

## Using mass media to build REDD+ awareness throughout Cambodia

RTS news

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There were two Consultation Workshops on Concept of Gender and REDD+ was organized by the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS) on April and May 2015, at Preah Sihanouk and Siem Reap province. The workshop aimed to enhance understanding of the concept of gender, women's empowerment; discuss and identify entry points for gender mainstream considerations into REDD+ activities and programmes; and to familiarize with the gender checklist.

Dr. Khorn Saret, Head of the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat highlighted the importance of gender issues to be included in the National REDD+ Strategy. He encouraged participants to gain knowledge on concepts of gender and apply these to the REDD+ programme. He also focused on the key role of the Technical Teams and REDD+ Consultation Group in supporting the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce for REDD+ Readiness in Cambodia and in the development of National REDD+ Strategy.

A total of 89 professionals participated in the workshops representing Heads of Forestry Cantonment in Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihea, Ordar Meanchey, and Banteay Meanchey, members of REDD+ Consultation Group, and four REDD+ Technical Teams from the ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Environment; Interior; Economy and Finance, Mine and Energy; Women Affairs; Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction. In addition REDD+ development partners from CAM REDD, and UNDP Cambodia also participated in the workshop.

Training and facilitation was done by members of REDD+ Gender Group, from the ministries of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries; Environment; and Women Affairs. A diversity of training tools and methods were used such as presentations, group discussions, video, and tools to keep the participants energized through the workshop.

### Outcomes

- Learned the concepts of gender and tools for gender analysis
- Learned methods to mainstream gender into the forestry sector with lessons drawn from REDD+ programmes from Indonesia and Vietnam
- Reviewed the Gender Checklist that had been drawn earlier to provide guidance on possible ways ensure gender issues could be promoted and mainstreamed within the National REDD+ Strategy
- Pre-tested the review of the National REDD+ Strategy to identify that gender issues had been included for its first draft. They find the gaps that gender issues should be mainstreamed.

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### Discussions

The participants recommended that the gender check list should be simplified in which followed the updates of the draft National REDD+ Strategy. Also, they said the Gender Checklist is very important tool helping them to easily capture the gaps of highlighting the gender into the draft.

Recommendations related to the National REDD+ Strategy included addition of key elements from the Constitution of Cambodia, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); increased emphasis on mainstreaming and inclusion of indigenous peoples, women's perspectives, and community participation; clear guidelines and mechanisms for free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC); sex-disaggregation of all data and indicators; establish an effective grievance redress mechanism; fund mechanism and benefit sharing; and clarify the role of gender in measurement, reporting and verification (MRV), and reference emission levels (REL).

Most importantly, all inputs and recommendations on the draft of Nation REDD+ Strategy from participants had been sent to National Consultations of the strategy for their review and uses to update the second draft strategy.