

November 2011

Comments from United Kingdom on FIP Investment Plan
(received on April 18, 2012)

Laos

- The UK supports approval of the Lao Investment Plan, but recommends further work during project design to address comments raised by independent reviewers. The main questions of concern raised in the independent review are around the lack of focus in the investment plan, as well as the likely impact on swidden farmers and ethnic minorities.
- We recommend undertaking a rigorous problem analysis when preparing the proposed projects and using this as the basis for defining specific interventions to be financed. We would like to see a clear evidence-based approach articulated when projects are presented to the board for approval.
- We also recommend preparing a strong consultation and engagement plan, explicitly addressing the questions raised over shifting cultivators and ethnic minorities raised in the independent review of the investment plan. We would like to see evidence of how consultation and outreach to these groups has shaped and influenced the projects when they are submitted to the board for approval.