

Annual Report 2018

Village-Based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR

**Under
AFoCo Landmark Program
Restoration Component**

**Executed by
Department of Forestry**

January 2019



List of Acronyms

AFoCo	ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation
AFoCO	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AWP	Annual Work Plan
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forest Office
DDG	Deputy Director General
DOF	Department of Forestry, Lao PDR
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
NPD	National Project Director
NTFP	Non-timber Forest Product
PFS	Project Field Staff
VFDG	Village Forest Development Group
VFPG	Village Forest Protection Group

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Annual Progress Report

On the implementation of the AWP 2018

Project Title : Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR

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Duration : From January to December, 2018

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I. Introduction

The overall objective of the project is to increase forest cover by the restoration of degraded forest areas, strengthen capability of government agencies and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, and contribute to poverty reduction by providing direct income to local people, particularly, the poor. The specific objectives and outputs of the project are described with the annual target in 2018 (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1 2018 annual target by project output and objective in two project sites

	Paksong	Sangthong
Objective 1	To demonstrate village based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate	
Output 1.1	About 455,000 seedlings are produced for ex-situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting. Of which 170,000 seedlings for Paksong site and 285,000 seedlings for Sangthong site	
2018 Target	About 42,500 Seedlings are produced for both ex-situ and enrichment planting	Production of 52,000 seedlings for enrichment planting
Output 1.2	About 60 ha of ex-situ conservation plantation have been established and maintained. Of which 40 ha in Paksong and 20 ha in Sangthong	
2018 Target	About 20 ha of land are prepared for ex-situ plantation establishment	About 14 ha of land area are prepared and established an ex-situ plantation
Output 1.3	Nearly 790 ha of enrichment planting (160 ha in Paksong and 630 ha in Sangthong) have been successfully established and maintained	
2018 Target	About 40 ha of the total land areas 160 ha are prepared for enrichment planting	About 126 ha of land areas area prepared for enrichment planting
Output 1.4	About 2,770 ha of Protection Forest (400 ha Paksong and 2,370 ha in Sangthong) have been protected by local villagers	
2017 Target	About 400 ha of the total area of forest	About 2,370 ha of the total area of forest

	Paksong	Sangthong
	rehabilitation are protected by VFPGs	rehabilitation are protected by VFPGs
Output 1.5	Barren land of individual landowners in Sangthong have been supported through agroforestry extension services	
2018 Target		At least 5 individual landowners surround the project site are consulted and developed contract
Objective 2	To generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village based forest rehabilitation program in particular	
Output 2.1	Public and private sectors are aware and promote village based forest rehabilitation program	
2018 Target	Public and private sectors are aware and village based forest rehabilitation program promoted	Public and private sectors are aware and village based forest rehabilitation program promoted
Objective 3	To provide incentives to local villagers through various means, inter alia, strengthening capacity of villagers to produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling production, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas	
Output 3.1	Local villagers both men and women, particularly, the poor have additional incomes from sale of seedlings, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas	
2018 Target	The poor have income from sale of seedlings	The poor have income from sale of seedlings
Objective 4	To strengthen capability of stakeholders at all levels for successful implementation and replication of the project	
Output 4.1	Forestry sectors and local authority have knowledge and capacity on how to implement national forest rehabilitation policy at district and village level with an active participation of local villagers	
2018 Target	Capacity of forestry sectors are strengthened	Capacity of forestry sectors are strengthened
Output 4.2	Villagers have capacity to produce a good quality of seedlings and implement forest rehabilitation activities	
2018 Target	VFDGs have capacity to produce 42,500 Seedlings, site preparation, and planting	VFDGs have capacity to produce 52,000 Seedlings, site preparation, and planting
Output 4.3	Necessary materials and facilities for implementation and replication of village based forest rehabilitation have been sufficiently developed and made in place	
2018 Target	The Guidelines on Village-based Forest Rehabilitation are developed and updated based on site specification	The Guidelines on Village-based Forest Rehabilitation are developed and updated based on site specification
Output 4.4	Financial and Project Management	
2018 Target	Financial management and project management	Financial management and project management

II. Description of the work implemented during the reporting period

2.1 Completion status in Paksong and Sangthong

The table 2.1 and 2.2 show the status of implementation to each activity (including remaining activities of 2017) conducted in 2018, in two project sites, Paksong and Sangthong districts. The table 3 shows the status of implementation new activities conducted in 2018 in two project sites and DOF.

Table 2.1 Completion status in Paksong

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame	2017 remaining activities		2018				Status of activities in the reporting quarter	
	Implementing Q in 2018	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4		
Objective 1	To demonstrate village based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate;							
Output 1.1	Sufficient quality seedlings of 170,000 seedlings are produced for ex-situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting in 200 ha							
Activity 1.1.1	Seeds collection							
Activity 1.1.2	Seedlings production of 42,500 seedlings	Q1&2	Maintenance of 42,300 seedlings based on the contract.	X	X	X	X	42,300 seedlings completed. 42,500 seedlings will be implemented in 2019
Output 1.2	About 40 ha of degraded forest land have been reforested through the establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation, which, in turn, produces future quality seed sources of valuable native tree species							
Activity 1.2.1	Survey and demarcation of project areas and preparation of ex-situ and enrichment plan							
Activity 1.2.2	Establishment of 20 ha of ex-situ conservation plantation	Q1&2	Land clearing and actual planting need to be done based on availability of seedlings	X	X	X	X	Completed 37 ha
Activity 1.2.3	Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)					X	X	Implemented
Output 1.3	160 ha of degraded forest land have been regenerated through enrichment planting with native tree species							

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2017 remaining activities		2018				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q in 2018	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Activity 1.3.1	Preparation and Conducting enrichment planting			X	X	X	X	Agreement was signed and planting will be implemented end on 2018 and early 2019.
Activity 1.3.2	Maintenance and protection of the enrichment plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)							
Output 1.4	About 400 ha of degraded forest land in the project site have been successfully regenerated through natural forest regeneration facilitated by village driven forest protection							
Activity 1.4.1	Establishing and equipping Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs)							
Activity 1.4.2	Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Objective 2	To generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village based forest rehabilitation program in particular							
Output 2.1	Public and private sectors are aware and promote village based forest rehabilitation program							
Activity 2.1.1	Organizing inception workshop							
Activity 2.1.2	Signboard							
Activity 2.1.3	Organize Arbor Day Events including awareness raising materials and engagement of media specialist			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Objective 3	To provide incentives to local villagers through various means, inter alia, strengthening capacity of villagers to produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling production, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas							
Output 3.1	Local villagers both men and women, particularly, the poor have additional incomes from sale of seedlings, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas							
Activity 3.1.1	Conducting community consultation on seedlings production and sale, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas							
Activity 3.1.2	Establishment of Village Forest Development Groups			X				Completed
Activity 3.1.3	Contract Development			X				Completed
Objective 4	To strengthen capability of forestry sectors and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, particularly village based forest rehabilitation program							
Output 4.1	Forestry sectors and local authority have knowledge and capacity on how to implement national forest rehabilitation policy at district and village level with an active participation of local villagers							
Activity 4.1.1	Organizing study tours for stakeholders at policy and managerial levels	Q1	Exchange visit of two project sites' VFPGs & VFDGs					Completed
Activity	Organizing training courses for forestry							

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2017 remaining activities		2018				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q in 2018	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
4.1.2	sectors at implementation level							
Output 4.2	Villagers have capacity to produce a good quality of seedlings and implement forest rehabilitation activities							
Activity 4.2.1	Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation							
Activity 4.2.2	Organize various training modules for villagers (on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.)							
Output 4.3	Necessary materials and facilities for implementation and replication of village based forest rehabilitation have been sufficiently developed and made in place							
Activity 4.3.1	Development of reforestation concept and related methodologies, procedures, and technical guidelines						X	Implemented
Activity 4.3.2	Recording, storing, synthesizing, updating and documenting all related concept, methodologies, procedures, technical guidelines and experiences							
Activity 4.3.3	Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment)							
Activity 4.3.4	Renovating/expanding field office and improvement of access roads, fencing materials for ex-situ plantation	Q1	Fencing will start after land clearing and planting					Improvement of access roads completed. Fencing materials are not required by villagers
Output 4.4	Financial and Project Management							
Activity 4.4.1	Annual work-plan development						X	completed
Activity 4.4.2	Fee for technical services, including honorarium			X	X	X		Implemented
Activity 4.4.3	Running costs for the project management at field office			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.4	Running costs for the project management at Central Office (DoF)			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.5	Project monitoring/field follow up			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.6	Annual meeting for the Project Steering Committee						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.7	Annual review and planning meeting for project team						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.8	Project performance assessments (Interim/Final)							
Activity 4.4.9	Financial Audits (Interim / Final)							
Activity 4.10	Closing workshop							

Table 2.2 Completion status in Sangthong

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2017 Remaining activities		2018				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q in 2018	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Objective 1	To demonstrate village based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate;							
Output 1.1	Sufficient quality seedlings of 285,000 seedlings are produced for ex-situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting in 250 ha							
Activity 1.1.1	Seedlings production for ex-situ plantation			X	X	X	X	Completed
Activity 1.1.2	Seedlings production of 52,000 seedlings for enrichment planting	Q1,2,3&4	Maintenance of 52,000 seedlings based on the contract.	X	X	X	X	52,000 seedlings completed. 52,000 seedlings will be implemented in 2019
Output 1.2	About 20 ha of degraded forest land have been reforested through the establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation, which, in turn, produces future quality seed sources of valuable native tree species							
Activity 1.2.1	Land clearance							
Activity 1.2.2	Establishment of 14ha of the total areas 20ha ex-situ conservation plantation			X	X	X	X	Based on the contract 18 ha completed. The actual planting (area and seedlings planted) need to be checked.
Activity 1.2.3	Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Output 1.3	630 ha of degraded forest land have been regenerated through enrichment planting with native tree species							
Activity 1.3.1	Forest survey and Boundary demarcation							
Activity 1.3.2	Conducting enrichment planting of 126 ha of the total area 650ha	Q2	Seedlings availability	X	X	X	X	126 ha were prepared, of which 35 ha were planted
Activity 1.3.3	Maintenance and protection of the enrichment plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)					X	X	To be implemented in 2019
Output 1.4	About 2,370 ha of degraded forest land in the project site have been successfully regenerated through natural forest regeneration facilitated by village driven forest protection							
Activity 1.4.1	Establishing and equipping Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs)							
Activity 1.4.2	Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site			X	X	X	X	Implemented

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2017 Remaining activities		2018				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
Output 1.5	Barren land of individual landowners have been supported through agroforestry extension services							
Activity 1.5.1	Consultation meeting							
Activity 1.5.2	Contract development	Q1	The agreement between Land holders and Project is yet developed		X			Discussion of draft agreement with 6 individual land owners. The contract will be finalized in December 2018
Activity 1.5.3	Seedling distribution	Q2&3				X	X	Implemented
Activity 1.5.4	Monitoring and mapping	Q4				X	X	To be implemented in December 2018
Objective 2	To generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village based forest rehabilitation program in particular							
Output 2.1	Public and private sectors are aware and promote village based forest rehabilitation program							
Activity 2.1.1	Organizing inception workshop							
Activity 2.1.2	Signboard			X				Implemented
Activity 2.1.3	Organize Arbor Day Events and fire protection campaign			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Objective 3	To provide incentives to local villagers through various means, inter alia, strengthening capacity of villagers to produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling production, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas							
Output 3.1	Local villagers both men and women, particularly, the poor have additional incomes from sale of seedlings, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas							
Activity 3.1.1	Conducting community consultation on seedlings production and sale, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 3.1.2	Establishment of Village Forest Development Groups			X				Implemented
Activity 3.1.3	Contract Development			X				Implemented
Objective 4	To strengthen capability of forestry sectors and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, particularly village based forest rehabilitation program							
Output 4.1	Forestry sectors and local authority have knowledge and capacity on how to implement national forest rehabilitation policy at district and village level with an active participation of local villagers							
Activity 4.1.1	Organizing study tours for stakeholders at policy and managerial levels	Q1	Exchange visit of two project sites' VFPGs & VFDGs					Completed
Activity 4.1.2	Organizing training courses for forestry sectors at implementation level							Implemented

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2017 Remaining activities		2018				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
Output 4.2	Villagers have capacity to produce a good quality of seedlings and implement forest rehabilitation activities							
Activity 4.2.1	Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.2.2	Organize various training modules for villagers (on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.)			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Output 4.3	Necessary materials and facilities for implementation and replication of village based forest rehabilitation have been sufficiently developed and made in place							
Activity 4.3.1	Development of reforestation concept and related methodologies, procedures, and technical guidelines							
Activity 4.3.2	Recording, storing, synthesizing, updating and documenting all related concept, methodologies, procedures, technical guidelines and experiences			X				Implemented
Activity 4.3.3	Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment)							
Activity 4.3.4	Renovating/expanding field office and improvement of access roads, fencing materials for ex-situ plantation							
Output 4.4	Financial and Project Management							
Activity 4.4.1	Work plan and Annual workplan development						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.2	Fee for technical services, including honorarium			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.3	Running costs for the project management at field office			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.4	Running costs for the project management at Central Office (DoF)							
Activity 4.4.5	Project monitoring/field follow up			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.6	Annual meeting for the Project Steering Committee							
Activity 4.4.7	Annual review and planning meeting for project team						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.8	Project performance assessments (Interim/Final)							
Activity 4.4.9	Financial Audits (Interim / Final)							
Activity 4.10	Closing workshop							

Table 2.3 Completion status of new activities in two project sites and DOF

[Paksong] Activities, outputs based on Log Frame	Implementing quarter in 2018				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	

Activity 2018-1	Making trekking roads and observation sites at the plantation sites in Paksong		X		X	To be implemented in December 2018
Activity 2018-2	Support VFDGs in Paksong to plant native ginseng and cardamom species for local income generation	X	X	X	X	Partly implemented because of more consultation with villagers are needed
Activity 2018-3	Improvement of natural water supply system from Kongtoun Mountain	X				To be completed in December 2018
[Sangthong] Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		Implementing quarter in 2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Activity 2018-4	Establishment of a small check dam in Phoukhanya mountain near the enrichment plantation site	X	X			Not implemented due to villagers propose to change other activity
Activity 2018-5	Making trekking roads and observation sites at the plantation sites in Sangthong	X	X	X	X	Partly implemented and will continue in December 2018
Activity 2018-6	Improvement of the access road to the ex-situ plantation site in Sangthong	X	X			Implemented
[Department of Forestry] Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		Implementing quarter in 2018				
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Activity 2018-7	Organizing two 3-day workshops to promote the concept of “village-driven forest rehabilitation” for the forestry officials (25 people/workshop);		X			Implemented
Activity 2018-8	Participation of NPD at the international conference related to village forestry.			X		Implemented
Activity 2018-9	Translation and publication of the guidelines into English (46 pages), project annual progress report 2017 (27 pages), and annual work plan 2018 (42 pages)	X			X	Implemented

2.2 Milestones in the reporting period

This report covers a period of 11 months between January and November in 2018. The implemented activities in two project sites include:

- Seedlings production;
- Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site;
- Conducting community consultation on seedlings production and sale, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas;
- Establishment of Village Forest Development Groups (VFDGs);
- Contract development for seedlings production;
- Organizing study tours for stakeholders at policy and managerial levels;
- Organizing training courses for forestry sectors at implementation level;

- Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation;
- Organize various training modules for villagers on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.;
- Arrangement and procurement of materials (procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment);
- Renovating/expanding field office and improvement of access roads, fencing materials for ex-situ plantation;
- Fee for technical services, including honorarium;
- Running the project management at field office;
- Running the project management at Central Office (DoF); and,
- Project monitoring/field follow up.

2.2.1 Seedling production (Act 1.1.1 and Act 1.1.2)

In 2017, the contract agreement for seedling production was made both in Sangthong and Paksong to conduct the activity.

In Sangthong, the project staff signed a contract with Nalath DAFO's nursery at Nachalern. Based on the contract, 42,000 seedlings were completely produced. Of which, nearly 30,000 seedlings were planted in 18 ha of ex-situ plantation in between 2017 and 2018, about 11,000 seedlings were distributed to individual landholders, villagers and organizations to plant in their farm land, and about 1,000 seedlings are maintained in the nursery for supplementary planting in 2019 (Act 1.1.1). Seedlings for enrichment plantation, 4 VFDGs have signed the contract with the project staff to produce 52,000 seedlings. As of the end of December 2017, about 47,000 seedlings were produced and maintained, of which nearly 18,000 seedlings were planted in 35 ha (*Taohi 10 ha and Nachalern 25 ha*) this year. The remaining about 34,000 seedlings are maintained and produced in the nursery (Act 1.1.2).

In Paksong, the project staff signed a contract with VFDG. Based on the contract, 42,300 seedlings shall be produced between 2017 for ex-situ and enrichment planting in 2018. As of the end of December, all seedlings were produced. Of which 21,400 seedlings were used for 37 ha of ex-situ plantation conservation and the remaining 20,900 seedlings are maintained in the nursery (Act 1.1.2).

Table 2.1 and 2.2 show seedlings production and utilization in Sangthong and Paksong nursery

Table 2.1 Seedlings production and utilization in Sangthong

Nursery	Seedlings				Remarks
	Plans (contract)	Implemented	Utilization	Remaining	
Nalath	40,000	42,000	41,040	960	
Nachalern	13,000	13,000	7,550	5,450	The remaining seedlings will be maintained based on the signed contract.
Nongboa	13,000	13,000	1,000	12,000	The remaining seedlings will be maintained based on the

					signed contract.
Taohai	13,000	13,000	9,141	3,859	The remaining seedlings will be maintained based on the signed contract.
Kouay	13,000	8,000	0	13,000	5,000 seedlings will be produced in Q1 2019.
Total	92,000	89,000	58,731	35,266	

Table 2.2 Seedlings production and utilization in Paksong nursery

Nursery	Seedlings				Remarks
	Plans (contract)	Implemented	Utilization	Remaining	
Kongtoun	42,300	42,300	21,400	20,900	21,400 seedlings were used for 37 ha of ex-situ plantation conservation. The remaining seedlings will be maintained based on the signed contract.

2.2.2 Establish of ex-situ conservation plantation (Act 1.2.1 and Act 1.2.2)

The Ex-situ conservation plantations in Sangthong and Paksong have completed. In Sangthong, totally eighteen (18) ha for ex-situ conservation plantation have been established (6 ha in 2017 and 12 in 2018). Four species, namely Teak, Afxylia, indora and Pterocarpus spp. were planted in spacing 2 x 3 m, about 1,300 seedlings per ha. For maintenance of this plantation, total six (6) families have signed a contract with the project staff for three years from 2018-2021 (Annex 1).

In Paksong, about 37 ha for ex-situ conservation plantation in Kongtoun have been completely established. Three species, namely Paramichelia bailloni, Persea Kurzii, and Spondias axillaris were planted in spacing 3 x 3 m, about 1,200 seedlings per ha. For maintenance of this plantation, total nineteen (19) families have signed a contract with the project staff for three years from 2018-2021 (Annex 2).

2.2.3 Preparation for enrichment plantation (Act 1.3.2)

In Sangthong, the total area of 630 ha for enrichment plantation was demarcated in 2017, and four (4) villages identified each tasked areas from 2017 to 2021 (Table 2.3) (Act 1.3.2). In 2018, about 126 ha have been prepared and the project staff in Sangthong and Taohi and Nachalern VFDG were discussed and agreed to conduct enrichment planting about 35 ha (Taohi 10 ha and Nachalern 25 ha) this year. There are six families in Nachalern planted 25 ha in Nachalern village, while 20 people in Taohi planted 10 ha in Taohi village (Figure 2.1).

Table 2.3 Enrichment areas for each villages from 2018 to 2021

Village	2017-Q1/18	Q2-3/2018	Q2-3/2019	Q2-3/2020	Q2-3/2021	Total
Nongboua	Land preparation	16.33	27.08			43.41
Taohi	Land preparation	19.52	27.01	19.37		65.90
Nachalern	Land preparation	27.61	47.10	28.36	46.25	149.33
Kouy	Land preparation	51.02	127.13	49.13	102.30	329.58
Ha\year		114.49	228.32	96.87	148.55	588.23

In Paksong, about 160 ha of land areas in Paksong were identified (Fig 2.2), of which 30 ha have are ready for planting. The villagers (18 families) of Ban Katoud have signed the agreement on September 20, 2018 (Annex 3). The villagers requested the project to support some materials i.e. culverts and cements to improve the route access to the enrichment site.



Fig 2.1 Villagers conducted an enrichment planting in *Taohi and Nachalern* village

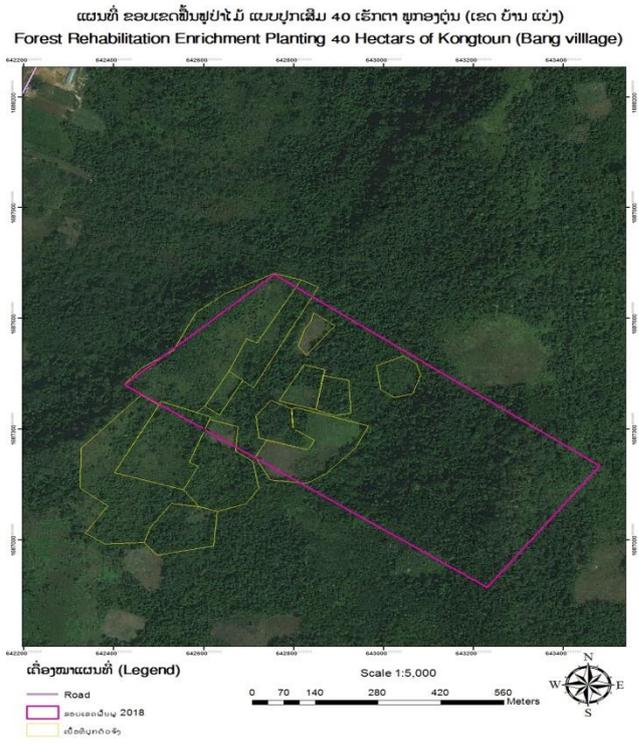
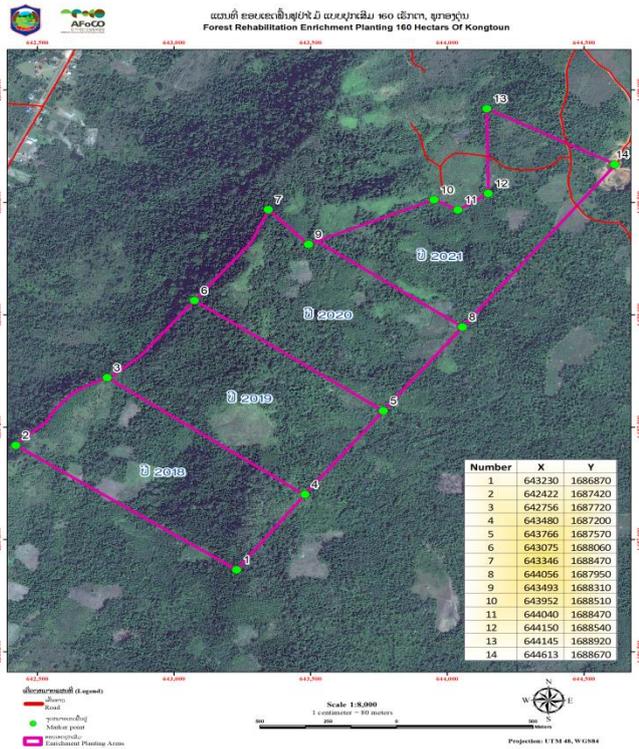


Fig 2.2 Enrichment planting site in Paksong (160 ha left and 40 ha in Ban Katoud right)

2.2.4 Conducting village driven forest patrolling covering the whole project site (Act 1.4.1 and Act 1.4.2)

In Sangthong, seven (7) Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs) (Taohai, Nachakearn, NongBao, Kouay, Sor, Vang Mar, and Kao) have signed on the contract for forest protection in January 19, 2018 (Act 1.4.1). Based on the contract, each VFPG patrolled forest rehabilitation area twice a month (Act1.4.2). The routes for patrolling of each group were determined and specified in the agreement (Annex-4). Figure 2.3a shows a tracking rout of the project site in Sangthong. About 28 km in length of tracking routs were identified to cover important points of the project’s rehabilitation site. Of which, 10 km are for the enrichment site in four villages (Taohai, Nachakearn, NongBao, and Kouay) and 18 km are for the natural rehabilitation site in three new villages (Sor, Vang Mar, and Kao).

In Paksong, the two VFPGs (villages in Kongtoun and Bengkatoud) signed on the contract for forest protection in January 3, 2018 (Annex -5) (Act 1.4.1). Based on the contract, each VFPG patrolled forest rehabilitation area twice a month (Act1.4.2). The patrol covers the territories of the two villages. About 11 km in length of tracking rout were identified to cover 600 ha (Fig 2.3b).

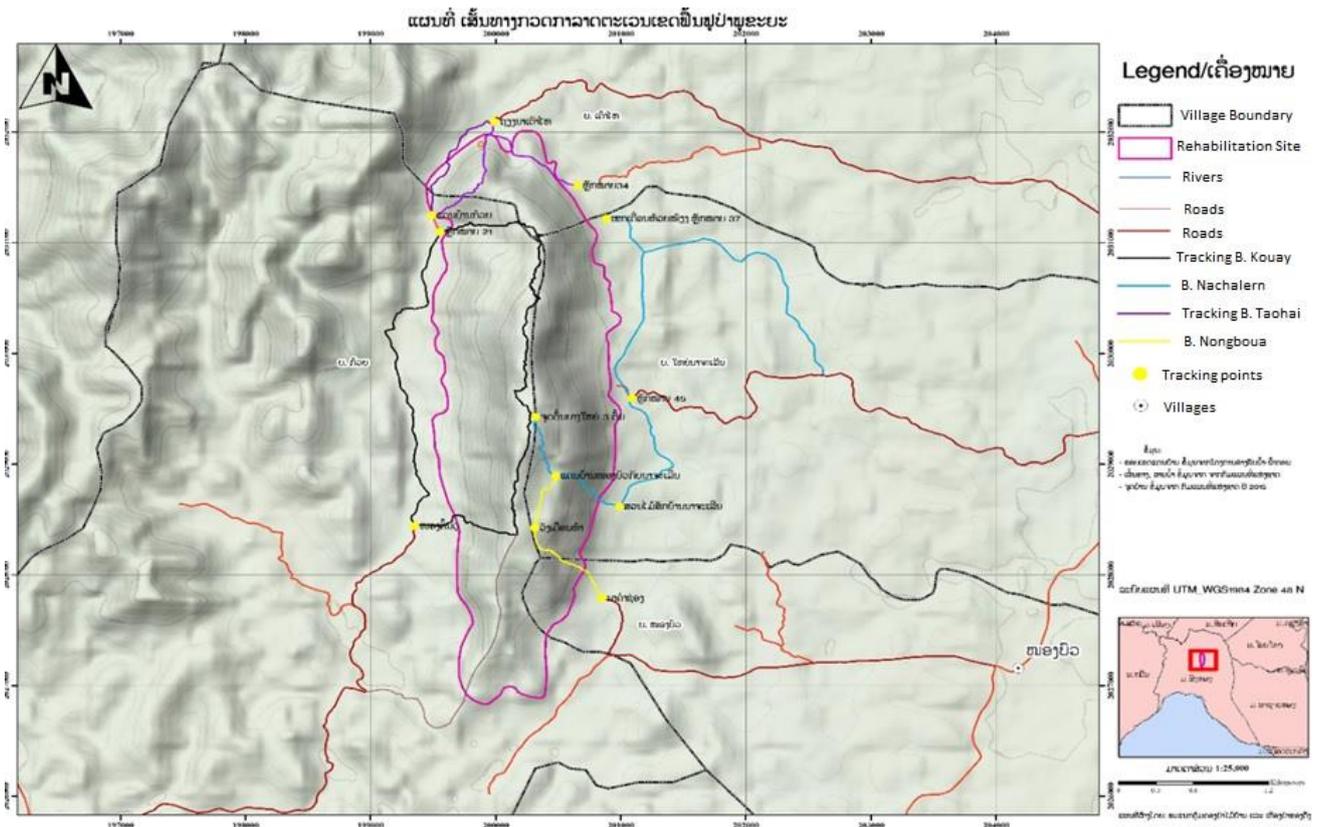


Fig 2.3a Map showing the tracking route of the project site in Sangthong: yellow dots are tracking spots.

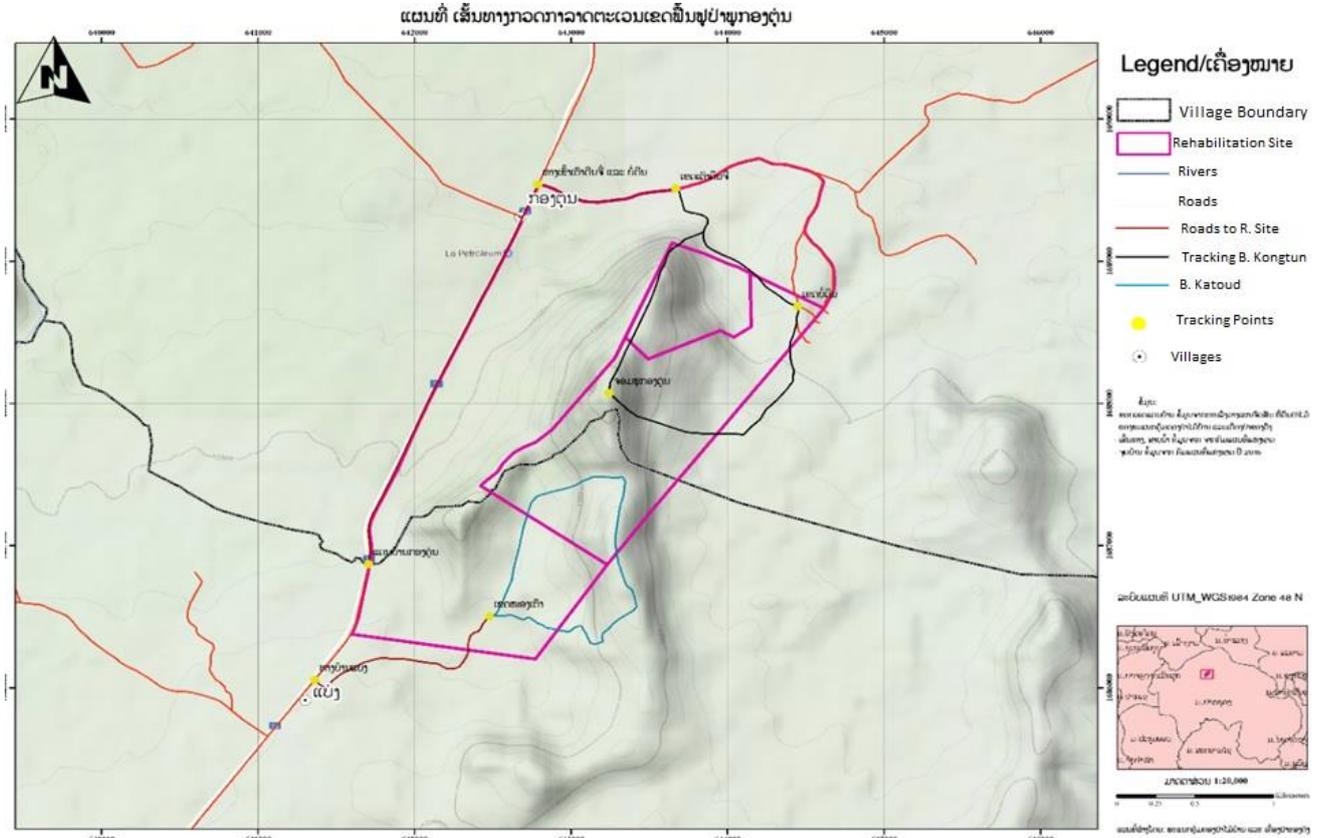


Fig 2.3b Map showing the tracking rout of the project site in Paksong: yellow dots are tracking spots

2.2.5 Seedling distribution to individual landholders for agroforestry activities in Sangthong (Act 1.5.3)

This year, the project staff distributed nearly 8,000 seedlings to twelve (12) individual landholders to plant in their farm land (Table 2.4). The project staff will conduct a monitoring and mapping in next year.

Table 2.4 Seedlings distribution to individual landholders in 2018

Sl.No	Name	Species	Amount of seedlings	Planting sites
1	Mr. Khamlar	Pterocarpus	600	Phoukhaya
2	Ms. Nivanh	Pterocarpus	300	Nachalern
3	Mr. Bounnam	Pterocarpus	200	Nachalern
		Teak	150	
		Sindora	200	
4	Mr. Sounan	Afxylia	2,000	Koa
		Pterocarpus	600	
5	Ms. Bounthein	Teak	200	Pakton
6	Mr. Phonechan	Pterocarpus	50	Hainer
		Teak	150	
		Dipterocarp	190	
		Sindora	70	
7	Ms. Hai	Dipterocarp	50	Nachalern
8	Mr. Din Bounsoy	Dipterocarp	15	Nachalern
9	Mr. Souan	Dipterocarp	150	Nachalern
10	Mr. Boun Ang	Dipterocarp	30	Phialath
11	Mr. Khamphanh	Dipterocarp	40	Phialath
12	Mr. Nou Gneun	Dipterocarp	1,782	Koa
		Pterocarpus	116	
		Sindora	950	
ໂລກ			7,933	

2.2.6 Signboard in Sangthong (Act 2.1.2)

The signboards have yet established in the enrichment planting sites this year (Taohi 10 ha and Nachalern 25 ha). The project staff and villagers need more discussion and design what information need to put and where the signboards should be located.

2.2.7 Organize Arbor Day Events including awareness raising materials and engagement of media specialist (Act 2.1.3)

The 1st of June is the National Arbor Day in Lao PDR, and many tree-planting ceremonies were organized across the country. In Sangthong, the ceremony was organized in the Ex-situ site of

Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital on 1st June, 2018 (Fig 2.4a) (Act 2.1.3). The ceremony was attended by a vice governor of Vientiane Capital, DDG of DOF, and high ranking officers from government agencies from Sangthong district, youth organization from DOF, and students from Nachalern and Nongboua Secondary School, and local villagers, totally 310 (80 women) people.

In Paksong, the ceremony was organized in the Ex-situ site (Kongtoun mountain), Paksong District, Champasak Province in the mid of June (Fig 2.4b) (Act 2.1.3). The ceremony was attended by high ranking officers from Champasak province, Paksong district, Lao women union, youth, and Kongtoun villagers, totally 135 (40 women) people.



A. Tree planting ceremony in an ex-situ plantation in Ban Nongboua, Sangthong



B. Tree planting ceremony in an ex-situ plantation in Ban Kongtoun, Paksong

Fig. 2.4 Tree planting ceremony in Sangthong (A) and Paksong (B)

2.2.8 Conducting community consultation on seedlings production and sale, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas (Act 3.1.1 and Act 3.1.2)

Total 6 Village Forest Development Groups (VFDGs) were established in 2017 with villagers as shown in Table 2.5 (Act 3.1.2). After that, regular consultation meetings on seedling production,

plantation development, and protection were conducted in Sangthong and Paksong to support VFDGs (Act 3.1.1).

This year, in Sangthong, one (1) meeting was conducted. The meeting on enrichment planting in Ban Toahai and Nachalern between project staff and villagers was conducted in the last week of May at Ban Toahai and Nachalern village. In the meeting, the project staffs presented areas to be planted in 2019 (Table 2.3) and incentives on enrichment planting to VFDG members of both villagers and seek for their comments. As the results, all members have agreed to demonstrate 35 ha out of 120 ha (Taohi 10 ha and Nachalern 25 ha) in order to learn from experiences this year before expanding to larger areas in 2019.

Table 2.5 VFDGs in Paksong and Sangthong

Paksong VFDG	Sangthong VFDGs
I. Kongtoun and Bengkatoud (45 Members)	I. Ban Nachaleurn (16 Members)
1. Mr. Yeng (Head)	1. Mr. Bothdy Simmalavong (Head)
2. Mr. Ken (Deputy head)	2. Mr. Somchane (Deputy head)
3. Mr. Tha (Committee member)	3. Mr. Lerth.Committee Member
4. Mr. Tei –do-	4. Mr. Loy –do-
5. Mr. Somchai –do-	5. Mr. Mouth.. –do-
6. Mr. Nyeurn –do-	6. Mr. Phay khaisy –do-
7. Mr. Somchit –do-	7. Mr. Souphin
8. Mr. Mr. Khamka –do-	8. Mr. Phein.-do-
9. Mr. Khamphet –do-	9. Mr. Khamdy -do-
10. Ms. Noy –do-	10. Mr. Sana..do-
11. Mr. Yuay-do-	11. Mr. Eth..-do-
12. Mr. Noy	12. Mr. Seingla..-do-
13. Ms. Lar	13. Mr. Sengaloun.-do-
14. Mr. Khamsay	14. Ms. Vanh.-do-
15. Mr. Merng	15. Ms. Pong..-do-
16. Mr. Phouvanh	16. Ms. Vanhthong
17. Mr. Sone	
18. Mr. Sy	II. Ban Koy (4 members)
19. Mr. Thongphet	1. Mr. Bouaseng (Head)
20. Mr. Onta	2. Mr. Khammoun (Deputy Head)
21. Nouy	3. Mr. Noy (Member)
22. Mr. Sing	4. Mr. Yeng (Member)
23. Mr. Khanh	III. Ban NongBoua (5 members)
24. Mr. Chui	1. Mr. Somchanh (Head)
25. Mr. Soth	2. Mr. Khampeng
26. Mr. Air	3. Mr. Panaly (Deputy head)
27. Mr. Thongsouk	4. Ms. Phay (Member)
28. Mr. Som	5. Ms. Thiengkham Mingmalayphone
29. Ms. Sy	
30. Mr. Sysamoth	IV. Ban Taohi (6 Member)
31. Mr. Yern	1. Mr. Phosay Vongsamouthy (Head)
32. Mr. Phoung	2. Mr. Thongdam Phommaphong(Deputy)
33. Mr. Thone	3. Mr. Khanthong Sommysack (Member)
34. Mr. Keo	4. Mr. Baosone (Member)
35. Mr. Somphone	5. Mr. Khammsy (Member)
36. Mr. Lorn	6. Ms. Thing (Member)
37. Ms. Loy	

38. Mr. Phonvilay 39. Mr. Chong 40. Mr. Song 41. Mr. Phath 42. Mr. Sack 43. Mr. Thongkhoun 44. Mr. Sang	
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2.2.9 Contract Development (Act 3.1.3)

In Paksong and Sangthong, the meeting on finalization of an ex-situ plantation development contract between project staff and villagers were conducted in the first week of March at Kongtoun and Nachalern village. In the meeting, the project staffs presented a draft contract to VFDG members and seek for their consensus. As the results, all members have no objection and then signed contracts. Land clearing for both sites were done (Figure 2.5) (12 ha for Sangthong and 37 ha for Paksong).



Fig 2.5 Land clearing in Sangthong site (left) and in Paksong site (right)

2.2.10 Organizing study tours for stakeholders at policy and managerial levels (Act 4.1.1)

The study tour of VFDG and VFPG members of Sangthong was organized to visit the project site in Paksong the third week of March, 2018(Fig 2.6). The study teams comprise a representative of VFDG and VFPG from 7 villagers, the project staff, Sangthong DAFO, and DOF, totally 18 people. The main objectives of this study trip were to exchange their experience on the implementation of forest rehabilitation activities between Sangthong and Paksong. The study team visited the project field office, ex-situ plantation site, village nursery, and Xemannoy project nursery. The VFDG and VFPG members of Paksong proposed to visit the project site in Sangthong in order to learn from VFDG and VFPG's practical experience on the implementation of forest rehabilitation activities in Santhong.



Fig 2.6a VFDG and VFPG members of Sangthong visited the project field office project in Paksong



Fig 2.6b VFDG and VFPG members of Sangthong visited the project rehabilitation site in Paksong



Fig 2.6c VFDG and VFPG members of Sangthong visited Xenamnoy Project nursery in

Paksong



Fig 2.6d VFDG and VFPG members of Sangthong visited the project nursery in Paksong

2.2.11 Organizing training courses for forestry sectors at implementation level (Act 4.1.2)

In Sangthong, the on-the-job training on enrichment planting was conducted in the mid of August. The training conducted in Taohi and Nachalern's planting sites aims to build up capacity of VFDGs on enrichment techniques, especially, preparation of planting site, selection of suitable planting stocks, planting technique and maintenance including fire prevention measures. The training was attended by, field staff as resource person, villagers of Taohi and Nachalern, members of each VFDG, totally 19 participants.

2.2.12 Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation (Act 4.2.1)

In Sangthong, the consultation meetings between project field staff and representative of six families (who signed contract to plant 18 ha of Ex-situ plantation) was conducted in the last week of April 2018. The main objective of the meeting is to discuss and improve the payment for planting, supplement planting, and weeding of Ex-situ plantation conservation. The current payment system to villagers seem to be late or not follow the contract because of long process for paper works and DAFO's staff (who is responsible for this work) is always busy. In order to solve this issue, project staff at DOF has to work closely with the filed staff and shorten process for administration work (Figure 2.7).



Fig 2.7 Project staff pay money directly to villagers

2.2.13 Organize various training modules for villagers (on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.) (Act 4.2.2)

In Sangthong, the on-the-job training on seedlings maintenance of VFDG's nurseries was conducted in the end of June. Based on contract agreement, the seedlings need to be maintained in the seedbed until transplant to the planting site next year. The training conducted in each village nursery aims to build up capacity of VFDGs on seedlings maintenance techniques, especially, transplant of seedlings to other seedbeds in order to avoid roots penetration and elongation (Fig 2.8). If necessary need to change into bigger bag and cut stem at collar region (for teak seedlings). The training was attended by, field staff as resource person and 4 members of each VFDG, totally 17 participants (5 women).





Fig 2.8 Transplant of seedlings to other seedbeds in Sangthong

2.2.14 Improvement of the guidelines (Act 4.3.1 and Act 4.3.2)

The Village-driven Forest Rehabilitation Guideline developed in December 2016 was improved. The guideline comprises with four steps and in each step is comprising of main implementing activities including annexes. The improvement focus on lessons learnt from the implementation of activities in the 2017 and 2018 such as contract development process for seedlings production, ex-situ planation development, patrolling project rehabilitation areas, a temporary village nursery, etc.

This year, the project conducted another workshop to introduce the village-based forest rehabilitation guideline to technical divisions concerned in DOF in the last week of July in Huapamom Forestry training center (Figure 2.9). The workshop aims not only introduce the guideline, but also to get comments to improve the guideline. The most important comment from the workshop participants is the responsibility of villagers should be clearly mentioned in each step. The project staff of DOF and Sangthong and Paksong will continue improving the guideline based on the given comment.



Fig 2.9 Workshops to introduce the guideline on “village-driven forest rehabilitation”

2.2.15 Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment) (Act 4.3.3)

Based on a request from VFPGs of Sangthong and Paksong, the project provided a camera for each VFPG, totally 10 (Sangthong 7, Paksong 2, and DOF 1). These cameras will be used to take photos when their conduct patrolling based on their contract agreement. Two motorbikes were also provided to the field office staff in Sangthong and Paksong (Figure 2.10).



Fig 2.10 VFDG in Sangthong received Camera from Deputy Head of DAFO Sangthong

2.2.16 Renovating/expanding field office and improvement of access roads, fencing materials for ex-situ plantation (Act 4.3.4)

The improvement of the existing access road about 2,000 m from Kongtoun village to the project site (ex-situ conservation plot) was almost completed. The remaining works are to improve a culvert and road surface. Based on the government procurement regulation, the project staff signed a contract with local construction company to improve the road condition (Fig 2.11) in April 2018.



Fig 2.11 Improvement of access roads for ex-situ plantation in Paksong

2.2.17 Fee for technical services, including honorarium (Act 4.4.2)

In Paksong, the design of natural water supply system in Ban Kongtoun is very important long term use of the system. Budget under activity 4.4.2 of Paksong was used for this purpose. The main activities include data collection, determination of pipe lines, water tanks, construction works, monitoring and evaluation, etc. The Paksong district governor nominated a steering committee to oversee and manage all construction works and targeted to complete in the beginning of June 2018.

2.2.18 Running costs for the project management at field office (Act 4.4.3)

In Paksong, Mr. Somsanith Vilaysane was appointed to work at the field office from January 1 to December 31, 2018 (12-month period). His role is to follow up the project implementation, write a progress report, meetings and workshops arrangement, and other administration work following the instruction of the NPD.

In Sangthong, Ms. Vilaythong Kongkeodalavong was appointed to work at the field office from January 1 to December 31, 2018 (12-month period). Her role is to follow up the project implementation, write a progress report, meetings and workshops arrangement, and other administration work following the instruction of the NPD.

2.2.19 Running costs for the project management at Central Office (DoF) (Act 4.4.4)

Ms. Southsakhon Inthavong was appointed to assist the NPD from January 1 to December 31, 2018 (12 month period). Her role is to follow up the project implementation, write a progress report, meetings and workshops arrangement, and other administration work based on the NPD instruction.

2.2.20 Project monitoring/field follow up (Act 4.4.5)

The project monitoring/field follow up was conducted by 3 staff of Village Forest Division for Paksong site. The team led by Mr. Chattana, technical staff of the Village forest & NTFP

management Division and two members from VF&NTFP Division met villagers in Kongtoun and Paksong district authority in the mid of January 2018. The issues discussed with the project staff at the field office and VFDG members were remaining activities from the AWP 2017 and activities need to be implemented in the Q1 i.e. land clear for ex-situ plantation, improvement of a road, etc. Over all observation, VFDG member of both villages are eager to implement the project activities based on the signed contract.

2.2.21 Support VFDGs in Paksong to plant native ginseng and cardamom species for local income generation (New Act.)

In Paksong, the consultation meeting between project field staff and VFDG's Beng and Kongtoun was conducted in the last week of April 2018. The main objective of the meeting is to discuss on how project support each group members to plant native ginseng and cardamom in the project site. The initial agreement is mad as follows:

- Cardamom can be planted in both ex-situ plantation (37 ha) and the enrichment areas (160 ha) of both villages,
- Kougoung Cardamom Variety (Chinese variety) is selected because of high price and market demand from China,
- Project is requested to support some budget to buy Kougoung Cardamom seedlings and villagers will payback after harvesting or provide some funds as village revolving funds for cardamom production;
- Villagers show a very strong interest, therefore, this year 20 families (each family planted 100 seedlings) planted cardamom in ex-situ plantation conservation without any support from the project.

2.2.22 Improvement of natural water supply system from Kongtoun Mountain (New Act)

Improvement of natural water supply system from Kongtoun Mountain to Kongtoun village is slow in progress due to heavy rain. There are three main activities: 1) construction of water tank in Kongtoun Mountain, 2) construction of water tank in Kongtoun Village (Fig 2.12), and 3) running pipes from water tank in Kongtoun Mountain to water tank in Kongtoun Mountain. Progress so far, only water tank in Kongtoun Village was completely constructed.



Fig 2.12 Improvement of natural water supply system from Kongtoun Mountain

2.2.23 Improvement of the access road to the ex-situ plantation site in Sangthong (New Act)

Improvement of the access road to the ex-situ plantation site in Sangthong has been completed. One culvert has been completely constructed. About 1500 m of new road from planting site last year (6 ha) to planting site this year (12 ha) was completely constructed (Fig 2.13).



Fig 2.13 Improvement of the access road to the ex-situ plantation site in Sangthong

2.2.24 Organizing workshops to promote the concept of “village-driven forest rehabilitation” for the forestry officials (New Act.)

The workshop to promote the concept of “village-driven forest rehabilitation” was organized in Vientiane in the last week of July, 2018 (Fig 2.14). The main objective of the workshop is to introduce the project concept, framework and implementation arrangement to forestry sectors, local authority and stakeholders concerned in DOF and some selected provinces. The workshop was shared by Director General of Department of Forestry and attended by 35 participants from a different division of DOF, the project staff from Champasak province and Vientiane Capital including Paksong and Sangthong district. In addition, some representatives from other projects were invited to share their experiences. Representatives from Paksong and Sangthong district shared their experiences on working with villagers, providing various incentives to villagers, built the trust and believe from villagers etc. All participants show their interest and will organize a study trip to the project sites.



Fig 2.14 Workshops to promote the concept of “village-driven forest rehabilitation”

III. Remaining activities

The activities shall be conducted in 2019, as remaining activities of 2018:

1. Enrichment planting in Sangthong and Paksong
2. Seedlings production in Sangthong and Paksong
3. Contract development with individual small landholders to plant trees
4. Monitoring and mapping individual small landholders who plant trees
5. Support VFDGs in Paksong to plant native ginseng and cardamom species for local income generation
6. Establishment of a small check dam in Phoukhanya mountain near the enrichment plantation site

IV. Lessons-learned

The project was designed to support government policy to strengthen capacity of villagers dealing with forest resources management and empowering grassroots in decision making process and avoiding top-down approaches. Enrichment planting need clearly design and consult with villagers in the project site.

V. Conclusion

Most of activities planned in AWP 2017 were implemented accordingly. All VFPGs and VFDGs and Village heads including villagers around the project sites engage in the implementation of the project’s activities. District governor of Paksong and Sangthong have strongly supported the implementation of the project’s activities.

VI. Next plan

The next plan, the project will implement activities in 2019 according to approved AWP 2019.

ANNEX

Annex-1 A signed contract for ex-situ plantation establishment and maintenance in Sangthong

Annex-2. A signed contract for ex-situ plantation establishment and maintenance in Paksong

Annex-3a-b A signed contract for enrichment planting and maintenance in Sangthong

Annex-4. A signed contract for enrichment planting and maintenance in Paksong

Annex-5. A signed contract for the protection in Sangthong rehabilitation areas

Annex-6 a-b. A signed contract for the protection Paksong rehabilitation areas