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)

Executing Partner Type

Other Executing Partner(s)
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Executing Partner Type
Government

GEF Focal Area

Multi Focal Area

Taxonomy

Land Degradation, Focal Areas, Land Degradation Neutrality, Land Cover and Land cover change, Sustainable Land Management, Biodiversity, Species, Wildlife for Sustainable Development, Mainstreaming, Protected Areas and Landscapes, Biomes, Stakeholders, Gender Equality, Capacity, Knowledge and Research, Productive Landscapes, Community Based Natural Resource Mngt, Terrestrial Protected Areas, Forestry - Including HCVF and REDD+, Tourism, Agriculture and agrobiodiversity, Fisheries, Threatened Species, Illegal Wildlife Trade, Grasslands, Lakes, Temperate Forests, Tropical Dry Forests, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Degraded Lands, Sustainable Livelihoods, Community-Based Natural Resource Management, Improved Soil and Water Management Techniques, Climate Change, Climate Change Adaptation, National Adaptation Programme of Action, Disaster risk management, Climate information, Livelihoods, Forest, Forest and Landscape Restoration, Influencing models, Transform policy and regulatory environments, Convene multi-stakeholder alliances, Demonstrate innovative approache, Strengthen institutional capacity and decision-making, Type of Engagement, Information Dissemination, Partnership, Consultation, Participation, Local Communities, Communications, Behavior change, Public Campaigns, Awareness Raising, Private Sector, SMEs, Financial intermediaries and market facilitators, Beneficiaries, Indigenous Peoples, Civil Society, Non-Governmental Organization, Academia, Community Based Organization, Gender Mainstreaming, Sex-disaggregated indicators, Knowledge Exchange, South-South, Knowledge Generation, Capacity Development

Rio Markers

Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation 1

Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation 0

Duration

84 In Months

Agency Fee($)

699,863

Submission Date

4/9/2020

A. Indicative Focal/Non-Focal Area Elements

Programming Directions	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
BD-1-1	GET	2,627,250	20,000,000
BD-2-7	GET	2,000,000	9,000,000
LD-1-3	GET	1,539,726	10,000,000
LD-2-5	GET	1,200,000	11,000,000
	Total Project Cost ($)	**7,366,976**	**50,000,000**

B. Indicative Project description summary

Project Objective

To improve sustainable forest management and enhance livelihoods opportunities in selected landscapes in Lao PDR

Project Outcomes

Component 1:

Strengthened investment and capacity in sustainable forest management. Project financing would focus on public sector interventions in (i) National Parks, protected areas and tourism, including protected area management, biodiversity monitoring and protection, outreach and village land use planning; (ii) Participatory sustainable forest management and restoration in production and protection forest areas including PSFM and village forestry in production and protection forests, village land use planning and extension.

Parallel private sector investment (environmentally and socially sustainable industrial and smallholder plantations, tourism development) and other public sector investments leveraged by enabling activities by the project.

Reduced flood, drought, and landslide risks by maintaining and restoring forest cover and soil and water conservation structures and other natural solutions in targeted sites and community-based green infrastructure..

GEF grants would support the following:

Sub-component 1.1 National Parks, Protected Areas and Tourism:$ 4,214,250 (GEF BD)

· Spatial and land-use planning to ensure that land and resource use is appropriately situated to maximize production without undermining or degrading biodiversity.

· Conservation and sustainable use of globally important biodiversity in key landscapes and forested areas in production landscapes;

· Improved financial sustainability, effective management, and ecosystem coverage of selected protected areas through the enhancement of the effectiveness of PA systems, and management of biodiversity in protected areas (i.e., conservation landscapes);

· Adoption of participatory management plans for protected areas, including buffer zone communities;

Sub-component 1.2 Participatory Sustainable Forest Management and Restoration in Production and Protection Forests $2,327,726 (GEF LD)

Persistent forest degradation and loss in these areas have led to ecosystem degradation which is experienced locally as greater frequency and intensity of flood, erosion, and drought amplified by climate risks. These risks are resulting in reduced livelihoods opportunities, necessitating restoration of ecosystem function in the landscape from community-driven approaches as assisted natural regeneration and agroforestry.

Project outcomes would include:

· Maintained or improved flows of ecosystem services, including sustaining livelihoods of forest-dependent people through forest landscape restoration and sustainable landscape management in forest and mixed-use systems at the forest margin, including village forestry, participatory SFM, and sustainable land management practices such as assisted natural regeneration;

· Support to smallholders through special lending and through extension systems

· Set aside of high conservation value forest (HCVF) areas (i.e., "natural forests") inside of commercial managed areas (e.g. concessions, environmentally and socially sustainable plantations, farms, etc.) and within the broader production landscape;

· Restoration of degraded production landscapes, treeless areas inside designated production and protection forests.

· Targeted investments in soil and water conservation and other natural solutions to sustain and rebuild productive areas, mitigate the effects of drought, flood and landslides, increase resilience;

Component 2: No GEF support

Improved and diversified livelihoods within villages located in the forest estate based on activities using proven models. (Community enclaves within PAs, communities in Protection Forests Areas and Production Forest Areas would be assisted through targeted development interventions).

Increased access for local communities to super-clean cookstoves value chain, promoting a shift from artisanal charcoal to more efficient and less impactful wood-chip pellets.

Component 3:

Enhanced institutional capacities, policies, incentives, and information across sectors for sustainably deploying natural assets for greener economic growth from the forest estate.

(To address such challenges as (i) forest products legality and enforcement (timber, wildlife, encroachment), (ii) environmental and climate risk planning, monitoring and information modernization, and (iii) policy and capacity building support for SFM).

GEF grants would support the following:

Sub-Component 3.3 Policy and Institutional Support for Sustainable Forest Management (GEF BD :175,000 and LD: 175,000)

· Capacity enhanced at all levels required to restore and maintain functional landscapes.

· Enhancement of policies and strategies to facilitate environmentally, socially and financially sustainable private sector investment in PAs and nature-based tourism, and environmentally and socially sustainable industrial plantations that can reduce pressure on HVCFs;

· Technical assistance provided to bring bankable projects to the investment

· Support for development of regulations and operational guidelines to better manage protected areas, natural areas for tourism, natural solutions to climate risk reduction, and village forestry.

· Building institutional capacity at all levels required to restore and maintain functional landscapes;

· Building of protected area and national park stakeholder forums for tourism and value chain development that contribute to the conservation of globally significant biodiversity.

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Learning

Improved project management and monitoring (through support to Government's resource mobilization, communication, as well as regional coordination and dialogue on key issues).

GEF grants would support the following:

*Sub-component 4.1 Project Implementation Team and Monitoring (*GEF BD : 238,000 of which PMC: 150,000) and (LD: 237,000 of which PMC: 150,000)

· Project implementation management and coordination functions

· Project M&E, impact assessment and other action research, monitoring of broader landscape and ecosystem health, cross-project monitoring exchanges and capacity development.

· Regional joint dialogue in the Greater Annamites and broader Mekong region on biodiversity, resilient landscapes, and trade.

· Lessons learning and knowledge exchange and south-south cooperation within regions including transboundary cooperation activities on wildlife and timber law enforcement (joint training, intel cooperation, etc); controlled burnings, flyways/wetlands, and other topics important for sustainable conservation and production landscapes.

Project Component	Financing Type	Trust Fund	GEF Amount($)	Co-Fin Amount($)
Component 1. Investing in Natural Wealth and Resilience in Forest Landscapes	Investment	GET	6,541,976	21,525,000
Component 2: Livelihoods Opportunities for Forest Landscape Sustainability (No GEF financing, IDA support)	Investment	GET		17,220,000
Component 3: Institutions, Incentives, and Information	Investment	GET	350,000	4,655,000
Component 4: Project Coordination, Management, Monitoring and Learning	Technical Assistance	GET	175,000	5,600,000
		Sub Total ($)	**7,066,976**	**49,000,000**
Project Management Cost (PMC)				
		GET	300,000	1,000,000
		Sub Total($)	**300,000**	**1,000,000**
		Total Project Cost($)	**7,366,976**	**50,000,000**

C. Indicative 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($)
GEF Agency	WB IDA	Loans	Investment mobilized	50,000,000
			Total Project Cost($)	**50,000,000**

Describe how any "Investment Mobilized" was identified

The World Bank and Lao PDR are regularly engaged in lending dialogue which is captured in periodic Country Partnership Framework and government requests for IDA loan to the World Bank, as above. Government contributions and additional baseline cofinancing (WB MDTF and WB guarantee) including private sector leverage will be explored and confirmed during preparation.

D. Indicative 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($)	Fee($)	Total($)
World Bank	GET	Lao PDR	Biodiversity	BD STAR Allocation	4,627,250	439,589	5,066,839
World Bank	GET	Lao PDR	Land Degradation	LD STAR Allocation	2,739,726	260,274	3,000,000
				Total GEF Resources($)	**7,366,976**	**699,863**	**8,066,839**

E. Project Preparation Grant (PPG)

PPG Required

☐

PPG Amount ($)

PPG Agency Fee ($)

Agency	Trust Fund	Country	Focal Area	Programming of Funds	Amount($)	Fee($)	Total($)
				Total Project Costs($)	**0**	**0**	**0**

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	0.00	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)

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	0.00	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)

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)
Akula National Park Nakai Nam Thuen	**125689** II – National Park (designation in process, to upgrade from category VI)	**Select**National Park	600,000.00						
Akula National Park NPAs	**125689** VI – Protected Area with sustainable use of natural resources	**Select**National Park	400,000.00						

Indicator 3 Area of land restored

Ha (Expected at PIF)	Ha (Expected at CEO Endorsement)	Ha (Achieved at MTR)	Ha (Achieved at TE)
51000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

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			

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)

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

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	0.00	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)
912,500.00			

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)

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)
49,000.00			

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)

Documents (Please upload document(s) that justifies the HCVF)

Title	Submitted

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_2e (direct)	11865000	0	0	0
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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_2e (direct)	11,865,000			
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (indirect)	33,900,000			
Anticipated start year of accounting	2021			
Duration of accounting	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_2e (direct)				
Expected metric tons of CO_2e (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)

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			

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

Provide additional explanation on targets, other methodologies used, and other focal area specifics (i.e., Aichi targets in BD) including justification where core indicator targets are not provided

While most of the indicators proposed are already in use by on-going IDA/GEF financed projects implemented by the GOL, the indicator values will be revisited based on assessments to be done once funds are released for project preparation to confirm selection of specific targeted landscapes. Nevertheless, estimates have been provided based on experience under the on-going SUFORD and LENS2 operations, as presented in Annex B, and summarized in the table above. See Annex D for Aichi indicator targets. GHG Methodology & limitations: Carbon calculations have been made using the EX-ACT FAO tool, using module 2 LUC and module 5 Management. The total estimated direct emissions avoided is 11,865,000 tCo2 and the total indirect avoided emissions is 33,900,000 tCo2 over 20 years. In line with the Government of Lao PDR's Vision, Strategy, National Socio-Economic Development Plan, sectoral strategies, and WB M&E requirements, the WB/GEF Project Concept Note includes a short list of PDO-level indicators: • Villages in targeted forest landscapes with improved livelihoods opportunities (number, disaggregated by forest category and livelihood category including tourism). Sub-indicator: people with improved livelihoods opportunities (number, disaggregated by male and female, ethnic group members) • Conservation forest areas under improved management as indicated by increased total score of at least 30 percent on the Protected Area Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool (METT) (number) • Net forest cover (ha, disaggregated by conservation forest, production forest, protection forest, natural forest, village forest, and environmentally and socially sustainable plantations). Sub-indicators on forest loss and gain. • Land treated for restoration (ha, disaggregated by conservation forest, production forest, protection forest, natural forest, village forest, and environmentally and socially sustainable plantations) • Agreements between tourism operators and relevant management authorities to deliver nature-based tourism products in targeted landscapes (number) • Net greenhouse gas emissions (tCO2e). ---------- - METT indicator measures the strength and effectiveness of institutions 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. - Natural forest is a Government designation where trees and non-wood forest product species occur without human assistance or intervention, and are found in any of the three Lao PDR forest categories.

Part II. Project Justification

1b. Project Map and Coordinates

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

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Selection process and Criteria: The project preparation process, including significant consultations with local stakeholders, will confirm specific sites. Priority landscapes would be selected based on criteria developed (see table G) and applied by the Government but would likely focus on 5 landscapes within the 8 province targeted, in and around the Greater Annamites mountain range, however specific landscapes and specific investment sites within them are not known at this stage. Candidate sites will include contiguous protected areas, production forest areas and protection forest areas to maximize opportunities for biological connections within the landscape. The project would establish a framework for additional landscapes to join the program once additional funding is secured. In addition, the project would also endeavor to coordinate with the Socialist Republic of Vietnam on contiguous protected areas, wildlife law enforcement, and tourism, building on inter-governmental cooperation in this area that can be enhanced. A dedicated committee within the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has been appointed to finalize a list of priority provinces, landscapes, protected areas, districts, and investment sites. Please see **Annex A** for full details.

Table G: **Potential criteria for prioritizing landscapes in which discrete investment sites would be selected.**

No.	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 designation.
2	**Nature-based tourism potential** in the landscape	Tourism occurs throughout the landscape across multiple natural and built assets.
3	**Active or high potential for environmentally and socially sustainable 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 participatory sustainable forest management	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.

5	**National Protection Forest** suitable for securing watershed services and implementing village forestry	Incudes 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 protected areas, along certain transportation corridors, gateways, or access points.
	Supporting Criteria	
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 environmentally and socially sustainable industrial plantations and nature-based tourism.

2. Stakeholders

Select the stakeholders that have participated in consultations during the project identification phase:

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Yes

Civil Society Organizations Yes

Private Sector Entities Yes

If none of the above,please explain why:

The proposed operation is regarded as a successor of the well-regarded Scaling-Up Participatory Sustainable Forest Management (SUPSFM and AF) and would build on the ongoing Green Growth Development Policy Operation (GGDPO) series, Green Growth Programmatic Advisory Services and Analytics (GGPASA), IDA/GEF-supported Second Lao PDR Environment and Social Project (LENS2), Nam Theun 2 Social and Environmental Project (NT2), FCPF REDD+ Readiness Preparation Technical Assistance and emerging Emissions Reduction (ER) Program. The Governments and the Bank team have taken opportunities possible, especially during joint implementation missions, to discuss emerging project concept ideas with key stakeholders including Government agencies at central, provincial, district and village levels, ethnic and local communities, civil society organizations, development agencies, private sector entities, Non-Governmental Organization and academia.

In addition, provide indicative information on how stakeholders, including civil society and indigenous peoples, will be engaged in the project preparation, and their respective roles and means of engagement.

The proposed project would engage early during preparation with communities in potential investment sites. These communities will have a role in engaging in forest and wildlife protection, linked with livelihood development and revenue generation from non-wood forest products marketing, nature-based tourism, and other ecosystem services. In line with World Bank's new Environment and Social Framework, consultations will be documented, and local perspectives integrated into project design. More broadly, the project will feature a participatory approach to forestry, conservation, resource planning, and livelihoods.

3. Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Briefly include below any gender dimensions relevant to the project, and any plans to address gender in project design (e.g. gender analysis).

The project is gender-tagged and plans to mainstream gender issues to ensure that differential impacts are addressed. A gender analysis in the project area will be conducted to further explore and inform development of a gender action plan which will provide guidance for activity design and results indicators, including also beneficiaries disaggregated by gender. This plan would assist the client to promote gender equality and mitigate possible risks.

The project design will take into consideration gender roles and benefits in preparing and implementing forestry, tourism, conservation and livelihoods activities, ESF documentation, citizen engagement, and grievance redress arrangements, in line with the WB's Gender equality strategy.

In general, women are disadvantaged in comparison to men with respect to access to development benefits, education and health services. Women's representation in positions of power and decision-making remains limited. Women have a far lower average literacy rate than men and many do not speak Lao. Ethnic women are particularly the most disadvantaged in Lao society. They are traditionally in charge of the physical reproduction of their group and, also involved in key economic activities, such as the selection of the indigenous upland rice varieties to be planted or collecting wild food products. As a result, they are extremely vulnerable to changes that affect their economic activities, especially changes in the environment, settlement patterns, and land usage rights.

Gender gaps specifically in the forestry sector[1][1] include the following dimensions. (i) Women participate in forest policy decision-making proportionally less than men and have fewer rights, and often do not benefit equally from forest programs, policies and interventions. (ii) Women are not receiving forest landscape-related information and skills enhancement opportunities as much as men, have less access to credit for forest-related enterprises than do men, and receive less technical and market-related information and advice. The project would address the policy level gaps by supporting sector laws, strategies and policies developed with inclusive, co-development approaches that increase women's participation and strengthen their rights, while at the same time building forest agencies' capacity to develop programs with equitable benefits, enhanced through participatory, inclusive approaches. Access to information, skills and credit would be strengthened through inclusive approaches that may include knowledge exchanges, awareness campaigns, demonstration plots, equitable and accessible training, targeted credits or grants for women-led forest enterprises (including on nature-based tourism and production of wood-chips and pellets for super-clean cookstoves).

Specifically, the gender dynamics in rural livelihoods in Lao PDR seem to vary among ethnic groups[2][2]. For *Lao Loum* whilst planning and household labor is equally divided, the wife has a greater role in deciding daily household spending priorities while men are mostly doing outside labor. *Hmong* households tend to have shared burden working in the field, but gender specific additional income generating activities, namely embroidery for women and

physical labor for men. In *Khmu* households the husband makes the daily plans while the wife plans for the food. The wife looks after money and repays loans, while the husband has the final decision on whether to take a loan or not. The gender analysis will further explore these dynamics to enable design of gender responsive component activities as relevant.

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[1] Kristjanson and Jensen (2018): Gender In Forest Landscape Projects— Actions And Indicators. PROFOR. The World Bank.

[2] ACIR (2018): Exploring gender and forestry: a report of workshop activities, outcomes and project recommendations for the ACIR project, Lao PDR

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; and/or Yes

generating socio-economic benefits or services for women.

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

Yes

4. Private sector engagement

Will there be private sector engagement in the project?

Yes

Please briefly explain the rationale behind your answer.

The project would be designed to leverage private sector participation in nature-based tourism, environmentally and socially sustainable industrial and smallholder forest plantations, and potentially clean cookstoves to create jobs and support livelihoods. The project would carefully distinguish between public sector investment and support financed by the project and parallel private sector investment coordinated with the project.

Given the good progress on forest sector governance and a renewed interest among responsible international forest investors because of these reforms, it would be reasonable to conclude that within three years of the end of the project, private investment in environmentally and socially sustainable forest plantations will scale. This will build confidence to open new market opportunities, can increase forest revenues for the Government, smallholders, local communities, and investors. Nearly 500,000 ha of plantations have already been established, and 650,000 ha of degraded lands in production forest areas have been identified by the Department of Forest (DOF) for possible future investment by credible private firms. Under the Forest Investment Program (FIP), IFC and the WB have been working together to leverage a new partnership of private companies, government institutions, communities and non-governmental organizations to promote social and environmental sustainability and benefits sharing.

5b. Environmental and Social Safeguard (ESS) Risks

Provide preliminary 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
4. High (for the WB including High and Substantial)			

Types and Level of identified or anticipated risks (Select all applicable)

Risk	PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE

Risk	PIF	CEO Endorsement/Approval	MTR	TE
- (MS1) Climate Change and Disaster				
- (MS1) Disadvantaged or Vulnerable Individuals or Groups				
- (MS1) Disability Inclusion				
- (MS1) Adverse Gender-related Impact				
- (MS3) Biodiversity Conservation and the Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources				
- (MS4) Restrictions on Land Use and Involuntary Resettlement				
- (MS5) Indigenous Peoples				
- (MS6) Cultural Heritage				
- (MS7) Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention				
- (MS8) Labor and Working Conditions				
- (MS9) Community Health Safety and Security				

Measures to address identified risks and impacts

Provide informationi on any preliminary measures to address identified risks and impacts during project/program design

Project ESRS attached.

Supporting Documents

Upload any supporting documents, such as ESS screening reports, assessment reports, management plans (or equivalent).

For "High" or "Substantial" risk project, management plan must be submitted

Title	Submitted

Part III: Approval/Endorsement By GEF Operational Focal Point(S) And Gef Agency(ies)

A. RECORD OF ENDORSEMENT OF GEF OPERATIONAL FOCAL POINT (S) ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT(S): (Please attach the Operational Focal Point endorsement letter with this template).

Name	Position	Ministry	Date
Mr. Phouvong Louanagxaysana	Director General of the Department of Planning and Cooperation and GEF Operational Focal Point	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment	3/4/2020

ANNEX A: Project Map and Geographic Coordinates

Please provide geo-referenced information and map where the project intervention takes place

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 points of the range are 2,819 m high Phou Bia mountain in Xiengkhouang Province, Lao PDR. Most of the Annamite crests are on the Laotian 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 Xiangkhoang 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 proposed project would likely focus on the 5 landscapes within the Annamite mountain range (Figure 1 and 2 -Maps) as per the listed indicative selection criteria in the justification section (Table G).

Geolocation ID: 1594319 (http://www.geonames.org/1594319/annamite-mountains.html)

Figure 1: Map of National Protected Areas supported by the project

Figure 2: Terrestrial sites of international conservation value in Lao PDR