

Annual Progress Report 2020 January – December 2020

<Project Profile>

Project code	AFoCO/008/2014						
Project Title	Village-based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR						
Project Duration Start date: 2016 (MOU: the 1st of October 2014) End date: 2025 (MOU: the 30th of September 2023)							
Implementing Agency	- I Denanment of Foresto, flores						
National Focal Point(s)	Mr Phouthone Sophathilath, Director of Planning and Cooperation Division, DoF						
Project Site	Thad Dam Road, PO.Box:2932, Vientiane, Lao PDR						
Target Area	 Primary target area: PA 1 (Initiating Customized Restoration & Reforestation Models) Secondary target area: PA 4 (Local Livelihood Improvement & Community-based Enterprise Development) 						
Budget and Source of Finance	Total: US 1,800,00 - AFoCO: US \$1,500,000, funded by KFS - Lao PDR: US46,110 in-cash (2016-2019) : US \$169,080, in-kind (2016-2019)						
Annual Budget and Source of Finance in 2019	Total: US 212,300 (excluding the carry-over) - AFoCO: US \$187,300 - Lao PDR: US 6,000, in-cash : US \$ 19,000, in-kind						

<Implementing Agency Profile>

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Annual Progress Report 2020

Village-Based Forest Rehabilitation in Lao PDR

Under
AFoCo Landmark Program
Restoration Component

Executed by Department of Forestry

December 2020





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Abbreviation and Acronyms

ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation AFoCo Asian Forest Cooperation Organization AFoCO

Annual Work Plan **AWP**

DOF

NPD

Department of Forestry, Lao PDR National Project Director Village Forest Development Group **VFDG** Village Forest Protection Group **VFPG**

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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 the capability of government agencies and local authorities 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 2020 (Table 1).

Table 1. 2020 annual target by project output and objective in two project sites

	Paksong	Sangthong								
Objective 1	To demonstrate village-based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate									
Output1.1	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									
2020 Target	About 60,000 Seedlings are produced for enrichment planting (Cardamom 30,000; Native Spp 30,000	70,000 seedlings for enrichment planting								
Output 1.2	About 60 ha of ex-situ conservation plantatio which 40 ha in Paksong and 20 ha in Sangthons									
2020 Target	None	None								
Output 1.3	Nearly 790 ha of enrichment planting (160 ha in successfully established and maintained	n Paksong and 630 ha in Sangthong) have been								
2020 Target	83 ha of enrichment planting among the total land areas 160 ha	78 ha of enrichment planting among the total land areas 630ha								
Output 1.4	About 2,770 ha of Protection Forest (400 ha Paprotected by local villagers	aksong and 2,370 ha in Sangthong) have been								
2020 Target	About 400 ha of the total area of forest rehabilitation is protected by VFPGs	About 2,370 ha of the total area of forest rehabilitation is protected by VFPGs								
Output 1.5	The barren land of individual landowners in been supported through agroforestry extension s									
2020 Target	None	None								
Objective 2	To generate broad public support on the implementation policy in general, village-based forest rehabilitation.									
Output 2.1	Public and private sectors are aware and pron	note village-based forest rehabilitation program								
2020 Target	_	and 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 the 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									

	Paksong	Sangthong								
2020 Target	The poor have income from the sale of seedlings and participating in forest rehabilitation activities	The poor have income from the sale of seedlings participating in forest rehabilitation activities								
Objective 4	To strengthen the capacity 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 impleme national forest rehabilitation policy at the district and village level with the active participation of local villagers									
2020 Target	The capacity of forestry sectors are strengthened	The capacity of forestry sectors are strengthened								
Output 4.2	Villagers have t h e capacity to produce a grehabilitation activities	good quality of seedlings and implement forest								
2020 Target	VFDGs have the capacity to produce 60,000 Seedlings, site preparation, and planting	VFDGs have the capacity to produce 70,000 Seedlings, site preparation, and planting								
Output 4.3	Necessary materials and facilities for impleme rehabilitation have been sufficiently developed	•								
2020 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									
2020 Target	The Project staff have capacity on financial and project management	The Project staff have capacity on financial and project management								

II. Description of the work implemented during the reporting period

2.1 Completion status in Paksong and Sangthong

Table 2 and Table 3 shows the status of implementation to each activity conducted from January to June 2019, in two project sites, Paksong and Sangthong districts.

Table 2. Completion status in Paksong

		2019 r act	2020				Status of		
Ac	Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		Remarks	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	activities in the reporting period	
Objective 1									
Output 1.1	Sufficient quality seedlings of 170,000 seedlings of in 200 ha	are produced	for ex-situ cons	ervatio	on pla	ntatio	n and	enrichment planting	
Activity 1.1.1	Seeds collection								
Activity 1.1.2	Seedlings production	Q1&2	To be implemented based on the contract agreement	X	X	X	X	Implemented	
Output 1.2	About 40 ha of degraded forest land have been rewhich, in turn, produces future quality seed source				of ex-	situ c	onserv	ation 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	
Output 1.3	160 ha of degraded forest land have been regener	rated through	enrichment pla	nting	with n	ative	tree sp	ecies	
Activity 1.3.1	Preparation and enrichment planting	Q2~Q3	To be implemented based on the contract agreement	X	X	X	X	Implemented	
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	
Output 1.4	About 400 ha of degraded forest land in the proje regeneration facilitated by village driven forest p		en successfully i	regene	erated	throu	gh nai	tural forest	
Activity 1.4.1	Establishing and equipping Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs)								
Activity 1.4.2	Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site			X	X	X	X	Implemented	
Objective	To generate broad public support on the imple		f national fores	t reha	bilita	tion p	olicy	in general,	
Quetrut 2.1	village-based forest rehabilitation program in Public and private sectors are aware and promot		ad forest not at 1	itatio		******			
Output 2.1 Activity 2.1.1	Organizing inception workshop	e viiiage-vas	ea jorest renabil	iiiiiiiiii	prog	rum			
Activity 2.1.2	Signboard								
Activity 2.1.3	Organize Arbor Day Events including awareness-raising materials and engagement of media specialist	Q1~Q2	Engagement of media specialist to produce a project's short video	X	X	X	X	Implemented	
Objective 3	To provide incentives to local villagers through produce a good quality of seedlings, seedling p rehabilitated areas								

Output 3.1	Local villagers both men and women, particularly		ave additional in	comes	s from	the so	ale of s	seedlings, enrichment
Activity 3.1.1	planting, maintenance and protection of rehabiling Conducting community consultation on seedlings production and sale, enrichment planting, maintenance and protection of rehabilitated areas	tated areas						
Activity 3.1.2	Establishment of Village Forest Development Groups (VFDGs)							
Activity 3.1.3	Contract Development							
Objective 4	To strengthen the capability of forestry sectors forest rehabilitation policy, particularly village					s in in	nplem	enting national
Output 4.1	Forestry sectors and local authority have knowle at the district and village level with the active pa	dge and capa	city on how to in			itiona	l foresi	t rehabilitation policy
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 the implementation level							
Output 4.2	Villagers have the capacity to produce a good qu	ality of seedl	ings and implem	ent fo	rest re	habili	itation	activities
Activity 4.2.1	Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation							
Activity 4.2.2	Organize various training modules for villagers (on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.)							
Output 4.3	Necessary materials and facilities for implemental sufficiently developed and made in place			e-base	ed for	est reh	abilite	ation have been
Activity 4.3.1	Development of reforestation concept and related methodologies, procedures, and technical guidelines	Q1~Q2	Improvement of VBFR guideline				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	Implemented
Activity 4.3.3	Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment)							
Output 4.4	Financial and Project Management							
Activity 4.4.1	Annual work-plan development	Q1	Discussion on AWP 2020develop ment and Implementati on				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 the 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	An annual meeting for the Project Steering Committee						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.7	Annual review and planning meeting for the project team						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.8	Project performance assessments (Interim/Final)							
Activity 4.4.9	Financial Audits (Interim / Final)							
Activity 4.10	Closing workshop							

Table 3. Completion status in Sangthong

		2019 Remaining activities			20)20		Status of activities in the		
Activiti	Activities, outputs based on Log Frame		Remarks	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	reporting period		
Objective 1	Objective 1 To demonstrate village-based forest rehabilitation concepts in degraded forests through the application of different forest regeneration measures: (1) establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation; (2) enrichment planting in degraded forest areas where natural regeneration cannot secure; (3) assisted natural regeneration where degraded forests can naturally generate;									
Output 1.1	Sufficient quality seedlings of 285,000 seedlings are produced for ex-situ conservation plantation and enrichment planting in 250 ha									
Activity 1.1.1	Seedlings production for ex-situ plantation									
Activity 1.1.2	Seedling Production for Enrichment planting of 126 ha of the total area 650 ha	Q1&Q2	To be implemente d based on the contract	X	X	X	X	Implemented		
Output 1.2	About 20 ha of degraded forest land hav plantation, which, in turn, produces futu									
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		
Output 1.3	630 ha of degraded forest land have bee	n regeneratea	l through enrici	hment	plantii	ng witi	h nativ	ve tree species		
Activity 1.3.1	Forest survey and Boundary demarcation									
Activity 1.3.2	Conducting enrichment planting of 126 ha				X	X		Implemented		
Activity 1.3.3	Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (Weeding, Mortality survey, and replanting, Pruning and thinning)	Q1&Q2	To be implemente d based on the contract		X	X		Implemented		
Output 1.4	About 2,370 ha of degraded forest land regeneration facilitated by village driver			uccessj	fully re	egener	ated ti	hrough natural forest		
Activity 1.4.1	Establishing and equipping Village Forest Protection Groups (VFPGs)									
Activity 1.4.2	Conducting Village Driven Forest Protection covering the whole project site			X	X	X	X	Implemented		
Output 1.5	The barren land of individual landowner	rs have been s	upported throu	gh ag	rofore	stry ex	tensio	n services		
Activity 1.5.1	Consultation meeting									
Activity 1.5.2	Contract development		The project staff will							
Activity 1.5.3	Seedling distribution		continue Monitoring,	_						
Activity 1.5.4	Monitoring and mapping	Q1&Q2	and Mapping individual landowners have been supported by the project							

Objective 2	To generate broad public support on the village-based forest rehabilitation progr			forest	rehab	ilitatio	n poli	cy in general,
Output 2.1	Public and private sectors are aware an	d promote vil	lage-based for	est reh	abilita	tion p	rogran	n
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
Objective 3	To provide incentives to local villagers a produce a good quality of seedlings, see and protection of rehabilitated areas							apacity of villagers to
Output 3.1	Local villagers both men and women, pe enrichment planting, maintenance and p				ıl incon	mes fr	om the	e sale of seedlings,
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							
Objective 4	To strengthen the capability of forestry forest rehabilitation policy, particularly						n impl	ementing national
Output 4.1	Forestry sectors and local authority hav policy at the district and village level wi						natio	nal forest rehabilitation
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 the implementation level							
Output 4.2	Villagers have the capacity to produce of	a good quality	of seedlings a	nd imp	lement	t fores	t rehal	bilitation activities
Activity 4.2.1	Conducting village consultation for villagers' engagement in project implementation							
Activity 4.2.2	Organize various training modules for villagers (on seedlings production, enrichment planting, etc.)							
Output 4.3	Necessary materials and facilities for in sufficiently developed and made in place		and replicatio	n of vi	llage-k	pased j	corest	rehabilitation have been
Activity 4.3.1	Development of reforestation concept and related methodologies, procedures, and technical guidelines							
Activity 4.3.2	Recording, storing, synthesizing, updating and documenting all related concept, methodologies, procedures, technical guidelines and experiences			X				Implemented
Activity 4.3.3	Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of vehicles, office and field equipment)							
Activity 4.3.4	Renovating/expanding field office and improvement of access roads, fencing materials for ex-situ plantation							
Output 4.4	Financial and Project Management							
Activity 4.4.1	Work plan and Annual workplan development						X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.2	Fee for technical services, including honorarium			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.3	Running costs for the project management at the field office			X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity	Running costs for the project							

4.4.4	management at Central Office (DoF)						
Activity 4.4.5	Project monitoring/field follow up		X	X	X	X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.6	An annual meeting for the Project Steering Committee						
Activity 4.4.7	Annual review and planning meeting for the project team					X	Implemented
Activity 4.4.8	Project performance assessments (Interim/Final)						
Activity 4.4.9	Financial Audits (Interim / Final)						
Activity 4.10	Closing workshop						

2.2 Milestones in the reporting period

This report covers a period of six (6) months between January and June 2019. The implemented activities in two project sites include:

- 1) Seedlings production (Act 1.1.2);
- 2) Establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation (Act1.2.2)
- *3) Preparation and conducting enrichment planting (Act 1.3.1 & 1.3.2);*
- *4) Maintenance and protection of the ex-situ conservation plantation (1.3.3)*
- 5) Conducting Village Driven Forest Patrolling (VDFP) covering the whole project site (Act 1.4.2);
- 6) Seedling distribution and Monitoring & Mapping (1.5.3 & 1.5.4)
- 7) Organize Arbor Day Events (2.1.3)
- 8) Running costs for the project management at field office (4.4.3 & 4.4.4);

2.2.1 Seedling production (Act 1.1.2)

In 2019, the contract agreement for seedling production was made both in Sangthong and Paksong to conduct the activity. Based on the signed contract, both districts have produced seedlings as follows: In Sangthong, the project staff and VFDG members (30 people) have completely produced nearly 72,000 seedlings (**Table 4**; **Figure 1**).

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

Sl.No	Species	Seedlings 1	Remarks	
		Implemented	Transplanted	
1	Afzelia xylocarpa	25,973	9,006	
2	Sindora Spp	1,250	700	
3	Pterocarpus macrocapus	36,680	20,566	
4	Tectona grandis	3,100	10,000	
5	Dipterocarpus alatus	3,400	950	
6	Shorea obtusa	250	200	
8	Irvingia malayana	2,000	210	
	Total	72,653	32,882	

In Paksong, the project staff and VFDG members (43 people) have signed a contract to produce 60,000 seedlings. From January to December 2020, based on the signed contract, the VFDG has produced and maintained 30,000 seedlings of native species and 30,000 of Cardamom seedlings in the nursery (Table 5 and Figure 2).

Table 5. Seedlings production and utilization in Paksong nursery

Sl.No	Species	Seed	Remaining	
		Planned	Implemented	Kemaning
1	Paramichelia bailloni	10,000	10,000	0
2	Persea Kurzii	10,000	10,000	0
2	Sterculia Foetida	10,000	10,000	0
4	Cardamom Spp	30,000	100	29,900
Total		60,000	30,000	30,000





Figure 1. Seedlings production in Nalath nursery, Sangthong District





Figure 2. Seedlings production in Kongtoun nursery (Paramichelia sp left; Cardamom sp right)

2.2.2: Establishment of ex-situ conservation plantation

In 2020, the project plans to support the VFDG to establish Cardamom Ex-situ conservation plantation at least 3 ha (1.5 ha in Kongtoun and 1.5 ha in Katoud). The project together with Kongtoun VFDG planted Cardamom sp two (2) hectares in Kongtoun (Figure 3). The remaining one (1) ha will be planted in Katoud in 2021.

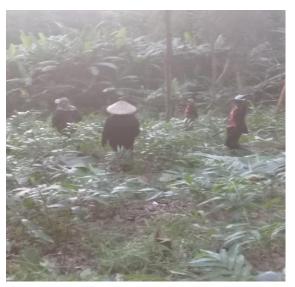




Figure 3. Cardamom Ex-situ conservation plantation in Kongtoun

2.2.3 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.

In Paksong, the project staff and VFDG members (43 people) have signed a contract to conduct planting and maintaining in 83ha. From January to December 2020, based on the signed contract, the VFDG completely planted 30,000 seedlings in 83 ha. Figure 4 shows enrichment planting activities in Paksong.



Figure 4 show enrichment planting activities in Paksong

In Sangthong, the project staff and VFDG members (26 people) have signed a contract to conduct enrichment planting 78 ha this year. Of which 72 ha have been planted, the remaining 6 ha will be implemented in next year (Table 6; figure 5).

Table 6 Enrichment planting for each village from 2020 to 2020)

	Total land Area (ha)	Enrichment	Implemented (2018;2019)	Enrichment Plan 2020		
Village		Areas(ha)		Planned	Implemented	Remarks
Nongboua	40	10	3	7	6	
Taohi	80	30	15	13	12	
Nachalern	150	55	30	10	18	
Kouy	360	140	7	48	36	
Total	630	235	55	78	72	







2.2.4 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 6).





Figure 6. Maintenance of planted seedlings in Ex-situ conservation plantation in Sangthong

2.2.5 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.

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

The 1st of June is the National Arbor Day in Lao PDR, and many tree-planting ceremonies were organized across the country. In Sangthong, the ceremony was organized in Phouphanang Protected Area in Sangthong District, Vientiane Capital, on the 1st week of June 2020 (Figure 7). The ceremony was attended by high ranking officers from Vientiane Capital (Vice governor), Sangthong District (District governor), DOF (DDG of DOF), local villagers and village authorities, totally 45 people.





Figure 7. Tree planting ceremony in Sangthong

In addition to the tree planting ceremony, in Sangthong, a group of Laos Women Union and ED of the AFoCO visited the project site (Figure 8 and 9).





Figure 8. Visitors from Laos women union visited the project site in Sangthong





Figure 9. Executive Director (ED) of AFoCO visited Nongbua Primary School in Sangthong

2.2.7 Arrangement and procurement of materials (Procurement of tracking shoes (Act 4.3.3)

Based on a request from VFPGs of Sangthong and Paksong, the project provided tracking shoes for each VFPG, a total of 110 numbers (Sangthong 80 numbers) (Figure 10).

Due to the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic, using the contingency budget the project has improved long distance communication by providing appropriate IT equipment such as monitor, camera, speakers etc. (Figure 11).





Figure 3. VFDG in Sangthong and Paksong received tracking shoes from the project





Figure 4. IT equipment for virtual meeting

2.2.7 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 the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 2020 (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 the 1st of January to the 31st of December, 2020 (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.

III. Remaining activities

The activities shall be conducted in the end of December 2020:

- 1. Establish one (1) ha of Cardamom Ex-situ conservation plantation in Katoud
- 2. Finalize the project's a short video
- 3. Finalize the VBFR guideline

IV. Lessons-learned

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic is not impact the field activities, particularly, those activities the VFDG and VFPG have signed contracts with the project staff. Regular follow up and discussion through video communication is very efficient during the outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic. Improve long distance communication by providing appropriate IT equipment and infrastructure (Screen, Monitor, PC, Internet access on province, district and village level) are important.

V. Conclusion

Most of activities planned in the AWP 2020 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. There are many visitors visited the project sites in Sangtong and Paksong to exchange their views and experiences.

VI. Next plan

The next plan, the project will implement activities in 2021 according to approved AWP 2021.

ANNEX