

NEWSLETTER



Sustainable Forest Management in the Northern Provinces of Lao PDR

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According to the forestry strategy of Laos with 500,000 ha of tree planting target although country in 2030. APFNet project is one of potential project to support Laos government to achieve the target in the future.

In 2022, APFNet project supports 2 provinces to plant the trees 20 ha (around 14,410 seedlings were planted) in Oudomxay Province and 30 ha (around 20,480 seedlings were planted) in Beokeo Province with several native species as *Azalia xylocarpa*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Dalbergia cultura*, *Toona sinensis* (A. Jus.) Roem, *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*, *Tectona Grandis* (L.). To make sure that the trees were planted will be grow up and the mortality will be low. Therefore, the Project also supports the villagers to conducted two times of sites maintenance for each year, it is to eliminate the weed around the planting sites. The project not only support the government meet the tree planting target in the future but also support the villagers who participating the project can generate additional income and other benefits from the work perform such as seedling production, site preparation, and maintenance of planted seedlings.

To support the local communities effectively protect and manage village conservation and protection forests, leading to improved forest cover at the level of the entire village, better protection of biodiversity and water resources and improved ecosystem services in these forests. In 2021, APFNet project organized the training on special forest inspection to government staffs of three target provinces (Bokeo, Oudonxay and Luang namtha Province). The objective of this training is focus on previous wildlife poachers and illegal loggers are engaged in forest protection and biodiversity conservation activities, and linkages among village, district and provincial law enforcement agencies are in place, including regular meetings and agreed mechanisms for mutual support.



Supported by APFNet project, the three target provinces coordinate with districts to set up the patrolling team at the village level (9 villagers as members of the team) to implement the inspection and report of forest situation. Up to 2022, the patrolling team of 2 provinces they are found:

- Bokeo: there are still some villagers go to forest to harvest non-timber forest products (NTFPs) over needs, to address this issue, the patrolling team agreed with village organization to remind and make note with them.
- Luangnamtha: there are some illegal loggings but did not know logged by whom because many small tracks can access. To solve this problem, the team consider increasing the time of patrolling more regularly.



The control of any illegal exploitation of forest resources is an essential prerequisite to the introduction of other forest conservation measures. Demarcating the forest boundaries is a necessary feature of this control process. To strengthened community capacity and engagement in sustainable natural resource management and protection. APFNet supports villagers to generate additional income from boundary demarcation for each forest category by giving the incentive based on performance such as sign-making and placement in



Forest fire is still issue of the world. There are forest fires in Laos every year. Especially, thousands of hectares of forest in northern Laos have been devastated by forest fires that have yet to be contained. The forest fires, blazing out of control, have destroyed over 18,000 hectares of forest in Oudomxay province in since mid-March 2020. Local authorities and volunteers continue to fight the fires but access to some remote areas remains difficult. To avoid this problem will be happened and protect the forest from fire, APFNet project closely works and corroborate with local authorities in three target provinces (Oudomxay, Bokeo, and Luangnamtha Province) to train villagers on forest fire break establishment to protect and reduce forest fire in their forest areas. Additional, project also has policy to supports the incentive to villagers who are willing to participate in fire break establishment and maintenance.



In 2022, APFNet project organized workshop with AFoCO project. There are representative government staffs from three provinces participated in this workshop. This main objective of this workshop is learning and sharing the experience from two projects that there is the same target to support government goal on forest section. This workshop was held in Paksong district which is the location of AFoCO project's site. "Lessons and experiences from two projects come on time to support Lao government policy and can be disseminated to another provinces" a representative said during the workshop.



To build the capacity of GOL staff communities to implement project's activities, APFNet had organized one study tour Luangprabang province to visit Saengkeo company to see and learn how they support villagers to plant NTFPs and how to process to completed products and export to markets.



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