

Action Plan for Gender Integration for the ER-P

Action	Interventions	Pre-ERPA	Post-ERPA
<p style="text-align: center;">Action 1 Agreement on Participatory Approaches to ER-P Implementation</p>	<p>Targeted Interventions: National REDD+ Program secures agreement with each of the ER-P Provinces that where possible and practical a formal commitment will be made to the adoption of participatory approaches to ER-P implementation that will also be socially and gender inclusive, especially of marginalized forest-dependent village women.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Lao People’s Revolutionary Party, National and Provincial REDD+ Offices, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, (Department of Forestry and Division for the Advancement of Women), Provincial and Department of Forestry in six ER-P provinces, Lao Front for National Construction and Lao Women’s Union. If possible civil society groups or organisations with a knowledge of and experience in participatory approaches that could be replicated for the ER-P will be invited to participate.</p> <p>Estimated Cost: It is proposed that the National REDD+ Office facilitate a 2-day workshop in Luang Prabang with one participant from each of the Vientiane-based ER-P entities, four representatives from each of the six ER-P provinces, and ten women including five ethnic minority women from each of the ethnic minority groups in the ER-P provinces. (Travel expenses: surface and air of approximate US\$3,500; Accommodation and Meal Expenses for 40 participants of approximately US\$8,000; and, Facilitation and Miscellaneous Expenses of US\$5,000 for a total of US\$16,500 plus contingencies of 5%: US\$17,350 to be sourced from the existing FCPF-REDD+ grant from the WB to the GoL).</p> <p>Monitoring Indicators: 1) Targeted representatives participate in the workshop of whom 70% should be women; 2) Districts and villages identified for the Socio-Economic and Environmental Resource Needs Assessment (SERNA); and, 3) Modalities for SERNA agreed upon.</p>	<p>Buy-in based on GAP is necessary from all implementing agencies but ERPA not contingent on this except where safeguard issues are triggered.</p>	<p>For the 12 months following the signing of ERPA it will be necessary to analyse what agreements have been reached to ensure they are gender responsive.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Action 2 Facilitation of SERNA at Selected Localities in the ER-P Accounting Area</p>	<p>Targeted Interventions: Identify at least one district in each of the six ER-P provinces where it would be practical based on existing processes of land management (both agricultural and forestry) to undertake a Socio-Economic and Environmental Resource Needs Assessment that targets local forest-dependent villages and especially women within these villages and households headed by women.</p> <p>Stakeholders: The Lao People’s Revolutionary Party at district, village cluster and individual level, DAFO, LFNC, and LWU who will work with all village households to ensure socially inclusive SERNA.</p> <p>Estimated Cost: Two facilitator’s fees and expenses for 30 days at approximate US\$9,000; participation fees of</p>	<p>Pre-ERPA Villages to be identified will be undertaken at the Luang Prabang Workshop based on an assessment at to which villages have the demonstrated “absorptive capacity” for women to be</p>	<p>Post-ERPA Villages to be identified will be contingent on meetings at the provincial, district, village cluster and individual village level with the most important criteria in the context of gender a demonstration</p>

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	<p>local official and mass organizations for 5 days at approximate US\$2,500; participation fees of villagers (for loss of income) based on 150 villagers over 16 years of age for 15 days of approximate US\$15,000 (includes meals and travel), miscellaneous expenses of approximate US\$1,500 and contingency of 5%: US\$17,115 for each SERNA. Thus, total for six SERNA would be approximately US\$102,690. It needs to be noted that in neighboring Vietnam each SERNA leading to the establishment of a Forest Management Entity has cost between US\$45,000 and US\$110,000). This is to be sourced from the existing grant to the GoL by the FCPF-REDD+ from the WB pre-ERPA and post-ERPA from the advance paid to the GoL by the Carbon Fund supported by the WB.</p> <p>Monitoring Indicators: 1) SERNA involving all women in the villages identified during the Luang Prabang Workshop; 2) Women involved in deforestation activities targeted to see what interventions could reduce such activities; and, 3) Agreements to establish forest management entities in 18 sites within 12 months.</p>	<p>actively involved.</p>	<p>that women are able and willing to participate in the SERNA.</p>
<p>Action 3 Establishment of Local Forest Management Entity</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: On the assumption that there is an agreement based on the SERNA reached between forest managers and forest users a local forest management entity will be established to ensure that the objectives of the ER-P are achieved. As part of this process benefit sharing plans will be prepared to take advantage of carbon payments based on the MRV process that local women members of the management entity will also participate in. It is anticipated that such payments will be made for a range of ER-P related activities including forest protection activities, targeting households, groups or villages contributing to deforestation and degradation to a greater extent than other households, groups or villages, and resolving issues such as poor demarcated boundaries.</p> <p>Stakeholders: The Lao People's Revolutionary Party at district, village cluster and individual level, DAFO, LFNC, and LWU who will work with all village households that agree to participate in the forest management entity. If possible, a civil society organization could assist with developing this entity but it would need to demonstrate very clearly from past performance that it understands gender and forestry issues and it is able and willing to work with other stakeholders to ensure the highest possible degree of gender responsiveness.</p> <p>Estimated Costs: For Pre-ERPA entities there should be additional cost of approximately US\$5,000 on a per annum basis with Year 1 being funded by the FCPF-REDD+ WB fund. However, for Post-ERPA entities they will initially be funded by the Advance Grant that the GoL has requested from the Carbon Fund. Thus, realistically</p>	<p>Pre-ERPA It may not be possible to achieve the outcomes of this activity prior to the ERPA for all six sites selected but ideally at least one should be completed.</p>	<p>Post-ERPA Dependent on the outcome of the Pre-ERPA forest management entities within 12 months of the ERPA being signed there should be at least 3 of these entities in each of the 6 ER-P Provinces</p>

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	<p>the estimated cost over the first 12 months for the six SERNA village sites would be US\$30,000 and Post-ERPA for the other nine villages the approximate cost would be US\$60,000. Total cost US\$90,000.</p> <p>Monitoring Indicators: 1) Number of Benefit Sharing Plans initiated by local village women signed; 2) Effectiveness of measures such as boundary demarcation; and, 3) Percentage of women involved in ER-P activities including forest protection work and MRV activities.</p>		
<p>Action 4 Identification of Climate-Smart Agricultural Interventions</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: It is necessary to identify climate-smart agricultural interventions that not only ensure a greater degree of food security but also the possibility of generating income that cannot be generated at present while also simultaneously reducing the pressure to clear existing forest cover for agricultural cropping. The intention is also to reduce on a voluntary basis the forms of shifting cultivation that are still undertaken in upland areas. However, it is also necessary to identify with women what are “climate-smart” interventions as these are often vaguely defined and are of a more generic nature.</p> <p>Stakeholders: All women who agree to participate in the ER-P should be involved but where women do not agree to be involved initially for whatever reason they should have the option to participate if at a later date they think the ER-P interventions could work for them. However, initially with grant financing the ER-P needs to identify those households that contribute for whatever reason to deforestation for agricultural cropping purposes and work with them. The Lao People’s Revolutionary Party at district, village cluster and individual level, DAFO, LFNC, and LWU who will work with women. It also necessary to identify a specialist with a demonstrated working knowledge of climate-smart agricultural interventions in the upland areas of Mainland Southeast Asia.</p> <p>Estimated Costs: Approximately US\$2,000 per village is likely to be required as an upfront investment that would serve as a revolving fund to target all women in the village. A specialist would need to be mobilized at an estimated cost of US\$12,000 per person month worked for up to 6 months and thus US\$72,000. The advance payment from the ER-P could be utilized for such purposes although at six of the villages if they have agreed to be part of a forest management entity could draw on the existing FCPF-REDD+ grant to fund such activities. Post ERPA and once advance payment is made the ER-P would cover these costs. Initial total of US\$132,000 plus 5% contingency. Thus, US\$138,600.</p> <p>Monitoring Indicators: 1) Impact of grants on livelihoods of women involved in non-sustainable forest activities; 2) Percentage of women electing to practice climate-smart agricultural and forestry activities; and, 3)</p>	<p>Pre-ERPA Villages to be identified will be undertaken at the Luang Prabang Workshop based on an assessment at to which villages have the demonstrated “absorptive capacity” for women to be actively involved. But post SERNA also based on agreement to participate in the local forest management entity.</p>	<p>Post-ERPA Villages to be identified will be contingent on meetings at the provincial, district, village cluster and individual village level with the most important criteria in the context of gender a demonstration that women are able and willing to participate in the SERNA.</p>

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	Replication and upscaling in villages over the initial 12 months of the Action Plan (excluding pre-ERPA phase).		
<p>Action 5 Strengthening Village's Legal Rights to Use and Benefit from Forest Land</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: The new "Land Law" that has now acquired the status of a LPRP Resolution is likely to recognize and protect land use rights held by individuals, legal entities, collective entities and customary rights including in relation to non-allocated forest land. However, all proposals to date do not clearly specify that women possess the legal right to use and benefit from forest land as this is vested in the Village Leadership, which for the most part with the exception of the LWU involve very few women. It is being proposed that all different types of land tenure explicitly and legally establish the rights of women not just the village to avoid the continuing capture of forest land by primarily men at the village level.</p> <p>How tenure reforms and certifications can have an impact on women's rights and access to forest resources</p> <p>Stakeholders: Lao People's Revolutionary Party (proposed new Land Law likely to be a Party Resolution rather than a "law" passed by the National Assembly), MONRE (Department of Land Administration), MAF (Department of Forestry and Division for the Advancement of Women), Provincial and District (those in the ER-P Accounting Area) Administrations in each of the six ER-P provinces, Village Clusters, Village Households, LFNC and LWU.</p> <p>Estimated Costs: There are no initial costs involved because this is a longer-term intervention although as part of the SERNA it will be necessary to assess existing forms of land, both forestry (especially forest production) and agricultural land.</p> <p>Monitoring Indicators: 1) Quantitative assessment of different types of land tenure in ER-P villages and 2) Recognition by LPRP of recommendations made by ER-P for strengthening female villager's rights to use and benefit from forest land.</p>	<p>Pre-ERPA Process begins during the SERNA in the targeted villages but ERPA not contingent on legal recognition because at present there is no legislative or political authority to legitimize such legal rights.</p>	<p>Post-ERPA Whether the LPRP Resolution on the "New Land Law" will be accepted by the Central Committee within the next 12 months is somewhat problematic. However, by the end of 12 months in the ER-P villages it will be possible to quantify what rights women have to use and benefit from existing forest land (especially production forest land) in anticipation of this "New Land Law" being accepted by the LPRP.</p>
<p>Action 6 Enhanced Gender Responsiveness in ER-P Management Activities</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: The ER-P PMU at the national and provincial levels will need to ensure that gender inclusive actions that will benefit women based on the GAP are actually implemented. It will also be necessary to ensure that the suite of safeguards (Resettlement Policy Framework, Ethnic Minority Planning Framework, Environmental and Social Management Plan and Process Framework) are implemented in ways that also safeguard specific gender interests. To this end each of the PMUs should have a target of 30 percent of their staff being female with at least 10 percent of the female staff being from ethnic minority backgrounds.</p>	<p>Pre-ERPA No action because the ERPA yet to be signed.</p>	<p>Post-ERPA Initial 12 months any necessary site-specific Resettlement Plans and Ethnic Minority Development Plans that are prepared demonstrate the necessary degree of gender</p>

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	<p>Stakeholders: All female beneficiaries/participants of the ER-P in general but specifically women who are working in each of the ER-P PMUs.</p> <p>Estimated Costs: The average monthly salary for managerial positions in PMUs is US\$565 (excluding allowances) but ERPA there would be no payments made because the ER-P PMUs are yet to be established. But assuming at the national level there will be at least three female staff appointed and in each of the provincial PMUs one female staff appointed over 12 months following the signing of the ERPA the total estimated cost would be US\$59,245.</p> <p>Monitoring Indicators: 1) Percentage of women appointed to managerial positions in the ER-PMUs; 2) Assessment of GAP outcomes in the first 12 months post-ERPA; and, 3) Resolution of safeguard grievances lodged by village women relating to the ER-P.</p>		<p>responsiveness and reflect the provisions of the ER-P Gender Action Plan.</p>
<p>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST OF ACTION PLAN FOR ACTIONS 1 TO 6.</p>		<p>US\$408,350 (LKP3,497,120,000)</p>	
<p>Proposed Additional Actions</p>			
<p>Action 7 Need to involve Women in Policy Processes and Decisions</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: Need to improve ways how women are involved in policy processes and decisions related to climate mitigation and forest devolution; and how to support women movements as they work with emerging and evolving policy in projects. For example, improving women's standing in the proposed new Forest Law and Land Law so that they can be given equal rights.</p> <p>Stakeholders: The ER-P at the national level working with the key GoL ministries (DNRE, MOA, and MEE), the LPRP (because at present it is in direct control of the Land Law). But NAFES needs to be involved it developed the Forestry Strategy to the Year 2020 of the Lao PDR and this strategy is quite reasonable in the context of a gender-responsive approach to both agricultural and forestry land issues. It also sensible to have the LWU involved because GIP Team have noted that it has not demonstrated a deep understanding of gender and forestry issues.</p> <p>Estimated Costs: Approximately US\$36,000 to cover researchers' expenses and meetings among key stakeholders both at the national level and in at least one of the ER-P provinces (possibly Luang Prabang or Luang Namtha)</p> <p>Monitoring Indicators: 1) Development of Stakeholder Engagement Plan that demonstrates how village women can be involved in ER-P activities associated with climate mitigation and forest devolution; 2) Evaluation of initial participation of village women in ER-P activities (% from different ethnic groups and poor households; and, 3) Specific clauses in the New Forest Law that effectively embody gender equality.</p>	<p>No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA</p>	<p>Initial 12 months the ER-P needs to embark on a series of iterative actions, including applied research by independent local researchers with a demonstrated capacity to understand gender and forestry issues.</p>

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<p>Action 8 Women must be Involved in Discussions on Climate Variability</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: Women are heavily involved in agriculture and need to find ways on how they should be involved in discussion on what are the gender impacts of climate variability (as opposed to climate smart crops)</p> <p>Stakeholders: Women in selected villages ensuring that ethnicity and poverty criteria are utilized, village development committee, PAFO and DAFO, VWU, and where clusters of villages are targeted the Khumban</p> <p>Estimated Costs: Based on 12 villages and stakeholder involvement (also includes village women who give up their time) the costs should be absorbed under Action 4 because they are related.</p> <p>Monitoring Activities: 1) Village women's specific understanding of climate variability; 2) Capacity of PAFO, DAFO and VWU to understand climate variability; and, 3) Data disaggregated by district and province.</p>	<p>No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA</p>	<p>Initial 12 months consultations need to be facilitated among women from different ethnic groups in each of the 6 ER-P Provinces</p>
<p>Action 9 Improve PLUP/LUP Processes</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: Women are often not actively included in decision-making steps of land use planning. Women and men have the same rights to land. Land tenure is often not secure in Lao and as an attempt to improve this LUP/PLUP aims to the try to add some form of security by assigning land through a land use plan. The reality is, however, that security of land tenure is not much improved in legal terms as no title is issued and women are not much involved in the PULP/LUP process. Therefore, need to introduce and improve ways to involve women in this important process.</p> <p>Stakeholders: Women in selected villages ensuring that ethnicity and poverty criteria are utilized, village development committee, PAFO and DAFO, VWU, and where clusters of villages are targeted the Khumban</p> <p>Estimated Costs: US\$25,000 per village based on GIZ estimates in Houaphan Province for a total of US\$288,000. Funding for this would need to come from the advance funding that the GoL will be seeking from the Carbon Fund as per the ER-PD.</p> <p>Monitoring Activites: 1) Hectares covered by PLUP activities; 2) Number of plots registered either in the name of women or conjointly with spouse; and, 3) Number of land titles issued in targeted areas.</p>	<p>No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA</p>	<p>In the initial 12 months the ER-P needs to identify 1 village in each of the 6 ER-P provinces to trial genuinely participatory land use planning and assess to what extent this can be replicated and upscaled.</p>
<p>Action 10 Women's Involvement in Markets and how can Access to Markets be Improved</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: Action to find out how to overcome the constraints (and what are the constraints) for women's involvement in markets and how can access to market be improved</p> <p>Stakeholders: Village women either currently involved in trading activities, especially of NTFPs, and women who are seeking to be involved, trading intermediaries and wholesalers and retailers.</p>	<p>No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA</p>	<p>Activities to be undertaken that involve women from the villages, trading intermediaries and wholesalers and retailers in</p>

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	<p>Estimated Costs: As this will involve some cross-border visits and intra-district and intra-provincial visits it is estimated for all of the 6 ER-P provinces upwards of US\$100,000 needs to be allocated. This could be sourced from the advance payment sought by the GoL but could be deducted from the payment of carbon credits during implementation of the ER-P.</p> <p>Monitoring Activities: 1) Number of cross-border and intra-district and intra-provincial visits undertaken by village women; 2) Increase in quantities of NTFPs sold to trading intermediaries; and, 3) Price increase/decrease as a result of closer linkages with the market.</p>		<p>district, provincial and cross-border markets in Thailand, Vietnam and China.</p>
<p>Action 11 Need to Improve Women's Management of NTFPs</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: Find ways to improve management of NTFPs with women "collectors" having more of a say. What kinds of products harvested and overall access arrangements and do different proportions of men and women in user groups influence how forests are managed?</p> <p>Stakeholders: Village women (and men) who are either directly or indirectly involved with the "collecting" of NTFPs.</p> <p>Estimated Costs: To be absorbed under Action 3 because it is planned that the ensuing BSPs will include the more sustainable management of NTFPs.</p> <p>Monitoring Activities: 1) Women perceive they have "greater voice" than in the past; 2) Kinds of NTFPs harvested and improvements to overall access arrangements; and, 3) Improved management of NTFPs than prior to this Action.</p>	<p>No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA</p>	<p>As part of BSP that will be developed in the first 12 months in 3 villages in each of the 6 ER-P provinces.</p>
<p>Action 12 Summarising Progress on Gender Issues – Taking Stock of the Situation</p>	<p>Targeted Activities: Action to support a summary of the issues facing women and previous work in the ER-P provinces. What gender related topics and themes have been of interest in the past decade and what new investments are needed to keep abreast with new demands in the forest sector?</p> <p>Stakeholders: MAF in general, PAFOs and DAFOs, VWU, National Assembly, and LPRP.</p> <p>Estimated Costs: Lump sum of US\$30,000 to undertake and publish the independent research.</p> <p>Monitoring Activites: 1) Similarities and differences in gender and forestry issues facing women; 2) Extant causes of changes in these issues and outcomes for women; 3) Changes necessary that reflect new demands in the forest sector.</p>	<p>No Action Prior to the Signing of the ERPA</p>	<p>Independent research commissioned by the ER-P to provide an evidence-driven analysis of past, present and future issues</p>
<p>TOTAL ESTIMATED COST FOR ACTIONS 7-12</p>		<p>US\$454.000 (LKP3.888,067)</p>	

