

CSOs Concerns and Recommendations for the Fifth UN-REDD PEB Meeting

We, Civil Society Organizations submit the following concerns and recommendations for the 5th PEB meeting as following:

- 1- Building capacity of the REDD+ Taskforce to Vietnam (**output 1.1**). What are the objectives of visit and the action of coming back which contribute to the **output 1.1**?
- 2- There is a need to support at the grassroots level activities to manage forest sustainably. Although efforts have been made to stop illegal logging, development of policies and frameworks, deforestation and forest degradation have been increased recently.¹ It has no priority activities indicated in the workplan for the last 6 months of 2013. There is an activity on the **output 1.3b** to support Community Forestry (CF) and Community Projected Areas (CPA) networks. Under this activity budget should allocate to local CSOs who are working with CF and CPA networks for sustainable forest management (patrolling and law enforcement activities). Moreover, the funds should allocate to support CF or CPA network for meeting to raise any issues to develop their action plan, and to file the petition or complaint letters to relevant stakeholders.
- 3- Newsletter on the progress of Cambodia UN-REDD program should be produce every 3 months to update and share information to relevant stakeholders on the implementation of the program.
- 4- FA project support in Siem Reap province (**output 2.1**) is it overlap with awareness raising activity? Siem Reap province is less potential forest. How is this activity contributing to development of national REDD+ strategy? Lessons learned from OMC and Seima are more appropriate for development of individual REDD+ strategies and implementation modalities. FA should support to existing pilot projects and provinces that have more forest cover such as Prey Long, Mondulkiri, Rattanakiri.. etc.
- 5- Deforestation in Prey Long and other areas have been increased recently, so the government should strengthen forest law enforcement and have clear mechanism to protect natural forest and sub-degree on Prey Long should be endorsed as soon as possible.
- 6- Accelerate and streamline the processes of CFs and CPAs registration or formulization.
- 7- Hired consultants (output 2.2/2.3/2.6) should consider on qualification, context, cost, deliverable. Program should look for local consultants or partners that work closely with local people. Technical team should involve stakeholders from different institutions
- 8- There is a need of development of national guidelines such as FPIC and Safeguards (**output 2.6**). The national social and environmental safeguards for REDD+ and climate change should consider the existing policies, international standards and agreements on safeguards. Safeguards are protection measures to potential risks from the external interventions. This would include multi-stakeholders engagement and consultation on existing practices and proposed principles, criteria and indicators on safeguards. For local communities, forests have spiritual, subsistence, medicinal and commercial value. Safeguards are protection measures to potential risks from the external interventions.

¹ Cambodia Daily May 2, 2013; Phnom Penh Post July 15, 2013, <http://www.recoftc.org/site/Challenges-for-Cambodia>

Encourage Community and civil society organizations participate in monitoring and evaluation the implementation process of safeguard and FPIC.

- 9- **Output 3.2** what are the activities, who are the development partners how to release grant? The activities should consider supporting on going sustainable community forestry, forest patrolling, law enforcement and national resource protection activities. The pilot projects in Seima and Oddor Mean Chey² have been affected by implementation of directive 001, military garrison and new settlement.
- 10- The review of the national definition of forest (**output 4.4**) should not include plantations. The plantations are not included in the implementation of REDD+. The monoculture plantations cannot replace the value of natural forests with regards to biodiversity, ecological services (such as sediment and water regulations), contributions to local economies, and the livelihoods and cultural identity of Cambodia's indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities.
- 11- Establishment of maps, satellite and aerial imageries (**output 4.3**) should consider harmonization of datum and geographic coordinates for mapping (WGS84 vs India 60).

General recommendation:

- Encourage using in-house specialties (eg. FA, MAFF, MOE, NGOs).
- Develop a clear land-use planning from local to national level and formulate community based forest management strategic action plan.
- Clear mechanism on REDD+ benefit sharing is a need.
- Ensuring feedback and grievance redress mechanism are in place.

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² Report from community forestry network in OMC on May 2013