Free, Prior and Informed Consent Village Forest and Agriculture Grants



OBJECTIVE

The main purpose of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) is to ensure communities receive comprehensive information about projects, including goals, activities, and impacts, allowing them to freely consent before implementation. Key aspects of FPIC include:

Free: Consent must be given without coercion or inducement.

Informed: Information must detail potential impacts and be presented in an easily understandable manner.

Prior: Communities should have ample time to review project information before activities begin.

Consent: Communities have the right to agree or disagree and can revoke consent if negative impacts occur.

Additionally, the Village Forest and Agriculture Grants (VFAG) aim to establish committees, **approve Bylaws, provide financial training to VFAGCs**, and o**pen bank accounts for ensuring transparency and accountability in financial** matters within villages.

APPROACH

Begin by conducting the initial FPIC **consultation meetings** in the villages to present the project's background, goals, objectives, activities, and both positive and negative impacts. Clearly explain the **Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM)** to ensure villagers understand the project fully.

Following this, allow village authorities and villagers to conduct their own **internal consultations.** Villagers will then **vote** to either join, reject, or request more time to consider the project. After FPIC, PLUP, VFAG, PSAP, and VFMP activities, review the project activities, continue the second consultation "FPIC2" for review the project activities and present the draft village forest management/conservation agreement.
Present the draft village forest management/conservation agreement with the villagers and conclude with a signing ceremony for these agreements.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



FP117

170
Village coverage

accepted to join the project 1 and signed village forest management/conservation agreements in three provinces (Houaphan, Luang Prabang and Sayaboury)

Villagers attendance and votes in FPIC activities

FPIC 1	FPIC 2	FPIC 3
16,211 pax.	**11,230 pax.**	**6,272 pax.**
(16,176 Yes, 23 No, and 12 abstentions)	5,578 female pax. (49,7%)	2,985 female pax. (47.6%)
8840 female pax. (54%)		

FP200

290
Village coverage

accepted to join the project and signed village forest management/conservation agreements in six provinces (Houaphan, Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, Oudomxay, Bokeo, and Luang Namtha)

Villagers attendance and votes in FPIC activities

FPIC 1

20,510 pax.

(10,076 female pax. 49.13%)

VFAG

Villagers **16,631 pax**

Villages **7,697**

Committee members **891**

(517 female pax. 58%)

Participatory Land Use Planning 2.0



OBJECTIVE

The component involves investigating and understanding village land use categories and developing Future Land Use Management Zones (FLUMZ) collaboratively with local villagers and the Village Land and Forest Management Committee.

It aims to enhance community land tenure security and promote diversified and sustainable smallholder production (deforestation-free agricultural practices) and village forest management. PLUP 2.0 provides baseline data for Village Forest Management Planning (VFMP), Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices (PSAP), and future land registration or titling.

I **Investigation and understanding of village land use categories**
within the village and proceeding the Future Land Use Management Zones (FLUMZ) in participatory manner.

II **Promoting deforestation-free agricultural practices and village forest management**

III **Enhancing the land tenure security for communities**

IV **Providing baseline data**
for the Village Forest Management Planning, Promotion of Sustainable Agricultural Practices and the Land Registration or Land Titling in the future.

APPROACH

The PLUP 2.0 initiative, implemented by the District Office of Natural Resources and Environment (DONRE) and the District Agriculture and Forestry Office (DAFO), focuses on

sustainable village land and forest management.

Key components include the establishment of the Village Land and Forest Management Committee (VLFMC) and the collection of socio-economic, land and forest data within villages. It also involves the village boundary demarcation between villages and the assessment of Current Land Use and Forest Cover (CLUFC).
Furthermore, the initiative plans for Future Land Use Management Zones (FLUMZ) and the establishment of village regulations to ensure effective and sustainable land management practices.

RESULTS ACHIEVED



Over 192 local government staff from 6 targeted provinces (27 districts) have been trained on PLUP 2.0 and be able to implement PLUP at village level by themselves.

VLFMCs have been established and trained on PLUP in 473 villages (as of September 2025) and will continue in more 99 remaining villages.

PLUP 2.0 have been conducted in 473 villages and make land use more sustainable on an area of more than 1,871,800 ha (figures as of September 2025). 99 remaining villages will be continued until mid-2026.

250,166 villages (49.6% women) have been assisted/participated to develop their village Land Use Plans (as of September 2025).

Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Practices (PSAP)



OBJECTIVE

The introduction of sustainable, climate-resilient and deforestation-free agriculture production systems has reduced climate change vulnerability and improved livelihoods of farmers. The support and facilitation of sustainable investments in agricultural value chains by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has improved the market access for farmers.

I Addresses key drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

Contributes to delivering emission reductions through reducing the expansion of agriculrture through reducing the expansion of agricultural activities into forested landscapes.

II Promotion of sustainable agricultural practices

definition of 32 sustainable farming models in a "White List" for the GCF1 and 12 farming models for GCF2.

III Focuses on agricultural value chains

private sector actors (agri MSMEs), and market-solutions for reducing deforestation.

IV Gender and youth promotion

Ensuring gender equality by focusing on the 3Rs (Rights, Representation, Responsibility) and empowering young by developing skills and providing investment opportunities.

APPROACH

The approach "Promotion of Sustainable Agriculture Practices" (PSAP) plays a significant role in the project "Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation" reducing the expansion of agricultural land in forest areas and consequently its degradation. Providing technical and financial support to farmers, the PSAP approach creates incentives and facilitates the adoption of sustainable, climate-smart and deforestation-free agricultural practices among rural communities. A so-called "White List" guides the PSAP approach by defining suitable crops and production systems in line with the project objective. PSAP activities are implemented across six provinces in Laos, namely Sayaboury, Houaphanh, Luang Prabang, Bokeo, Oudomxay, and Luang Namtha. Households reached through the PSAP approach will receive a financial support as an initial investment for a sustainable agricultural transformation. This is complemented by technical trainings and on the job advisory through governmental extension agents.

The approach is embedded in the holistic project approach. All agricultural activities are implemented in combination with participatory land use planning on village level, clear consent by villages and in line with established forest management plans.

PROJECT TARGETS



170 **villages** received funding for PSAP implementation from VFAG in GCF1

290 **villages** supported under GCF2 will receive funding for PSAP implementation (expected)

60 agri-MSMEs are supported in their business operation and financially enabled to invest in sustainable, deforestation-free agricultural value chains

Village Forest Management Planning (VFMP)



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OBJECTIVE

The objective of Village Forest Management Planning is to enhance community participation and ownership by fostering greater involvement and responsibility among the villagers.

The village forest management approach aims to increase **forest coverage, improve forest conditions, and enhance local livelihoods** through the sustainable and equitable utilisation of forest products.

The Village Forest Management Program (VFMP) develops both **annual and five-year forest management plans**, identifying activities across all three forest categories: Village Conservation Forest, Village Protection Forest, and Village Use Forest. Key activities include boundary demarcation, patrolling, fire prevention, and natural forest restoration, among others.

i **Village conservation forest**

focuses on the conservation of biodiversity, wildlife, and non-timber forest products (ntfps).

ii **Village protection forest**

focuses on protecting watersheds, preventing soil erosion, and conserving forest cover.

iii **Village use forest**

focuses on meeting the daily subsistence needs of the local community, including the sustainable harvesting of timber, fuelwood, ntfps, and other forest products for household use.

APPROACH

The project involves joint and accurate forest boundary demarcation in collaboration with villagers, as well as the marking and mapping of village forests areas. It includes conducting a basic forest inventory of the Village Use Forest to support the development of a utilization plan. Additionally, the project will produce both annual operation and five-year forest management plans.

The project also supports the implementation of the Annual Operational Plan (AOP) by providing capacity building for the Village Land Use Management Committee (VLUMC). That will be focusing on key AOP activities, including installing forest signboards, conducting forest patrols, preventing forest fires, and carrying out village forest restoration activities.

MAIN RESULTS ACHIEVED



Villagers are involved in the implementation of management plans for five National Protected Areas (NPAs) and one National Park. Moreover, the villagers are responsible for implementing the Annual Operational Plans (AOPs). It is enhancing the richness of forest and biodiversity.

Project 1

569,583 ha

of village forest area are under management.

Project 2

269,000 ha

of village forest area are under management.

(the data updated in August 2025)

Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS)



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OBJECTIVE

The Provincial Deforestation Monitoring System (PDMS) enables near-real-time detection of deforestation through satellite imagery combined with field verification.

The system standardizes survey items, reporting formats, and workflows so that district and provincial authorities can consistently monitor, enforce compliance, and support REDD+ Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV).

APPROACH

The PDMS follows a three-step process:

I **Detect (weekly, Google Earth Engine)**
Automated weekly forest-loss screening using satellite imagery with before/after comparisons and provincial dashboards. Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Offices (PAFO) select sites for field verification and dispatch coordinates to tablets/phones.

II **Verify (field, OruxMaps for GPS direction and Open Data Kit (ODK) form for data/info fill)**
District Agriculture and Forestry Offices (DAFO) and Department of Forest Inspection (DOFI) teams conduct site visits, collect evidence and attributes (forest type, reason, actors, permits, area, photos), and issue administrative guidance to offenders.

III **Report (server, Department of Forest Planning and Cooperation (FIPD)/Department of Forestry (DOF))**
Tablet data syncs automatically to a national server; spatial and attribute data are stored in a central database for reporting and tracking.

IMPLEMENTATION ROLES

PAFO operates PDMS, DAFO acts as field officers (roles flexible by province). Coordination is required for cross-provincial forests.

MONITORING WINDOW

Peak season from January to April; rainy season monitoring is limited by cloud cover

RESULTS / STATUS


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Operational coverage Implemented in six northern provinces with support from Improved Governance of Forest Landscapes (I-GFLL) / Governance of Forest Landscapes and Livelihoods (GFLL). In Savannakhet, supported by Forest Conservation and REDD+ Phase 2 (F-REDD2, JICA) with collaboration from the Lao Landscapes and Livelihoods (LLL) project. Expansion planned with LLL (World Bank) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Xepien National Park.

Integration Provides supplemental information for REDD+ MRV and evaluation of Policy and Measures (PAMs) effectiveness in the Emission Reduction (ER) Program area.

ACHIEVEMENTS BENEFITS

This PDMS system was approved by the Minister of Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to apply and use worldwide in whole-of-provinces in Laos.

Accurate & timely: Near-real-time alerts combined with field verification enhance enforcement and deterrence.

Simple & scalable: Clear steps (detect–verify–report) enable district and provincial teams to apply consistently.

Low-cost: Relies on free Google Earth Engine (GEE) imagery and open-source tools like OruxMaps and ODK.

REDD+-aligned: Strengthens Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) systems and tracking of Policy and Measures (PAMs).