AFoCO Project Document

	Project code	AFoCO/025/2021

Project Profile			
Project title	Integrated Village-Driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR		
Project duration	Estimated start date: 1 September 2021 Estimated end date: 31 August 2026		
Implementing Agency	Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Lao PDR		
Participating countries	Lao PDR		
Project site	Phou Khene Protection Forest, in Viengthong District, Bolikhamxay Province, Lao PDR		
Main objective	To restore degraded forestland and improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application of different forest restoration measures and incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.		
Target Area[1]	Primary Target Area: **Priority 1-**Initiating customized restoration and reforestation model Secondary Target Area: N/A		
Budget and source of finance	Total: US$ 1,099,840 - AFoCO: US$ 993,440 - National: US$ 106,400		
Proponent Profile			
Name/ Position	Savanh Chanthakummane/Mr. Position: Director, Planning and Cooperation Division		
Organization	Department of Forestry, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry		
Address	Thad Dam Road Vientiane, Lao PDR		
Contact	Tel: (+856) 2096296362	Fax: (+856) 21 291561	Email: Vanh8889@gmail.com

[1] Refer to the list of target areas, which is in accordance with the objectives and prevailing strategic plan of AFoCO (provided by the Secretariat).

TABLE OF CONTENTS 오류! 책갈피가 정의되어 있지 않습니다.

List of Abbreviations

AFoCO	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AWPB	Annual Workplan and Budget
DAFO	District Agriculture and Forestry Office
DCU	District Coordination Unit
DoF	Department of Forestry
DoFI	Department of Forest Inspection
GOL	Government of Lao PDR
HH	Household
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
MAF	Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
NTFP	Non-timber forest product
PAFO	Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office
PC	Project Coordinator
PFES	Payment for Forest Ecosystem Services
PLUP	Participatory Land Use Planning
PMM	Project Management Manual
PMU	Provincial Management Unit
PSC	Provincial Steering Committee
PTE	Project Technical Expert
PTT	Project Technical Team
TT	Technical Team
TE	Technical Expert
UN	United Nations
VFMA	Village Forestry Management Agreement
VFNMD	Village Forestry and NTFP Management Division (DOF)
VFPC	Village Forestry Protection Committee
VFRC	Village Forest Restoration Committee
ViDFoRM	Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model,

List of Figures

List of Tables

Summary

Forests are critically important for sustainable socio-economic development and local livelihoods in Lao PDR. However, the country has experienced serious deforestation during the last three decades. This has threatened sustainable socio-economic development and local livelihoods in the country, particularly for those whose livelihoods depend on forest resources.

To reverse the situation, the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) has exerted best efforts in order to halt deforestation, while strongly promoting forest restoration combined with local livelihood improvement. In this connection, the GoL aims to restore 3 million hectares (ha) of degraded forest areas nationwide which are mainly in protection forests. This attempt is expected to contribute to the national target of increasing its forest cover up to 70% in the near future.

To restore the degraded forest areas, various community-based forest restoration models are being developed and tested in the country. The AFoCO/Landmark Rehabilitation Project, for instance, has developed and implemented a site-specific "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model" in Sangthong and Paksong Districts of Lao PDR. The model integrates 3 technical measures which includes forest protection, forest restoration and livelihood improvement of participating village community. To date, the model has illustrated a convincing appropriateness to the county's circumstances, local acceptance and meeting the policy priorities of the GoL.

The recently updated forestry legal framework, particularly the revised Forest Law, allows forest villagers to develop and use degraded forestland in protection forests for commercial tree plantation. The updated forestry law also recognizes the ownerships of village community and individuals on the planted trees and tree plantation upon legal registration. This increases opportunity for village community to integrate commercial plantation activities into the Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model as additional sources alternative income. Thus, the project is designed in such approach, particularly in the areas already occupied by villagers for cultivating agriculture crops in combination with tree plantation within the degraded forests in Phou Khene Protection Forest.

The overall goal of the project is to contribute to fulfilment of the national target in forest restoration (2.5 million ha), particularly to restore degraded forest lands in Phou Khene Protection Forest, while promoting forest-based income generation through the development and utilization of degraded forest lands while minimizing forest land-use conflicts. To realize the overall goal, the project specific objectives are as follows.

1) To develop, refine and make available for further replication of a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas;
2) To restore and protect degraded forestland of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application "ViDFoRM" in selected areas of degraded protection forest through integrated natural forest regeneration measures, including enrichment planting, forest plantation, educational outreach scheme, forest patrols, and forest fire management in 10 villages located surrounding the Phou Khene Protection Forest;

3) To improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products;

The successful implementation of the project will lead to the restoration of 3,000 ha of degraded forest areas in Phou Khean Protection Forest which consequently contribute to achieving the national target of increasing forest cover up to 70% of the total land areas and fulfillment of the National Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement.

Section A. Project Context

Background

Forests are critically important for sustainable socio-economic development and local livelihoods in Lao PDR where about 70% of the total population live in rural areas and their livelihoods are strongly dependent on forestland and resources. However, the country has experienced serious deforestation during the last three decades due to unsustainable wood extraction, slash- and-burn shifting cultivation, agricultural expansion, mining, hydropower, infrastructure development, urban expansion, and forest fires. This has brought about a big loss in forest area and associated biodiversity, including Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), which are critically important for local livelihoods, especially for the poor. In addition, the loss has obviously resulted in weakened forest ecosystem services and consequently reduced food security.

In order to recover degraded forest and increase forest cover, the government has taken measures to address the root causes of unsustainable wood extraction and shifting cultivation by improving timber harvesting systems, wood industries and associated trades, and the livelihoods of people living in rural areas over the past decades. In recent years, the Government of Lao PDR (GoL) has consciously turned its policy towards green development in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), while intentionally combating illegal logging, discouraging unsustainable forest utilization and promoting integrated forest restoration/reforestation and livelihood improvement as the top priorities. This intention has obviously demonstrated in actions taken such as banning of logging and export of logs and unfinished forest products, while improving policy and legal framework for promoting forest restoration/rehabilitation coincided with local livelihood improvement.

With this intention, the GoL aims to increase forest cover up to 70% of the total land areas in the near future, which is determined as an important policy target in the Forest Strategy 2020. To meet the target, approximately 3 million hectares (ha) of degraded forest areas, which is mainly located in Protection Forest and must be restored and/or reforested? The current government policy, in regard to the management of protection, conservation and production forests, aims to rehabilitate 6 million ha of degraded forest, promote tree plantation on 0,5 million ha, and empower villagers to take responsibility for the management, protection, rehabilitation and use of local forest resources as currently specified in Article 39 of the revised Forest Law.

To achieve the target, in practice, amongst the others, “the Village-Based Forest Rehabilitation Approach” has been developed and piloted in Sangthong and Paksong districts of Lao PDR. The project has been implemented since April 2016 under the AFoCO/Landmark Rehabilitation Project which has illustrated a convincing appropriateness to the county’s circumstances and meeting the policy priorities of GoL. Lessons learned from this project have led to the ongoing development of a ‘Common Approach to Village Forestry’ by DoF which will be promoted in all community forestry projects in Lao PDR. This common approach involves 5 basic steps:

1. Introduction of the VFMP Project, review of the latest village Land Use Plan (PLUP) and identify initial VF development needs
2. Village Boundary and Forest Category Identification and Mapping by the village
3. Participatory development of the forest management plan and Village Forestry Management Agreement (VFMA)
4. Community-based implementation VFMA
5. Monitoring the implementation results and outcomes of the VFMA

Following this common approach, 7 village forestry models or combinations of them will be used:

1. Commercial wood production from natural forest,
2. Commercial wood production from existing plantation forest
3. Conservation agreements for management of conservation and protection forests
4. NTFP production from natural forests
5. Conservation and sustainable use of riparian forests
6. Smallholder agroforestry and silvo-pastoral systems
7. Enhancing forest production through public-private-partnerships

Depending on local opportunities, any of these models may also be linked with carbon credit payments and nature ecotourism activities. All 7 models are seen as highly appropriate for conditions in the proposed project site.

Knowing that degraded forest areas are mostly found in protection forests, but less attention has been given to this forest category, the proposed AFoCO project intents to refine and apply "the Village-Driven Forest Rehabilitation Approach" to address the problems and opportunities in Phou Khean Protection Forest in Vienthong District of Bolikhamxay Province. Lao PDR, while aiming at maximizing the approach impact in a wider geographical area with broadened social and environmental context.

Conformity with AFoCO's objectives and strategic priorities

The Integrated Village-Driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement Project conforms closely with AFoCO's objectives and strategic priorities and builds on a number of AFoCO's comparative advantages which is stated in the Project Development Objective "to develop and demonstrate a technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for protection forests". The development objective is well supplemented and widened by fulfillment of the set of specific objectives described hereunder:

1. To develop, refine and make available for further replication of a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas following DoF's Common Approach to Village Forestry. One aspect of promoting replication of the models this will be to develop institutional and human capacity for successful implementation, management and replication of the ViDFoRM.

2. To restore degraded forestland and protection of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application of Forest Restoration Model "ViDFoRM" in selected areas of degraded protection forest through integrated natural forest regeneration measures, including enrichment planting, forest plantation, educational outreach scheme, forest patrols, and forest fire management in 10 villages located surrounding the Phou Khene Protection Forest;
3. To improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products;
4. To manage the project in an effective manner and in compliance with project implementation guidelines and AFoCO related guidelines;

Proposed activities under these four (4) objectives are closely aligned with AFoCO's objectives and strategic priorities as shown below:

AFoCO Priority Area 1: Initiating customized restoration and reforestation models

The project will work on the development of village forestry management model for forest restoration and reforestation. As appropriate, it will apply one or more among seven models being developed under DoF's Common Approach to Village Forestry as described in Section A 1 above.

AFoCO Priority Area 2: Supporting research and development in climate change adaptation approaches

The project will work on climate change adaptation in conjunction with key stakeholders, in particular with Bolikhamxay Agriculture and Forestry College as described in Section B 1.1. This work will involve research and innovation to develop climate resilient measures for village forestry and NTFP production. With assistance from the College, the Project will also screen all forestry and NTFP production activities for climate resilience and introduce adaptation measures as appropriate.

AFoCO Priority Area 3: Introducing systematic management on forest-related disasters

Natural disasters in rural Laos are occurring with increased frequency due to climate change. Forest fire control is probably the most important forest-related disaster that can occur and fire control is a major consideration in all forestry models that will be applied. By addressing the rehabilitation of forest ecosystem services, the Project will also provide protection from natural disasters such as flooding, landslides, drought, etc.

AFoCO Priority Area 4: Local livelihood improvement and community-based small enterprise development

The project considers livelihood improvement as a specific objective that will be addressed through a range of activities, including community-based enterprise development based on harvested timber and NTFPs

AFoCO Priority Area 5: Strengthening institutional capabilities, diversifying resources, and promoting regional actions

Institutional capacity development is also a specific objective of the Project following the approach of developing a Common Approach to Village Forestry that is intended for use in all foreign aid projects and the GoL programs. It is intended that the Project will contribute to this through its involvement in the Village Forestry Sub-sector Working Group that acts as a platform for village forestry issues. The project is also well-aligned with a number of AFoCO's comparative advantages as below:

Proven experience and expertise in forest restoration and rural sector reform

Forest restoration is an overriding goal of the project that will bring about the reforms to be possible under the recently revised Forest Law

Payment for forest ecosystems services

Although there are no clear policies and regulations on forest ecosystems services in Lao PDR, the revised Forest Law does make provision for this. This new opportunity will be addresses by three of seven models to be applied by the project, namely: (i) Conservation agreements for management of conservation and protection forests, (ii) Conservation and sustainable use of riparian forests, and (iii) Enhancing forest production through public-private-partnerships

Proven technology in forest disaster management

Forest fire control is probably the most important forest related disaster that can occur and fire control is a major consideration in all forestry models that will be applied under the Project.

Forest and community-based ecotourism and forest-based carbon neutral approaches

Ecotourism and carbon trading are not addressed through a specific stand-alone forestry model. However, those opportunities will be exploited, where appropriate, in conjunction with any of seven models to be applied.

Domestication of endemic and endangered species in degraded areas

Domestication of forest species, either in forest areas or on agricultural land, will focus mainly on NTFPs for which there are significant opportunities in Lao PDR.

Assuming that all objectives are fulfilled, the project will certainly contribute to 1) achieving the global goals of increasing forest cover by up to 3% worldwide and 70% of the policy target in

Lao PDR; 2) implementing the Paris Agreement on climate change particularly in pursuit of policy approaches for adaptation in the forestry sector; and 3) improving livelihoods and incomes through forestry-related activities.

Regionality

The project is designed to solve problems resulted from deforestation in the country. In particular, the project is planned to address national or site-specific issues within protection forests. Given that the project essence is model development for duplication in areas with the same or similar situations, lessons learned from the project could be shared transboundary or regionally. In addition, since the project site is in the adjacent to Vietnamese border where similar situations have been observed, thus forest restoration in Lao PDR will be certainly connected to similar efforts made in Viet Nam site. Between the 1990s and 2000s, Vietnam implemented two main programs: Greening the Barren Hills Program and the Five Million Hectare Reforestation Project. The programs focused among other aims on rehabilitating forest cover on barren land and hills, protecting existing forest and assisting natural regeneration and reforestation. The experience from Vietnam reveals that forest rehabilitation should be incorporated not only in projects at the national level and implemented through projects at the local level with well-defined goals and incentives, but also integrated with other projects that aim to improve the socio-economic condition of local populations[2]. Recognizing climate change issues enables understanding of transboundary and regionally/globally common initiatives. Following the completion of the project, its impact at regional level can be well explained.

The opportunities for the project to engage in regional exchange and cooperation are significant. In the Mekong basin, Cambodia, Myanmar and Viet Nam have a number of similarities with Lao PDR that help mutually beneficial cooperation. All four countries are at similar levels of economic development, forestry plays a role in their national economies, serious deforestation has taken place in recent years, the drivers of deforestation are similar and the topography and climatic conditions are comparable.

Information on project target area

1.1 Geographic information

Phou Khaen Protection Forest is a provincial protection forest located within the administrative territory of Viengthong District in the eastern part of Bolikhamxay Province and about 41 km from Vietnamese border to the East. The protection forest has a total area of around 11,500 ha and is geographically located between 2044793 -2067759 N and 417569-439865 E of the UTM Zone 48 N and at the altitudes between 296-1,027 m a.s.l. The area is accessible all year round by the road No. 13, No. 8 and No. 1D in a distance about 210 km from Parksan, the capital district of Bolikhamxay. More detail about the geographic location of

[2] CIFOR. *Forest Rehabilitation in Vietnam: Histories, Realities and Future [Internet]*. [cited 2014 May 28]. Available from: http://www.cifor.org/publications/pdf_files/Books/BDeJong0601.pdf. , 2006.

Phou Khaen Protection Forest is depicted in the Figure 1, including the location of target villages adjacent to it.

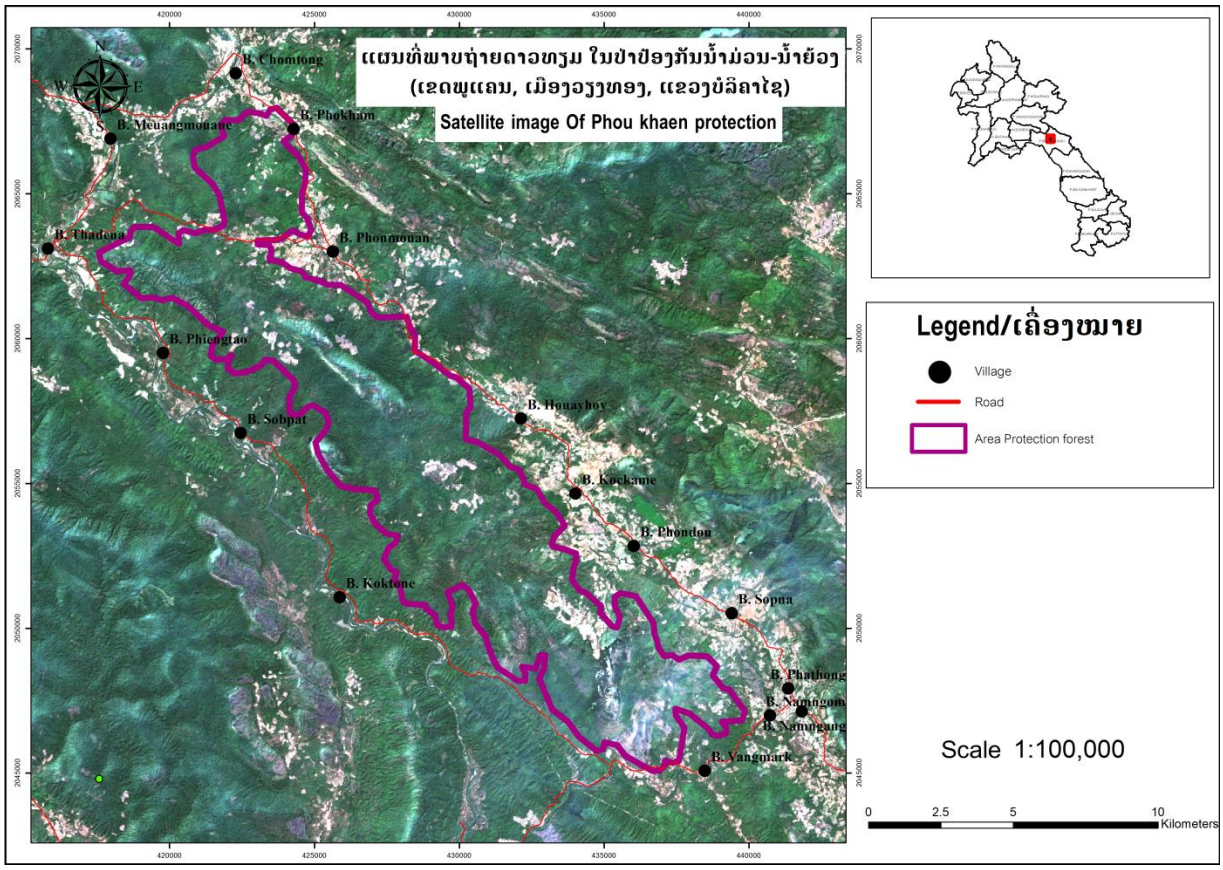


Figure 1: Geographic location of Phou Khaen Protection Forest

Phou Khaen Protection Forest has a total area about 12,100 ha, of which forest area accounts for 94%. Existing forests are highly fragmented with a high degree of degradation (Table 1 and Figure 2).

Table 1: Forest and Land use of Phou Khaen protection forest

Land Use	Area (ha)	Percent (%)
Forest land	**11,490.00**	94%
- *Evergreen Forest*	*990.00*	
- *Mix deciduous Forest*	*6,700.00*	
- *Degraded Forest*	*3,800.00*	
Agriculture land	**400.00**	
Barren Forest Land	**90.00**	
Other land uses	**120.00**	
Total	**12,100.00**	

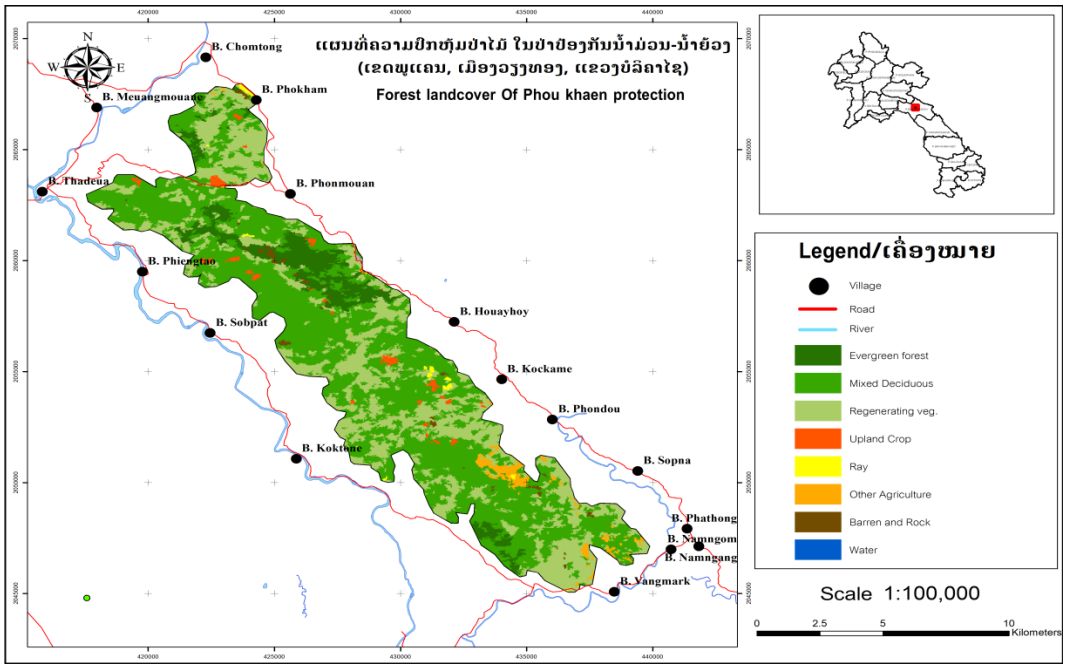


Figure 2: Forest and Land cover of Phou Khaen protection forest

1.2 Environmental information

Phou Khaen Protection is located in Viengthong district in which the average temperatures vary between 21.7-31.8 ^{o}C with highest temperature 34.6^{o}C in April. The average annual rainfall was measured at 2,216 mm in the period 2011-2015 with highest monthly rainfall at 502 mm in July and 15.7 mm in February. The soil in the areas is relatively fertile with the 3 main soil types being Alisols, Luvisols, and Acrisols. This generally good soil fertility in the area will contribute significantly to natural forest regeneration and to the productivity of forest plantations.

Original vegetation types in the areas were dominated by dry evergreen/semi-evergreen forest on high relief terrain (500 meters - 1,200 meters) with some areas of mixed deciduous, and on valley is dominated by broadleaf evergreen forests. In these forests, 83 tree species were recorded. Key wildlife species found in the adjacent Nam Kading NPA include elephant, gaur, giant muntjac, gibbons, sooty babbler and rufous-throated fulvetta, river lapwing, wreathed and great hornbills and large otters.

The Phou Khean Protection forest plays an important role in the area, particularly it is important sources of food, income, water supply. In addition, it plays important role in environmental protection e.g. soil erosion and air quality control. In addition, while the protection forest is located very close to the Nam Kading National Protected Area where a number of endemic fauna and flora species are found, it plays an important role as buffer zone for protecting this NPA. Even though the areas were covered with dense forests, but become heavily degraded at the time being as a result of human practices. This presents a valuable opportunity for the Project to apply forestry model 3, namely conservation agreements for management of conservation and protection forests

The picture 3 shows how the forest area has been destroyed. It can be clearly seen that forest uses happened in almost all part of the areas, particularly in the northern and southern ends. Main drivers of deforestation in the areas reportedly include illegal logging, shifting cultivation of upland rice and upland crops. Situation becomes worse when local people get known and known to a new commercial crop, Casava, which was introduced recently with increased demand into the areas. This apparently increases deforestation rate. The promotion of commercial banana and fruit production backed up by Chinese investors is apparently threatening the existence of the Phou Khaen Protection Forest, if there is no proper interference. Thus, the project will bring in a new hope for the protection forest to survive.

Figure 3: Current situation of Phou Khean Protection Forest[3]

1.3 Socio-Economic information

Phou Khaen Protection Forest is surrounded by 16 villages (Figure 1 and 2) which are home to approximately 13,700 people, grouped into 2.239 households. Out of the total population, 59% are women. The majority of the households are economically relatively poor, of which 11% of households are classified as extremely poor. Living in remoteness, their livelihoods rely on rice and cash crop production, livestock rearing, fishing and collecting forest products, particularly Non-timber Forest Products (NTFPs). The area is ethnically diverse and many villages comprise more than one ethnic group. A demographic change is occurring in the area, with young males

[3] The MAP will be updated when the project implements the activity 2.1.2 Development of Village Forest Management Plan (VFMP), Forest restoration and protection work plan

and females leaving the land for work in provincial towns, Vientiane Capital or in neighboring countries. This trend is creating smaller and older village populations with less labour available for shifting cultivation. This demographic trend could be an important opportunity for the Project, as rice fallow land could be returned to productive forest if managed properly.

Traditionally, like other remote areas in Lao PDR, the majority of people in this area practice shifting cultivation for upland rice and cash crop production. The size of the shifting cultivation area for annual cropping on average ranges between 1-3 ha per household. There is also a dependence on rain-fed paddy fields that some individual households access to, but the area is usually limited, particularly in upland areas. In order to ensure a good yield, the crop rotation period is usually 3-5 years. Thus, this would mean that each household needs to occupy at least 3-9 ha for a rotational cropping. Rotations as short as 3 years are unsustainable due to loss of soil fertility and declining rice yields which becomes another driver of deforestation. Paddy rice yields are normally as twice as those of upland rice, and paddy development can help to rake the pressure off the forest. However, available land appropriate for paddy development is often limited.

A new cash income alternative which has been recently introduced in the area is cassava cropping for cash income. While growing cassava, people still use a portion of their traditionally occupied land for growing rice, while the rest is for cassava. The others, who do it in a larger scale, usually claim their rights to use degraded forest areas which are supposed to be reserved for natural forest regeneration. This increases challenges for natural forest restoration without proper interventions. In this case, the application of ViDFoRM is thought to be a good solution by addressing both forest restoration and forest-based income generation.

Overall, from an ecological and socio-economic perspective, the proposed target site is representative of many other Protection Forest areas in Lao PDR, and as such village forestry models, methods and lessons learned from the Project will be appropriate for replication to other parts of the country. The intended approach for this is through DoF's Common Approach to Village Forestry that will be promoted in both donor projects and the GoL programs.

Figure 4: Example of cassava plantation

Section B. Rationale and Objectives

Rationale

1.1 Stakeholder analysis

Key stakeholders who will be directly involved and benefit from the project includes:

Government:

Two groups of governmental stakeholders are distinguished, namely (i) Central Government and (ii) Local Government. The Central Government represented by Department of Forestry (DoF) will get involved in project coordination and management, including planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting, while keeping close coordination with AFoCO Secretariat. The Local Government, on the other hand, is represented by Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office (PAFO) and its subordinated District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO). These organizations are tasked to fulfill policy objectives and strategic targets of the DoF in their authorized territories. While PAFO will take overall leadership, in consultation with District Governor, DAFO will work closely with villages to implement the project activities as planned in a participatory manner and approved by DOF management. In addition, DAFO will conduct monitoring, field advisory responsibility and periodically reporting to DOF.

The Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI) will be involved in the project, particularly at the district level where they will assist in law enforcement and building capacity in target villages for forest protection at the local level.

Village Community:

There are 2 categories of village stakeholder which are firstly, the village authority and villagers directly participating in the project and secondly, other villagers in general. By law, the village

authority is obligated to manage forests as well as other natural resources, so it has similar roles and benefits as government, but directly responsible for their villagers' livelihoods. In addition, a successful forest project needs to actively engage villagers who destroy forests due to their short sighted or for their long-term livelihoods. However, it is important to note that the degree of participation normally depends on private benefits they can make from their participation, even though in-kind benefits are also important.

Forestry Education institution:

Forestry institutions can play important roles in project implementation, particularly the adaptive research proposed under this Project. In Bolikhamxay province there is an Agriculture and Forestry College which is operated under Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and has a role to build related practical capacity in central region of the country. In this connection, it is strongly believed that the involvement of the college (both teachers and students) would help implement and scale up the project model successfully. In particular, the college could help conduct related training, and information/data collection, while using these opportunities as resources for their students to conduct practicum. It is a win-win solution.

The specific roles of these stakeholder groups are described in Table 2 below.

Benefit Sharing:

As described in Table 2 below, benefits will accrue to all stakeholders. Local communities will benefit from increased income from timber and NTFPs, secure and stabilized livelihoods and enhanced ecosystem services. Government institutions will benefit by from increased forest cover, reduced deforestation and increased value of forests. Finally, all suppliers in the timber and NTFP value chains will benefit from secure markets, reliable supply, value addition, lower transaction costs and an accredited and legal chain of custody mechanism.

Table 2: Stakeholder analysis

Stakeholder group	Characteristics	Problems, needs and roles	Potential benefits	Involvement in the project
Primary stakeholders				
Local community	Local livelihood and income earning depend on forest resources and forest lands;	Insufficient land for permanent agriculture; Forest encroachment for commercial agricultural plantation; Limited food/income alternatives in forest dependent communities; High villager interest for income from commercial tree plantations	Using degraded forest land for commercial tree plantation with secured domestic timber market; Income earning from the implementation of the project; Increased food and income from restored forest areas	Project planning and management at village level; Forest protection (patrolling and forest fire control); Forest restoration (seedling production; labor input) Commercial tree plantation on degraded forest land (individual/community)
Secondary stakeholders				
Governmental institutions at central and local levels (DOF, PAFO, DAFO)	Governmental institutions (DOF, PAFO, DAFO) is in charge of implementation of forestry policy, strategy and legislations	Halt deforestation and ensure degraded forests are restored and sustainably managed; Increase participation of local community in forest protection and restoration	Roles and mandates fulfilled; Minimized deforestation; Increased forest cover; Maximized values of forests; Government policy and strategy implemented.	Project coordination, planning, management, monitoring and reporting; Local capacity building and supports
Department of Forest Inspection	Department is responsible for forestry law enforcement, with officers at national, provincial and district levels	Provide training, capacity building development to Village Forest Restoration Committee (VFRC) in law enforcement and forest patrolling	Improved law enforcement in village forest areas; Improved forest governance at the village level; chain of custody support	Training, capacity building, arrest of offenders and court and juristic support; increased prices forest products through proof of chain of custody.
Tertiary and other stakeholders				
Education institutions	Bolikhamxay Agriculture and Forestry College will involve in baseline survey and trainings	Provide technical services; conduct climate-related research; conduct baseline surveys; Provide training facilities and	Increased local knowledge on local stakeholders; Climate resilient measures for tree and NTFP production	Conducting baseline surveys and other technical skills; Provide training facilities and personnel

		resource persons	Provide a practical training ground for students	
Timber and NTFP value chain supplier	Input and equipment suppliers, timber and NTFP traders & middlemen, wood and NTFP processors	Ensure regular supply of inputs; Market outlet for forest products; Source of technical information	Regular price and market information; Opportunities for value addition	Involvement through the value chain and through the market forces of supply and demand

1.2 Problem Analysis

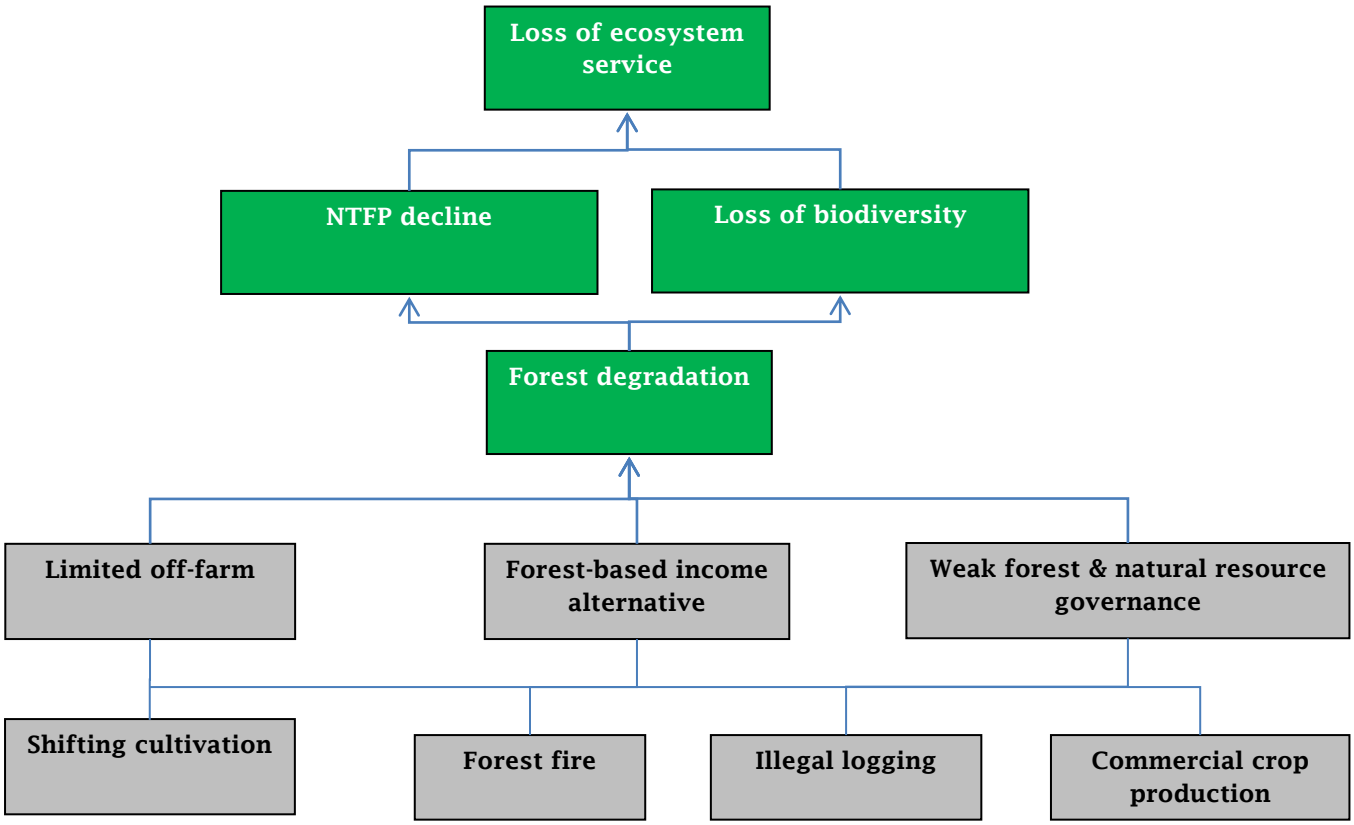
As mentioned earlier that Lao PDR has faced a threat from deforestation in recent decades. This has contributed to a rapid decline of forest cover and forest deterioration, including forest biodiversity and ecosystem services. This negative impact has not only resulted in degradation of the environment and contributed to climate change, but has also threatened local livelihoods since forest products are a main source of income and nutrition for local peoples living within and around forests.

The nationally recognized main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation include shifting cultivation, forest fires, the expansion of commercial agriculture, illegal logging, infrastructure development, hydropower projects and mining. Amongst the drivers, shifting cultivation, commercial agriculture expansion, forest fire and illegal logging are threatening sustainable management of the Phou Khaen Protection Forest. The problems caused by these drivers are strongly influenced by local livelihood practices and behavior that, in theory, could be addressed by local involvement and participation in decisions.

In this connection, Figure 5 below depicts project related problem analysis. In particular, the analysis underlines three main causes of deforestation and forest degradation that have occurred in Phou Khaen Protection Forest, namely shifting cultivation/forest fire, illegal logging and commercial crop production in forest land. These drivers have been further compounded and increased by causes such as limited off-farm and forest-based income alternatives, land degradation, and weak forest and natural resource governance. Thus, with the concept of “Integrated Village-Driven Forest Rehabilitation and Livelihood Improvement”, the project intends to address the drivers and respective root causes influenced behinds.

In the case of the Phou Khaen Protection Forest, shifting cultivation, illegal logging, forest fire and commercial crop production are the main drivers of deforestation and associated forest degradation, NTFP decline and loss of biodiversity. This, in turn, leads to a loss of ecosystem services which causes problems related to the environment, climate change and poverty. Analysis of these issues are presented in Figure 5 below.

Figure 5: Problem Analysis Tree



1.3 Logical Framework Matrix

Heading	Narrative	SMART Objectively verifiable indicators	Means of verification	Assumption
Goal	To restore degraded forestland and improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application of different forest restoration measures and incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.	At the end of the project, at least 3,000 ha of the degraded forest areas in Phou Khaen Protection Forest has been restored through enrichment planting 400 ha and assisted natural regeneration 2,600 ha and the whole Phou Khean Protection Forest has been effectively protected by the village communities participating in the project. Moreover, by the end of the project, income of forest dependent communities has increased by 30%.	- Periodical progress reports and completion report - Income database/statistics at national and local levels	The guidelines for village-based forest restoration of the Lao PDR government has been applied. The active involvement of village communities and support from relevant project stakeholders have been sustained and promoted. COVID-19 Pandemic has not adversely affected implementation of project activities
Objective 1	To develop, refine and make available for further replication of a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas	At the end of the project, the project has developed, refined, made available for further replication of a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas.	Periodical progress reports and completion report	- DoF's Common Approach to Village Forestry has been in place to promote community forestry projects. - Institutional and human capacity for successful implementation, management and replication of the ViDFoRM has been developed and strengthened.

Output 1.1	To develop and make available a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas	By the end of the project, a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas has been developed and made available for further replication	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports	- DoF's Common Approach to Village Forestry has been in place to promote community forestry projects. - Institutional and human capacity for successful implementation, management and replication of the ViDFoRM has been developed and strengthened.
Act 1.1.1	Familiarize with local situations and set up a project baseline information database	By the end of 2021, the project technical expert and technical team have selected 10 project pilot villages to conduct baseline surveys and assessment of current situations, challenges and opportunities. Accordingly, a project baseline information database has been set up by the mid of 2022.	Database	A Project Technical Expert (PTE) has been recruited, Project Technical Team (PTT) has been appointed, all project staff have actively engaged in the project and budget has been made available
Act 1.1.2	Develop ViDFoRM, related guidelines and training materials	The project technical team has developed and tested one (01) ViDFoRM guidelines and one (01) set of ViDFoRM training materials by the mid of 2022 which have been finalized and used by DoF and other projects by the end of 2023.	Set of documents	Local situations have been assessed and familiarized, lessons learnt from AFoCO Landmark project have been made available as a source of reference

Act 1.1.3	Produce case studies and policy briefs based on lessons learned to present to senior level decision makers for use in formulating forestry policy and regulations	In year 4, the project has prepared and submitted individual reports on five case studies of village forestry successes and five policy briefs on key policy lessons learned to present to senior level decision makers for use in formulating forestry policy and strategy.	Copies of Individual Case Study Reports and Policy Briefs	Case studies and policy briefs have been accepted and used by DOF; Policy makers have accepted evidence-based recommendations
Act 1.1.4	Organize dissemination workshop to promote replication of forest management models	The project has organized a workshop to disseminate and promote replication of forest management models in year 5	Workshop Proceedings/Documentation	Invitees from projects and programs have shared their results and information related to successful forest management models which can be replicated.
Objective 2	To restore degraded forestland and protection of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas	By the end of the project, the project has contributed to restoring approx. 3,000 ha of the degraded forest areas in Phou Khaen Protection Forest and effectively protecting the whole Phou Khean Protection Forest.	- Periodical progress reports and completion report	- The Forest Restoration Model "ViDFoRM" has been adopted to apply to restore the selected degraded forest areas. - Village communities and project stakeholders have actively participated in restoring degraded forest areas and protecting the protection forest.

Output 2.1	To apply Forest Restoration Model "ViDFoRM" to restore the selected degraded forest area and forest protection measures to protect forest in Phou Khean	By the end of the project, the project has contributed to restoring approx. 3,000 ha through enrichment planting 400 ha and assisted natural regeneration 2,600 ha in Phou Khaen Protection Forest and effectively protecting the whole Phou Khean Protection Forest.	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports	- The Forest Restoration Model "ViDFoRM" has been adopted to apply to restore the selected degraded forest areas. - Village communities and project stakeholders have actively participated in restoring degraded forest areas and protecting the protection forest.
Act 2.1.1	Establish and equip Village Forest Restoration Groups (VFRGs) and setting their working system	10 VFRGs and their working system have been established through village meetings and approved by District Governor by mid of 2022	List of VFPGs approved by the Viengthong district governor	VFRGs members have been willingness to participate in the project
Act 2.1.2	Development of Village Forest Management Plan (VFMP), Forrest restoration and protection work plan	The project staff has developed 10 VFMP including forest restoration and protection workplans for all project villages in the Mid of 2022	Copies of VFMP and Workplans	VFMPs including forest restoration and protection workplans have been established.
Act 2.1.3	Run a forest protection and restoration outreach/education scheme	The project has conducted at least 10 Awareness Campaigns on forest protection/fire prevention and forest restoration in all project villages by the end of the project	Reports	The COVID-19 Guidelines for Lao PDR government and AFoCO projects will be used. The project staff have been trained and developed capacity to conduct outreach activities

Act 2.1.4	Seedlings production (Trees and NTFPs Sp)	In year 1, the project has supported to establish 10 village nurseries for seedling production in 10 villages and in year 3, about 200,000 seedlings have been produced	About 200,000 seedlings of native species produced at the village nursery	Village communities have been willingness to participate in the project and budget has been made available
Act 2.1.5	Conduct enrichment planting, assisted natural regeneration and maintenance	The project has conducted enrichment planting of 400 ha and of degraded forest areas year 3 and maintained this area for following years. By the end of the project, the project has conducted an assisted natural regeneration of 2,600 ha	400 ha of enrichment planting 2,600 ha of assisted natural regeneration	Village communities have been willingness to participate in the project and budget has been made available
Act 2.1.6	Establish and equip Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs) and setting their networking system	10 Village Forest Protection teams established and Village forestry protection net works adopted	List of VFPGs approved by the Viengthong district governor	VFPGs members have been willingness to participate in the project
Act 2.1.7	Conducting forest protection measures such as patrolling and forest fire prevention and other measures	The whole Phou Khean Protection Forest areas has been protected by VFPGs	Schedule and report of each villager's FPG	Village communities have been willingness to participate in the project and budget has been made available
Objective 3	To improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.	By the end of the project, livelihood of village communities involving in the project has been improved and the household income from related income earning activities and restored forest ecosystem services has increased by 30%	- Periodical progress reports and completion report - Income statistics	Village communities and project stakeholders have actively participated in the project.

Output 3.1	To promote forest based income earning activities with secured markets and credits	By the end of the project, the household income from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products has increased by 30% from the baseline of 2021.	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports - Income statistics	Village communities have actively participated in the project, markets and credits have been secured for forest-based income earning activities.
Act 3.1.1	Support the pilot commercial household and community NTPFs production and marketing	At least 20ha of NTFP species has been planted by 2023 with community and individual investment and with the participation of 10 households. By the end of the project, the household income from NTFPs has increased by 30%.	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports	Village communities have been willingness to participate in the project and budget has been made available
Act 3.1.2	Support the pilot of commercial household and community tree plantation	At least 80ha of commercial tree species has been planted by 2025 with community and individual investment and with participation of 25 households. .	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports	Village communities have been willingness to participate in the project and budget has been made available
Act 3.1.3	Promote and facilitate processing and marketing of NTPFs and planted timbers	In 2022, 10 Village NTFP and Tree Production Groups have been established, trained and facilitated by the project staff during the project period. By the end of the project, the household income from plantations has increased by 30%	-Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports	Village communities have been willingness to participate in the project and budget has been made available
Objective 4	To manage the project in an effective manner in compliance with project implementation guidelines and AFoCO related guidelines	During the project period, the Project Management Unit has implemented and managed the project in an effective manner and in compliance with project management guidelines and AFoCO related guidelines	- Periodical progress reports and completion report	The relevant domestic policies and laws will be applied.

Output 4.1	To establish the –Project Management Unit (PMU) and District Coordination Unit (DCU) and conduct procurement of vehicles, equipment and supplies	The Project Management Unit (PMU) and District Coordination Unit (DCU) have been established and the procurement of vehicles, equipment and supplies has been conducted	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports - Equipment/vehicle inventory report	The project document has been finalized and endorsed.
Act 4.1.1	Establish PMU and DCU	The PMU and DCU have been established the end of 2021	Decision of PAFO and DAFO nominated PMU and DCU staff	The project document has been finalized and endorsed.
Act 4.1.1	Establish PMU and DCU offices	The PMU and DCU offices have been established by the end of 2021	Office	The project document has been finalized and endorsed.
Act 4.1.3	Conduct procurement of vehicles, equipment, stationary and consumables	The procurement a set of vehicles (including: 1 mini-truck, 15 Motobikes), equipment and supplies (including: 10 computers +printers, 5 LCD+Screens,1 set of audio equipment, 30 GPS, 50 fire distinguishers, and 200 uniforms) has been conducted the end of 2021. The stationary and consumables are provided	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports - Equipment/vehicle inventory report	The list of vehicles, equipment, supplies have been approved by AFoCO Sec, AWPB has been approved and budget has been made available
Output 4.2	To develop institutional capacity for the project management and implementation	Institutional capacity for the project management and implementation has been developed	- Periodical progress reports - Monitoring and evaluation reports	The COVID-19 Guidelines for Lao PDR government and AFoCO projects will be used. The Project Management Manual has been approved.

Act 4.2.1	Develop project management procedures, regulations and M&E framework and use M&E results for adaptive project management	A set of Project Management Manual (PMM), including M&E Framework, has been produced the mid of 2022. Based on that the PMM has been systematically and effectively applied during the project implementation	Copy of Project Management Manual (PMM), including M&E Framework	PME has been recruited/mobilized
Act 4.2.2	Develop Project Annual Workplans and Budget (AWP&B)	Consultation workshops have been organized every year to consult and develop Annual Workplan and Budget (AWP&B) with stakeholders in a participatory manner	Reports	PME has been recruited/mobilized
Act 4.2.3	Organize a Project Kick-Off Workshop and final workshop	A project kick-off workshop to launch the project and a project final workshop to review the project have been organized the end of 2021 and 2025, respectively.	Reports	The COVID-19 Guidelines for Lao PDR government and AFoCO projects will be used. The AWPB has been approved
Act 4.2.4	Organize managerial and technical trainings/study tours	Based on actual needs, at least 2 managerial trainings/refreshments with 30 trainees, and 10 technical training/refreshments with 200 trainees, and 3 study tours with 45 participants have been organized from 2022 to 2025	Reports	The COVID-19 Guidelines for Lao PDR government and AFoCO projects will be applied. Training curriculum and plans have been well prepared
Act 4.2.5	Conduct project monitoring	Consultation workshops to monitor and review the project performance have been organized twice a year during the project implementation	Reports	AFoCO M&E guidelines will be followed. The AWPB has been approved

Act 4.2.6	Conduct project evaluation	The mid-term and final project evaluations in order to review and evaluated the project effectiveness, relevance, transparency and efficiency have been conducted 2023 and 2025, respectively Accordingly, mid-term and final evaluation reports have been produced	Reports	AFoCO M&E guidelines will be followed. The project evaluation has been planned

1.4 Justification

The project that deals with forest protection and forest restoration linked with local livelihood improvement, by concept, has a high potential to solve the analyzed problems related to deforestation happened in the project. The project concept/model “ViDFORM” is holistically designed and developed to tackle national concerns and share benefits amongst stakeholders groups such as Local community, Governmental institutions at central and local levels (DOF, PAFO, DAFO), Department of Forest Inspection, Education institutions, and Timber and NTFP value chain supplier . The success of the project will produce benefits in political, economic, social and environmental aspects.

For the government, as deforestation has become concerns that threats the national sustainable development and people livelihoods, forest protection and restoration become the top policy directive and obligations of the government, including village authorities to follow and implement. Thus, the project provides opportunity for the government to participate and reap the benefits.

For village communities, the project will raise their political position and ownership in the management of natural resources as it is legally provided. In this connection, the project will help village communities to practice their rights and build capacity to protect and manage forest resources within their territories for their current and future benefits. Village communities can get benefits from access right and ownership on forests and forest land. In short term, the project will provide opportunity for villagers to generate their income by participating in the project implementation, e.g. earning income from wages, seedling production, and other forest-based income alternatives. In long term, the restored and enriched degraded forest areas will serve as sustainable food and income sources for villagers, particularly from NTFPs. Indirectly, lives of villagers will also be improved by enriched ecosystem services of the restored and enriched forest areas.

In conclusion, the project provides reasonable political, economic, social and environmental benefits for all stakeholders, while helping solve problems related to deforestation and therefore, it is necessary for stakeholders to participate in the project.

Objectives

1.1 Main objective (development objective)

The main objective is to restore degraded forestland and improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through 1) Development and application of a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas, 2) Restoration of degraded forestland and protection of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas, and 3) Improvement of livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.

1.2 Specific objective(s) and success criteria & indicators

In order to achieve the main objective, the project aims to obtain the following five (5) outputs:

Output 1 (Specific Objective 1): To develop and make available a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas.

Output 2 (Specific Objective 2): To apply Forest Restoration Model “ViDFoRM” to restore the selected degraded forest area and forest protection measures to protect forest in Phou Khean.

Output 3 (Specific Objective 3): To promote forest based income earning activities with secured markets and credits.

Output 4 (Specific Objective 4): To establish the Project Management Unit (PMU) and District Coordination Unit (DCU) and conduct procurement of vehicles, equipment and supplies.

Output 5 (Specific Objective 4): To develop institutional capacity for the project management and implementation.

Success criteria and Indicators:

1) By the end of the project, a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas has been developed and made available for further replication

2) By the end of the project, the project has contributed to restoring approx. 3,000 ha through enrichment planting 400 ha, assisted natural regeneration 2,600 ha of the degraded forest areas in Phou Khaen Protection Forest, and effectively protecting the whole Phou Khean Protection Forest.

3) By the end of the project, livelihood of village communities involving in the project has been improved and the household income from related income earning activities and restored forest ecosystem services has increased by 30%

4) During the project period, the Project Management Unit has implemented and managed the project in an effective manner and in compliance with project management guidelines and AFoCO related guidelines

Section C. Description of Project Interventions

1. Work Plan and Schedule

Heading	Action	Performance indicators	Resp. person	Annual time line																						
				2021				2022				2023				2024				2025				2026		
				Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3
Goal	To restore degraded forestland and improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application of different forest restoration measures and incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.																									
Obj 1	To develop, refine and make available for further replication a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas;																									
Out. 1.1	A set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable “Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM” for degraded protection forest areas has been developed and made available for further replication																									

Act. 1.1.1	Familiarization with local situations and set up a project baseline information database	By the end of 2021, the project technical expert and technical team have selected 10 project pilot villages to conduct baseline surveys and assessment of current situations, challenges and opportunities. Accordingly, a project baseline information databse has been set up by the mid of 2022.	TE, TT, Project staff and villager's group			x	x	x	x																	
Act. 1.1.2	Develop ViDFoRM, related guidelines and training materials	The project technical team has developed and tested one (01) ViDFoRM and one (01) set of ViDFoRM by the mid of 2022 which have been finalized and used by DoF and other projects by the end of 2023.	TE, TT, Project staff					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x					x						

Act. 1.1.3	Produce case studies and policy briefs based on lessons learned to present to senior level decision makers for use in formulating forestry policy and regulations	In 2024, the project has developed five case studies of village forestry successes and five policy briefs on key policy lessons learned to present to senior level decision makers for use in formulating forestry policy and strategy.	Project staff													x	x	x	x							
Act. 1.1.4	Organize dissemination workshop to promote replication of forest management models	The project has organized a workshop to disseminate and promote replication of forest management models in 2025 and 2026	PC,Project staff																			x	x	x	x	x
Obj. 2	**To restore degraded forestland and protection of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas**																									
Outp. 2.1	**To apply Forest Restoration Model "ViDFoRM" to restore the selected degraded forest area and forest protection measures to protect forest in Phou Khean**																									

Act. 2.1.1	Establish and equip Village Forest Restoration Groups (VFRGs) and setting up their networking system	Establish and equip Village Forest Restoration Groups (VFRGs) and setting up a networking system in 2021	PC, Project staff			x	x																			
Act. 2.1.2	Developme nt of Village Forest Managemen t Plan, Fortrest restoration and protection work plan	The project staff has develpp a VFMP including forest restoration and protection worksplan for all project villages in the Mid of 2022	Project staff and villager's group					x	x																	
Act. 2.1.3	Run a forest protection and restoration outreach/ed ucation scheme	The project has conducted at least 10 Awareness Campaigns on forest protection/fire prevention and forest restoration in all project villages by the end of the project	PC, ME, TT					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Act. 2.1.4	Seedling production (trees and NTFPs Sp)	In 2021, the project has supported to establish 10 village nurseries for seedling production in 10 villages and in 2023, about 200,000 seedlings have been produced	PC,TT,Project staff				x			x	x			x	x													
Act. 2.1.5	Conduct enrichment planting, assisted natural regeneration and maintenance	The project has conducted enrichment planting of 400 ha of degraded forest areas year 3 and maintained this area for following years. By the end of the project, the project has conducted an assisted natural regeneration of 2,600 ha	PC, ME, TT						x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x			x	x
Act. 2.1.6	Establish and equip Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs) and setting their networking system	10 Village Forest Protection teams established and Village forestry protection net works adopted in 2021 and 2022	PC, ME, TT			x	x	x	x																		

Act. 2.1.7	Conducting forest protection measures such as patrolling and forest fire prevention and other measures	The whole Phou Khean Protection Forest areas has been protected by VFPGs	PC, TE, ME, TT					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Obj. 3	**To improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.**																													
Out. 3.1	**Forest based income earning activities promoted with secured markets and credits**																													
Act. 3.1.1	Support the pilot commercial household and community NTPFs production and marketing by providing seedlings produced by the project	At least 20ha of NTFP species has been planted by 2023 with community and individual investment and with the participation of 10 households. By the end of the project, the household income from NTFPs has increased by 30%.	PC, ME, TT					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Act. 3.1.2	Support the pilot of commercial household and community tree plantation by providing seedlings produced by the project	At least 80ha of commercial tree species has been planted by 2025 with community and individual investment and with participation of 25 households.						x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Act. 3.1.3	Promote and facilitate processing and marketing of NTPFs and planted timbers	In 2022, 10 Village NTFP and Tree Production Groups have been established, trained and facilitated by the project staff during the project period. By the end of the project, the household income from plantations has increased by 30%.	PC, ME, TT					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Obj 4	**To manage the project in an effective manner and compliant with project implementation guidelines and AFOCO related guidelines**																											
Out. 4.1	**The Project Management Unit (PMU) and District Coordination Unit (DCU) have been established and the procurement of vehicles, equipment and supplies has been conducted**																											
Act. 4.1.1	Establish PMU and DCU	The PMU and DCU have been established the end of 2021	PC, ME				x																					

Act. 4.1.2	Establish PMU and DCU offices	The PMU and DCU offices have been established by the end of 2021	PC, ME				x																			
Act. 4.1.3	Conduct procurement of vehicles, equipment, stationary and consumables	Required vehicles 1 mini-truck, 15 Motorbikes), equipment and supplies (10 computers +printers, 5 LCD+Screens,1 set of audio equipment, 30 GPS, 50 fire distinguishers, and 200 uniforms) procured and made in services at the end of Q3 of Y1. The stationary and consumables are provided	PC, ME				x	x																		
Out 4.2	**To develop institutional capacity for the project management and implementation**																									

Act. 4.2.1	Develop project management procedures, regulations and M&E framework and use M&E results for adaptive project management	A set of Project Management Manual (PMM), including M&E Framework, has been produced the mid of 2022. Based on that the PMM has been systematically and effectively applied during the project implementation	PC, ME, TT				x	x	x																	
Act. 4.2.2	Develop Project Annual Workplans and Budget (AWP&B)	Consultation workshops have been organized every year to consult and develop Annual Workplan and Budget (AWP&B) with stakeholders in a participatory manner.	PC, ME, TT				x				x				x				x							
Act. 4.2.3	Organize a Project Kick-Off workshop and final workshop	A project kick-off workshop to launch the project and a project final workshop to review the project have been organized the end of 2021 and 2026, respectively.	PC, ME, TT				x																		x	

Act. 4.2.4	Organize managerial and technical trainings/study tours	Based on actual needs, at least 2 managerial trainings/refreshments with 30 trainees, and 10 technical training/refreshments with 200 trainees, and 3 study tours with 45 participants have been organized from 2022 to 2026	PC, ME, TT					x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
Act. 4.2.5	Conduct Project monitoring	Consultation workshops to monitor and review the project performance have been organized one time a year during the project implementation.	PC, ME, TT								x				x				x				x						x
Act. 4.2.6	Conduct Project evaluation	The mid-term and final project evaluations in order to review and evaluated the project effectiveness, relevance, transparency and efficiency have been conducted 2023 and 2026, respectively. Accordlingly, mid-term and final evaluation reports have been produced.	AFOCO Expert												x												x		

2. Budget (USD)

2.1 AFoCO

Heading	Action	Unit	Unit Cost	Qty	Total	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Goal	**To restore degraded forestland and improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through the application of different forest restoration measures and incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.**										
Obj.1	**To develop, refine and make available for further replication a set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas;**										
Out 1.1	**A set of technically appropriate, economically viable and socially acceptable "Village-Driven Forest Restoration Model, ViDFoRM" for degraded protection forest areas has been developed and made available for further replication**										
Act 1.1.1	Familiarization with local situations and set up a project baseline information database	Village	2,000	10	**20,000**	20,000	0	0	0		0
Act 1.1.2	Develop ViDFoRM, related guidelines and training materials	Set	10,000	1	**10,000**	10,000	0	0	0		
Act 1.1.3	Produce case studies and policy briefs based on lessons learned to present to senior level decision makers for use in formulating forestry policy and regulations	Document	1,500	10	**15,000**	0	0	0	9,000	3,000	3,000
Act 1.1.4	Organize dissemination workshop to promote replication of forest management models	time	10,000	1	**10,000**	0	0	0	0	5,000	5,000
	Sub-total 1				**55,000**	**30,000**	**0**		**9,000**	**8,000**	**8,000**
Obj. 2	**To restore degraded forestland and protection of Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas**										
Outp. 2.1	**To apply Forest Restoration Model "ViDFoRM" to restore the selected degraded forest area and forest protection measures to protect forest in Phou Khean**										
Act 2.1.1	Establish and equip Village Forest Restoration Groups (VFRGs) and setting up their networking system	Committee	1,000	10	**10,000**	0	10,000	0	0		0

Act 2.1.2	Development of Village Forest Management Plan, Forest restoration and protection work plan	Village	3,000	10	**30,000**	20,000	10,000	0	0		0
Act 2.1.3	Run a forest protection and restoration outreach/education scheme	time	2,000	10	**20,000**	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,500
Act 2.1.4	Seedling production	Seedlings	0.6	200,000	**120,000**	60,000	0	30,000	30,000		0
Act 2.1.5	Conduct enrichment planting, assisted natural regeneration and maintenance	ha	60	3000	**180,000**		45,000	45,000	45,000	45,000	
Act 2.1.6	Establish and equip Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs) and setting their networking system	time	1,000	10	**10,000**	0	10,000	0	0		0
Act 2.1.7	Conducting forest protection measures such as patrolling and forest fire prevention and other measures	time	2000	10	**20,000**		5,000	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,500
	Sub-total 2				**390,000**	**80,000**	**85,000**	**85,000**	**85,000**	**50,000**	**5,000**
Obj. 3	**To improve livelihood of forest dependent community in Phou Khaen Protection Forest Areas through incomes generation from implementing forest restoration activities and NTFPs products.**										
Output 3.1	**Forest based income earning activities promoted with secured markets and credits**										
Act 3.1.1	Support the pilot commercial household and community NTPFs production and marketing	ha	800	20	**16,000**	0	4,000	4,000	4,000	2,000	2,000
Act 3.1.2	Support the pilot of commercial household and community tree plantation	ha	600	80	**48,000**	0	12,000	12,000	12,000	6,000	6,000
Act 3.1.3	Promote and facilitate processing and marketing of NTPFs and planted timbers	Village	4,000	10	**40,000**	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
	Sub-total 3				**104,000**	**0**	**26,000**	**26,000**	**26,000**	**13,000**	**13,000**
Obj 4	**To manage the project in an effective manner and compliant with project implementation guidelines and AFOCO related guidelines**										
Out 4.1	**The Project Management Unit (PMU) and District Coordination Unit (DCU) have been established and the procurement of vehicles, equipment and supplies has been conducted**										

Act 4.1.1	Establish PMU and DCU	Unit	1,000	2	**2,000**	2,000	0	0	0		0
Act 4.1.2	Establish PMU and DCU offices	Office	10,000	2	**20,000**	10,000	10,000	0	0		0
Act 4.1.3	Conduct procurement of vehicles, equipment are provided	as listed	60,000	1	**60,000**	60,000	0	0	0		0
	Procurement of stationary and consumables	Year	6,000	5	**30,000**	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000	3,000	3,000
	Sub-total 4				**112,000**	**78,000**	**16,000**	**6,000**	**6,000**	**3,000**	**3,000**
Output 4.2	**To develop institutional capacity for the project management and implementation**										
Act 4.2.1	Develop project management procedures, regulations and M&E framework and use M&E results for adaptive project management	Set	5,500	1	**5,500**	0	5,500	0	0	0	0
Act 4.2.2	Develop Project Annual Workplans and Budget (AWP&B)	Workshop	5	1,000	**5,000**	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	
Act 4.2.3	Organize a Project Kick-Off workshop and final workshop	Workshop	5,000	2	**10,000**	5,000	0	0	0		5,000
Act 4.2.4	Organize managerial and technical trainings/study tours	time	3,000	14	**42,000**	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	12,000	0
Act 4.2.5	Conduct Project monitoring	time	2,000	10	**20,000**	0	5,000	5,000	5,000	2,500	2,500
Act 4.2.6	Conduct Project evaluation	time	2,000	2	**4,000**	0	2,000	0	0		2,000
Act 4.2.7	Project management	Year	10,000	5	**50,000**	0	15,000	10,000	10,000	7,500	7,500
Act 4.2.8	Technical Assistance (PTA)	Month	3,500	14	**49,500**	10,500	18,000	7,000	7,000	7,000	
Act 4.2.9	Field trips	Time	2,000	20	**40,000**	0	10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
	Sub-total 5				**226,000**	**16,500**	**66,500**	**43,000**	**43,000**	**35,000**	**22,000**
	Total				**887,000**	**204,500**	**193,500**	**160,000**	**169,000**	**109,000**	**51,000**
	Programe support cost (12% of total)				**106,440**	**6,000**	**25,440**	**25,000**	**25,000**	**15,000**	**10,000**
	Grand total				**993,440**	**207,500**	**221,940**	**185,000**	**194,000**	**124,000**	**61,000**

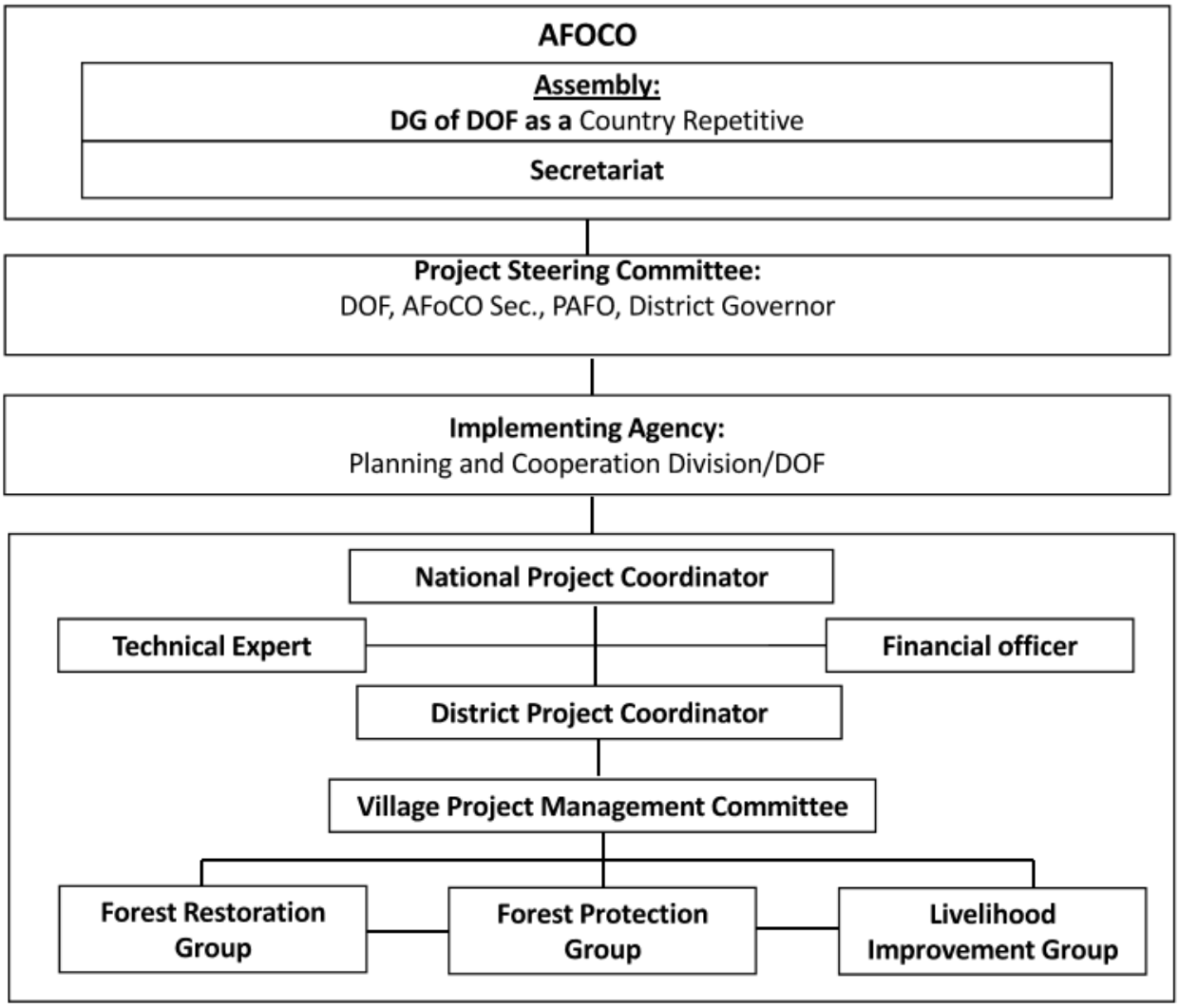
	National contribution				**106,400**	**19,200**	**19,200**	**19,200**	**19,200**	**23,200**	**23,200**
					1,099,840	226,700	241,140	204,200	213,200	147,200	84,200

2.2 National contribution

Activity	Unit	Unit cost	Qty	Total (USD)	Budget allocation by year (USD)						Remark
					2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	
Office				***64,400***	***9,400***	***9,400***	***13,400***	***9,400***	***9,400***	***13,400***	
Documents translation and Interpreter	Year	3,000	6	18,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,000	
Starting project workshop	Set	4,000	1	4,000	4,000						
Closing project workshop	Workshop	4,000	1	4,000						4,000	
Middle workshop	Workshop	4,000	1	4,000			4,000				
Annual evaluation workshops	Workshop	4,000	3	20,000		4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	4,000	
Maintenance and utility for office	Year	2,400	6	14,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	2,400	
Professional contribution from PMU	***Year***	***7,000***	***6***	*42,000*	***7,000***	***7,000***	***7,000***	***7,000***	***7,000***	***7,000***	
Total				**106,400**	**19,200**	**19,200**	**19,200**	**19,200**	**23,200**	**23,200**	

Section D. Implementation Arrangements

1. Organizational structure



2. Staff resource plan

Table 3: Project personnel and roles

No.	Staff category	Number of pax.	Role	
1	Project director	1	Overall supervision on project management	Full time
2	National project coordinator	1	Manage and coordinate project implementation	Full time
3	District project coordinator	1	Lead and coordinate project implementation at field level	Full time
4	Technical expert	1-2	Assist in project management and implementation	Part time
5	Financial officer	1	Assist project coordinator in financial management	Full time
6	National Technical staff	1	Assist the project coordinator in project management and coordination	Full time
7	Provincial Technical staff	1	Take part in the project monitoring and facilitation	Full time
8	District technical staff	5	Coordinate project implementation and provide technical assistance to village production groups	Full time

3. Reporting and monitoring arrangements

The project will be managed under the authority of Department of Forestry in accordance with AFoCO's related regulations and guidelines. Project monitoring will be made regularly in a participatory manner, led by the national project coordinator, against the approved project implementation logical framework and periodic milestones set in annual workplan and budget. As a result, progress reports will be on semi-annual basis and submitted to AFoCO Secretariat and DOF for monitoring and updating.

Based on AFoCO Project management regulations, annual steering committee meetings will be organized to discuss and approve annual progress reports and annual workplans and budget. In addition, a Mid-term Evaluation will be conducted by AFoCO evaluation team and at the end of the project, a Final Project Evaluation will also be conducted.

Besides formal monitoring and reporting, the project team will pay high attention to informal monitoring and feedbacks. This can be through day-to-day works and cooperation with village authorities and all project stakeholders.

4. Risk management and sustainability

4.1 Assumptions and risks

Understanding the concept and methodology mentioned above, potential risks that could hinder the achievement of the project results would rest with insufficiency in local capacity at district and village level, and insufficient incentive for local authorities and villagers to take lead and fully participated.

These concerns can be addressed or mitigated by appropriate model development with holistic approach taking into account existing local capacity and willingness. It would mean that the model design should be technically viable, participatory, taken into account encouraging local benefits and appropriate forest-based income alternatives.

The Project will follow an adaptive management approach and react and respond to lessons as they are learned. By this means, risk will be reduced through adaptation as unforeseen events occur.

4.2 Sustainability

The project is an adaptive research by nature that seeks appropriate and acceptable model and approaches for successful forest restoration. Given that the project can demonstrate the success for acceptable replication, it will be proposed for adoption as national forest restoration approach to be applied in the implementation of the national forest restoration programme being developed in parallel with the project implementation.

This programme is the top priority in the government forest strategy and therefore high tendency to be implemented nationwide with all possible financial sources that can be affordable by government, especially the foreseen sources from the compensation for the consumption of forest land, forest resources and forest ecosystem services, e.g. hydropower schemes, mining projects, ecotourism, etc.

Having the model adopted and implemented nationwide will contribute to sustainable development in many ways. With regard to capacity development, the model will be publicized and replicated nationwide. The more the model is applied the more associated economic, social and environmental sustainability can be obtained as a result from increased forest areas, improved forest structure and increased quality of forest ecosystem services.