

May 2, 2016

**Approval by mail: Lao PDR: Protecting Forests for Sustainable Ecosystem Services (ADB) (FIP)
(XFIPLA004A) - Comment from Katie Berg, United States**

Dear Mafalda,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this interesting project. The documentation proposes a complex set of activities that build on an existing project with a track record. Before moving forward toward a decision, we would like to have a telephone discussion with ADB staff.

In this discussion, we would like to get a better understanding of the following issues:

- How consultation with villages and villagers about project activities was conducted, and how future consultations will be conducted;
- How the ADB will conduct ongoing assessment of the social impacts of the project;
- The financial attractiveness and sustainability of proposed alternative livelihoods activities, including patrolling forest areas;
- The rationale for inclusion of small infrastructure projects;
- How exactly the project would work with hydro power projects, and whether the charcoal harvesting activities are sustainable;
- The performance of the underlying project to date.

We may have additional questions later on.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Best,

Katie Berg
U.S. Treasury Department