

Green Electricity for 24 Villages of the Phongsaly District, Phongsaly Province in Laos

Project Objective

The general objective of this project is to contribute to improve capacities of decision makers to promote sustainable long-term energy planning in Laos. This objective is in accordance with the overall EEP objective of improved access to energy services and with the national priorities of Government of Laos concerning renewable energy development. Improved energy planning capacity enables coherent and integrative energy policy formulation to support government policy targets on poverty reduction.

Description

This project aims to give access to electricity to 24 poor villages in the Phongsaly region. These very isolated villages cannot be connected to a regular electric network and to give them access to electricity requires the implementation of autonomous installations. The pico-hydro turbines have been chosen to meet their requirements. During the implementation of this project, the farmers will be trained on how to select and install these pico-hydro turbines (from a theoretical and practical point of view). Indeed, in each training session, two pico-hydro turbines will be implemented in each village and there will be training on the following aspects: implementation of the hydroelectric devices that are necessary and on electric wiring and on supply as well as implementation of necessary hydro electric devices, electric wiring and on supply.

As the material locally available for production and electrification is of average quality, a search for more reliable material available in the Mekong region and in Cambodia will be made by the project team. Expert reports will be provided in order to find the best material in terms of quality and price. Then a servicing structure shall be created and

Project Highlights

Project ID	: L-PPF-24120901
Country	: Lao PDR
Lead Partner	: Electriciens sans Frontieres (ESF)
Partners	: Comin Khmère Co., Ltd.
Total Project Cost	: € 210,000
EEP Financing	: € 100,000 (48%)
Technical Focus	: Hydroelectricity
Activity	: Capacity building/Pilot
Duration	: 20 months

implemented and reports on how to improve this material will be written. At the end of the project, each village will have a team of trained technicians and will be able to bring assistance to the rest of the villagers on how to implement and use this material. That way, all the villages will have access to electricity.



Training Session

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Relevance to Country's Energy and Environment Policies

The representatives of the Ministry of Energy (Electricity department) confirm that our project falls well within the framework of the strategic development of rural electrification of Laos. The installations of pico-hydro turbines are at the core of the development of access to electricity of remote villages in the Phongsaly region.

The characteristic of this region which is hilly, has lots of waterways and is subject to frequent monsoon and to fog and mist, makes it ideal to take advantage of its hydroelectric potential. Photovoltaic production of electricity is rare and not welcomed by local population.

The project partners work with the Electricity Department in the Ministry of Energy and Mines. The Lao government encourages any initiative that aims to reduce poverty among Northern Lao minorities. In that regard the Phongsaly region is a priority both for national and international aid.



Adjusting the Water Intake

Innovation and Knowledge Transfer

The innovative aspect of the project is the implementation of hydroelectric devices called pico-hydro turbines. Knowledge transfer is achieved through training on the implementation of the hydroelectric devices and through dissemination of technical leaflets.



Water Overspill
Photo Courtesy: Marc GRATTON, ESF

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