

**Kingdom of Thailand
Ministry of Natural Resources and
Environment**

**Department of National Parks, Wildlife and
Plant Conservation**

**Forest Carbon Partnership Facility(FCPF)
REDD+ Readiness Project**

Mid-Term ReviewV2.3

Grant TF0A0984

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Acronyms and Abbreviations

ADB	Asian Development Bank
AGB	Above Ground Biomass
AIPP	Asia Indigenous People Pact Foundation
AMBIF	ASEAN+3 Multi-Currency Bond Issuance Framework
ASFCC	ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change
AWG-SF	ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry
BAAC	Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives
BGB	Below Ground Biomass
BSM	Benefit Sharing Mechanism
BUR	Business as Usual Report
CCMP	Climate Change Master Plan
CF	Carbon Fund
CFM	Community Forest Management
COC	Chain of Custody
CPMU	Central Project Management Unit
DEDE	Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency
DNP	Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation
E&S	Environmental and Social Safeguards
EbA	Ecosystem based-adaptation
EGAT	Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand
EPPO	Energy Policy and Planning Office
ESMF	Environmental Social Management Framework
EU	European Union
EUTR	EU Timber Regulation
EWMI	East-West Management Institute
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FGRM	Feedback Grievance and Redress Mechanism
FIO	Forest Industry Organization
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FLOURISH	Forest Landscape Restoration for Improved Livelihoods and Climate Resilience
FLR	Forest Landscape Restoration
FSC	Forest Stewardship Certification
GFW	Global Forest Watch
GHG	Green House Gases
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (German development agency)
HHs/hhs	House holds
IFC	International Finance Corporation
IKI	International Climate Initiative - Funding from the Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, Germany
ILPA	Illegal Logging Prohibition Act
INBAR	International Bamboo and Rattan Network
KTB	Krung Thai Bank
KTREEB	Khlongrua Tree Bank
LDD	Land Development Department
LEAF	Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MFLF	Mae Fah Luang Foundation
MMR	Measurement, Monitoring and Reporting

MMU	Minimum Mapping Unit
MONRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
MTR	Mid-Term Review Progress Report
NCCC	National Climate Change Committee
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC/INDC	Nationally Determined Contribution/ Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
NESDP	National Economic and Social Development Plan
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
NSCCM	National Strategy on Climate Change Management
ONEP	Office of Natural Resources and Environment Policy and Planning
PAM	Policy and Measures
PEFC	Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification
PES	Payment for Environmental Services
PLR	Policy Laws and Regulations
PPMU	Provincial Project Management Unit
PSU	Primary Sample Units
R-PP	Readiness-Preparation Proposal for the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Funding
REL/FREL	Reference Emission Level; Forest Reference Emission Level
RFD	Royal Forest Department
RIDF	Royal Initiative Discovery Foundation
SDC	Swiss Development Corporation
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SGP	GEF Small Grant Program
SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
SIF	Social Investment Fund
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SNV	Netherland Development Organization - an NGO
T-VER	Thailand Voluntary Emission Reduction
TEEB	The Economic Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity (economic approach)
TEFSO	Thai-EU FLEGT Secretariat Office
TFCC	Thailand Forest Certification Council
TFCS	Thailand Forest Certification System
TGO	Thailand Greenhouse Gas Organisation
TLAS	Timber Legality Assurance System
TORs	Terms of Reference
TWG	Technical Working Group
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNOCD	UN Office on Drugs and Crime
UTM	Universal Transverse Mercator
V4MF	Voices for Mekong Forests
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard
VDPs	Village Development Plans
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement – part of FLEGT
WAVES	Weaving Leadership for Gender Equality
WB	World Bank
	Weights and Measures m = meters; ha = hectares
	Currency M = million; k = thousand Currency Unit = USD Dollar USD1 = BHT 30 1 rai = 1600 square meters

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Executive Summary

This report is the Mid-Term Review (MTR) Progress Report to the Participants Committee of the Carbon Fund on implementation of the Readiness Fund Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Grant and TF0A0984 for USD3.6 million and includes an overview of the progress on the implementation of the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) project in Thailand.

Thailand received FCPF grant support to develop a R-PP, which supports the detailed assessment of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, defining of the forest emissions reference level based on past emission rates and future emissions estimates, establishing a monitoring, reporting and verification system for REDD+, development of a national REDD+ strategy, and actions for integrating environmental and social considerations into the REDD+ Readiness process.

The development objective of the project is to support the development of the REDD+ Readiness Preparation Activities. This is to be achieved by supporting the preparation of a national REDD+ strategy, the design of a national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system, and by producing technical work and policy advice. This project has the following four main components:

- 1) The first component, Readiness Organization and Consultation, aims to tackle complex issues where either technical depth or broad participation is required across multiple sectors to provide a coordinated approach to REDD+. It has the following subcomponents: (a) National Readiness Management Arrangements; and (b) Participation and Consultation Process.
- 2) The second component, REDD+ strategy preparation, will ensure that the elements of social and environmental sustainability are firmly embedded in the technical proposals for proposed REDD+ activities. It has the following three subcomponents: (a) Land Use, Drivers of Land Use Change, Forest Law, Policy and Governance; (b) REDD+ Strategy options; and (c) Social and Environmental Sustainability/Grievance Mechanism.
- 3) The third component, Forest Monitoring and Emissions, is expected to develop a monitoring system for REDD+ including the design of the approach and development of the Forest Reference Emission Level/Reference Level (FREL/FRL). It has two subcomponents as follows: (a) Reference Emissions Level; and (b) Forest Monitoring.
- 4) The fourth component, Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework, covers the project management, financial and procurement monitoring, project monitoring and coordination of the operation. The four components were confirmed through the Grant Agreement (TF0A0984 Annex Article II) between the World Bank and the Ministry of Finance (December 2015).

The Government of Thailand (GOT) ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in December 1994 and the Kyoto Protocol in August 2002. Subsequently, in 2004, Thailand designated the Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP) under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE) as the national climate change focal point. In 2007, the Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO), a public organization, was established as the Designated National Authority for Clean Development Mechanism projects, and the National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) was established as the

policy making body on climate change issues. In 2008, the Cabinet approved the National Strategy on Climate Change Management (NSCCM) (2008-2012) to support Thailand's action on climate change and to provide a comprehensive guideline of national responses to climate change. The ten-year National Climate Change Master Plan (CCMP) Draft (2010-2019) has been adopted and is now in the process of being extended to a 40-year period (2011-2050), to provide long-term development directions to all sectors to manage climate change. The goal of the CCMP is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and for Thailand to become a low carbon society in the next 40 years, by 2050. The NCCC is chaired by the Prime Minister and vice-chaired by the Minister of MONRE and the Permanent Secretaries. The main task of the NCCC is to formulate and oversee major climate change policies on mitigation of greenhouse gases, adaptation to impacts and vulnerabilities of climate change and research and development, and provide advice on the national positions when contributing to the international efforts to the UNFCCC. The Climate Change Coordinating Office was also established under the ONEP to serve as the secretariat of the NCCC.

There have been a number of policy changes and new laws since the R-PP was accepted in November 2013. The Government's medium-term reform program is articulated in Thailand 20 Year National Strategy (2017-2036) and the Twelfth National Economic and Social Development Plan (NESDP 12), which cover the period from 2017-2021. The NESDP 12 focuses on the near-term implementation of the economic, administrative, and social aspects of the 20 Year National Strategy. It highlights measures to improve equity and reduce inequality, enhance competitiveness of the economy, to improve the ability of the public sector to deliver results, improve natural resource management, promote balanced spatial development and strengthen connectivity both regionally and globally.

Thailand has favorable environmental and social policies, laws, and regulations that address social and environmental issues related to climate change and REDD+. The national institutional capacity for implementing environmental and social safeguards is strong and include polices on gender.

An important challenge for the success of REDD+ efforts in Thailand is the way in which institutions will lead and coordinate across sectors and stakeholder groups; and how benefits are to be fairly shared and how various competing or conflicting interests are satisfied or mediated, including, land tenure and user rights in forested areas.

Green growth will be critical for ensuring the availability of resources to ensure the sustainability of future growth. Implementing Thailand's coordinated green growth aspirations, as articulated in the NESDP 12 and Thailand's Roadmap to implement its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), through policy, financing, and capacity development will help Thai companies develop business models that take advantage of environmentally friendly opportunities.

Climate change poses a significant risk to enterprises and households in Thailand and scaling up and financing of the green economy, and in particular investments in climate-smart infrastructure is required. The REDD+ Readiness Project contributes to the objectives of NESDP 12 and NDC Roadmap through 2030. The NDC content related to REDD+ (under Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry(LULUCF)) includes the target of increasing the national forest cover to 40% through local community participation (ref:Thailand's INDC) but the inclusion of more forest in the NDC is yet to be fully developed.

The forest sector- further involvement from private sector

Forest areas in Thailand have declined steadily, in 2017 there was 16,345,016 ha resulting in about 31.5% forest cover (from satellite images). The loss of natural forest, was caused mainly by agricultural expansion, but also urban and industrial expansion, and included a loss of watershed protection, and loss of habitat for Thailand's globally significant biodiversity. Deforestation in the upper watersheds has increased the risk of flash floods and sediment loads in rivers, while reducing storage and drainage capacity. Comprehensive cross-sector improved land zoning and management is needed to reduce the flood-drought vulnerability.

Thailand is currently undergoing a series of activities to establish certification schemes for timber (Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)) and a FSC national standards process was started in July 2018 with the prospect of delivering a final draft to the FSC in May 2020. In May 2019 Thailand received endorsement towards certified forests by the PEFC and this will allow Thai forest owners and managers to demonstrate their sustainable forest management practices in line with global standards and requirements and this should allow greater access to international markets for certified timber products from Thailand.

The private sector in Thailand is already investing in Green Bonds and there are instruments for issuers and investors to raise and channel financing for projects that address climate change and other environmental concerns in Thailand. The IFC has been a pioneer of the Green Bond market and is one of the largest global issuers of Green Bonds and together with Asian Development Bank they are helping Thailand to further develop investment in Green bonds.

The midterm evaluation occurred several months after the midpoint of the project, and due to the intervention of the Covid-19 pandemic took place over a number of weeks. The pandemic also resulted in restrictions on travel and planned follow up meetings with the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP) were not possible. Despite the delay to project implementation, overall project execution is assessed as *moderately satisfactory*; as two important Technical Assistance consultancies (CS5 Communications and CS7 FREL/REL and MMR) have progressed well. However, there are concerns from DNP relating to the overall quality and the failure to complete several important project outputs for REDD+ Readiness from the consultant service package CS6, this includes the development of the "National REDD+ Strategy and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for the REDD+ Mechanism in Thailand". The following were not completed:

- The preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy (Task 2 in the TOR) - the development of this critical output began late (advice to the Consultant company from the DNP and WB on the issue was ignored) in the CS6 consultancy and to date there has been a missed opportunity to consult widely and particularly with the private sector and forest dependent communities and this will require additional work;
- The development of the SESA (Task 3) is still ongoing;

- The development the country-level REDD+ safeguard approach Safeguard Information System (SIS) (Task 4 - this was not actually started); and
- The development of the Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM) (Task 5) was only at the initial stage.

The overall poor performance of the CS6 Consultant placed significant additional project management burden on the DNP and has caused difficulties for the project. The non-performance in these critical areas has impacted on the development of the SESA and the Environmental Social Management Framework (ESMF). An extension of the FCPF grant to December 2021 would be most helpful given the central nature of these outputs to REDD+ in Thailand.

The Covid-19 situation in Thailand is under continual review, however, to date Thailand has been very fortunate in avoiding the large-scale infections that have occurred in many other countries and therefore many aspects have returned to near normal including internal travel and meetings have been able to resume.

1 Background and Introduction

1.1 *Background*

This report serves as the Mid-Term Review(MTR) on implementation progress, and supplements the Semi-annual and Annual Progress reports to provide information on progress with the implementation of the FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant support activities in Thailand and includes a summary review of the project's activities. The report also provides an overview of the overall progress of the implementation of the R-PP. The report includes a request for a no-cost time extension, with supporting draft summary key activity work plan, and coupled with this, for continued momentum and continuity, the extension of the original FCPF grant.

The FCPF grant supports activities related to the preparation for REDD+ and the R-PP and pilot activities including: the development of policies and systems, adoption of national REDD+ strategies; development of forest reference emission levels (FRLs); the design of a measurement, monitoring and reporting, (MMR) system; and the setting up of REDD+ national management arrangements, including improvements to existing environmental and social safeguards; stakeholder consultations and engagement at different levels, work with forest dependent village communities.

Climate Change in Thailand

Climate change is viewed as a central issue related to Thailand's development and direct climate change impacts result not only from gradual changes in temperature and rise in the sea level, but also from increased climate variability and extremes, including more intense floods, droughts, and storms. The country is considered to be highly vulnerable to the likely impact of climate change from both rising sea levels and changes in rainfall patterns that may lead to increased flooding in some areas of the country and increased severity of drought in other areas.

The National Secretariat for Climate Change is within the ONEP, within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE). ONEP has the role of the National Designated Authority of Thailand under the UNFCCC Framework Convention. On matters relating to REDD+, the Department of DNP and ONEP collaborate closely with each other and act in coordination, both at national and international levels. In view of the Royal Forest Department's(RFD) position as the responsible agency for forest policy and legislation, collaboration and involvement of the RFD is important for REDD+ matters. The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) is also an important REDD+ stakeholder and is responsible for the management and protection of the mangroves around Thailand's coast.

The national institutional capacity for implementing environmental and social safeguards is strong. Thailand has robust environmental and social policies, laws and regulations that include polices on gender.

REDD+ in Thailand

The overall responsibility for REDD+ is with MONRE, which has delegated that DNP is the national focal point for REDD+. The DNP, RFD and DMCR are the three leading authorities for the forest sector in Thailand the DNP's main mandate is responsibility for all National Parks within Thailand, and for related conservation work within the National Parks. In parallel, the RFD is responsible for the National Reserve Forest and is

the main responsible agency for Thailand's National Forest Policy and most of the national forest laws.

Thailand's Forest sector

Thailand has a total land area of approximately 51.7 million hectares (RFD 2019). As of 2015, 47% of the nation's total land area (or 24 million hectares) was zoned as agricultural land. Non-agricultural land and forested land accounted for 21% and 32% of the total area, respectively. Slash-and-burn farming, shifting cultivation, land resettlement, and dam and road construction have encroached on forested areas. In 1973, the total forested area of Thailand covered over 43.21% of the country, but the portion of forested area had declined to about 25.28% by 1998, however, the information sources for figures before 2000 may not accurately reflect the then actual situation. Forested areas in 2000 changed as a result of improvements to satellite image interpretation using modern computer based techniques and in the scale and method of calculation of the areas. The improvements were also important for establishing a new benchmark for this category of land use. RFD's current (2018) estimate of forested area is roughly 102 million Rai (Thai national units for land area), equivalent to 16.345 million hectares (RFD, 2019). The forest area in Thailand has been recorded by RFD as being stable since 2014, accounting for 31.62% in 2014, 31.60% in 2015, 31.58% in 2016, 31.62% in 2017, and 31.68% in 2018. At the sub-national level, 36 provinces out of 77 have less than 20% of their total area under forest cover, 23 provinces have forest cover of 20-40%, seven have 40-60%, and seven provinces have over 60% of forest cover. These latter seven provinces are Chiang Mai, Nan, Phrae, Lampang, Maehongson, Tak and Kanchanaburi, and are all located in the North and the West of the country¹.

There are two main types of forests in Thailand: Evergreen Forest and Deciduous Forest:

Evergreen forest: The Evergreen Forest is subdivided into the Tropical Evergreen Forest, the Pine Forest, the Mangrove Forest and the Beach Forest.

Tropical evergreen forest: The Tropical Evergreen Forest is found all over the moist parts of the country. This type of forest is also subdivided into the Tropical Rain Forest, the Dry Evergreen Forest and the Hill Evergreen Forest.

The tropical rain forest is characterized by a rich flora diversification and dense undergrowth. This type of forest is commonly found in the Southern and the Eastern regions where rainfall is above 2,000 millimeters. It is also found along rivers and/or in valleys in other parts of the country. The predominant species (the top storey species) are, for example, *Dipterocarpus spp*, *Hopeaspp*, *Lagerstroemia spp*, and *Shoreaspp*, whereas the lower storey species are bamboos, palms and rattans.

The Dry Evergreen Forest is scattered over the country where the rainfall is between 1,000-2,000 millimetres. The predominant species are *Dipterocarpus spp*, *Hopeaspp*, *Diospyros spp*, *Azeliasspp*, *Terminalia spp*, and *Artocarpus spp*. The main undergrowth species consist of bamboos and palms.

The hill evergreen forest is found on the highland parts (above 1,000 meters from the sea level) of the country where the climatic condition is Humid Subtropical type. The predominant species are oaks and chestnuts, or *Castanopsisspp*, *Quercus spp*, and *Lithocarpus spp*.

¹Sources: Royal Forest Department, March 2019, Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation Draft Report

Pine forest: There are two species of tropical pines in Thailand. They are *Pinus merkusi* locally called Son Song Bi (the two-needle pine) and *Pinus kesiya* locally called Son Sam Bi (the three-needle pine). *Pinus merkusi* is found in the Northern and the western part of the Central regions, where the soil is poor gravel, lateritic and podzolic. *Pinus kesiya* is found only on the highlands of the Northern and North-eastern regions.

Mangrove and beach forests: Mangrove and Beach forests occur along the coastal areas of the Eastern, Central and Southern regions. The Mangrove forest is scattered along the estuaries of rivers and muddy seashores where the soil is muddy and influenced the tide. The predominant species are *Rhizophora spp*, *Xylocarpus spp*, *Avecennia spp*, *Bruguiera spp*, *Nypa spp*. The Beach Forest occurs along the sandy coastal plains especially in the eastern coast of the Southern regions. The main species in this type of forest are *Diospyros spp*, *Croton spp*, *Lagerstroemia spp*. and *Casuarina spp*.

Deciduous forest: The Deciduous Forest is commonly found throughout the country. It is broadly subdivided according to the species composition into Mixed Deciduous Forest (with and without teak) and the Dry Dipterocarp Forest.

Mixed deciduous forest: The Mixed Deciduous Forest is among the most commercially valuable forest of Thailand. In the Northern Region, this type of Forest is named as the Teak (*Tectona grandis*), *Xylocarpus spp*, *Pterocarpus macrocarpus*, *Azadirachta indica* and *Dalbergia cochinchinensis*. (rose wood).

Dry Dipterocarp forest: The Dry Dipterocarp Forest is commonly found in areas with rainfall below 1,000 millimeters where the soil condition is infertile and sandy or gravelly lateritic soil. The predominant species are mainly the family of *Dipterocarpaceae* such as *Dipterocarpus tuberculatus*, *Dipterocarpus obtusifolius*, *Shorea obtusa*, *Shorea siamensis*, with the presence of other species such as *Dalbergia spp*, *Lagerstroemia spp*, *Terminalia spp*.

1.2 *Forest Management Institutions*

All of the government departments that are involved in the management of the forest estate are under MONRE. The more important laws related to managing the forest includes: the Forest Act, National Reserved Forest Act and Plantation Act, Law on Chainsaws and the Community Forest Law. The RFD, is the legal authority responsible for enforcement of and compliance of these Acts. For plantations outside Bangkok, the RFD assigns local and regional offices of MONRE as the competent authorities.

According to the mission statement of the RFD, in line with Thailand's *20-Year Strategic Plan (2017-2036)*, the RFD protects forests and seeks to achieve a balance between the conservation and sustainable use of forested areas. RFD has over 10.4 million hectares (65 million rai) of Reserved Forest land under its management and this represents more than 20% of country's land area. Reserved Forest Land was originally defined as land reserved, under government ownership, for timber production, and this was formalised in the National Reserved Forest Act of 1964. The cancellation of logging concessions in 1989 formally ended timber harvesting in natural forests, and the main purpose of RFD's management of Reserved Forest has been to ensure the conservation and sustainable use of forests and secure the livelihoods that depend on them. The RFD's main mission for the management of Reserved Forest Land is the prevention of

encroachment, illegal logging and deforestation, promoting community forest, economic forest cover, forest and land distribution management, and increasing green cover.²

The DNP administers the National Park Act, Wild Animal Reservation and Protection Act and is mainly responsible for managing protected areas, including national parks wildlife sanctuaries, arboretums and forest park and. The DNP oversees approvals related to protected areas and protected species, including import/export of CITES species. Thailand's protected area system is well managed and resourced in terms of management effort. Despite a nationwide logging ban and protected area networks Thailand's remaining forests are increasingly threatened by illegal logging, and the major driver of this is illegal rosewood trade. Felling and harvesting of timber is strictly illegal in protected areas. The Thai government has made significant efforts to address illegal logging. The DNP is also responsible for the management of watersheds. The Watershed Conservation Management Office (WCMO) has over 30 years of experience in watershed management and rehabilitation through reforestation, development of land use patterns that reduce shifting cultivation, and conflict management.

The government owned Forest Industry Organization (FIO) manages plantations on behalf of the public and is a state owned enterprise. Most of plantations managed by the FIO are located in areas of National Reserved Forest and any forest management operations must follow the laws and regulations relating to the Forestry Act B E 2484 (1941),the National Reserved Forest Act and where applicable the Plantation Act. The FIO manages economic plantations to international forest certification standards (FSC).

The Department of Marine and Coastal Resources (DMCR) manages marine and coastal resources including the areas of coastal mangroves (about 245,533 ha).

1.2.1 Domestic Logging

No new logging concession have been issued since 1989 and no timber or forest products, including charcoal, are derived from logging concessions other than through the FIO. As logging is banned, no part of the forest estate is designated as production forest. Some public forests are co-managed community forest.

Between 2012 and 2016, Thailand was the nineteenth most significant global exporter of timber products with exports valued at close to USD4.5 billion, annually. Thailand has positioned itself as an export-focused manufacturer, and maintaining access to markets will increasingly require efforts to verify that all timber products (both imported and domestically produced) is legal. Regulations to tackle the trade in illegal wood have now been operational across the European Union (through the EU Timber Regulation), in the US (through the US Lacey Act) and in Australia (through the Illegal Logging Prohibition Act) for several years, with implementation and enforcement modalities well established.

1.2.2 Forest Certification and FLEGT

Thailand is currently undergoing a series of activities to establish forest and timber certification schemes for timber and wood products (Forest Stewardship Certification (FSC) and Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification(PEFC)) and FSC national standards process started in July 2018 with the prospect of delivering a final draft to the FSC in May 2020. In 2018 Thailand listed 90,021 ha of certified forest, in 17

² In line with Thailand's 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan 2017-2020 as part of the 20-Year National Strategic Plan, Thailand aims to increase national green area cover to 55%, with 15% to occur within economic/production forests.

Forest Management Units and there are 139 Chain of Custody (COC) operations. The FIO is certified with 19,419 ha in two certificates (about 10% of their total area).

Forest Stewardship Certification

The FSC has certified the FIO and conducts regular audits on their operations³.

Progress on the PEFC forest certification

The Thailand Forest Certification Council (TFCC)⁴ works through the Federation of Thai industries⁵ for the development of the PEFC certification and during this process worked with stakeholders to provide public participation and transparency and more opportunities for stakeholders to be involved in developing the standards. The stages of standard development follow the guidelines of Standard Setting Procedures, PEFC ST 1001 and TFCC PD 006. The National Governing Body – the organization responsible for running the national system – [became the PEFC national member](#) in November 2016 and the [national system achieved PEFC endorsement](#) in May 2019.

Objectives of the TFCC

- a) To provide, implement and empower the sustainable forest plantation management - requirement of Thailand for knowing, accepting and certifying on national and international levels;
- b) To promote and support forest owners/managers and forest related industries for ensuring into the standard certification process;
- c) To operate and maintain the public complaints resolutions for knowing, accepting and certifying the sustainable forest plantation management - requirements in national, regional and international levels;
- d) To act as a focal point of Thailand forest certification system for cooperating, training and acknowledging to all stakeholders, according to the sustainable forest plantation management requirements;
- e) To promote and support research and development together with innovation manner, according to the sustainable forest plantation management requirements; and
- f) To act as a focal point of marketing center for farmers, manufacturers and consumers in national and international levels.

Community Forestry

As of January 2020 15,337 community forests covered 1,221,481 hectares (RFD, 2020). A government plans for 1.6 million hectares to be used in community forests by 2025, although recent legislation supporting forest and protected land is creating some insecurity both for existing and future projects. Community forests in Thailand are

³ FSC Forest Management Certification 3rd surveillance Report for: Forest Industry Organization (FIO) 10 February 2020

⁴ TFCC (Thailand Forest Certification Council) is Thailand's for organization, promoting sustainable forest plantation management by originating certified forests and forest based products throughout the forest certification system. TFCC is the national governing body of the Thailand Forest Certification System (TFCS) and enhances standards and requirements for TFCS, based on stakeholder participation process.

⁵ The Federation of Thai Industries (FTI) is acting on the PEFC Council's behalf as the PEFC's authorised body and the TFCC is acting as both an authorized body of FTI and a focal point of Institute of Agro-based Industries on behalf of the PEFC Council.

classified into two types: 1) natural and 2) rehabilitated or developed. They can be established on National Reserve Forest (under the RFD), Forest area under the Forest Act, B.E. 2484 (1941) and land under the jurisdiction of other government agencies (e.g. monasteries, educational institutes, military areas); and private locations. Once a community forest has been established and registered, it will be recognized by the government and receives RFD support in terms of budget, technical assistance, empowerment and manpower. Government agencies will also recognize community forest committees, which can then acquire funding from these organizations for development, using the forest as the resource base.

FLEGT

The latest FLEGT negotiations took place on 19 July 2018, amid Thailand's rollout of substantial reforms affecting the forestry sector. The changes follow constitutional reform that introduced governance improvements including public consultation for legal reforms, gender equality, public access to information, and a right to participate in and benefit from natural resource management. The reforms include administrative and technological improvements intended to reduce corruption, as well as potentially far reaching grants of land and resource rights.

1.3 *Program Development Objective*

The project does not finance the implementation of REDD+ activities on the ground (e.g., investments or pilot projects), but prepares Thailand for such investments. At the same time, the project's activities are expected to produce tangible outcomes and products to support Thailand's natural resources sector and the government's ability to manage them. For example, in assimilating and analyzing data to produce a national forest "reference emissions level/reference level" (FREL/FRL) for REDD+ purposes:

- The monitoring and reporting system (MRV) upgrades realized through the FCPF grant would serve to enhance the country's management of its protected areas and a wide range of forest resources;
- REDD+ also includes afforestation and reforestation, the operation would also help to develop positive incentives for rural producers for planting and maintaining tree covers and plantations;
- The consultation and benefit sharing mechanisms are expected to foster the development of improved lines of communication and cooperation between rural communities and government agencies; and
- Ensuring that REDD+ activities and natural resource management are done in participatory ways is a major element of the FCPF approach.

1.3.1 *Current Status*

The R-PP, was expected to be completed mid 2020 and this is now expected to be extended to the end of 2021 and will achieve: (i) development of a coherent and cost effective National REDD+ strategy; (ii) design of a REDD+ institutional framework, including an environmental and social management framework (ESMF); (iii) ensure consultation, participation and overall social inclusion, especially ethnic minorities and developing benefit sharing mechanisms for REDD+ at the national, provincial, district and community levels; (iv) establish a credible forest Reference Emission

Level/Reference Level (FREL/FRL) against which to measure future emission reductions; and (v) develop a comprehensive and credible Measurable, Reporting and Verification (MRV) system for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions and develop a national benefit sharing mechanism/ plan.

1.4 *Summary of the Readiness Project*

The following Table 1.1 is based on June 2020 Annual Report. The total funding from FCPF is USD3.60M and in-kind support from the Government is USD0.47M totaling USD4.07M (rounded figures).

Table 1.1 Summary of the proposed REDD+ Preparation Project

Component and sub-component	Summary of progress
Component 1: Organize and Consult (total funding USD 1.38M)	
<p>1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements</p> <p>The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD+, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and key government agencies in addition to the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD+ readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process.</p>	<p>Operationalization of the national office and five Regional REDD+ Units.</p> <p>Three cross cutting technical working groups (TWG) have been set up: FRL and MRV, REDD+ Strategy and REDD+ Communication Strategy. Some participants also sit as experts on the National Expert Consultation (NEC) which is larger multidiscipline panel of experts drawn from government, NGOs, private sector and academics to review the outputs from CS6 is in place.</p> <p>The Communication Strategy CS5 has been completed with helpful outputs and includes a detailed workplan and budget</p> <p>Consultations as part of the development of the SESA have progressed well with engagement with ethnic groups, forest dependent communities and women underway, and work is expected.</p> <p>Consultations and participation on the national REDD+ options and strategy and the SIS require additional work.</p> <p>CS6 REDD Strategy and SESA and CS7 Forest Reference Level contracts let.</p> <p>CS5 progressed well, CS7 has had some issues that need to be addressed and CS6 in particular has performed poorly and required much project management support</p>
<p>1b. Consultation and Participation Process</p> <p>Ownership, transparency, and dissemination of the R-PP by the government and relevant stakeholders, and inclusiveness of effective and informed consultation and participation by relevant stakeholders, will be assessed by whether proposals and/ or documentation on the following are included in the R-PP (i) the consultation and participation process for R-PP development thus far (ii) the extent of ownership within government and national stakeholder community; (iii) the Consultation and Participation Plan for the R-PP implementation phase (iv) concerns expressed and recommendations of relevant stakeholders, and a process for their consideration, and/or expressions of their support for the R-PP; (v) and mechanisms for addressing grievances regarding consultation and participation in the REDD-plus process, and for conflict resolution and redress of grievances.</p>	<p>The Communication Strategy CS5 has been completed with helpful outputs and includes a detailed workplan and budget</p> <p>Consultations as part of the development of the SESA have progressed well with engagement with ethnic groups, forest dependent communities and women underway, and work is expected.</p> <p>Consultations and participation on the national REDD+ options and strategy and the SIS require additional work.</p>

<p>Component 2: Prepare the REDD+ Strategy (USD 1.52M)</p> <p>2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance</p> <p>A completed assessment is presented that: identifies major land use trends; assesses direct and indirect deforestation and degradation drivers in the most relevant sectors in the context of REDD-plus; recognizes major land tenure and natural resource rights and relevant governance issues and shortcomings; documents past successes and failures in implementing policies or measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation; identifies significant gaps, challenges, and opportunities to address REDD-plus; and sets the stage for development of a national REDD-plus strategy to directly address key land use change drivers.</p>	<p>Implementation of this component started as part of the consultant package CS6 in late June 2019, progress on developing the strategy has been delayed and the approach to the strategy is in the process of further review, including draft documents, data and inputs from stakeholders. The technical assistance contract (CS6) for this work has expired and the DNP is the process of procuring new contract to complete the component.</p>
<p>2b. REDD+ Strategy Options</p> <p>The R-PP should include: an alignment of the proposed REDD-plus strategy with the identified drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and with existing national and sectoral strategies, and a summary of the emerging REDD-plus strategy to the extent known presently, and/or of proposed analytic work (and, optionally, ToR) for assessment of the various REDD-plus strategy options. This summary should state: how the country proposes to address deforestation and degradation drivers in the design of its REDD-plus strategy; a plan of how to estimate cost and benefits of the emerging REDD-plus strategy, including benefits in terms of rural livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and other developmental aspects; socioeconomic, political and institutional feasibility of the emerging REDD-plus strategy; consideration of environmental and social issues and risks; major potential synergies or inconsistencies of country sector strategies in the forest, agriculture, transport, or other sectors with the envisioned REDD-plus strategy; and a plan of how to assess the risk of domestic leakage of greenhouse benefits. The assessments included in the R-PP eventually should result in an elaboration of a fuller, more complete and adequately vetted REDD-plus strategy over time.</p>	<p>Some progress has been made through CS6 but some gaps in the documentation of the status, policies, involvement of the private sector, NGOs and CSOs and analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and barriers to REDD+ etc. remains to be completed.</p>
<p>2c. REDD+ Implementation Framework</p> <p>Describes activities (and optionally provides ToR in an annex) and a work plan to further elaborate institutional arrangements and issues relevant to REDD-plus in the country setting. Identifies key issues involved in REDD-plus implementation, and explores potential arrangements to address them; offers a work plan that seems likely to allow their full evaluation and adequate incorporation into the eventual Readiness Package. Key issues are likely to include: assessing land ownership and carbon rights for potential REDD-plus strategy activities and lands; addressing key governance concerns related to REDD-plus; and institutional arrangements needed to engage in and track REDD-plus activities and transactions.</p>	<p>Work has begun but additional work is still required. Comments as above for the REDD+ Strategy also apply here.</p>

<p>2d. Social and Environment Impacts during Readiness Preparation and REDD+ Implementation (included in above)</p> <p>The proposal includes a program of work for due diligence in the form of an assessment of environmental and social risks and impacts as part of the SESA process. It also provides a description of safeguard issues that are relevant to the country's readiness preparation efforts. For FCPF countries, a simple work plan is presented for conducting the SESA process, cross-referencing other components of the R-PP as appropriate, and for preparing the ESMF.</p>	<p>Work on the SESA has progressed well with feedback coming from consultation with ethnic groups, NGOs and forest dependent communities but additional work is required particularly when the options and draft strategy are developed</p>
<p>Component 3: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level (USD0.85M)</p> <p>Present work plan for how the reference level for deforestation, forest degradation (if desired), conservation, sustainable management of forest, and enhancement of carbon stocks will be developed. Include early ideas on a process for determining which approach and methods to use (e.g., forest cover change and GHG emissions based on historical trends, and/or projections into the future of historical trend data; combination of inventory and/or remote sensing, and/or GIS or modeling), major data requirements, and current capacity and capacity requirements. Assess linkages to components 2a (assessment of deforestation drivers), 2b (REDD-plus strategy activities), and 4 (monitoring system design). (FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a stepwise approach may be useful. This component states the proposed early activities.)</p>	<p>Component 3 was started from September 2018, and the work was in progress and expected to be finalized within September 2020.</p>
<p>Component 4: Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards (USD 0.32M)</p> <p>The R-PP provides a proposal and work plan for the initial design, on a stepwise basis, of an integrated monitoring system of measurement, reporting and verification of changes in deforestation and/or forest degradation, and forest enhancement activities. The system design should include early ideas on enhancing country capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) to monitor emissions reductions and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and to assess the impacts of the REDD-plus strategy in the forest sector.</p> <p>The R-PP should describe major data requirements, capacity requirements, how transparency of the monitoring system and data will be addressed, early ideas on which methods to use, and how the system would engage participatory approaches to monitoring by forest-dependent indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers. The R-PP should also address the potential for independent monitoring and review, involving civil society and other stakeholders, and how findings would be fed back to improve REDD-plus implementation. The proposal should present early ideas on how the system could</p>	<p>Work is under way as part of CS7 and making good progress</p>

<p>evolve into a mature REDD-plus monitoring system with the full set of capabilities.</p> <p>(FCPF and UN-REDD recognize that key international policy decisions may affect this component, so a staged approach may be useful. The R-PP states what early activities are proposed.)</p>	
<p>4a. National Forest Monitoring System</p> <p>The R-PP provides a proposal for the initial design and a work plan, including early ideas on capability (either within an integrated system, or in coordinated activities) for an integrated monitoring system that includes addressing other multiple benefits, impacts, and governance. Such benefits may include, rural livelihoods enhancement, conservation of biodiversity, and/or key governance factors directly pertinent to REDD-plus implementation in the country.</p>	<p>Work is under way as part of CS7 and making good progress</p>
<p>4b. Designing an Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards</p> <p>The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD-plus readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.</p>	<p>This is implemented through CS6 Part of the work has made good progress through the SESA, but work on the BSM and particularly on the SIS still needs further development and involvement of stakeholders and consultations</p>
<p>Schedule and Budget</p> <p>The R-PP proposes a full suite of activities to achieve REDD-plus readiness, and identifies capacity building and financial resources needed to accomplish these activities. A budget and schedule for funding and technical support requested from the FCPF and/or UN-REDD, as well as from other international sources (e.g., bilateral assistance), are summarized by year and by potential donor. The information presented reflects the priorities in the R-PP, and is sufficient to meet the costs associated with REDD-plus readiness activities identified in the R-PP. Any gaps in funding, or sources of funding, are clearly noted.</p>	

1.5 *Mid Term Review Approach and Methodology*

This MTR is a mid-term progress report and whose objective is to assess project performance to date as well as the likelihood of the Project achieving its intended objectives, outcomes and impacts, and recommend appropriate actions regarding the future implementation, including adjustments to the project design and/or implementation approach. This report provides the background, findings and recommendations of the MTR, along with supporting appendices.

1.5.1 Approach and Methodology

The report utilized a “mixed method” approach to generate the MTR deliverables. These included document and literature reviews and consultations in a process of triangulation. The MTR undertook a review of pertinent project documents including annual operational work plans, finance and procurement documents, annual and quarterly reports, Project Steering Committee (PSC) meeting minutes, consultant reports and other documents.

The findings were used to generate an overall project timeline that informed the development of the evaluation frame and data collection plan, and the preparation of the evaluation instruments. The consultations and interviews were conducted over an initial three weeks and involved an in-country mission during January 2020 and follow-up discussions through February to May⁶.

1.5.2 Summary of the MTR Evaluation Criteria

Main approach is to use R-PP FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework⁷ which includes a description of the expected criteria and diagnostic questions to assess progress, but have some additional criteria for undertaking the evaluation including but not exclusively the following:

- How consistent is the intervention with the policies and priorities of the GOT, and does the design of the R-PP need to be modified or updated?
- Does the project design (i.e. priorities, outcomes, outputs and activities) address the stakeholder needs and are they consistent with the culture of the main stakeholders and beneficiaries that were identified?
- How have stakeholders been involved in project implementation? How effective has the project been in establishing national ownership and how effective is communication between the project team, the WB and the national implementing partners?
- Is project management capacity sufficient and project management facilitate good results and efficient delivery? Is there a clear understanding of roles and responsibilities by all parties involved?
- Is the project making sufficient progress towards its planned objectives? Will the project be likely to achieve its planned objectives upon completion? What are the main constraints, problems and areas in need of further attention?

⁶Additional face-to-face consultations were planned for February/March 2020, but due to travel restrictions resulting from Covid-19 pandemic meant that these were not possible and were restructured to revolve around audiovisual calls.

⁷ A Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, June 2013; and FCPF Readiness Package Assessment Framework, March 2013.

2 An Overview of the Progress in the Implementation of the R-PP

2.1 *Summary of Progress To Date on REDD+ Related Program Activities*

- Key achievements and progress in Readiness
 - The project has operationalized the REDD+ project through setting up the required institutional processes including the central national office and five regional offices (Upper North / Lower Northern / North-eastern / Central, Eastern and Western / Southern) and nine Forest and Climate Change Education and Action Centres have been established and functioned.
 - Three TWGs are in place and in addition a National Expert Consultation (NEC) committee has been set up specifically to follow the CS6 package and the development of the REDD+ Strategy and the SESA and these include representatives from different stakeholders including different government ministries, the private sector, NGOs, academia and institutes.
 - The development of the Communication Strategy (consultancy package CS5) has been completed with few problems.
 - The FRL/FREL has progressed and is nearing completion.
 - The SESA while starting later than anticipated has made good progress and with consultations with many stakeholders including ethnic groups, women's groups and forest dependent communities.
- Major constraints

The major constraint to overall progress for the R-PP project through 2019 and into 2020 has been the challenge of project management of the CS6 Consultant Service Technical Assistance Contract; this has been very time consuming and technically and contractually difficult.

The project management of the FREL Consultant Service Package CS7 also experienced some difficulties, but these were quickly resolved and this package has made good progress.

Table 2.1 Rating of overall progress

Progress rating key:

5	Completed	The sub-component has been completed
4	Significant progress	Significant progress
3	Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
2	Further development required	Further development required
1	Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
0	N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating		Narrative assessment	
Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation				
Sub-component 1a: National REDD+ Management Arrangements	5	Completed	<p>Operationalization of the national office and five Regional REDD+ Units are in place and many technical and operational activities have been accomplished under this component and progress on capacity building and institution arrangement for REDD+ readiness has been made.</p> <p>National REDD+ is functioning and the project manager is in place.</p> <p>Project Operation and Technical Officers are in place.</p> <p>An auditing firm is place.</p> <p>Three cross cutting technical working groups (TWG) have been set up: FRL and MRV, REDD+ Strategy and REDD+ Communication Strategy. Some participants also sit as experts on the National Expert Consultation (NEC) which is larger multidiscipline panel of experts drawn from government, NGOs, private sector and academics to review the outputs from CS6 is in place.</p> <p>Consultant service packages CS5 Communications Strategy for developing and implementing REDD+ outreach programs for CSOs, youth organizations and others.</p> <p>CS6 REDD Strategy and SESA and CS7 Forest Reference Level underway.</p> <p>CS5 progressed well, CS7 has had some issues that need to be addressed and CS6 in particular has performed poorly and required much project management support.</p> <p>An external consultant CS13 to review R-PP outputs and the MTR is in place.</p>	
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		X
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	5	Completed	<p>Sub-component 1b is still in the process to analyse the stakeholder and outreach mechanism strategy. At the same time progress has been made using the government budget for such media as websites and consultation meetings with NGOs, CSOs and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The Communication Strategy CS5 has been completed with helpful outputs and includes a detailed workplan and budget</p> <p>Consultations as part of the development of the SESA have progressed well with engagement with ethnic groups, forest dependent communities and women underway, and work is expected.</p> <p>Consultations and participation on the national REDD+ options and strategy and the SIS require additional work.</p>	
	4	Significant progress		X
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation				
Sub-component 2:	5	Completed	Component 2 Implementation of this component started as part of the consultant package CS6 in late	
	4	Significant progress		

Sub-component	Progress rating			Narrative assessment
REDD+ Strategy	3	Progressing well, further development required		June 2019, progress on developing the strategy has been delayed and the approach to the strategy is in the process of further review, including draft documents, data and inputs from stakeholders. The technical assistance contract (CS6) for this work has expired and the DNP is the process of procuring new contract to complete the component.
	2	Further development required	X	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2a: Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	5	Completed		Some progress has been made through CS6 but some gaps in the documentation of the status, policies, involvement of the private sector, NGOs and CSOs and analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and barriers to REDD+ etc. remains to be completed.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required	X	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	5	Completed		The consultant package CS6 made a start with an initial outline draft options and strategy, but further development and consultation with stakeholders is required; comments as above for the REDD+ Strategy component 2 also apply here.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required	X	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	5	Completed		Work has begun but additional work is still required. Comments as above for the REDD+ Strategy also apply here.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required	X	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2d: Social and	5	Completed		Work on the SESA has progressed well with feedback coming from consultation with ethnic groups, NGOs and forest dependent communities, but additional work is required particularly when
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well,		

Sub-component	Progress rating			Narrative assessment
Environmental Impacts		further development required		the options and draft strategy are fully developed. The REDD+ Strategy has not yet made sufficient progress for detailed analysis this in turn delays some detailed work with this sub-component.
	2	Further development required	X	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels				
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	5	Completed		Component 3 was started from September 2018, and the work was in progress and expected to be finalized within September 2020.
	4	Significant progress	X	
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards				
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	5	Completed		Work on monitoring system for forest and safeguard has progress well. The workshops on MMR were organized to establish the forest monitoring components for Thailand. There were experts, forest officers, academic representatives, researchers, private sectors and related stakeholders participated the workshops and the components of the MMR have been summarized for further development.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required	X	
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	5	Completed		This is implemented through CS6 Part of the work has made good progress through the SESA, but work on the BSM and particularly on the SIS still needs further development and involvement of stakeholders and consultations
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required	X	
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		

2.2 Component 1 Readiness Organisation and Consultations

The cross-cutting nature of the design and workings of the national readiness management arrangements on REDD+, in terms of including relevant stakeholders and

key government agencies in addition to the forestry department, commitment of other sectors in planning and implementation of REDD+ readiness. Capacity building activities are included in the work plan for each component where significant external technical expertise has been used in the R-PP development process

1a. National REDD Management Arrangements

- Accountability and general cross sector coordination has developed through the TWG and NEC (see Annex 6.1 table 6.2 for the wide membership) and further meetings and work is required;
- Technical supervision on has been challenging at times due to the poor performance of the Consultant Services Package CS6, by contrast CS5 has worked well and CS7 has had some issues but these have been quickly resolved;
- The FGRM is underway and but requires further work.

1b. Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups

- Information sharing could be improved, but this has been hampered by the CS6, generally been good on CS5 and CS7;
- Engagement with key stakeholders is lacking engagement and consultation with the private sector but this is set to improve – (CS6 consultants were told about this but failed to address the issues);

1c. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

- Consultation process has improved on further guidance from WB (but was considerable issue with the CS6 consultant team);
- Consultation has begun and is on-going and further work is required especially on the development of the NRS and SIS.

Activities under this component provide support to strengthening national REDD+ readiness institutional arrangements and consultations, including: supporting the establishment and/or operationalization of various partners involved in REDD+ process, including, particularly, the National REDD+ Office and Regional REDD+ Units; developing outreach mechanisms through consultations and communications strategy; developing and implementing REDD+ outreach programs for relevant stakeholders including civil society organizations, forest-dependent local communities, ethnic minorities and youth; establishing and operationalizing technical, stakeholder and cross-sectorial working groups; and publicly disseminating the SESA work.

Achievements:

- Two hundred representatives from the upper and lower Northern, Central, Western and Eastern and North-eastern regions were trained on REDD+ framework in February 2019, March 2019 and July 2019 (see Annex Table 6.1 and Table 6.2).
- Forest and Climate Change Office (REDD+ implementation Office), including REDD+ Data Center, was established under the Foreign Affairs Division, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation

- Three Technical Working Groups (TWG) were established for the development of (1) FRL and MRV, (2) REDD+ Strategy and (3) REDD+ Communication Strategy
- Establishment of the Regional REDD+ offices in the Northeastern, Lower north, Southern and Central, Western and Eastern Regions. The fifth Regional REDD+ Offices (Upper North) is in process of the establishment. Nine forest and climate change education and action centers were also established in five regions.
- Four trainings on REDD+ Framework were organized during March – July 2019. About two hundred representatives from the Northern, Central, Western, Eastern and Northeastern regions were trained
- Sharing information and knowledge on REDD+ Framework to relate stakeholder at the nine forest and Climate Change education and action centers in five regions.
- Two south-south knowledge exchange visits on REDD+ implementation were conducted in Indonesia and Vietnam with participation of 28 DNP staff, four representatives from the National Strategy committee and associated working groups.
- Two DNP staff were supported to participate in a knowledge exchange workshop on FREL/FRL development in India
- Two DNP staff were supported to participate in a knowledge exchange workshop on FREL/FRL development in India.
- The implementation of CS-5 package to “Develop Communications Strategy and Assess Information and Media Products for Thailand REDD+” has been completed. The contract with the firm was signed on 5 July 2019. The workshops in each region were organized. The first draft Report on interviews, focus groups and field visits was submitted for the evaluation committees’ review. The draft report will be proposed to the TWG Meeting for consideration and comments in early April.
- Four training workshops on Knowledge exchange, Sharing Information, Consultation on REDD+ development and Forest Climate Change were organized in 4 regions during 12 – 28 February 2020. The total number of participant is 320.
- Two annual PSC meetings for FCPF Thailand were held on 18 January 2019 and 17 October 2019.
- The World Bank mission for FCPF were conducted on 21 – 25 January 2019 and 10 -13 June 2019 accordingly.

2.2.1 Summary of R-PP work on Stakeholders and Communications

In particular the Technical Assistance from the Communication Strategy CS5 Consultancy worked closely with DNP to undertake the following:

- A country level forest stakeholder analysis and mapping;
- Four consultation rounds in four different forest regions of Thailand;

- Two national dissemination events in Bangkok;
- One communication strategy for REDD+ in Thailand; and
- A set of media products to start-up the communication campaign.

The workshops participants were 60% from ethnic and community groups, 20% from community leaders, 10% from government, 5% from academia, and 5% from media. The workshops were held between October and December 2019. Overall, the consultation involved 179 stakeholders among which 145 were targeted participants.

2.3 *Component 2 Prepare the REDD+ Strategy*

2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land-Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

- Assessment of the drivers was anticipated to be a key output from the CS6 Consultancy, the progress has met with some difficulties and it has been time consuming to correct and focus the work to REDD+. Similarly further work is required on the identification and links between drivers and the barriers to REDD+, the identification of the REDD+ activities, and identifying the implications for forest law and policy.

2b. REDD+ Strategy Options

- Work has started on this, generally further work and additional consultations are required.

2c. Implementation Framework

- Some work has been started but in general more work is required, for example, further assessment of the institutional constraints and the capacity building required, and the development of the budget for future REDD+ activities and as part of the overall funding for the forest sector.

2c. Social and Environmental Impacts

- Work has started and has contributed to an understanding of the socio-economic issues and potential impacts of REDD+ but further technical analysis and consultation work with stakeholders is required.

Activities under this component support the development of a REDD+ strategy including: supporting analytical work to inform REDD+ strategy development; conducting consultations and studies on key issues related to REDD+, including, identifying drivers and underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and respective REDD+ strategy options, forest governance, land tenure, and benefit sharing arrangements; undertaking the SESA and preparing an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF); reviewing existing Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanisms (FGRMs), and as necessary, establishing or strengthening the FGRM(s); designing a safeguard monitoring system; and supporting the elaboration of the draft REDD+ strategy.

- The CS-6 Contract for REDD+ National Strategy/SESA was signed on 12 June 2019. Given the contract period of 12 months and ended 12th June 2020. The DNP tried to work closely with the consultant to try to ensure that activities were on track, to the desired quality and completed on time. The DNP procured

an external expert to help review all the consultants' reports. Many project meetings were held with the CS-6 Consultant.

- During the WB technical missions (October 2019), it was noted that there were many project management issues that the CS6 Consultant Company needed to address. These included the general responsiveness to the TORs in particular the consultation processes and the timing and sequencing of the deliverables. Progress on the contracted key deliverables (particularly the REDD+ Strategy, SESA, SIS, FGRM and BSM) were far behind schedule. The performance of the CS6 Consultant Team did not meet the generally accepted professional standards and practices, and did not observe the sound project and contractual management that was expected. All reports are unqualified and have required much improvement to meet the requirement of the TOR and FCPF's standard. These important issues have been followed closely by the DNP and particularly through 7 - 31 January 2020, where a number of technical meetings were held with the consultant team procured for CS6 to discuss in detail the issues, constraints and ways forward, some of these meetings also included technical advice and support inputs from the World Bank Team and FCPF's FMT.
- Relating to contractual issues on the CS6 Package 'A National REDD+ Strategy and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for the REDD+ Mechanism', it is pertinent to state that the Consultant Company in question were issued with a number of formal warnings, including detailed letters, and as required by the contract two formal warnings including a final formal contractual "Notice to Rectify" relating to poor project management and the poor quality of the documents and processes.

The initial draft National REDD+ strategy and institutional framework, which includes national and sub-national implementation needs to conform with:

- 2017 National Constitution;
- 20-Year National Strategy (2018-2037);
- Economic and Social Development Strategy 2017-2021;
- Master Plan for Forest Resources Protection and Sustainable Management 2014; and
- The new Forest Policy (2020).

2.3.1 Policy Framework, National REDD+ Strategy etc. (CS6)

Key tasks and responsibilities for the consulting firm in assisting the Government of Thailand through the REDD+ Office in DNP were the analysis of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, the preparation of a National REDD+ Strategy, assess potential social and environmental impacts of the REDD+ strategy, establish a grievance redress mechanism, and a benefit sharing mechanism.

A number of potential strategic options to address the direct causes of deforestation and forest degradations were identified in the R-PP through analysis of existing policies, legal framework and plans, as well as stakeholder consultations. Potential REDD+ Strategies Options were to be examined in relation to comprehensive analysis of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

2.4 *Component 3 Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Reference Level*

2.4.1 *Summary*

Activities under this component support the development of a forest reference emission level (FRL) and monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRV), including supporting the establishment of a FRL. Progress under Component 3 includes:

- DNP signed agreement with FAO for “Technical Assistance for the Development of REDD+MRV system and Forest Reference Level for Thailand” on 11 September 2018 and this was due to finish 30 September 2019. (The closing date was later extended).
- Hiring of two remote sensing and GIS officers to support DNP with data processing was completed.
- A REDD+ Forest Reference Level capacity building workshop for Thailand was held on 21 – 23 November 2018.
- A technical mission for the review of the National Forest Inventory methodology and the enhancement of the THAIFORM for five Thai Officials took place 10 -12 December 2018 at FAO HQ, Rome. The topics and discussions covered during the mission were: 1) THAIFORM and potential improvements, 2) Allometric equations, 3) Introduction to OpenForis Collect, and 4) OpenForis Collect Mobile and Calc. The following actions were agreed: 1) to finalize list of Allometric Equations, 2) revise the Concept Note for additional tree measurements; and 3) complete the conversion of THAIFORM to OpenForis Collect.
- Training was provided (26 – 28 December 2018) on the System for Earth Observation Data Access, Processing and Analysis for Land Monitoring for 15 related Thai Staff.
- A number of coordination meetings on Allometric Equation testing by using the Biomass Tree Measurement method, were held at DNP with possible partners in the activities on 21-22 February 2019, and early March 2019. This included Kasetsart University, RFD, FAO and DNP and included discussion on the collection of the additional data for emission factor and Allometric Equation development/revision in the field.
- A Follow-up FRL workshop involving all key stakeholders of the Thai REDD+ program was held in Kanchanaburi from 25 – 27 February 2019. All key stakeholders reached consensus on the decisions required for FRL development, including forest definition and classifications, reference period, mapping unit and score regarding gases, carbon pools and REDD+ activities.
- The consultation meeting for project update and FCPF Thailand Partner side event at the Asia-Pacific Forestry Week was conducted on 1 April 2019 and DNP staff presented results to date this meeting in South Korea.

- Regular consultation on the national definitions for parameters related to Activity Data for REDD+ and the assessment of existing land and forest cover maps have been held between FAO and related Thai agencies including DNP, RFD, LDD, GISTDA and Forestry Faculty of Kasetsart University.
- The progress report on FRL and National Forest Monitoring System from FAO was submitted and reviewed by the FREL/FRL and MRV Technical Working Group on 31 May 2019.
- A 1st no-cost extension was approved for the CS7 contract with a revised closing date end of January 2020.
- The meeting between DNP, FAORAP and World Bank team on October 16, 2019, the FAO project team committed to submit the final FRL by January 30, 2020. The draft FRL was submitted on January 10, 2020 ready for discussion during the visit of DNP officials to FAO HQ in Rome 13-17 January, 2020.
- The final draft report on the revised FRL and National Forest Monitoring System from FAO was submitted and reviewed by the FRL/FREL and MRV Technical Working Group on 1 November 2019. The TWG found that the produced maps are low in accuracy and the emission factor presented a high value of confidential interval (CI) effecting FRL and improvement to the FRL was strongly recommended.
- To ensure the quality and timely delivery of the activities the DNP approved a 2nd and a 3rd no-cost extension closing date of 30 June 2020 and on 30 September 2020 respectively.
- During the Rome mission, the need for further improvement of the FRL was agreed. FAO needs in particular to reduce the confidence intervals of the green house emission and removal estimate, and thus the accuracy of the FRL. FAO agreed to produce (i) a national forest cover map for the year 2006 – 2007 to complement the 2017 – 2018 map produces (ii) forest change map (iii) a stratified area estimate that will be part of the calculation of Activity Data for the FRL, and (iv) manuals and methodologies for analysis of the Activity Data, emission factor and FRL construction.

2.4.2 Overall Progress on FREL/FRL

The FAO will continue to assist Thailand to finalize the development of the FRL, so the country can set a benchmark against which it can measure the emissions reduced from implementing a national REDD+ program. In addition, Thailand's National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) will be improved and updated as a practical tool for national forest policy and planning. FAO will assist DNP by providing technical assistance on the following:

- Design of the Reference Emissions Level to ensure it is IPCC Compliant;
- Develop models for emissions estimations;
- Review, compile, analyze information and develop the national FREL/FRL estimate;

- Provide training for development of allometric equations, conversion factors;
- Assimilate data for the latest national forest inventory, analyse and disseminate the results;
- Provide technical design and a proposal for enhancing the National Forest Inventory and Monitoring System to support REDD+; and
- Provide training and capacity building for Measurement, Reporting and Verification.

The FRL encompasses all of Thailand. The national scale was chosen to include considerations such as institutional mandates, with the responsibility of the forest under three institutions, linkages to different REDD+ activities in different settings, and due consideration of linkages to national policies to implement REDD+ and the NDC. Applying the national scale is possible due to the establishment of the Measurement, Monitoring and Reporting (MMR) of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), availability of data and capacities of national institutions.

The FRL includes three REDD+ activities: deforestation, forest degradation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (afforestation/reforestation). Deforestation and forest degradation are both significant contributors of GHG emissions from forestland and therefore have been included in the emission calculation.

Reference Period and Construction Method

Thailand chose the period from 2006 to 2017 as the historical reference period for the FRL construction. Thailand believes this period to provide a good approximation of deforestation, forest degradation and enhancement rates. This time period also allows for comparison of available data, with both remote sensing data and NFI data available at the start and end point of the reference period.

2.5 *Component 4 Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards*

4a. National Forest Monitoring System

This is under development with technical assistance from the FAO and is making good progress.

4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

Progress has been made on some of these aspects, but in general progress has been less than desired due to problems and delays with the CS6 consultancy package. Work on the SESA and consultations on the REDD+ impacts and mitigations has made progress but has been delayed due to the intermittent progress with the REDD+ Options and Strategy. The work on the SIS and BSM is yet to make meaningful progress.

2.6 *Project Management*

2.6.1 *Project Management and Administration*

The Project Management Unit activities under this component support the management and coordination of REDD+ readiness activities, financial and procurement services, as well as monitoring and coordination of the overall operation.

- The project management staffing status:
 - The New Manager has been appointed recently, Mrs. Sunee Sakseau.
 - The project Operation officer was contracted and began work on 1 October 2018 has received training on the STEP application.
 - The Project Technical Officer was hired, started work from October 2019.
 - Five regional offices have been opened in Lower north, northeast, central and south; and
 - Establishment of nine FCC Education and Action Center Chantaburi, Kanchanaburi, Pattalung, Loei, Sakonnakorn, Pitsanulok, Prae, Tak, Chiang Mai.
 - Capacity building, meetings, communications strategy and information, international REDD+ exchange of information and attendance of meetings have been arranged in Vietnam, Indonesia and India
- Fund flow and Disbursement. DA replenishment has been undertaken on a quarterly basis to avoid the account becoming inactive. Cumulative expenditure of the project has reached USD 1,558,929 as of June 30, 2020, representing the disbursement rate of 43.3% against the project grant fund of USD 3,600,000.
- The revised annual budget was approved by the Project Steering Committee and WB issued 'no objection' and the process to revise the annual work plan and budget to extend the project termination date from 30 November 2019 to 30 June 2020 and proposed closing date is now extended to end of December 2021. The Project Budget/Work Plan of FY19 to FY20 was revised and given a no-objection for six groups of shopping activities (for Central and Regional offices equipment, furniture and necessary hardware) have been approved via the STEP system.
- Procurement of all equipment and Consultant Service and Technical Assistance contracts and related work planning, finance and administration, and project management of the Technical Assistance Contracts (an Audit firm was appointed, CS5, CS6, CS7 and CS13), and as mentioned above project management of the CS6 contract has been particularly time consuming and difficult.
- The CS6 Consultant Service Contract has been a considerable project management burden where one would not normally be expected. The DNP tried very hard to facilitate implementation - as much as humanely possible - but was been confronted by a challenging contractual situation regarding the performance of the Consultant Team CS6 who were generally not responsive to feedback from the DNP or others.
- The Mid-Term-Review (MTR) report has been prepared. As per the provisions in the grant agreement, the country prepares a MTR once significant progress has

been made with REDD+ Readiness implementation. It was not possible present the Thailand R-PP MTR for the PC Meeting in March/April 2020, due to the delays associated with the consultant packages' reports, CS6 and CS7 the PC Meeting was later postponed.

2.6.2 *Main Challenges on Project Management and Implementation*

The main challenge facing the implementation of the R-PP has been the Technical Assistance Consultancy Service Contracts. Of the three main contracts procured, the CS5 Communications Strategy has been implemented as expected, however, in particular the CS6 contract for A National REDD+ Strategy and the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for the REDD+ Mechanism and CS7 for the FRL, MRV have experienced some difficulties. In addition the following are also considered as adding to the challenge of implementing REDD+ in Thailand:

- One challenge for the project has been the scale and breadth of the activities that were expected to be carried out and the varied and large number of stakeholders that need to be involved;
- Ministries and Departments have mandates that sometimes overlap with those of MONRE and coordination of activities effectively can be problematic;
- Policies and a national plans were created to support REDD+ activities and forest management implementation but there still appears to be a lack of wide support for the implementing stage; and
- Due to some unexpected difficulties with the progress of the CS7 contract the project was unable to submit the FRL to the UNFCCC as hoped in January 2020.

3 Analysis of Progress Achieved

3.1 *Component 1 Analysis*

3.1.1 *Communication strategy and access information system on REDD+ (CS5)*

The strategy is intended to serve the communications planning needs of the DNP to develop and use communications effectively. The draft communications strategy was produced after undertaking research, key interviews and focus group discussions including regional stakeholder forums for a period of ten months from July 2019 to April 2020. The strategy assesses the previous communications and outreach efforts of the DNP to provide evidence-based metrics related to what kinds of media products have worked and where efforts need to be strengthened.

The strategy provides the basis for communication resulting from analyzing the feedback received from stakeholder engagement. Value propositions feedback have been proposed for the different stakeholder groups consulted during the stakeholder engagement and separated into three categories of audiences local, national and international. The strategy recommended a range of both innovative and appropriate communication tools, methods and approaches for each audience (comprising different stakeholder groups) that will contribute to the achievement of the overall objectives of Thailand's REDD+ Program. The strategy provides for a variety of outputs for different audiences (comprising different stakeholder groups), but especially takes into account the priority audience of the local communities: farmers, rural people, forest-dependent villagers, and ethnic communities in the forest areas of the different regions of Thailand.

The communications strategy provides practical recommendations on innovative approaches and increased use of emerging communications platforms and opportunities. The strategy uses the "stakeholder analysis" undertaken through the regional stakeholder forums to define the audiences. The strategy shows how communications and outreach can be operationalized in practice at the local level especially among Thailand's Regional REDD+ Centers and how realistic outcomes can be obtained. In addition to the focus on local communities, a set of media products and channels were proposed for different audiences such as government agencies, academics and researchers, civil society and grassroots groups, media, donors, and the general public. The use of social media channels like Line and Facebook is important for effective communications.

Outputs from the CS5 reports⁸

"The reports provides practical steps for the realization of potential media products designed to help effectively communicate the values of the REDD+ program and its

⁸ Deliverable 2 Report on interviews, focus groups and field visits for the communication strategy of Thailand's National REDD+ Programme, Peeranun Panyavaranant (Kenan Foundation Asia), Alessandro Leonardi, Mr. Colm O'Driscoll (Etifor), Rajesh Daniel and Unchulee Lualon (Stockholm Environment Institute: SEI) January 2020; Deliverable 3 Thailand REDD+ Programme Communication Strategy, Rajesh Daniel (SEI), Arianna Ruberto, Alessandro Leonardi, Colm O'Driscoll (Etifor) March 2020; Deliverable 4 Report of assessment for media products, Rajesh Daniel (SEI), Arianna Ruberto, Alessandro Leonardi, Colm O'Driscoll (Etifor) March 2020

uniqueness and to implement the broader “communications strategy” at local and national levels.”

a) Communications

The CS5 contract work started in July 2019 and between September and December 2019, 18 interviews, one media roundtable and the five regional consultation workshops were organized targeting about 30 relevant stakeholders in each region with a total of 179 stakeholders within main stakeholder groups. The goals of the workshops were to establish a ‘people-to-people’ physical platform to gather stakeholder’s opinions and concerns into the needs for communication around REDD+ in each of the regions in Thailand.

b) Results from the Stakeholder Analysis

As part of developing the CS, four regional stakeholder consultation forums were held by the consortium team in the Central, Northern, Northeast and Southern Regions. The forums were attended by a wide variety of participants ranging from the DNP field office staff, local officials, farmers, local community groups and ethnic peoples, civil society, and media representatives. Indeed, the participation of ethnic and community groups in the four regions consulted was almost 60%.

Table 3.1 Recommendations from the stakeholder consultation audiences

Stakeholder group	Gain keywords	Pain keywords	
Ethnic and local communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ helps the ethnic group maintain cultural activities that are relevant to nature worship ceremonies. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complex language and message. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthen the community leadership and relationship. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve trust and land tenure issues. 	
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Power abuse from the authority to the ethnic and community groups about land use.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ is very complicated for local communities.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It made the community members lack confidence in participating in the programme.
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experienced difficulties to participate in REDD+, DNP could be more inclusive.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit of carbon trade are not clear. 		
Vulnerable groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The practices of REDD+ are in line with forest conservation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The goal of REDD+ is not clear. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ helps prevent climate change situation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The budget of REDD+ is too small to support the bottom up approach mechanism. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The practices of REDD+ should be included in the local education. 		
Government organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Simplify information and the flow of information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge and understanding. 	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase focus and participation on forest conservation from local communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incentives and benefit sharing. 	

Stakeholder group	Gain keywords	Pain keywords
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve awareness or forest policy (and REDD+) and climate change with local and forest-dependent communities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tenure and community rights.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make media and messages direct to people. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land-use conflicts.
CSOs and NGOs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ improves transparency and measurement/monitoring system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of broader coordination.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ increases awareness of land tenure law. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of trust and relationship issues with local CSO and DNP.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ provides opportunity for forest management education among community members. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Controlling and top-down approach, and no voice has been given to those expressing concerns toward REDD+.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ is a new challenge that CSO/NGO could use to engage with communities. 	
Private sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector invested in several forest and environmental projects over the past 15 years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ did not engage with the private sector in the past in term of knowledge and activities.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ aligns with CSR forestry projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private sector does not know much about REDD+.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If the private sector learns more about REDD+ with the development need, it is possible to mobilize resource and local partners to promote REDD+ practice. 	
Academia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It allows for international practices in forestation knowledge, research, and evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not good experiences with REDD+ policy, issue of programme management and monoculture to earn carbon credit.
International Organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves and simplify communication at local level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complicated and changing institutional arrangements.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improves view of the DNP in a more “bottom-up” way. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication and representation of REDD+ task force stakeholders.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shows what has worked so far, and that they be used as examples. 	

Table note from: Thailand REDD+ Final draft communication strategy, May 2020

c) Lessons Learnt

- One key understanding obtained from the regional forums was that the level of understanding around how REDD+ activities work and relate to the local context and the current livelihood situation of local communities was low.
- Even though the DNP has been promoting the REDD+ concept and activities, in the perception of stakeholders, the information provided comes across as too technical.
- The forum participants expressed a clear need for training the national, regional and local DNP staff on how to better communicate the REDD+ concept in non-technical language to lay audiences.

- Some of the media outputs proposed for communicating REDD+ to local communities and other non-technical audiences included: better use of infographics and modern design in knowledge materials, more social media, use of the local press to transmit forest conservation messages, embedding the REDD+ language within the local culture.

d) The Proposed Strategy

The strategy provides for a variety of outputs for different audiences (comprising different stakeholder groups) but especially takes into account the priority audience of the local communities: farmers, rural people, forest-dependent villagers, and ethnic communities in the forest areas of the different regions of Thailand.

The local communities are a priority stakeholder group for driving the implementation of REDD+ in Thailand. Local participation is critical for the success of the programme's scope of work comprising reforestation, conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks, and the sustainable management of forest areas. In this respect, REDD+ communications need to resonate with, and respect, the different local cultures, knowledge systems and forest-based livelihood practices of the local communities so that local voices are heard and integrated into Thailand's REDD+ programme. The communications strategy provides practical recommendations on innovative approaches and increased use of emerging communications platforms and opportunities. The strategy uses the "stakeholder analysis" undertaken through the regional stakeholder forums to define the audiences.

The strategy proposes a three-year action plan with tentative budget comprising several work packages relating to the different components of the communications strategy. A sample monitoring and evaluation tool is proposed with performance indicators for learning from communications efforts and making continuous improvements.

One of the most important recommendations from the report is the need to implement regular monitoring and evaluation of communications and media products to measure the results of outreach and evaluate their effectiveness so that the DNP can continually improve upon its efforts.

Table 3.2 Communication objectives, outcomes and outputs

Objectives	Expected outcome	Outputs
Objective 1		
Raise awareness about REDD+, forest conservation and climate change in Thailand		Offline:
To ensure that local communities that are living in or adjacent to forest areas along with other key stakeholders affected by the REDD+ project are fully informed on climate change and REDD+ concepts, carbon financing and forest conservation to engaged and take a sense of ownership of REDD+.	1. Awareness on REDD+ among key stakeholders including general public increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Posters, flyers, brochures in simple language and non- technical information • Short videos • Maps of the local area • Workshops and trainings on carbon stock measurement • Consultation meetings • Children's booklets • Competitions for essay writing or photography about forests and wildlife • Field visits to REDD+ Centers for tree planting events
	2. Engagement on REDD+ among key stakeholders improved	Online:
	3. Sense of ownership of REDD+ among key stakeholders increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNP website • Social media • Line app (short messages, closed groups for exchanging information) • Radio spots (10-30 sec) • Television spots (10-30 sec) • Media news, online blogs and stories in news websites
Objective 2		
Improve positive perceptions about REDD+ among local communities as a voluntary and not mandatory tool that can provide benefits both for forest conservation and local economic benefits while mitigating greenhouse gases through afforestation	1. Perceptions about REDD+ among local communities becomes more favorable	Offline:
	2. Engagement of local communities on voluntary basis increased	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Study tours, seminars for DNP and state agencies to understand REDD+ and climate change • Workshops for capacity building • Books and booklets (with technical and academic information) • Posters with technical information • Events to bring different state agencies together with local communities (can join with tree planting)
	3. Benefits of REDD+ viewed positively by key stakeholders	Online:
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DNP website • Reports and formal evaluations of the REDD+ implementation • Media journalists, online blogs and outlets (REDD+ write op-eds in news outlets)

Objectives	Expected outcome	Outputs
Objective 3		
Enhance dialogue and engagement between the Department of National Parks (DNP) as the lead of REDD+ project and the various stakeholders in Thailand including local communities (and in particular ethnic communities) living in or adjacent to protected forest areas		Offline:
	1. Dialogue and engagement enhanced about REDD+ between DNP and related agencies sand stakeholders	• Roundtable forums and seminars for exchange of views on REDD+ • Books and booklets (with technical and academic information) • Posters with technical and non - technical information • Flyers, brochures
	2. Improved understanding of the benefits of DNP's REDD+ activities among local communities as well as civil society and media	Online:
	3. More dialogue initiated and understanding improved especially with ethnic communities living in and around protected forest areas	• DNP website • Social media • Media journalists, online blogs and outlets • REDD+ videos

e) Communication Strategy Workplan

There has been progress in the activities outlined in the R-PP in all components. Thailand has made significant progress in accelerating the REDD+ activities during the last year across all components. Despite challenges, a noteworthy achievement is communications strategy of CS5 (and the near finalization of the FRL under CS7).

1) Visibility of the R-PP has been progressively increasing over the past 2 years but there remain gaps with some target groups.

With new legislation (especially the National Parks Act of 2019) and a government that is focusing on natural resource issues post-March 2019 elections, this is providing relevant GoT entities an opportunity to work towards ensuring the viability of the R-PP according to the aims and objectives agreed upon by the GoT and FCPF REDD+ Program that have spanned nearly a decade. However, the R-PP has not targeted the private sector to the extent that it should and it needs to be recognized that the private sector is a key stakeholder especially on a medium to long-term basis. The outputs from the communications strategy of CS5 include a 'Communication Action Plan', which includes seven well-defined workplans including:

Workplan 1: Communication plan and management;

Workplan 2 Define a visual identity;

Workplan 3: Communication content development;

Workplan 4: Training of trainers;

Workplan 5: Raising awareness;

Workplan 6: Supporting climate change offices; and

Workplan 7: Monitoring and evaluation.

2) The R-PP project demonstrated responsiveness to ethnic groups concerns, and this resulted in improved communication and relationship with this key stakeholder.

Following the rewrite of Thailand's Constitution in 2017 this has clearly recognized that ethnic groups irrespective as to whether Thai or non-Thai ethnic groups, especially if they are forest-dependent communities are important stakeholders that need to be consulted. This includes women, poor and vulnerable persons, and young and old people. It has also been recognized that while forest-dependent ethnic groups have a range of social and environmental issues that apply to all ethnic groups there are differences that need to be considered and this is reflected in the consultations that have taken place, especially as a result of the SESA. The DNP has facilitated the enabling environment by insisting that different ethnic groups be consulted as adequately as possible.

3) Inclusion of gender issues

The R-PP has always stressed that gender issues need to be included and have been responsive to the request by the FCPF-REDD+ program to ensure that these issues are thoroughly embedded in all Project documents. These gender issues relate not just to the putative gender impacts of REDD+ but have focused on a whole range of issues from land tenure to harvesting of NTFPs to women's participation in public fora to M&E indicators that demonstrate how gender issues have been incorporated into Project activities. The GoT has insisted that the Project pay as much attention as possible to gender issues and demonstrate that it has complied with its request.

**3.2 *Analysis Component 2 Development of Government
Supporting Policy Framework for REDD+***

Changes in Forest Policy

Key changes to forest policies include:

- Revision of Article 7 of the Forest Act, B.E. 2484 (1941)relaxing the requirements related to the harvesting of restricted native timber species on private land or on permission forest land, which is intended to discourage plantation of exotic monocultures such as *Eucalyptus spp.* and rubber, and stimulate the utilisation of multi-purpose, mixed native species such as Siamese rosewood (*Dalbergia cochinchinensis*), Burmese rosewood (*D. bariensis*) and Teak (*Tectona grandis*), thus contributing to efforts to mainstream biodiversity and conservation objectives into wider landscape management. This was also done to mitigate the problems associated with the complexity of the process for tree cutting on private land and permission forestland. This also was done to promote household use of forest timber and to help encourage the development of future business on wood and wood products.
- The development of RFD's National Forest Policy for the promotion of economic tree plantations. This promises to support the expansion of Thailand's forest area, and support forest land restoration and climate change mitigation objectives.
- The development of a national forest certification system (following Program for the Endorsement of Forest Certification(PEFC) requirements) and a national

forest management standard (following FSC requirements), both incorporating biodiversity criteria.

- Regulatory reform triggered by the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement process.

Climate Change Policies

Key national policies relating to climate change in the forest sector include (source: ONEP):

- Promote greenhouse gases mitigation activities based on sustainable development principle, in particular in relation to the SDG13 on Climate Action;
- Support research and development on climate adaptation and mitigation in forestry sector;
- Raise awareness and public participation on climate change in forest sector;
- Build capacity for climate change adaptation and reducing vulnerability and risks of climate impact in forestry sector; and
- Capacity Building of relevant institutions and staff, and establishing framework for coordination and integration systems.

3.2.1 *Land tenure and Community Forestry*

Support for community forests is considered as one of the key strategies to reduce forest loss in areas adjacent to protected areas, by providing economic incentives to local communities. As of January 2020, there were 15,337 community forests equivalent to 1,22,1481 hectares (RFD, 2020). The government plan aims for 1.6 million hectares to be used in community forests by 2025.

There have been several recent changes to community forestry policy and the institutional environment for landscape level planning and management in Thailand, representing a significant opportunity for REDD+. It is anticipated that through these changes, some of the root causes of forest degradation and barriers to sustainable forest management will be addressed. The relevant changes include the adoption of the Community Forestry Bill 2019 that aims to promote community participation in natural resource conservation and rehabilitation by creating collective action for sustainable management and utilization. The Bill will strengthen and formalize use rights and management of community forests outside of protected areas under the auspices of the RFD. The adoption of the Bill represents an important step towards formalizing and expanding forests under community management. When declared as a community forest, people would be able to participate in the management of biodiversity of wildlife and plants, both for conservation, use and preservation and for economic use within the community.

3.2.2 *Progress on FLEGT*

Wood processors and exporters have expressed strong interest in voluntary certification. Attesting to this, the Forest Stewardship Council has issued 96 forest management certificates in Thailand and 397 chain of custody (CoC) certificates.⁹In 2016 the Federation of Thai Industries established the Thailand Forest Certification

⁹<https://info.fsc.org/certificate.php>, accessed 29 11 2019.

Council (TFCC) to promote sustainable forest management and legality in the wood supply chain. The TFCC has developed a national forest certification scheme, which received endorsement from the PEFC in 2019. PEFC endorsement provides international recognition of the scheme and will help Thailand's wood product exporters with market access and should help raise forest management standards. The national certification system following PEFC achieved endorsement in May 2019.

- In September 2013, Thailand and the EU began the process to move towards negotiation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) to promote trade in legal timber products and improve forest governance.
- Thai-EU FLEGT Secretariat Office (TEFSO) under a VPA process, Thailand is to develop a national timber legality assurance system to verify the legality of timber in the supply chain and can issue FLEGT licenses to verified legal timber products.
- Products not covered by the VPA will remain subject to the exercise of due diligence by EU importers in the context of the EU Timber Regulation.
- FLEGT-licensed timber products from Thailand will be able to enter the EU market without undergoing the due diligence checks required by the EU Timber Regulation.
- Thailand also plans to use the system developed with the EU for other international markets.
- TEFSO has strengthened the participatory process by involving various multi-stakeholders on timber. Preparations for the VPA process took some time and involved a broad number of Thai stakeholders. The first face-to-face negotiations were held in June 2017.

Thailand's timber legality assurance system

Under the VPA, Thailand would commit to develop a system for assuring the legality of its timber. As in all VPAs, the timber legality assurance system for Thailand will have the following five components:

- **Legality definition:** The legality definition states the aspects of a VPA partner country's law for which the timber legality assurance system evaluates evidence of compliance. The ad hoc Multi-stakeholder Working Group on the Legality Definition has made good progress in developing and field-testing the Thai legality definition.
- **Supply chain controls:** Supply chain control ensures that timber products verified as legal, remain legal throughout all processes associated with the supply chain. Supply chain controls also prevent verified legal products being tainted by unverified products entering the supply chain. Thailand has started to describe its supply chain control system.
- **Verification of compliance:** Verification of compliance involves checks that all the requirements of the VPA legality definition and supply chain controls have

been met to ensure that timber products are legal. Verification has been described for most supply chains and is currently tested in the field.

- **FLEGT licensing:** A FLEGT licensing authority issues FLEGT licenses to consignments of timber products that the verification mechanism has confirmed are legally compliant. FLEGT licensing cannot begin until a joint evaluation of the timber legality assurance system by Thailand and the EU confirms that the system works as described in the VPA.
- **Independent audit:** The independent audit regularly checks that all aspects of the legality assurance system work properly. An annex to the VPA provides terms of reference for the auditor. Results will be discussed between Thailand and the EU.

3.3 *Policy Framework, National REDD+ Strategy The Case for Involving the Private Sector in Thailand*

Thailand's private sector has seen real progress in investing in green initiatives following the first steps taken by Thai Military Bank in 2018. Two renewable energy companies and one transport company have issued green bonds, all of which were Certified under the Climate Bonds Standard.

The main issues facing the current draft of the National REDD+ Strategy are the current lack of involvement of the private sector and this is seen as missed opportunity. The DNP and RFD believe that the private sector in Thailand can play a significant role in REDD+.

To combat the effects of climate change, it is estimated that worldwide green bond issuance needs to reach USD1tn per annum in 2020. A significant amount is expected to finance green infrastructure and assets in developing countries. Green finance is rapidly developing in the East Asia region and issuers from Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam have issued green debt for a cumulative total of USD5.03bn, as of the end of November 2018.

3.3.1 *Development of the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS)*

Addressing deforestation and forest degradation presents a number of challenges in Thailand. The R-PP found that deforestation is mainly caused by development policies of the state such as the policy on agricultural export crops, forest concessions and infrastructure development which leads to the loss of forests.

Drivers of deforestation and forest degradation

The preliminary analysis indicated that the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are complex, but are not so different across the various agro-ecological regions. In addition, the policy on promotion of commercial agricultural crops results in the expansion of agricultural areas which impacted on forests.

The methodology applied to identify direct drivers involved assessment of forest maps from 2006 and 2018; use of remote sensing tools (especially Google Earth back-in-time function); review of reports and studies from Thailand and the region; use of secondary

data; extensive field visits to 18 provinces; and stakeholder interviews and consultations.

Agriculture crop production (specifically cash cropping) was found to be the most significant proximate driver of the loss of natural forest during the period 2006 to 2018. Cash cropping consisted of the expansion of annual crops and rubber, oil palm and fruit tree plantations. Informal tree cutting (which includes illegal logging for commercial purposes and harvesting by households for local use) was found to be a minor direct driver, resulting in deforestation when cutting of trees for sale, fire wood, charcoal, poles and house construction around settlements and eventually resulted in the complete disappearance of tree cover or to tree cover below the 10% threshold that is used to define forests. Infrastructure development, urban expansion/settlement, and mining were also found to be locally important direct drivers, though they were much more significant several decades earlier when Thailand was growing rapidly, both economically and demographically. In the study period (2006-2018) infrastructure developments associated with deforestation were mostly associated with roads, reservoirs and power-lines. The impacts of tourism were considered as part of the impact of settlements. The combined impact of tourism and settlements during the study period was relatively small in terms of scale, though local impacts on the environment were significant.

The major forest degradation drivers were found to be annual cropping (which is associated with gradual encroachment and fragmentation of forests), forest fires and tree cutting, with natural disasters being a relatively minor driver¹⁰.

The Proposed Draft Vision for the National REDD+ Strategy

This NRS reflects the vision set out in the 20-Year National Strategy for 2037, which is for Thailand to be a developed country with security, prosperity and sustainability in accordance with the Sufficiency Economy Philosophy. One of its six strategies is a strategy for steering towards a green economy and society.

The Draft Goals of the National REDD+ Strategy

1. Short-term goals (2021-2023): Governance and forest management is strengthened at all levels through multi-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder collaboration, action plans are developed and financing is secured.
2. Medium-term goals (2023-2025): REDD+ actions are implemented in selected deforestation hotspot areas, and knowledge and lessons are generated and shared to strengthen REDD+ policies and measures.
3. Long-term goals (2026-2030): REDD+ actions are fully implemented, contributing to a significant reduction in national GHG emissions and contributing non-carbon benefits to the achievement of the SDGs.

Scope and Scale of the Draft NRS

The scope of the draft NRS includes all five activities for REDD+ under the UNFCCC. These are (1) Reducing emissions from deforestation, (2) Reducing emissions and forest

¹⁰Draft National REDD+ Strategy, Thailand REDD+ Strategy, Consultancy Service Contract CS6, Agriconsulting Europe SA, Deutsche Forstservice GmbH. May 2020.

degradation, (3) Conservation, (4) Sustainable management of forests, and (5) Enhancement of forest carbon stock.

The draft NRS, covers forest monitoring system, forest reference emissions level and safeguards information system, and supports national and sub-national implementation of policies and measures. Pilots/ demonstration activities and emission reduction programs may be established at sub-national level to build capacities, generate lessons to strengthen REDD+ actions and combat deforestation in hotspot locations. The draft NRS covers the 10-year period from 2021-2030, which coincides with the time frame for the INDC. It includes both actions to complete REDD+ readiness, further capacity building and the implementation of demonstration activities, and the implementation, monitoring, reporting and verification of results-based activities.

Draft REDD+ Policies and Measures

The following Table 3.3 lists the draft REDD+ policies and measures (PAMs) under each REDD+ Action Area and is related to a series of underlying cause of deforestation and forest degradation or the barriers to REDD+, as well as the direct drivers, they address. Each policy and measure is also mapped against policy provisions in the new National Forest Policy (NFP). This mapping shows that the REDD+ policies and measures are strongly anchored in the latest forest policies.

Box 2.1 Green Bonds

A Green Bond is where proceeds are allocated to environmental projects. The term generally refers to bonds that have been marketed as “Green”. In theory, Green Bonds proceeds could be used for a wide variety of environmental projects, but in practice they have mostly been the same as Climate Bonds, with proceeds going to climate change projects.

The first green bond under the Thai Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) green bond notification was achieved by BTS Group in Thailand, who in turn received a subsidy for the listing fees from the SEC. Certification under the Climate Bonds Standard – requiring the highest governance levels - was obtained.

The Thai green bond market expanded strongly in 2019 with four Certified deals: In 2019, there were four green bond issuances by Thai entities for USD734m, representing 77% year on year growth, bringing the total to USD947m. All four issuances were Certified Climate Bonds.

Both the ASEAN Green Bond Standards and the Certification under the Climate Bonds Standard require an independent review that the proposed offering is green. To comply with this requirement, most green bonds in ASEAN are issued with an external review.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) introduced a programme in March 2020 to create the necessary ecosystems for green local currency bonds for infrastructure development in ASEAN+3. One of the key initiatives is to promote the use of the ASEAN+3 Multi-Currency Bond Issuance Framework (AMBIF), a common regional bond issuance programme that allows issuers to issue bonds in multiple jurisdictions through universal procedures. To date, seven markets have already adopted ABMIF, namely Cambodia, Hong Kong, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand.

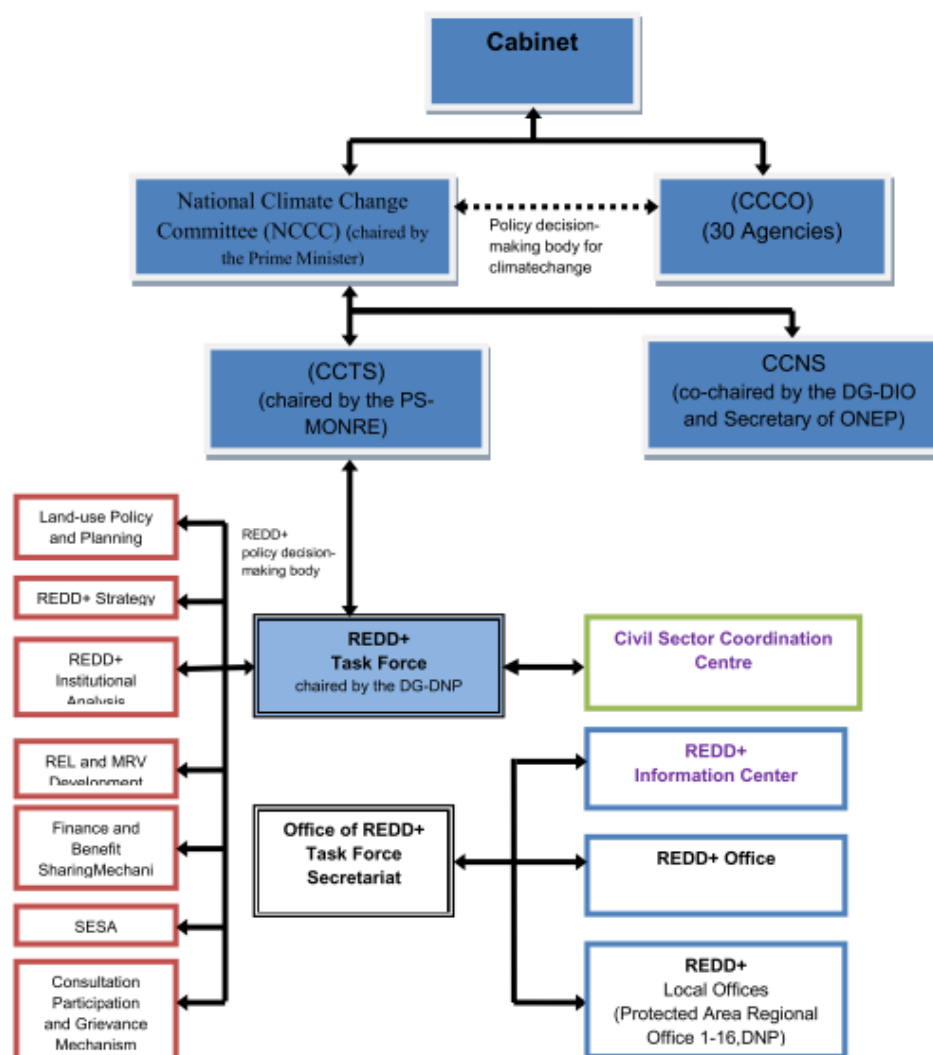
Table 3.3 Summary of initial draft REDD+ policies May 2020

#	Action Areas for REDD+
1	Forest governance and management
2	Alternative livelihoods
3	Integrated landscape management
4	Planted Forests
5	Economic incentives and financing for forests
6	Increase economic incentives for maintaining existing and establishing new forests

An initial institutional arrangement/management structure for REDD+ has been established that reflects the relevant sectors engaged in land use, the roles of local government and the roles of other REDD+ stakeholders. The current institutional arrangement consists of a two-tiered institutional mechanism for implementing REDD+. At the national level, a National REDD+ task force was established to facilitate, coordinate and spearhead the REDD+ activities. It is supported by a REDD+ Office and at sub-national level, five REDD+ Offices have already been established throughout the regions to coordinate and facilitate REDD+ pilot activities at sub-national level and establish capacity building and stakeholder consultation for local communities.

The principles behind the two-tiered approach are for REDD+ to ensure credibility and to provide for transparent, efficient and effective decision-making, implementation and monitoring of REDD+ efforts. Since implementation of REDD+ is a multi-sector and multi-stakeholder endeavour and comprises actions at the national and sub-national levels, Thailand will use the three main instruments for REDD+ implementation: institutions, financial measures and regulatory framework. This will enable Thailand to operationalize and implement its provisional REDD+ strategy options to minimize the conversion of forestland into other uses, hence reducing emissions, and equally to introduce actions that will enhance the sequestration capacity according to the national REDD+ strategies.

Figure 3.1 Institutional Arrangements for REDD+ Readiness



3.3.2 Other REDD+ Related Projects

It is widely acknowledged that Thailand is vulnerable to climate change over the past decade Thailand has actively participated in the global climate change debate and has invested in policy development and projects to try to rapidly address and adapt to the challenges of the change in climate. This progress has been achieved by cross sector government action and with policy and project support from international donors, NGOs and the private sector. While large scale international projects are not a feature of REDD+ related activities in Thailand there has been international support (such support from International Climate Initiative IKI, GIZ, SIDA, SDC, GEF Small Grant Program etc.) for policy development, training and exchanges and there are a considerable number of small local projects orientated towards improvement of strengthening local community organization in managing community forest conditions to increase biodiversity through cooperation with local allies, local government organization, strengthening female roles and involvement in managing environment and particularly in critical areas mountain and high areas of Northern Thailand and working with local ethnic groups. The following information and Table 3.4 below provides an overview of a variety of the international, NGO and private sector project and programs that support or are related to REDD+ in Thailand.

RECOFTC is very active in the forest sector in Thailand and the Mekong sub region and continues to provide learning and training courses on forest management and REDD+ related activities. RECOFTC is also implementing a number of country and regional programs (including Thailand) and projects. These include:

- Weaving Leadership for Gender Equality (WAVES) initiative (funded by SDC and SIDA) which is a gender equity project which will equip key actors in the region who are influencing gender equality in climate change, REDD+ and forestry, law enforcement, governance and trade policies and processes knowledge and capacity to understand, design and implement gender equality measures in forest landscape.
- The German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (IKI) funding) is funding a variety of projects related to REDD+ and climate change including the FLOURISH project which is a forest land scape restoration and is working in Santisuk district in Nan province in northern Thailand. Nan province is one of the major timber producing regions (especially teak) with plantations operated by smallholders and the Forest Industry Organization-a state owned enterprise. The project should develop and pilot forest restoration and forest product business models in the project sites. The project will introduce a range of forest production driven best practices and added value processing techniques to strengthen stakeholders' capacity and role in both FLR and associated business models.
- Voices for Mekong Forests (V4MF) is funded by the EU and is a 5-year project aims to strengthen the voices of non-state actors, including civil society, Indigenous Peoples and local community groups. V4MF is also working with WWF and University of British Columbia and has examined forest loss shows that forest degradation in the Greater Mekong region may find solutions in forest governance: *"Participants in the assessment – spanning across government agencies, civil society, news media, and rural communities – were generally concerned about the overall forest governance. Those in Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam considered their state of forest governance "weak with definite problems," while Cambodia's stakeholders rated theirs as "failing." Only Laos received a "fair, with room for improvement" evaluation."*¹¹

The EU has a number of projects and partners in Thailand which operate REDD+ related projects including support through the European Initiative for Democracy and Human Rights supporting civil society and in particular supports the Asia Indigenous People Pact Foundation (AIPP) and Indigenous People's Foundation for Education and Environment Institute. The EU also support in partnership with UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the NGO World Conservation Society anti Wildlife Trafficking and as noted above it is also a partner in the V4MF initiative funding RECOFTC.

East-West Management Institute's (EWMI) data literacy training program is adapted from the World Bank's Data Literacy Certificate Program and can be tailored to the needs of different audiences. Regardless of the sector. This training in Thailand was tailored for participants from the forestry sector. They included representatives from Baan Non Toom Thaworn Community Forest, Self-organized Land Reform Network, Citizen Forest Network, Chiang Mai Community Organisation Council,

¹¹ Assessing Forest Governance in the Countries of the Greater Mekong Subregion, David Gritten, Sophie Rose Lewis Gijs Breukink Karen Mo, Dang Thi Thu Thuy and Etienne Delattre, Forests, 2019, 10, 47. January 2019

The ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC) supports the ASEAN Working Group on Social Forestry (AWG-SF) and supports forest related activities and funding for example Kasetsart University is active in the forest sector and REDD+ and is also conducting research¹².

The Bank of Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) supports the Tree Bank Project, which focuses on loans for planting trees. The concept of the 'tree bank' was introduced as part of the 'Grow trees to clear debt' project of the government of Thailand in 2006. In 2009, the Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives (BAAC) formally launched the Tree Bank Project as a corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiative. The government allocated USD 1 billion towards its development. In 2011, 984 tree bank branches were opened across 33 provinces of Thailand. Tree bank maintains a database of tree species, volume of carbon release and valuation of the trees. Tree banking is a scheme offered to farmers where the monetary value of trees can be used as a type of capital. The farmers can avail two types of financial services from tree banks:

- Loans: Trees can be used as security to get low interest rate loans. BAAC along with state-owned banks such as KTB, Government Savings Bank and Government Housing Bank, have proposed to reduce the interest rate for loan seekers (members of tree bank) by around 5% in the coming years. It has raised the maximum loan amount under its tree bank scheme from 50% to 80% of collateral to attract more people to grow high-value trees. Some 6,000 communities with 150,000 farmers growing over 11 million trees are members of the tree bank scheme.
- Income: Trees can be deposited with the tree banks to earn interest on the monetary value of the trees. Since 2012, BAAC has offered 0.5% interest per annum for each tree which grows more than 130 centimeters with a trunk width of 3 centimeters. The government has assigned funds of USD 0.63 million to be paid as interest to the farmers.

The minimum requirement for accessing the loans and other financial services from the tree bank are as follows: a farmer needs to plant at least 40 trees on 1 rai (0.4 acres) of land. The maximum number of trees for which the financial services can be availed is 1000, as the main purpose of the scheme is economic uplifting of farmers with small landholdings. During the first ten years, the registered trees cannot be sold and are valued on the basis of cost incurred in planting them (for loan and deposit purposes). After ten years, the valuation is done on the basis of the market value of trees. The scheme lays emphasis on growing indigenous species of trees. The tree bank gives an opportunity for farmers with small landholdings as well as those with mortgaged farmland to get loans from the formal sector. This, in the future, could reduce their dependency on high interest rate loans from the informal sector. In the next few years, BAAC plans to sell carbon credits from the trees registered with the tree bank and give the amount earned to these small farmers, thereby increasing their income.

A somewhat similar scheme applies to owners of '58 economically valuable trees' who are able to use them as collateral when applying for loans at financial institutions under a new policy proposed by the Ministry of Commerce. The policy is a measure to help people gain access to financial aid and promote the growing of economically valuable trees in communities. The ministry therefore issued a regulation regarding other types of valid collateral that can be used under the Business Collateral Act BE

¹² For example: "Assessing the Potential of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP) for Value Chain and Community Forestry Enterprises Development in Northern Thailand"

2558, while the types of economically valuable trees will be according to the Forest Plantation Act BE 2535

Payment for Environmental Services (PES) in Thailand: There are a number of donor funded research and donor and private sector pilot project initiatives on PES in Thailand. These include work undertaken by the USAID Adaption and Resilience to Climate Change¹³, Faculty of forestry, Kasetsart University and Prince of Songkla University, and pilot projects by IUCN¹⁴ A review of the first PES schemes in Thailand (a mangrove and two watershed protection and management PES), financed by large corporations in the water utilities, aquaculture, and beverage sectors ¹⁵ shows that PES uptake by the private sector remains low. The PES-like schemes for forest conservation discussed in detail include the carbon sequestration project in Inpang Community Network in the northeast provinces (Carbon2Markets Program 2009), the Khlongrua Tree Bank (KTREEB) in Chumphon province, and the reforestation projects by private companies and state enterprise sectors including Toyota Motor Thailand Co., Ltd; The Coca-Cola Company (Thailand); PTT Public Company Ltd.; and EGAT.

¹³Valuing Ecosystem Services in the Lower Mekong Basin, USAID Mekong ARCC by Development Alternatives, Inc. (DAI) and World Resources Institute (WRI) March 2015.

¹⁴The Relevance of Tenure and Forest Governance for Incentive-Based Mechanisms: Implementing Payments for Ecosystem Services in Doi Mae Salong, Eliana Fischman, IUCN 2012: the report explores forest governance and the existing tenure framework at Doi Mae Salong, offering preliminary recommendations for implementing a PES scheme

¹⁵ Payments for ecosystem services and corporate social responsibility: Perspectives on sustainable production, stakeholder relations, and philanthropy in Thailand, Benjamin S. Thompson, National University of Singapore, December 2018

Table 3.4 List of REDD+ related forestry projects in Thailand

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
Sustainable Forestation at Nong Jra Kae Temple, Banna Subdistrict, Klaeng District, Rayong Province	Sustainable forestation at Nong Jra Kae Temple, Banna Subdistrict, Klaeng District, Rayong Province project aimed to focus on afforestation, tree care and forest management covers a total area of 46.99 rai (1 rai = 1600 square meters) for enhancing carbon sequestration. The project includes flood risk management planning and forest fire management planning. Project began 1 July 2013 with cooperation of Nong Jra Kae Temple, government and local communities. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 44 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (15 September 2013 to 14 September 2033).	Nong Jra Kae Temple
Sustainable Forestation Project of Wangchan Forest Learning Center by PTTRFI and Ecosystem	Sustainable forestation project of Wangchan forest learning center by PTTRFI and ecosystem aimed to focus on restoration of agricultural areas to forest area for enhancing carbon sequestration. It is also balancing the environment and natural resources in the project area. The Project officially began 18 July 2013. The center is intended to be a place where knowledge and innovation about various methods of forest restoration are housed, particularly the integrated forest restoration method in the form of 'agroforestry', where perennial plants and horticultural plants as well as paddy fields are placed side by side. The center will act as a pilot reforestation site in the Thailand-Voluntary Emission and Reduction (T-VER) Program (forestry category). The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 176 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (30 December 2013 to 29 December 2034).	PTT Reforestation Institute
Sustainable Forest Restoration under PTTEP Reforestation Project	Sustainable forest restoration under PTTEP reforestation project aimed to focus on forest restoration covers a total area of 5,200 rai. Project officially began in June 2013 with cooperation of PTTEP, Royal Forest Department and local communities. Afforestation in national forest consists of 1) Wangyang Subdistrict, Noen Maprang District, 2) Bo Pho Subdistrict, Nakhon Thai District, and 3) Nabua Subdistrict, Nakhon Thai District Phitsanulok Province. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 4,940 t	PTTEP

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
	CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (7 November 2013 to 6 November 2033).	
PTT Eco-Forest Rayong Wanarom	PTT eco-forest Rayong Wanarom project located in PTT Wanarom Eco Zone Industries; PTT WEcoZI. This project aimed to focus on rehabilitation industrial areas to forest area covers a total area of 91 rai for enhancing carbon sequestration. Project officially began April 2012. The implementation of this project was applied eco forest theory of ProfDrAkira Miyawaki including selected original and local native species, which suitable for Rayong Province condition and plants can absorb pollution. The project designs the area to mimic natural forest. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 1,083 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (13 August 2014 to 12 August 2034).	PTT
Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Carbon Sequestration in Ban-Kong-Tabang community forest, Petchaburi Province (P-REDD+ in Ban-Kong-Tabang community forest, Petchaburi Province)	P-REDD+ in Ban-Kong-Tabang community forest, Petchaburi Province located in Ban-Kong-Tabang, Tha Mai Ruak Sub-district, Tha Yang District Petchaburi Province. Project officially began in 13 February 2015 covers a total area of 3,276 rai. The implementation of this project was divided into three parts, part 1: preventive measures for changing forest areas, part 2: reducing forest degradation including defining rules and regulations and appointment of community forest committees, patrolling, firebreak creation, check dam creation, promote community activities according to the sufficiency economy guidelines to create alternative careers and village level poverty alleviation and promote villagers, youths, thought leaders and monks to participate in forestry resources management part 3: afforestation and restoration in forest area to enhancing carbon sequestration. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 743 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (13 February 2015 to 12 February 2035).	Royal Forest Department
Large Scale Sustainable Forestation Project in Khun Mae Kum Mee, Wung Chin, and Mae Yom-Mae Pang	Large scale sustainable forestation project located in Khun Mae Kum Mee, Wung Chin, and Mae Yom-Mae Pang plantation, Phrae Province. The project area is originally a forest plantation area. Starting with planted teak in a degraded area in 1968 to 2016 following sustainable forest management. From 2016 the Forest Industry Organization implementation has followed guidelines for GHG reduction methodology. The project is	Forest Industry Organization

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
plantation, Phrae Province	expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 43,628 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2035).	
Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and Enhancing Carbon in conservation forestry at Song Municipality, Phrae Province	Reducing emission from deforestation and forest degradation and enhancing carbon in conservation forestry at Song Municipality, Phrae Province, the project is implemented in 2 areas. 1) Wat Phra That Doi Ngu has a community forest covers a total area of 16.4 rai. 2) Crematorium of Song Sub-district Municipality has a forest area covers a total area of 16.2 rai. Project officially began in 1 April 2016. The implementation of this project was divided into three parts, part 1: preventive measure for changing forest area, part 2: reducing forest degradation included the definition of rules and regulations and appointment of community forest committees, patrolling, firebreak creation, vegetation mapping and vegetation survey, rituals with local cultural traditions for the forest conservation, and promote villagers, youths, thought leaders and monks to participate in forestry resources management part 3: afforestation and restoration in forest area to enhancing carbon sequestration. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 18 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (1 April 2016 to 31 March 2035).	Song Municipality
Doi Tung Development Project, Chiang Rai Province	Doi Tung development project is a GHG reducing project. This project was started 14 July 2017. Project aimed to focus on sustainable management natural resources cover a total area of 86,783 rai comprise of forest area 70,370 rai. Doi Tung was started forest conservation activities since 1988. The area was originally a bald mountain. Currently, the Doi Tung development project was a classified forest area by using satellite imagery and aerial photograph that indicated that the project area consists of coniferous forest, dry evergreen forest, hill evergreen forest, hill evergreen forest with bamboo, mixed deciduous forest and mixed deciduous forest with bamboo. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 106,788 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (1 September 2016 to 31 August 2033).	Mae Fah Luang Foundation
Navatane Golf Course, the	Navatane golf course, the oxygen source of Bangkok project covers a total area of 169.8 rai which afforestation since 22 December 1970. This project has implemented	Navatane Golf

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
Oxygen Source of Bangkok	afforestation and restoration in the golf course including vegetation mapping to plant growth monitoring. Currently, there is 21,848 tree species that have a capacity for contributing to GHG reduction. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 161 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (18 September 2017 to 17 September 2036).	Course, Bangkok
Nan Reforestation Project	In 2009, the MFLF, jointly with the Royal Initiative Discovery Foundation (RIDF) started reforestation work in three districts in Nan Province to restore catchment forests and at the same time develop the quality of life of villagers to give them greater stability and enable them to coexist with nature. The project covered an area of 250,000 rai in 20 villagers, four sub-districts in three districts, namely Song Khwae, Tha Wang Pha and Chalermprakiet. It was a scaling up of the Doi Tung reforestation model, providing a national model on watershed forest management. This project began by building relationships with local communities on the basis of proper land management to create a stable and sustainable livelihood and income. Quick fix projects aimed at stabilizing the villagers' income under the "Cultivating Forests, Cultivating People" principle of HRH Princess Srinagarindra included developing proper irrigation systems for utility purposes, developing agriculture and livestock opportunities, setting up a seed and livestock bank, as well as value-added processing. In the designated reforestation areas, 60% became watershed conservation forests, 8% utility forests for household consumption and use, 20% economic forests for commercial purposes, and 12% residential and agricultural use. Fire prevention measures were initiated and implemented by the local communities themselves. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 176,704 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (12 May 2018 to 11 May 2037).	Mae Fah Luang Foundation
KU Eco Green Campus	The project is registered as one of Thailand Voluntary Emission Reduction Program (T-VER). Owing to Kamphaeng Saen Campus separated area of 235.77 rai within the campus into three zones for difference purposes as follows: zone 1: 100 rai of forest area, zone 2:	Kasetsart University

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
	forest area, zone 3: Yangna tree (<i>Dipterocarpus alatus</i> Roxb.) planting area. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 223 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (1 July 2018 to 30 June 2037).	
KU Forest for Life	KU forest for life project located in Kasetsart university Chalermphrakiat Sakon-Nakhon Campus covers a total area of 4,000 rai, which consists of forest area 971.69 rai. The project has been developing activities for restoring forests, native species planting, patrolling, designing rules and regulations on resources utilization for allow villagers to collect forest products in the project area. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 495 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (1 January 2019 to 31 December 2038).	
Sustainable Forestation Project of Ratchaburi Power Plant by Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Company Limited	This project aimed to focus on afforestation to reduce environment impact of closely community. It is also balancing the environment and natural resources in the project area. Forest conservation and green area enhancement is another key off-line approach to expand the carbon sink, under the Company's commitment to address environmental challenges. The "Love the Forests and the Community" was launched in 2007 to encourage the community role in preserving and restoring forests. This has been carried out through activities like a contest of sustainable community forests, reforestation in community forests, and the support to the Royal Forest Department's establishment of community forests. The project is expected to result in a reduction of GHG of 57 t CO ₂ per year, carbon credit period for 20 years (1 September 2019 to 31 August 2039)	Ratchaburi Electricity Generating Company Limited
Forest Conservation, Forest and Community Project	RATCH Group Public Company Limited in collaboration with the Royal Forest Department, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment to operate the project "Kon Rak Pa Rak Community" from 2008 Phase 1 (Year 2008-2012) and expand cooperation to Phase 2 (Year 2013-2017) and now into Phase 3 (2018-2022) which aims to increase the country's forest area. As well as preserving the forest area as a carbon reservoir the project contributes to alleviating global warming and climate change including promoting the use of sustainable development of local resources. This is achieved by encouraging	RATCH Group Public Company Limited

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
	communities to manage their own community forests as a property of the community itself and thereby contributing to creating a network to strengthen the management of national resources	
Ban Nong Community Forest	Ban Nong Community, Ban Muang Sub-district, Sangkhom District, Nong Khai Province cooperate to conserve the forest of the village which is in the national forest reserve Phan Prao and Kaeng Kai. The community forest is used as a source for food by the local households. The village leaders, intend for community members to take part in forest maintenance and restoration resulting in greater benefits to the community both directly and indirectly. The community forest has only recently been established (almost one year). The community, led by the Community Forests Committee, has actively participated in the management of community forests including both complementary plantings and forest fire prevention and the development of use in ecotourism and homestay accommodation that is linked to the community lifestyle in both the villages and neighboring villages. This included the building a network of buffers with other forests and this is considered to be a successful pilot.	RECOFTC
ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (as noted above)	Project Designed in consultation with member states, the ASFCC partnership programme has two objectives: (1) SF approaches developed and integrated into the climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies of ASEAN and the member states; and (2) Socio-economic benefits derived from the inclusion of communities, women and vulnerable groups in sustainable forestry and climate change adaptation and mitigation measures. ASFCC consists of three components: (1) SF policy framework development; (2) knowledge sharing, capacity building and networking; and (3) learning interventions, research and assessment. Working closely with the ASEAN Secretariat and in collaboration with GIZ, ASFCC seeks to contribute to ASEAN's Multisectoral Framework on Climate Change: Agriculture and Forestry towards Food Security and to the regional Plan of Action on Forestry Cooperation.	RECOFTC

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
FLOURISH - Forest Landscape Restoration for Improved Livelihoods and Climate Resilience	The project will integrate in a succinct manner with the national strategies of the target countries, as well as provide tangible goals and results. In pursuing such an objective, this project will cover four important thematic areas: climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity, and contribution towards sustainable development.	RECOFTC
WD Environmental Operations joins the Green Actions for Community Relations	Western Digital (WD) Environmental Action Project, co-ordinator of the Green Actions for Community Relations, operates in line with Western Digital's mission Western Digital as a volunteer activity for employees to show social responsibility by using "environmental learning exchange activities, planting trees, growing trees in green, helping to reduce global warming" to raise awareness and processes involved in environmental care through action and lead to behavioral modifications. Organizations and local authorities have been involved in increasing green space and reshaping the landscape of public roadside areas in the area. Phra Nakhon Si Ayutthaya is one of WD's locations to reduce pollution, global warming and create concrete environmental values.	Thailand Environment Institute(TEI)
Sustainable environmental conservation and restoration projects Coordinating cooperation between the public and the community Increase green area.	Charoen Pokphand Foods Plc (CPF) continues to operate on environmental projects such as the CPF Conserve Ecology Project, Pasak River Basin Phraya Dern Thong Mountain extended to a second phase (2021-2025) and will promote tree planting to increase green areas in the company's factories and farms nationwide. CPF's factories and farms have been participating in the project to reduce greenhouse gas emissions or the LESS (Low Emission Support Scheme) project operated by the Greenhouse Gas Management Organization (TGO) with carbon dioxide sequestration from tree planting. CPF conducts environmental projects and is committed to participating in adding green areas to the country and focuses on sustainability goals such as climate change response in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). "	CPF
Programme for the Development and Implementation of a Climate	The project supported Thailand's environment ministry in elaborating and implementing its national climate change strategy and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. International experts advised the various political bodies, and the project built the necessary	IKI, implemented by GIZ with MONRE

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
<p>Change Policy in Thailand; linked and succeed by: Thai-German Climate Change Policy Programme Jan 2018 to Dec 2021</p>	<p>implementation capacities at the relevant institutions at national and subnational level. In addition, it assisted Thailand with regard to international cooperation on climate policy and promoting awareness-raising and societal participation in dealing with climate change issues. Comprehensive support was provided to the process of elaborating and developing Thailand's Climate Change Master Plan 2012-2050. The project was followed up in the Thai-German Climate Change Policy Programme. The follow on programme supports Thailand with a cross-sectoral approach, including the operationalization of the NDC and anchoring in five sectoral plans, the implementation of the NDCs at the sub-national level</p>	
<p>Promoting Ecosystem-based Adaptation through Mangrove Restoration and Sustainable Use in Thailand and Vietnam; 09/2012 till 02/2016</p>	<p>The project promoted ecosystem based-adaptation (EbA) and mitigation by providing economic incentives for mangrove restoration and sustainable use by piloting projects and integrating results into provincial and national policies. EbA pilot projects took place in Ca Mau Province, Vietnam and Surat Thani Province, Thailand tested innovative financing that links climate change adaptation and mitigation, and sustainable aquaculture in mangrove ecosystems. Results were fed into national and provincial laws, regional learning and global dialogue on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).</p>	<p>IKI implemented by IUCN</p>
<p>Development of a CO2 baseline, monitoring and capacity building for REDD to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Thailand 2011 to 2014</p>	<p>As part of the 'National Community Forest Network Meeting', an exchange took place with key interest groups in the field of community forest management</p>	<p>IKI, Implemented by WWF Germany</p>

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
Taking Deforestation out of Banks Portfolios in Emerging Markets May 2018-April 2021	Major causes of deforestation in Southeast Asia include unsustainable production of agricultural and forest commodities and infrastructure development. To reduce negative impacts, this project supports the implementation of Environmental and Social (E&S) safeguards including deforestation free criteria in target countries' financial institutions and financial market actors. It will provide sector specific guidance, review existing and improve or develop new financial products. In addition, the project will support the development and piloting of green financial products incl. green credit lines at landscape level with a focus on smallholders. Pilots will be carried out in at least one of the implementing countries. In Dec 2019, WWF published the report "Sustainable Banking Regulations in ASEAN - Raising the Bar" in which WWF assesses the sustainable banking regulations of 5 countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand ¹⁶ , Vietnam).In total, only four banks from Singapore and Thailand fulfilled at least half of the criteria. 18 banks fulfilled less than a quarter of the criteria.	IKI, Implemented by WWF Germany and WWF Thailand
Production Driven Forest Landscape Restoration under REDD+ through Private Sector – Community Partnerships as Asian Regional Learning Exchange, (project implemented in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam) 05/2018 till 04/2022	The project develops measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change. Sustainable forest use and nature conservation offer additional benefits for the local population. The co-operation between the private sector and village groups is the central component. The project is integrated into the work of the local administrations of the three partner countries. The strategy of reforestation is based on industrial value chains of durable wood and bamboo products and the replacement of liquefied petroleum by pellets from forest biomass.	IKI, implemented by RECOFTC, Department of Alternative Energy Development and Efficiency (DEDE) - Thailand, A-plus Intergroup - Thailand, Forest Finance - Germany, International Bamboo and Rattan

¹⁶Sustainable Banking Guidelines Thailand, Thai Bankers Association (2019),

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
		Network (INBAR) - China, Technische Universität Dresden
Sustainable and climate-friendly palm oil production and procurement. 09/2018 till 09/2022	Thailand consumes a large part of the palm oil it produces itself. There is no awareness of sustainable palm oil among either traders or consumers. The project has taken several steps to raise public awareness about the issue.	IKI, implemented by GIZ with Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
National Land Monitoring and Information System for a transparent NDC reporting 05/2018 till 04/2021	The project supports the reduction of emissions from deforestation (REDD+) in 22 partner countries, it promotes the exchange of experience, knowledge transfer and the development of skills with regard to the application of a newly developed and used software tool for forest monitoring in cooperation with Google Outreach through the training of approx. 400 experts. The monitoring system provides an important basis for the implementation of all REDD+ instruments (such as the development of reference levels) and the preparation of reports (BURs) to the UNFCCC.	IKI, Implemented by FAO and DNP.
TEEB implementation – assessment of ecosystem services for holistic and sustainable land management in the agricultural sector (implemented in Colombia, Kenya, Tanzania, Thailand) 01/2017 till 06/2021	The project uses “The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity” approach (TEEB), cooperating with relevant stakeholders to identify decision processes that can be improved by economical evaluation. This approach is followed by the modeling of impacts on land use, the assessment of changes in the provision of ecosystem services and an economic evaluation	IKI, implemented by United Nations Environment Programme, with Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)
Advancing from Mitigation	The project offered analytical support to accelerate the continued development and	IKI, implemented by

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
Ambition to Action (A2A) - Phase I (implemented in Argentina, Indonesia, Kenya, Thailand). 11/2016 till 12/2019	implementation of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), primarily through the articulation of the social, economic, and environmental benefits of mitigation. The project built on existing plans to develop a sector implementation roadmap supporting sector-level planning, engaging a range of stakeholders, and increasing the feasibility of ambitious sector mitigation pathways in support of NDC implementation. In Thailand, A2A works with the ONEP and the Energy Policy and Planning Office (EPPO) to develop an NDC Action Plan for energy sector.	TNO Netherlands Organisation for applied scientific research – Netherlands; with Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning (ONEP)
Risk-based national adaptation plan 08/2015 till 12/2019	Thailand has been developing a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) since 2015. However, detailed information on the risks of climate change for the population and corresponding adaptation options is still lacking, and provinces and municipalities have not yet sufficiently integrated climate risks and adaptation into their planning processes. The project therefore supports the partner government in developing and implementing a NAP. The NAP contains six priority areas of action: Urban planning and development, sustainable water management and disaster risk management and Adaptation in the sectors Agriculture, Health, Tourism and Natural Resource Management. The project supports Thailand in the development of its climate protection law, in particular through background studies on financing instruments and the establishment of a monitoring system for climate adaptation and adaptation communications at international level.	IKI, implemented by GIZ with MONRE
The GEF Small Grant	The SGP funds a number of REDD+ related small-scale projects. (For example strengthening local community organization in managing community forest ¹⁷ and create	SGP implemented through UNDP

¹⁷ The projects generally follow SFM in the context of increasing forest and non timber forest resources, climate change mitigation within productive landscapes where communities reside, encourage multiple benefits to all actors and ensuring sustainable livelihoods. They projects support the development of synergies from the existing biodiversity and climate change focal areas, specifically, sustainable land use, land use change, and forestry management interventions will be adopted at the community level for forest and non-forest land-use types to ensure connectivity between ecosystems and restorative activities.

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
Program (SGP)	<p>conditions to increase biodiversity through cooperation with local allies, local government organization, strengthening female roles and involvement in managing environment and particularly in mountain and high areas of Northern Thailand and working with local ethnic groups there.) related small scale projects. The 2018 - 2019 program has over 18 projects that most pertinently include:</p> <p>Co-Management on Forest Survey and Natural Resources Conservation for Mae Tum Watershed (2018-2019)</p> <p>Building Climate Change Adaptation of Farmers (2018-2019)</p> <p>Co-Management of Biodiversity and Rehabilitation of Pwo Karen Culture for Sustainable Livelihood(2018-2019)</p> <p>Community Model on Climate Change Adaptation and Participatory Natural Resources Management</p> <p>Conservation and Reforestation Of Lanna Big Trees for Mitigating Smog and Heat Dome in Chiang Mai City</p> <p>Empowerment of Ethnic Women for Environmental Management</p> <p>Enhancement of Local Action for Environmental and Natural Resources Conservation</p> <p>Ethnic Community Capacity Development for Agro-Ecology towards Resources Management Upscaling Strategy at Sub-District Level</p> <p>Intensive Agriculture for Upstream Forest Rehabilitation in Nan</p>	Bangkok

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
	<p>Natural Plants of Ethnic Network from Mae Lao</p> <p>Participatory Conservation of Khamu Community for ThaKra Darn</p> <p>Planting People-Building Forests</p>	
<p>Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forest (LEAF) (project now closed)</p> <p>Project ran January 2011 to April 2016</p>	<p>While the LEAF project has now closed, it is important to mention as the LEAF project was active in the earlier part of the Thai REDD+ R-PP and has provided much helpful background information and provided a way forward for many of the issues facing REDD+ in Thailand. LEAF actually adopted a regional approach in strengthening capacities across the six target countries - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam - to produce sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the forestry and land use sector. To help reach this goal, the following were identified for policy assistance in Thailand:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Supporting development of a pilot integrated PES system focusing on bundled environmental services derived from forests (i.e. water, carbon and biodiversity); 2. Supporting development of a mechanism to allow local communities to receive income for mangrove conservation focusing on the Ranong Man and Biosphere Reserve; 3. Supporting evaluation of proposals for a National REDD+ strategy and subsequent development of related activities; 4. Supporting development and adoption of a roadmap for a national and sub-national reference emission levels (RELs); 5. Scoping the potential to create a national level PES committee responsible for promoting PES frameworks. <p>The support provided by LEAF was implemented primarily through the following</p>	<p>USAID funded with implementation by Winrock, SNV, Climate focus and RECOFT</p>

List of Projects	Project Description	Project Financer and Implementer
	<p>activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Desk review of legislation, policy and current practices that inhibit or promote PES schemes; • Supporting establishment of a national PES committee; • Connecting local stakeholders with regional platforms including Mangroves for the Future (MFF) and the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forestry and Climate Change (ARKN- FCC); <p>Regional and national capacity building workshops.</p>	

3.4 *Analysis of Progress Component 3*

3.4.1 *Progress on National Forest Inventory, Measurement Reporting and Verification*

Thailand has collected a very large number of tree and plot data over the past 15 years. The first national forest inventory was designed to collect information on a wide range of forest conditions with full country coverage. The other inventories repeated measurements only in a portion of the first inventory's plots. The last inventory completed the portion of the formernational forest inventory(NFI) plots with a large number of plots collected in a 2.5 km grid to give very good details in several protected areas. The discrepancies between NFI sampling designs led to recommending using only a small part of all measured plots to ensure that the emission factors were related to on-the-ground changes and not artificially created by the differences in plot location.

“As of 2019, three cycles of NFI were completed. The first cycle was carried out from 2004 to 2010, the second cycle in 2011 and the third cycle from 2013 to 2017. The first cycle combined full country coverage with a plot intensity ranging from 40 to 10 km spacing plus an emphasis on protected areas where a 5 km grid sampling intensity was achieved. The second cycle repeated the measurements on the 10 km grid only and only in protected areas. The last cycle repeated the 10 km grid, mostly in protected areas, and around 150 of plots outside protected areas (measurements by RFD). It also added more than 2000 plots in few targeted protected areas on a 2.5 km grid.”

3.4.2 *Development of FRLs*

The AD was developed by estimating the extent of forest change measured as area estimates of forest under three major forest types: Evergreen, Deciduous, and Mangroves and non-forest and forest loss and gain during 2006/07 – 2017/18. The areas under forest cover include natural and secondary forests and plantation forests which were further subdivided into four types – rubber, eucalyptus, teak and others, according to which rubber was identified and excluded from the FRL calculation (rubber areas are considered as ‘non-forest’). The activity data, however, is not separated by natural and secondary forests. The amount of deforestation (forest loss) and enhancement (forest gain) have both been estimated using systematic sampling approach at national scale for establishing a FRL because existing maps do not qualify the revised forest definition that excludes grassland and bare rock.

The REDD+ FRL requires the analysis of recent historical data on forest land dynamics and other relevant land uses, including –as appropriate- the analysis of national circumstances and policies and plans expected to affect forest dynamics in the future to set a benchmark for assessing Thailand's performance of REDD+. The activity data is expected to generate change estimates between Forest and Non-Forest classes and to generate changes within forest class under three broad forest types (Evergreen dominated forest, Deciduous dominated forest and Mangroves) starting from 2006-07 to 2017-18.

The FRL therefore was a sample-based approach is used as an independent and consistent method to derive estimates on areas of forest, non-forest and change (loss and gain) between 2006/7 and 2017/18. Among various types of probability-based sampling design, systematic sample design has been used. The systematic sample offers the option to increase the sample size overall but reduce the bias.

Systematic Sampling Grid

To develop historical data on forest cover change at the national-scale, which had not previously been done, it was decided to follow a sample-based approach and to use FAO's OpenForis Collect Earth (CE) system for the assessment of samples. The data was collected using high to medium spatial resolution Earth observation data accessible through Google Earth, Google Earth Engine, and Bing Maps.

The global forest change data was used to measure the intensity of grid size which could be appropriate to capture the changing area. The analysis shows that a sample size of 20,000 points and above should serve the purpose.

Sample Density

The CE study required the selection of an optimum density of sample points that captures maximum changes of the activities within the forest, that are statistically sound, and that ensures unbiased forest change estimates. Therefore first correct sample density was estimated using Global Forest Watch (GFW) datasets to investigate how accurately the annual area changes in GFW are captured using systematic grids at different sampling densities. The theory behind this was to identify an optimum sample density that serves three purposes.

- First, the optimum sampling density should minimize the errors in estimates.
- Second, the time required for analysis should be minimized.
- Third, it should result in an acceptable level of accuracy in estimates.

Analysis of this range suggested that, theoretically, a systematic grid with approximately 20,000 points would serve the purpose. Accordingly, a grid of 20,699 points at 5x5 km was generated at the national scale.

Sample Point Generation

The systematic sample grid was generated with QGIS 2.18 by using a rectangular array of points over the country (a systematic grid generator). The grid is based upon Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) projection with UTM zone 47 and stratification was not considered to ensure consistency with current and future national NFI components.

Presently, three NFI grids exist in the country with different spacing between points (2.5 x 2.5, 5 x5 and 10x10km). Therefore, with the above analysis resulting in a recommendation of sampling intensity of 20,000 points, it was decided to adopt the 5x5 km NFI grid (20,699 points) as the standard for FRL purposes. As the NFI grid was created using two separate UTM zones, the border between the zones resulted in irregular spaces between the points. To ensure consistency at the national scale and avoid this issue, the activity data grid was created using 47 UTM projections at the national scale. Thus, the resulting grid is consistent with the NFI grid of the UTM 47 and not inconsistent with zone 48, which covers a smaller area when compared to zone 47.

Survey Design

The activity data survey was designed using OpenForis collect tool, the project design uses a square shape plot with Minimum Mapping Unit (MMU) of approximately 0.5 ha to meet forest definition criteria used for the project. To keep the design simple, at the first stage the interpreter was required only to record information on the basic change classes (namely: forest loss, forest gain, stable forest and stable non-forest) within the reference period 2006/2007-2017/2018.

Furthermore, to have a clear indication of plantation area for the purposes of FRL submission, plantation classes were separated from the natural forest area. The information about plantation types was also collected but is limited to only three important classes in the context of Thailand,

namely rubber (which will be classed as non-forest for FRL purposes), eucalyptus, and teak. All other types were classified as 'other plantations' because it was challenging (and unnecessary for these purposes) to differentiate further based only based on medium and coarse resolution remote sensing data, since temporal coverage of high-resolution images was irregular which makes it difficult to understand the pattern to detect the correct type.¹⁸

3.5 *Recommendations and Activity Gaps*

The following key recommendations presented represent the response to the Project and component-level analysis and related findings and are proposed to guide the remainder of Project implementation. The combination of planning, management, monitoring and evaluation, communication, stakeholder engagement, partnership development and coordination and long-term visioning is essential to the successful completion and achievement of the project development objectives by December 31, 2020.

- There are a number of important gaps in the NRS (activities started very late on the NRS under the Consultancy Service Contract CS6), the main activity gaps and related issues include, but are not limited to, missed opportunities for involvement of the private sector in the NRS:
 - Green, climate certified bond funding – the NRS needs to take account of country and regional initiatives to drive green bond market development, and include banks and the Thai SEC in discussions;
 - Forest industry progress, the important activities of progress with PEFC, FSC and FLEGT including the FIO, Thailand Forest Certification Council and other private sector forest industry companies should all be included in the NRS;
 - Wider general stakeholder consultation is required and most particularly with government departments and ministries to ensure that the proposed NRS dovetails with government policy and there is wider government support and ownership of REDD+; and
 - A particular need is for there to be increased coordination with the government climate change policy initiatives and, for example, coordination on the development of the NDC¹⁹.
- General consultation and engagement can be further developed following recommendations from the Consultancy Service Contract CS5, but there are some specific areas where consultation with important stakeholders has been lacking under activities started late in the Consultancy Service Contract CS6:
 - Improve internal programme and activity level planning and communication;
 - Strengthen program planning through improved partner coordination; and
 - Improve stakeholder engagement and feedback particularly on the development of the BSM and testing of the proposed improvements to the FGRM. Both of these

¹⁸The information for this section on the FRL is drawn mainly a number of sources and draft reports and may need to be updated as the reports are finalized. The most recent report is "Developing Forest carbon stocks estimates for REDD+ Emission and Removal Factors in Thailand, Draft", FAO and DNP, March 2020.

¹⁹ "Given the agenda for more afforestation, it was questioned if the NDC baseline boundary should in the future include land use and forestry" from Thai-German Climate Programme (TGCP): National Measurement, Reporting and Verification System; Review and Analysis of Thailand's MRV System; GIZ; July 2019

consultations with stakeholder activities started late in the Consultancy Service Contract CS6 and would most probably benefit from further, wider stakeholder consultations and field testing for the FGRM.

- The work on developing the SIS was also started very late in the Consultancy Service Contract CS6 and a much wider introduction needs to occur before any of the required government ownership can be expected;
- Strengthen monitoring, evaluation and reporting; and
- Expand awareness building, branding and visibility.

3.6 *Summary Roadmap for Accelerated Implementation*

A potential revised 2020/21 work plan, including project activities from the current project completion date of 30th June 2020 revised to December 2021, key features of the work plans are as shown in **TABLE 3.5**.

Table 3.5 Summary of an indicative roadmap for key activities that could be undertaken in the additional time of an extension to end of December 2021

Year/ key date	Summary Activity
June /July 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated FREL/FRL and MMR approaches finalised (output from CS7) • Revise workplan to take account of and implement the Communication Action Plan, the outputs from CS5 (see section 3.1.1 and Table 3.2) • Address the opportunities missed from CS6 consultancy package and develop a workplan to address these and the remaining gaps. • Hold a meeting with the TWG to review the CS6 draft outputs
August 2020 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review and recap on the work done to date taking account of the recommendations and advice from the TWG and NEC • Address missed opportunities in NRS to include much more consultation and take more account of and be consistent with on-going government policies including climate change, support to the NDC, TFCS, TEFSO etc. Further development of the dialogues with the private sector including dialogue with banks, Thai SEC and forest industries • Expand stakeholder consultations and involvement and ownership of the draft NRS • Continue the work started on the development of BSM • Focus the work on the FGRM to FCPF and UNFCCC expectation and Continue the development of FGRM • Begin work on SIS (taking account of the above) • Begin implementation of the communication action plan (workplans wp1-7)
September 2020 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SESA continues development taking account of NRS, BSM, FGRM field testing • Further SIS consultation and coordination • Draft ESMF based on progress with the REDD+ strategy and options • Revised communication web site links
October 2020 onwards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Consultations on: • Develop the NRS Draft • Develop the draft BSM • Development of BSM guidelines and processes

Year/ key date	Summary Activity
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Validation of SESA • Further work on the SIS
November to December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NRS Validation • SIS Validation • Updating of processes SESA as necessary, Final institutionalisation of the SESA and safeguard processes • Finalise ESMF
Jan to June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final updates to NRS, SESA, SIS and ESMF • Disclosure of the ESMF • Project completion work • M&E impact evaluation and lessons learned • Draft completion reports • Completion workshops • Consolidation and reconciliation of accounts and completion work.

3.7 *Justification of the Extension of the FCPF Grant*

Implementation has been slower than anticipated due partly to shortage of personnel and consultants to support DNP for project implementation, but a particularly difficulty and time consuming constraint to the project implementation has been the poor performance and unqualified reports of the Consultant Services Contract CS6.

The DNP proposes an extension of project closing date to 31 December 2021, based on the terms of the FCPF Readiness Fund, and all work will be completed by the project closing date for the project expenses to be recorded as eligible expenditures.

1. The FCPF project was due to close end of June 2020, an extension to the closing date would improve the technical, financial and administrative efficiency.
2. An extension of funding to the project completion would allow for achievement of project objectives in quantitative and qualitative terms and in particular allow for further the institutionalisation of the REDD+ processes and documentation and allow wider stakeholder consultation and engagement for a smooth adoption of REDD+ into government policy and funding.
3. The FCPF project, based on initial pilot implementation, activities has generated high levels of interest from the pilot provinces and village communities. Disbursement from the project has correspondingly significantly improved since 2018 with much needed emphasis on improving the involvement of the provinces and including the important private sector.
4. The National REDD+ Strategy will not be completed without an extension to the project.
5. The project is to develop an innovative sustainable approach of introducing REDD+ and it is expected that extra time for work with the private sector would form part of this innovate equitization financing approach and provide for the development of valuable government backing to the approach and smooth transition to finance for REDD+ and would ensure continuation of interest and support from the private sector.

6. Work on the SIS is effectively yet to start with almost all potential stakeholders.
7. A number of the REDD+ activities e.g. FGRM work with ethnic groups, was late starting and is also time consuming and provinces have relatively weak understanding of REDD+ so it has been necessary to prioritise and adopt a stepwise approach, allowing a slightly longer and smooth transition government ownership and an extension to the project implementation period would ensure a continuation and consistency of the support in the consultation processes and work with forest dependent communities.

4 Review of the REDD Country Participant's Compliance with the Common Approach

The common approach sets out the requirements for countries participating in REDD+, which are: (1) Development of TORs for the assessment of environmental and social strategies, as well as establish the frame for environment and society management in accordance with the general provisions of the FCPF and WB; (2) Development of safeguards, which have include respect, knowledge and rights of ethnic groups in Thailand; (3) Publishing and sharing information on the implementation process between stakeholders; and, (4) Formation of mechanism to receive feedback on the negative issues arising from the implementation of REDD+.

4.1 *Progress on Safeguards*

4.1.1 *Support for the SESA and ESMF*

Introduction of the requirements on safeguards is underway, however, development of environmental and social safeguards processes through the SESA and ESMF, have been delayed due to slow implementation process. Additional SESA specific consultation and participation events in the provinces (planned for and expected but some experienced delayed) will also help the vulnerable groups and forest-dependent communities (especially ethnic groups) receive culturally appropriate benefits from future REDD+ activities, while ensuring that the proposed NRS does not adversely affect these communities. The SESA will be complemented by the ESMF, and will help guide potential investments in REDD+ activities toward compliance with safeguards policies.

As of the end of April 2020, the SESA Team had completed fieldwork in Chiang Mai, Loei, Chanthaburi, and partially in Nakhon Si Thammarat with Nan and Kanchanaburi Provinces remaining. There is specific household socio-economic data pertaining to approximately 1,050 households, 50 focus group discussions with some 750 participants, and 65 key informant interviews. These three activities have involved a relatively representative sample of forest-dependent households including and especially different ethnic groups, women, poor and vulnerable persons, and younger and older people. The fieldwork is not as statistically robust as the SESA Team would like it to be, but this is largely because of the late start on the SESA work and eventually some impact came from the Covid-19 pandemic. However, a quite diverse range of quantitative and qualitative data relevant to the R-PP has been collected and is in the process of being analyzed. The following **Table 6.3** shows the extensive and inclusive nature of the SESA consultations that are planned to continue.

Table 6.3 below for details of the cross section of SESA consultations, including the different ethnic groups included and the numbers of women consulted to date.

The SESA Team would like to complete the fieldwork in the three provinces although for Nan it appears that the SESA Team has some quite good quantitative data that can be utilized which was not available for the other provinces. What is lacking is the qualitative data that would be generated via the focus group discussions but the SESA Team has been to Nan in the past and thinks if necessary they can provide some quality evidence from the field.

The CS6 Consultant Team was only able to make very limited progress on the safeguard Information system (SIS). This was because the team left the implementation of this task very late in their work program. The Team was apparently unaware that the SIS is a cross cutting system that requires considerable consultation and particularly with different ministries. As a consequence, and to date,

there has been no widespread training or discussion on safeguards other than what has been included in the SESA, which is still under development.

4.1.2 Progress with the Safeguard Information System (SIS)

There has been little demonstrable progress on the SIS, the concept had not been discussed, and consultations and stakeholder buy-in had not begun by the end of March 2020.

4.1.3 Stakeholder Engagement, Consultation and Disclosure of Information

REDD+ activities are based around the requirements of stakeholder engagement and consultation. A key issue is the support required to introduce this process to provinces to meet the FCPF requirements. Additional work is suggested from the Communication strategy CS5 outputs (see Table 3.1 and Table 3.2 above) and includes:

- Visibility of the R-PP has been progressively increasing over the past 2 years, but there remain gaps with some target groups particularly communities and vulnerable groups=.
- The project demonstrated responsiveness to ethnic groups concerns, and this resulted in improved communication and relationship with this key stakeholder.
- More disclosure of pertinent information is required.

Disclosure of information is uneven as is to be expected. But more stakeholders, especially local forest-dependent communities are somewhat more familiar with Thailand's REDD+ program than in the past. The problem is that the NRS is still early draft and needs to be further discussed with local communities and other important stakeholders, but this is in the pipeline and subject to the easing of Covid-19 pandemic restrictions and will be facilitated as soon as possible. The extant problem is that the Team hired to undertake the preparation of the NRS and the Project did not move as quickly as it should have in the early part of the consultancy considering the fact that it was mobilized in mid-July 2019. The GoT was expecting as per the contract signed based on the Terms of Reference that the Team would have had a draft ready at least by late September or early October 2019 to discuss with GoT and all stakeholders.

- Further, benefit sharing, grievance and accountability feedback is required.

The benefit sharing mechanism is still at a preliminary stage with more consultation required. Progress with the BSM would have been better had the CS6 Team hired to prepare the project documents, mobilized an expert with some knowledge of BSMs in Thailand. In the end, the CS6 Team mobilized a good local consultant respected by both the GoT, local communities, and civil society groups and the consultant was been working hard to prepare a draft BSM that will ensure stakeholder buy-in, but it is hard to escape that the consultant should have been mobilized by the CS6 Consultant much earlier, although this needs to also be seen in the context of an NRS that has been lacking until now.

4.1.4 Future Stakeholder Engagement

As already identified as an important issue by the DNP and as noted above there are a number of gaps in the consultations that are required for the implementation of the R-PP i.e. to fully meet the FCPF expectations (this includes more consultative work on the SESA, REDD+ Strategy, BSMs, FGRM and SIS). The SESA under the FCPF requires a consultative and participatory approach involving a wide range of stakeholders explicitly including vulnerable forest-dependent communities to ensure that negative impacts of the REDD+ Strategy activity are identified, managed and mitigated relative to WB safeguard policies. Consultation and participation are also required in the development of REDD+

and policies in accordance with the Cancun Agreement and the UNFCCC REDD+ text. Thailand's own policies, laws and regulations pertaining to Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA), all provide sufficient basis for the requirement.

A crucial part of the SESA work involves consultations related the development of the REDD+ Strategy with multiple stakeholders from communities to implementers and policy makers who might be involved in, or impacted by, REDD+ activities and programs. Consultations between the SESA teams and various stakeholders have already started and are taking place as an iterative process and a continuation of the process is expected this is outlined in detail below.

At the Amphurs and Tambons levels, the team will use focus group discussion techniques to consult local communities, especially focusing on ethnic groups, and their leaders at village level. An admitted drawback of the consultation processes in the communities is that some could not be held directly in local languages requiring a second translator; assisting visual media such as posters in local languages are becoming available.

The SESA team has already observed that the predominance of Thai language usage at village meetings sometimes meant that local ethnic women could not participate as fully as men during these discussions. Special attempts were and will always continue to be made to try to engage women in the discussions, and to elicit their views. The SESA team also already tried to ensure that the focus group discussions were held in informal settings such as someone's house, and with everyone sitting together as equals.²⁰

In conducting local level consultation, especially community consultations, at this stage in the REDD+ readiness process, the SESA team did not try to explain in detail about a REDD+ program to be implemented, as that would inevitably lead to heightened expectations of benefits from it.

The main point of consultations at this stage is gain greater understanding from the local people as to how they see their opportunities and constraints arising from forest and land resource access and use, including possible land use conflicts, and the security of their livelihoods at present. In this way, a picture of challenges and opportunity-costs of potential REDD+ activities in the localities will be formed. The SESA investigations provide inputs to show the variety in the needs of different population groups, including gender, ethnic, socio-economic, and geographical variations.

The SESA team has also had (and will continue) to have interactions with NGOs regionally and nationally established Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The consultations with CSOs were geared to gaining different views and perspectives on the situation of local communities and forest resources, and to learn of their previous experiences with consultations at village level.

The SESA team has already learned about some of the different types of research or action research that the university centers and NGOs have been conducting and discussions have been held with a number of NGOs including RECOFTC

Representatives of the Women's Union and Youth Groups etc. have also been included in discussions at the commune and district levels. Women feel more comfortable in an informal setting, but they may still be reluctant to speak up. The process involved in developing the consultations was as follows (and this will be continued):

Spatial analysis to determine areas and ethnic groups most vulnerable to REDD+ interventions

- Determine type and location of ethnic minority groups within the priority provinces.

²⁰ Meetings are otherwise held at venues such as village meeting halls where they take on much higher levels of formality; this is more likely to result in village leaders and external officials dominating proceedings. Ideally, the informal meetings should always separate women and men, as women tend to discuss more openly in the absence of men, especially male leaders.

- Overlay forestry areas on ethnic distribution and assess vulnerability to REDD+ interventions based on factors such as proximity to forest, forest type e.g. Protected Area (PAs), poverty and altitude/remoteness.
- Identify hotspots in areas with high potential for conflict such as PA's or production forests.
- Clarify and confirm analytical criteria and approach with key experts, and local NGOs.

Selection of representative communities

- Rank ethnic groups in the areas in terms of poverty, vulnerability and exposure to REDD+ impacts.
- Development of a sampling approach (in consultation with local and key experts on poverty and knowledge of the ethnic groups) to select a representative cross-section of different groups. Given the large number of different ethnic groups it will not realistically be possible to consult with all groups in all locations.
- Aim to carry out field consultations in around 6-12 communities in different parts of the agro-ecological zone (i.e. and infilling of gaps left in the consultations undertaken to date this could involve the conduct more consultations with more vulnerable categories e.g. 2-3 consultations each for northern and south groups). However, selection will also have to take into account different types of forest and different activities.
- Field consultation is supposed to happen at provincial, district and village levels. Therefore for each province identify a priority district, within the district identify 1-2 representative villages within the district (with representative ethnic groups). Provincial, district and village level consultation will involve 1-2 day meetings/workshops with key stakeholders.

Village level minority consultations

- It is proposed that scenarios are developed utilizing existing provincial and local level forest protection and development plans for consulting on likely REDD+ activities on the ground (e.g. PA boundaries, expansion, afforestation/reforestation of degraded protection forest, strengthened protection and enforcement, stabilization of agricultural lands and grazing areas, certification in production forest areas etc.). Consultation therefore takes place on realistic potential REDD+ relevant actions and community reactions and responses provide a proxy for assessing likely environmental and (especially) social impacts of REDD+ policies and measures. It also represents an opportunity for local forest-dependent communities to provide feedback. It could be framed as a policy impact review exercise with government partners at local levels (which already happens from time to time) to facilitate comprehension.
- Develop/prepare simple materials for consultation e.g. brochures, land use maps (in ethnic languages as required – as per the output recommendations from the CS5 package);
- Taking the most local level forest maps and plans, assess potential impacts of REDD+ interventions for these groups using PRA approaches such as:
 - Seasonal calendars;
 - Transect walks;
 - Participatory sketch mapping;
 - Key informant interviews (village heads, other influential villagers);

- Focus group discussions with men/women and different forest resource user groups (farmers, foresters, NTFP harvesters etc.);
- Community meeting;
- At the village level allow 3 days/village: 0.5 day travel to-from district centre; 1 day village timeline, seasonal calendars, sketch map and transect; 0.5 day key informant interviews; 0.5 day community meeting (introduce local level forest management plan and relevant activities – receive comments/feedback on local concerns); and
- Assess forest uses and socio-economics of vulnerable groups/ areas (using secondary data and primary qualitative data from the field);
- Attempt to understand any customary land/forest tenure and use situations including swidden-fallow cycles and historical/current conflicts between customary and statutory systems;
- Interpret and assess provincial cover and type of forest tenure in terms of potential impact at the local/ village level on a particular group; and
- Consult with relevant NGOs on results.

Consultation Issues

- Ensure broad stakeholder participation in all REDD+ processes, including the refinement of the REDD+ Strategy policies, SESA, and ESMF procedures and guidelines;
- Ensure consultation and participation events help the vulnerable groups and forest-dependent communities (especially ethnic groups) receive culturally appropriate communication and capacity building advice to help in decision making on participation in future REDD+ activities;
- Ensure the participation of community stakeholders capacity building, including civil society organizations representing or supporting ethnic groups and other forest dependent communities;
- Help provide support on the explanation on the establishment of a national feedback and grievance redress mechanism for the REDD+ implementation;
- Continue with the development of guidelines and materials on stakeholder engagement consultation processes that follow the FCPF requirements and expectations;
- Conduct participatory consultations on REDD+ with relevant stakeholders at central level;
- Conduct participatory consultations on REDD+ with relevant stakeholders at district, community levels;
- Support the further development of Communication Strategy by following the proposed work plans and preparing in a timely manner materials appropriate for the Communications Strategy from CS5 outputs;
- Develop the TOR for Training of Trainers (TOT) for central project and provincial staff to undertake consultations;
- Organise the training on Stakeholder consultation on operational methods and procedures, draw up guidelines for implementing consultations for use by project staff; and

Assist in the implementation of trainings on REDD+ carried out at all levels to ensure stakeholders' capacity before consultation process.

4.1.5 *Grievance and accountability*

Thailand does have a national framework for grievance redress that is available to all citizens and is open to grievances related to land and forests. Under this framework, citizens can lodge grievances at different levels of local administration – villages (*muban*), sub-districts (*tambon*), districts (*amphoe*), and provinces (*changwat*) – and with all sectors. Grievance redress processes are largely absent from the forest laws, the exception of the Community Forest Act B.E. 2562 (2019). Under this Act, any local community residing in a district with forest outside conserved forest (i.e. protected areas) can submit a request to the province for that forest to be formally declared a community forest. As part of its request, the community must provide a list of people whom it elected to comprise its “community forest management committee.” One of the duties of the community forest management committee is to conduct mediation or otherwise to agree a compromise if conflict takes place over community forest management.

Progress with grievance and accountability

As with the BSM, there has been some progress with the FGRM and at least consultations have been undertaken among a range of village communities. Whether the conclusions to date including strengthening and expanding existing grievance redress mechanisms are efficacious will depend on a deeper analysis of the actual mechanisms.

5 Updated Financing Plan for the Overall Readiness Preparation

The following table provides a summary of the FCPF, funding, commitments and disbursed funds. In addition funds from the government supporting REDD+ are included.

Table 5.1 MTR Summary finances and sources of funds

Uses of Funds (in US\$ thousands)	Total needed (A)[1]	Funds pledged (B) [2]	Funds used [3]		Funds available (= B – C)[4]	Financing gap (= A – B)[5]	Request to FCPF[6]
R-PP Component			Funds Commit- ted (C)	Funds Disbursed (as of June 2020)			(if any)
Component 1	1,387	1,383	830	725	553	4	
Component 2	1,600	1,517	1,517	409	0	83	
Component 3	845	845	845	763	0	0	
Component 4	238	325	203	101	122	-87	
TOTAL Uses of Funds	4,070	4,070	3,395	1,998	675	0	0
Sources of Funds (in US\$ thousands)							
FCPF (Support to implement activities under 4 components)		3,600	2,925	1,559	675		
Government : DNP Support to the Office of Forest and Climate Change from Year 2015 - 2019 (In-kind)		380	380	380	0		
Government : Thailand Greenhouse Gas Organisation (TGO) of the Government (In-kind)		90	90	59	0		
TOTAL		4,070	3,395	1,998	675		

6 Annex

6.1 *Trainings*

A training program, on the principles and concepts of the REDD+ framework and climate change in the forestry sector (for the public sector, civil society and private sector) was held between March and July 2019

Table 6.1 Details of Trainings on the Program, Principles and Concepts of the REDD+ Framework and Climate Change

Gender	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
Male	31	39	21	21	112
Female	19	11	29	28	87
Total	50	50	50	50	200

Age	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
<20	4	1	0	0	5
21-40	13	9	14	12	48
41-60	28	31	32	34	125
>60	5	9	4	4	22
Total	50	50	50	50	200

Age	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
<20	4	1	0	0	5
21-40	13	9	14	12	48
41-60	28	31	32	34	125
>60	5	9	4	4	22
Total	50	50	50	50	200

Occupation	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
Government officials	4	11	0	2	17
Farmer/Agriculture	33	26	24	34	117
NGO/CSO	2	8	1	0	11
Employee/Private/Other	11	5	25	14	55
Total	50	50	50	50	200

Workshop on strengthening knowledge, understanding, lesson summaries and formulation of response plans for the REDD+ mechanism and forestry climate change during 12 – 28 February 2020

Table 6.2 Strengthening knowledge, understanding, lesson summaries and formulation of response plans for the REDD+ mechanism

Gender	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
Male	34	45	21	15	115
Female	24	16	31	30	101
Total	58	61	52	45	216

Age	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
<20	3	0	0	0	3
21-40	36	32	22	16	106
41-60	18	27	25	29	99
>60	1	2	5	0	8
Total	58	61	52	45	216

Education	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
> Bachelor degree	33	31	28	20	112
Bachelor degree	24	26	21	17	88
>Bachelor degree	1	4	3	8	16
Total	58	61	52	45	216

Occupation	Number (person)				Total
	Training 1	Training 2	Training 3	Training 4	
Government officials	20	35	22	22	99
Farmer/Agriculture	18	12	19	10	59
NGO/CSO	2	2	0	0	4
Employee/Private/Other	18	12	11	13	54
Total	58	61	52	45	216

6.1.1 *SESA Consultations*

The following **Table 6.3** shows the extensive and inclusive nature of the SESA consultations that are planned to continue.

Table 6.3 On going SESA consultations, number of Amphurs and Tambons Surveyed in the six provinces to date

CHIANG MAI PROVINCE						
Amphur	Tambon	Muban	Ethnic Group	Forest Dependency	Incidence of Poverty	Per Cent of Women
Mae Ai	Thathon	Huay Nam Yen	Lahu	35	15.50	42
		Ram Thai	Thai Yai	20	12.15	46
		Cam	Yao	30	18.20	50
		Kong KarnYamun	Karen	35	15.25	50
		Muang Ngarn	Karen	25	12.85	50
		Huay Sala	Akha	30	22.15	45
		Mi Nong Jarn	Thai Yai	20	20.10	50

		Ta Ma Kang	Thai Yai	20	21.45	50
	Na Wang	Ma Muang Noi	Karen	30	18.25	50
		Wang Pa	Dara-ang (Paluang)	45	32.50	65
		Masay Nah Lao	Dara-ang (Paluang)	30	29.15	52
	Malee Ka	Pang Tan Chong	Thai	15	06.25	50
	Mah Sao	Pang Say	Lahu	35	22.45	45
Wiang Heng	Moeng Hang	Pang Kaew	Thai	15	05.25	50
		Wiang Heng	Thai	10	04.20	50
		HuaiHed	Lisu	30	21.25	46
		Mae Pan	Karen	25	18.45	52
		Huai Ki Mai	Lahu	30	22.25	45
		SarnNem	Lahu	35	28.75	50
		Pyeng Lang	Lisu	30	27.55	48
		Na Bo Yai	Lisu	30	26.55	52
Mae Wang	Ne Win	HuaiOnkang	Karen	25	20.25	50
		HuaiKeng	Karen	35	22.15	46
		Pak Loy	Karen	20	18.45	52
		Pong Lamrong	Karen	20	17.00	50
		Kum Wang	Hmong	10	08.25	42
		Nong Tao	Karen	25	19.50	50
	Don Pah	HuaiNeyim	Hmong	20	16.25	48
		Don Pah	Thai	15	09.25	50
	Tung	Pan Tan	Thai	10	07.75	50
Mae On	Mae Tha	Tha Mon	Thai	05	02.00	52
		Pa Not	Thai	15	04.45	50
		Mai Don Chai	Thai	12	05.15	52
Mae Rim	Pong Yang	Mae Sar Mai	Hmong	15	12.85	48
	Rim Nuea	Huai Pay	Karen	20	18.25	50
	Mae Rim	Pang Si-Mae Ke	Karen	25	19.75	52
Chiang Dao	Meuang Na	Nong Keang	Lahu	20	20.25	55
		Rim Luang	Lisu	35	35.45	47
		Ka Nouy	Lahu	35	30.25	50
		Kra Jen	Lahu	35	28.25	47
		Ah Kah	Akha	25	19.75	50
		Nong KaewLaa	Akha	30	25.75	48
	Chiang Dao	Huai Hen Ja	Thai Yai	30	21.25	50
		Mae Jon	Dara-ang (Paluang)	55	60.25	55
		Noo Mai	Lisu	35	32.45	48
	Meuang Kong	SampahTeuan g	Lisu	30	28.25	50
		Bok Tueang	Lisu	20	22.25	46
Phrao	Long Kod	Mae Nom	Yao	25	21.50	48
		Wang Pa	Yao	30	23.25	52
		Mae Sae Yan Lao	Karen	30	22.75	50
NAN PROVINCE						
Bo Kleua	Bo KhluaNuea	Sa La	Lua	20	25.25	47
		HuaiKhab	Thai	15	08.45	56
	Phu Fa	Hang Thang Luang	Lua	25	27.50	51

		Na Kok	Lua	30	29.25	45
	Dong Phaya	Num Kae	Lua	25	28.25	50
		Sa Wa	Thai	10	05.25	52
	Bo Kluea Tai	Ko Kuang	Thai	10	05.75	51
		Na Bong	Lua/Hmong	25	22.45	42
Mueang	Bo	Nam Ngan	Hmong	12	15.25	42
		PhuWiang	Hmong	35	32.05	47
	Sanian	Huai Le	Khmu	25	26.65	52
		La Bao Ya	Hmong	15	18.45	46
		Samuan Mai	Hmong	15	15.00	50
Pua	Phu Kha	Toei Kiw Hen	Lua	20	23.25	50
	Sakat	Sa KadNeua	Hmong	15	10.50	47
	Pa Klang	Huai Sa Nao	Hmong	25	15.45	42
LOEI PROVINCE						
Dan Sai	Dan Sai	Kang Plaa	Hmong	30	28.25	46
		Sala Noi	Thai	10	09.25	50
	Pak Man	Na Thong	Thai	05	04.00	52
		Huay Nam Moi	Thai	10	06.25	49
	Wang Yao	Wang Yao	Thai	05	03.45	51
		Pak Daeng	Thai	10	05.25	54
Ta Li	Ah Hi	Nam Pan	Thai	05	02.25	48
		Nah Kracheang	Thai	10	04.15	50
Chiang Khan	Chiang Khan	Chiang Khan	Thai	05	00.00	50
		Thana Jontri	Thai	05	00.00	34
PhuKradeung	Seri Than	Wang Yang	Thai	15	07.25	57
		Nam Pong	Thai	20	08.55	49
PhuReua	Tah Sala	Nah Noi	Thai	05	00.00	50
		Ton	Thai	-	00.00	47
	Lard Khang	Huay Pak Nam	Thai	20	10.25	50
		Kong Kaleang	Thai	15	09.25	52
PhuLuang	Nong Khan	Nong Heang	Thai	15	10.15	50
		Huay Na	Thai	10	07.45	51
Na Haeo	Na Song	Nah Ton	Thai	15	09.25	50
		Lard	Thai	10	07.75	50
CHANTHABURI PROVINCE						
Khao Khitchakut	Khlong Phlu	Khlong Phlu	Thai/Chong	20	12.25	52
		Lung Noen	Thai	10	02.75	52
		Nam Chum	Thai/Chong	15	09.30	50
Makham	Chaman	Phaya Man	Thai	25	17.25	50
		Khlong Preo	Thai/Chong	10	06.50	47
		Krating	Thai	10	04.25	51
Khlang	Khlang	Wang Supparot	Thai	10	05.25	50
		Wan Yao	Thai	15	07.50	53
	Khlong Khut	Chao Lao	Thai	15	06.25	50
		Kung Kanan	Thai/Chong	20	03.25	50
KANACHABURI PROVINCE						
Si Sawat	Mae Krabong	Play Dinsor	Karen	25	17.50	50
		Had Daeng	Thai/Karen	30	21.25	52
		Nam Muad	Thai/Karen	25	18.25	50
Sangkha Buri	Lai Vau	Lai Vau	Karen	30	27.25	50
		Khlong Nongtaa	Thai/Karen	25	22.50	47
		Te Li Pah	Mon	40	38.25	50
Tha Muang	Khao Noi	Khao Noi	Thai	15	10.25	52

		Don Kham	Karen/Thai	20	15.50	48
		Utapao	Thai	10	08.35	50
Nong Prue	Somdet Charoen	Nong PhakWaen	Thai	10	09.00	52
		Mae MaeTha	Karen/Thai	15	11.50	48
		Huai Ong Kot	Thai	10	07.55	50
Thong PhraPhum	HuaiKhayen g	Ta Madeau	Thai	05	02.25	52
		Raipa	Karen	25	18.65	48
		Rai	Mon	30	25.65	52
NAKHON SI THAMMARAT PROVINCE						
Tha Sala	Tha Sala	Sakeo	Thai	10	08.25	50
		Lak Lay	Thai	10	06.50	52
		Lad Anthako	Thai	10	01.20	50
Sichon	ThepRaht	Tor Ruea	Thai/Malay	15	12.50	50
		Kong Piya	Thai	10	04.25	52
		Sam Thap	Thai	10	03.00	50
Sao Phao	Sao Phao	Sao Phao	Thai	05	02.00	50
		Bang Dee	Thai	05	01.50	50
		Sara Khud	Thai	05	01.00	50
Cha-uat	Kreng	Thung Korn	Thai	10	07.50	50
		Yarn Daeng	Thai	10	09.25	50
		Sai Chuman	Thai	10	10.50	50
Phi Phun	Phi Phun	Mai	Thai	15	12.25	48
		Naew Khlong	Thai	15	10.50	50
		Nai Rai	Thai	15	10.25	50
ThungYai	Thung Sang	Kuan Yung	Thai	10	07.25	55
		Thung Node	Thai	10	07.50	50
		Nong Kao Wa	Thai	10	08.25	50
ChaloemPhrakia t	Chian Khao	Chian Khao	Thai	05	02.25	52
		Khlong Reua	Thai/Malay	12	10.50	58
		Don Lan	Thai	10	08.55	60
Khanom	Khuan Thong	Nam Chau	Thai	05	03.50	50
		Khao Wang Thong	Thai	10	07.25	50
		Kirirat	Thai	10	07.00	50
TOTAL						
Number Of Amphurs	Number Of Tambons	Number Of Villages	Number of Different Ethnic Groups	Average Percentage of Forest Dependency	Households Below US\$5.50 per capita/day	Percentage Of Women Interviewed
34	53	137	17	19.4	14.40	50.2

6.2 *Monitoring of the R-PP*

The following monitoring **Error! Not a valid bookmark self-reference.** relates to the proposed activities in the R-PP and the World Bank Readiness Preparation Assessment Note.

Table 6.4 Updated monitoring table based on the R-PP project document

Component	Sub component	Outcome	Output	Major Activities	Progress indicator	Progress report note	
Component 1 Readiness Organisation and Consultation							
	1a. National Readiness Management Arrangements	Efficient, effective and transparent implementation of REDD+ Readiness programme	1. Fully staffed and functioning REDD+ Office and REDD+ Information Center at national level and Regional REDD+ Offices established 2. Guideline for readiness preparation and potential development of relevant persons	National and Regional REDD+ Offices and Information Center established, staffed, equipped and funding secured	National REDD+ Office and Regional REDD+ Offices	Workshops held in provinces	
				TWG appointment		TWG appointed	
				Develop and exchange of REDD+ Knowledge	REDD+ Information Center Workshops, information meetings, Meetings, workshops, dissemination of reports	Information centre operational, will benefit from findings of the CS 5 consultancy	
	1b. Information Sharing and Early Dialogue with Key Stakeholder Groups	All national and regional sectors receive information and increase capacity for REDD+ implementation			Prepare plans for information dissemination and potential enhancement of all sectors Meeting of Technical Working Groups	Minutes of Annual Meetings presented to REDD+ Task Force	Stakeholder workshops, provincial and district stakeholder workshops held
					Workshops	BTO reports	Workshops held
					Information sharing and public relations	Number/ types of public relations media	Workshops held
					Capacity building	Number/ percentage of participants in capacity building	Workshops held
				Attend international conferences	BTO Reports	Conferences and lessons learned visits attended in India, Indonesia and Vietnam	

Component	Sub component	Outcome	Output	Major Activities	Progress indicator	Progress report note
	1c Consultation and Participation Process	All sectors know about and understand REDD+ activities implementation	1.Representatives of all sectors have participated in consultations and process for preparation of guidelines and measures for REDD+ implementation	There are consultations and/or fora for civil society stakeholders concerning REDD+ activities.	Report on consultations	Several studies already available, main issue is collection of up to date information from provinces which remains an issue
			2. Guidelines for grievance framework developed	Discuss guidelines for grievance framework development for all levels		Draft FGRM available but limited stakeholder engagement and consultation
Component 2: Policies review, studies and development of user-friendly guidance materials on (REDD+ Strategy Options)						
	2b		National REDD+ Strategy through consultation process	Develop and publish national REDD+ strategy through consultation process	National REDD+ strategy Publication	Draft available but limited stakeholder ownership and buy-in by the government, little contact with important private sector.
	2c		Financial and benefit sharing arrangement guideline prepared	REDD+ financial mechanism and benefit sharing arrangement designed and developed through research analysis and consultation	Published Financial and benefit sharing mechanism	Draft available but limited stakeholder engagement and consultation
			Standards and/or measures for REDD+ activities developed	Determine standards for implementation of REDD+ activities	Published Standards for REDD+ activities implementation	Not yet
	2d		There are guidelines/ measures for safeguards for social and environmental impacts	-Study and assessment of social and environmental strategies -Design safeguard information system	-Report on social and environmental impacts assessment -There is safeguard information system operational	Work on the SIS has not made much progress, little stakeholder engagement and consultation

Component	Sub component	Outcome	Output	Major Activities	Progress indicator	Progress report note
Component 3: Develop a National Forest Reference Emission Level and/or Forest Reference Level						
			Reference Emission Levels established	-National and provincial REL development -Harmonizing forest area data	Published national and provincial RELs	Final report under preparation
Component 4 Design Systems for National Forest Monitoring and Information on Safeguards						
	4a		System for MRV of emission reductions in place	Revise national land use change	-National report on national forestry greenhouse gas emissions	Not yet, final report under preparation
				Revise forest cover base map	Published forest cover maps with existing data	Final report under preparation
				Assess national forest carbon stock	Report on national carbon stocks	Final report under preparation
				Develop national fire monitoring system	Reports on forest fire monitoring system	Final report under preparation
				Community capacity building on carbon stock monitoring	Community reports on changes in forest carbon stocks	Not yet
				Community participation in carbon stock monitoring	Community reports	Not yet
				NFIS	Guideline for NFIS	Final report under preparation
	4b		System for monitoring co-benefits	-Consultation with agencies currently collecting relevant data and identification of gaps	Report of inter-agency workshop	Not yet, draft policy report available but limited stakeholder engagement and consultation
			Consultations on sharing data on co-benefits between agencies and collection of necessary additional	Report on workshop of data collection and sharing	Not yet, draft policy report available but limited stakeholder engagement and consultation	

Component	Sub component	Outcome	Output	Major Activities	Progress indicator	Progress report note
				data		
				Establishment of system for collating data on co-benefits and integrating with MFMS	National reports on REDD+ co-benefits	Not yet, draft policy report available but limited stakeholder engagement and consultation
	4c		Reference level activities	Data review and quality assessment	Data collection and capacity defined	Not yet
					Gaps in data and capacity defined	Final report under preparation
				Assessment of RELs methodology	Reports and recommendations	Final report under preparation
				REL and RL sub national levels	Reports and stakeholder workshops	Final report under preparation
Schedule and Budget						

6.2.1 *The make up of the NEC and TWG*

National Expert Consultation (NEC) meetings

The Objective of the NEC includes the following:

1. Introduce the CS-6 project on National REDD+ Strategy and Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment for the REDD+ Mechanism in Thailand to national experts
2. Present the findings of the report on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, draft national REDD+ strategy and gain feed-back and recommendations from the expert panel
3. Discuss outline and preliminary findings of the strategic environmental and social assessment (SESA) and gain comments and recommendations from experts
4. Consult with experts on the design for a safeguard information system (SIS), the design for a Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM), and Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM)

Government members

Conservation Office DNP

Watershed Office DNP

Research Office DNP

National Park Office DNP

Forest Fire Control Office DNP

Forest Research and Development Office, RFD

Office of Director General RFD

Forest Fire Control office RFD

Forest Plantation Office RFD

Community Forest Bureau RFD

DMCR rep in REDD+ also a member of the TWG

DMCR

Land Development Department also a member of the TWG

Dept. of Local Administration also a member of the TWG

Office of Natural Resources and Environmental Policy and Planning – Dir. of Climate Change also a member of the TWG

Office of Agriculture Economics also a member of the also a member of the TWG

Thailand Greenhouse Gas Management Organization also a member of the TWG

State Company

Forest Industry Organization also a member of the TWG

NGOs and CSOs

RECOFTC also a member of the TWG

IUCN

Tree Bank

Research and Academics

Thai Environmental Institute

Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University

6.3 *Thailand Forest Certification System*

The Thailand Forest Certification System (TFCS) is based on the following principles

- Earth Summit 1992;
- REDD 2005;
- Paris Agreement 2020;
- The 12th National Economic and Social Development Plan A.D. 2017-2021 (B.E. 2560–2564):
 - 3rd strategy: Strengthening of economic base and marketable access;
 - 4th strategy: Enhancement of the environmental – friendly growth and sustainable development with the key purposes for:

To conserve and rehabilitate natural resources and sustainable exploitation and equality;

To baseline the national water resources stability and overall efficiency management of water resources;

To enhance environmental management and pollution reduction for better environmental quality;

To empower the capacity building of GHG adaptation and mitigation for reducing impacts from climate change and natural disaster;

AND

e) National and international legislation and compliance relevant to forest and environmental management, occupational health and safety, labour rights and the requirements for sustainable forest management;

f) Requirements for sustainable forest plantation management are defined with standard – setting and stakeholder participation processes;

g) The competence of the certification bodies are assessed by the accreditation body;

h) The competence of accreditation body is confirmed through the accreditation body membership in the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its multi-lateral agreements;

i) The conformity assessment, including its certification and accreditation functions, are following to the internationally recognised requirements for the conformity assessment; and

j) All organisations and their respective functions within TFCS shall be supported by efficient dispute settlement procedures.

6.3.1 *Certification*

Forest plantation management certification.

- TFCS applies to only forest plantation management on Thailand territory.
- Forest certification is an assessment of conformity for the forest plantation management on defined forest area with the applicable requirements of TFCS.
- The certification is carried out by an accredited certification body which is notified by TFCC, following the requirements in TFCC PD 004, Requirements for Certification Bodies operating Certification against TFCC Forest Management Standard (TIS 14061).

6.3.2 *Chain of custody certification*

- Chain of custody certification applies to organizations that are making the claims on the origin of raw material in certified forests and delivers to their customers that those claims are truthful and correctable.

6.3.3 *Accreditation of certification bodies*

Accreditation of certification bodies operating forest plantation management certification provides impartiality and competence of the certification bodies. The accreditation body provides initial assessment and surveillance process of the certification bodies. The accreditation body activities are governed by ISO 17011 and relevant documents of International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

Accreditation of certification bodies operating chain of custody certification provides impartiality and competence of the certification bodies. The accreditation body provides initial assessment and surveillance process of the certification bodies. The accreditation body activities are governed by ISO 17011 and relevant documents of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

6.3.4 *Investigation and resolution of public complaints and appeals*

All processes and implementations covered by TFCC are public and transparent to the investigation and resolution of public complaints process by TFCC public complaint committee as defined in TFCC PD 007.

6.3.5 *Forest Industry Organisation FSC Audit*

FIO consists of 245 forest plantations covering 185,280 ha distributes all over Thailand. Most of the plantations in the north are Teak, but there is also Scots pine. The plantations in the northeast are primarily Eucalyptus, while those in the south are Rubber wood trees for para wood. Approximately 50% of the plantations are teak, 20% eucalyptus, 9% rubber wood and 21% various mixed species.

Logging concessions (in terrestrial forest) were terminated by directive of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative No. 32/2532 on 17th January 2532 (1989). Since 1989 logging concessions in state owned forested land are no longer considered legal.

One exception relates to the Forest Industries Organization (FIO) a State Owned Enterprise (SOE). Even though FIO is an SOE it is considered as a national concession owner, and consequently bound to adhere to the requirements of the three main Acts (National Reserved Forest act, Plantation Act, Forest Act) and their conditions relating to use and occupation of the land; environmental and social obligations and conditions; harvesting and transport of timber, and all documentary requirements that relate to these activities. FIO is also a timber processor.

FIO has managed economic plantations and followed sustainable plantation management as FIO standards and international standard (FSC). Due to the participation of local communities, economic plantation management is sustainable in terms of economics, society and environment. The plantations are divided into the following six groups by a cost and objectives of area delivering from government:

Plantation Project 1: Plantation planted by FIO cost
Plantation Project 2: Plantation planted for compensation as FIO conditions of concession
Plantation Project 3: Plantation planted for compensation as provincial logging company conditions of concession
Plantation Project 4: Plantation that FIO received from RFD planted by provincial logging company
Plantation Project 5:

Plantation planted RFD and deliver to FIO with the government budget Plantation Project 6: Plantation planted with Thai plywood company budget (Thai Plywood Company was held 100% of shares by FIO).

Certification: August 2016

Certification expires: July 2021

6.4 *Management and Harvesting Overview of Legal Requirements*

The rules related to the management and harvesting planning is determined largely by the ownership of the land on which they are grown (principally state land or private).

Legal requirements for management planning only apply to plantations in National Forest Reserves. All other forest types and ownership does not require management or harvesting planning. Such is Organized in the National Forest Reserves Act and various amendments. In this Act, article 20, establishment of forest plantations in forest reserves are allowed with RFD permission. Article 16 of the same Act explains that it does not require management and harvesting planning, but only an annual operating plan (see below).

In National Forest Reserves, before a licence for a new plantation is approved, the authority will conduct a forest inspection to assess the type of forest, the conditions (which must fit the description of a degraded forest) and will conduct a species count/type in a sample plot of no less than 5% of the plantation total size. The field inspection officer will conduct a forest inventory for trees that are 50 cm in diameter or greater (measured at 1.5 meters above the ground). Following this, the officer will verify whether the location is in an area designated as “declared” under the logging ban (1989) or in a protected area.

Approved annual operating plan: as a condition of the licence to operate a plantation in National Forest Reserves, item 11 of the condition and terms of the Royal Forest Department Regulation (Regulatory Authority) on the Permission to Establish forest Plantation or Tree Plantation in National Forest Reserves B.E.2548 (2015), requires the licence holder to submit an annual operating plan to a competent authority for approval at least 6 months before the operation commences.

The *Handbook of operation on the granting of timber and forests to FIO* contains the RFD regulations on the granting of the FIO to maintain and use the forest plantations that are grown using the RFD budget. The document contains various articles that FIO should follow. Forest concessions (and the management by concession) are no longer permitted by the directive of Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperative No.32/2532 1989 and so large-scale management and harvesting driven by the management plans of commercial concession holders no longer exists.

Restricted species

Restricted species comprise the majority of Thailand native tree species (158 listed) - with a few exceptions. Since 2017 the list of restricted species has been extended - through an amendment to the Forest Act and Plantations Act to include an additional 17 species and this now leaves very few native species as unrestricted. Importantly, “unrestricted species” includes a number of exotic species which have been widely planted by private owners and state institutions, as commercial tree crops: these may be grown for timber, for fruit or for products such as gums, latex or essential oils. The most important of these are rubber wood (*Hevea brasiliense*); various species of eucalyptus; and acacia, together with some tree species with multiple purposes such as *Leuceanaspp* (fuel wood and fodder and shade trees). These species are not regulated in the same way as restricted species or even by the same Regulatory Agency. Rubber wood was regulated and actively supported by the government but through the Ministry of Agriculture as it was considered an agricultural crop: rubber wood was considered an agricultural by-product and is, therefore, not subject to forest regulations overseen by the RFD even though it has now become a key element of

Thailand domestic timber market. Thus in principal legal requirements under CNRA category 1 are not applicable for rubber wood.

Non-restricted species

The three most important examples of non-restricted species are rubber wood; eucalyptus and acacias which form the bulk of the pulp, paper and particleboard industries. As the name implies these species are not regulated in the forestry sense as they were considered more as an agricultural crop.

Rubber wood was regulated and actively supported by the government but through the Ministry of Agriculture and not forestry. Rubber wood was considered a by-product and not subject to forest regulations overseen by the RFD. To summarize, restricted species are covered by the full weight of the legal requirements and must have a range of permissions from competent officers together with supporting documentation which is verified and checked throughout the delivery process.

6.5 *World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report
(Reporting Period: 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019)*

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

		Report to Donor	
Ref:	TF0A0984	Reporting Period:	07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019
Printed On:	06/08/2020	Report Type:	Progress Report
		Report Status:	Approved

Assignment: TF0A0984

Thailand - FCPF Readiness Preparation Proposal

FCPFR - Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Task Team Leader: 00000186457 - Lan Thi Thu Nguyen
 Approving Manager: 00000175113 - Christophe Crepin

Summary Information	
TF Status	ACTV
Recipient Country	Thailand
Executed By	Recipient
Managing Unit	9532 - SEAE2
Grant Start Date / End Date	06/17/2016 to 12/31/2020
Original Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Grant Amount	3,600,000.00
Outstanding Commitments	0.00
Cumulative Disbursements	1,065,235.50 as of 06/30/2019
Disbursed 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019	733,526.10
Donor	TF602001 - MULTIPLE DONORS

This GRM report includes the following sections: Overview, Components, Outcome, Execution, Program(FCPFR), Disbursements.

World Bank - Grant Reporting and Monitoring (GRM) Report

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OVERVIEW

Overall Assessments

Grant Objectives:

The Project Development Objective is to support the development of the Readiness Preparation Activities. This will be achieved by supporting the preparation of its REDD+ strategy, the design of a national MRV system, and by producing technical work and policy advice.

Overall progress from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019 with regard to Achieving Grant Objectives:

Comment:

The objective of the Grant is to support the development of the Readiness Preparation Activities. This will be achieved by supporting the preparation of the Recipient's REDD+ strategy, the design of a national MRV system, and by producing technical work and policy advice. The Government has maintained strong commitment to REDD+ as demonstrated by active participation in international processes around REDD+ within the global FCPF partnership and beyond. Over the past year, substantial progress has been made to all of the grant activities, including signing contracts for all of the large consultancy packages and quality initial results of these packages. However, staff shortages in the REDD+ Office will pose significant bottlenecks, especially in performing technical review when the large package deliverables are due such as REDD strategy, SESA, MRV and REL work. It was discussed and agreed with DNP that additional support is needed including mobilization of technical expertise from the Steering Committee and technical review consultant.

More broadly, the Government remains committed to advancing with REDD+ readiness preparation with the longer-term objective to become ready to participate in and benefit from emerging performance-based payment systems from REDD+ within the context of the UNFCCC. The grant activities aim to develop or enhance socially and environmentally sound policies and interventions to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, establish internationally recognized reference emission level, design technically robust systems for forest monitoring and reporting. This REDD+ readiness preparation grant assists the Government of Thailand in preparing a comprehensive national REDD+ strategy and aims to coordinate forest-friendly land use planning across the landscape.

Overall progress from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019 with regard to Implementation of Grant Financed Activities:

Comment:

While implementation has been slower than anticipated due to a long-time shortage of staffing for project implementation in DNP, progress has been made following the change in leadership of the Office of Forests and Climate Change and the broader reorganization with DNP. Changes in the coordinator responsible for grant implementation as well as changes in the procurement authorization have led to progress with the signing of contracts for all key consultant packages (including National REDD+ Strategy/SESA, Communications, and FREL/MRV) and procurement of essential equipment for necessary for the function of day-to-day operations of the Office of Forests and Climate Change (REDD+ Office). As a result disbursement has increased significantly including initial payments upon effectiveness of major consultant firm contracts for which contracts were signed and results are delivered. Disbursement to date reaches 38% of the total grant amount.

During the last mission, the task team was informed that the DDG DNP would welcome support to the development of sector policy and better reflection of REDD+ opportunities as part of the strategy. As a first step a study tour for a high-level delegation to visit Vietnam was agreed to foster knowledge and learning on REDD+. This study tour would be timely to ensure that policy considerations related to REDD+ would inform the new Forest Sector Master Plan that is currently under development for Thailand and expected to be completed in the next few months. The mission was further informed that there was specific interest from DNP to learn from other countries' experiences with Payments for Environmental Services (PES) schemes, which could offer incentives for reforestation and rehabilitation in Thailand. Additional technical level study tours and south-south-knowledge exchanges were identified to support this interest.

Grant follow-up and structure

Description and context of Grant:

N/A

Expected follow up (if any): Follow up Bank project/loan/credit/grant

Report to Donor

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Comment on follow up:

- Implementation of main consultant contracts to support key components to start in earnest within the first few months of the next reporting period.
- Preparation of a Mid Term Progress Report for submission during the next PC meeting in the Spring.
- Additional technical review expertise to be mobilized or contracted to perform the review of large package deliverables.

End Date of Last Site Visit:

Restructuring of Grant:

The Grant closing date was extended by 6 months to allow the delivery of the grant results. The new closing date is June 30, 2020.

OUTCOME

Comments on outcome achieved from 07/01/2018 to 06/30/2019

- Capacity on REDD+ readiness is continuously enhanced with the establishment of regional REDD offices
- REDD+ readiness preparation in terms of capacity building, communication, MRV, safeguards, and legal frameworks was improved

Grant Outcome Indicators

No Outcome indicators are defined or used for this grant.

COMPONENTS

Output and Implementation by Component

Support readiness organization and consultation

Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	National REDD+ readiness institutional arrangements, REDD+ Regional Offices established, Outreach program, capacity building and info dissemination
Actual Output:	National REDD+ readiness institutional arrangements, REDD+ Regional Offices established, Outreach program, capacity building and info dissemination

REDD+ Strategy Preparation

Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	REDD+ strategy incl. identification of drivers and causes of D&D and respective REDD options, SESA , ESMF; Feedback and GRM
Actual Output:	REDD+ strategy incl. identification of drivers and causes of D&D and respective REDD options, SESA , ESMF; Feedback and GRM

Forest Monitoring and Emissions

Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	Developed reference emission level (#REL#) and monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRV)
Actual Output:	Developed reference emission level (#REL#) and monitoring, reporting and verification system (MRV)

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Project Management, Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

Status:	Under Implementation
Planned Output:	Well functional management and coordination of REDD readiness activities
Actual Output:	Well functional management and coordination of REDD readiness activities

Comment on planned and actual Output

Comment on component implementation progress

Component 1: Under this component, the following activities have been achieved during the reporting period:

- # About two hundred representatives from the upper Northern, Central, Western, and Eastern regions were trained on REDD+ Framework.
- # Sharing information and knowledge on REDD+ Framework to related stakeholder at the eight forest and climate change education and action centers in 5 regions.
- # Establishment of the REDD+ Regional Office in the North Eastern region. Offices in other regions are in process for management approval.

The CS-5 contract to develop a Communication and outreach strategy was signed by end of June 2019 and inception report was submitted with high quality.

Component 2: Under Component 2, the CS-6 Contract for REDD+/SESA was signed by DNP's Deputy Director General on June 12, 2019. This is a significant improvement on the progress of this project when the consultant of CS-6 was on board. Given the significantly large contract, DNP was urged to work closely with the consultant to ensure that activities will be on track and completed on time and with no delay.

Component 3: Progress under component 3 includes the hiring of two Remote Sensing and GIS officers to support DNP with data processing completed in May 2019. Several workshops and trainings on forest reference level (FRL) had been organized by DNP with support from FAO as a consultant of CS-7. The main outcome of this component is the conclusion on the definition of forest/forest classes and key FRL decision were made. Given that this outcome will have significant impact to the project as well as at the national level, the mission has requested DNP to share the progress report prepared by FAO. DNP needs to ensure the quality and timely delivery of the activities under this component.

Component 4: Activities under this component support the management and coordination of REDD readiness activities, financial and procurement services, as well as monitoring and coordination of the overall operation.

EXECUTION

Bank project related to the grant

Project ID / Name:	P130115 - TH FCPF Readiness Preparation Project
Project Status:	Lending
Global Focal Area:	Climate change
Product Line:	CN - Carbon Offset

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Implementing agency and contact details

Agency:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Division of Foreign Affairs		
Contact:	Dr. Prasert Sornsathapornkul		
Address:	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Division of Foreign Affairs		
Phone:	025610777	Email:	ps_dnp@yahoo.com
Website:			

PROGRAM

Program Specific Questions

1. Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those funded by Describe progress in how the Grant activities are being coordinated with other REDD+-related initiatives, including those f

REDD+ grant activities will be coordinated with other related initiatives via the REDD+ Task Force, which was established for the purpose of inter-ministerial and multi-sectoral coordination. The REDD+ Task Force includes governmental and non-governmental representation. The development of a action plan for 2018-20 has ensured that grant activities are coordinated with other ongoing related activities and initiatives in the country.

2. Describe any important changes in the technical design or approach related to the Grant activities.

There have been no significant changes to technical design of grant activities

3. Describe progress in addressing key capacity issues (implementation, technical, financial management, procurement) related to this Grant.

The assignment of a new coordinator has significantly improved overall grant implementation progress. Further, a financial officer from the DNP has been assigned to maintain and operate project financial and accounting transactions in accordance with the Thailand Accounting Standards and relevant government guidelines. Support on procurement and FM was mobilized within the DNP and has improved the implementation progress

4. Describe progress in addressing social and environmental issues (including safeguards) related to the Grant. Is the SESA conducted in accordance with the Common Approach?

Training on the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA), a safeguards instrument specific to REDD+ readiness, has been conducted by the Bank's team during the reporting period. The SESA which is being developed will be in accordance with the Common Approach

5. Is the ESMF prepared in accordance with the Common Approach?

It will be, once it will be prepared.

6. Describe progress in stakeholder consultation, participation, disclosure of information, and the FGRM related to this Grant.

The project is led by the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plan Conservation (DNP) under the Division of Foreign Affairs within the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Responsibility of REDD+ implementation lies with the Office of Forests and Climate Change. Two consultation events with CSOs were held to support the formation of stakeholder working groups. Further, training on the REDD+ readiness for communities and NGOs has been carried out in the Northern, Central and North-Eastern regions of the country during the reporting period.

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DISBURSEMENTS

Disbursements Summary in USD

Date From	Date To	Planned Cumulative	Planned Period	Actual Cumulative	Actual Period
01/01/2016	06/30/2016	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
07/01/2016	12/31/2016	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	300,000.00
01/01/2017	06/30/2017	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	0.00
07/01/2017	12/31/2017	0.00	0.00	300,000.00	0.00
01/01/2018	06/30/2018	0.00	0.00	331,709.40	31,709.40
07/01/2018	12/31/2018	0.00	0.00	1,053,245.11	721,535.71
01/01/2019	06/30/2019	0.00	0.00	1,065,235.50	11,990.39
07/01/2019	12/31/2019	0.00	0.00	1,416,659.86	351,424.36
01/01/2020	06/30/2020	0.00	0.00	1,440,537.01	23,877.15
07/01/2020	12/31/2020	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00