Lao People's Democratic Republic

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment

Voluntary targets and associated measures towards achieving Land Degradation Neutrality in Lao People's Democratic Republic

October 2020

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LDN Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting Programme

THE GLOBAL MECHANISM United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification

THE CHANGWON INITIATIVE

ankara initiative

Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment **No. 4788 /MONRE**
Vientiane Capital, 21 Oct 2020

DECISION
on "Proposal on Voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality Target Setting in Lao PDR for the period to 2030"

- Base on decree of ministry of natural resources and environment, no 451/PM, date 23/12/2019.
- Base on National Master Plan for Land allocation in 2030.
- Base on the Agriculture Development Strategy to the year 2025 and Vision to the year 2030.

Minister Decided:

Article 1. Approved "Proposal on Voluntary Land Degradation Neutrality Target setting in Lao PDR for the period to 2030" with the following contents:

I. OBJECTIVE

1. General objective

- To develop and improve national policies, assess and update the national policies and specific tasks; identify technical working group and the responsibilities of relative ministry or sector for LDN implementation.
- Prioritize the implementation in the degradation with area land degradation caused by soil erosion, conversion land use, pollution from wastewater, shifting cultivation in upland solid wastes, fertilizer chemicals.

2. Specific objectives:

Targets	Area (ha)	Location	Co-ordination Ministries
I. Agriculture			
To ensure food security/ potential commercial production to develop good, safe and sustainable agriculture by 2030		Concentrated in Central and Southern part of Lao DR	MAF, MoNRE (In line with agriculture development strategy up-to 2030) and related line Ministries Department). MoNRE, Department of Climate Change and Disaster
II. Forestry			
Implementation of "Forestry Strategy to the year 2020" of the Lao PDR	To increase forest cover to 70% of land area (i.e. to 16.58 million hectares) by 2020. Once the target is achieved, emission reductions will carry on beyond 2020.	As a whole country and Estimated 478.000.000 tCO_{2e} from 2015 to 2020; and 770.000.000 from 2020 to 2025 478.000.000 tCO_{2e} from 2015 to 2020; and 770.000.000 from 2020 to 2025	MAF, MoNRE
III. Land Management/Electricity Sectors			
National Planning of Land Management (2030): • Forestry Land including Wet land • Agriculture land including wet land • Industry Land, Culture land and National Defense and Security Land	16,5 Million ha, 70% of total land area 4,5 Million ha, 19% of total land area 2,05 Million ha, 8,6% of the total land area	Total Land area of country is 236,800 $sqkm^2$	MAF, MoNRE and others Ministries

• Transportation Land • Construction Land	0,37 Million ha, 1,6% of the total land area 0,18 Million ha, 0,8% of the total land area		
Expansion of the use of large-scale hydroelectricity	The objective of this activity is to build large-scale (>15 MW) hydropower plants to provide clean electricity to neighbouring countries. Approximately 5,500 MW is planned for construction by 2020. In addition, 20,000 MW of additional hydroelectric capacity is planned for construction after 2020.	As a whole country and Estimated 16.284.074,5 tCO2 (until 2020)	MoEM, MoNRE
Implementation of Rural Electrification Programme	To make electricity available to 90% of households in rural area by the year 2020. This will offset the combustion of fossil fuels to produce power where there is no access to the electricity grid.	As a whole country and Estimated CO_{2eq} reductions about 69.183.340 tCO_{2e}	MoEM, MoNRE
Finalize land use planning, to register and issue land title nationwide by 2030, manage and administer the land that comply with law and regulation			MoNRE and Concerning Ministries

II. IMPLEMENTATION SOLUTIONS

- Promote organic agriculture limited use of chemical fertilizer to ensure food security production to develop good, safe and sustainable agriculture;
- awareness/capacity building how to manage drought/natural disaster;
- enforce of existing laws limiting shifting cultivation by sustainable livelihood to farmers

- develop drought/climate change management plan (natural disaster);
- review plan and implementing on forest management to achieve 70% forest cover by 2020;
- Restore the open pit mines and abandoned mines and prioritize land use planning/project to reduce the land degradation by 2030;
- Review and implementing national land use planning/ master plan 2018 in effective and sustainable;
- Strengthen law, regulation and responsibilities of forest and land use management.

III. Land-based adaptation priorities

Sustainable Forest Management: Increase forest cover to a total of 70% of land area by 2020 , and maintaining it at that level going forward; Develop and enforce appropriate laws, regulations and implement guidelines for sustainable forest management; Strengthen capacity in integrated land use planning, watershed, forest management, reduction of slash and burn practices to increase the resilience of forests;

- Promote integrated actions on watersheds, reservoir management, water storage for agroforestry, wildlife management, fisheries and tree varieties, prevention of drought; Forest surveys and allocation for sustainable management and rural development; Strengthen the capacity of technical staff and village forest volunteers;
- Promote forest seed and seedling production for reforestation and forest restoration; Research and select forest species which are resilient to pests, diseases, drought, and soil erosion Climate Smart Agriculture: Improve appropriate resilient agricultural farming system practices and technologies: conservation of agricultural soil, animal health and disease outbreak monitoring and control, long term feed storage improvement, climate resilience crops, efficient water use cropping systems, short rotation cropping and maximizing the use of indigenous climate resilient knowledge;
- Develop and improve crops and animal diversification and resilience especially in the risk, flood and drought areas; Upgrade agricultural research and extension services Water Infrastructure: Strengthen information gathering, modeling and vulnerability assessment for climate change in priority river basins in Lao PDR;
- Develop and implement reliable early warning flood systems, reporting and information disseminating services;
- Strengthen the protection of watersheds to safeguards and moderate down streamflow during periods of high and low flow;
- Study and promote the conservation of wetlands as part of a climate resilient ecosystem-based approach;
- Develop and strengthen standards and procedures to ensure the safety of dams and other water resource related infrastructure;
- Design and build multi-purposes dam and reservoirs to ensure sufficient water supply in drought prone areas and seasons;

- Construct/rehabilitate dykes and enhance river bank protection and irrigation systems to increase climate resilience; Increase awareness and technical capacity of staff regarding climate change impact on water resources and appropriate technologies, and wetland management; Study water treatment which has ground water impacts, ground water and ecosystem.

IV. The national targets and Measures identification of the country and The National Land Degradation Neutrality Targets in Lao PDR for the period to 2030 are illustrated in Table below:

Measures	Targets	Co-ordination ministries
Promotion of organic agriculture Limited use of chemical fertilizer Good agriculture practice	To ensure food security/potential commercial production to develop good, safe and sustainable agriculture by 2030, promoting clean agriculture and Forestry products 3.4% by 2020 but specifics location for implementation.	MAF, MoNRE (in line with agriculture development strategy up-to 2030) and related line ministries department
Proper enforcement of existing laws Limiting shifting cultivation by sustainable livelihood to farmers		MAF, MoNRE
Proper grazing and livestock management		MAF, MoNRE
Forest planning and management according to production forest and conservation forest	• To achieve 70% area under forest by 2020 • To increase soil organic carbon in forest by 2030, in 6 provinces in Northern part of Lao PDR but not specifies the percentage on the plan to increase soil organic carbon yet, because REDD+ is ongoing drafting supporting to approve by 2020.	MAF, MoNRE
Increase in protected area Public awareness on disadvantage of slash and burn		MAF, MoNRE
EIA compliance	• To minimized the impact on the Natural and resource and environment.	MAF, MoNRE
Proper forest management Community awareness	• Community Forestry is very important issue to Protect forest in rural community.	MAF, MoNRE
Restoration forest on the Watershed and degraded land areas.	• **Reforestation** is an effective mitigation strategy to fight global warming. In addition to benefiting the climate, • To help protect **important** species of animals. • To help to rebuild habitats and degradation which are the leading threats to the health of a species. • **Reforestation** is the **natural** or intentional restocking of existing forests and woodlands (**forestation**) that have been depleted, usually through	MAF, MoNRE.

	deforestation. ... Sometimes the term "re-**afforestation**" is used to distinguish between the original forest cover and the later re-growth of forest to an area.	
Proper Implementation national land use master plan 2018	Finalize land use planning, to register and issue land title nationwide by 2030, manage and administer the land that comply with law and regulation.	MoNRE and concerning Ministries

Article 2. Implementing organization

Ministry of Natural resources and Environment

Department of Land:

- Develop a National Master Land Use Plan and national, provincial, and district Integrated Spatial Plans (ISP) for sustainable utilization of land as basis for developing the National and Provincial Social Economic Development Plans;
- Conduct an integrated and participatory land survey and allocation in 18 provinces, 91 districts, and 3,492 villages across the country;
- Develop regulations on land use management and monitoring and grievance redress mechanisms for improving land administration.

Department of Environment and Department of Climate Change Management:

- Develop and implement national, provincial, and district ISP across the country;
- Develop and implement the concept frameworks, mechanisms, and guidelines for sustainable city development to ensure Green, Clean and Beautiful cities piloted in cities along Roads;
- Enhance the promotion and dissemination of environmental protection, legislation, policy and regulations related to environmental protection and quality improvement;
- Conduct review and update the State of Environment Report every 3 years based on the national indicators including solid waste, water quality, air quality, soil quality, forest cover, and biodiversity and climate change adaptation by developing pilot model projects for each indicator.

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

Department of Forestry:

- Conduct forest re-survey, allocation, and rehabilitation to identify 3 national, provincial, and district forest categories (protection forest, protected forest, and production forest) and promoting community ownership to protect the forest;
- Develop and implement sustainable forest allocation, administration and rehabilitation plan for 49 national, provincial, and district protection areas;
- Develop and implement sustainable forest allocation, administration and rehabilitation plan for 7 national protected areas by mainstreaming into ISP and promoting community ownership.

Department of Agriculture Land Agriculture Management

- Capacity Building for Farmers and provincial and district staff have been trained in the use of agricultural techniques in cropping in steep areas.
- Farmers shared their experiences and practiced in their own areas.
- Farmers are trained and learned from practice, have an understanding and can pass on the lessons to others.
- Farmers' production systems are implemented by integrated production models that can improve and resist soil erosion for long-term use.

Article 3. Director General of Forestry Department; Land Department; Department of Environment; Department of Climate Change management; and Department of Agriculture Land Agriculture Management, including Directors of PONRE of the Provinces, District under central management, Heads of relevant organizations, units are responsible to enforce this Decision.

Article 4. This Decision takes effect from the signing date.

Minister

Sommad PHOLSENA