



Lao People's Democratic Republic
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Government

No. 219/GOV
Vientiane Capital, 20 June 2023

Decree

on Conservation Forests

- Pursuant to the Law on Government No. 03/NA, dated 16 November 2021;
- Pursuant to the Law on Forestry No. 64/NA, dated 13 June 2019;
- Referring to the letter of proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry No.2582/MAF, dated 22 May 2023.

The Government Issues a Decree:

Chapter I

General Provisions

Article 1 Objectives

This Decree defines the principles, regulations and measures relating to the management, protection, development and utilization of the Conservation Forests¹ and Conservation Forest Land for the abundance of forest resources with the aim of preserving the beauty of natural landscapes, the forest ecosystem services and the variety of biodiversity, protecting the environment in line with green and sustainable direction, improving the livelihoods of the peoples of various ethnics, contributing to the national socio-economic development.

Article 2 Conservation Forest

Conservation Forest (Protected Area) refers to the forest and forestland designated for the purposes of conserving nature, preserving and reproducing plant, aquatic and wildlife species, ensuring forest ecosystem services and protecting assets that have natural, historical, cultural, touristic, environmental, educational and scientific research values.

Article 3 Interpretation of the Terms

The terms used in this Decree have the meaning as follows:

¹ Conservation Forest is an official Lao term for Protected Area as defined in the Forestry Law 2019.

1. **Conservation Forest Land** refers to forestland including rivers, streams, canals, marshes, ponds, lakes, wetlands and other types of land that the State designates as Conservation Forest;
2. **Conservation Forest Landscape** refers to the entire part of the Conservation Forest Land including the territory of the villages located inside or adjacent to the Conservation Forest Area;
3. **Mitigation Hierarchy** refers to the internationally recognized methods of mitigating the impacts of investment projects on biodiversity and ecosystem services that require to apply measures of avoidance, minimization, restoration and offset respectively with the aim of achieving ‘No-Net-Loss’ or preferably ‘Net-Gain’ of biodiversity;
4. **Biodiversity Offset** refers to actions to compensate for residual adverse biodiversity impacts arising and persisting from a given investment project after appropriate avoidance, minimization and restoration measures have been taken;
5. **No-Net-Loss** refers to the outcome resulting from implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy to a given investment project when such outcome has reached a point whereby the adverse biodiversity impacts are balanced by positive biodiversity impacts at appropriate scale;
6. **Net-Gain** refers to the measurable conservation outcome resulting from implementing the Mitigation Hierarchy to a given development project when such outcome has reached a point whereby the adverse biodiversity impacts are exceeded by positive biodiversity impacts at appropriate scale;
7. **Conservation Contract [or Agreement]** refers to the document prescribing the bindings between the Conservation Forest Management Office and the Village Administration Office with territory located inside or adjacent to the Conservation Forest which is recognized by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office and certified by the District Administration Office;
8. **Collaborative Conservation Forest Management Contract** refers to the document prescribing the bindings of collaboration between the Conservation Forest Management Office with the individuals, legal entities or organizations in the overall management of the Conservation Forest.

Article 4 Principles of Conservation Forest Activities

The Conservation Forest activities shall be performed in accordance with the following principles:

1. Complying with the laws, strategies, National Socio-Economic Development Plan, conventions to which Lao PDR is a party and relevant international agreements;
2. Ensuring systematic and unified management of Conservation Forests across the country;
3. Ensuring participation of the people and all parties in the society and coordination with sectors, agencies, local administrations and other stakeholders;
4. Ensuring the benefits of the State, individuals, legal entities or organizations that engage in the management, protection and development of the Conservation Forest in accordance with the laws.

Chapter II

Levels, Categories and Designation of Conservation Forests

Section 1

Levels of Conservation Forests

Article 5 Levels of Conservation Forests

Conservation Forests are classified into four levels as follows:

1. National Conservation Forest;
2. Provincial Conservation Forest;
3. District Conservation Forest;
4. Village Conservation Forest.

Article 6 National Conservation Forest

National Conservation Forest is a Conservation Forest with an area of over thirty thousand hectares, has abundant biodiversity and high value of geographical, historical, cultural and natural features or is a strategic area of national, regional, or global importance.

Article 7 Provincial Conservation Forest

Provincial Conservation Forest is a Conservation Forest with an area from two thousand hectares to thirty thousand hectares, has abundant biodiversity and high value of geographical, historical, cultural and natural features or is a strategic area at provincial level.

Article 8 District Conservation Forest

District Conservation Forest is a Conservation Forest with an area from one hundred hectares to less than two thousand hectares, has abundant biodiversity and high value of geographical, historical, cultural and natural features or is a strategic area at district level.

Article 9 Village Conservation Forest

Village Conservation Forest is a Conservation Forest with an area from zero-point five hectare to less than one hundred hectares, has abundant biodiversity and high value of geographical, historical, cultural and natural features or is a strategic area at village level.

Section 2

Categories of Conservation Forests

Article 10 Categories of Conservation Forests

Conservation Forests consist of six categories as follows:

1. Conservation Forest as Strict Nature Reserve;
2. Conservation Forest as National Park;
3. Conservation Forest as Natural Monument;

4. Conservation Forest as Wild Fauna and Flora Species Conservation Area;
5. Historical and Cultural Conservation Forest;
6. Conservation Forest for Sustainable Natural Resources Use Management.

The categorization of Conservation Forests and change from one Conservation Forest category to another category shall be performed in accordance with the procedure described in a separate regulation.

Article 11 Conservation Forest as Strict Nature Reserve

Strict Nature Reserve is a Conservation Forest with abundant biodiversity and specific geological features which are undisturbed by human activities and are outstanding nationally, regionally and globally and is aimed at protecting the conservation values and serving scientific research by strictly limiting and controlling the visits, utilization and potential impacts from human activities.

Article 12 Conservation Forest as National Park

Conservation Forest as National Park is a Conservation Forest with unique characteristics and a wide variety of outstanding natural ecosystem features and is valuable for scientific research, tourism, environmental and cultural protection.

Article 13 Conservation Forest as Natural Monument

Conservation Forest as Natural Monument is a Conservation Forest with outstanding or wonderful topographic and geological features, such as mountainous area, cave or sacred or traditionally holy natural site and is aimed at protecting the natural and cultural unique features that are valuable for research and tourism.

Article 14 Conservation Forest as Wild Fauna and Flora Species Conservation Area

Conservation Forest as Wild Fauna and Flora Species Conservation Area is a Conservation Forest which still has rare, endangered endemic wild fauna and flora species.

Article 15 Historical and Cultural Conservation Forest

Historical and Cultural Conservation Forest is a Conservation Forest with outstanding long-standing historical and cultural values.

Article 16 Conservation Forest for Sustainable Natural Resources Use Management

Conservation Forest for Sustainable Natural Resources Use Management is a Conservation Forest with natural abundance and is the area where natural resources are managed, protected, developed, and used in a sustainable manner.

**Section 3
Designation of Conservation Forest**

Article 17 Designation of Conservation Forest

Designation of Conservation Forest refers to the designation of forest and forestland to become the Conservation Forest including the expansion of area, upgrading of level, decrease of level and registration of the Conservation Forest.

The designation of Conservation Forest shall be carried out as follows:

1. Conduct surveys, collect data on features of the area, state of forests, biodiversity, ecosystem and socio-economic condition of the villages located inside and around the area to be designated as a Conservation Forest;
2. Develop the map showing the location boundaries and data from the survey, such as: conditions of the forests, biodiversity and ecosystem;
3. Hold consultation meeting with stakeholders, such as: sector agencies, local administrations and peoples to ensure consensus;
4. Submit the request to the competent authorities for consideration and approval;
5. Request for registration of the Conservation Forest land.

Article 18 Approval of Conservation Forest

The Government approves the National Conservation Forest based on the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the agreement of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment and the relevant Provincial Administration Office.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry approves the Provincial Conservation Forest based on the proposal of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office with the agreement of the Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment and the relevant Provincial Administration Office.

The Provincial Governor or Vientiane Capital Mayor approves the District Conservation Forest based on the proposal of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office with the agreement of the District Office of Natural Resources and Environment and the relevant District Administration Office.

The Chief of District or Municipality Mayor or City Mayor approves the Village Conservation Forest based on the proposal of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office with the agreement of the District Office of Natural Resources and Environment and the relevant Village Administration Office.

Article 19 Registration of Conservation Forest Land

Registration of Conservation Forest Land refers to the registration and issuance of land title to the Conservation Forest Management Authorities in accordance with the laws for the purpose of facilitating the management and protection of the Conservation Forest.

Registration of Conservation Forest Land which are approved in accordance with Article 18 of this Decree shall be performed as follows:

National Conservation Forest Land shall be registered by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment based on the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Provincial Conservation Forest Land shall be registered by the Provincial Office of Natural Resources and Environment based on the proposal of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office.

Village and District Conservation Forest Land shall be registered by the District Office of Natural Resources and Environment based on the proposal of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

Article 20 Change of Area of the Conservation Forest

Change of Area of the Conservation Forest refers to expansion or decrease of area of Conservation Forest. Any expansion or decrease in the size of the Conservation Forest shall be re-designated and re-approved in accordance with Article 17 and Article 18 of this Decree.

Any expansion of area of Conservation Forest which results in change of the level of Conservation Forest shall be subject to Conservation Forest Conversion in accordance with Article 52 of this Decree.

For the decrease in size of Conservation Forest due to Conservation Forest Land Conversion to another land category, the conversion must follow Article 54 of this Decree.

Article 21 Registration as Regional and International Conservation Forests

Conservation Forests that meet the criteria and standards set out by relevant international organizations or of the regional or world heritage status, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall coordinate with the Ministry of Information, Culture and Tourism and relevant parties to study and propose to the Government to consider submitting the application to the relevant international organizations for registration as regional and international Conservation Forests.

**Chapter III
Conservation Forest Activities**

**Section 1
Management of Conservation Forest**

Article 22 Management of Conservation Forest

Management of Conservation Forest shall, apart from activities prescribed in Article 19 of the Law on Forestry, comprise additional activities and contents as follows:

1. Survey of Conservation Forest Landscape;
2. Formulation and approval of Conservation Forest Management Plan;
3. Installation of signboards and boundary markers on Conservation Forest;
4. Village forest management planning.

Article 23 Survey of Conservation Forest Landscape

Survey of Conservation Forest Landscape refers to the collection and analysis of data on the state of forests, biodiversity, ecosystem, forest coverage, forest carbon stock (CO₂), aquatic and wildlife species, plant and NTFP species, water resources, land use, human-wildlife conflict, socio-economic conditions of the villages located inside or adjacent to Conservation Forest, historical and cultural significance of Conservation Forest Landscape, boundary demarcation and zoning.

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall take the lead in conducting the survey of the Conservation Forest Landscape by coordinating with relevant sectors and local administrations.

Article 24 Formulation and Approval of Conservation Forest Management Plan

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall conduct the study and prepare the Conservation Forest Management Plan based on data from the survey as specified in Article 23 of this Decree by coordinating with relevant sectors, local administrations and with the participation of the people living in villages located inside and adjacent to Conservation Forest. The preparation of the Conservation Forest Management Plan shall be consistent with the Conservation Forest management principles, Sectoral Development Plans and Local Socio-Economic Development Plans and shall specify in detailed measures of management, protection, development and utilization as determined in a separate regulation.

The organizations which have the authority to approve the Conservation Forest Management Plan are as follows:

1. The Department of Forestry approves the National Conservation Forest Management Plan;
2. The Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office approves the Provincial Conservation Forest Management Plan;
3. The District Agriculture and Forestry Office approves the District Conservation Forest Management Plan and the Village Conservation Forest Management Plan.

Article 25 Installation of Signboards and Boundary Markers on Conservation Forest

The installation of signboards and boundary markers on each Conservation Forest is for individuals, legal entities or organizations including the people in villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest to be aware of the boundaries of the Conservation Forest, the Totally Protected Zone, the Controlled Use Zone and the Buffer Zone, the symbols of wildlife and wild plants, the road, forest trekking trail, bridge, ranger stations and indication signs and markers to enable all parties in the society to acknowledge and proactively protect and prevent the encroachment and destruction of the Conservation Forest.

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall coordinate with relevant sectors and local administrations to conduct the installation of signboards and boundary markers as prescribed in a separate regulation.

Article 26 Village Forestry Management Planning

Village forestry management planning is the management of forest and forest land within the village territory located inside or adjacent to the Conservation Forest to so that the village shall take leadership in the management, protection, development and utilization of the Conservation Forest with the aim of making the Conservation Forest under the management of the village to become abundant and the villages to become 'Forest Development Villages' [or Guardian Villages].

The Conservation Forest Management Office shall coordinate with relevant sectors, Village Administration Offices and people of the villages located inside and adjacent to the

Conservation Forest to prepare the Village Forestry Management Plan in line with the Conservation Forest Management Plan.

The village forest management planning shall be carried out as follows:

1. Review and determine the categories of forest and forestland utilization within the village boundary;
2. Conduct the demarcation and installation of boundary markers on the Conservation Forest under the protection and development of the villages based on the participation of the Village Administration Offices and the people of the villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest;
3. Prepare the plan and define measures to implement the Village Forest Management Plan with the participation of the people of the villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest;
4. Strengthen the capacity of the villages to enable them to take the lead in implementing the Village Forest Management Plan, controlling or preventing forest fire and encroachment of the Conservation Forest.

Section 2

Protection of Conservation Forest

Article 27 Protection of Conservation Forest

The protection of Conservation Forest shall, apart from activities prescribed in Article 46 of the Law on Forestry, comprise additional activities and contents as follows:

1. Protection of the Totally Protected Zone;
2. Protection of the Controlled Use Zone;
3. Protection of the Buffer Zone;
4. Prevention and control of encroachment and destruction of Conservation Forest;
5. Prevention and control of forest fire;
6. Prevention and control of tree diseases, worms and insects, pests and wildlife diseases;
7. Preservation of biodiversity;
8. Awareness raising;
9. Management and mitigation of investment project impacts.

Article 28 Protection of Totally Protected Zone

Totally Protected Zone is the Conservation Forest zone with abundant biodiversity and is the habitat and key area for reproduction of various aquatic and wildlife species, river headwater area, riparian forests and other areas that are important for environmental protection. In this zone, it is not permitted to conduct any activities, except management, protection and development activities, such as forest patrols, scientific research and ecotourism as prescribed in the laws.

The protection of the Totally Protected Zone shall be conducted as follows:

1. Installing signboards and markers at critical points to allow individuals, legal entities or organization to become aware;

2. Strengthening the capacity of the Conservation Forest Management Office, local administrations and people to enable them to take the leadership in monitoring, controlling and preventing the encroachment of Conservation Forest, such as illegal logging, forest burning, illegal hunting and other activities that can cause destruction to forest resources;
3. Ensuring consistency with the Conservation Forest Management Plan and the Conservation Forest management regulations.

Article 29 Protection of Controlled Use Zone

Controlled Use Zone is the Conservation Forest zone that the State allocates to villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest to manage, protect and utilize the forests and biodiversity in a sustainable manner and thereby receive appropriate benefits.

The protection of Controlled Use Zone shall be conducted as follows:

1. Installing signboards and markers at critical points to allow individuals, legal entities or organizations to become aware;
2. Allocating the Conservation Forest to the people for harvesting NTFPs, for agricultural production and for planting trees and NTFPs that are environmental-friendly in order develop family production for commercial purposes;
3. Defining the Village Use Forest Area that can allow the use of forest, timber and NTFPs for village public use and for family use as specified in the Law on Forestry;
4. Not permitting to cut trees from natural forest for business purposes;
5. Ensuring consistency with the Conservation Forest Management Plan and the Conservation Forest management regulations.

Article 30 Protection of Buffer Zone

Buffer Zone is the Conservation Forest zone which is a part located inside or around outer boundaries of the Conservation Forest that the State allocates to the people for use. The protection of the Buffer Zone shall be conducted in accordance with Article 29 of this Decree.

Article 31 Prevention and Control of Encroachment and Destruction of Conservation Forest

Prevention and control of encroachment and destruction of Conservation Forest is the activity involving the inspection, patrols, prevention and control of encroachment and destruction of forests, wildlife and aquatic animals, degradation of wildlife habitat, preventing and resolving human-wildlife conflicts, management of wastes, control of pollution and other actions that violate the laws.

The Conservation Forest Management Office shall take the lead in coordinating with the forest officers, sectors, local administrations and people in villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest to set up checkpoints at critical points or entry and exit roads, establish ranger stations, develop patrol maps in the Conservation Forest in accordance with the technical methods as specified in a separate regulation.

Article 32 Prevention and Control of Forest Fire

The Conservation Forest Management Office shall take the lead in coordinating with relevant agencies to prepare the Forest Fire Prevention and Control Plan and set out measures to prevent forest fire by establishing fire prevention group, ranger stations, forest fire detection, monitoring and prevention corridor in fire-prone areas as well as mobilizing vehicles, equipment, manpower and budget from all parties for putting out the forest fire.

Article 33 Prevention and Control of Tree Diseases, Worms and Insects, Plant Pests and Wildlife Diseases

Prevention and control of tree diseases, worms and insects, plant pests and wildlife diseases are the surveillance and monitoring of the occurrence and outbreak of tree diseases, worms and insects, plant pests and wildlife diseases including Invasive Alien Species in order to prevent and deal with them in a timely and effective manner.

The prevention and control of tree diseases, worms and insects, plant pests and wildlife diseases shall be carried out as follows:

1. Conduct the surveillance, study the data on the occurrence and outbreak of tree diseases, worms and insects, plant pests and wildlife diseases;
2. Organize the prevention, control of the outbreak of tree diseases, worms and insects, plant pests and wildlife diseases in the respective forest area;
3. Identify the disease-free zone and control zone;
4. Establish a research center for the prevention and control of tree diseases, worms and insects, plant pests and wildlife diseases; issue certificates of supervision of production, distribution and utilization of disease-free tree saplings, plant seeds and wildlife breeds;
5. Strictly prohibit import or movement of tree saplings, plant seeds and wildlife breeds which are infected with diseases;
6. Perform other activities as deemed necessary.

Article 34 Preservation of Biodiversity

The Conservation Forest Management Office shall take the lead in coordinating with relevant agencies and promoting the participation of the people in villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest to conduct the preservation of biodiversity, particularly the species of tree, plant, wildlife and NTFP which are prohibited, rare and endangered through conducting the survey, defining the seed source area and undertaking the inventory of the tree, plant, wildlife and NTFP species, formulating the conservation, protection and restoration plans based on scientific principles and in compliance with the laws.

Article 35 Awareness Raising

Awareness raising refers to education and dissemination on the meaning and importance of the Conservation Forest management, conservation, protection, development and utilization activities to the society widely through mass media, inclusion in educational curricula, encouragement and promotion of the development of activities related to biodiversity, aquatic and wildlife conservation in order to mobilize all people to participate and collaborate in sustainable management, protection, development and utilization.

Article 36 Management and Mitigation of Investment Project Impacts

The Conservation Forest Management Office shall take the lead in coordinating with relevant sectors, local administrations and promoting the participation of the people in villages located inside or adjacent to the project site to manage, monitor and inspect the investment projects in order to ensure sustainable use of Conservation Forest, fair profit sharing, environmental impact assessment and management, implementation of Mitigation Hierarchy and other compensation measures in order to avoid impact on environment and biodiversity in the Conservation Forest Landscape.

During the project preparation phase, if the outcome of the impact assessment fails to achieve No-Net-Loss of biodiversity, such project shall not be approved.

Conservation Forests which are registered as regional and international Conservation Forests are required to comply with relevant international regulations.

Section 3

Development of Conservation Forest

Article 37 Development of Conservation Forest

Development of Conservation Forest shall, apart from activities prescribed in Article 48 of the Law on Forestry, comprise additional activities and contents as follows:

1. Restoration of forest ecosystem and biodiversity;
2. Forest natural regeneration and enrichment planting;
3. Development of livelihoods;
4. Development of Forest Development Villages [or Guardian Villages];
5. Ecotourism;
6. Researches;
7. Conservation Forest data and information.

Article 38 Restoration of Forest Ecosystem and Biodiversity

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall take the lead in coordinating with relevant agencies to develop the system of restoration of forest ecosystem and biodiversity, define the payment for forest ecosystem services which are affected by investment projects, particularly the rehabilitation of habitat of endangered wildlife, the movement or release of wildlife affected by natural disasters and projects back to the nature in accordance with the regulations and the Mitigation Hierarchy measures.

Article 39 Forest Natural Regeneration and Enrichment Planting

Forest natural regeneration and forest enrichment planting, shall be conducted as follows:

1. Define the area for forest natural regeneration and forest enrichment planting in the Conservation Forest;
2. Determine tree species and NTFP species that are suitable to the ecosystem of the forest area;
3. Prepare the plan or project of forest regeneration linked with activities that promote income generation for the people in villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest;

4. Strictly implement the management and maintenance plan;
5. Register as planted and regenerated forest in accordance with the regulation;
6. Clearly define regulations on utilization and benefits of persons engaged in planting and regeneration, such as: use of planted or regenerated NTFPs, prohibition of cutting and using timber for commercial purpose, benefits from trade in forest carbon or other benefits as provided in the laws.

Article 40 Development of Livelihoods

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities and the relevant local administrations shall encourage and promote the development of livelihoods of the people in villages located inside and adjacent to the Conservation Forest to allow them to have improved living standard and stop slash-and-burn cultivation practices in order to shift toward stable occupation by allocating residential land and permanent production areas, encouraging and promoting commodity production and building collaborative economy of various forms that are environmental-friendly and based on the potentials of each locality, such as: crops cultivation, livestock raising, fishery, trees and NTFPs planting, handicrafts and other services.

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall coordinate with relevant sectors to take the lead in formulating and promoting the implementation of the People Livelihoods Development Plan under the scope of their responsibility in consistency with the Socio-Economic Development Plan, the Conservation Forest Management Plan and the Rural Development and Poverty Eradication Plan of the locality in each period.

Article 41 Development of Forest Development Villages [or Guardian Villages]

Development of Forest Development Villages is the development of villages to enable them to become strong and take the lead in the management, protection and development of forest within the territory of the villages accordingly to the Village Forest Management Plan as specified in Article 26 of this Decree.

Forest Development Villages shall meet the following criteria:

1. People in the villages respect and comply with the laws and regulations relating to the forest;
2. Having the Village Land and Forest Management Plan approved by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office;
3. Having the Conservation Contract;
4. Having a sustainable integrated agro-forestry production system;
5. Being the villages, which have undertaken forest planting and expansion for the abundance of forests and the increase of forest coverage.

Article 42 Ecotourism

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall take the lead in coordinating with other relevant sectors and local administrations to conduct survey, prepare the plan of allocation, management, and development of tourism as well as to conduct the monitoring and inspection of the ecotourism activities in the Conservation Forest Landscape in order to evaluate the compliance with the laws and regulations.

Article 43 Researches

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall authorize individuals, legal entities and organizations to conduct scientific research and analysis in the Conservation Forest, such as: insects, endangered aquatic, wildlife and plant species, geology, historical and cultural traces, forest carbon stock and so on. The authorized researchers shall comply with the applicable laws and report the results of research in writing to the Conservation Forest Management Authorities within sixty days from the date of completion of the research.

Article 44 Conservation Forest Data and Information

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall take the lead in creating, updating, managing, developing and using the information on the Conservation Forests by connecting with the regional and international forest information system.

Any individuals, legal entities or organizations may access and use the Conservation Forest information by paying fees and service charges in accordance with the regulations.

Section 4 Utilization of Conservation Forest

Article 45 Utilization of Conservation Forest

The utilization of Conservation Forest including timber and NTFPs is authorized in the allocated area only and such utilization must be performed correctly, in compliance with the relevant laws and ensure minimal impact to biodiversity, soil quality and environment. The utilization of wildlife and aquatic animals in the Conservation Forest shall be conducted in compliance with the relevant laws and regulations.

The utilization of Conservation Forest is classified into the following categories:

1. Utilization for public benefits;
2. Utilization for family purposes;
3. Customary utilization;
4. Utilization for business purposes.

Article 46 Utilization for Public Benefits

Utilization for public benefits refers to the use of Conservation Forest for serving the collective interests of the people, community, and society, such as: for research, conservation of forest ecosystem and biodiversity, trade in forest carbon, payment for environmental services, ecotourism and recreation, preservation of important sites with historical and cultural values. Such utilization shall be in compliance with the Conservation Forest Management Plan and the laws.

Utilization of timber for public benefits is the use for the construction of offices, meeting halls, schools, health centers, temples, bridges. The timber to be used for such purposes shall be taken from the allocated village use forest only and the logging shall be approved by the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office in accordance with the annual logging plan of the province, Capital City as approved by the Government.

Regarding the utilization of NTFPs for non-commercial purposes, such as for medicine, decoration, exhibition, etc., the harvest is allowed in the allocated areas only.

Article 47 Utilization for Family Purpose

Utilization for family purpose refers to the use of timber and NTFPs in the Conservation Forest for the benefits of the people in the villages.

Utilization of timber for family purpose is the use for constructing and repairing houses particularly for families in need, such as: poor families which have no house or have old house or have their house being damaged or lost due to natural disasters. The timber to be used for such purposes shall be taken from the allocated village use forest only and the logging shall be approved by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office based on the proposal of the Village Administration in accordance with the regulations.

Regarding the utilization of NTFPs, those that are food and are grown seasonally and used in daily life of the people are allowed to be harvested and used.

Article 48 Customary Utilization

Customary utilization of the Conservation Forest including timber and NTFPs is the use which has been practiced since a long time, and such use is allowed only within village forest area and shall be in compliance with the Conservation Forest Management Plan and the laws.

Article 49 Utilization for Business Purposes

Utilization of Conservation Forest for business purposes refers to the use of Conservation Forest for tourism business, recreation sites, forest ecosystem services, trade in forest carbon, production of movie film, documentary film and other activities. Such uses shall be conducted in a sustainable manner and required to implement the Mitigation Hierarchy measures and to be consistent with the Conservation Forest Management Plan.

Utilization of NTFPs in the Conservation Forest for commercial purposes shall be conducted in the Conservation Forest in accordance with the Conservation Forest Management Plan and the laws.

Article 50 Rights and Obligations of Authorized Users of Conservation Forest

The authorized users of Conservation Forest shall have the following rights:

1. Use the Conservation Forest in accordance with the authorization;
2. Receive the benefits from utilization and implementation of activities in the Conservation Forest in accordance with the Conservation Forest Management Plan, laws and regulations;
3. Exercise other rights as defined in the laws and regulations.

The authorized users of Conservation Forest shall have the following obligations:

1. Use the Conservation Forest in conformity with the authorization and in compliance with the Conservation Forest Management Plan, laws and regulations;

2. Engage in the restoration, protection and development of Conservation Forest to make it abundant and sustainable;
3. Protect the environment, river headwater areas, water bodies, NTFPs, wildlife and aquatic animals in the Conservation Forest;
4. Take the lead to conduct, participate or contribute to the control and prevention of forest destruction, forest fire, illegal logging and illegal harvesting of NTFPs and the protection of wildlife and aquatic animals in the Conservation Forest;
5. Pay the cost for the implementation of Mitigation Hierarchy; pay the fees, service charges and other obligations in accordance with the laws and regulations;
6. Perform other obligations as provided in the laws and regulations.

Article 51 Acknowledgement of Land Use Rights of People Living in Conservation Forest

The Conservation Forest Management Authorities shall coordinate with the Natural Resources and Environment sector and other relevant sectors and local administrations to conduct the survey and collect information on land use or land use right of the people who are settled and live in the area prior to the approval as Conservation Forest in order to conduct the allocation, issue land use certificate or land title to them in accordance with the law.

Chapter IV Conversion, Lease or Concession

Section 1

Conversion of Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest Land

Article 52 Conversion of Conservation Forest

The conversion of Conservation Forest to the Production Forest shall be approved by the National Assembly based on the proposal of the Government. The conversion of Conservation Forest to the Protection Forest shall be authorized by the Government based on the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the agreement of other relevant Ministries and local administrations.

The conversion of Provincial Conservation Forest to National Conservation Forest shall be authorized by the Government based on the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the agreement of the Provincial Administration Office and the approval of the Provincial People's Assembly.

The conversion of District Conservation Forest to Provincial Conservation Forest shall be authorized by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry based on the proposal of the Provincial Administration Office and the approval of the Provincial People's Assembly.

The conversion of Village Conservation Forest to District Conservation Forest shall be authorized by the Provincial Administration Office based on the proposal of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office with the agreement of the District Administration Office.

Article 53 Conversion of Conservation Forest Land

Conversion of Conservation Forest Land is the conversion of Conservation Forest Land to another land category for the purpose of optimizing the benefits of the nation and the livelihoods of the people. Such conversion shall be in line with the National Socio-Economic Development Plan, National Land Allocation Master Plan, Sectoral and Local Land Use Plans; shall have minimal impact on environment and on the people involved; and shall ensure the implementation of Mitigation Hierarchy measures.

Conversion of Conservation Forest consists of two types as follows:

1. Permanent conversion which is the conversion for long-term purposes, such as: construction of hydropower dams, reservoirs, transmission line tower foundations, telecommunication tower foundations or for resettlement.
2. Temporary conversion which is the conversion for conducting a specific activity, and when such activity is completed, the land area shall be converted back to the Conservation Forest land, such as: access roads to the construction sites, temporary construction sites.

Article 54 State Organizations with Authority to Make Decision on Conversion of Conservation Forest Land

State organizations which have the authority to make decision on conversion of the Conservation Forest land are as follows:

1. The National Assembly takes decision on conversion of the National Conservation Forest Land and Provincial Conservation Forest Land to other land categories based on the proposal of the Government;
2. The Government takes decision on conversion of the District Conservation Forest Land based on the proposal of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment with the agreement of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the relevant local administrations;
3. The Provincial People's Council takes decision on the conversion of the Village Conservation Forest Land based on the proposal of the Provincial Administration.

Article 55 Obligations in Conversion of Conservation Forest Land

The grantees of authorization of conversion of Conservation Forest land shall have the following obligations:

1. Permanent conversion of forestland:
 - Pay the technical services charge;
 - Pay the forestland conversion fee, except in case of conversion of forestland into a reservoir;
 - Pay the forest ecosystem services charge;
 - Implement the Mitigation Hierarchy measures including the compensation for biodiversity loss;
 - Pay the reforestation cost.
2. Temporary conversion of forestland:
 - Pay the technical services charge;

- Pay the forestland conversion fee for conversion of forestland in the open mining operation area;
- Pay the forest ecosystem services charge;
- Implement the Mitigation Hierarchy measures including the compensation for biodiversity loss;
- Pay the reforestation cost and land reclamation cost.

The calculation of service charges and other obligations mentioned above is determined in a separate regulation.

Section 2

Lease or Concession of Conservation Forest Land

Article 56 Lease or Concession of Conservation Forest Land

Lease or concession of Conservation Forest land refers to the use of Conservation Forest land for nature-based tourism, forest regeneration, trees and non-timber forest products (NTFPs) planting, forest ecosystem activities, mineral activities.

Lease or concession of Conservation Forest land is allowed only in the allocated areas and shall be carried out in accordance with the following principles:

1. Study the socio-economic data and the suitability of the natural conditions, such as: soil, climate, elevation, rainfall, water sources, land use or utilization rights, local labor; conduct survey of the status of forest and forest resources; hold consultation and achieve agreement with local people; and study other issues as deemed necessary;
2. Prepare the economic-technical feasibility study report to be approved by the Agriculture and Forestry sector and other relevant sectors;
3. Prepare the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Report including appropriate mitigation measures and obtain the certification from the concerned authority;
4. Prepare the Action Plan that focuses on protection of water resources and environment, land preparation, village development, promotion of people's participation in production activities, use of technology as well as benefits sharing, etc.

Timber and forest resources which are in the lease or concession area shall remain the property of the State, except the planted trees belonging to individuals, legal entities or other organizations.

Article 57 Lease or Concession of Conservation Forest Land for Nature-based Tourism Activities

The lease or concession of National Conservation Forest Land for nature-based tourism activities can be conducted only in areas which are allocated by the State and must be approved by the Government based on the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the agreement of the relevant ministries and Provincial Administration Offices.

The lease or concession of Provincial and District Conservation Forest Land for nature-based tourism activities can be conducted only in areas which are allocated by the State and must be approved by the Provincial Administration Office based on the proposal

of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office with the agreement of the relevant provincial agencies and District Administration Offices.

Article 58 Lease or Concession of Conservation Forest Land for Forest Regeneration, Tree and NTFP Planting

The lease or concession of Conservation Forest land for forest regeneration, trees and NTFPs planting can be conducted in accordance with the Conservation Forest Management Plan and the scope of approval authority as follows:

1. The Government shall approve the area of more than ten thousand hectares per one investment project with a timeframe of not more than fifty years which can be extended for a maximum period of not exceeding thirty years on case-by-case basis following the proposal of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the agreement of relevant sectors and local administrations;
2. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall approve the area from one hundred hectares to ten thousand hectares per one investment project with a timeframe of not more than fifty years which can be extended for a maximum period of not exceeding thirty years on case-by-case basis following the proposal of the Department of Forestry with the agreement of relevant sectors and local administrations;
3. The Provincial Administration Office shall approve the area of less than one hundred hectares per one investment project with a timeframe of not more than fifty years which can be extended for a maximum period of not exceeding thirty years on case-by-case basis following the proposal of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office with the agreement of relevant provincial/Capital City offices and sectors.

Article 59 Lease or Concession of Conservation Forest Land for Conducting Forest Ecosystem Activities

The lease or concession of Conservation Forest Land for conducting forest ecosystem activities is allowed only in the areas which are allocated by the State and must be conducted as follows:

1. The lease or concession of National Conservation Forest Land for conducting forest ecosystem activities is allowed only in the areas which are allocated by the State and must be approved by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry with the agreement of the relevant ministries and Provincial Administration Offices;
2. The lease or concession of Provincial and District Conservation Forest Land for conducting forest ecosystem activities is allowed only in the areas which are allocated by the State and must be approved by the Provincial Administration Office based on the proposal of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office with the agreement of the relevant provincial agencies and District Administration Offices.

Article 60 Lease or Concession of Conservation Forest Land for Mineral Activities

The National Assembly has the authority to approve the concession of Conservation Forest Land for conducting large-scale mining operation projects based on the proposal of the Government.

The Government has the authority to make decision on the concession of Conservation Forest Land for conducting the mining operation projects in general.

The requirements and timeframes for the concession shall be governed by the Law on Minerals.

Article 61 Obligations of the Lessee or Concessionaire

The lessee or concessionaire of Conservation Forest land shall have the following obligations:

1. Comply with the laws, sub-law legislations and Conservation Forest Management Plan;
2. Pay the lease charge or concession fee; be responsible for other costs such as: technical services charge, land reclamation cost, tree planting cost, reforestation cost, Mitigation Hierarchy implementation cost and other fees in accordance with the laws;
3. Pay the forest ecosystem services fees and charges to the Forest Protection Fund;
4. Be responsible for the payment of various costs;
5. Pay the forestland conversion fee;
6. Provide cooperation and facilities to relevant officers and civil servants to implement the Conservation Forest activities;
7. Perform other obligations as defined in the laws.

Chapter V Conservation Forest Management Office

Article 62 Conservation Forest Management

Each Conservation Forest shall have one Conservation Forest Management Office to perform the management and administration works.

The National Conservation Forest which spans across numerous provinces and the Conservation Forest registered as regional and international listing shall be managed under the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry in cooperation with relevant local administrations.

The National Conservation Forest which does not span across numerous provinces shall be managed by relevant local administrations with the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office serves as direct Secretariat.

The Provincial Conservation Forest shall be managed by the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office in cooperation with relevant District and Village Administration Offices.

The District Conservation Forest shall be managed under the District Agriculture and Forestry Office cooperate with relevant Village Administration Offices.

The Village Conservation Forest shall be managed by Village Administration Office.

Article 63 Conservation Forest Management Office

A Conservation Forest Management Office shall have a Head, Deputy Head and technical staff of at least twenty persons for National Conservation Forest and for Conservation Forest registered as regional and international listing. The number of technical

staff for the Conservation Forests of other levels is varying according to the conditions of each Conservation Forest. A Conservation Forest Management Office shall also be equipped with tools, materials and equipment, vehicles, weapons and budget allocation for using in the implementation of its works as appropriate.

The National Conservation Forest Management Office and the Conservation Forest Management Office of the Conservation Forest registered as regional and international Conservation Forest shall have the status equivalent to a division of the department or the District Agriculture and Forestry Office. The Heads of these units have the managerial position of category 4 or higher and are appointed, transferred or removed from position by the Minister of Agriculture and Forestry in coordination with the local administrations where the Conservation Forests are located.

The Provincial Conservation Forest Management Office has the status equivalent to the Provincial Forestry Section. The Head of Provincial Conservation Forest Management Office has the managerial position of category 5 or higher and is appointed, transferred or removed from position by the Provincial Governor/Capital City Mayor based on the proposal of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office.

The District and Village Conservation Forest Management Office has the status equivalent to the District Forestry Unit. The Head of District and Village Conservation Forest Management Office has the managerial position of category 6 or higher and is appointed, transferred or removed from position by the Chief of District/Municipality Mayor/City Mayor based on the proposal of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office.

Chapter VI

Management and Inspection of Conservation Forest Activities

Article 64 Conservation Forest Activities Management and Inspection Organizations

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is directly responsible for the management and inspection of the Conservation Forest activities and takes the lead in coordinating with relevant line ministries, agencies and local administrations to ensure the implementation.

The Conservation Forest Management and Inspection Organizations comprise:

1. Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry;
2. Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office;
3. District Agriculture and Forestry Office;
4. Agriculture and Forestry Sub-Unit of the Village Economic and Financial Unit;
5. Conservation Forest Management Office.

Article 65 Rights and Duties of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry has the rights and duties according to the scope of its responsibilities as follows:

1. Research and formulate the policies, strategies, laws and regulations on Conservation Forest for submitting to the Government for consideration;

2. Elaborate the policies, strategies, laws and regulations on Conservation Forest into its plans, programs, projects and ensure their implementation;
3. Conduct the dissemination and education on the policies, strategies, laws and regulations on Conservation Forest including the plans, programs, projects related to the Conservation Forest activities;
4. Issue or cancel the Decisions, Orders, Instructions, Notifications on Conservation Forest activities;
5. Establish the National Conservation Forest Management Office and the Provincial Conservation Forest Management Office and delegate authorities of Conservation Forest management and inspection to these units;
6. Lead, manage, protect, develop, utilize and monitor the implementation of the Conservation Forest activities across the country;
7. Develop, manage and use the Conservation Forest information system;
8. Develop, manage and use the breeding sources of tree and NTFP species;
9. Conduct scientific and technological research on the reproduction of tree and NTFP species;
10. Propose to the Government to consider the utilization, lease, concession and conversion of Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest land;
11. Propose to the Government to consider the approval or cancellation of the establishment of National Conservation Forests;
12. Receive and consider to address the requests of the individuals, legal entities or organizations in relation to the Conservation Forest activities;
13. Consider the approval or cancellation of the Provincial Conservation Forests;
14. Develop, provide training, upgrade the capacity of the personnel on Conservation Forest activities;
15. Coordinate with line ministries, agencies local administrations and other relevant parties to implement the Conservation Forest activities;
16. Ensure the relation and cooperation with foreign countries, regional and international bodies on Conservation Forest activities;
17. Summarize and report the implementation of its activities to the Government on a regular basis;
18. Exercise other rights and perform other duties as provided in the laws.

Article 66 Rights and Duties of the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office

The Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office has the rights and duties according to the scope of its responsibilities as follows:

1. Implement the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects relating to the Conservation Forest activities;
2. Disseminate the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects, conventions to which Lao PDR is a party and international agreements related to Conservation Forest activities;
3. Issue or cancel the Decisions, Orders, Instructions, Notifications relating to all activities in the Conservation Forest;
4. Lead, manage, develop, protect, utilize and monitor the implementation of the Conservation Forest activities;
5. Develop, manage and use the database related to Conservation Forest activities;

6. Develop, manage and use the breeding sources of tree and NTFP species;
7. Conduct scientific and technological research on the reproduction of tree and NTFP species;
8. Propose to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to consider the lease, concession and conversion of the Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest land;
9. Propose to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to approve the conversion of District Conservation Forest to Provincial Conservation Forest;
10. Propose to the Provincial Administration Authority to consider the approval or cancellation of the District Conservation Forest;
11. Propose to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to consider the approval or cancellation of the establishment of the Provincial Conservation Forest;
12. Receive and consider to address the requests of the individuals, legal entities or organizations in relation to the Conservation Forest activities including the establishment and operations of the grievance redress mechanism at appropriate level;
13. Develop, provide training, upgrade the capacity of personnel on Conservation Forest activities;
14. Coordinate with other relevant agencies to implement the Conservation Forest activities;
15. Examine, provide comments, approve or disapprove the Utilization Plans submitted for the proposed activities in the Provincial Conservation Forest, including for the lease or concession of the Conservation Forest land;
16. Ensure the relation and cooperation with foreign countries on Conservation Forest activities;
17. Establish the District and Village Conservation Forest Management Offices and delegate the authorities of Conservation Forest management and inspection to these offices;
18. Propose to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry on the establishment of the Conservation Forest Management Office for the Provincial Conservation Forest;
19. Summarize and report the outcomes of the implementation of Conservation Forest activities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry and the Provincial Administration on a regular basis;
20. Exercise other rights and perform other duties as provided in the laws.

Article 67 Rights and Duties of the District Agriculture and Forestry Office

The District Agriculture and Forestry Office has the rights and duties according to the scope of its responsibilities as follows:

1. Implement the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects relating to the Conservation Forest activities;
2. Disseminate the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects, conventions to which Lao PDR is a party and international agreements related to the Conservation Forest activities;
3. Issue or cancel the Decisions, Orders, Instructions, Notifications relating to all activities in the Conservation Forest;
4. Lead, manage, develop, protect, utilize and monitor the implementation of the Conservation Forest activities;

5. Manage and use the database related to Conservation Forest activities;
6. Develop, manage and use the breeding sources of tree and NTFP species;
7. Participate in the scientific and technological research on the reproduction of tree and NTFP species;
8. Propose to the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office to consider the lease, concession and conversion of the Conservation Forest;
9. Propose to the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office to authorize the conversion of Village Conservation Forest to District Conservation Forest;
10. Propose to the District Administration to consider the approval or cancellation of the Village Conservation Forest;
11. Receive and consider to address the requests of the individuals, legal entities or organizations in regards with the Conservation Forest activities including the establishment and operations of the grievance redress mechanism at appropriate level;
12. Propose to develop, provide training, upgrade the capacity of personnel on Conservation Forest activities;
13. Coordinate with other relevant agencies to implement the Conservation Forest activities;
14. Examine, provide comments, approve or disapprove the Utilization Plans submitted for the proposed activities in District Conservation Forests including for the lease or concession of Conservation Forest land;
15. Propose to the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office on the establishment of District Conservation Forest Management Office;
16. Summarize and report the outcomes of implementation of Conservation Forest activities to the Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office and the District Administration on a regular basis;
17. Exercise other rights and perform other duties as provided in the laws.

Article 68 Rights and Duties of the Agriculture and Forestry Sub-Unit of the Village Economic and Financial Unit

The Agriculture and Forestry Sub-Unit of the Village Economic and Financial Unit has the rights and duties according to the scope of its responsibilities as follows:

1. Implement the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects relating to the Conservation Forest activities;
2. Disseminate the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects, conventions to which Lao PDR is a party and international agreements related to the Conservation Forest activities;
3. Participate in the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of activities in the Conservation Forests;
4. Participate in technical trainings on sustainable management of Conservation Forests;
5. Manage, protect, plant the trees and restore the Village Conservation Forest in line with the Village Forest Management Plan with the aim of transforming the villages into Guardian Villages;
6. Monitor, control and prevent unlawful activities in the Conservation Forests, such as illegal logging, burning of forest, forest fire, poaching, illegal harvesting of NTFPs

- and any acts of forest destruction and then report to the District Agriculture and Forestry Office in a timely manner;
7. Propose to the District Agriculture and Forestry Office to establish the Village Conservation Forest Management Office;
 8. Summarize and report the implementation of Conservation Forest activities to the District Agriculture and Forestry Office and the Village Administration on a regular basis;
 9. Exercise other rights and perform other duties as provided in the laws.

Article 69 Rights and Duties of the Conservation Forest Management Office

The Conservation Forest Management Office has the rights and duties according to the scope of its responsibilities as follows:

1. Implement the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects relating to the Conservation Forest activities;
2. Disseminate the policies, laws, strategies, plans, programs, projects, conventions to which Lao PDR is a party, and other relevant international agreements;
3. Lead, manage, protect, develop, utilize and monitor the implementation of the Conservation Forest activities;
4. Conduct survey, collect information and prepare the Conservation Forest Management Plan;
5. Make the proposals on expansion of area, raising of level, registration, conversion of Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest land;
6. Conduct the monitoring and research on biodiversity;
7. Develop the livelihoods of the people to ensure that they have residential place, production areas and stable occupation;
8. Take the lead in monitoring, preventing and combating illicit activities that cause adverse impact to Conservation Forests and Conservation Forest lands;
9. Conduct technical trainings on management, protection, development and utilization of Conservation Forests and Conservation Forest lands to the officials and the people;
10. Sign the conservation contract and the collaborative Conservation Forest management contract;
11. Coordinate with other relevant organizations to implement the Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest land activities;
12. Ensure the relation and cooperation with foreign countries on Conservation Forest activities in accordance with the assignment and the laws;
13. Summarize and regularly report the implementation of Conservation Forest activities to the higher level;
14. Exercise other rights and perform other duties as provided in the laws.

Article 70 Content of Inspection

The inspection of Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest land activities shall have the following content:

1. Implementation of legislations relating to Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest land activities;
2. Performance of duties of the officers and officials/civil servants;

3. Formulation and implementation of plans on Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest land activities.

Article 71 Forms of Inspection

The inspection consists of three forms as follows:

1. Regular inspection which is the inspection that is regularly conducted according to a plan with specified time period;
2. Inspection with advance notice which is the inspection outside the plan and is conducted when deemed necessary by giving an advance notice to the targeted party;
3. Emergency inspection which is the inspection carried out urgency without giving an advance notice to the targeted party.

The inspection must be conducted in strict compliance with the laws.

Chapter VII Uniform, Logo and Seal

Article 72 Uniform

The staff and officers of the Conservation Forest and Conservation Forest Land Management Organizations shall have their uniforms for using in the performance of their official work. The uniform shall be defined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Article 73 Logo and Seal

The Conservation Forest Management and Inspection Organizations shall have their own logo and seal for using in the performance of official work. The logo and seal are defined by the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry.

Chapter VIII Budget used in Conservation Forest Activities

Article 74 Sources of Revenue

Sources of revenue for Conservation Forest activities are as follows.

1. State budget;
2. Forest Protection Fund;
3. Environment Protection Fund;
4. The contribution of individual, legal entities and state organizations both national and international;
5. Fees for the implementation of Mitigation Hierarchy;
6. Other legal revenues.

Article 75 Management and Utilization of Budget

Management and utilization of budget for Conservation Forest activities shall ensure the transparency and auditability in accordance with relevant laws and regulations.

Budget utilization shall be used for the implementation of Conservation Forest activities.

Chapter IX

Awards for Persons with Good Performance and Measures Against Violators

Article 76 Awards for Persons with Good Performance

Individuals, legal entities and organizations with outstanding performance in the implementation of this Decree, such as becoming the role model, making active contribution to the implementation of Conservation Forests activities effectively and in consistency with the set goals shall receive the awards or other benefits in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations.

Article 77 Measures Against Violators

Individuals, legal entities, and organizations who violate this Decree will be subject to penalties such as re-education, warnings, disciplinary actions, fines, civil compensation, or criminal sentences depending on the degree of severity.

Chapter X Final Provisions

Article 78 Implementation

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry shall take the lead to implement this Decree.

All Ministries, Agencies, Local Administrations and other relevant parties shall acknowledge and strictly implement this Decree.

Article 79 Effectiveness

This Decree shall enter into force from the 4th of July, 2023 onwards.

This Decree supersedes Decree on Conservation Forest No. 134/GOV, dated May 13th, 2015.

**For the Government of Lao PDR
Prime Minister**

Sonexay Siphandone