

# **Summary of Stakeholder Consultations (part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan)**

**for the Project**

**“Scaling up the implementation of the Lao PDR Emission Reductions Programme through improved governance and sustainable forest land management (Project 2).”**

**Prepared by**

**GIZ**

**for Submission to the**

**Green Climate Fund**

## a) Stakeholder engagement and consultation in programme development

Based on Lao PDR's National REDD+ Programme, stakeholders are defined as actors within the following five major groups: government, local communities, civil society, private sector and development partners.<sup>1</sup> Stakeholder engagement is seen as a central element to supporting the design of the GCF programme, where stakeholders have played an important role in providing inputs and feedback on programme design, and have validated the proposed programme. In addition, extensive engagement with stakeholders has been conducted for the elaboration of the ER-PD, and the National REDD+ Programme, as well as other related programmes/ projects (e.g. CliPAD, SUFORD, ICBF, etc.), which has laid a strong foundation for the elaboration of GCF programme.

The following sub-sections will provide an overview of stakeholder consultations conducted i) during ER-PD preparation and within the framework of the National REDD+ Programme, ii) during the GCF programme development phase, and iii) during the GCF Project 2 development phase.

### i) Stakeholder engagement within the framework of ER-PD preparation and the National REDD+ Programme<sup>2</sup>

For the preparation of the ER Programme, stakeholder consultations have been conducted with a wide range of stakeholder representatives ranging from the central to the village cluster level. The objectives of the consultations were not only to identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and possible measures to address the identified drivers and barriers for successful implementation, but also to enhance understanding on the aim of the ER Programme and its designed activities, and pros and cons of implementing it under their jurisdiction. Consultations have been conducted based on the principles of Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), aiming for full and effective consultations with particularly local level stakeholders.

The preparation of the National REDD+ Programme, especially its National REDD+ Strategy and SESA, have been taking place concurrently with the preparation of the ER-PD. To ensure synergy and efficiency in the parallel implementation of the two important processes, the two processes were carefully planned to synchronize in their methods, schedule and outputs.

#### **Overall consultation strategy on REDD+**

The ER Programme adopted the aforementioned stakeholder grouping for its stakeholder consultations, by building on the results of the consultations for the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS). This common approach helped the stakeholders to further their understanding on REDD+ in Lao PDR.

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<sup>1</sup> "For the National REDD+ Programme, stakeholders are considered to fall into five major groups – Government, local communities, private sector, civil society, and development partners." – ER-PD 2018, p. 32

The consultation process for the National REDD+ Programme, i.e., on the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), and other supporting elements were conducted primarily (but not exclusively) through the following channels:

- Intensive primarily technical level consultation with the six REDD+ Technical Working Groups (TWG) among Government and quasi-Governmental agencies/organizations (with participation of other non-Government participants as relevant to the thematic area of discussion), approximately one-third of the official TWG membership are women;
- Strategic-level consultations with the National REDD+ Task Force (NRTF);
- Existing sector coordination mechanisms, namely the Forestry-sub-sector Working Group (FSSWG) under the Agriculture and Forestry Sector Working Group, open to, and participated by a wide stakeholder membership of organizations working in the forestry sector;
- Consultations with representatives of provinces, districts, and *kumban* (village cluster); and
- Focused consultation meetings with non-Government stakeholder groups of REDD+ of civil society organizations, private sector, and development partners.

#### **Consultations for the ER Programme preparation**

It is important to mention that the development of the ER-PD itself been a participatory process, undertaken through a committee known as the ER-PD Team. Under the leadership of the National REDD+ Focal Point and the REDD+ Division, the ER-PD was convened and participated by the partner organizations actively engaged in REDD+; namely, FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project, the Climate Protection through Avoided Deforestation (CliPAD) Project of GIZ funded by BMZ, the Sustainable Forest Management and REDD+ Support Project (F-REDD) of JICA, and the UN-REDD Programme support from FAO, along with the World Bank-financed REDD+ Readiness operation. This committee met regularly (weekly meetings by default, and more intensively as required) to discuss and draft sections of the ER-PD. In various instances, this committee was the venue for providing options for the ER Programme formulation, which would then be consulted with other Government actors and non-Government actors through TWG meetings, consultation meetings, and through other venues.

For the ER Programme formulation, consultations were conducted on a number of occasions for different thematic focal areas as well as for different purposes in the process leading up to decision-making. In July and August 2015, two regional workshops were held to discuss the ER-PIN development with the proposed six provinces of the ER Programme. After acceptance into the Carbon Fund pipeline, further consultations took place with all six provinces in December 2015 to elaborate the next steps in order to develop the ER-PD. At the central level, the ER Programme updates were introduced through the aforementioned sector coordination mechanism of the FSSWG in its regular meetings.

From 2016, the six provinces engaged in their respective processes of developing their Provincial REDD+ Action Plans (PRAPs). PRAPs are the provincial-level instrument that identifies the strategic interventions to address drivers and barriers for REDD+. The PRAPs for the six provinces are the central instrument through which the ER Programme interventions will be rolled out, and therefore are inherently linked to the ER Programme development. For the PRAP

preparation in the six provinces, consultation meetings were held in all 50 districts and 50 selected *kumban*<sup>106</sup>, engaging with provincial and district staff, and village representatives. In total 339 villages were represented by these consultations. The PRAP consultations intensively discussed and identified main drivers and barriers to REDD+ and priority interventions for the province.

Another regional meeting with these six provinces was organized in September 2016. In October 2017 all Northern provinces gathered together in Oudomxay province to discuss the National REDD+ Strategy, SESA, Safeguard Plans and elements of the ER Programme including on institutional arrangement, and benefit sharing.

Apart from the PRAP processes, consultations held with the provinces up to January 2018 discussed the issues and areas including the following, as pertains to the ER Programme:

- General introduction and awareness raising related to REDD+ and climate change;
- Land and resources tenure arrangements;
- Institutional arrangement for ER Programme implementation;
- Non-carbon benefits;
- Assessment of negative environmental and social impacts from the ER Programme interventions; and
- Benefit-sharing structures and principles – provisional ideas.

In January 2018, an ER Programme consultation workshop with the six provinces took place in Luang Prabang province, including with high-level provincial officials. Based on the PRAPs developed in each of the six provinces, the draft ER-PD was discussed and consulted. As a result of these consultations, the provinces have confirmed their participation and commitment to the ER Programme.

For development of the six PRAPs, sub-provincial level consultations were held in all 50 districts, and in 50 *kumbans* with representatives from 339 villages. The target stakeholders included the Government agencies and representatives from mass organizations at the provincial and district levels (i.e. province, district) and representatives of the villagers of the sampled communities. (In each district, a meeting was held with one selected *kumban* and the leaders of villages in that *kumban* attended the meeting.) *Kumbans* were selected as part of the district level meetings based on a set of given criteria such as deforestation hotspots, ethnicity, proximity to National Protected Areas etc.

Consultations were conducted to ensure the participation of men and women from diverse ethnic groups, given the ethnic diversity present in the programme area.

No	Ethnic Groups	Six Northern Provinces (ER Program Area)					
		HP	LPB	XAY	LNT	BK	ODX
Lao-Tai Ethno-Linguistic Family							
1	Lao	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
2	Tai	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Lue		✓	✓	X		
4	Nyouan (Luman, Yuan)		✓	✓	✓	✓	
5	Nyang (Ngang)				✓		✓
6	Tai Nue				✓		
Mon-Khmer Ethno-Linguistic Family							
7	Khmu	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	Pong (Phong)	✓					
9	Xing Moon	✓					
10	Moy	✓					
11	Thene		✓				
12	Bidh				✓		
13	Lamet				✓	✓	✓
14	Sam Tao				✓	✓	
15	Akha				✓	✓	✓
16	Prai			X			
Hmong-Mien Ethno-Linguistic Family							
17	Hmong	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
18	Emien	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Sino-Tibetan Ethno-Linguistic Family							
19	Phou Noy		✓		✓	✓	✓
20	Ho		✓		✓	✓	✓
21	Sila				✓		
22	Lahu					✓	
23	Lanten				X		
Total: total in LFNC figures (total with PRAP additions)		8	11	7 (or 8)	16 (or 18)	12	10

- ✓ Ms. Manivanh Keokominh, Deputy Director, Lao Front for National Construction, unofficial data 2017
- X Additional groups noted in PRAP work. In Sayabouri, there were also Luman and Yuan, however they are in the same ethnic groups as Nyouan
- Ethnic groups consulted during PRAP kumban consultations

**Figure 1. Composition of ethnic groups in the ER Programme area, and overview of ethnic groups consulted during PRAP kumban consultations**

Source: ER-PD 2018, Annex 1 p. 2

## ii) During GCF Programme Proposal Development

### Engagement with the NDA

The proposed programme has been developed with regular engagement from the NDA in Lao PDR - MoNRE. Structured dialogue with the NDA and other key national partners has been ongoing since April 2017 as part of GIZ's country programming. Since then, regular discussions have been held with the NDA on diverse topics related to the proposal development process, including stakeholder consultations at the national, provincial, district, *kumban* and village level. Representatives from the NDA have further attended cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder workshops to provide feedback on the programme.

A letter of no-objection was provided by the NDA (dated 2019.02.25), confirming the proposed programme conforms with the country's national priorities, strategies and plans, and that it is in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

### Engagement with Government focal points for REDD+ and UNFCCC

In addition to maintaining ongoing communication with the NDA, the proposed programme has been designed with the continuous engagement with Government focal points from key ministries, where the Government has demonstrated strong ownership of the programme concept. The head of the country's REDD+ Office (the National REDD+ Focal Point) has been a major proponent of the programme and consistently involved in programme design and stakeholder consultations. The UNFCCC focal point within MoNRE has also been kept informed about the programme, and representatives from MoNRE have regularly participated in programme consultation events and workshops.

### Other stakeholder consultations

Additional consultations were held to support the development of the GCF funding proposal, in which a total of 1,066 participants attended.<sup>3</sup> Consultations were held with the following stakeholders at the national, province, district, and village level:

**Figure 2. Overview of stakeholders consulted during the funding proposal development process (additional to consultations conducted for the ER-PD)**

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders Consulted
Government	
<i>National</i>	DOF/MAF: Production Forest Division, Forest Protection Division, Planning and Cooperation Division, National Protected Areas Division, REDD+ Division, Aquatic and Wildlife Division, Administration Division, Legal Division, Forest and Forestry Resources Development Fund, Forest Inventory and Planning Division, Deputy Director General of DOF, Village Forests and NTFP Division, Department of Forest Inspection DALAM/MAF: Department of Agriculture and Land Management

<sup>3</sup> This figure is not indicative of the total number of people who participated, as some participants may have participated in more than one consultation or workshop.

Stakeholder Category	Stakeholders Consulted
	Funds: EPF and FFRDF MONRE: Planning and Cooperation Division, Department of Climate Change Representatives from National REDD+ Task Force Ministry of Finance NAFRI
<i>Provincial</i>	Provincial REDD+ Offices (PRO), PAFO, PONRE and POFI representatives in each Province Members of Provincial REDD+ Task Force
<i>District</i>	District representatives including from DAFO, DONRE and DOFI
<b>Local Communities</b>	
▪ <i>Bokeo</i>	Ban Samork Neua, 1 additional village in NPA
▪ <i>Houaphan</i>	Huayhu village, Ban Yard village, Hong Oy village, Ban Phonxay
▪ <i>Luang Namtha</i>	Ban Nam Mad Mai, Ban Nam Dee, Ban Don Mai
▪ <i>Luang Prabang</i>	Ban Phanid
▪ <i>Oudomxay</i>	Nangew village, Ban Napa
▪ <i>Sayabouri</i>	Phonekeo village, Ban Phonxay
Civil Society	Lao Women's Union (including at national, provincial and district-level); Village Focus International; The Centre for People and Forests (RECOFTC); FLEGT CSO Network – including the Green Community Alliance (GCA), the Rural Research and Development Promoting Knowledge Association (RRDPA), the Association for Community Training and Development (ACTD), Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA), Maeying Houamjai Phathana (MHP), the Wildlife Conservation Association (WCA) and the Social Development Alliance Association (SODA); National University of Lao PDR (NUOL)
Private Sector	Burapha Agro-forestry Co. Ltd. Plus, interviews with 25 producers, 15 traders (paddy, maize, Job's Tears, NTFPs), 12 rice millers and 2 banks in Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay provinces
Development Partners	KfW (Country Office and ICBF Programme); GIZ (CLiPAD, LMDP, proFEB/proFLEGT); JICA (F-REDD); FAO; UNDP; ADB; Head of German Development Cooperation in Lao PDR/BMZ; World Bank; SUFORD-SU (WB).

*Note: Refer to FS for a more detailed overview of specific participants and meetings held*

Diverse consultation formats were applied during the elaboration of the funding proposal including one-on-one meetings, workshops, local village meetings and focus group discussions. The following figure provides an overview of the main consultation processes held.

**Table 1. Overview of stakeholder consultations to support the preparation of the GCF proposal**

Description of consultation(s)	Dates	Stakeholders engaged	No. of Participants		
			Total	Male	Female
1. Scoping mission for the development of the programme's Concept Note	April 3-7, 2018	FAO, GIZ-FLEGT, JICA F-REDD, Head of German Development Cooperation in Lao PDR (BMZ), DOFI Director General (MAF), DOF Deputy Director General (MAF), Department of Climate Change Deputy Director General (MONRE), Planning and Cooperation Division (MONRE), Division of Village Forest and NTFP Management. Head of the REDD+ Division in DOF (MAF), UNDP	11	10	1
2. Second scoping mission for the development of the programme's Concept Note	April 23-30, 2018	Head of the REDD+ Division within DOF (MAF), Vice Minister of MAF, DOF Deputy Director General (MAF), Division for Planning and Cooperation within DOF (MAF), Division for Village Forest and NTFP Management within DOF (MAF), KfW (representative from the ICBF programme)	6	5	1
3. National inception workshop for GCF Feasibility Study and proposal development	October 5, 2018	From DOF/MAF: Production Forest Division, Forest Protection Division, Planning and Cooperation Division, National Protected Areas Division, REDD+ Division, Aquatic and Wildlife Division, Administration Division, Legal Division, Forest and Forestry Resources Development Fund, Forest Inventory and Planning Division, Deputy Director General of DOF, Village Forests and NTFP Division, REDD+ Division	17	13	4
4. Stakeholder consultations in Vientiane to inform Feasibility Study and proposal preparation	October 2-5, 2018	Vice Minister of MAF, SUFORD-SU, Head of German Development Cooperation/ BMZ, Forest and Forest Resources Development Fund Division, Burapha Agro-Forestry Co. Ltd., GIZ ProFEB/ ProFLEGT Component, World Bank, JICA, KfW country director, ADB, FAO, Environmental Protection Fund, GIZ Country Director, KfW ICBF programme	18	16	2
5. Provincial stakeholder consultations to inform Feasibility Study and proposal preparation	October 8-16, 2018	In each province meetings with: Provincial REDD+ Task Force Members, Representatives from PRO, POFI, PAFO and PONRE, District representatives, villagers and village authorities.	572	483	89
6. National debriefing workshop	October 18, 2018	JICA, KfW, EPF, Buapha Agro-forestry Co. Ltd., DOF (MAF), Production Forest Division (DOF/MAF), SUFORD-SU, REDD+ Division (DOF/MAF), Planning and cooperation division (DOF/MAF), Village Forests and NTFP Division (DOF/MAF); GIZ Country Office, DDG of DOF (MAF); FFRDF, Department of planning and finance (MAF), DOFI (MAF), Forest Protection	29	22	7



Description of consultation(s)	Dates	Stakeholders engaged	No. of Participants		
			Total	Male	Female
		Division (DOF/MAF), REDD+ Division (DOF/MAF), Forest Inventory and Planning Division (DOF/MAF)			
7. Agribusiness interviews in Luang Prabang, Luang Namtha and Oudomxay Provinces	November 7-11, 2018	25 local producers, 15 traders (paddy, maize, Jobs-tear, NTFPs), 12 rice miller and 2 banks.	N/A	N/A	N/A
8. Workshop with GCF representatives on opportunities for climate finance with a focus on REDD+ and the forestry sector, as well as private sector engagement	November 19, 2018	FAO, Department of Climate Change (MONRE), UNDP, Village Focus International, NAFRI, JICA, Investment and Business Division within the Department of Planning and Finance (MAF), Department of Agriculture, REDD+ Division (DOF/MAF), DOFI (MAF), Division of Planning and Cooperation (MAF), DDG Department of Forestry, EPF, DG Department of Forestry (MAF)	28	24	4
9. Stakeholder consultations in Houaphan Province to identify forest priorities for inclusion in the GCF Funding Proposal	November 21, 2018	Village authorities, villagers from Huayhu village, PAFO Houaphan (forestry Section, REDD+ section, Inspection), DAFO Houameuang (forestry unit, inspection unit), district governor's office	30	18	12
10. Stakeholder consultations for the elaboration of the programme's capacity needs assessment and capacity building strategy	November 26-30, 2018	FFRDF, SUFORD-SU, FAO, LMDP-GIZ, RECOFTC, ProFLEGT Component (GIZ), Department of Land (MONRE), Department of Climate Change (MONRE), Department of Agriculture and Land Management (DALAM/MAF) DDG of DOF (MAF) and others from DOF/MAF: Division for Planning and Cooperation, Production Forest Management Division, Protected Area Management Division, REDD+ Division, Village Forest and NTFP Management Division, DOFI, Plantation Promotion and Forest Restoration Division	19	18	1
11. Stakeholder consultations for the design of the National REDD+ Funding Window under the EPF	November 28-29, 2018	EPF (All heads of Divisions, EPF-GF Focal Points, Safeguard Officers, Monitoring and Evaluation Officers)	N/A	N/A	N/A
12. Stakeholder consultations for the development of the	January 16-24, 2019	PAFO and Lao Women's Union (Houaphan), DAFO in Xam Neua, District LWU Office in Xam Neua, Villagers (Ban Yard Village; Ban Nam Mad Mai,	148	79	69

Description of consultation(s)	Dates	Stakeholders engaged	No. of Participants		
			Total	Male	Female
programme's gender assessment and gender action plan		Ban Nam Dee), PAFO Luang Namtha, Provincial LWU in Luang Namtha, DAFO and LWU in Luang Namtha			
13. Stakeholder consultations for development of the ESMP	January 28-February 4, 2019	Phonekeo village (Sayabouri Province, Sayabouri District); Hong Oy village (Houaphan Province, Houameung District); Nangew village (Oudomxay Province, Xai District); also district-level meetings.	118	59	59
14. Final validation workshop	February 8, 2019	MAF, MoNRE, MPI, REDD+ Task Force, FFRDF, EPF, PAFOs, DAFOs, RECOFTC, GIZ, KfW, World Bank, FAO, JICA, EU, IFAD, ADB, German Embassy, Village Focus International,	70	67	3
Total No. of Participants in Stakeholder Consultations <sup>4</sup>			1,066	814 (76%)	252 (24%)

<sup>4</sup> Note: there is overlap of participants in different meetings.

### Preliminary Scoping Missions

Preliminary scoping missions were conducted by GIZ staff and programme development experts to assess the possibility for developing a GCF concept note and potential funding proposal from April 3-7 and April 23-30, 2018. Missions focused on fact-finding, meeting with key actors and determining country interest in developing a proposal, whilst ensuring the relevance of the concept selected. A high-level meeting with government representatives was held to ensure commitments to programme development from main programme partners and supporting partners interested in providing co-finance. In total, 17 people (15 men, 2 women) were consulted during these two scoping missions.

### Inception Workshop

An Inception Workshop for national government partners was held on October 5, 2018 where the initial programme structure was presented, as well as key considerations for activities and actions, institutional arrangements and potential co-financing sources. A major topic of this workshop was discussing the plan for feasibility study and proposal development, as well as planning for upcoming provincial consultations. In total, 17 people attended the workshop (13 men, 4 women).

### Provincial-level consultations on programme design and feasibility and post-mission debriefing meeting

Extensive consultations were conducted at the provincial and local level, where over 572 people (483 men and 89 women) participated in consultations held in the programme area (six Northern provinces) from October 8-19, 2019. Within each province, the following stakeholder consultations were held:

- Provincial workshops with representatives from REDD+ Task Forces to present the programme and receive feedback
- Provincial working sessions to provide information for proposal development with representatives from PRO, PAFO, PONRE and POFI.
- District workshops with all district representatives (including DAFO, DOFI and DONRE, District Lao Women's Representatives, among others) within each province to provide feedback and support programme design
- Village visits (1-2 per province) to verify drivers and barriers, and to receive direct feedback on village needs.

Consultations ensured the participation of diverse stakeholders, including women and diverse ethnic groups. Workshops with CSOs, the private sector and co-finance institutions/donor organizations, among others, have been held since the development of the GCF concept note and proposal.

The programme was well received in the consultations. Provincial and district government authorities emphasized the major challenges they face, including limited capacities and resources, and noted the importance of the programme to support both investments in REDD+ and sustainable land management, as well as capacity development and the procurement of equipment

to help them do their jobs (e.g. POFI noted that limited equipment restricts the effectiveness of monitoring and law enforcement). Villagers validated the driver and underlying causes of deforestation and the importance of proposed activities. A major theme for village consultations was the need for alternative livelihood opportunities and value-adding opportunities (see summary Table below for more details comments and responses).

After the provincial, district and village consultations, a debriefing meeting was held in Vientiane with key stakeholders from government, donor organizations, and private sector to present the stakeholder feedback and new insights into the programme design. The mission validated the baseline information and provided insight into what specific design measures are needed (e.g. including marketing support linked with agricultural extension, need for capacity building and filling regulatory gaps on plantations and commercial forestry activities, among others, the need for investments in equipment for POFI and DOFI due to extremely limited budgets, among others).

#### Other stakeholder engagement activities

Numerous other stakeholder events were held to support programme development. This included meetings and consultations with agribusiness to inform the design of output 2, consultations with diverse actors to inform and validate the design of the proposed EPF funding window (Activity 1.5), meetings to assess national capacities and develop a capacity building strategy, and further consultations to inform the gender assessment, gender action plan, and environmental and social impact assessment.

Stakeholder consultations for the development of the ESIA and ESMF took place from January 28 until February 4, 2019. In total 118 people (59 men and 59 women) were consulted. Consultations took place in Sayabouri, Houaphan, and Oudomxay. Additional stakeholder consultations were held to inform the gender assessment and gender action plan from January 16-24. The Lao Women's Union played a central role in these consultations, which were held in Houaphan, and Luang Namtha. In total, 148 people participated in the gender assessment and gender action plan consultations, including 79 men and 69 women.

Majority of people noted that the programme and its activities are suitable based on their local context, and expressed interest. They further noted that the programme area is highly diverse in terms of its socio-economic, cultural and environmental conditions. Thus, a "one-size fits all" approach is not suitable, and consulted stakeholders emphasized the importance of maintaining effective stakeholder engagement throughout project implementation. A detailed list of how the programme has incorporated stakeholder feedback into the programme's design is included in the feasibility study, as well as in the gender assessment.

### iii) During GCF Programme Update for Project 2 (2022)

#### **Engagement with the NDA and key stakeholders**

This project is embedded in the Programme (FP 117) and has thus been informed by substantial ongoing engagement with the NDA, Government focal points from key ministries and other key stakeholders. During implementation of Project 1, regular communication and updates have been shared with the NDA and key government ministries. Representatives of the NDA have attended cross-sectoral multi-stakeholder workshops to provide feedback on the project and the broader programme. A letter of no-objection was provided by the NDA for FP 117, confirming the project conforms to the country's national priorities, strategies and plans, and that it is in accordance with relevant laws and regulations. The project is also formally included within the Lao PDR GCF Country Pipeline. The design of Project 2 has been further informed by lessons learned from Project 1, including stakeholder feedback received due to the implementation of the project's stakeholder engagement plan. The country's REDD+ Office (the National REDD+ Focal Point) has been continuously involved in and updated on project implementation activities.

#### **Other stakeholder consultations**

Additional consultations were held to support the development of Project 1, in which a total of 582 participants attended (30% women).<sup>5</sup> Consultations were held with the stakeholders at the national, province, district, and village level. Diverse consultation formats were applied during the elaboration of the funding proposal including one-on-one meetings, workshops, local village meetings and focus group discussions. The following figure provides an overview of the main consultation processes held.

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<sup>5</sup> This figure is not indicative of the total number of people who participated, as some participants may have participated in more than one consultation or workshop.

**Table 2. Overview of stakeholder consultations to support the preparation of the GCF proposal**

Description of consultation(s)	Dates	Stakeholders engaged	No. of Participants			Ethnicity		
			Total	Male	Female	Lao-Loum	Non-Lao Loum	Foreign national
1. National Kick Off Meeting for GCF Feasibility Study and proposal development	22.2.2022	DOF; MoNRE; NAFRI; Forestry Survey Unit; Forest training Center; Ethnic department; GIZ; CliPAD; DDF; EPF; ICBF; Wildlife division; Civitas; WWF; Fund office	40	31	9	29	2 <sup>6</sup>	9
2. Provincial Kick Off Meeting Bokeo	16.3.2022	PAFO (forestry section, POFI), Department of Planning and Investment, PoNRE, Provincial LWU, Provincial LFND, DAFO (Huayxai, Paktha, Phaoudom and Meuang districts), District cabinet office (Vice district governor of Huayxai, Paktha, Phaoudom and Meuang districts), district LWU ( Huayxai, Paktha, Phaoudom and Meuang districts), DoNRE (Huayxai, Paktha, Phaoudom and Meuang districts), LFND (Huayxai, Paktha, Phaoudom and Meuang districts), DoF, GIZ, CliPAD, MHP	45	33	12	37	7 <sup>7</sup>	1
3. Provincial Kick Off Meeting Luang Namtha	18.3.2022	PAFO (forestry section, Land management section, irrigation section, POFI), Department of Planning and Investment, PoNRE, Provincial LWU, DAFO (Long, Luang Namtha and Viengphoukha districts), District cabinet office (Vice district governor of Long, Luang Namtha and Viengphoukha districts), district LWU (Long, Luang Namtha and Viengphoukha districts), DoNRE (Long, Luang Namtha and Viengphoukha districts), LFDN (Long, Luang Namtha	49	38	11	42	6 <sup>8</sup>	1

<sup>6</sup> Hmong (2)

<sup>7</sup> Is Khmou, Lamed and Phounoy

<sup>8</sup> Is Khmou, Phounoy and Akha

Description of consultation(s)	Dates	Stakeholders engaged	No. of Participants			Ethnicity		
			Total	Male	Female	Lao-Loum	Non-Lao Loum	Foreign national
		and Viengphoukha districts), DoF, GIZ, CliPAD, VFMP, FCPF						
4. Provincial Kick Off Meeting Oudomxay	14.3.2022	PAFO (forestry section, agriculture section, irrigation section, POFI), Department of Planning and Investment, PoNRE, Provincial LWU, DAFO (Xay, Namor, Beng, and Nga districts), District cabinet office (Vice district governor of Beng and Namor districts), district LWU ( Xay, Namor, Beng, and Nga districts), DoNRE (Xay, Namor, Beng, and Nga districts), LFDN (Xay, Namor, Beng, and Nga districts), DoF, GIZ, CliPAD, VFMP	55	45	10	36	8 <sup>9</sup>	1
5. Provincial Kick Off Meeting Luang Prabang	11.3.2022	PAFO (forestry section, irrigation section, POFI), Department of Planning and Investment, PoNRE, , DAFO (Phonthong, Xiengngern and Nan districts), District cabinet office (district governor of Phonexay district), district LWU (Phonthong, Viengkham and Nan district), DoNRE (Phonthong, Viengkham and Nan district), DoF, GIZ, CliPAD, VFMP, FCPF	31	26	5	27	2 <sup>10</sup>	1
6. Provincial Kick Off Meeting Houaphan	25.3.2022	PAFO, Department of Planning and Investment, PoNRE, provincial defence, provincial public security, Provincial LWU, Industry and Commerce department, LFND, Information and culture, DoF, GIZ, CliPAD, I-GFLL	25	21	4	N/A	N/A	2

<sup>9</sup> Is Khmou, Hmong, and Phounoy

<sup>10</sup> Is Hmong

Description of consultation(s)	Dates	Stakeholders engaged	No. of Participants			Ethnicity		
			Total	Male	Female	Lao-Loum	Non-Lao Loum	Foreign national
7. Provincial Kick Off Meeting Sayabouri	21.3.2022	PAFO (forestry section, agriculture section, livestock section, protected area), Department of Planning and Investment, PoNRE, Provincial LWU, LFND, District cabinet office (vice district governor of Xayabouri, Paklai, Phieng, Thongmixay, Hongsa districts), DAFO (Xayabouri, Paklai, Phieng, Thongmixay, Hongsa districts), LWU (Paklai and Thongmixay districts) District LFDN (Paklai, Hongsa, and Thongmixay districts), DoF, GIZ, CiPAD, I-GFLL, EPF	60	48	12	N/A	N/A	2
8. Stakeholder consultations to inform Feasibility Study and proposal preparation (Private Sector, Agribusiness)	20.02-06.03.2022	Vanghong Trading Company, Singta Agriculture Extension Company, PAFO Oudomxay (ODX), Forestry Section Lao Huayu Trading Sole Co Ltd, Pattana Kasikorn Sole Co Ltd, Vegetable Production Group Huay Oun village, DAFO Beng district Oudomxay province, Hyjoun Lao-China Agriculture Development Sole Co. Ltd, DAFO Namor District 10 MSME Owners, DAFO Nalae District, 8 District NTFPs and Agriculture Products Collectors, DAFO Viengphoukha District, ODOP Viengphoukha District, Kanthavong Production and Processing Promotion Co. Ltd, PAFO Forestry section, Handicraft Namyuan village, Namjuam village NTFPs and agriculture products collector group, Laophoxay - Broom producer group, Palm seed processing factory	78	54	24	26	52 <sup>11</sup>	0

<sup>11</sup> Khmu (36), Lao-Leu (9), Phounoy (3), Chinese (4)



Description of consultation(s)	Dates	Stakeholders engaged	No. of Participants			Ethnicity		
			Total	Male	Female	Lao-Loum	Non-Lao Loum	Foreign national
9. Stakeholder consultations to inform Feasibility Study and proposal preparation (Civil Society)	10. - 18.03.2022	Wildlife Conservation Association (WCA), Social Development Alliance (SODA), Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SEADA), Maeying HoumJai Phattana, Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA), Gender Development Association (GDA), Green Community Development Association (GCDA), Community Development and Environment Association (CDEA), Association for Development of Women and Legal Education (ADWLE)	9	5	4	9	0	0
10. Provincial stakeholder consultations to inform safeguard documents (ESIA, ESMP, GA, GAP)	14.03. – 26.03.2022	DAFO, DLFND and DLWU (Thongmixay, Sayabouri, Nan, Viengkham, Xay, and Nga districts), villages in Luang Prabang, Sayabouri and Oudomxay province (Kan, Houaysangaem, Keomany, Pha Yuak, Viengkham, Done Khoun, Mokok, Houay Kham, Thin)	190	108	82	94	96 <sup>12</sup>	0
Total No. of Participants in Stakeholder Consultations <sup>13</sup>			582	409	173	300	173	17

<sup>12</sup> Khmu (59), Hmong (33), other (4)

<sup>13</sup> Note: there is overlap of participants in different meetings.

### Kick Off Workshop at National Level

An Inception Workshop was held at national level to inform stakeholders about the development plan for GCF Project 2. The workshop was combined with an update on the progress of REDD+ implementation in Lao PDR and the GCF Programme. It was attended by 53 participants (43 in-person and 10 virtual attendants) and chaired by Mr. Khamse Ounkham, DDG of DOF. At the workshop the development plan of GCF Project 2 has been presented, especially highlighting the differences between Project 1 and 2, i.e. the shift to a cross-cutting mitigation and adaptation project. The stakeholders gave green light to accelerate the process, especially the consultation workshops at the provincial level and data collection for which ownership and direct involvement of government authorities is required.

### Kick Off Workshops at Provincial Level

The kick-off workshops were held in six northern provinces, namely Bokeo, Luang Namtha, Oudomxay, Luang Prabang, Sayaboury, and Houaphan, to inform stakeholders at provincial and target district levels about the development plan for GCF Project 2 and highlighting the differences between Project 1 and Project 2. The workshops were held from March 11 to 25, 2022. The workshops were combined with an update on the progress of REDD+ implementation in Lao PDR and the GCF Programme. It was attended by 341 participants (51 females and 290 male in-person attendants).

**Bokeo province:** A kick off workshop was held in at provincial level on 16/03/2022 at the meeting room of Agriculture and Forestry department in Huayxay district. It was attended by 50 participants (9 females). The workshop chaired by Mr. Inthanorm Sayvithoune, deputy head of PAFO, and co-chaired by Dr. Oupakone Alounsavath, DDG of DOF. The head and deputy head of related provincial departments, vice district governor, head and deputy head of related offices at district level, REDD+ technical team (DoF), GIZ staff, and staff from related sections of PAFO participated. The workshop agreed that project implementation should be based on REED+ programs and adapted to local realities; establish project steering committees at all levels, the selection of project target villages in each district should focus on forested villages, and it should be linked with an existing project. It should pay attention to village-level planning; a deforestation monitoring system is required; data collection support for the GCF2 project is required and land use planning should be considered to integrate forest.

**Luang Namtha Province:** A kick off workshop was held in at provincial level on 18/03/2022 at the meeting room of Agriculture and Forestry Department in Luang Namtha District. It was attended by 48 participants (8 females). The workshop chaired by Mr. Phimkeo Thammasin, head of PAFO, and co-chaired by Dr. Oupakone Alounsavath, DDG of DOF. The DoF workshop organizers committee, national and international experts for the I-GFLL project, vice district governor, head/deputy head of Agriculture and Forestry office (DAFO) from 3 target districts, and provincial related departments/sections participated. The workshop agreed that the project coordination committee should be established, project implementation should be based on REED+ programs and adapted to local realities, pay attention to village-level planning and dissemination, awareness-raising and information dissemination on GCF Project 2 should be done earlier, the carbon credit selling process should be discussed between provincial and national levels, the criteria for accessing project funds should be explained, the benefit share of villagers should be

clarified, and the budget should be shared among related sections; a deforestation monitoring system is required; an assigned team to assist with data collection for the GCF2 project is required.

**Oudomxay province:** A kick off workshop was held in at provincial level on 14/03/2022 at the meeting room of Agriculture and Forestry department in Xay district. It was attended by 50 participants (7 females). The workshop chaired by Mr. Bounkert Sanongxay, deputy head of PAFO, and co-chaired by Dr. Oupakone Alounsavath, DDG of DOF. The national and international experts for the I-GFLL project, provincial related departments, target districts (including Namor, Xa, Beng and Nga district), staff from DoF, and GIZ project team participated. The workshop agreed that the project coordination committee should be established, project implementation should be based on REDD+ programs and adapted to local realities, pay attention to village-level planning and dissemination, awareness-raising and information dissemination on GCF Project 2 should be done earlier, deforestation monitoring system is required; an assigned team to assist with data collection for the GCF2 project is required.

**Luang Prabang Province:** A workshop was held in at provincial level on 11/03/2022 at the meeting room of Agriculture and Forestry department in Luang Prabang district. It was attended by 53 participants (7 females). The workshop chaired by Mr. Bounmy Savath, deputy head of PAFO, and co-chaired by Dr. Oupakone Alounsavath, DDG of DOF. The representative from Provincial Agriculture and Forestry department, provincial natural Resources and Environment, representative of provincial planning and investment department, provincial Lao front for national development, provincial Lao women's union, vice district governor (4 districts), DAFO of Phonxay district, district women's union (4 districts), DoNRE (4 districts), and provincial related departments participated. The workshop agreed that the following: project coordination work; ownership of DAFO in project implementation and reporting; land use planning, agriculture, and extension work; time considered to work with villagers; project household selection for grant; budget planning and use; and progress evaluation of the project.

**Sayabouri province:** A workshop was held in at provincial level on 21/03/2022 at the meeting room of Agriculture and Forestry department in Sayabouri district. It was attended by 62 participants (13 females). The workshop chaired by Mr. Phongkeo Bounyavong, deputy head of PAFO, and co-chaired by Dr. Oupakone Alounsavath, DDG of DOF. The representative from REDD+, DoF, Provincial planning and investment department, provincial natural Resources and Environment, provincial Lao front for national construction, provincial women's union, Agriculture and Forestry department, provincial natural Resources and Environment, representative of provincial planning and investment department, provincial Lao front for national construction, provincial Lao women's union, vice district governor, head /deputy head of DAFO of 5 districts, coordinator committee from related sections of PAFO, provincial and central GIZ team participated. The workshop agreed that the following: project coordination work should be improved; the budget for 2022 should be considered; procurement should be sped up; checking the completed village in land use planning; related offices should have more ownership in project implementation; for project 2 development, the province agreed and is ready to cooperate; the report is late and related parties should pay more attention to completing it on time; and it should be established the coordination office at the district base.

**Houaphan province:** A kick off workshop was held in at provincial level on 25/03/2022 at the meeting room of cultural hall in Xamnua district. It was attended by 78 participants (7 females). The workshop chaired by Mr. Khin Thoummal, deputy head of PAFO, and co-chaired by Dr. Oupakone Alounsavath, DDG of DOF. The representative from DoF, Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Department, Provincial Natural Resources and Environment Department, Provincial Industry and Commerce Department, Provincial Planning and Investment Department, Provincial Defense, Provincial Public Security, Provincial Lao Front for National Construction, Provincial Women's Union, Vice district governor (7 districts), and DAFO (7 districts) participated. The workshop agreed that land use planning is sensitive work and very important for sustainable forest management planning, so the boundary should be clearly identified both from village to village and district to district. Implementation should be done with caution if necessary. For sustainable agriculture promotion, the next project will provide the village fund and participatory sustainable agriculture promotion planning with villagers. The workshop agreed to continue the GCF Project 2 to be implemented in the project's target villages.

#### Stakeholder consultations with the private sector

Stakeholder consultations to inform the Feasibility Study and proposal preparation have been conducted with private sector entities and Agri-MSMEs from 20.02 till 06.03.2022. Consulted business included, amongst others, Singta agriculture Extension Company based in Xay, Oudomxay province, Kanthavong production and processing promotion Co., Ltd based in Viengphoukha district, Luang Namtha province, Pattana kasikorn Sole Co., Ltd based in Xay district, Oudomxay province, and a rattan furniture manufacturing business based in Viengphoukha district, Luang Namtha province. Case studies of assessing those four MSMEs have been included in the Feasibility Study for Project 2. The enterprises focus on agricultural production, processing and trade of products such as Cardamom, Mung bean and Pumpkin, broom grass, palm fruit, mulberry bark, and rattan handicraft. Other private sector stakeholders consulted include NTFPs and agriculture products collectors at district level, handicraft villages and broom producer groups. In total, 78 stakeholders have been consulted, including 24 women.

#### Stakeholder consultations with civil society organizations

Consultations with CSOs have been conducted from 10. to 18.03.2022 with nine CSOs from different sectors (gender, ethnic minorities, education, environment and agriculture) interviewed. The planned project was presented to the CSOs who agreed to the proposed activities. The following CSOs have been consulted, an overview of the CSOs including a brief description of relevant work areas, can be found in the attachment:

- Wildlife Conservation Association (WCA)
- Social Development Alliance (SODA)
- Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SEADA)
- Maeying Houm Jai Phattana
- Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA)
- Gender Development Association (GDA)
- Green Community Development Association (GCDA)

- Community Development and Environment Association (CDEA)
- Association for Development of Women and Legal Education (ADWLE)

The CSOs provided the following recommendation for project implementation and potential challenges:

**Table 3: Feedback collected from CSO consultations**

Feedback	How feedback is addressed in project design
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project needs to clarify the process on benefit sharing with the community</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The process on benefit sharing has been clarified in the revision of Output 2, where Activities 2.1.1 and 2.1.2 clearly describe the PSAP and VFAG processes, including the participatory planning, FPIC and decision making processes. In addition, the project has further included Activities 2.1.4 and 3.1.2 that will support the implementation of the ER Programme's approved Benefit Sharing Plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If possible, governments should engage CSOs as project implementation partners. The project should reserve a slot of budget allocation for CSOs' involvement. CSOs should be involved in all stages of the project phase, including planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project executing entities (EEs) have to pass a due diligence process and it was not possible to include a CSO partner. The Lao Women's Union and the Lao Front for National Development are engaged as project implementing partners.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project should ensure that it is able to deal with COVID-19 induced changes in land use. One CSO described the challenge that COVID increase deforestation rates because many young people come back from Thailand and other provinces without local employment opportunities. Therefore, they went to expand land area by forest clearing or converting forest land to grass land for cattle rearing. To avoid negative impacts, appropriate land use planning and land use zoning should be considered. Another example was that the national protected areas have been threatened by the communities during the COVID-19 outbreak because the forest inspection unit was not able to go out for monitoring and patrolling.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participatory approaches, including PLUP 2.0 (Activity 1.2.2), PSAP (Activity 2.1.1) and VFM (Activity 3.1.1), will ensure that current trends are reflected throughout the processes to facilitate land use planning. Support for communities in NPAs and National Parks will also be provided by the Project, including implementing village forest conservation agreements, and supporting village patrols (Activity 3.2.1). Additional support for improving monitoring and law enforcement will be further supported by the project (Activity 1.2.1)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear communication should be ensured by the project. Maeying Houmjai Phattana recommended that it is an important thing to build the capacity of the government coordinator on communication and facilitate women's participation, because the government coordinator has the responsibility of announcement to women to participate in the activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) is considered a cross-cutting element and will be mainstreamed through project-related products/ materials, and trainings.</li> </ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project implementation committee at all levels should have women as members, including at district and village levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The LWU is part of the Steering Committees on all levels and also participates in all implementation.</li> <li>▪ For the village-level, the project emphasizes the participation of women for all different committees.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project should be aware that the ownership of village authority on monitoring and law enforcement is considered a challenge. Policy enforcement is needed to be improved, including coordination at the local level.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ This is recognized, and the project aims to strengthen ownership through PLUP, incentives for the adoption of sustainable and climate-resilient agricultural practices, SFM and FLR. In addition, the project will support monitoring and law enforcement within Activity 1.2.1 (provincial deforestation monitoring systems), Activity 3.1.1 (VFM monitoring and village patrols), Activity 3.1.2 (NPA monitoring and village patrols). Under Activity 1.2.1 additional emphasis has been added under Project 2 to harmonize local approaches and strengthen coordination.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Professional technical experts in agriculture promotion are recommended as one of the most important resources for supporting project implementation. Here, a challenge that the project needs to deal with, as emphasized by a few CSOs, is that technical staff who have more expertise often move to the responsibility of administration positions, so it is needed to again train the new technical staff.</li> <li>▪ The project should be focused on long-term capacity building systems for technical staff and their organizations that is not limited to one single training course.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Knowledge management is a cross-cutting element of the project, and there will be an emphasis on the institutionalization of trainings (training trainers and developing training materials that can be replicated, development of standardized materials, etc., to ensure that knowledge is retained. For more detailed information refer to the project's Knowledge Management Plan in the FS (Annex 2 to the FP)</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The professional technical skills of the extension staff should be strengthened.</li> <li>▪ Limited knowledge and understanding of CC and adaptation by villagers should be improved by the project</li> <li>▪ Encourage farmers to be role models for other community members by sharing their experiences and lessons learned. Resilient agriculture will need more technical support, more patience in practice, and more attention from authority staff to be sustainable in the future. The project needs to ensure that the technical staff members or extension workers have expertise in this field. The limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional funds have been dedicated to strengthening extension support under Output 2. This will further include an emphasis on knowledge and learning, which will enable adaptive management and strengthen knowledge on best practices (sharing experiences and lessons learned). In addition, capacity building on climate change, including climate risk and vulnerability and best practices to strengthen adaptation in the AFOLU sector, will be mainstreamed throughout the project. This will include training government staff (including at the district level) on these practices, and training villagers on these topics.</li> </ul>

availability of knowledge, languages, technology transfer, and extension services will be the barriers.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project should promote women's self-empowerment and more trust in themselves. The project should closely work with the village chief and a representative of women at village level to ensure women's engagement in the project.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ GESI is considered a cross-cutting element throughout the project. The project has a gender action plan (Annex 8b to the FP), which will be implemented to strengthen gender equality throughout project implementation. Additional measures have been integrated to reflect lessons learned from Project 1, and further ensure adjustments in Project 2's design are reflected in the action plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The villagers have traditional knowledge of NTFP collection for their daily livelihood (food, selling it to make income, using it for medical health care, water storage). Some surplus is sold seasonally to make income. Sustainable NTFP harvesting and additional planting, processing, and marketing should be promoted (e.g. bee culture; cardamom planting in the existing forest, rattan planting, ginger planting, coffee planting, mushroom conservation, or bloom flower conservation). Promoting traditional crops and reducing crop imports from outside or abroad should be considered.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project will support villages to sustainably manage village forests (Activity 3.1.1 and Activity 3.2.1), and will enable them to economically benefit from the sustainable production of NTFPs and timber – in line with the revised Forest Law.</li> <li>▪ The white list further includes numerous of these products for measures supported, including within agroforestry systems, under the PSAP approach (Activity 2.1.1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Chemical/pesticide/herbicide use is a main challenge for agriculture practice. The project should be aware that use of chemicals/pesticides/herbicides has increased recently.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project is aware of this, and will include sensitization of chemical/ pesticide/ herbicide use. The project will promote organic alternatives, and will not promote or procure fertilizers or pesticides. For more information refer to the Pest Management Plan.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ It is important that the project promotes market development. This can ensure that there is not only one trader on which the communities depend in selling their agriculture produce. In this context, promotion of agricultural production should be linked to the wider market, including improvement of quality of the product, selling price, production processing, and of value-adding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Activity 2.2.1 will support agri-MSMEs and support the strengthening of climate-resilient and deforestation-free agricultural value chains. This will help strengthen markets and value chains that incentivize sustainable practices.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project should apply participatory approaches as the level of participation is a key factor affecting communities' contribution to forest management. Yet, it does not guarantee social acceptance because villagers are mostly dependent on forest resources for their livelihood. Therefore, the project should support village</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The project supports village forest management, and will support villagers to economically benefit from the sale of sustainably produced products – in line with revisions to the forestry law.</li> <li>▪ Capacity building of VFM, and VFAG committees will be supported, including on topics related to GESI.</li> </ul>



community forestry, including a livelihood and business funding approach. Moreover, local leadership is a decisive factor in the success of community-based forest management.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Forest management systems are not well integrated into the overall land use system, therefore, a holistic planning approach combining both forest management and agriculture is recommended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project supports an integrated approach, where PLUP is conducted at a village level (with agricultural and forestry land uses present), and is then also compared with neighbouring villages in a Kumban (landscape level, under Activity 1.2.2). Based on these plans, then more detailed planning for agriculture occurs under the PSAP (Activity 2.1.1) and VFM/ VilFOCA (Activities 3.1.1 and 3.2.1).</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The rights and power of villagers and village authorities on forest management and use should be clearly identified.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Participatory processes, from PLUP to PSAP to VFM, will be applied and will ensure villagers and village authorities are aware of their rights. This will be accompanied by the projects FPIC process, which is mainstreamed in the project's approach.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NPA management will have potential negative impacts on these communities, groups, and/or people because most of these communities rely on these resources. Crop cultivation for food security of the household should be the focus before moving to strictly NPA protection and management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project does not promote strict NPA protection and management, but applies an approach that works to develop management plans in a participatory process, and then will develop and support the implementation of village forestry conservation agreements (VilFoCA), following the approach of the KfW ICBF project.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project should ensure that trainings are conducted in local languages and provide interpreters, if needed. Most challenges to ethnic women's participation are communication and access to information because of language barriers, especially for Hmong and Lahu ethnicities. There are language barriers and difficulty communicating with outsiders among women of ethnic minorities. From the experiences of SODA working with Alak, Yea, and Trieng ethnic groups (under the Mon-Khmer languages group), many women who participated in women's group discussion did not want to speak out, and there were only 2 or 3 women who could better understand the Lao language and shared their experiences in the meeting. Limited access to information is the biggest challenge women and ethnic minorities face. Language barriers and difficulties communicating with outsiders are two examples of their limited</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project is aware of this challenge and will ensure that interpreters are present if needed. The Ethnic group development plan emphasized that translation support will be available, and key materials will be provided in local languages, where suitable. Project 1 gathered experience and the use of local languages was monitored. This confirmed that local languages have been used in village meetings concerning all activities (including FPIC) in relevant villages. Project 2 will build on this experience and ensure accessibility to all activities.</li> </ul>

information access. The men are more advanced if compared to the women in each group.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local and traditional knowledge should be mapped, shared, and scaled up based on proper location. Women do well know how to use NTFPs, so include them on village forest committees. Each ethnic minority has their own traditional knowledge and capacity. This knowledge and capacity should be listed and mobilized to support project implementation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>NTFP management and development will be promoted under Activity 3.1.1 on village forest management. The project will ensure fair participation and access to these activities for women and ethnic minorities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is a limited knowledge and understanding of CC and adaptation. The project needs to improve the understanding of ethnic minority groups of climate change. This will encourage them to participate in project activities; if they do not understand, they will be dissatisfied.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project will work on capacity building regarding Climate Change and adaptation. Sub-Activity 2.1.1.1 will focus on capacity building and knowledge management for sustainable and climate resilient agricultural practices and technologies. Sub-activity 3.1.1.1 will work on mainstreaming climate change adaptation in VFMP processes and training DAFO and PAFO on climate change adaptation within village forestry. Further, Sub-activity 3.2.1.1 exclusively focusses on capacity building on climate change adaptation and NPA management.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There is limited in access to information on laws and regulations on forest conservation and management and sustainable land use available to villagers, including ethnic minority groups. Appropriate information and education material for ethnic women and ethnic minority groups should be developed and distributed with frequency, such as including forest or land law content in the materials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Under Output 3 will Village Communities will be trained by capacitated government staff to implement sustainable (village) forest management plans. This activity will include the development of appropriate information and education material. The ESMP, GAP and EGDP will ensure quotas for the participation of women and ethnic groups in all relevant project activities.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project should monitor who fills which roles in project implementation (e.g. responsibilities of the target groups, such as productive roles, responsibilities to access to and control of resources, and decision-making roles &amp; responsibilities) to see the positive or negative impact of ethnic minority groups.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The participation of ethnic groups in project activities and target groups will be closely monitored. As there will be quotas for their participation, the impact of ethnic minority groups on project implementation will be ensured and monitored.</li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project should consider that working with ethnic minorities in remote areas with limited road access and no phone signal is most difficult</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The project is aware of this challenge and aims at designing simple processes where possible and emphasizes local structures in implementation.</li> </ul>

### Provincial level stakeholder consultations

Field consultations have been conducted in three provinces: Xayabury, Luang Prabang and Oudomxay. The first two provinces have been part of Project 1 and will continue to be covered by Project 2. Oudomxay is a new province under Project 2. The following table provides an overview of the conducted consultations. In total, 190 people were consulted, of which 82 have been female (43%). Concerning ethnicity, 94 of the participants were Lao (27% female), 59 persons were Khmu (68% female), 33 persons were Hmong (42% female), and 4 identified themselves with another ethnicity, which has not been further defined.

**Table 4: Overview of provincial level stakeholder consultations**

Province	District	Date	Agreed travel plan	Consultations held
Xayabury	Thongmixay	13.03.	Travel from VTE to Thongmixay	-
		14.03.	Consultation at District Level (Thongmixay)	3
		15.03.	Consultation at Village Level (Kan)	3
	Xayabury	16.03.	Consultation at District + Village Levels (Xayabury + Houaysangaem)	3+3
Luang Prabang	Nan	17.03.	Travel to LPB Province, Nan District	-
		18.03.	Consultation at District Level (Nan)	3
		19.03.	Consultation at Village Level (Keomany + Pha Yuak)	3+4
	Viengkham	20.03.	Travel to Viengkham District	-
		21.03.	Consultation at District + Village Levels (Viengkham + Done Khoun)	3+4
Oudomxay	Xay	22.03.	Travel to Oudomxay Province, Xay District	-
		23.03.	Consultation at District + Village Levels (Xay + Mokok)	3+3
	Nga	24.03.	Travel to Nga District	-
		25.03.	Consultation at District + Village Levels (Nga + Houay Kham)	3+3
		26.03.	Consultation at Village Level (Thin)	3

### *Consultations in Xayabury Province*

Sayaboury consultations were held at both the district and village level. In Thongmixay District, DAFO, DLWU, DLFND, and DONRE were consulted. In Sayaboury District, officials from DAFO, DONRE, and DLWU were spoken to. Generally, the project was received well, Project 1 was considered to be very useful as people have increased their knowledge and understanding on forest management and sustainable livelihoods. The project strengthened forest management operations at the local level, especially for women who have a better understanding of gender roles, and provided access to project funding for poor and female headed families. It was further perceived as helpful to reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts. In Sayaboury, conflicts between some households who have received funding and those who did not was mentioned as a barrier. For Project 2, it was recommended to increase opportunities for technical staff in relevant fields to participate in trainings and activities and to put more emphasis on conciseness and detail for funds given to poor families. More tools for distributing information, such as printers, projectors or posters have further been requested. Generally, the expectation was to increase the number of target villages and the number of families who receive financial assistance.

At village level, the field team visited Kan Village in Thongmixay District (19 villagers, incl. 12 women) and Houaysangaem Village in Sayaboury district (18 villagers, incl. 6 women). At this level, the villagers have been well informed about the project and had participated in Project 1 on FPIC, land use planning, forest protection activities, sustainable agriculture and Village Forest and Agriculture Grants. It was stated that all people living

in the village were able to participate, regardless of gender or ethnicity. For instance, women had joined the committees with men and helped to spread the laws and patrol the forests.

### *Consultations in Luang Prabang Province*

Luang Prabang consultations were held at both the district and village levels. In Nan District and in Viengkham district the DAFO, DoNRe, DLWU and LFND have been consulted. In those district, the performance of Project 1 had also been perceived well. It was stated that is very useful because, locals would become more aware of forest management and land use planning, as well as land allocation. It was appreciated that the project provided financial assistance to some low-income families and those involved in shifting cultivation in order for them to practice sustainable agricultural production and animal husbandry. Yet, some barriers have also been identified, such as a lack of equipment (e.g. vehicles) to fully meet the local needs and the limited time available for trainings to create a good understanding of the project among the local population. Concerning Project 2, the expectations have been similar to Xayabouri province in that it was expected to increase the number of target villages and the number of families who receive financial assistance.

At village level, the field team visited Keomany village (26 villagers, incl. 18 women) and Pha Yuak Village (11 villagers incl. 9 women) in Nan District and Done Khoun village (15 villagers, incl. 9 women) in Viengkham district.

### *Consultations in Oudomxay Province*

In Oudomxay, consultations were held at both the district and village levels. In Xay District and in Nga district the DAFO, DLWU and LFND have been consulted. Oudomxay province is one of the three new provinces which will be covered under Project 2. Therefore, the consulted stakeholder did not have prior experience with Project 1, but shared their expectations concerning Project 2. It was said that the upcoming project may help reduce deforestation in the target provinces and districts because it provides funding to protect the forest and improve the lives of the people. However, there were also some risks mentioned, such as low levels of education and the villagers' strong dependency on the forest. This may cause people to return to invading and using forest resources after the project is phased out. The project will need to make sure that accomplishments are sustainable and last in the long-term. It was highlighted that technical skills are available to collaborate with the project, but a close coordination would be needed for implementation. Some staff expect the project to provide training on IT, GIS, and QGIS.

At village level, the field team visited Mokok Village in Xay District (5 villagers, incl. 2 women) and Houaykhan Village (15 villagers, incl. 10 women) and Thin Village (14 villagers, incl. 3) in Nga District. At local level, the villagers hope that the project may help to manage the forest and improve people's livelihoods while reducing mobile slash-and-burn cultivation. Forests will be rehabilitated, degraded forests will become green forests, and land will be well allocated and managed. Based on this, the lives of the community could improve. A challenge for implementation was seen in the remoteness of some areas as some villages along the Mekong River do not have access to the road network or to electricity. It was further mentioned that some minorities do not understand the Lao language well. Therefore, the project would need to take caution to mobilize ethnic groups to participate in the project activities and ensure adequate translation.

## ATTACHMENT

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### a) Mapping of interviewed CSOs

Wildlife Conservation Association (WCA)	WCA used to participate in the planning process in Nam-Et-Phouleu Protected Area with the GIZ ClipPAD project (feasibility study).  WCA works on wildlife and forest conservation which is linked to climate change adaptation for the community. In this field, there could be options for collaboration in the future.  In this context, WCS supports government capacity building for NPA management, which includes law enforcement, plant and wildlife research, land use planning, and NPA conservation awareness-raising. Moreover, WCA focusses on conservation, including community participation in planning, decision making, management, and use of the forest; establishment of a village development fund for sustainable forest conservation. WCA also conducts biodiversity assessment (plants and wildlife) by using GIS for assessment and information services.
Social Development Alliance (SODA)	In the last 4 years, SODA implemented the project called “community forest management” in Khammouane and Sekong provinces. No direct cooperation with GIZ yet. In the community forest management project, SODA provided 65 households with funding for handicrafts, weaving, goat raising, pig raising, and chicken raising. After completing the first round (one year), the funds had to be returned to the funding committee which provided new loans to other interested households in the next round.  SODA intends to conduct a survey on agricultural production credit, with a focus on cattle-raising, agricultural production processing and market development. This area can be a collaboration with the project.  Involvement of CSOs would be a good option, for instance, some budget could be allocated to CSOs for the implementation of selected activities.
Sustainable Agriculture and Environment Development Association (SEADA)	Focuses mostly on agriculture promotion, farmer organization, and environmental conservation  SEADA is interested in being involved in this project's implementation. For example, SEADA could implement some selected activities, such as NTFP conservation, environmental conservation, integrated agriculture, organic farming, farmer organization establishment and strengthening, food processing, or post-harvest management.
Maeying Houm Jai Phattana	The association is planning to implement activities that may be related to the proposed project: forest conservation motivation, existing NTFPs conservation and promotion (bloom flower and honey, as well as other

existing NTFPs), new agricultural technology (seed drop rice cultivation), commercial crop cultivation (pineapple and other crops), and organic crop cultivation, natural tea conservation and promotion, watershed conservation, and water resource conservation, improve crop cultivation in plain areas, especially in the old banana concession land area, and crop processing: bean processing, honey processing.

**Lao Biodiversity Association (LBA)** LBA focuses mostly on capacity building on Laws for the community, and biodiversity conservation. LBA intends to establish wildlife conservation linkages with agriculture production promotion, national protected area conservation linkages with natural tourism, NTFP conservation promotion, and food processing.

LBA involved in this project's implementation would be a good option. For example, some budget for CSOs could be allocated to implement some activities, such as village forest management, wildlife conservation, NTFP conservation, awareness-raising on laws, or food processing.

**Gender Development Association (GDA)** The main area of work are Gender development services (Training and assessment); Gender advocacy programmes (Gender mainstreaming in PCM); Fund mobilization and development partner cooperation

GDA has planned to conduct the Climate Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, including CVCA mapping, family CVCA mapping, gender action learning, and family economic analysis (fund accessing, market accessing, commercial item catalog). Gender mainstreaming in the agriculture sector should be good for collaboration with the project in the future.

**Green Development Association (GCDA)** The main task is agriculture promotion. Organic farming is promoted in conjunction with forest and environmental conservation. The Association's focus is on agriculture's Participatory Guarantee System (PQS). There is one project site in Pek district, Xiengkhuang province.

GCDA has been participating in WB meetings, GIZ, and PRAP (a JICA project in Luang Prabang) for the last 6 years. The Director was a team member for data collection in the Namxam protected area supported by SNV in the last 10 years. He was also a team member with the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) for social economic data collection in Phonexay district, Luang Prabang province to support livelihood allocation and avoid deforestation.

**Community Development and Environment Association (CDEA)** CDEA focuses mostly on community water supply related to upper watershed/upstream forest conservation to protect water resources for the community. The livelihood development fund is promoted to help with water supply system maintenance and management, as well as support livelihood for villagers.

CDEA intends to work on community forest management in the water resources area to protect water resources.

Association for Development of Women and Legal Education (ADWLE) The main area of work is awareness-raising and provides training on gender equality, laws, women's rights, anti-violence against women, and anti-human trafficking.

Awareness raising on how to reduce the number of human trafficking victims, including women and children; vocational training support to trafficked people, particularly those returning from abroad; providing a small fund for starting a small business (including beauty salons, livestock, etc.).