

Multi-stakeholder consultative meeting for the development of National REDD+ Strategy

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Since January 2015, a series of consultations on the initial draft of Cambodia National REDD+ Strategy with relevant stakeholders and REDD+ Expert Team members have been carried out. The second draft of the National REDD+ Strategy took into consideration comments received from these consultations.

On May 20-21 2015, a Consultative Meeting on Cambodia National REDD+ Strategy was organized to present the status of its development; collect technical inputs and general concerns from over 70 participants and technical experts who are members of REDD+ Taskforce, Technical Teams, Consultation Group, Gender Group, and Expert Team; and identify issues that need further inputs in order to revise subsequent working drafts.

The meeting served as a platform for relevant stakeholders to provide their technical expertise and general concerns on the strategy. Details of all consultative activities with stakeholders on the NRS will be documented in the evolving National Strategy Background Document to ensure accountability and transparency of the NRS development process.

The second working draft provides an overview of Cambodia's forest land management, arrangements for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy, REDD+ safeguards framework and information system, financial management arrangements, National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL), and institutional arrangements for strategy implementation. In addition, the draft strategy stresses the importance of mainstreaming gender as well as listening to voices from civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities (forestry, protected areas, and fisheries).

Ms. Vong Sophana, Deputy Director General of the Forestry Administration highlighted that the Royal Government of Cambodia strongly supports the development and implementation of REDD+ as an option to mitigate the impacts of climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry sector, contribute to socio-economic development. All of which contributes to poverty alleviation, and achieving environmental sustainability.

Participants were divided into five groups to discuss and provide inputs on the scope and scale of REDD+ implementation, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and policies and measures (PAM) to implement REDD+ activities.

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Some of the questions raised through the discussion groups were as follows:

The scope and scale:

Should Cambodia National REDD+ Strategy address only deforestation, and/or forest degradation? How about sustainable management of forests, and conservation and enhancement of forest carbon stocks?

Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation:

Based on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation identified in relevant national documents: What sets of drivers should the strategy address? Should additional study on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation be conducted to supplement and/or update identified drivers?

Policies and Measures (PAMs):

Based on the sets of drivers selected to be addressed, how will/could current PAMs address them? Are they enough or how could these existing PAMs be enhanced through the implementation of the NRS? Are additional PAMs required?