

JCM REDD-plus Safeguard Activity Implementation Plan Form

A. Project description

A.1. Title of the JCM project

REDD+ project in Luang Prabang Province through controlling shifting cultivation

A.2. Description of project contribution to sustainable development

“REDD+ project in Luang Prabang Province through controlling shifting cultivation (hereinafter JCM-REDD+)” is a REDD+ project under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM) which introduces an operational procedures of a system which is indispensable and based on capabilities of rural people in project area and corresponded with natural resources, cultural aspects and social capitals in the area. The project aims to lead the change in the way of utilizing forest and contribute to develop an appropriate way of land use. Therefore, we expect that a sustainable land use is introduced by the JCM-REDD+ and contributes to achieve some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Especially, this project is essential to achieve SDG 13 “Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts” and SDG 15 “Sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, halt and reverse land degradation, halt biodiversity loss” from a natural scientific view, and to achieve SDG 1, “End poverty in all its forms everywhere” from a social scientific view, with local activities based on efforts to benefit the local people.

B. Plans for implementing and monitoring the safeguard activities

Criterion (a) Complement or be consistent with the objectives of relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments at national, regional and local levels and relevant international conventions and agreements concluded by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic

Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I)

Relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments and relevant international conventions and agreements concluded by the Lao People’s Democratic Republic, and their objectives

The relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments to the project are followings, which interprets the country’s safeguard obligations under the Cancún agreement;

Forestry Law (2007): It categorizes forests into three administrative categories (production forests; protection forests; and conservation forests) managed by different administrative levels (central, provincial and district). There are forests outside of the three forest

<p>categories, which are mostly under village management, however often without clear management systems. The project discussed about land and forest management in the target site with the Department of Forestry (DOF) under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) to confirm compliance with the Forestry Law and related guidance</p> <p>Land Law (2003): It is the principle legislative instrument governing the management, protection and use of land in Lao PDR. Article 3 of the Land Law reaffirms Article 17 of the constitution, through which land belongs to the national community, and the state is charged with the centralized and uniform management of land, including allocation. Land may be state land, state asset, public land asset or land for which land use rights are held by individuals, communities or other organizations. Under the Land Law, all land is classified into a category for which boundaries must be determined. The project also discussed about land and forest management in the target site with the DOF under the MAF to confirm compliance with the Land Law and related guidance</p>
<p>Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Gaps and/or inconsistencies with the objectives and contribution to achieving the objectives</i></p>
<p>Any gaps and inconsistencies in the project activities are not identified. All of project activities are implemented according to the Socio-economic Development Plan in Phonxay District, Luang Prabng Province, which is in line with Forestry Law, Land Law and other related guidelines.</p>
<p>Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>Considered unnecessary beyond the contents as mentioned above. The consistency with the laws and regulations will be monitored.</p>
<p>Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>The relevant laws, policies, programmes and other instruments at national, regional and local levels and relevant international conventions and agreements may be changed in the future. To monitor and respond to this evolving situation, an inventory of all laws and other instruments governing or otherwise relevant to the project has been drawn-up, and will be reviewed and updated annually.</p>
<p>Criterion (b) Establish transparent and effective project governance structures</p>
<p>Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Existing project governance structures</i></p>
<p>Decision-making processes: the DOF is the adviser for this project and has authority to manage REDD+ related governance. The DOF is ultimately responsible for management and</p>

law enforcement of the REDD+ in Lao PDR. The project or project proponent(s) collaborated with the DOF and other line agencies.

Consultation consensus building and information dissemination processes: this project follows the process and procedure guided by the DOF. An initial inception workshop was held before the start of “Participatory Land and Forest Management Project for Reducing Deforestation in Lao PDR (PAREDD)” by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Lao PDR (2009 to 2015). Also PAREDD and JCM-REDD+ projects have presented on numerous meetings to consult and improve project activities. During the project implementation, the rural people living in the project area and members of the Land and Forest Management Committee (LFMC) have been and will continue to be regularly engaged with, and the project has begun to develop greater trust with many of the communities.

Mechanism for the resolution of grievances: based on above consultation process and procedure, all of grievances can be collected and resolved.

Financial management system: the financial support from the Ministry of the Environment, Japan (MOEJ) is received by Waseda University and managed by its operating policies and procedures.

Benefit sharing: the benefit sharing will be conducted following the procedures developed by the government of Lao PDR. The ultimate goal is to develop sustainable sources of income that benefit and incentivize conservation while ensuring food security and resiliency.

Accountability and oversight: accountability and oversight is maintained through regular project meetings with the stakeholders. Annual village meetings are also an opportunity for accountability and oversight at the community level, as project objectives and results are presented and discussed in the meetings.

Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I)

Elements of project governance structures that can be strengthened

Several risks/gaps were identified as follows;

1. There is a risk of misunderstanding about the JCM-REDD+ project among the rural people.
2. Some important procedure such as benefit sharing in Lao PDR is still under the development.

Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)

In order to improve information dissemination, the following communication activities are conducted;

1. Project meetings for government stakeholders (e.g., DOF) to understand their expected roles and responsibilities in project implementation.

<p>2. Annual review workshop for all communities in the project area to receive a comprehensive update on the project and to express concerns/ideas.</p>
<p>Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>The project is implemented in parallel with collecting records of activities to monitor the situation of safeguard activities;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Activity report, which is prepared to keep transparency of activities. 2. Minutes, which is prepared to keep transparency and to share discussion process and results with stakeholders.

<p>Criterion (c) Recognize and respect rights to lands and resources</p>
<p>Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Rights to lands and resources related to the project</i></p>
<p>The project area is separated into protection forest, managed by provincial government (PAFO) and district government (DAFO), and production forest, managed by the PAFO and DAFO and all of forest are under administration of the DOF under the MAF. Rights of use in the project area are allocated to the individual in accordance with Forestry Law, and all the people (households) in the project area agreed to implement REDD+ in the area through participatory consultation process.</p> <p>There was no official procedure to have the permission of REDD+ project in Lao PDR. Implementing this project as a JCM-REDD+ project was agreed by both the governments of Lao PDR and Japan.</p>
<p>Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Impacts of the project activities on the rights to lands and resources</i></p>
<p>Considered unnecessary beyond the contents as mentioned above.</p>
<p>Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>The situation regarding rights to lands and resources will be changed in the future. We will monitor and respond to this evolving situation.</p>
<p>Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>To monitor and respond to this evolving situation, we will review related institutional arrangements and their updated annually.</p>

Criterion (d) Recognize and respect the knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities
Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I) <i>Knowledge and rights of indigenous peoples and members of local communities relevant to the project</i>
As mentioned above, the project is implemented based on capabilities of rural people in the project area. Knowledge of rural people in the project area, especially traditional land and forest resources management are deeply respected. The rural people's rights are also to be respected according to Forestry Law, which allows land use right allocation to the rural people. In addition, all activities are selected and implemented through participatory methods, thus, the will of the rural people in project area are fully respected.
Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I) <i>Potential project impacts on rights of indigenous peoples and local communities</i>
Enhancing land and forest management system in the project has potential to provide significant benefits to the rural people. However, benefits are dependent on inclusion of the rural people in project area.
Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
All of activities are selected and implemented through participatory methods.
Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
To monitor and respond to safeguard issues, staffs of the REDD+ station keep communication with the rural people and report progress of the activities to project management team (i.e., project proponent(s) and NAFRI) accordingly.

Criterion (e) Promote and support the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, in particular indigenous peoples and local communities
Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I) <i>Project stakeholders and their participation</i>
Based on preliminary survey in the project site, it was identified that some ethnic groups were living in the project area and heavily depended on forest resources. Almost all rural households in the area, except a few government employees, relied on shifting cultivation. In addition, the site was home to two ethnic groups (not majority in Lao PDR) – the Khmu and the Hmong – who use different farming practices and have different attitudes towards land use. The Hmong and Khmu groups had their own historical and current agricultural production methods. Hmong households used to grow opium as a cash crop and owned cattle

<p>as their primary livestock. They had greater assets and are more often able to buy agricultural land and other necessities when setting in new villages comparing to the Khmu. In contrast, Khmu households tended to raise small livestock such as pigs and poultry. Such difference is identified as characteristics of both ethnic group.</p>
<p>Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Potential to enhance stakeholder participation, including through capacity building</i></p>
<p>There were not identified risks, gaps and inconsistencies among ethnic groups. While small issue of the gender was identified. Women typically have tendency not to show their opinions to their husband and also at village meetings. Then small risk is difficulty to involve women into the project activities.</p>
<p>Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>To promote participation, the project enhances all of activities and management of the LFMC which was established with support by JICA. Considering situation of gender issue in the project area, the project invites some women to join the LFMC: 1) to keep equal opportunities to join decision-making of land and forest management in the village; and 2) to enhance all of women to show their opinions at village meetings. Also the proponent(s) and NAFRI check degree of participation of rural people by using participation list for all of activities in the site. Similarly, engagement of all indigenous peoples are to be based on careful assessment.</p>
<p>Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>As same as above, the monitoring is based on communication with rural people and checking participation list for all of activities in the site. During the project period, the proponent(s) (by collaboration with the LFMC) frequently visit project site and keep communication with rural people, especially with minorities</p>
<p>Criterion (f) Provide equal employment opportunities and adequate working conditions</p>
<p>Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Employment policy, occupational health and safety, wages, training and supervision, and worker grievances</i></p>
<p>The project do not have any plans of employment in order to promote project activities.</p>
<p>Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Equal employment opportunities and adequate working conditions</i></p>
<p>As mentioned above, the project does not have any plans of employment.</p>

Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (f).
Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (f).

Criterion (g) Conserve natural forests
Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I) <i>Natural forests in the project area</i>
There is no primary forest in the target site because all of primary forest had experiences of burning by shifting cultivation. Regarding natural forests which include secondary forests, the project aims to conserve through expansion of fallow years after shifting cultivation and enhance both quantity (i.e., carbon stock) and quality (e.g., biodiversity of animals) of the forests.
Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I) <i>Clearing or disturbance of trees of other natural forest vegetation</i>
There were general risks of forest fires, but were as same as fire incidents in the settlement. There were not identified additional risks regarding primary or natural forest in the target site.
Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (g).
Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (g).

Criterion (h) Respect other prioritized areas that have high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services
Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I) <i>Other areas with high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services that could be impacted</i>
There are no other prioritized areas that have high values for the conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services in the target site. As mentioned above, this project aims to expand fallow years after shifting cultivation and enhance both quantity (i.e., carbon stock) and quality (e.g., biodiversity of animals) of the forests. Then such activities will be essential to enhance conservation values.

<p>Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Impacts of the project activities on biological diversity and ecosystem services in the identified areas</i></p>
<p>There were not identified risks regarding conservation of biological diversity and ecosystem services.</p>
<p>Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (h).</p>
<p>Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (h).</p>

<p>Criterion (i) Generate other social and environmental benefits</p>
<p>Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Living standards in the project vicinity</i></p>
<p>It is anticipated that the project generates significant social and environmental benefits. Without the project, it would be difficult for the communities to improve their livelihoods and enhance forest conservation. Most households in the project area are low income compared with national average (average annual income is less than US\$ 2,200, calculated by the rate of 1USD = 11,512 Kip) and heavily depend on forest resources (Hiratsuka et al. 2020).</p> <p>Hiratsuka et al. 2021. https://doi.org/10.1007/s10668-020-00701-5</p>
<p>Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I)</p> <p><i>Social and environmental benefits</i></p>
<p>Complicated scheme of the REDD+ sometimes brings some misunderstanding of the rural people. The primary risks to not generate social and environmental benefits are depended on “group activities” under the REDD+, because “group activities” has potential to enhance rural people’s capability development and increase income generation.</p>
<p>Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)</p>
<p>As same as addressing procedures regarding Criterion (e), the project will enhance all of activities by the LFMC, which was established with support by JICA during the project period. During the project period, the proponents (by collaboration with the LFMC) will continuously visit project site and keep communication with rural people, especially with minorities.</p>

Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
As same as above, the proponent(s) will enhance other social and environmental benefits accordingly.

Criterion (j) Address the risks of reversals
Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I) <i>Risks of reversals</i>
From quick analysis for the past 20 years on the land and forest dynamics by using satellite imagery, there were no unplanned burning in the project site (i.e., accidental burning over 3.0 ha). Also there were no natural disturbances in the past 20 years.
Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I) <i>Project activities to reduce risk of reversals and expected effectiveness</i>
The risks of reversals are unplanned burning of the forests. But as mentioned above, there were no unplanned burning occurred in project site for past 20 years, (i.e., accidental burning over 3.0 ha). Other natural disturbances or human disturbances which is specific in project site are not identified. The risk of the reversals is identified quite low.
Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There is no plan regarding points of Criterion (j). The most important point is that the project is implemented by participatory method in order to collect small incidents in the project site and such procedures should reduce risks of reversals.
Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There are no plan regarding points of Criterion (j). As same as above, the most important point is that the project is implemented by participatory method and such procedures should reduce risks of reversals.

Criterion (k) Reduce the risks of emissions displacement
Current situation (Paragraph 3 (a), Annex I) <i>Risks of emissions displacement</i>
From results of preliminary survey before the commencement of the project and mobility analysis by expert opinion and participatory rural appraisal (PRA) of the project, there had not been identified displacement of activities (emissions). It was because that surrounding

area of the project site there were not enough forest for shifting cultivation. Then the rural people are not be able to move to other villages for implementing new shifting cultivation.
Risks, gaps and/or inconsistencies in relation to whether the project activities comply with the criterion (Paragraph 3 (b), Annex I) <i>Project activities to reduce risk of emissions displacement and expected effectiveness</i>
There were not identified risks of emissions displacement.
Plans for safeguards activities (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (k).
Plans for monitoring of the situation and the safeguard activity implementation (Paragraph 3 (c), Annex I)
There are no plan regarding pints of Criterion (k).

Revision history of SGIP		
Version	Date	Contents revised