

Application Procedures

Grant proposals can be submitted to the WMU or LEnS provincial facilitators anytime. If the proposal does not meet the basic requirements, the WMU staff can advise and/or support the applicant on how to revise the proposal and resubmit.

Interested applicants are invited to contact the LENS WMU to obtain further information and guidance on the procedures to qualify for grant funding. Grant funding will be subject to standard monitoring procedures as specified in the Grant Agreement to be signed between the EPF and the sub-grant applicant.



Submittal and Inquiries:

Final proposals must at least include one of the standard LENS application forms. These include:

-  Standard Application Form for Smaller PICE Grants (10,000 US\$).
-  Standard Application Form for Larger PICE Grants (> 10,000 US\$).
-  Standard Application Form for Smaller Community Grants (10,000 US\$).
-  Standard Application Form for Smaller PA Management Grants (10,000 US\$)
-  Standard Application Form for Larger CBI Grant (>10,000 US\$).

Application forms are available from the LEnS WMU and from the EPF Website.

For submittal of proposal and requests for additional information please contact:

Environment Protection Fund
Attn. LEnS Window Management Unit
Ground floor, STEA Building
Sdamduan Road
Vientiane, Lao PDR
Tel. 021 251946
Fax. 021 251947
<http://www.laoepf.org.la>

Environment Protection Fund

Lao Environment and Social (LEnS) Project
FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL (LENS) PROJECT



LEnS

November 2006

Background

The Lao Environment and Social (LEnS) Project, implemented under the Environmental Protection Fund (EPF), is supported by the World Bank (IDA). (Development Grant Agreement No. H177-LA between the Government of Lao PDR (Ministry of Finance) and the World Bank, dated August 15, 2005).

The EPF, established in 2005 as a financially and administratively autonomous organization, aims at strengthening environmental protection, sustainable natural resources management, biodiversity conservation, and community development in Lao PDR.

The LEnS Project is designed as a complimentary activity to the NT2 project as stated in the GOL's Letter of Implementation Policy (GLIP) for NT2.

LEnS Objectives

The overall objective of the LEnS Project is to “Strengthen Environmental Management of Natural Assets in Lao PDR for Enhancing Quality of Growth and Reducing Poverty”. Its specific objectives include to:

- ☞ Strengthen institutions and instruments for assessment, monitoring and compliance for environmental and social sustainability, and broaden in the constituency for environmental change.
- ☞ Invest in on-the-ground environmental improvement activities identified in the NGPES with emphasis on biodiversity conservation and livelihoods enhancements.
- ☞ Operationalize the EPF to become a permanent entity that is eligible to use NT2 revenues for priority environmental protection activities in the country.



LENS Specialized Financing Windows

To achieve the Goals set for the Project, the EPF has established two specialized financing windows:

The “Policy Implementation and Capacity Enhancement” (PICE) window aims to support activities and initiatives related to its 5 main sub-components:

- ☞ Environmental and social monitoring and policy implementation support (Safeguard monitoring support)
- ☞ Integrated River Basin Management.
- ☞ Hydropower Sector Policy Support
- ☞ Social Safeguards Management (resettlement policy support)
- ☞ Environmental Education and Awareness.

The “Community and Biodiversity Investments” (CBI) window aims to support activities and initiatives in three target Provinces (Bolikhamxay, Khamouane, Savanakhet) to:

- ☞ Strengthen management of Protected Areas (PA);
- ☞ Ensure sustainable livelihood to those community who heavily depend on the PA; and
- ☞ Invest in on-the-ground environmental improvement activities for poor community with emphasis on biodiversity conservation, community environmental management, livelihoods enhancements and promotion of ecotourism.

Day-to-day management and implementation of the PICE and CBI windows have been delegated to the LEnS Window Management Unit (WMU) established within the EPF Executive Office. Policy and Technical Guidance is provided by an inter-ministerial Project Steering Committee (PSC), Chaired by the Vice-President of STEA.



Scope of Grant Funding

Grant funding can be made available upon: i) the review and approval by the EPF, and ii) the availability of CBI and PICE grant. To ensure that the proposals contribute

towards the overall objectives of the LEnS Project, basic selection criteria being applied include:

- ☞ Contribution of the proposal to the objectives of the LEnS Project.
- ☞ Complementarities with environmental capacity building measures being implemented in other projects. Duplication of efforts already underway will not be supported.
- ☞ Proposals for activities will be considered according to their appropriateness to the current stage of implementation of new and priority policies.
- ☞ Demonstrated commitment of staff time and resources by implementing partners to ensure successful implementation.
- ☞ Clear and assessable outputs and results.
- ☞ Feasibility of delivering outputs with proposed human resources and within the given timeframe.



Non-eligible Activities

Applicants should be aware that certain activities are not eligible for funding through the PICE and CBI Windows. Excluded are:

- ☞ Any activity requiring a full EIA under either national or IDA policy;
- ☞ Sub-projects involving land acquisitions, loss of physical assets or physical displacements of populations;
- ☞ Supplying for big equipment such as big vehicles (car, pick up, etc), goods and equipments;
- ☞ Big civil work;
- ☞ Activities adversely effecting ethnic groups (including their business, occupation, work, place of residence, habitat or standard of living).
- ☞ Village development activities potentially detrimental to the environment or conservation goals.