeted sites. Such village-based green infrastructure will also contribute to job creation. Collaborative management in PAs and Village Forest Management in PFAs and PtFAs will be the main governance modalities to implement SFM in LLL. Enabling activities will leverage parallel private sector investment (environmentally and socially sustainable industrial and smallholder tree plantations, tourism development) and other complementary public sector investments. The project will support public sector interventions organized under two subcomponents: a) Protected Areas and Nature-based Tourism; and b) Sustainable Forestry and Resilient Village Infrastructure.

2. *Climate co-benefits:* Component 1 will generate the bulk of the project's climate adaptation and mitigation co-benefits, deriving from improved management of the forest landscape including protected areas, production forests, protection forests, and village forests, and the consequent reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while investing in climate resilience and response mechanisms to shocks such as flood, drought, forest fires, and erosion.

3. *Project financing* will support public sector interventions organized under two subcomponents: a) 1.1 Protected Areas and Nature-based Tourism; and b) 1.2 Sustainable Forestry and Resilient Village Infrastructure.

Subcomponent 1.1: Protected Areas and Nature-based Tourism

Total financing: US\$14,190,500

IDA: US\$6,776,250

GEF: US\$4,214,250

CCEFCF co-financing: US\$ 3,200,000

Implementation: DOF (Protected Area Management Division)

4. **The objective of this subcomponent is to strengthen management of PAs for biodiversity conservation and tourism opportunities.** The subcomponent focuses on investing in national parks and other protected areas within targeted landscapes, defined by internationally significant biodiversity

values and high potential for sustainably developing nature-based tourism, and by doing so, creating direct and indirect jobs and livelihoods opportunities.

5. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs, in 8 PA management units to: a) build and maintain collaborative management capacity among PA management units, districts, and selected Guardian Villages; b) build and maintain park infrastructure and facilities such as trails, access roads, boat landings, ranger stations, interpretation centers, and so on depending on local needs (direct green jobs contribution); c) delineation¹, re-delineation² and participatory demarcation³ of existing boundaries, as required or relevant (potential green jobs contribution); d) biodiversity and ecosystem services monitoring and research (potential green jobs contribution); e) strengthen park ranger services to curb poaching and encourage conservation-friendly behavior; f) outreach (extension); g) preparation and approval of village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, h) preparation and approval of Village (Community) Action Plans, i) approval, implementation, modification, and/or regular reporting of Village Conservation Agreements, (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund), j) support village forest fire prevention teams in selected PAs, and k) promote and manage nature-based tourism in selected PAs, working closely with the private sector and selected Guardian Villages (indirect green jobs opportunities).

6. These activities are from the regulatory guidelines developed under the Bank-financed Green Growth Development Policy Operation series as well as the Community Engagement Framework developed under ENS2 that has been serving as the basis for safeguarding all Bank-financed rural development operations in Lao PDR. Specific activities are outlined below per protected area.

7. This subcomponent is linked to Component 2 as follows: a) village livelihoods block grants provided under Component 2 support based on Village Conservation Agreements developed under Component 1, and b) preparation of nature-based tourism investment agreements between PA Authorities, villages, and private service providers under Component 2, based on tourism development activities in Component 1. This subcomponent is also linked to Component 3 on support to the Protected Area Management Division in DOF, as a central coordinator for PA-specific activities financed under Component 1.1.

¹ Delineation is the method of defining the protected area boundaries of a new protected area, or a new extension of a protected area. This delineation process is undertaken precisely to match the understanding of forest cover and topographic features of the protected area with regards to the village lands.

² Re-delineation is the method of defining the protected area boundaries precisely. This method is designed to match the improved understanding of forest cover and topographic features of a protected area with regards to the village lands at the field level. The boundaries of the first 18 National Protected Areas were designated in Prime Minister Decree No 164 dated 29th October 1993. Under this PM Decree, many of these 18 protected areas were coarsely designated to the nearest 10,000 hectares, using maps at a scale 1: 250,000. The project will utilize Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) as a methodology in boundary re-delineation. This methodology has been effectively utilized by the Department of Forestry in the designation of Hin Nam No National Park in January 2020.

³ Participatory boundary demarcation: Village meetings are convened to discuss the sighting of concrete PA boundary posts and complimentary signage. Field excursions are made by village representatives and PA counterparts to confirm the location of each boundary post. Once boundary post locations are agreed, a boundary post agreement is signed by the concerned village headman, the PA official and the district official.

8. This subcomponent will contribute to climate change adaptation by improving local management of forest and natural resources, including protection and improvement of key ecosystem services. This activity will also contribute to climate change mitigation, by rationalizing the use of land and forest resources.

Project location

9. *Protected areas.* The eight targeted protected areas listed below supported by LLL together form the conservation backbone of the country especially the Annamites as well as areas with good tourism potential to drive green job creation and growth. The targeted PAs, of which three are recently upgraded National Parks, total almost 1.6 million hectares and include: a) Nam Et-Phou Louey (NEPL) National Park, b) Phou Khao Khouay (PKK) National Protected Area, c) Tor Sib/ Phou Samsoum, d) Phou Hin Poun NPA, e) Nakai Nam Theun NP, f) Hin Nam No NP, g) Khoun Xe Nongma PPA, and h) Laving Laverne NPA. Approximately 200 “guardian villages” inside or bordering PAs will be supported.

10. *Districts* that overlap with the targeted PAs will be included. Village from within these protected areas and districts will be selected according to the following criteria:

- a) Guardian villages located in immediate proximity to high biodiversity zones within or bordering targeted protected areas;
- b) Guardian villages located in immediate proximity to (proposed) nature-based tourism assets;

Activity 1.1.1: Nam Et-Phou Louey (NEPL) National Park. US\$2,175,000 (US\$1,206,250 IDA; US\$408,750 GEF; US\$560,000 CCEFCF).

11. The PA has a total of 107 Guardian Villages, with a total population of 50,190 individuals as of 2018. In February 2019, Nam Et-Phou Louey National Park was one of two NPAs re-designated as a national park, requiring a higher conservation standard than an NPA. It is the largest protected area in the northern highlands, a region of the country with biodiversity values shared with both Vietnam and Thailand. It has been the focus of dedicated Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) support for approximately 15 years. The award-winning Nam Nern Night Safari offered by the park is constrained by limited tourism visits, which in turn limits the viability of sustainable financing streams for park operations. Since 2016, the Bank and GEF have been co-financing the national park through the Second Lao Environment and Social Project (LENS2) which has been supporting the development of the institutional capacity of the GoL and 43 of the 107 Guardian Villages to manage the park and its resources through Village Conservation Agreements. LENS2 has also supported, and LLL will continue supporting, park management capacity development, park ranger operations, park infrastructure and facilities, tourism development, and continued protection of vulnerable high biodiversity zones (total protection zones).

12. LLL will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for the Management Authority of NE-PL National Park, through DOF/PAMD. Approximately 30 Guardian Villages will be engaged by the project for livelihoods or potential tourism participation. The Management Authority will contract its current NGO partner, the Wildlife Conservation Society, as a service provider to implement the following activities:

- a) Collaborative management with the three Provincial authorities and 10 District authorities. This involves convening meetings and workshops at the provincial, district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in the different technical fields of protected area management. It also includes the development of the NE-PL National Park Management Plan (2025-2030).
- b) Operating costs including vehicle maintenance;
- c) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure and facilities,⁴ which could create jobs;
 - i) Park ranger training and operations in priority Total Protection Zones and tourism development zones (four teams). Activities include:
 - ii) Ranger equipment,
 - iii) Mobilization of district inter-agency patrol teams,
 - iv) Border ranger teams,
 - v) Guardian Village ranger teams in village lands,
 - vi) Ranger training,
 - vii) Supervision of the ranger database.
- d) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations in up to 43 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the National Protected Area. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.
- e) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared or updated, and approved.
- f) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared or updated, and approved.
- g) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, updated as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund).
- h) Forest fire prevention. This activity will include the establishment and training of Village Fire Prevention Groups in affected Guardian Villages. It will include fire danger ratings and village fire-fighting teams.
- i) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate. Activities include:
 - i) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
 - ii) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
 - iii) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
 - iv) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, familiarization trips, etc.).

⁴ Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities.

- v) Produce a portfolio of potential tourism investment sites for the landscape, and disseminate to and engage with the private sector.

Activity 1.1.2: Phou Khao Khouay (PKK) National Protected Area. US\$2,960,000 (US\$ 1,250,250 IDA; US\$1,133,750 GEF; US\$560,000 CCEFCF).

13. This PA has 56 Guardian Villages, with a total population of 63,638 individuals as of 2018. This PA is a very large and valuable area near Vientiane for development of domestic and international tourism opportunities, and for raising the profile of park policy, profession, and practice within Lao PDR. PKK also provides protective watershed services for the strategically important reservoirs including Nam Leuk, Nam Mang, and Nam Mang III, which in addition to water and energy supply, also provide opportunities for tourism development and fishing. Parts of PKK have relatively good seasonal road access while other parts are difficult to access. Road access to two of the main waterfalls popular with tourists, Tad Leuk and Tad Xay, is somewhat constrained, as are other locations that could host good visitor experiences. PKK will be a strategic location to support hands-on national-level training opportunities in protected area management, including zoonotic diseases mitigation. Finally, PKK has the potential to experience a resurgence of wildlife.

14. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for the Protected Area Management Division at DOF⁵ to implement:

- a) Collaborative management with the four provincial authorities and seven district authorities, and approximately 50 Guardian Villages. This involves convening meetings and workshops at the provincial, district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in the different technical fields of protected area management. It also includes the development of the PKK National Protected Area Management Plan (2025-2030). The collaborative management approach will strengthen village forest and land use planning and management, outreach (extension), and livelihood development linked to conservation (village livelihood block grants are funded and implemented under Component 2.1.1 based on a Village Conservation Agreement). These aspects and other activities are listed below.
- b) Operating costs, including vehicle maintenance.
- c) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure and facilities⁶ which will create jobs.
- d) Participatory demarcation of the existing NPA boundary, including marking the boundary with permanent concrete posts, signs and large signs at major road access points. Villagers will participate in this boundary demarcation process, and each Village Committee will sign off on the positioning of each boundary post. Villagers are usually hired to install these markers.
- e) Biodiversity monitoring.
 - i) Monitoring of flagship species, as well as population censuses of Northern White-cheeked Gibbons and Green Peafowl and other threatened species.

⁵ When the Phou Khao Khouay NPA Management Authority is formally established and receives legal status, implementation responsibilities and funds will be transferred to the NPA Authority.

⁶ Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities, and relevant government agencies as needed.

- ii) Support research training in the National Training Center (see activity 1.1.2.k and subcomponent 3.1) and reintroduction;
- f) Park ranger operations. Park ranger training and operations in priority total protection zones and tourism development zones (four teams) including:
 - i) Construction of ranger stations
 - ii) Ranger equipment
 - iii) Mobilization of district inter-agency patrol teams,
 - iv) Guardian Village ranger teams in village lands
 - v) Ranger training
 - vi) Supervision of the ranger database.
- g) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations within the 56 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the National Protected Area. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.
- h) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared and approved.
- i) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared and approved.
- j) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, modified as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund).
- k) Forest fire prevention. This activity will include the establishment and training of Village Fire Prevention Groups in approximately 12 Guardian Villages in the western portion of the protected area. It will include fire danger ratings and village fire-fighting teams.
- l) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate, including:
 - i) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
 - ii) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
 - iii) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
 - iv) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, etc.);
 - v) Produce tourism investment potential portfolio for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at national workshop.
- m) Upgrade existing training facilities in the core zone to service the national PA system and raise the visibility of PKK NPA (funded under Component 3.1).

15. The PKK NPA Management Authority will contract a national PA management advisor to coordinate with PAMD in DOF. However, PKK is currently administered by the Lao PDR Army, and there are current plans to transfer management to DOF/PAMD completely or partially.

Activity 1.1.3 Tor Sip/Phou Samsoum Proposed National Protected Area. US\$1,437,500 (US\$555,750 IDA; US\$593,750 GEF; US\$ 288,000 CCEFCF)

16. The NPA hosts approximately 30 Guardian Villages, with a total population of 18,150 individuals. Located in Xiengkhouang Province, Tor Sip Provincial PA and Phou Samsoum National Protection Forest encompass the 2nd and 3rd highest mountains respectively in the country, and support unique montane forest vegetation and range-restricted Annamites biodiversity with global value. MAF is considering combining them into a new National Protected Area. These mountain landscapes can be attractive to tourists (although visitation is currently negligible), for panoramic scenic views, cool weather and unusual flora and fauna, and have reasonable accessibility. These mountains are accessible via a 6-hour drive from Vientiane although not on an established tourism route. Nevertheless, there is longer-term potential for tourism products to be developed by the private sector once the basic PA management unit is established (currently there is no budget or staff).

17. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for Xiengkhouang PAFO⁷ to implement:

- a) A feasibility study by DOF/PAMD and PAFO on the designation of the combined units as a new National Protected Area. This activity will include biodiversity assessments (different taxa) and socio-economic assessments and an assessment of boundary demarcation options and their implications. These datasets will contribute to the designation process for the site to be upgraded as a new National Protected Area.
- b) Support for establishing and maintaining a new NPA Management Authority (Note: project cannot fund salaries of government staff);
- c) Collaborative management with the Xiengkhouang provincial authorities two district authorities, and approximately 30 Guardian Villages. This involves convening meetings and workshops at the provincial, district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in the different technical fields of protected area management. It also includes the development of the Tor Sip National Protected Area Management Plan (2025-2030). The collaborative management approach will strengthen village forest and land use planning and management, outreach (extension), and livelihood development linked to conservation (village livelihood block grants are funded and implemented under Component 2.1.1 based on a Village Conservation Agreement). These aspects and other activities are listed below.
- d) Operating costs including vehicle maintenance;
- e) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure and facilities,⁸ which will create jobs;
- f) Participatory boundary demarcation, including marking the boundary with permanent concrete posts, signs and large signs at major road access points. Villagers will participate in this boundary demarcation process, and the Village Committee will sign off on the location of each post. Villagers will also be hired to install these markers.
- g) Park ranger operations. This activity includes:

⁷ When Tor Sip/Phou Sam Soum NPA Management Authority is formally established and receives legal status, implementation responsibilities and funds will be transferred to the NPA Authority.

⁸ Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities, and relevant government agencies as needed.

- i) construction of ranger stations
 - ii) ranger field equipment
 - iii) the mobilization of district inter-agency patrol teams
 - iv) border ranger teams
 - v) village ranger teams in village lands
 - vi) ranger training
 - vii) supervision of the ranger database.
- h) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations within the approximately 30 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the National Protected Area. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.
- i) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared and approved.
 - j) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared and approved.
 - k) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, modified as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund);
 - l) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate, including:
 - i) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
 - ii) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
 - iii) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
 - iv) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, etc.);
 - v) Produce tourism investment potential portfolio for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at national workshop.

Activity 1.1.4 Phou Hin Poun (PHP) National Protected Area. US\$2,005,000 (US\$754,250 IDA; US\$898,750 GEF; US\$352,000 CCEFCF)

18. The protected area has 97 Guardian Villages, which had a total population of 66,843 individuals in 2018. PHP NPA protects a large area of Indo-Chinese karst in Khammouane Province. It protects significant endemic biodiversity, including the Lao langur, Kha-Nyou and several bird species. The limestone karst scenery is particularly attractive to tourists, for scenic views, and unusual flora and fauna. PHP is accessible from Vientiane, and is the gateway to the Khammouane biodiversity complex. There is potential for private sector investment to develop products that can attract both weekend visitors from Vientiane, those on the Khammouane Loop, as well as long-haul visitors traveling the length of the country by car, motorbike and bicycle.

19. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for the PAFO Khammouane⁹ to implement:

- a) Collaborative management with provincial authorities, district authorities, and a subset of Guardian Villages. This involves convening organized meetings and workshops at the provincial, district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in the different technical fields of protected area management. It also includes the development of the Phou Hin Poun National Protected Area Management Plan (2025-2030); the current five-year plan is being developed by IUCN – the World Conservation Union. The collaborative management approach will strengthen village forest and land use planning and management, outreach (extension), and livelihood development linked to conservation (village livelihood block grants are funded and implemented under Component 2.1.1 based on a Village Conservation Agreement). These aspects and other activities are listed below, reaching approximately 40 Guardian Villages in the buffer zone.
- b) Operating costs including vehicle maintenance.
- c) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure (headquarters, ranger stations, checkpoints, trails) and facilities,¹⁰ which will create jobs;
- d) Participatory boundary demarcation and re-demarcation of existing boundaries, including marking the boundary with permanent concrete posts, signs and large signs at major road access points. Villagers will participate in this boundary demarcation process, and the Village Committee will sign off on the location of each boundary post. Villagers will also be hired to install these markers.
- e) Biodiversity monitoring and research. This activity primarily focuses on biodiversity monitoring linked to forest ranger patrolling, which will be undertaken throughout the project period. It may also include population censuses of targeted primates, birds and other species. Complimentary intensive biodiversity research activities are anticipated to be undertaken by IUCN using matching funds during years 1-4, involving camera trapping, line transects and occupancy surveys.
- f) Park ranger operations. This activity includes:
 - i) the construction of four ranger stations,
 - ii) ranger field equipment,
 - iii) the mobilization of district inter-agency patrol teams,
 - iv) village ranger teams in village lands,
 - v) ranger training,
 - vi) supervision of the ranger database.
- g) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations within the approximately 40 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the National Protected Area. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.

⁹ When the Phou Hin Poun NPA Management Authority is formally established and receives legal status, implementation responsibilities and funds will be transferred to the NPA Authority.

¹⁰ Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities, and relevant government agencies as needed.

- h) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared and approved.
- i) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared and approved.
- j) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, modified as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund).
- k) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate, including:
 - l) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
 - i) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
 - ii) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
 - iii) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, familiarization trips, etc.);
 - iv) Produce tourism investment potential portfolios for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at national workshop;

Activity 1.1.5 Nakai-Nam Theun National Park. US\$1,601,000 (US\$981,250 IDA; US\$155,750 GEF; US\$464,000 CCEFCF)

20. In 2018, the protected area had 50 Guardian villages, with a total population of 34,314 individuals. NNT National Park, situated in the Khammouane biodiversity complex and Bolikhamxay Province, encompasses one of the largest areas of wet evergreen forest in the country and provides a strategic role in protecting a critical reservoir for hydropower production. Nakai-Nam Theun was declared a national park in February 2019 and has since been placed in the upstream process for consideration as a serial natural World Heritage Site by UNESCO. The park's significant global faunal diversity is threatened by transboundary snaring. Tourism, before COVID-19, was starting to develop in the park and reservoir as part of the "The Loop" in Khammouane Province. The park receives funding from Nam Theun 2 Power Company (NTPC) as part of a 31-year concession agreement to 2035. Since 2014 the Bank and GEF have been co-financing the national park through the Second Lao Environment and Social Project (LENS2) which has been supporting the development of the institutional capacity of the GoL, NNT Management Authority¹¹ and all 50 Guardian Villages to manage the park and its resources through Village Conservation Agreements.

21. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for the NNT Management Authority, to implement:

- a) Collaborative management with two provincial authorities, four district authorities, and all 50 Guardian Villages. This involves convening organized meetings and workshops at the provincial, district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in the different technical fields of protected area

¹¹ The NNT National Park Management Authority used to be referred to as the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management Protection Authority (NTT WMPA).

management. It also includes the development of the Nakai Nam Theun National Park Management Plan (2025-2030); the current five-year plan is being developed by the Management Authority. The collaborative management approach will strengthen village forest and land use planning and management, outreach (extension), and livelihood development linked to conservation (village livelihood block grants are funded and implemented under Component 2.1.1 based on a Village Conservation Agreement). These aspects and other activities are listed below, reaching all 50 Guardian Villages in the buffer zone.

- b) Operating costs including vehicle maintenance.
- c) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure (headquarters, ranger stations and checkpoints) and facilities¹² which will create jobs;
- d) Biodiversity monitoring and research; This activity includes camera trapping, occupancy assessments, wildlife population censuses, and other biodiversity monitoring techniques.
- e) Park ranger training and operations. This activity includes:
 - i) maintenance of the ranger stations and checkpoints,
 - ii) ranger field equipment,
 - iii) the mobilization of district inter-agency patrol teams,
 - iv) border ranger teams,
 - v) village ranger teams in village lands,
 - vi) reservoir patrol teams,
 - vii) ranger training,
 - viii) supervision of the ranger database.
- f) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations within the 50 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the National Park. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.
- g) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared and approved.
- h) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared and approved.
- i) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, modified as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund).
- j) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate. Activities include:
 - i) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
 - ii) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;

¹² Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities, and relevant government agencies as needed.

- iii) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
- iv) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, familiarization trips, etc.);
- v) Produce tourism investment potential portfolio for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at national workshop;

Activity 1.1.6 Hin Nam No National Park. US\$1,270,000 (US\$570,250 IDA; US\$411,750 GEF; US\$ 288,000 CCEFCF)

22. Located in the Khammouane biodiversity complex along the Ho Chi Minh Trail, Hin Nam No National Park encompasses one of the two largest areas of Indo-Chinese karst in the country. Hin Nam No is contiguous with Phong Nha Ke Bang National Park in Central Vietnam, which is already a natural World Heritage site. Hin Nam No itself was declared a national park in January 2020. It is currently being assessed to become the nation's first natural World Heritage site. To receive World Heritage status from UNESCO, which will help support tourism development, the GoL needs to demonstrate that it is implementing its own management plan for park management and tourism, building on support from GIZ since 2012 that is scheduled to end in early 2024. LLL will begin to provide matching support in 2021 to co-finance the National Park's Management Plan. GIZ's financing centers on national and international advisors, who will provide technical assistance to the National Park Management Authority.

23. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for the HNN National Park Management Authority, to implement ongoing management activities including:

- a) Collaborative management with provincial authorities and district authorities, and the 19 Guardian Villages. This involves convening organized meetings and workshops at the provincial and district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in the different technical fields of protected area management. It also includes the development of the Hin Nam No National Park Management Plan (2025-2030); the current five-year plan development is being supported by GIZ. The collaborative management approach will support all 19 Guardian Villages in the buffer zone, which will receive outreach and livelihood development linked to conservation as described below (village livelihood block grants are funded and implemented under Component 2.1.1 based on a Village Conservation Agreement).
- b) Operating costs including vehicle maintenance.
- c) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure (headquarters, ranger stations and checkpoints) and facilities¹³ which will create jobs;
- d) Biodiversity monitoring and research. This activity is being supported by GIZ up to 2024 and by LLL after that. Activities will include population censuses, and biodiversity monitoring conducted during field ranger patrols.
- e) Park ranger operations. This activity will support:
 - i) District inter-agency patrol teams,

¹³ Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities, and relevant government agencies as needed.

- ii) Border patrol teams,
 - iii) 19 village ranger teams in village lands,
 - iv) Ranger training,
 - v) Supervision of the ranger database.
- f) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations within the 19 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the National Park. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.
- g) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared and approved.
- h) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared and approved.
- i) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, modified as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund).
- j) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate. Activities include:
- i) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
 - ii) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
 - iii) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
 - iv) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, familiarization trips, etc.);
 - v) Produce tourism investment potential portfolio for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at national workshop.

Activity 1.1.7 Khouan Xe Nongma National Protected Area. US\$1,385,000 (US\$871,250 IDA; US\$113,750 GEF; US\$400,000 CCEFCF)

24. There are 9 Guardian Villages, comprising five enclave villages and four overlapping villages. This comprises a total population of 2,659 individuals (according to the KXN management plan 20020-2025). KXN, located in Khammouane Province on the Vietnam border, is currently a Provincial PA and is being re-designated as a National Protected Area. KXN protects some of the richest biodiversity in the wet evergreen forests of the Annamites, and has been listed in the upstream process for designation as a UNESCO natural World Heritage Site. The NPA has received technical support from the Integrated Conservation and Biodiversity Forestry Project (ICBF) during 2016-2021. Asian Arks, a conservation business entity, is in discussion with the GoL to have a 20,000-hectare concession in the Total Protection Zone, with 10,000 hectares managed in an initial 10-year period.

25. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for the Khammouane PAFO¹⁴ to implement:

- a) Collaborative management with Khammouane provincial authorities and Boualapha district authorities, and the nine Guardian Villages. This involves convening organized meetings and workshops at the provincial and district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in the different technical fields of protected area management. It also includes the development of the Khouan Xe Nongma National Protected Area Management Plan (2025-2030); the current five-year plan is being developed by ICBF. The collaborative management approach will involve all nine Guardian Villages in the buffer zone, and will be supported through outreach, planning, and livelihood development linked to conservation as described below (village livelihood block grants are funded and implemented under Component 2.1.1 based on a Village Conservation Agreement).
- b) Operating costs including vehicle maintenance;
- c) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure (headquarters, ranger stations and checkpoints) and facilities.¹⁵
- d) Biodiversity monitoring and research. This activity is anticipated to be largely supported by Asian Arks with negligible costs to the NPA Management Authority.
- e) Park ranger operations. This activity includes support for:
 - i) district inter-agency patrol teams,
 - ii) border patrol teams,
 - iii) the 9 village ranger teams in village lands
 - iv) ranger training
 - v) supervision of the ranger database.
- f) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations within the 9 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the National Protected Area. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.
- g) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared and approved.
- h) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared and approved.
- i) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, modified as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund).
- j) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate. Activities include:

¹⁴ When the Khouan Xe Nongma NPA Management Authority is formally established and receives legal status, implementation responsibilities and funds will be transferred to the NPA Authority.

¹⁵ Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities, and relevant government agencies as needed.

- i) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
- ii) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
- iii) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
- iv) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, familiarization trips, etc.);
- v) Produce tourism investment potential portfolio for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at national workshop;

Activity 1.1.8 Laving Laverne (LL) National Protected Area. US\$1,357,000 (US\$587,250 IDA; US\$497,750 GEF; US\$272,000 CCEFCF)

26. This NPA had 26 Guardian Villages, comprising 15 enclave villages and 11 overlapping villages, with a total population of 8,829 individuals in 2018. The park is located on the Vietnam border in Savannakhet Province, and is contiguous with Khouan Xe Nongma Provincial Protected Area in Khammouane Province. Laving Laverne has an instrumental role in the World Heritage Site designation of Khouan Xe Nongma. The park is a strong representation of wet evergreen forest in the Annamites. The northern portion is ecologically intact and supports rich endemic biodiversity, while the southern portion is degraded.

27. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs for the Savannakhet PAFO¹⁶ to implement:

- a) Collaborative management with the Savannakhet provincial authorities, two district authorities, and the 26 Guardian Villages. This involves convening meetings and workshops at the provincial and district and village level to enhance stakeholder engagement in technical fields of protected area management. It also includes the development of the Laving Laverne National Protected Area Management Plan (2025-2030). The collaborative management approach will involve all 26 Guardian Villages in the buffer zone, and will be supported through outreach, planning, and livelihood development linked to conservation as described below (village livelihood block grants are funded and implemented under Component 2.1.1 based on a Village Conservation Agreement).
- b) Operating costs including vehicle maintenance.
- c) Development and maintenance of park infrastructure and facilities;¹⁷
- d) Participatory boundary demarcation, including marking the boundary with permanent concrete posts, signs and large signs at major road access points. Villagers will participate in this boundary demarcation process, and the Village Committee will sign off on each boundary post. Villagers will also be hired to install these markers.
- e) Biodiversity monitoring of flagship species;
- f) Park ranger operations, including:

¹⁶ When the Lavine Laverne NPA Management Authority is formally established and receives legal status, implementation responsibilities and funds will be transferred to the NPA Authority.

¹⁷ Tourism infrastructure planning (including designs) will be carried out with input from potential private sector investors, tourism stakeholders working group and tourism authorities, and relevant government agencies as needed.

- i) Construction of ranger stations;
 - ii) Ranger field equipment;
 - iii) Mobilization of district inter-agency patrol teams;
 - iv) Border ranger teams;
 - v) Village ranger teams in village lands;
 - vi) Ranger training;
 - vii) Supervision of the ranger database.
- g) Outreach (extension). A set of activities (including workshops, meetings and trainings) aimed at engaging the rural populations within the 26 Guardian Villages, students and government officials of concerned law enforcement agencies to elicit positive attitudes and behavior change. This change in attitudes and behavior will reduce the threats to the area. These outreach activities will also include the use of local radio, television and other media avenues to raise awareness on forest and land management, conservation, and natural hazards.
- h) Village forest and land use management plans, including associated village regulations, and socio-economic assessments as needed, will be prepared and approved.
- i) Village (Community) Action Plans will be prepared and approved.
- j) Village Conservation Agreements will be prepared, approved, implemented, modified as needed, and/or regularly monitored (a pre-condition to access village livelihoods block grants funded in Component 2.1.1 through the respective Village Development Fund).
- k) Tourism development (linked to Component 2) in consultation with private sector operators as appropriate. Activities include:
- i) Tourism zoning, strategy and action plan development by stakeholders working group (including surveys) which will be part of the overall PA zoning;
 - ii) Training and support for private sector-led anti-poaching support teams in tourism concession areas;
 - iii) Creation of and capacity building for tourism stakeholder working groups;
 - iv) Joint marketing and promotion (websites, events, familiarization trips, etc.);
 - v) Produce tourism investment potential portfolio for the landscape. Disseminate on website and at a national workshop.

28. Laving Laverne NPA Management Authority will be able to contract a national PA management advisor to coordinate with DOF/PAMD.

Subcomponent 1.2: Sustainable Forestry and Resilient Village Infrastructure

Total financing: US\$ 10,217,274

IDA: US\$15,017,274

GEF: US\$2,327,726

CCEFCF: US\$4,800,000

Implementation: DOF

29. **The objective of this subcomponent is to strengthen sustainable forest management (SFM) and landscape restoration in production, protection, and village forests.** The long-term goal is to support job

creation, reduce poverty and climate risks, reduce pressure on natural forest, and boost forest sector productivity for green growth and recovery.

30. Under this subcomponent, MAF/DOF, working with other agencies as appropriate (MONRE, MOIC, MPWT, MPI, LWU, LNFCD), will promote solutions for improving forest management and restoration of degraded forestlands in: a) forests managed by villages for production, protection and/or conservation objectives, b) smallholder tree plantations, and c) industrial tree plantations combined with smallholder/out-grower/agroforestry plantations. In all three systems the project will also support community-based climate-resilient green infrastructure for flood, landslide and drought risk reduction (such as small irrigation linked to upstream forest vegetation conservation, climate resilient feeder roads, slope stabilization with tree cover) linked to SFM.

31. The subcomponent will support public sector capacity to facilitate, regulate, and leverage private sector investment in environmentally and socially sustainable industrial forest plantations (the project will not provide financing for these plantations). A key public sector barrier that will need to be overcome is the need for allocating transparent concessions within the PFAs for credible plantation investors that commit to developing out-grower capacity and socially and environmentally sustainable production, and local economic and environmental benefits (Component 3.1 includes support for improving the enabling environment to alleviate this barrier).

32. The subcomponent will support the review and update of state forest management plans for PFAs, to include zoning and priority areas suitable to develop environmentally and socially sustainable industrial tree plantations. The subcomponent will also finance the systematization of selected state protection forest areas, zoning, and development of PtFA management plans.

33. Village level activities will be organized into Village Landscapes and Livelihoods Sub-projects that include Village forest and land use planning and zoning (1.2.2), Village forest management (VFM) and restoration (1.2.3), village livelihoods block grants through the Village Development Funds (Component 2.1), Extension (1.2.4) and local green infrastructure such as small irrigation (1.2.7). Approximately 400-600 villages outside protected areas will be supported, representing 264,000 to 396,000 people. Forest restoration grants under activity 1.2.3 (US\$2000 per village) will be disbursed to each participating village to fund some of the village forest restoration objectives identified in the village forest and land use plan (1.2.2). Forest restoration grants could be used to purchase equipment or materials, or to employ villagers for casual labor linked to village forest restoration activities.

34. Village section criteria include:

- a) Villages with relatively good forest cover, and interest to adopt VFM and take advantage of economic opportunities for wood products¹⁸ and NTFP;
- b) Villages with stated desire to restore degraded village forests;

¹⁸ From planted wood in PFAs and PtFAs. Under VFM, natural wood from PFA and PtFA can only be used for household needs. Natural wood inside village land could be harvested for commercial purpose, but the current availability of such 'good wood' inside village land is limited.

- c) Villages in which the administration and most of the community are supportive of VFM or who have been trained in PSFM by previous projects;
- d) Villages vulnerable to forest fire, floods, droughts, erosion and landslides, and opportunities for climate and disaster risk reduction.

35. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs, to support the following activities:

Activity 1.2.1 State forest management planning in state production forest areas and protection forest areas. US\$125,000 (US\$61,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$64,000 CCEFCF)

36. This activity will support the drafting, review, and update of forest management plans for PFAs and PtFAs, in accordance with the 2019 forestry law. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to conduct the following:

- a) PFAs. In selected PFAs, review and update existing management plans where necessary, in accordance with new provisions in the 2019 Forestry Law. Updates will include, among others, the assessment of existing degraded areas suitable for new environmentally and socially sustainable industrial tree plantations, assessment of existing tree plantations and planned expansion, etc.
- b) PtFA. In selected PtFAs:
 - i) survey and compare maps with existing forest area on the ground and complete boundary demarcation where missing;
 - ii) zoning PtFAs as control use zone (CUZ) and total protection zone (TPZ). CUZs could be used for village forest management activities, including smallholder tree plantation, forest restoration, NTFP collection etc. TPZs are managed for forest cover and biodiversity conservation;
 - iii) develop PtFAs management plans.

Activity 1.2.2 Village forest and land use planning and zoning in village forests. US\$495,000 (US\$335,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$160,000 CCEFCF)

37. This activity will support villages to develop their own participatory village forest and land use plan, a requisite to participate in NRM and livelihoods activities financed by the project. The process starts with introduction of the concept of village forest and land use planning. The next step is the participatory mapping and analysis of the village landscapes, leading to the assessment of current forests and land use and livelihoods and identification of potential complementary green local infrastructure. Following analysis, reflection and discussions to gain consensus between the village and local authorities, plans and maps are developed to guide improvements in forest and land zoning and management, with a view to both stabilize and improve agricultural land productivity, and maintain or expand where feasible, the area of forests in the village, as well as effective village forest management, utilization and restoration of forest cover, vegetation, and NTFPs.

38. If villages already have existing forest and land use plans developed by other projects, LLL will review them and update where necessary to meet NRM and livelihoods criteria which are the condition for the village to access LLL funds under component 1 and 2.

39. Forest and land use planning will also include the support to develop village regulations, where appropriate and needed, on natural resource management and benefits sharing for collective economic activities such as VFM, managing rotations, or small irrigation.

40. The main output of this activity is the approval of a Village Forest and Land Use and Management Plan, which is the condition to access Forest restoration grants (Activity 1.2.3 b.i)) and village livelihoods block grants from the Village Development Fund under by Component 2.1.2.

Activity 1.2.3 Village Forest Management (VFM) and Restoration. US\$5,585,000 (US\$3,825,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$1,760,000 CCEFCF)

41. Based on the approval of the village forest and land use plan (activity 1.2.2), a package of natural resource management activities will be implemented by the respective VFM Sub-committee under the existing Village Committee. The VFM Sub-committee will be established and trained by the project. It will be supported by technical and extension advice (provided under activity 1.2.3). VFM activities are customized according to village locations, their endowment of forest, proximity to economic and or ecosystem-based opportunities. These activities include:

- a) Skills capacity building and village organization for VFM;
 - i) Village Forest Registration and Demarcation;
 - ii) (annual) Tree management inventory, and harvest planning;
 - iii) (annual) NTFP inventory, management, and harvest planning;
 - iv) supplementary inventories;
 - v) Improved used of firewood, and charcoal production management;
- b) Communal VFM activities:
 - i) Assisted natural regeneration and forest restoration grants (US\$2000 per village)¹⁹;
 - ii) NTFP domestication, and village tree nurseries;
 - iii) Forest fire control;
 - iv) Partnerships and agreements with commercial tree plantations in PFAs (based on markets and location, linked with activity 1.2.4 below)
- c) Household VFM activities:
 - i) Timber harvesting, processing and marketing of wood products in PFAs (as permitted by the country's legal framework);
 - ii) Harvesting, processing and marketing of NTFPs²⁰;

¹⁹ Forest restoration grants could be used to purchase equipment or materials, or to employ villagers for casual labor linked to village forest restoration activities.

²⁰ Examples could include: a) Bamboo shoot processing and bamboo forest management; b) promotion of medicinal root NTFPs; c) survey, management and value chain development of wild mushroom; d) co-management of native fish conservation zones.

iii) Smallholder tree plantations on private land (in PFAs and PtFAs).

42. *Link to Activity 2.1.1 Village Livelihoods Block Grants.* Block grants for villages to select and implement their own livelihoods development activities in line with VFM, or other non-forestry or non-farm livelihoods activities, will be provided to selected villages through the Village Development Fund. Other costs for VFM will be borne here under Component 1.2.

43. *Link to Activity 1.2.6 Green Infrastructure.* This activity is linked to activity 1.2.6 on green infrastructure which seeks to support small irrigation, climate resilient feeder roads, and slope stabilization with trees in association with VFM.

Activity 1.2.4 Extension and Village advisory services. US\$4,000,000 (US\$1,144,274 IDA; US\$2,327,726 GEF; US\$528,000 CCEFCF)

44. This activity will support PAFOs and DAFOs to provide extension and advisory services to villages on the forestry and agronomic topics supported under Components 1 and 2, supporting village-level collective activities such as VFM and small irrigation and household activities such as smallholder forestry and agriculture. Topics include forest and land management techniques and approaches, agroforestry practices based on context and demand, crop and livestock management practices, conservation, and reducing vulnerability to natural hazards such as flooding and drought. Specific forestry extension activities will include tree and NTFP planting and establishment, in silviculture, harvest and processing.

45. The project will fund continuous training of PAFO and DAFO extension staff, and supplement these teams with dedicated project consultants:

a) A Provincial Project Coordinator will oversee the provision of technical support by District project teams, and report to the national project coordination team in DOF.

b) District project teams (2-4 based on needs and location), consisting of local consultants with different expertise on forest and natural resource management, community development, small infrastructure, and administration, will oversee delivery of technical and extension services to the villages and report to the provincial project coordinator. The district project team will coordinate workplans, training and tasks with District and Province government technical staff, based on skills and availability. The district project team will be supported by local project assistants/young graduates for village level mobilization.

c) Village Facilitators (project assistants or young graduates, each covering 3-4 villages) will support DAFO and PAFO staff in daily village engagement, mobilize communities, follow up on technical and extension support and monitor village level activities and report to the District project team.

46. These activities will be complemented using local radio, television and other media. Targeted trainings will be provided on climate change and disaster response, including key concepts of climate-related risks and opportunities adapted to the local context. Key output of these trainings will be the preparation of evacuation protocols and timely and actionable information through multiple channels on the onset of climate change-induced disasters such as flash floods.

Activity 1.2.5 Enabling activities for private investment in environmentally and socially sustainable industrial tree plantations. US\$440,000 (US\$296,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$144,000 CCEFCF)

47. This set of activities aim to support DOF to enhance governance and risk management capacity to facilitate, regulate, and leverage the current and planned private sector investment in industrial tree plantations, which are set to expand.

48. The project will finance DOF, and other agencies where appropriate, to:

- a) Identify appropriate areas for environmentally and socially sustainable plantation development opportunities in interested villages. If villages agree, share the village forest and land use plans (from 1.2.1 above) with private investors (or even include private investors in the forest and land use planning process with villages where suitable);
- b) Pilot out grower demonstration schemes;
- c) Develop and provide incentives through improved genetic stock, technical support, fertilizer and access to markets encouraging smallholders/farmers to invest in environmentally and socially sustainable out-grower plantation initiatives in suitable identified areas inside PFAs, or outside the three official forest categories.

Activity 1.2.6 Research and development for production forestry. US\$900,000 (US\$612,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$288,000 CCEFCF)

49. This activity will support DOF, coordinating with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), the National University of Laos (NUOL) and others as needed, to conduct applied research and development on the following:

- a) Natural Forest Restoration. Priorities include:
 - i) Monitor, analyze and share results of natural regeneration, growth and yield in permanent sample plots (PSP) in natural forests and in assisted natural regeneration forest areas to estimate annual allowable cuts for sustainable forest management;
 - ii) Establish in situ and ex situ gene conservation areas;
 - iii) Establish certified seed production stands and seed management facilities to provide quality germplasm for planting of selected natural forest species;
 - iv) Rejuvenate and up-skill the National Tree Seed Centre for natural forest species planting;
 - v) Undertake carbon and financial analyses on natural forest restoration to evaluate the environmental and social sustainability of natural forest restoration in different forest types.
- b) Environmentally and Socially Sustainable Plantation Forests. Research priorities may include:
 - i) Strengthen soils and site productivity and site-specific matching for soil and foliar analyses and laboratory capacity and capability;
 - ii) Evaluate viability of alternative tending (manual and chemical methods of weed control and nutrition maintenance), silviculture (thinning and pruning) and harvesting (mechanized and manual);

- iii) Improve disease-resistant seed and seedling production particularly for smallholder and SMEs;
- iv) Strengthen forest pathology and entomology research, skills and laboratory facilities within the existing agricultural research centers;
- v) Enable smallholders and outgrowers to accurately assess quantity of wood produced according to standard, proven methodologies;
- vi) Improve plantation forestry survey techniques to monitor social, environmental and economic impacts of plantation forest developments (large scale and smallholder); and
- vii) Analyze supply/value chains to provide smallholders and SMEs market feedback on specifications, demand, supply and price for wood and non-wood products.

Activity 1.2.7 Green infrastructure for resilient villages, livelihoods and jobs. US\$5,800,000 (US\$3,944,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$1,856,000 CCEFCF)

50. The project will finance the development of locally appropriate green and green/grey infrastructure for multiple benefits including jobs, climate and disaster risk reduction, and economic development from forests and nature-based tourism. Some of the infrastructure will be identified in the local and village forest and land use planning processes supported in Components 1.1 and 1.2. Extension and technical support will be provided through the extension arrangements described in activity 1.2.4 above, with national, provincial, district and local partners where appropriate. These community works will generate jobs and household income through labor mobilization of villages in the project area. Women will be expected to be among the employed. No large-scale labor influx will be expected, except in a handful of potential cases where a longer feeder or access road might be constructed. Climate benefits include reduced vulnerability to flood, drought, landslides and erosion.

51. There are three main types of green infrastructure financed under the Project:

- a) Small-scale irrigation systems (under US\$20,000 per village). These systems will be accompanied by upstream forest protection in the command area (averaging 650 ha), using inter-village agreements and payments for ecosystem services (i.e., part of a harvest) as relevant, and embedded into the village forest plan. Water User Groups will be formed and supported to provide labor for constructing and maintaining the irrigation. This will contribute to climate change adaptation, by reducing yield variability from climate shocks such as drought and floods.
- b) Climate-resilient feeder roads, small bridges, small cross drainage, and small village-managed reservoirs. This will contribute to climate change adaptation, by improving access and general disaster risk preparedness of villages in case of climate shocks such as flood, drought, landslides and erosion.
- c) Stabilization of fragile steep slopes, lakeshores, riverbanks, and road corridors through re-vegetation (i.e., vetiver grass, moringa, etc), contours/terracing, forest restoration, reforestation, assisted natural regeneration, with partial economic uses. These sustainable land management measures will boost resilience, especially where combined with grey infrastructure. These labor-intensive works will contribute to climate change adaptation, by improving slope stability and reducing risks from flooding. In addition, it will also contribute to climate change mitigation, by planting and

maintaining trees strategic areas to improve the flow of ecosystem services and carbon storage capacity.

Component 2: Livelihoods Opportunities from Sustainable Forest Landscapes

Total financing: US\$9,245,000

IDA: US\$6,285,000

GEF: US\$0

CCEFCF: US\$ 2,960,000

Implementation: DOF

52. **The objective of this component is to improve forest-smart livelihoods opportunities, vocational skills, and nature-based tourism development in targeted landscapes.** Key rural livelihoods supported or facilitated by the project are community-driven and relate to local forest management and sustainability objectives.

53. This component is closely linked to the natural resource planning and management activities in Component 1 and targets the same villages. There are three subcomponents: a) 2.1 Village Livelihood Block Grants to Village Development Funds, b) 2.2 Vocational Training, and skills development c) 2.3 Nature-based Tourism Business Leveraging Facility.

54. *Response to COVID-19 economic impacts:* This component will play a pivotal role in boosting the recovery of rural livelihoods in forest areas. The project will use existing government systems to channel funds to forest villages through the VDFs, based on successful models used in other on-going projects in Lao PDR. Vocational training for locally appropriate market-based activities will provide additional employment opportunities.

55. *Addressing gender gaps in Component 2.* This component will facilitate the active and effective participation of women in village meetings, planning and decision making. Locating and timing of trainings to accommodate women's work schedules and preferences will enhance equitable participation and outreach. Partnerships with Lao Women Union (LWU), Lao National Front for Construction (LNFC), and local women's organizations will be leveraged to build on existing networks and best practices. Local livelihood activities will be designed in a participatory and inclusive way, ensuring that these activities do not merely increase women's workload, and ideally lower it instead (e.g. through less time spent collecting firewood and water, and cooking). Village level activities will include actions to ensure that women can receive direct payments, for example via cell phone, or new local bank accounts. 20 percent of the VLBG (US\$2,000 per village) will be earmarked for fast disbursing grants to the most vulnerable households, identified by the villages. 50 percent of the remaining VLBG (US\$4,000 per village) will be reserved for households with a female member as signatory. . Rural development NGOs will have opportunities to become implementation partners. Private businesses will be encouraged to become partners for tourism, value chain development, and handicrafts.

56. The component is organized in 3 subcomponents:

- a) 2.1: Village Livelihood Block Grants to Village Development Funds;
- b) 2.2: Vocational Training; and
- c) 2.3: Nature-based Tourism Business Leveraging Facility

Subcomponent 2.1: Village Livelihood Block Grants to Village Development Funds

Total financing: US\$4,080,000

IDA: US\$6,000,000

GEF: 0

CCEFCF: US\$ 1,920,000

Implementation: DOF

57. The objective of this subcomponent is to strengthen forest-smart village livelihoods and job opportunities in targeted landscapes.

58. This subcomponent will support the villages supported in Component 1 to implement forest-smart livelihood activities identified during the village forest and land use planning exercise under Component 1. Village Livelihoods Block Grants (VLBGs) will be provided through the existing Village Development Funds (VDFs) based on the successful initiation of the mobilization, resource planning, and extension activities funded in Component 1.

59. In Lao PDR, the VDFs are revolving funds generally managed by the villages themselves through a Village Committee. Generally, credits from the VDF are provided to households for specific farm and non-farm income-earning activities based on specific criteria. The VDFs are usually operated as revolving mechanisms to expand impact and reach more households than a grant-based system will reach. VDF funds can also be used for collective activities that benefit all households, such as local small infrastructure. LLL financing under this subcomponent will rely on and reinforce the VDF system.

60. In LLL, VLBGs will be US\$10,000 per village. 20 percent (US\$2000) will be allocated to the 10 most vulnerable households in the village as grants. These households are identified by the villages themselves through a community targeting exercise, based on criteria including:

61. In LLL, VLBGs will be US\$10,000 per village. 20 percent (US\$2000) will be allocated to the 10 most vulnerable households in the village as grants. These households are identified by the villages themselves through a community targeting exercise. This portion of grants will be disbursed upfront as soon as village are selected and the community targeting is completed, while the remaining 80 percent will be disbursed after the forest and land use planning (component 1) is completed. Some criteria for community targeting include:

- a) Poverty;
- b) economic disaster (can include excessive debt, sudden death, etc.);
- c) health problems (chronical diseases/disabilities, or other livelihoods impeding conditions);

- d) nature-induced disaster (destruction on agricultural harvest or livestock, pest outbreak, etc.
- e) natural disasters (e. g flood, draughts, erosion, fire);
- f) Social exclusion (that limits ability to rights to social and economic development).

62. The remaining 80 percent of the VLBG (US\$8000 per village) will be disbursed in phases after the approval of the village forest and land use plan and village conservation agreements (in villages inside PAs) (supported under component 1). These funds will be managed by the VDF as revolving funds to implement household level projects compatible with the village forest and land use plan, according to village location. Half of the revolving funds (US\$4000) will be allocated to households with a female member as signatory, to incentivize women participation in the public life. In this category, the female member registers with the VDF, subscribes the loan, and is accountable for planning, implementation and financial reporting on the household project itself (irrespective of the status of the male in the household).

63. Female headed households where the woman is the only income earner (widow, separated, divorced, single mother, husband working outside of the village or abroad and not sending money) could also be considered vulnerable and therefore benefit of the 20 percent most vulnerable grants described above depending on the case and situation.

64. Filling gender gap assumptions. A first level assumption is that with a set quota women will by default participate more in village planning and meetings if they are to be the main signatories on the household's credit. Second level assumption is that by being more involved in village public life, women and men will see the added value of this participation and the overall village (included men) will benefit from this empowerment.

65. This subcomponent will rely on two community-driven development models proven in Lao PDR: one model for PAs' Guardian Villages, and one model for villages in other forest areas, as described below.

66. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs and village block grants for village subprojects to support the following activities:

Activity 2.1.1 Village Livelihood Block Grants in PAs and buffer zones. US\$2,000,000 (US\$1,360,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$640,000 CCEFCF)

67. This activity will provide funds to villages supported under Component 1.1 to implement, monitor and evaluate village livelihood development sub-projects identified in Component 1.1. Village Conservation Agreements (output under Component 1.1) are a pre-requisite to release village livelihoods block grants to the VDFs (except for the 20 percent direct allocation for the most vulnerable households which is disbursed immediately after village selection). This approach builds on experience from the LENS-2 project. Under the collaborative PA management approach promoted and financed by the project, "buffer villages" serve as empowered "guardians" for the protected areas, playing a role in regulating access by others into the area and monitoring activities.

Activity 2.1.2 Village Livelihoods Block Grants in production and protection forest areas. US\$4,000,000 (US\$2,720,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$1,280,000 CCEFCF)

68. This activity will provide funds to villages supported under Component 1.2 to implement, monitor and evaluate village livelihood development subprojects identified in Component 1.2. Village forest and land use plans (output under Component 1.2) are a pre-requisite to release village livelihoods block grants to the VDFs (except for the 20 percent direct allocation for the most vulnerable households which is disbursed immediately after village selection). This approach builds on the village grants system successfully implemented under the SUFORD SU project. Example of eligible livelihood activities implemented in the past are:

- a) 'Nor Ja' bamboo production promotion (consumption, income generation);
- b) Crispy riverweed production and quality improvement for value chain;
- c) Promotion of improved native and black chicken raising and value chain;
- d) Promotion of *Thysanolaena maxima* (broom grass) planting;
- e) Promotion of *Araceae* spp germplasm collection and plantation;
- f) Organic vegetable cultivation promotion;
- g) Organic production, seed improvement, value chain of 'Khao Gai Noi' rice;
- h) Promotion of sustainable banana and orange plantation;
- i) Intercropping maize with beans to improve short rotation upland fallow;
- j) Legume inter/cover cropping in upland fields;
- k) High value crops and wet rice field development irrigated by infrastructure built in component 1.

Subcomponent 2.2: Vocational training and skills development

Total financing: US\$1,000,000

IDA: US\$680,000

GEF: 0

CCEFCF: US\$320,000

Implementation: DOF

69. **The objective of this subcomponent is to improve employment and livelihoods opportunities for people in villages supported by the project.** The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to support vocational training and skills development for local people in the same villages supported under Component 1 to enter the labor market or even start micro-businesses.

70. **Training will be delivered in the village and through a scholarship system for selected youth to attend vocational schools in district or province capitals.** Selection criteria will be developed and third-party service providers or CSOs could be hired to manage the vocational training program under DOF NPCU supervision.

71. Topics will be based on local market demand and could include, for example:

- a) Skills for service industries such as tourism and hospitality (guiding, driving, language, cooking, hotel operations). Such trainings will be supplied through higher education institutions, by INGOs and consultants specializing in such subjects, and through practical learning opportunities;
- b) Small business management skills (bookkeeping, business planning, etc.);
- c) Timber-based enterprise skills such as smallholder tree plantations, wood processing, and furniture making;
- d) NTFP and food processing for value chains;
- e) Non-farm skills such as handicrafts, engine repair, construction, and household energy installations including efficient cookstoves. Partnerships with the private sector will be encouraged for such training to ensure that trainings are market oriented and meet market demands and standards;

72. To help address gender gaps related to economic opportunities and skills development, a special focus will be placed on encouraging women to participate in the training, and devising courses responding to their vocational interests and job market opportunities.

Subcomponent 2.3: Nature-based Tourism Business Leveraging Facility

Total financing: US\$ 1,525,000

IDA: US\$2,245,000

GEF: 0

CCEFCF: US\$720,000

Implementation: DOF NPCU through a third-party facility management company

73. **The objective of this subcomponent is to strengthen development of nature-based tourism by encouraging private sector participation, especially in and around PAs.** This objective will be accomplished through a “nature-based tourism business leveraging facility” to be established with project support.

74. The nature-based tourism business leveraging facility will provide:

- a) Advisory services to tourism companies on product development, market surveys, etc.
- b) Financing for small public infrastructure, marketing, and other aspects of the local enabling environment for tourism development in accordance with private sector investment plans and public destination management plans;
- c) Training and capacity building for the management and staff. Support will be provided to private nature-based tourism firms (legally registered and licensed) and registered micro or community tourism businesses based on an application process overseen by a third party and approved by the project coordination and implementation units (MAF/PAFO and other relevant authorities).

75. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs, and MSME funds to support the following activities:

- a) Design of the facility and contracting a fund facility management company;
- b) Information dissemination to the business community about the facility;

- c) Technical assistance to review applications and support businesses:
 - i) Expression of interest with a brief proposal;
 - ii) Screening and selection;
 - iii) Business plan development.
- d) MSME funds to disburse;
- e) Monitoring and reporting.

76. Access to the facility will require tourism businesses a) meet standards set by MOICT and relevant authorities, b) are registered micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSME) in the tourism sector that have built, or are willing to build, economic partnerships with communities in target sites and PAs, c) follow protected area management plans (where relevant), tourism development plans and guidelines of PAs in which the proposed investment is located, and d) are willing to follow all relevant laws and regulations relating to enterprises and investment.

77. The facility will have three types of financing available:

- a) Planning and feasibility work (No matching required from the applicant): which will have no minimum amount per application, no matching required and a maximum contribution of US\$2,500. Such funds will account for no more than 10 percent of the total funds available.
- b) Challenge Funds: These will target investment in particular areas or for more specific investments, typically to attracting concession investments or public private partnerships identified by the project as high priorities. Maximum contribution of US\$40,000 per challenge to support investments of US\$100,000 or more. Such funds will account for no more than 40 percent of the total funds available.
- c) Matching funds for MSMEs: For product development and marketing work for businesses located in and around the project areas and other protected areas around the country up to US\$10,000 per application and a maximum of 2 applications per MSME. This type of funding will account for at least 50 percent of the total funds. The following matching requirements can include in-kind contributions. Matching requirement will be as follows:

Table A2.1. Amount of Matching Funds Required

Type of work	Project will fund:	Applicant will fund:
Construction of new facilities / buildings	50 percent	50 percent (can include in-kind contributions of materials and labor)
Upgrade to existing facilities and equipment	70 percent	30 percent (can include in-kind contributions of materials and labor)
Training	90 percent	10 percent (can include accommodation, per diem, and travel for trainers and trainees)
Development of new or improved activities, attractions, tours, and key equipment	70 percent	30 percent
Development of new or improved websites, brochures, marketing campaigns, marketing materials / advertising	90 percent	10 percent (can include in-kind contributions of accommodation, food and travel)

78. *Administration:* The facility will be managed by a fund facility management company, with approval of contracts by the NPCU/PPCU (MAF/PAFO) and providing funds to MSMEs. The company responsible for the NBT business leveraging facility will be selected by the NPCU using World Bank Procedures. The company will employ a short-term international tourism expert for 1-2 months per year to advise and support overall design, vetting of applications, and recommendations on how to technically support the businesses. It will employ 1-2 full-time national tourism experts to follow up with up with the PIUs/sites to disseminate information about the fund, follow up with processing application, and provide or procure technical support for the businesses. The NPCU will be responsible for following up with applications and for monitoring effectiveness of disbursements. Monitoring will also be done remotely by the company/NPCU through photo reporting, sent via an online medium such as WhatsApp or Facebook.

79. *Contracting:* Contracts for the matching grants will follow a similar template used by the Business Assistance Facility (BAF)²¹. Approval will be made by an approval committee, which will include national and provincial PMU members, other relevant authorities (tourism) and include a tourism expert or representative from the tourism industry. Contracting for the grants will be made between the project (NPCU) and the grantee.

Component 3: Institutions, Incentives and Information

Total: US\$8,770,000

IDA: US\$5,700,000

GEF: US\$350,000

CCEFCF: US\$2,720,000

Implementation: Various agencies

80. **The objective of this component is to strengthen institutions, policies, incentives and information for sustainable forest landscapes.** This component will finance forest governance activities via three subcomponents:

- a) 3.1 Strengthening Institutions and Policies for Landscape Management,
- b) 3.2 Strengthening Institutions and Policies to Curb Forest and Wildlife Crimes, and
- c) 3.3 Information for Decision Support.

Subcomponent 3.1: Strengthening Institutions and Policies for Landscape Management

Total: US\$5,190,000

IDA: US\$3,400,000

GEF: US\$350,000

CCEFCF: US\$1,440,000

Implementation: DOF

²¹ BAF is financed under the Lao PDR Small and Medium Enterprise Access to Finance Project (P131201) supported by the Bank.

81. **The objective of this subcomponent is to strengthen institutions and policies for sustainable forest landscapes.** The subcomponent supports government institutions to strengthen and develop relevant public policy, strategy, regulations, and guidelines and to meet various international commitments. The subcomponent also supports a GoL-led multisector and multi-stakeholder platform and capacity building for GoL to inform decision-making, manage trade-offs and identify mutual opportunities across sectors.

82. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to implement the following activities:

Activity 3.1.1: Centralized support to the Protected Area Management Division (PAMD) and Wildlife Management Division (WMD) of the Department of Forestry. US\$2,713,000 (US\$1,611,000 IDA; US\$350,000 GEF; US\$752,000 CCEFCF)

83. This activity centers on building central level expertise for each specialization of PA management. The central level divisions in DOF supported by this activity will technically and operationally support PA authorities funded under Component 1.1. The PAMD is insufficiently staffed. Human resources will be enhanced through consultancies. The Wildlife Management Division is comparatively quite well staffed, but also could benefit from consultancies.

84. The project will finance:

a) *Centralized support for PAMD.* The Protected Area Management Division of DOF will be supported to strengthen its capacity to provide technical supervision to the PAs supported under LLL in particular as well as the overall National Protected Area system. Key institutional capacities to be strengthened include:

- i) Collaborative PA management,
- ii) Ranger patrolling;
- iii) Outreach;
- iv) Livelihood development for conservation;
- v) Tourism development; and
- vi) Training support (linked to Activity 3.1.2)

b) *Centralized support for WMD.* The Wildlife Management Division will be supported to strengthen its capacity to provide technical supervision on biodiversity monitoring and research to the emerging National Protected Areas. This might include:

- i) Biodiversity monitoring;
- ii) Biodiversity assessments;
- iii) Biodiversity research (basic level); and
- iv) Development of a biodiversity information database.

Activity 3.1.2: Renovation and upgrading of existing forestry training facilities, and field training on NBT management. US\$904,000 (US\$272,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$632,000 CCEFCF)

85. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to:

- a) Renovate training facilities, upgrading the existing forestry national training center, and other existing structures for field level training. Existing facilities in the eastern portion of PKK NPA (approximately two hours' drive outside Vientiane), will be renovated to host field-based training in nature-based tourism management.
- b) Organize and hold periodic field training on nature-based tourism management for PA staff and university graduates. Training could include: (i) tourism site planning, (ii) management of tourism concessions, (iii) waterfalls management, (iv) trail design and maintenance, (v) interpretation and signage, and (vi) litter management. These field courses would be built on domestic nature-based tourism activities. The field center would be managed by a modest administration team, supported by short-term training consultants.

Activity 3.1.3: Support to enhance policy framework for protected area management and biodiversity conservation US\$153,000 (US\$121,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$32,000 CCEFCF)

86. DOF and relevant partners will be supported to enhance the policy and legal framework on key topics such as:

- a) Carry out relevant assessments and consultations for policy development;
- b) 10 year Action Plan for National Protected Areas;
- c) Training needs assessment for protected areas;
- d) Revision/updating of approved guidelines in relation to the 2019 Forestry Law (e.g. buffer zones inside NPAs);
- e) Preparation of new guidelines (e.g. transboundary collaboration, conducting social and environment impact assessments inside PAs, wildlife release and reintroduction);
- f) Preparation of field manuals to provide practical interpretation of the approved Guidelines;
- g) Assessments to establish/upgrade new National Parks and other protected areas following IUCN categories;
- h) World or ASEAN Heritage assessments and designations.

Activity 3.1.4: Support to enhance regulatory framework for tourism concessions in protected areas, including the preparation of regulatory guidelines for concessions. US\$160,000 (US\$128,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$32,000 CCEFCF)

87. A joint committee, chaired by MPI, on tourism concessions and licensing policy development will be supported for continued improvements in the enabling environment for NBT investment in Lao PDR. The committee will include MAF/DOF, MOICT, MONRE, MPWT, LWU, and other relevant agencies:

- a) Carry out relevant assessments and consultations for policy development;
- b) Determine concession fee structures, along with the required steps for approval that bring together investment, forestry and tourism laws and regulations;

- c) Hold workshops with local governments in target areas on procedures for investment;
- d) Review regulations at the local level to reduce barriers to investment in tourism in select PAs and ensure that investors adhere to management objectives and regulations;
- e) Lead the development of a national investment strategy for tourism concessions in PAs;
- f) Develop best practice guidelines for concessions; and
- g) Develop regulatory procedures that can be followed by relevant agencies at national and provincial levels and pilot examples.

Activity 3.1.5: Support to enhance the policy framework for environmentally and socially sustainable forest plantations and village forestry. US\$300,000 (US\$204,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$96,000 CCEFCF)

88. DOF and other relevant agencies will be supported to:

- a) Carry out relevant assessments and consultations for policy development;
- b) Enhance the legal and policy framework related to enabling environmentally and socially sustainable forest plantations with respect to PFAs; and
- c) Develop village forestry policy, procedures, and practitioners' guidelines and regulations.

Activity 3.1.6: Timber legality assurance system (TLAS) piloting and certification support throughout the value chain. US\$800,000 (US\$544,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$256,000 CCEFCF)

89. This activity seeks to continue and expand Lao PDR's effort to meet the growing global demand for legal, certified sustainable wood ("good wood") if and when wood harvesting and exports are allowed, and where relevant. The project will support DOF to:

- a) Expand of SFM and controlled wood certification. Priority will be given to LLL project areas, as relevant. In the SUFORD-SU project, SFM and controlled wood certification was successfully verified by a third party on 110,000 hectares in 2019.
- b) Develop information campaigns for Chain of Custody (CoC) certification in the supply and value chain if timber harvesting in the SFM certified areas is allowed on an exceptional basis by the Government.
- c) Contribute to the TLAS process by pilot testing the control mechanism for the supply chain in PFAs and support further development of the legal framework. Priority will be given to LLL project areas, as relevant;
- d) Explore the establishment, requirements, and feasibility of developing a Lao National Forest Management Standard (similar to Vietnam's and others').

Subcomponent 3.2: Strengthening Institutions and Policies to Reduce Forest and Wildlife Crimes

Total Financing: US\$2,480,000

IDA: US\$1,680,000

GEF: 0

CCEFCF: US\$800,000

Implementation: EPF leads, implemented by DOFI and other collaborating GoL agencies

90. **The objective of this subcomponent is to strengthen institutions and policies to reduce forest and wildlife crimes.** This subcomponent will support government institutions in: a) strengthening and developing relevant public policy, strategy, regulations, and guidelines in coordination with among agencies as relevant; b) participating in and meeting various international commitments such as CITES, in coordination with among agencies as relevant; c) developing and maintaining public awareness efforts and local networks on how to reduce wildlife and forest crime in coordination with among agencies as relevant; d) strengthening and implementing a GoL-led multi-agency coordination platform on reducing wildlife and forest crimes (Lao Wildlife Enforcement Network, or Lao WEN); e) carry out field activities by relevant national agencies, in cooperation among agencies when and where relevant; and f) supporting the capacity of provincial agencies to implement field activities through Provincial Wildlife Enforcement Networks (P-WEN) in selected provinces.

91. The subcomponent provides dedicated resources to reinforce multi-agency coordination on selected activities, which is an important aspect for achieving the subcomponent objective. As such, the subcomponent will support some of the agencies that are collaborating together under the GOL's Lao-WEN, which is chaired by DOFI. Relevant agencies include: DOFI, DOF, Department Combatting Natural Resource and Environmental Crime (DCNEC, of the Ministry of Public Security), Army (of the Ministry of Defence), Anti-Money Laundering Intelligence Office (AMLIO), Lao Customs Department (LCD, of the Ministry of Finance) and Office of Public Prosecutions (OPP, of the Ministry of Justice). Of these, project-financed activities will be implemented.

92. Project support will also be channelled through national institutions to strengthen selected key provincial agencies to carry out their legal mandates to reduce forest and wildlife crimes. These provincial agencies are members of selected P-WENs. Project support will initially focus on the same priority landscapes supported in Components 1 and 2, namely Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet and Houaphan provinces. P-WENs are at an early stage of development. LLL will focus on establishing and maintaining their function so agencies can better work together, as relevant, to gather intelligence, investigate crimes, and disrupt criminal enterprises.

93. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to implement the following activities by DOFI, DOF, DCNEC and LCD, respectively.

94. **Activity 3.2.1: Support to DOFI and POFIs US\$1,500,000 (US\$1,020,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$480,000 CCEFCF).** The project will support DOFI on: a) strengthening and developing relevant public policy, strategy, regulations, and guidelines,²² such as leading development of the Lao WEN Cooperation Framework, updating of the Lao WEN Strategy, and participating in DOF's update of the Wildlife Law; b) developing and maintaining public awareness efforts and local networks on how to reduce wildlife and forest crime in coordination with relevant agencies; c) carry out relevant field activities, in cooperation

²² Regulations and guidelines could include, for example, relevant topics such as PA law enforcement, airports, international and traditional border crossings, highways, wildlife crime suppression, investigations, data sharing and reporting, and awareness raising

with other agencies when and where relevant; d) strengthening and maintaining Lao WEN, including by (i) developing MOUs between the concerned law enforcement agencies; (ii) organizing key inter-agency working groups or task forces on various topics; (iii) arranging study tours and training for all Lao WEN agencies; (iv) organizing bilateral MOUs among neighboring countries, and participating in international wildlife and forest law enforcement networks and various international commitments; e) supporting the capacity of selected Provincial Offices of Forest Inspection (POFI) to implement field activities initially in Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet and Houaphan, and to establish and maintain the respective P-WEN.

95. **Activity 3.2.2: Support to DOF US\$120,000 (US\$88,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$32,000 CCEFCF).** The project will support DOF on: a) strengthening and developing relevant public policy, strategy, regulations, and guidelines, such as leading the update of the Wildlife Law, and participating in DOFI's development of the Lao WEN Cooperation Framework and update of the Lao WEN Strategy; b) participating in international dialogues and meeting various international commitments such as CITES and FLEGT; c) participating in Lao WEN. Note that PA ranger patrolling and village outreach are funded in subcomponent 1.1 under the specific PA activity budgets.

96. **Activity 3.2.3: Support to DCNEC US\$720,000 (US\$480,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$240,000 CCEFCF).** The project will support DCNEC on: a) strengthening and developing relevant public policy, strategy, regulations, and guidelines, such as participating in DOF's update of the Wildlife Law, and DOFI's development of the Lao WEN Cooperation Framework and update of the Lao WEN Strategy; b) participating in international dialogues and meeting various international commitments such as CITES and FLEGT; c) carry out relevant field activities, in cooperation with other agencies when and where relevant; d) participating in Lao WEN; (e) supporting the capacity of selected provincial offices of the environmental police to implement field activities initially in Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, Savannakhet and Houaphan, and to participate in the respective P-WEN.

97. **Activity 3.2.4: Support to LCD US\$140,000 (US\$92,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$48,000 CCEFCF).** The project will support LCD on: a) strengthening and developing relevant public policy, strategy, regulations, and guidelines, such as participating in the update of the Wildlife Law, and participating in DOFI's development of the Lao WEN Cooperation Framework and update of the Lao WEN Strategy; b) developing and maintaining public awareness efforts at international and national entry and exit points; c) participating in international dialogues and meeting various international commitments such as CITES and FLEGT; d) carrying out relevant field activities, in cooperation with other agencies when and where relevant; e) participating in Lao WEN and P-WENs as relevant.

Subcomponent 3.3: Information for Decision Support

Total financing: US\$1,100,000

IDA financing: US\$620,000

GEF co-financing: 0

CCEFCF: US\$ 480,000

Implementation: EPF leads, implemented by various agencies (MONRE, MAF, Lao Statistics Bureau under Ministry of Planning and Investment)

98. **The objective of this subcomponent is to strengthen information, monitoring, and planning to support better landscape-level decision making.** The subcomponent will support the information infrastructure for managing key environmental and social risks related to natural disasters and large-scale investments, and generate, manage and share relevant data for better-informed decision making for managing trade-offs and mutual opportunities in the landscape.

99. The project will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to implement the following activities.

Activity 3.3.1 Support for implementation of the policy framework for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) US\$150,000 (US\$78,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$72,000 CCEFCF)

100. This activity supports the Department of Environment (DOE) under the ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) to carry out the regulatory mandate of MONRE to oversee SEA, and enhance and fill gaps in the regulatory environment through policy development. This activity will involve orientation workshops and training on SEA with national and provincial agencies to strengthen the overall SEA process in line with the SEA policy actions carried out in 2016-2019. SEA is a key tool for helping manage trade-offs and mutual opportunities in the broader landscape.

Activity 3.3.2 Support for implementation of the policy framework for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) US\$210,000 (US\$122,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$88,000 CCEFCF)

101. This activity supports the Department of Environment (DOE) to carry out the regulatory mandate of MONRE to oversee ESIA and enhance and fill gaps in the regulatory environment through policy development. This activity will involve orientation workshops and training on ESIA with national and provincial agencies to strengthen the overall ESIA process in line with the ESIA policy actions carried out in 2016-2019. ESIA is a key tool for ensuring that individual projects do not harm the sustainability of the broader landscape including conservation and social development objectives. In particular the project will:

- a) Support the development, validation, and approval of targeted regulations (guidelines) on ESIA for landscape related investments. The process will be consultative in nature and include relevant government agencies and other partners where appropriate. Key guidelines will be developed on:
 - i) ESIA for industrial tree plantations (with MAF and Ministry of Industry and Commerce);
 - ii) ESIA for large concessions for nature-based tourism inside and outside PAs (with MAF, MPI, and Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism).
 - iii) Environmental Compliance Certificates for small-scale tourism businesses and projects
- b) Support continued implementation of the ESIA public participation and disclosure including a fully operational database.
- c) Support an ESIA advisory review panel at DEP to assist DEP/MONRE in fulfilling its ESIA mandate.

Activity 3.3.3 Monitor and report on NDC implementation nationally US\$45,000 (US\$5,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$40,000 CCEFCF)

102. This activity will support the Department of Climate Change (DCC/MONRE) to monitor progress towards implementation of forest and land use commitments taken under the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the Paris Climate Accord, which was revised in 2020. The project will finance workshops, meetings, and working sessions that convene all relevant sectors and line ministries focusing to maintain and expand forest cover, which is the main strategy to meet NDC targets.

Activity 3.3.4 Intergovernmental capacity on natural capital accounting for decision making US\$115,000 (US\$59,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$56,000 CCEFCF)

103. This activity will support effective landscape management by monitoring and systematizing data of key issues such as water, wetlands, land, spatial assessment capacity, etc. Collaboration with the Natural Capital Working Group and the Environmental Statistics Division in the Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) will be sought to improve data management and collection. The project will support LSB, MONRE, MAF and other ministries in the development of ecosystem accounts (EEA), and water and land accounts (as sub-sets of EEA). The project will finance:

- a) A survey on water abstraction for household use and land use;
 - b) An analysis/study to support the development of water and land accounts;
- Workshops and training on data collection and analysis.

104. The activity will build on ongoing Bank engagement with the inter-ministerial Lao PDR Natural Capital Working Group supported by a past grant of the Global Program on Sustainability (GPS) Trust Fund and leverage parallel bilateral support from Luxembourg to LSB.

Activity 3.3.5 Advancing the policy framework on land tenure recognition inside forestlands US\$220,000 (US\$132,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$88,000 CCEFCF)

105. This activity will support the ongoing national process for recognition of land tenure in forestlands and fill existing policy and regulatory gaps. The project will support coordination between Department of Land (DOL) of MONRE, DOF, and the Department of Agricultural Land Management (DALaM) at MAF to advance the development of technical expertise and tools to clarify access, use, ownership, and rights to land inside the three forest categories. Activities will include, for example:

- a) Development of assessments and regulations (guidelines) on the recognition of:
 - i) Individual rights in forestlands;
 - ii) Collective rights in forestlands;
 - iii) Customary rights in forestlands;
 - iv) Private rights in forestlands (use, sale, lease, commercial);
 - v) Land use designation and change in forestlands.
- b) Multi-stakeholder workshops, meetings, and consultations at national and sub-national levels, including village level.

c) If and when good policy is approved by the GoL, the project could support operating costs for developing operational manuals and training programs to support implementation of the policy framework on forestland tenure.

106. The activity will leverage and complement the ongoing dialogue between the Bank and DOL as part of the preparation of the Systematic Land Registration IPF (P169669), which will target land registration only outside forestland and broader institutional support.

Activity 3.3.6 Impact assessments for landscape management US\$360,000 (US\$224,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$136,000 CCEFCF)

107. This activity will support innovative adaptive project management and learning (see activity 4.1.2), as well as expanding the broader information base for effective decision making at landscape level in Lao PDR. The project will finance the development, and validation by stakeholders of the following assessments:

- a) Impacts on livelihoods, jobs and poverty;
- b) Impacts on landscape valuation and ecosystem services Landscape governance (including collaborative and decentralized natural resource management);
- c) Impact of landscape governance modalities (including collaborative PA management and village forestry);
- d) Gender;
- e) Resilience;
- f) Wildlife law enforcement, zoonotic disease prevention and One Health.

108. The assessments complement project M&E, inform the project's adaptive learning activities and the mid-term review. Impact assessments help understand, learn from, and adapt project management and activities related to key results areas that are often too complex for conventional project results frameworks. Methodologies for these assessments are diverse (e.g., these are not necessarily randomized controlled trials) and will generally include baseline data collection and dialogues with key stakeholders. Different assessments will be completed at different times starting in year 3, depending on the topic, to complement project M&E, and will inform the project's adaptive learning activities and the mid-term review.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring, and Learning

Total financing: US\$6,816,476

IDA financing: US\$4,341,476

GEF co-financing: US\$475,000

CCEFCF: US\$2,000,000

Implementation: DOF

109. **The objective of this component is to maintain and enhance project management, monitoring and learning.** This component finances works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and

incremental operating costs to support the activities of the Project Coordination Units (PCU) at central and provincial levels, and key support at district level. Support at the national level PCU in DOF includes overall project management, technical expertise, financial management, procurement, ESF implementation, M&E, learning, and targeted action research such as impact assessments. Provincial level PCUs will be established at PAFOs in seven provinces with slightly different staffing profiles than the national PCU profile. Each district will host district teams (described in Component 1.2.3) and village facilitators that will be the face of the project on the ground mobilizing and supporting villages and district staff alike. District teams are reinforced with limited financing under component 1.2.3.

110. This component will also finance learning events, study tours, strategic communication and regional dialogues and coordination on relevant topics such as forest plantations, forest products, wildlife, protected area management, and nature-based tourism.

Subcomponent 4.1: Project Management and Monitoring

Total: US\$6,556,476

IDA financing: US\$4,101,476

GEF co-financing: US\$475,000

CCEFCF: US\$1,920,000

Implementation: DOF, PAFOs

111. **The objective of this subcomponent is to provide effective and timely project management to LLL.** The subcomponent will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to support the following activities.

Activity 4.1.1. Fiduciary and technical team US\$6,306,476 (US\$4,400,476 IDA; US\$270,000 GEF; US\$1,906,000 CCEFCF)

112. Project management and technical teams in the NPCU, teams at partner ministries and sub-PCUs at provincial levels will be formed by a combination of government staff and supporting consultants hired by MAF, as well as GoL Volunteers. See tables A2.1, A2.2, and A2.3 below for a list of national, provincial and district team members. Consultants will be hired individually or collectively via a firm contract by DOF using project funds. Importantly for the GoL, grants from trust funds have been mobilized for this purpose so the GoL can direct more IDA financing toward on-ground investment. To boost sustainability post-project, all consultants will be required to deliver targeted capacity development of GoL staff as part of their TORs, with metrics to monitor consultant delivery and GoL staff participation in the training.

Table A2.2: Project management staffing support at national level

Position	Status (Seconded Government staff or Consultant hired by DOF)	International or national
National project coordinator	Government staff	N/A
2 National deputy project coordinators	Government staff (or consultant?)	N/A
Chief technical advisor (6 years)	Consultant	International

Communication advisor (part time)	Consultant	National
FM advisor (6 years)	Consultant	National
2 accountants	Consultants	National
Procurement advisor (6 years)	Consultant	National
Environmental risk and sustainability advisor (6 years)	Consultant	National
Social risk and sustainability advisor (6 years)	Consultant	National
Senior M&E advisor (6 years)	Consultant	National
International M&E advisor (part time)	Consultant	International
International livelihoods advisor (part time) (4 years)	Consultant	International
Livelihood (development) management advisor	Consultant	National
Natural resources management advisor	Consultant	National
International nature-based tourism advisor (part time)	Consultant	International
International forestry advisor (4 years)	Consultant	International
Senior rural engineer (roads, small irrigation, drainage, slope stabilization)	Consultant	National
Senior GIS advisor (part time)	Consultant	National

Table A2.3: Project management staffing support at provincial level (each province)

Position	Status (Seconded Government staff or Consultant hired by DOF)	International or national
Provincial Project Coordinator ok	Government staff	N/A
Provincial Deputy Project Coordinator ok	Government staff	National
International project facilitation and support	Consultant	International
FM ok	Consultant or Government staff	National
Procurement assistant	Government staff	National
Senior environmental risk and sustainability advisor ok	Consultant	National
Senior social risk and sustainability advisor ok	Consultant	National
M&E ok	Consultant or Government staff	National
Livelihoods ok	Consultant	National
Forestry and NRM ok	Consultant or Government staff	National
Senior rural engineer (roads, small irrigation, drainage, slope stabilization) ok	Consultant	National

Table A2.3: Project management staffing support at district level (Extension team financed under 1.2.3)

Position	Status (Seconded Government staff or Consultant hired by DOF)	International or national
District Project Coordinator	Government staff	N/A
Village development advisor (1 per 3-4 districts) different from village facilitators	Consultant	National
Natural resources management advisor (1 per 3-4 districts)	Consultant / Government staff	National
Village facilitators (1 per 3-4 villages)	Project assistant	National

Activity 4.1.2. Monitoring, evaluation, and learning. US\$250,000 (US\$31,000 IDA; US\$205,000 GEF; US\$14,000 CCEFCF).

113. This set of activities includes project M&E and other action research, monitoring of broader landscape and ecosystem health, cross-project monitoring exchanges and capacity development. To boost learning from project activities, institutional service delivery, transparency, and the timeliness and accuracy of results reporting, a highly skilled international M&E advisor will be hired by the DOF PCU to support the project team.

114. The project will take an adaptive project management approach based on learning; an innovation introduced by LLL in Lao PDR. The M&E system will inform the learning, but action research is also needed to measure key results areas that are often too complex for conventional project results frameworks. Impact assessments in these key areas include will be financed under activity 3.3.5.

Subcomponent 4.2: Strategic communication, partnerships and investment coordination

Total: US\$260,000

IDA financing: US\$260,000

GEF co-financing: 0

CCEFCF: US\$1,920,000

Implementation: DOF and EPF

115. **The objective of this subcomponent is to build partnerships and share knowledge through a robust knowledge management approach to convene and influence a wider cohort of actors beyond the direct project stakeholders.** The subcomponent will finance works, goods, non-consulting services, consulting services, and incremental operating costs to support the following knowledge and communications activities. Other key awareness campaigns and knowledge products will be developed under component 1 and 3 on a variety of topics.

Activity 4.2.1 Partnership and fund raising for Green Growth. (EPF) US\$60,000 (US\$28,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$32,000 CCEFCF)

116. This activity will help maximize and channel financing that contribute to sustainable forest landscapes, and the broader National Green Growth Strategy and includes dialogues, fundraising, roundtables, and so on.

Activity 4.2.2 Strategic communication and leadership development (DOF) US\$100,000 (US\$68,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$32,000 CCEFCF)

117. This activity will be carried out to advance the aims of all other components. It will in particular communicate project results that can assist in leveraging new financing. It will also support leadership development among GoL officials on landscape management.

Activity 4.2.3 Regional joint dialogue (DOF) US\$60,000 (US\$44,000 IDA; 0 GEF; US\$16,000 CCEFCF)

118. Dialogues will be supported in the Greater Annamites and broader Mekong region on biodiversity, resilient landscapes, nature-based tourism, and trade in forest products. Transboundary cooperation activities on wildlife and timber law enforcement (joint training, intel cooperation, etc.) are indicative early actions that can be strengthened as the agenda advances with neighboring countries in the context of the regional Mekong Forest Program, CITES, FLEGT, the World Bank / GEF Global Wildlife Program, and other entry points.

119. **Knowledge Management:** Overall, the KM approach of the project includes activities which will cut across the project components to contribute to an impactful project implementation strategy. Dedicated knowledge management and communications approaches will be part of the Project Operational Manual (POM) developed during implementation. Implementation of these approaches will result in the convening of key groups, producing flagship studies and practical publications that influence practitioners, policy makers, and investors, among other interventions. Through knowledge management and communications, plus the country dialogue, the project will provide the ‘space’ needed to seek solutions across multiple scales, as a means to amplify project impact. The project will work closely with stakeholders to (a) generate and exchange knowledge, (b) consolidate effort to share lessons and best practices, (c) promote outreach for strategic knowledge products, and (d) produce tools for scale-up and replication. Through a feedback loop, it will convene information from different landscapes and provinces, synthesize lessons learned and findings, and return relevant insights back to the village-level activities.

120. Component activities described above capture the KM activities, Specifically:

- Subcomponent 3.3 which supports information for decision support has an activity on impact assessments (US\$ 360,000). Impact assessments help understand, learn from, and adapt project management and activities related to key results areas that are often too complex for conventional project Results Frameworks. These topics include: (a) Impacts on livelihoods, jobs and poverty; (b) Impacts on landscape valuation and ecosystem services Landscape governance (including collaborative and decentralized natural resource management); (c) Impact of landscape governance modalities (including collaborative PA management and village forestry); (d) Gender; (e) Resilience; (f) Wildlife law enforcement, zoonotic disease prevention and One Health.
- Subcomponent 4.2 above on the Strategic communication, partnerships and investment coordination (US\$260,000), which has dedicated activities on strategic communication and leadership development regional dialogue on key project themes and a focus on partnerships and investment coordination

Response Matrix to GEFSEC, STAP And COUNCIL comments
Lao PDR - Lao Landscapes and Livelihoods IPF P170559/P171406 (IDA/GEF)

September 28, 2020

GEFSEC comments	WB Response
Please undertake careful budget planning for GEF funds during project preparation and please include a detailed budget for the project by CEO endorsement. This will assist us in better understanding the use of the GEF resources and address the previous question.	<p>The Project Document has been prepared and the detailed budget is provided in the GEF Template.</p> <p>Overall budget by component can be found in Project Document paragraph 42, and detailed activity description Annex 2 in the Project Document.</p>
Please remember to set METT baselines by CEO endorsement request submission	Baseline METT scores have been conducted for the 8 PAs supported during preparation and are included in the package.
Please address, through project preparation and at CER stage, the role of the NTPC in funding conservation of the offset (NNT-NPA) through 2035. Please include: the status of support to the management and stewardship of NNT-NPA under this offset agreement (a critical element of NT2 as we know)? What the offset resources are supporting vs the GEF increment (e.g. is the management of the actual PA is already covered but the development of ecotourism at the NNT-NPA site will be the focus of this portion of the investment etc) and any other information/explanation regarding the baseline of the offset resources vs the GEF contribution/increment	<p>The park receives funding from Nam Theun 2 Power Company (NTPC) as part of a 31-year concession agreement to 2035. Since 2014 the Bank and GEF have been co-financing the national park through the Second Lao Environment and Social Project (LENS2) which has been supporting the development of the institutional capacity of the GoL, NNT Management Authority¹ and all 50 Guardian Villages to manage the park and its resources through Village Conservation Agreements.</p> <p>Details can be found in Project Document Annex 2, Detailed component Description, and on LENS 2 implementation status reports which are publicly available.</p>

¹ The NNT National Park Management Authority used to be referred to as the Nam Theun 2 Watershed Management Protection Authority (NTT WMPA).

above and beyond what should otherwise be ongoing/baseline via this critical offset.	
March 5, 2020 HF, received by TT March 13: The baseline scenario is appropriately described although I did not see any non-World Bank-supported baseline projects included. Please either direct me to those or please include in subsequent draft/revisions.	A new Annex 10 is now included in the Project Document describing the existing and proposed projects/investments from other development partners to present the baseline context. However, kindly note that the project's baseline for the purposes of incremental reasoning is calculated as the parent IDA financing with which the GEF financing is fully blended.
March 5, 2020 HF, received by TT March 13: Although mentioned in section II number 2 it isn't completely clear what has happened in terms of stakeholder engagement to date and what are the proposed means of future stakeholder engagement. Please describe.	<p>The concept since approval has been discussed and broadly shared during every mission and meeting held with a variety of stakeholders at national provincial and local levels, to fully develop the project. These stakeholders include government institutions from the various ministries and department concerned, private companies and producers associations have continuously been involved in dialogue and consultations. Most of the World Bank task team is based in Laos, and have daily engagement with relevant stakeholders, which in turn are necessary to fine-tune the ongoing formal project design and preparation of project documents.</p> <p>As per Bank procedures a Stakeholder engagement plan (SEP) and ESMF has been prepared during the actual preparation phase. and is under finalization (attached to the package). Due to COVID-19 most consultations have occurred with stakeholders in Vientiane or via electronic resources. Additional virtual consultations continue to be conducted by the client, and in-person consultations at village level will occur during project implementation based on the progress in COVID-19 security measures.</p>
March 5, 2020, received by TT March 13: Please elaborate on the project's proposed knowledge management approach.	Knowledge management is central to the project design and is captured across the components. The project's KM approach and will result in convening of key groups, producing flagship studies and practical

	<p>publications that influence not only practitioners, but also policymakers and investors, among other interventions. Through KM and communications, plus the country dialogue, the project will provide the “space” needed for constructive discourse and alignment of solutions across multiple scales, as a means to influence the Project’s impact - transformational shift toward resilient landscape management for green growth - by spreading targeted messages and successful interventions. Subcomponent 4.2 emphasizes the importance of building partnerships and sharing knowledge through a robust knowledge management approach to convene and influence a wider cohort of actors beyond the direct project stakeholders. The sub-component would finance goods, consulting services, non-consulting services, training and workshops, and incremental operating costs inclusive of taxes to support the following knowledge and communications activities. Other key awareness campaigns and knowledge products will be developed under component 1 and 3 on a variety of topics.</p>
<p>Core Indicator 6: The target is TBD but would need to be set using an internationally accepted land-based GHG emission reduction calculation approach (including Exact) based on the project’s hectare targets and reviewed at that time.</p>	<p>The target is set at 10,354,758 direct co-benefits (-1,725,793 per year for 6 year) and 34,515,860 indirect (20 years). Calculations were carried out using the Ex-act tool.</p>
<p>March 5, 2020: Please remember to set METT baselines by CEO endorsement request submission.</p>	<p>All 8 METTs for baseline data in the 8 PAs are attached to the package.</p>
STAP comments	WB Response
<p>STAP recommends developing a Theory of Change, especially with reference to linkages between ecosystem conservation and livelihood stability and incentive mechanisms. The project appears to build on this World Bank publication “Partnerships and Opportunities for a</p>	<p>The project has designed a robust Theory of Change (Annex A GEF Data Sheet and Project document, paragraph 47). The ToC is based upon three critical assumptions: a) less competition among central and provincial institutions; b) strong governance and fiduciary controls; and c) few environmental effects from climate change.</p>

<p>New Green Forest Economy in Lao PDR: Sustaining Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods. Perhaps a theory of change can be derived from this narrative.</p> <p>A recent evaluative study of forest plantation in Lao on livelihoods using an economic model is also worth reviewing that has just been published: Somvang Phimmavong, Rodney J. Keenan, Forest plantation development, poverty, and inequality in Laos: A dynamic CGE microsimulation analysis, Forest Policy and Economics, Volume 111, 2020, 102055</p>	<p>The recommendation from STAP is useful and the team thanks the STAP reviewer.</p>
<p>STAP would like for the global environmental benefits to be more clearly articulated, and for the methodology to be defined that will be used to monitor the indicators. This information will complement Annex D.</p>	<p>The project is now fully developed and includes a strong results framework (please refer to Annex A of the GEF datasheet) and the associated GEBs (PID para 25). Indicator targets and definitions including methodology and institutional roles and responsibilities have been defined.</p>
<p>Climate risk reduction is a clear part of the project implementation strategy, especially Component 3. However, a climate risk screening is also not directly provided. STAP recommends providing a screening of the climate risks.</p>	<p>This project operation has been screened for short and long-term climate change and disaster risks as per the WB procedures. Climate projections for Lao PDR show increased intensity and frequency of rainfall and flooding risks during wet season, and longer dry seasons accompanied by more severe drought. These risks make livelihoods and key sectors highly vulnerable, including forest food systems, fisheries, crops, and hydropower. Forests and natural solutions can help reduce vulnerability to climate and disaster risks, and complement conventional engineering in “grey-green” hybrid infrastructure. At landscape level, natural solutions offer substantial, durable and cost-effective benefits.</p>
<p>how did these lessons inform the design of this project? Historical forest policy measures are noted but direct project lessons from earlier projects are not provided.</p>	<p>The project design has incorporated the lessons from ongoing and past projects, which have also been detailed in Annex H of the GEF data sheet and Project Document (para 51 and subsequent).</p>

No clear innovations are mentioned but the linkages to conservation tourism targets could be further developed in terms of technology and survey tracking tools etc to get data on effectiveness of strategies in generating livelihoods.	Innovations are now clearly mentioned in: PID para 27 and the Project Document para 73, Annex 4 para 13.
Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment: There is a detailed section on gender empowerment but it is largely a qualitative discussion of Lao customs and could be linked to more specific targets	Detailed gender action plan is presented in GEF datasheet Part II and Project Document annex 8.
Risks: These are not directly mentioned as the project claims to mitigate risks and so perhaps the proponents assume that the climate risk is a non issue. However, there could be unforeseen risks of drought or other factors which could impact implementation and the STAP risk screening document should be considering in this regard. Please refer to: https://stapgef.org/stap-guidance-climate-riskscreening	Please see response above to the Climate screening. Climate and other natural disaster risks are now included in the Project Document (para 88 in the risk section).
However, the lessons learned are not presented. Only names of projects given	The project design has incorporated the lessons from ongoing and past projects, which have also been detailed in Annex H of the GEF data sheet and Project Document (para 51 and subsequent).
<p>Knowledge Management: What overall approach will be taken, and what knowledge management indicators and metrics will be used? Not explicitly stated</p> <p>What plans are proposed for sharing, disseminating and scaling-up results, lessons and experience? No explicitly stated.</p>	Please also see response above on KM. KM approach present now in PID para 23 and Project Document Annex 3, para 13.

GERMAN Council comments	WB Team Response
Missing Section 1a project description needs to be filled	The WB thanks the German Council for their overall support. We would like to kindly inform that the project has been developed following the preparation phase and in line has developed the detailed appraisal stage GEF datasheet submitted as part of the package.
<p>Ensure coordination with the following projects of German Development Cooperation in Laos:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bilateral: LMDP - Land Management and Decentralized Planning • Global: ELTeS – Enhanced Land Tenure Security; • Regional: MRLG – Mekong Region Land Governance 	<p>Thank you for the recommendations to strengthen coordination. The team has had engagements with MRLG mainly, as it is the only project that has an interface with Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry ‘s Department of Forestry (MAF/DOF) – i.e. regarding land tenure recognition inside forest areas. LLL’s main partner, MAF is in charge of the forest areas, while a sister WB project on Systematic Land Registration hosted at the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Land (MONRE/DOL) is coordinating spatially with the other 2 projects which target land rights outside of the 3 forest categories. The LLL team has close collaboration with other project funded by the German Cooperation under via DOF, on Village Forestry, Protected Area Management, and Results Based Payments for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. The team looks forward to continue to draw stronger synergies during the implementation phase.</p>