

Summary of National meeting on Preparing for Cambodia to enter the Warsaw Framework

Raffles Hotel Le Royale, Phnom Penh
5th September, 2014

Summary of meeting

The meeting started with opening remarks by HE Dr Chea Sam Ang. He underlined the possibilities of Cambodia to participate in REDD+ and receive results-based payments to the benefit of the forest and the communities dependent on the forests. With the Warsaw Framework agreed last year at COP19, Cambodia can now plan its participation and begin to benefit from REDD+.

A presentation by Peter Iversen described how the Warsaw Framework provides all the necessary rules and guidelines for producing the four elements required by the Cancun Agreements: A National Strategy, A National Forest Monitoring System, A safeguards Information System and a Reference Emissions level. Furthermore the decisions provide a clear path for how countries first need to submit a proposal for a REL, get it assessed before the country can submit their results with an aim to receive results-based payments. When countries submit their Biennial Updates Report (BUR) with the results there is also a need to have the three other elements in place. Finally the presentation highlighted the flexibility contained in UNFCCC decisions allowing countries to get started before they have the perfect system.

Tim Boyle then gave a presentation on behalf of Mrs. Berta Pesti on different options for accessing results-based financing. The presentation highlighted that while there are different options not all of them seem available at this point in time; in particular, the prospects for bilateral funding agreements are not promising. Using the Warsaw Framework will secure compliance with the Green Climate Fund, where a REDD+ results-based payments system is under development.

Peter Iversen gave a presentation on the Brazilian REL submission highlighting that the submission transparently explains the choices made by Brazil including on the subnational scale, the selection of only one activity (deforestation) and the three carbon pools covered. The submission is now being assessed but can already serve as a good example on possible approaches to construct a REL. The presentation also highlighted the possibility to use the principle of conservativeness and the usefulness of a stepwise approach and that a new REL can be submitted when more and better data is available. The proposed REL from Brazil is based on ten years annual average deforestation.

Mr. Uy Kamal presented the status of REL development in Cambodia, mentioning that the current plan is for an initial REL to be prepared by the second quarter of 2015.

Chhun Delux presented the status of the development of the national REDD+ strategy, provided an overview of the different chapters, and the agreed worksplan. The aim is to have an initial first draft by December 2014 followed by extensive consultations and then be able to present it at COP21 in December 2015.

Leng Chivin gave a presentation on the development of the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), including the guidance provided including on the need for transparent and consistent information. He also highlighted the need for a NFMS to provide the data for the results to be provided through the BURs. The NFMS will build on existing forest cover maps and be improved over time. The NFMS will be useful not only for the monitoring function but also for the MRV requirements. An example of a web-interface with inventory information was shown. An interim GHG inventory for the forest sector could be available by December 2014. Finally a list of required actions was presented.

Chhun Delux made a presentation on Safeguards Information Systems, the status of its development and the steps involved. He highlighted the purpose of the safeguards and the seven safeguards from the Cancun Agreements. An analysis of possible gaps in existing rules and regulations has been developed and four provincial workshops have been conducted highlighting the aspects of full and effective participation.

Discussion at the end of all session provided many idea about how the process can be improved. It is now up to a team of technical advisors to take this advice and develop it into a definitive workplan, highlighting when Cambodia can expect to submit an initial REL, and the actions required in order to meet that target.

Results of Group working

Issue	Action	Responsibility	Time schedule
Forest definition	Analysis of forest land cover definition: propose definition for REDD+ (considering consistency with past work)		12 Sept. draft
	Presentation to TF for decision		October
	Finalization of forest cover maps 2005, 2010, 2014 (2014 not yet verified)		31 Dec. 2014
Minimum mapping unit			
Land use classes	Decision on whether to go beyond forest/non-forest		
Area covered by REL (national/sub-national)	National decided – no further action required	n/a	n/a
Activities covered by REL	Preparation of rationalization for selection of gross deforestation only	MRV TT	???
	Presentation to TF		
C-pools covered by REL	Prepare options paper (likely to propose AGB, Litter, Deadwood)	MRV TT	2 nd quarter, 2015
	Presentation to TF		
Gases covered	Preparation of rationalization for CO ₂ only (draft 2 nd NC includes methane)	MRV TT	2 nd quarter, 2015
	Presentation to TF		
Time-scale	Statistical data analysis for annual deforestation rates (if feasible)	UN-REDD/FAO (FCPF funding)	
	Results discussed with MRV TT		