

June 21, 2013

**Comments from United States on Approval by Mail: Lao PDR: Smallholder
Forestry Program (IFC)**

Dear Patricia,

We appreciate the additional information provided by the IFC on this project and are content to move forward with approval. We would like to reiterate the importance of appropriate support and capacity building to farmers and communities to ensure their effective participation in this project.

On a more general note, the additional information provided by IFC was particularly helpful to our evaluation of the project, and we look forward to discussions with the Admin Unit and IFC on the level of detail provided in program/project documents. We encourage IFC to ensure that documents include sufficient information to allow for the evaluation of programs/projects against FIP criteria, while protecting confidential information.

Best,

Katie Berg
U.S. Treasury Department