



Magroove Forest in Prey Nob, Preah Sihanouk Province, Photo Credit: Thy Heang

What is the Cambodia REDD+ Programme?

Cambodia still has abundant forests, but is losing them rapidly. Deforestation is caused by the rapid pace of development in the country, including large-scale agro-industrial development, and a lack of effective implementation of existing laws and policies on forests.

The principal forest management strategies of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) are the National Forest Programme for the permanent forest estate administered by the Forestry Administration under the MAFF, the Protected Area law for the protected areas managed by the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection under MoE, and the Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries for the flooded forests and mangroves managed by the Fisheries Administration under MAFF.

REDD+ could form a significant new source of finance for implementation of these forest management strategies, in a way that explicitly recognizes local livelihoods and biodiversity conservation co-benefits. This would help Cambodia achieve its national

target of maintaining forest cover, which is one of the main objectives mentioned in the RGC's Rectangular Strategy.

Cambodia developed a national REDD+ Readiness road map in 2009-2010 and established its first REDD+ pilot project in 2008. It submitted a Readiness Plan Proposal to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility in 2009; became a member of UN-REDD in 2009, and signed a UN-REDD National Programme in 2011. Cambodia has now three pilot REDD+ projects (Oddar Meanchey, Seima and Kulen Promtep).

See more at: <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/introduction>

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Who's Who in REDD+ Cambodia?

The Cambodia REDD+ Programme is supported by a number of programmes and frameworks such as CAM-REDD, UN-REDD, FCPF, JICA, Embassy of Japan, LEAF and Harvest and various NGOs. Some support is directly for the implementation of the REDD+ Roadmap; other support is for different activities in the forest sector which will improve the management of forests, thereby contributing to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation.

UN-REDD in Cambodia

The United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD Programme) was created in September 2008 to assist developing countries, like Cambodia, to get ready for REDD+. Currently, there are nearly 50 UN-REDD partner countries.

The UN-REDD Programme builds on the expertise of FAO, UNDP and UNEP to support the partner countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts. More information on the UN-REDD Programme can be found at: <http://www.un-redd.org/>

What does UN-REDD Support in Cambodia?

The UN-REDD Programme in Cambodia supports implementation of the Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. UN-REDD works in close cooperation and coordination with other national level REDD+ initiatives such as Cam-REDD and the FCPF. All of these initiatives pursue the same set of four critical outcomes to get Cambodia ready for REDD+, namely:

- ◇ Outcome 1: Effective National Management of the REDD+ Readiness process and stakeholder engagement.
- ◇ Outcome 2: Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework.
- ◇ Outcome 3: Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels.
- ◇ Outcome 4: Design of a Monitoring System and capacity for implementation.

Within this framework, UN-REDD has helped to establish and build capacities of national level bodies such as the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce, the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat, and Consultation Group. It is supporting the identification of viable REDD+ strategies in all the major forest types in Cambodia; it is providing support to several demonstration projects that are generating lessons on sub-national implementation; and it is building capacities for national MRV and monitoring systems.



For more information, please contact the Head of the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat at: red.d.secretariat@cambodia-redd.org



- See more at: <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/supporting-redd-framework/un-redd>



Up Coming Events

Consultation Group Selection Workshop

A Selection Workshop for the REDD+ Cambodia Consultation Group (CG) will take place on August 29th-30th at the Raffles Hotel Le Royal, Phnom Penh. Eligible voters from 9 stakeholder groups (CSOs, national and international NGOs, IPs, private sector, academic institutions, and Community Forest, Community Fishery and Community Protected Area Networks) will elect representatives to the Consultation Group. The CG will ensure that the REDD+ Taskforce is aware of the views of all stakeholders.

Photo and Drawing Competition and Concert

Photography and Drawing Competition and a Concert are being organized to raise awareness about climate change, the role of forests, and REDD+. The photography competition will be opened to members of the general public. The Drawing competition will be for secondary school students. The concert will be on December 2013. Winning entries will be displayed during the concert.

Contacts for REDD+ in Cambodia

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Understanding REDD+

What is REDD+?

Deforestation and forest degradation, through agricultural expansion, conversion to pastureland, infrastructure development, destructive logging, fires etc., account for approximately 10% to 12% of global greenhouse gas emissions, a similar amount the entire global transportation sector and second only to the energy sector. To limit the impacts of climate change to what society will reasonably be able to tolerate, increase in global average temperatures should be kept below two degrees Celsius. This will not be possible without reducing emissions from forests, in addition to other actions.

REDD+ is an effort to offer incentives for developing countries to reduce emissions from forested lands, including the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The details about how the REDD+ mechanism will work are still under negotiation. However, in order to implement REDD+ Cambodia, like all developing countries, will need to build capacities and establish mechanisms to implement actions to reduce emissions, measure the results, and distribute benefits in a fair, equitable and transparent way. This process of preparing for REDD+ is often referred to as “REDD+ Readiness”.

Who can implement REDD+?

All people, communities, organizations and governments can help reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, but all participants need to have the capacity to ensure effective action. Full implementation of REDD+ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change is national level implementation with governments reporting to the Convention on results achieved compared to a national reference level agreed by the Conference of the Parties (COP). At the same time, there are a number of standards for REDD+ under the voluntary carbon markets outside the UNFCCC which opens for REDD+ results at the project level.

National level implementation does not mean REDD+ under the UNFCCC is only for governments. On the contrary, for REDD+ implementation to be effective and deliver the expected benefits including the reductions in emissions of CO₂, REDD+ implementors need to work people living in and around the forests, the agricultural sector, the mining sector and other actors who play a role in maintaining or cutting down the forests for their activities.



Forest Inventory in Oddor Meanchey Province, Photo Credit: Long Ratanak Koma



Civil Society and IPs Selection Process for the Cambodia Programme Executive Board, Photo Credit: Leonard G. Reyes



Civil Society and IPs Selection Process for the Cambodia Programme Executive Board, Photo Credit: Leonard G. Reyes

Cambodia Consultancy Team on National Inventory Design Explores Forest Inventory Issues on the Ground

A small team of international and Cambodian consultants spent a week viewing on forest ecology and Forest Inventory procedures “on the ground” in May 2013. The field trip of consultancy team covered field plots on permanent forest reserve and community forestry in Koh Kong, Siem Reap and Mondulakiri provinces. The consultancy team is developing Cambodia’s first Multi-Purpose National Forest Inventory (NFI), key to participation in REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation). It provides vital information on how much carbon is being stored in Cambodia to offset Greenhouse Gas emissions. The core activity is measuring trees—key storehouses or “sinks” of carbon—along with soils, leaves and other forest carbon pools.

In the wild Cardamom mountains in Koh Kong Province, the team hiked trails into 20 large permanent sample plots (PSPs) managed by the Forestry Administration’s Forest and Wildlife Research Development Institute. They used GPS (Global Positioning System) to check field coordinates. This will help the team match cover maps from remote sensing (a technique for mapping land from satellite images) to tree size, type, growth rates and other information collected by measuring trees, seedlings and saplings on each plot. Statistics are being used to convert this data into predictions on tree growth and amount of carbon in areas represented by plots.

Chen Mab, chief of Tatai Community, accompanied the group into evergreen forest about half kilometer from the road to the large rectangular field plots marked by painted posts. Mr. Chen later left to pick up a group of tourists on a camp-out as part of his eco-tourism business. Rainy season has started on the south coast, so the first day included wet hiking and encounters with leeches which emerge as soon as the ground gets wet.



community forest members touring the Tbeng Leak Community Forest in Oddar Meanchey Province to discuss management and inventory practices with NFI Team. Photo Credit: David Chojnacky

Next stop was Rokhavoan Community Forest, also known as “Monk Forest” in Oddar Meanchey Province in northern Cambodia. Host was the Venerable Bun Saluth, a Buddhist monk who has gained international fame for establishing a community forest for traditional uses such as tapping trees for resin. Days later, far across the country in Mondulakiri, the team crossed a stream and clambered upslope through dense forest to one of 282 field plots established by FA and the Wildlife Conservation Society in Seima Protected Forest.

“A country-wide network of inventory plots will give the government vital information for managing and conserving its forest,” noted Dr. David Chojnacky, international consultant. “But it will be a major field challenge to establish the plots” especially on steep hillsides and in dense forest.” And, he added, tropical forests offer another unique challenge. “There are literally hundreds of tree species and many more Khmer names for them including different spelling variations.”

Latest from the REDD+ Cambodia web-site

For more information on REDD+ in Cambodia, visit the Cambodia REDD+ web-site: www.cambodia-redd.org. Recent updates on the site include:

- Information about key NGO partners at: www.cambodia-redd.org/category/ngo-partners
- An introductory video on REDD+, in Khmer, at: www.cambodia-redd.org/category/document-centre/videos
- Background documents for the 5th meeting of the UN-REDD Programme Executive Board at: www.cambodia-redd.org/category/document-centre/un-redd-peb/peb-meetings
- UN-REDD/Cambodia Communications Strategy at: www.cambodia-redd.org/category/document-centre/un-redd-peb/communications-strategy

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