



# Annual Progress Report 2019

January – December 2019

## <Project Profile>

<b>Project code</b>	AFoCO/008/2014
<b>Project Title</b>	Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR
<b>Project Duration</b>	Start date: 2016 (MOU: 01 October 2014) End date: 2025 (MOU: 30 September 2023)
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	Department of Forestry (DoF)
<b>National Focal Point(s)</b>	Mr Phouthone Sophathilath, Director of Planning and Cooperation Division, DoF
<b>Project Site</b>	Thad Dam Road, PO.Box:2932, Vientiane, Lao PDR
<b>Target Area</b>	- Primary target area: PA 1 (Initiating Customized Restoration & Reforestation Models) - Secondary target area: PA 4 (Local Livelihood Improvement & Community-based Enterprise Development)
<b>Budget and Source of Finance</b>	Total: US \$1,865,830 - AFoCO: US \$1,500,000, funded by KFS - Lao PDR: US \$87,990, in-cash : US \$277,840 in-kind
<b>Annual Budget and Source of Finance in 2019</b>	Total: US \$212,300 ( <i>excluding the carry-over</i> ) - AFoCO: US \$187,300, funded by KFS - Lao PDR: US \$6,000, in-cash : US \$19,000, in-kind

## <Implementing Agency Profile>

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# **Annual Report 2019**

## **Village-Based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR**

**Under  
AFoCo Landmark Program  
Restoration Component**

**Executed by  
Department of Forestry**

December 2019



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## **Abbreviation and Acronyms**

AFoCo	ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation
AFoCO	Asian Forest Cooperation Organization
AWP	Annual Work Plan
DOF	Department of Forestry, Lao PDR
NPD	National Project Director
VFDG	Village Forest Development Group
VFPG	Village Forest Protection Group

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## I. Introduction

The overall objective of the project is to increase forest cover by the restoration of degraded forest areas, strengthen capability of government agencies and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, and contribute to poverty reduction by providing direct income to local people, particularly, the poor. The specific objectives and outputs of the project are described with the annual target in 2019 (Table 1).

Table 1. 2019 annual target by project output and objective in two project sites

	<b>Paksong</b>	<b>Sangthong</b>
Objective 1	To demonstrate village based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate	
Output 1.1	About 455,000 seedlings are produced for ex-situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting. Of which 170,000 seedlings for Paksong site and 285,000 seedlings for Sangthong site	
2019 Target	<i>About 42,300 Seedlings are produced for both ex-situ and enrichment planting</i>	<i>52,000 seedlings for enrichment planting</i>
Output 1.2	About 60 ha of ex-situ conservation plantation have been established and maintained. Of which 40 ha in Paksong and 20 ha in Sangthong	
2019 Target	None	None
Output 1.3	Nearly 790 ha of enrichment planting (160 ha in Paksong and 630 ha in Sangthong) have been successfully established and maintained	
2019 Target	<i>60 ha of enrichment planting among the total land areas 160 ha</i>	<i>217 ha of enrichment planting among the total land areas 630ha</i>
Output 1.4	About 2,770 ha of Protection Forest (400 ha Paksong and 2,370 ha in Sangthong) have been protected by local villagers	
2019 Target	<i>About 400 ha of the total area of forest rehabilitation are protected by VFPGs</i>	<i>About 2,370 ha of the total area of forest rehabilitation are protected by VFPGs</i>
Output 1.5	Barren land of individual landowners in Sangthong have been supported through agroforestry extension services	
2018 Target		At least 5 individual landowners surround the project site are consulted and developed contract
Objective 2	To generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village based forest rehabilitation program in particular	
Output 2.1	Public and private sectors are aware and promote village based forest rehabilitation program	
2019 Target	Public and private sectors are aware and village based forest rehabilitation program promoted	Public and private sectors are aware and village based forest rehabilitation program promoted
Objective 3	To provide incentives to local villagers through various means, inter alia, strengthening capacity of villagers to produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling production, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas	
Output 3.1	Local villagers both men and women, particularly, the poor have additional incomes from sale of seedlings, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas	



	<b>Paksong</b>	<b>Sangthong</b>
2019 Target	The poor have income from sale of seedlings	The poor have income from sale of seedlings
Objective 4	To strengthen capability of stakeholders at all levels for successful implementation and replication of the project	
Output 4.1	Forestry sectors and local authority have knowledge and capacity on how to implement national forest rehabilitation policy at district and village level with an active participation of local villagers	
2019 Target	Capacity of forestry sectors are strengthened	Capacity of forestry sectors are strengthened
Output 4.2	Villagers have capacity to produce a good quality of seedlings and implement forest rehabilitation activities	
2019 Target	VFDGs have capacity to produce 42,300 Seedlings, site preparation, and planting	VFDGs have capacity to produce 52,000 Seedlings, site preparation, and planting
Output 4.3	Necessary materials and facilities for implementation and replication of village based forest rehabilitation have been sufficiently developed and made in place	
2019 Target	The Guidelines on Village-based Forest Rehabilitation are developed and updated based on site specification	The Guidelines on Village-based Forest Rehabilitation are developed and updated based on site specification
Output 4.4	Financial and Project Management	
2019 Target	Financial management and project management	Financial management and project management

## II. Description of the work implemented during the reporting period

### 2.1 Completion status in Paksong and Sangthong

The table 2 and table 3 show the status of implementation to each activity (including remaining activities of 2018) conducted in 2019, in two project sites, Paksong and Sangthong districts.

Table 2. Completion status in Paksong

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 remaining activities		2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing	Q in 2019	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>Objective 1</b>								
<b>To demonstrate village-based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate;</b>								
<i>Output 1.1</i> Sufficient quality seedlings of 170,000 seedlings are produced for ex-situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting in 200 ha								
Activity 1.1.1	Seeds collection							
Activity 1.1.2	Seedlings production of 42,300 seedlings			X	X	X	X	Implemented
<i>Output 1.2</i> About 40 ha of degraded forest land have been reforested through the establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation, which, in turn, produces future quality seed sources of valuable native tree species								
Activity 1.2.1	Survey and demarcation of project areas and preparation of ex-situ and enrichment plan							
Activity 1.2.2	Establishment of 40 ha of ex-situ conservation plantation							
Activity 1.2.3	Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)			X	X			Implemented
<i>Output 1.3</i> 160 ha of degraded forest land have been regenerated through enrichment planting with native tree species								
Activity 1.3.1	Preparation and Conducting enrichment planting for 160 ha			X	X	X	X	On progress* (Actual plantation targeted in 2019 (60 ha) has been moved to the next year.)
Activity 1.3.2	Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)			X	X	X	X	Implemented
<i>Output 1.4</i>								

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 remaining activities	2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q in 2019 Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<i>About 400 ha of degraded forest land in the project site have been successfully regenerated through natural forest regeneration facilitated by village driven forest protection</i>							
Activity 1.4.1	Establishing and equipping Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs)						
Activity 1.4.2	Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VD FP) covering the whole project site		X	X	X	X	Implemented
<b>Objective 2</b>							
<b>To generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village based forest rehabilitation program in particular</b>							
<i>Output 2.1</i>							
<i>Public and private sectors are aware and promote village based forest rehabilitation program</i>							
Activity 2.1.1	Organizing inception workshop						
Activity 2.1.2	Signboard						
Activity 2.1.3	Organize Arbor Day Events including awareness raising materials and engagement of media specialist		X	X	X	X	Implemented
<i>New Activity 2018-1</i>	<i>Making trekking roads and observation sites at the plantation sites in Paksong</i>	Q1	X				Completed
<b>Objective 3</b>							
<b>To provide incentives to local villagers through various means, inter alia, strengthening capacity of villagers to produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling production, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas</b>							
<i>Output 3.1</i>							
<i>Local villagers both men and women, particularly, the poor have additional incomes from sale of seedlings, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas</i>							
Activity 3.1.1	Conducting community consultation on seedlings production and sale, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas						
Activity 3.1.2	Establishment of Village Forest Development Groups		X				Implemented
Activity 3.1.3	Contract Development		X				Implemented
<i>New Activity 2018-2</i>	<i>Support VFDGs in Paksong to plant native ginseng and cardamom species for local income generation</i>	Q1	X				Implemented
<b>Objective 4</b>							
<b>To strengthen capability of forestry sectors and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, particularly village based forest rehabilitation program</b>							
<i>Output 4.1</i>							
<i>Forestry sectors and local authority have knowledge and capacity on how to implement national forest rehabilitation policy at district and village level with an active participation of local villagers</i>							
Activity 4.1.1	Organizing study tours for stakeholders at policy and managerial						

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 remaining activities		2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
	levels							
Activity 4.1.2	Organizing training courses for forestry sectors at implementation level							
<i>Output 4.2</i>								
<i>Villagers have capacity to produce a good quality of seedlings and implement forest rehabilitation activities</i>								
Activity 4.2.1	Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation							
Activity 4.2.2	Organize various training modules for villagers (on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.)							
<i>Output 4.3</i>								
<i>Necessary materials and facilities for implementation and replication of village based forest rehabilitation have been sufficiently developed and made in place</i>								
Activity 4.3.1	Development of reforestation concept and related methodologies, procedures, and technical guidelines						X	Implemented
Activity 4.3.2	Recording, storing, synthesizing, updating and documenting all related concept, methodologies, procedures, technical guidelines and experiences			X	X	X	X	Implementing
Activity 4.3.3	Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment)							
Activity 4.3.4	Renovating/expanding field office and improvement of access roads, fencing materials for ex-situ plantation							
<i>Output 4.4</i>								
<i>Financial and Project Management</i>								
Activity 4.4.1	Annual work-plan development						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.2	Fee for technical services, including honorarium			X	X	X		Implemented
Activity 4.4.3	Running costs for the project management at field office			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.4	Running costs for the project management at Central Office (DoF)			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.5	Project monitoring/field follow up			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.6	Annual meeting for the Project Steering Committee						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.7	Annual review and planning meeting for project team						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.8	Project performance assessments (Interim/Final)							
Activity 4.4.9	Financial Audits (Interim / Final)							

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 remaining activities		2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q in 2019	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Activity 4.10	Closing workshop							

Table 3. Completion status in Sangthong

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 Remaining activities		2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q in 2019	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<b>Objective 1</b>								
<b>To demonstrate village based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate;</b>								
<i>Output 1.1</i> Sufficient quality seedlings of 285,000 seedlings are produced for ex-situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting in 250 ha								
Activity 1.1.1	Seedlings production for ex-situ plantation							
Activity 1.1.2	Seedlings production for enrichment planting for the total area 650 ha	Q1 & Q 2	Seedlings produced in 2017 will be used	X	X	X	X	Implemented
<i>Output 1.2</i> About 20 ha of degraded forest land have been reforested through the establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation, which, in turn, produces future quality seed sources of valuable native tree species								
Activity 1.2.1	Land clearance							
Activity 1.2.2	Establishment of 20ha ex-situ conservation plantation				X	X		Implemented
Activity 1.2.3	Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)			X	X	X	X	Implemented
<i>Output 1.3</i> 630 ha of degraded forest land have been regenerated through enrichment planting with native tree species								
Activity 1.3.1	Forest survey and Boundary demarcation							
Activity 1.3.2	Conducting enrichment planting for the total area 630ha	Q1 & Q 2			X	X		On progress* (Due to an additional site survey by villagers, actual plantation)

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 Remaining activities		2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
								<i>targeted in 2019 (217 ha) has been moved to the next year.)</i>
Activity 1.3.3	Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey and replanting, Pruning and thinning)				X	X		Implemented
<i>New activity 2018-4</i>	<i>Establishment of a small check dam in Phoukhanya mountain near the enrichment plantation site</i>	Q1 & Q2			X			Completed
<b>Output 1.4</b> <i>About 2,370 ha of degraded forest land in the project site have been successfully regenerated through natural forest regeneration facilitated by village driven forest protection</i>								
Activity 1.4.1	Establishing and equipping Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs)							
Activity 1.4.2	Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site			X	X	X	X	Implemented
<b>Output 1.5</b> <i>Barren land of individual landowners have been supported through agroforestry extension services</i>								
Activity 1.5.1	Consultation meeting							
Activity 1.5.2	Contract development	Q1	-The agreement between Land holders and Project					Completed
Activity 1.5.3	Seedling distribution	Q2 & Q3						Completed
Activity 1.5.4	Monitoring and mapping	Q4						Completed
<b>Objective 2</b> <b>To generate broad public support on the implementation of national forest rehabilitation policy in general, village based forest rehabilitation program in particular</b>								
<b>Output 2.1</b> <i>Public and private sectors are aware and promote village based forest rehabilitation program</i>								
Activity 2.1.1	Organizing inception workshop							
Activity 2.1.2	Signboard							
Activity 2.1.3	Organize Arbor Day Events and fire protection campaign			X	X	X	X	Implemented
<i>New activity 2018-5</i>	<i>Making trekking roads and observation sites at the plantation sites in Sangthong</i>	Q1 & Q2		-Sign boards to present key information about the sites in each observation site -Improvement of trekking roads to observation site by VFDGs				Completed
<b>Objective 3</b> <b>To provide incentives to local villagers through various means, inter alia, strengthening capacity of villagers to produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling production, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas</b>								

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 Remaining activities		2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<i>Output 3.1</i> <i>Local villagers both men and women, particularly, the poor have additional incomes from sale of seedlings, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas</i>								
Activity 3.1.1	Conducting community consultation on seedlings production and sale, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 3.1.2	Establishment of Village Forest Development Groups							
Activity 3.1.3	Contract Development							
<b>Objective 4</b> <b>To strengthen capability of forestry sectors and local authority including villagers in implementing national forest rehabilitation policy, particularly village based forest rehabilitation program</b>								
<i>Output 4.1</i> <i>Forestry sectors and local authority have knowledge and capacity on how to implement national forest rehabilitation policy at district and village level with an active participation of local villagers</i>								
Activity 4.1.1	Organizing study tours for stakeholders at policy and managerial levels							
Activity 4.1.2	Organizing training courses for forestry sectors at implementation level							
<i>Output 4.2</i> <i>Villagers have capacity to produce a good quality of seedlings and implement forest rehabilitation activities</i>								
Activity 4.2.1	Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation							
Activity 4.2.2	Organize various training modules for villagers (on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.)							
<i>Output 4.3</i> <i>Necessary materials and facilities for implementation and replication of village based forest rehabilitation have been sufficiently developed and made in place</i>								
Activity 4.3.1	Development of reforestation concept and related methodologies, procedures, and technical guidelines							
Activity 4.3.2	Recording, storing, synthesizing, updating and documenting all related concept, methodologies, procedures, technical guidelines and experiences							
Activity 4.3.3	Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment)							
Activity 4.3.4	Renovating/expanding field office and improvement of access roads, fencing materials for ex-situ plantation							
<i>New activity</i>	<i>Translation and publication of the</i>	Q1						Completed

Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		2018 Remaining activities		2019				Status of activities in the reporting quarter
		Implementing Q	Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
2018-9 (DOF)	<i>guidelines into English (46 pages)</i>							
Output 4.4 Financial and Project Management								
Activity 4.4.1	Work plan and Annual work-plan development						X	Completed
Activity 4.4.2	Fee for technical services, including honorarium			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.3	Running costs for the project management at field office			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.4	Running costs for the project management at Central Office (DoF)							
Activity 4.4.5	Project monitoring/field follow up			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.6	Annual meeting for the Project Steering Committee							
Activity 4.4.7	Annual review and planning meeting for project team						X	Completed
Activity 4.4.8	Project performance assessments (Interim/Final)							
Activity 4.4.9	Financial Audits (Interim / Final)							
Activity 4.10	Closing workshop							

## 2.2 Milestones in the reporting period

This report covers a period of 11 months between January and November in 2019. The implemented activities in two project sites include:

- 1) *Seedlings production (Act 1.1.2);*
- 2) *Preparation and conducting enrichment planting (Act 1.3.1 & 1.3.2);*
- 3) *Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (1.3.3)*
- 4) *Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site (Act 1.4.2);*
- 5) *Seedling distribution and Monitoring & Mapping (1.5.2&1.5.3)*
- 6) *Organize Arbor Day Events (2.1.3)*
- 7) *Arrangement and procurement of materials (Act 4.3.3);*
- 8) *Technical services (Act 4.4.2);*
- 9) *Running costs for the project management at field office (4.4.3 &4.4.4);*
- 10) *Monitoring and field follow up (4.4.5)*
- 11) *Annual review and planning meeting for the project team (Act 4.4.7);*
- 12) *Improvement of natural water supply system from Kongtoun Mountain (New activity)*
- 13) *Making trekking roads and observation sites at the plantation sites in Paksong and Sangthong (New Activity 2018);*
- 14) *Establishment of a small check dam (New activity 2018-4)*
- 15) *Translation and publication of the guidelines into English, project annual progress report 2018 and annual work plan 2019 (New activity);*
- 16) *Support VFDGs in Paksong to plant native ginseng and cardamom species for local income generation (New Activity 2018-2);*

### 2.2.1 Seedling production (Act 1.1.1 and Act 1.1.2)



In 2019, the contract agreement for seedling production was made both in Sangthong and Paksong to conduct the activity (**Annex-1 and 2**).

In Sangthong, the project staff and VFDG members (30 people) have signed a contract to produce 70,000 seedlings. Based on the contract, the project staff and VFDG members have to produce 10 species and 70,000 Seedlings (**Table 4; Figure 1**). In 2019, about 64,340 seedlings (Afzelia Spp, Pterocarpus Spp, Teak, Sindora Spp, Shorea Spp) were produced. The remaining 5,660 seedlings will be produced in 2020. Villagers have incomes from seedlings production about 210,000,000 Lao Kip (USD 23,000 or USD760/person).

*Table 4. Seedlings production for the enrichment planting in Sangthong District*

Sl.No	Species	Seedlings		Remaining
		Planned	Implemented	
1	<i>Afzelia xylocarpa</i>	11,000	11,000	0
2	<i>Sindora Spp</i>	11,000	11,000	0
2	<i>Pterocarpus macrocapus</i>	12,000	12,000	0
4	<i>Dalbergia cochinchinensis</i>	5,000	0	5,000
5	<i>Tectona grandis</i>	10,000	10,000	0
6	<i>Dipterocarpus alatus</i>	11,000	11,000	0
7	<i>Shorea obtusa</i>	8,000	7,340	660
8	<i>Ornamental Plants</i>	2,000	2,000	0
Total		70,000	64,340	5,660

In Paksong, the project staff and VFDG members (43 people) have signed a contract to produce 60,000 seedlings. Based on the contract, 30,000 seedlings of native species have been produced. The remaining 30,000 of Cardamom seedlings will be produced in 2020. The price of seedlings determined on the basic of market price is 5,000 Kip/seedling which includes transportation of seedlings to the planting areas, maintenance of seedlings after six months up to 24 months old in the nursery (**Table 5; Figure 2**). Villagers have incomes from seedlings production about 180,000,000 Lao Kip (USD 20,000 or USD460/person).

*Table 5. Seedlings production and utilization in Paksong nursery*

Sl.No	Species	Seedlings		Remaining
		Planned	Implemented	
1	<i>Paramichelia bailloni</i>	10,000	10,000	0
2	<i>Persea Kurzii</i>	10,000	10,000	0
2	<i>Sterculia Foetida</i>	5,000	5,000	0
4	Cardamom Spp	30,000	0	30,000
5	Other Spp	5,000	5,000	0
Total		60,000	30,000	30,000

Remarks: US\$ 1= 9,000 Lao Kip



*Figure 1. Seedlings production in Nalath nursery, Sangthong District*



*Figure 2. Seedlings production in Kongtoun nursery, Paksong District*

### *2.2.2 Preparation and conducting enrichment planting (Act 1.3.1 & 1.3.2)*

The contract agreement for enrichment planting was made both in Sangthong and Paksong to conduct the activity (**Annex-3 and 4**).

In Paksong, the total areas of rehabilitation in 2018 were 40 ha. Of which 30 was conducted the enrichment planting and 10 ha the natural regeneration was secured. To implement the enrichment planting in 2019, the project staff and VFDG members completely conducted assessment of natural regeneration in three blocks to be planted in 2019, 2020 and 2021 with a total land area of 120 ha (**Figure 3**). Of which 90 ha are highly degraded where enrichment planting is needed and 30 ha the natural regeneration can be secured. The project staff and VFDG members (43 people) have signed a contract to conduct planting and maintaining in 120 ha. Actual planting and maintaining will start in 2020 and 2021, respectively.

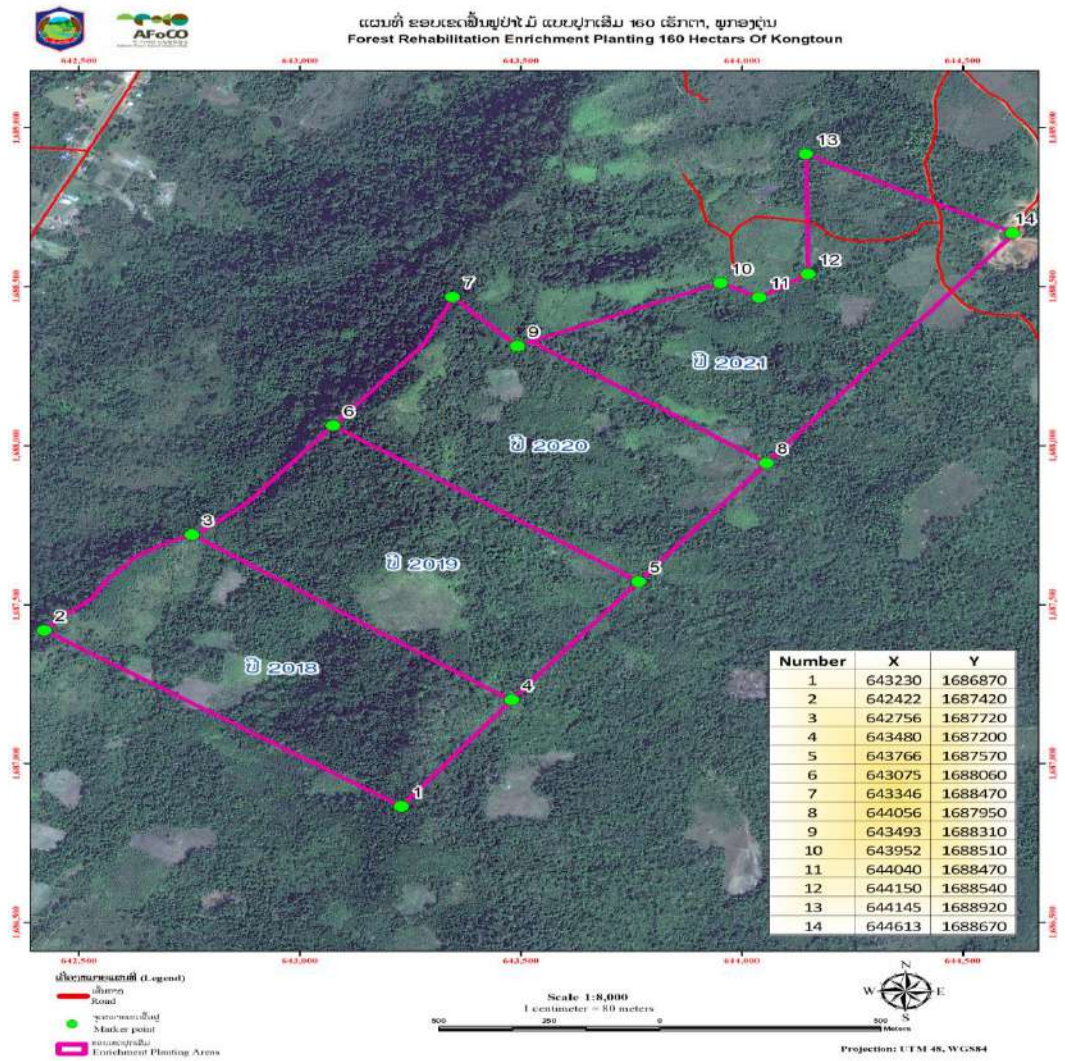


Figure 3. Map shows an enrichment planting areas in Paksong site

In Sangthong, **Figure 4** shows that the total areas of 630 ha for enrichment planting was demarcated, of which 55 ha have been planted (35 ha planted in 2018 and 20 ha planted in 2019). In order to have more information on land suitability for enrichment planting, the project staff and VFDG members completely conducted reassessment of natural regeneration and potential areas for enrichment planting in four (4) villages. The result shows that out of 600 ha of Phoukaya, about 39% (230 ha) of the total area are suitable for applying the enrichment planting, about 24% (145 ha) are identified as secondary forest that have potential to regenerate naturally, and the rest of the areas (37% or about 300 ha) are steep slope, rocky pan and occupy with bamboo which are not suitable for planting. This data will be used for developing a work-plan for enrichment planting in 2020.

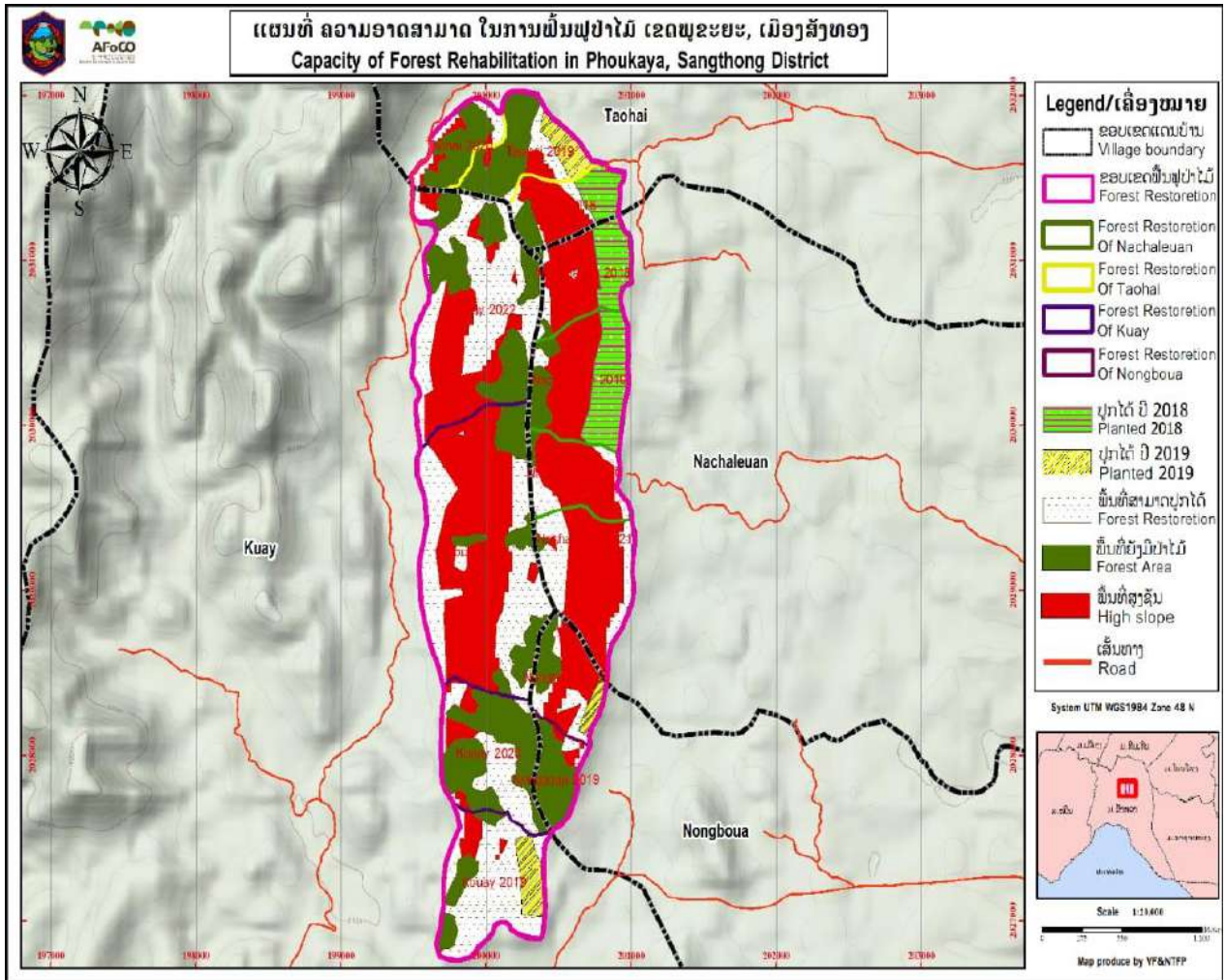


Figure 4. Potential areas for conducting an enrichment planting in Phoukaya, Sangthong District

2.2.3 Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (1.3.3)

The ex-situ conservation plantation of Sanghtong (20 ha) and Paksong (40 ha) are well maintained and protected by families who have signed a contract with the project staff (Figure 5).



Figure 5. Maintenance of planted seedlings in Ex-situ conservation plantation in Sangthong

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

The two VFPGs (villages in Kongtoun and Bengkatoud) in Paksong and seven (7) VFPGs (Taohai, Nachakearn, NongBao, Kouay, Sor, Vang Mar, and Kao) in Sangthong patrolled forest rehabilitation area twice a month as per the contract. The routes for patrolling of each group were specified in the agreement (**Annex 5 and 6**). This year, the project provided the VFPGs with uniform including trekking shoes.

2.2.5 Seedling distribution and Monitoring & Mapping individual landholders for agroforestry activities in Sangthong (Act 1.5.2 & 1.5.3)

The project distributed 20,751 seedlings to seven individual land owners to plant in their land. The project conducted a monitoring and mapping (**Figure 6**) in the first week of September. Most of planted seedlings have been established (**Figure 7**).

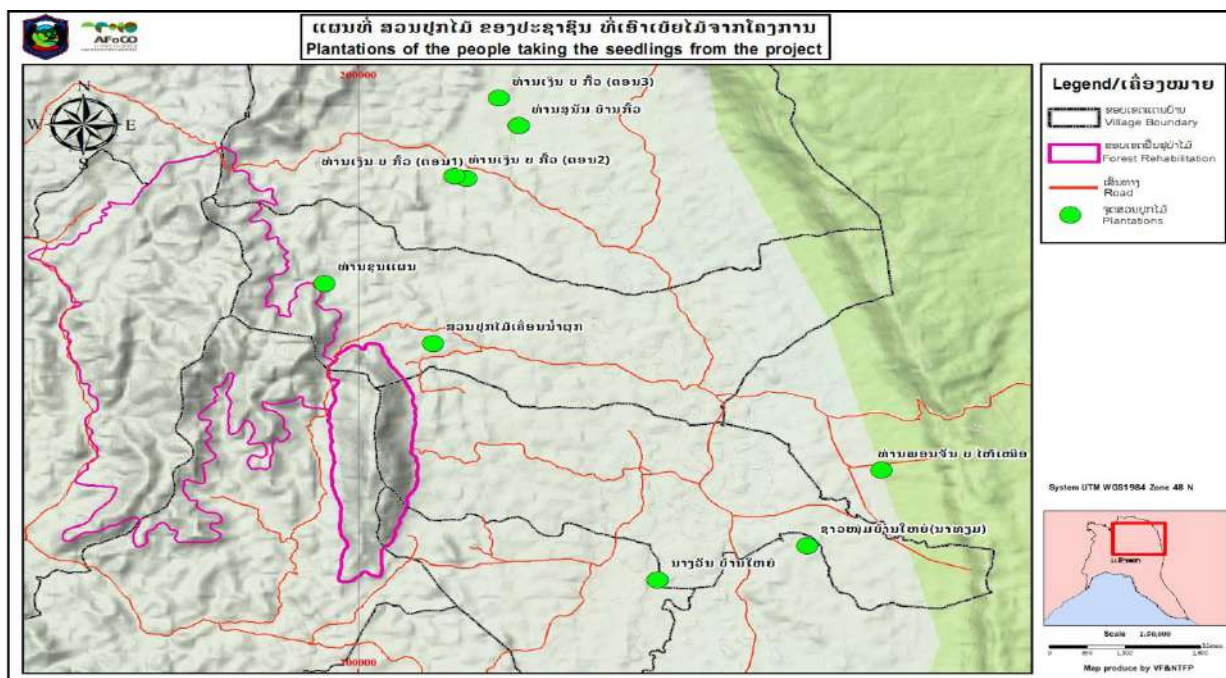


Figure 6. Map shows location of individual household plantation in Sangthong site



Figure 7. Staff conducted monitoring planted seedlings in individual land owners

2.2.6 Organize Arbor Day Events including awareness raising material and engagement of media specialist in Sangthong and Paksong (2.1.3)

Paksong		Sangthong	
Planned	Implemented	Planned	Implemented
-1 (local) TV news -1 News article -1 project information leaflet (Eng/Lao) -1 visit by high-level officials to the project site in line with the National Arbor Day event	-2 (local) TV news -1 project information leaflet (Lao) -1 visit by high-level officials to the project site in the National Arbor Day - 2 groups of visitors visited Sangthong (fig 9 and 10)	-1 (local) TV news -1 News article -1 project information leaflet (Eng/Lao) -1 visit by high-level officials to the project site in line with the National Arbor Day event	- 2 (local) TV news -1 project information leaflet Lao) -1 visit by high-level officials to the project site in the National Arbor Day

The 1st of June is the National Arbor Day in Lao PDR, and many tree-planting ceremonies were organized across the country. In Sangthong, the ceremony was organized in Ban Nongboua Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital on 14<sup>th</sup> June, 2019 (**Figure 8 a**). The ceremony was attended by students from Nongboua Secondary School, local villagers and village authorities, totally 50 people. In Paksong, the ceremony was organized in Kongtoun Secondary school, Paksong District, Champasak Province in the mid of June (**Figure 8 b**). The ceremony was attended by high ranking officers from Champasak province, Paksong district, Lao women union, youth, and Kongtoun villagers, totally 60 (10 women) people.



A. Tree planting ceremony in Ban Nongboua, Sangthong



*B. Tree planting ceremony in the Kongtoun Secondary school, Paksong*

*Figure 8. Tree planting ceremony in Sangthong (A) and Paksong (B)*

In addition to tree planting ceremony, two districts also organized awareness raising, there are numbers of visitors visited Sangthong and Paksong.

In Sangthong, there are two groups of visitors visited the project site. The 1<sup>st</sup> group was delegates from Nepal about 15 people visited the project site in Sangthong on July 10, 2019 (**Figure 9**). The main objective of the visit is to learn how villagers engage in forest land scape restoration at village level and what incentives mechanism that Lao provide to communities. The 2<sup>nd</sup> group of visitors was the Civil Society Organization (CSO) about 40 people (**Figure 10**). The main objective of the visit is to learn how AFoCO landmark program implement Village-based Forest rehabilitation in Sangthong.

In Paksong, in addition to tree planting ceremony, the project organized a wariness raising during the official opening the use of natural water supply system in Kongtoun village in the end of April, 2019 (**Figure 11**).



*Figure 9. 15 Visitors from Nepal visited project site in Sangthong*



Figure 10. 40 Visitors from Civil Society Organization (CSO) visited project site in Sangthong



Figure 11. The official opening the use of natural water supply system in Kongtoun village

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

Based on a request from the project staff, the project provided a notebook and a steel stationary cupboard to store the project documents in the office in Vientiane.

Based on a request from VFPGs of Sangthong and Paksong, the project provided patrolling uniform for each VFPG, totally 110 suits (**Figure 12**). Four notebooks and one printer were also provided to the project staff in Village Forest Management Division (two notebooks), Paksong (one notebook) and Sangthong (one notebook and one printer).





*Figure 12. VFDG in Sangthong and Paksong received patrolling uniforms and printer from the project staff*

#### *2.2.8 Technical services (Act 4.4.2)*

The project supported two master students (*Mr. Bounmy Lawlaithong and Mr. Chanttana Pouksavath*) from the Faculty of Forestry, National University of Laos to assist the project staff implementation of enrichment activities in Sangthong and Paksong. The activities included demarcation, assessment of natural regeneration, determination of planting techniques, numbers of seedlings required, and organize villagers to conduct enrichment planting and management of planting site.

They also assisted in the project staff implementation of enrichment activities in Sangthong and Paksong. The activities included supervision of VFDGs to conduct enrichment planting and management of planting site.

#### *2.2.9 Running costs for the project management at field office (Act 4.4.3 & 4.4.4)*

Mr. Somsanith Vilaysane and Ms. Vilaythong Kongkeodalavong have been appointed to work at the field office in Paksong and Sangthong respectively from January 1 to December 31, 2019 (12 month period). Their role is to follow up on the project implementation, write a progress report, meetings and workshops arrangement, and other administration work based on the NPD instruction.

Ms. Southsakhon Inthavong has been appointed to assist the NPD from January 1 to December 31, 2019 (12 month period). Her role is to follow up on the project implementation, write a progress report, meetings and workshops arrangement, and other administration work based on the NPD instruction.

#### *2.2.10 Project monitoring/field follow up (Act 4.4.5)*

The project staff lead by Phetsamone and Bounmy (staff of Village Forest Division) and VFPG members conducted a monitoring the implementation of project's activities, especially construction of check dam and enrichment planting in the first week of July. The small check dam in Phoukhanya Mountain near the enrichment plantation site has been completely constructed in June 2019. The size of the check dam of 1.50 m height, 11 m width and 0.30 m thickness can store water about 1800-2000 m<sup>3</sup> (**Figure 13**). The result of monitoring the survival rate of enrichment planting in two villages (Nachalern and Taohai) in Sangthong shows that above 70% of the total planted seedlings have been established with a good performance (**Figure 14**).



*Figure 13. A small check dam in Phoukhanya mountain can store water*



*Figure 14. A VFPG and project staff monitors the survival rate of enrichment planting in Sangthong*

#### *2.2.11 Annual review and planning meeting for the project team (Act 4.4.7)*

The consultation meetings on the implementation of the annual work plan 2019 were conducted in Sangthong and Paksong in the last week of February 2019 upon the approval of the annual work plan and budget 2019 by the Secretariat).

In Sangthong, the meeting was conducted in Nachalern Village of Sangthong in the mid of February 2019 (**Figure 15**). The meeting, chair and attended by Mr. Phetsamone, project staff at Village Forest Management Division, field office staff, and representative of four VFDGs (4 villages), focused on the implementation of the project's activities in 2019. The main activity discussed and agreed in the meeting was seedlings production for enrichment planting. In order to produce robust seedlings, maintenance of seedlings such as watering, weeding and transplanting are very important. All VFDGs decided to sign the contract to produce seedlings in Nalath nursery and requested the project to provide seeds, technical support, and watering facility. In response to their request, the project will establish a watering system in the Nursery similar to the one in Paksong; the Nalath Center will provide seeds and technical support. Budget under activity 1.1.2 of Sangthong will be used for this purpose.

In Paksong, the meeting was conducted at Kongtoun village in the last week of February 2019. The meeting, chaired and attended by Mr. Somvang, Deputy Head of Champasack Forest Protection Section, field office staff, and representative of two VFDGs (2 villages), focused on seedling production, number of seedlings to be produced by each member of the VFDG, etc. As a result, 14 members decided

to sign the contract to produce 42,300 seedlings this year.



*Figure 15. The project staff conducted meetings with the VFDGs in Sanghong*

#### *2.2.12 Improvement of natural water supply system from Kongtoun Mountain (New Act)*

Improvement of natural water supply system from Kongtoun Mountain to Kongtoun village has been completed and ready to use. Three main activities have been completed: 1) construction of water tank in Kongtoun Mountain, 2) construction of a water tank in Kongtoun Village, and 3) running pipes from a water tank in Kongtoun Mountain to the water tank in Kongtoun village (**Figure 16**).



*Figure 16. Running pipes from water tank in Kongtoun Mountain to water tank in Kongtoun village*

#### *2.2.13 Making trekking roads and observation sites at the plantation sites in Paksong and Sangthong (New Activity 2018)*

The establishment of trekking roads and observation sites within the project site is envisaged to help enhance and facilitate village driven forest protection and patrol work. Five observation sites each have been identified in Paksong and Sangthong. Further, improvement and maintenance of 11 and 10 km trekking route in Paksong (**Figure 17**) and Sangthong (**Figure 18**) respectively have been successfully completed.

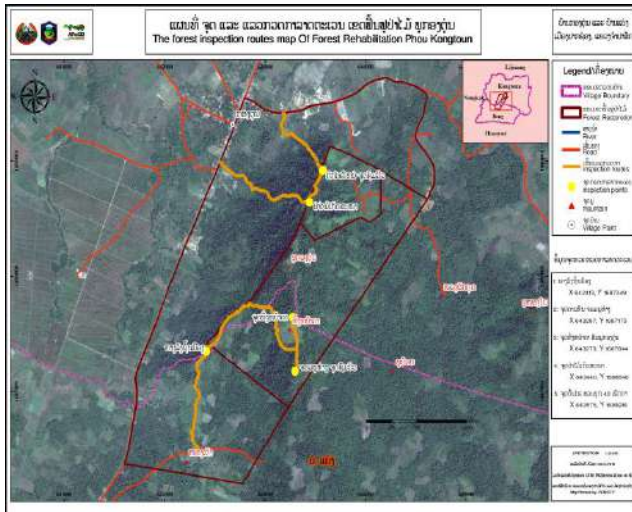


Figure 17. Improvement of trekking route in Paksong

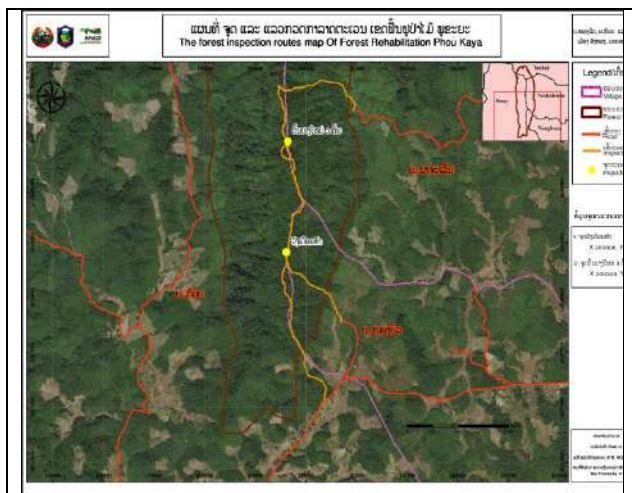


Figure 18. Improvement of trekking route in Sangthong

2.2.14 Establishment of a small check dam (New activity 2018-4)

The small check dam in Phoukhanya Mountain near the enrichment plantation site has been completely constructed in June 2019 (Figure 19). The project signed a contact with local villagers in Ban Nongbao to construct the check dam in May 2019. The size of the check dam is 1.50 m height, 11 m width and 0.30 m thickness.



Figure 19. A small check dam in Phoukhaya mountain near the enrichment plantation site

2.2.15 Support VFDGs in Paksong to plant cardamom species for local income generation  
(New Activity 2018-2)

The project supported VFDGs purchased 10,000 (USD 0.5/seedling) Cardamom seedlings from a supplier, namely Singta Agricultural Promotion Ltd. This company signed a contract with VFDGs to buy Cardamom seeds based on the market price (*minimum USD 2.5/Kg of green seeds and USD 17/Kg of dry seeds*).

The project staff distributed 10,000 Cardamom seedlings to 6 families in kongtoun and katoud to plant in the enrichment planting site in kongtoun and katoud (**Figure 20**). The Cardamom seedlings were planted with spacing of 1.5x 2 meter.



*Figure 20. Planting Cadamom Spp in the enrichment planting site in Paksong*

*2.2.16 Translation and publication of the guidelines into English, project annual progress report 2018 and annual work plan 2019 (New activity);*

The project annual progress report 2018 and annual work plan 2019 have been translated and distributed to the project staff in Sangthong and Paksong district. The translation of guidelines on Village-based forest rehabilitation (VBFR) has been completed by Mr. Souksompong Prix, a national consultant (**Annex-7**).

### **III. Remaining activities**

The activities shall be conducted in 2020, as remaining activities of 2019:

1. Enrichment planting in Sangthong and Paksong
2. Seedlings production in Sangthong and Paksong

### **IV. Lessons-learned**

The project was designed to support government policy to strengthen capacity of villagers dealing with forest resources management and empowering grassroots in decision making process and avoiding top-down approaches. Enrichment planting need clearly design and consult with villagers in the project site. Implementation of a project activity through a contract agreement is very useful and most effective approach. Villagers are committed themselves to accomplish their given task without frequency support from the project staff.

### **V. Conclusion**

Most of activities planned in AWP 2019 were implemented accordingly. All VFPGs and VFDGs and Village heads including villagers around the project sites engage in the implementation of the project's activities. District governor of Paksong and Sangthong have strongly supported the implementation of the project's activities. This year, there are many visitors visited the project sites in Sangthong and Paksong to exchange their views and experiences. The project's concepts and approaches are used by other forestry development projects such as Sustainable Forest Management Project in Northern Laos (APFNet), Dry-dipterocarp forest ecosystem Project (UNDP). In addition, the experiences on income generation through implementing forest rehabilitation activities contributed to the improvement of forest law, particularly forest regeneration related articles.

### **VI. Next plan**

The next plan, the project will implement activities in 2020 according to approved AWP 2020.

### **ANNEX**

Annex-1 A signed contract for seedlings production in Sangthong

Annex-2. A signed contract for seedlings production in Paksong

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

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

Annex-5. A signed contract for the protection in Sangthong rehabilitation areas  
Annex-6 A signed contract for the protection Paksong rehabilitation areas  
Annex-7 A guidelines on Village-based forest rehabilitation (VBFR), Laos and English