

Key issues and status of Cambodia REDD+ readiness efforts: which ways forward?

Raffles Hotel Le Royal
20th December 2013 (Friday)

Background:

Cambodia has been classified as a country with “high forest cover”, and “high deforestation rate”. According to FAO forest resource assessment (2010), Cambodia has approximately 10.1 million hectares of forest, constituting 57% of the total land area. During recent decades Cambodia has experienced high rates of deforestation, for instance, 1.2 % per year between 2005 and 2010 (FAO 2010).

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) recognized REDD+ as a crucial strategy to tackle the alarming rates of deforestation and forest degradation in the country. REDD+ has also been viewed as a potentially significant new source of funding for effective implementation of key forest management strategies, such as the National Forest Programme, the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan and the Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries 2010-2019. The implementation of REDD+ would also help Cambodia to achieve its national target of maintaining 60% forest cover, which is one of the main objectives of the RGC’s Rectangular Strategy ¹, and is a key indicator for the Cambodia Millennium Development Goal 7 that refers to increased forest coverage as one of its key goals.

To support the Royal government of Cambodia to be ready for REDD+, several supporting frameworks have emerged such as the UN-REDD Programme, CAM-REDD, World Bank’s FCPF and USAID’s SFB. The RGC has also provided its support for REDD+ pilot projects such as the Oddar Meanchey community forests since 2008, and the Seima Protected Forest since 2009.

Whereas numerous activities have already been initiated and carried out under these REDD+ supporting frameworks, the general level of awareness about key issues under REDD+ remains limited among stakeholders including government officials from FA, GDANCP and FiA and other stakeholders in Cambodia. Given that the participation and ownership of stakeholders is a critical component for the successful implementation of REDD+ in the country, there is a need to inform stakeholders of key issues and status under REDD+ and create a space to discuss future steps to move REDD+ effectively forward.

Main objectives of the meeting are:

- To inform government officials about key issues and status under REDD+
- To discuss future steps to move REDD+ effectively forward.

Targeted participants:

- Taskforce members,
- Focal points of FA, GDANCP, FiA, and provincial level officers

Agenda of December 20th

Meeting facilitator: Mr. Kimhy Lun

Time	Item	Presenters
8:30 - 9:00	Opening speech	H.E. Chheng Kimsun, Ph. D. (TBC)
9:00- 9:50	Climate change and REDD+ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is REDD+? • Status of global REDD+ negotiations • Why REDD+ in Cambodia? How does it contribute to forest governance under FA, GDANCP and FiA? Q & A	Mr. Peter Iversen
9:50-10:40	REDD+ in Cambodia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • REDD+ readiness and three phased approach • Taskforce, Technical Teams and Consultation Group • Where does Cambodia stand? Q & A	Mr. Khun Vathana
10:40-11:00	Break	
11:00-12:00	Key issue 1: NFMS (Monitoring and MRV) and REL/RL <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the steps to be taken under MRV? (Measuring, Reporting and Verification) • What do we mean by Monitoring? • Status and future plans Q & A	Mr. Peter Iversen
12:00-13:30	Lunch	
13:30-14:30	Key issue2: Safeguards and benefit sharing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Benefit sharing under REDD+ • Why do we need social and environmental safeguards? • What do safeguards aim to achieve? • Status and future plans Q & A	Mr. Long Ratanakoma
14:30-15:45	Lessons learned from pilot projects: opportunities and challenges for scaling up to national REDD <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seima (15 min) : Mr. Men Soriyun • Oddar Meanchey (15 min): Mr. Long Ratanakoma • Subnational level and challenges to scale up project to national level: Mr. Peter Iversen Q & A	
15:45-16:00	Break	
16:00-16:45	Discussion: Next steps for Cambodia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2014 plan of actions: Mr. Khun Vathana • What are key steps to reach in the second phase? • What are challenges and opportunities to address? 	H.E. Chea Sam Ang, Ph. D.
16:45-17:00	Concluding remarks	Representatives from the REDD+ Taskforce (TBC)