

REDD+ in Cambodia



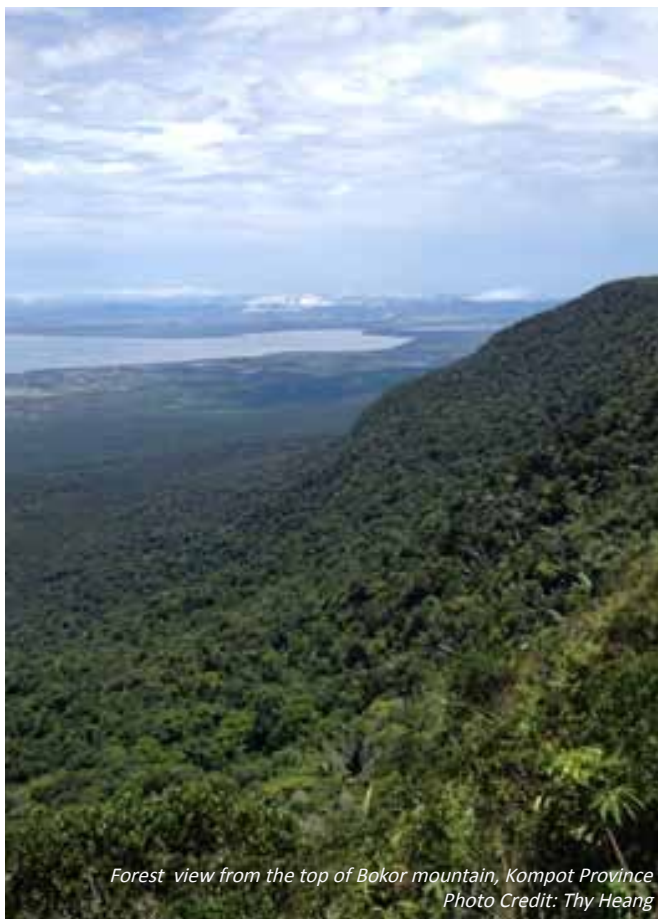
Kep National Park, Kep Province, Photo Credit: Thy Heang

I. Overview:

Cambodia still has large areas of forest, with a total of over 10 million hectares, or nearly 57% of the land area (Forest cover data in 2010). However, over the last two decades, Cambodia has lost some 2.86 million ha of forest (1965-2010), a rate of deforestation that is high compared with other countries.

The principal causes of deforestation relate mainly to institutional and governance issues and the fast rate of national development. Evidence suggests that large-scale agro-industrial enterprises are currently the largest driver of deforestation.

Through REDD+, we can reduce deforestation, strengthen conservation, and promote sustainable, management of forests for the benefit of people,



*Forest view from the top of Bokor mountain, Kompot Province
Photo Credit: Thy Heang*

especially the rural poor, wildlife, and the climate. Recognizing the potential of REDD+, Cambodia is one of the first countries in the Greater Mekong region to address REDD+ with pilot activities starting in 2008. After Cambodia joined the UN-REDD Programme in October 2009, UNDP and FAO supported the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in developing the Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap.



*IP representatives from 15 provinces participated during consultation group selection process workshop
Photo Credit: Thy Heang*

II. Readiness in Cambodia

In order to support implementation of the Roadmap, the Cambodia REDD+ Programme has been designed around four main outcomes:

Outcome 1: Effective National Management of the REDD+ Readiness process and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the Roadmap principles

This component will establish and support appropriate management arrangements and stakeholder engagement for REDD+ Readiness.

Outcome 2: Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework

This component will support the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce and line agencies to evaluate candidate REDD+ strategies proposed during the Roadmap phase. It will also, analyze further strategies; develop key elements of the REDD+ implementation framework, including fund design and benefit-sharing, mechanisms; and develop plans for the necessary policy and legal reform to implement REDD+.



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Outcome 3: Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels.

This component will support the completion of the existing REDD+ pilot projects; success of these projects will demonstrate the importance of development of a national REDD+ system. Capacity-building at the provincial-level in Mondulhiri, will also be supported as a necessary pre-condition for subnational REDD+ implementation, part of the process of scaling REDD+ up to the national scale.



*The forest in Bokor mountain, Kompot Province
Photo Credit: Thy Heang*

Outcome 4: Design of a Monitoring System and capacity for implementation.

This component will design a National Forest Monitoring System, and provide assistance to the Government agencies to collect and collate the necessary baseline data on forest cover and emissions factors for the reference scenario. Support from the Japanese Government is also contributing to the design of the monitoring system.

III. Readiness: Key partners

Preparing for REDD+ is a challenging task, which cannot be achieved by government agencies alone, but requires an active partnership with numerous partners. These include civil society and non-governmental partners in-country, and also bilateral and multi-lateral development partners. Cambodia is fortunate in having a range of development partners assisting on REDD+ readiness. These include



*IP group discussion during the consultation
group selection process national workshop
Photo Credit: NTFP-EP*

the UN-REDD Programme (implemented through FAO, UNDP and UNEP), the Japanese-supported Cam-REDD, the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, and USAID funding through the Lowering Emissions in Asia's Forests Programme (LEAF). Various national and international NGOs are also implementing projects to build capacity for REDD+ at the local level.