KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA NATION RELIGION KING

NESTING REPORT







ОСТ 2022

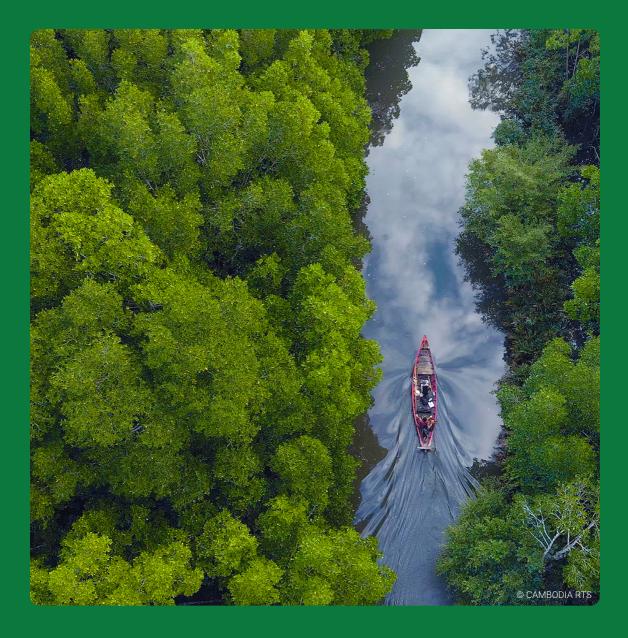
Nesting Report

October 2022

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1. INTRODUCTION

In 2010-2020 average annual global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were at their highest levels in human history. The urgency of responding against the climate crisis is increasingly apparent to people everywhere. Frequent floods, prolonged droughts, continuous rise in sea-level and disappearing biodiversity are among the forms of climate-induced fallout being felt around the world. In the landmark 2015 Paris Agreement (COP21),¹ countries including Cambodia agreed to reduce the GHG emissions that cause climate change. Ambitious action will be required to keep the average global temperature below 1.5 degrees Celsius (°C), the threshold for avoiding the worst climate consequences.

Without immediate and deep emissions reductions across all sectors, limiting global warming to 1.5°C is beyond reach. Increasing evidence of climate action has been reported in the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) sixth assessment report. For Cambodia, one important support under the Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector for rapid climate action comes from a regulatory system known as 'nesting'. It involves applying common rules, management methods and safeguards to projects and programs within a jurisdiction to track and count emissions reductions under the UNFCCC-led REDD+, a global mechanism for protecting, sustaining, conserving, and enhancing forests.² Nesting ensures that emissions measurements are consistent and accurate and are not double counted, such as by a project in one locality and again by a national governmental program. Nesting helps orchestrate diverse actions to cut emissions, over time, towards eventually slowing the pace of climate change.

Cambodia has high ambitions for climate action. In its most recent national climate action plan, called the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (2020) or NDC, it pledged to cut overall GHG emissions by nearly 42 percent by 2030. It has also set a Long-Term Strategy (LTS) of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, which hinges on aggressively avoiding emissions related to FOLU (see Box 1).

Such plans depend in large part on stopping deforestation and establishing sustainable forest management, since healthy forests have much higher potential as "sinks" that absorb higher amounts of carbon from the atmosphere than disturbed forests. In contrast, emissions result from deforestation and forest degradation. With Cambodia's extensive forests shrinking rapidly, declining from over 57 percent of land area in 2010 to around 45 percent in 2018,³ the commitments in the NDC and LTS are critical, but they also depend on having a strong flow of finance.⁴

Reducing emissions and stopping forest losses are complex processes for developing countries like Cambodia with limited resources. REDD+ offers an opportunity to simultaneously protect and enhance forests and generate funding, through international and national carbon markets and through non-market finance based on performance. The process can also help sustain the livelihoods and other benefits of people living in and around forest areas. In Cambodia, nesting can help unlock the full potential of REDD+ since accurately tracking the activities included in its National REDD+ Strategy is key to accessing carbon markets and attracting both public and private investment.

^{1.} The Paris Agreement falls under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the umbrella agree ment for all international climate negotiations.

^{2.} Formally, REDD+ stands for reducing deforestation and forest degradation while conserving and sustainably managing forests.

^{3.} See the Second National Forest Reference Level to the UNFCCC (2021).

^{4.} See the National Council for Sustainable Development, News on Climate Change and Cambodia's Updated Nationally Deter mined Contribution.

Intended for policymakers, forestry professionals, civil society advocates, sustainable development experts and others with substantive knowledge of climate and forestry, this booklet tells the story of Cambodia's pioneering work on nesting. It is the second booklet in a series, following an earlier publication on REDD+ in Cambodia. Both chronicle experiences that should be of interest to other developing countries that, like Cambodia, are seeking to strike a complex balance between development and climate priorities through nesting.

BOX 1. A Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (2021)

Cambodia's Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality by 2050, submitted to the UNFCCC in 2021, largely depends on reducing emissions in the FOLU sector. Cambodia expects the sector to be carbon neutral from 2031 by balancing afforestation and reforestation with agriculture that is more productive and resilient to climate change.

By 2045, deforestation should stop all together, and different forms of agroforestry along with reforestation would become two powerful sources of emissions mitigation. Land dedicated to sustainable plantations and agroforestry is expected to reach 1.6 million hectares. Over a million hectares of native forest would be restored. Together, these steps would create a carbon sink of 50 megatons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050.

Cambodia's national REDD+ Action and Investment Plan for National REDD+ Strategy accompanies its climate strategies. If fully financed with \$185.7 million, it could reduce deforestation by 50 percent in 2031.

Source: Cambodia's Long-term Strategy for Climate Neutrality.





2. NESTING: WHAT AND WHY?

Through the Paris Agreement, the REDD+ mechanism can open the door to significant flows of climate finance from both international public finance and carbon markets. Further, it builds on the kinds of nature-based solutions – in this case, in forests – that are expected to account for a large share of required climate actions, including under the NDCs.

Many countries, including Cambodia, have established REDD+ projects over the last decade. A number of these have generated credits in voluntary carbon markets that involve private firms. But some common problems have come up along the way. Projects might be scattered in various locations and managed by a host of organizations, each using different approaches to measuring performance in reducing emissions. Inconsistent and unreliable accounting of emissions typically results.

Risks of double counting arise. And the numbers may not add up correctly, preventing a country from determining if it is on track to reach climate goals and national REDD+ objectives, and undermining environmental integrity (see annex). The process becomes like a bank account where deposits have been made in different currencies. If these are not converted to one tender, it becomes impossible to get an accurate tally and make fully informed choices about saving and spending.

Under the Paris Agreement, Corresponding Adjustment (CA) is presented as a tool to avoid double counting and to keep the integrity of global emission accounting intact to provide a real impression of progress towards meeting agreement goals on keeping the temperature between 1.5°C and 2°C. Although not mandatory, advocates of requiring CAs for voluntary carbon market (VCM) argue that the solution is to allow companies to make "contribution claims", meaning that their investment has contributed to a country's NDC. In addition, this would provide confidence to host countries concerned that credits transacted in the voluntary market might be used to meet other countries' targets.

As a regulatory framework, nesting can organize and standardize emissions measurements and reductions across individual projects, locations, and the national government. It can improve accuracy by applying common baseline inventories of carbon emissions and periodic benchmark measurements for different national and subnational jurisdictions, such as the forest emission reference level (see Box 2).

Nesting also helps uphold consistent environmental and social safeguards and equity, since gauging different initiatives with the same benchmarks makes it more likely that comparable efforts and results will support ensuring social equity outcomes for communities regardless of project and program levels. It supports efficiency as well, steering investment and other choices that best protect forests at risk and the people who depend on them.



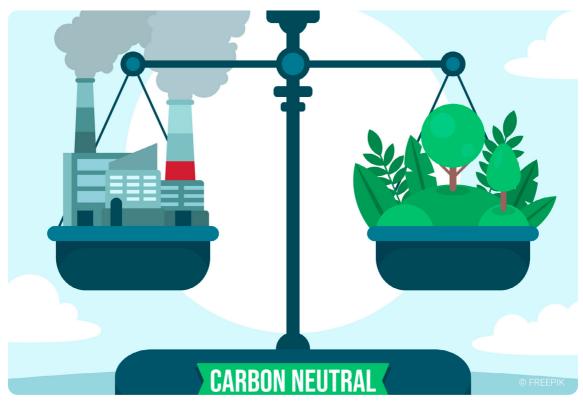
BOX 2. Setting a Baseline for Measurement: the Forest Emission Reference Level

A national forest emission reference level is one of the core elements of preparing to implement REDD+ activities. It is a benchmark of forest-related emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and removals from the sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks, for a specific period in a defined jurisdiction.

Under the UNFCCC, developing countries such as Cambodia can update reference levels by following a stepwise approach, applying better data and improved methods over time. They are also expected to submit measurements for a technical review. A national reference level assessed for technical soundness is required for results-based payments in carbon markets overseen by the United Nations.

Cambodia submitted its first official reference level (2006-2016) to the UNFCCC in 2017 and its second (2010-2018) in 2021, demonstrating that emissions from deforestation had declined during 2015-2016 and 2017-2018 compared to the reference period of 2006-2014. The second reference level submission updated several elements explicitly aimed at facilitating the adoption of nesting. These included updated protocols and calculations to reduce the uncertainty of emission estimates from deforestation.

Source: UNFCCC forest reference emission levels, REDD+ booklet



For Cambodia, nesting has become a chance to make improvements on several fronts, leading to better governance, greater environmental integrity, and increased transparency. All these elements underpin high-quality carbon accounting for carbon credits that can be exchanged on carbon markets (see Box 3). Such credits are increasingly in demand but only

if they can be robustly verified for accuracy. For instance, only nested project-scale REDD+ credits are eligible for Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), a global effort to offset aviation emissions under the International Aviation Organization.

Buyers of carbon credits in voluntary carbon markets, which offer the potential to tap into large streams of private finance, increasingly see nesting as a guarantee of quality and are willing to pay more for credits from nested projects. These markets have grown quickly since the Paris Agreement, driven by concerns about climate change and a record number of private companies making commitments to carbon neutrality (see Box 4). Looking at specific FOLU project types (avoided deforestation, avoided land conversion, afforestation and reforestation, and improved forest management), from 2020 to 2021 REDD+ volumes rose dramatically (see Figure 1) showing a significant buyer interest in REDD+ credits. Much larger portions of the volumes originated in Asia during the same period.

BOX 3. Two Kinds of Carbon Markets

Currently, there are two kinds of carbon markets. "Compliance" markets, such as those under the aegis of the United Nations, other international organizations and domestically, help meet government commitments to reducing emissions. They include markets where countries can sell credits for emission reductions they have achieved beyond national targets. Other countries that have not met their targets can then purchase these credits.

Voluntary carbon markets involve private companies buying carbon credits for reasons that can include corporate social responsibility initiatives as well as their own net zero emissions objectives. Voluntary markets are not backed by government standards or requirements. To function, they depend on individual organizations certifying the integrity of emission reductions. Having clear, agreed standards fosters a relationship of trust between buyers and sellers.

In 2021, at international talks to follow up on the Paris Agreement, nations agreed on new rules to transfer carbon credits and improve links between emissions trading systems. In parallel, several initiatives are developing guidelines for companies to engage in voluntary carbon market transactions. They include VCMI (the Voluntary Carbon Market Integrity Initiative) and IC-VCM (the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market). Both incentivize private firms to invest in climate-friendly solutions. The IC-VCM has emphasized nesting as an integral support for carbon credits.

Source: Carbon Markets 101: The ultimate guide to global offsetting mechanisms, UNFCCC Article 6.



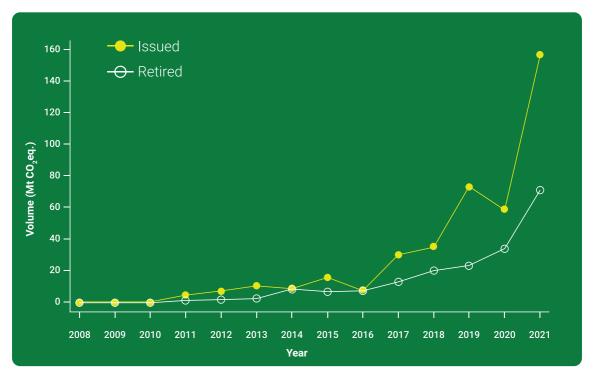
BOX 4. One Company's Emphasis on Nesting

The corporate behemoth Amazon has begun taking strides to reach net-zero emissions across its business by 2040. These include investing in reduced deforestation, where the company emphasizes that it will finance reductions across entire landscapes where effective government policy underpins forest protection. It will support project-based efforts but emphasizing those that are nested in larger or 'jurisdictional' scale programmes.

Amazon refers to jurisdictional programmes and projects nested within them as improving the quality of carbon credits, since they can better capture all changes in forests across a broader landscape and against measured baselines. It has also committed to supporting improved accuracy in measuring and monitoring deforestation and emissions from forest degradation, and to instituting safeguards so jurisdictional plans include and support local and vulnerable communities and maintain sufficient ambition in line with the Paris Agreement.

Source: Carbon Neutralization and Nature-Based Solutions.





The global voluntary carbon offset by volume (million-ton CO2eq.) issuances and retirements, from 2008 to 2021 under five REDD+ activities: avoided through conversion and deforestation, and removal through afforestation/reforestation, improved forest management. The data derived from the Climate Focus-led VCM Dashboard. The dashboard keeps track of market development indicators for leading voluntary carbon standards, including Verra's Verified Carbon Standard, the Gold Standard's SustainCert, the American Carbon Registry, and the Climate Action Reserve. The data shows a significant increase in the transaction of carbon credit in the voluntary market between 2018 and 2021.



3. HOW DID NESTING BEGIN IN CAMBODIA?

Globally, Cambodia is among a handful of countries on the frontier of developing nested systems for REDD+. Amid growing momentum around climate change and carbon markets, other countries that are also beginning to make progress include Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Mozambique, and Peru.

Cambodia has been on the road to REDD+ for more than a decade, developing a series of forestryrelated programmes and policies that culminated in the 2017 **National REDD+ Strategy**, mentioned before, one of the four pillars of REDD+. The second pillar is the Forest Emission Reference Level, (see Box 2), and the third pillar is the **National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)**, which follows REDD+ activities and improve data on forest carbon stocks and forest cover changes. It includes a standardized national forest definition and land use classification system. A spatial monitoring tool based on Google Earth analyses forest loss. The fourth pillar is a **Safeguards Information System** (**SIS**) that entails regularly monitoring seven social and environmental safeguards that apply to all REDD+ initiatives. Examples include ensuring transparency in forest governance, and fully upholding the rights of local and Indigenous communities.

Having the four pillars in place gave Cambodia tools for measurement and monitoring that are required to develop a nested system to manage REDD+ activities. Since a nested system is challenging to design and implement, requiring close links among different institutions, processes, and data, all backed by the creation and enforcement of regulations, Cambodia has taken a staged approach to rolling it out (see Table 1). Figure 2 illustrates various milestones achieved and pending others towards developing a nested system in Cambodia.

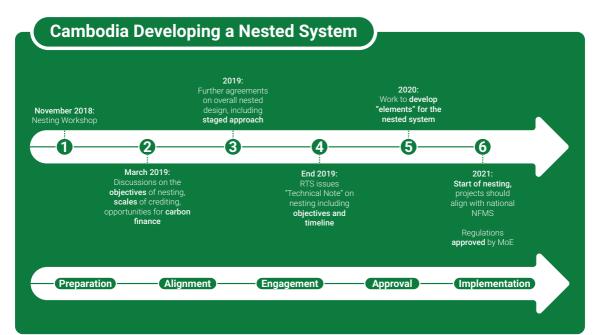
Preparations starting in 2019, the pre-nesting stage, involved consultations with government officials and technical specialists to design the system and develop a draft regulatory framework. Cambodia submitted its second national forest emission reference levels in 2021 as the basis for accurate and credible measurement moving forward. It considered scenarios to allocate shares of the forest reference level to different projects and/or subnational jurisdictions. It also looked at options to manage leakage and underperformance, report on national social and environmental safeguards, and integrate data from each REDD+ project into the national forest monitoring system. In 2021, Cambodia officially launched its nesting system. Until that point, all REDD+ projects could continue to use existing methods of measurement.



Table 1. Stages of Nesting in Cambodia

Stage	Notes
Pre-nesting	This is the current stage where the country is preparing for nesting.
Early nesting: JNR Scenario 1	Applying Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR)Scenario 1 will support early nesting of projects into a national system. JNR Scenario 1 is only valid in voluntary markets. These are considered "nested credits" and are increasing in value as companies recognize the higher GHG integrity that they represent. Since there is usually a delay when project monitor data issues credits, the official "start date" for crediting to be decided.
Adoption of the Prakas	Will give legal clarity to projects and their investors and provide clear guidelines to project developers.
Future (full) nesting	 Future stages of nesting may include refinements such as: Applying JNR Scenario 2, which can open up new markets (e.g., CORSIA). Engagement in Article 6 transactions. Improved measurement, reporting and verification systems that are further aligned with projects.

Graphic 02: Cambodia's Nesting System Roadmap



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4. BRINGING THE PIECES TOGETHER

Activities on various levels or scales, locally to nationally, contribute to REDD+ in diverse ways. They may also have access to diverse types of climate finance. For example, the Green Climate Fund is a non-market instrument that works with entire countries in line with the UNFCCC. Many private sector entities, however, prefer to purchase carbon credits from specific REDD+ projects as it may be easier to "see" results on a local level.

Nesting manages these diverse activities through two basic approaches. The first is more centralized. Accounting for emissions reductions and the generation of credits takes place on a national scale. Local projects report on their emissions reductions performance and can receive payments or emissions reductions credits from the central government, based on a benefit-sharing system. The second model is more decentralized. Both the national governments and individual projects can generate and trade carbon credits under agreed safeguards and systems for monitoring and verification.

The first option generally works best for state-owned lands and in cases where countries seek finance tied to national accounting, typically from multilateral or bilateral funds. The second option can provide stronger incentives to communities and private landowners to sustainably manage forests to monetize resulting emissions reductions. But it makes accounting in line with national climate goals under the Paris Agreement more complex.⁵

Countries might choose a mix of the two options based on national circumstances, with systems likely to evolve over time. That is the case in Cambodia, which has moved towards integrating projects with activities on a national or subnational scale. The expectation is that results-based payments and carbon crediting will be generated by national or subnational jurisdiction, in line with national forest monitoring and GHG accounting.

At the same time, Cambodia is seeking to preserve progress already made from the existing REDD+ projects. Continued advances in nesting have therefore occurred alongside support for the independent sale of REDD+ project credits in Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM). These have garnered around \$12 million in conservation finance from companies including Disney, Delta, Gucci, Shell and the Mitsui Corporation.⁶

For nesting to work, a robust regulatory foundation must be in place. As a starting point, Cambodia has a Sub-decree (see in Glossary) on National GHG Emissions Reduction Mechanisms that serves as the legal framework for nesting. It defines carbon rights (see Box 5), sets minimum standards, including social and environmental safeguards, and stipulates project approval procedures. It also establishes a national registry of projects linked to all emissions initiatives, including those under REDD+.

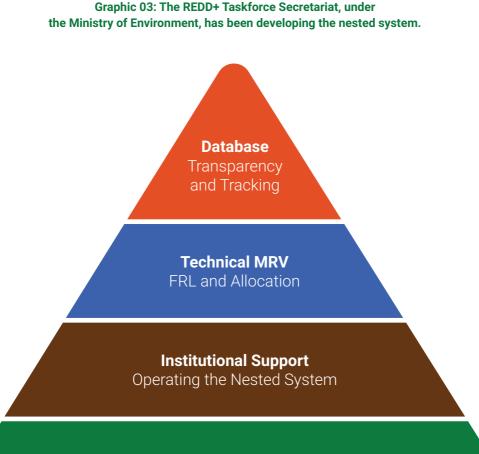
Building on the Sub-decree is the Prakas (see in Glossary), an official document dedicated to rolling out nesting (See Figure 3). It requires the Cambodia's National REDD+ Taskforce and its Secretariat to develop the system and to play a central regulatory role in approval, management, monitoring, and evaluation of all projects at various jurisdictional scales. The National Council for Sustainable Development of Cambodia will only register the REDD+ related projects while other relevant ministries and institutions will facilitate the entire process. An accompanying set of guidelines defines the details of nesting, including carbon accounting in alignment with the National Forestry Management Strategy. REDD+ projects will be required to routinely monitor and report on progress in line with the guidelines.

^{5.} World Bank, Nesting of REDD+ Initiatives: Manual for Policymakers.

^{6.} Nesting REDD+: Pathways to Bridget Project and Jurisdictional Programs.

The guidelines spell out social and environmental safeguards and provisions for sharing project benefits, such as through oversight mechanisms and provisions for public engagement. Other elements uphold alignment with the National REDD+ Strategy. The guidelines also define shares of revenues from carbon sales that will go to the Government. Pegged at up to 20 percent, which is not a requirement but is strongly encouraged, these shares will support the continued functioning of the nested system along with other development activities to support forest protection, conservation, and sustainable management. Information on how these funds is spent is expected to be readily available to communities involved in projects, project developers, buyers of carbon credits and other stakeholders.

The National REDD+ Taskforce, which draws from a variety of national ministries with portfolios related to forestry, the environment and local development, oversees nesting. A National REDD+ Registry System has been developed to officially register REDD+ projects and publicly track progress over time, based on information provided by developers and/or implementers (See Figure 4). The guidelines define standards for registration, including eligibility conditions, methodologies for setting baseline measurements and minimum safeguards. All projects must follow the new regulations on emissions tracking.



Regulatory Framework: Prakas and Sub-decree Guidelines for All Projects

Graphic 04: Process to Register in the National REDD+ Project Database

PROCESS TO REGISTER IN THE NATIONAL REDD+ PROJECT DATABASE

STEP 1. Project Registration Request

Submit concept note and GIS data/maps

STEP 2. Application for Registration

- Submit documentation
- ► RTS completeness check

STEP 3. Project Review Record & assess against eligibility Review, modify and submit within deadline Notify if complete or request additional information **STEP 4. Evaluation of Project Documents** REDD+ project review team appointed Review team assess & provide evaluation report **STEP 5. Decision on Project Approval** REDD+ project review team appointed RTS informs the REDD+ project proponent **MODIFICATION** REJECTED APPROVED REQUESTED The Project may appeal The approved project to the REDD+ Taskforce is registered in the National REDD+ **Project Database**

BOX 5. Carbon Rights Vs. Carbon Credits

Carbon is now a commodity or property that can be traded. Carbon rights are therefore a form of property or commodity rights of communities and individuals to forest-related emissions reductions. Beyond broader rights to forest and land, carbon rights also include the right to sequester carbon into the future. Either through contracts or national legislation, carbon rights can be created in line with international legal standards.

Carbon rights are not the same as tradable carbon credits. A carbon credit is defined as one ton of emissions reductions that are traceable, tradable, and transferable. Carbon credits come with an identifiable serial number logged in national or international carbon registries.

Given the strong association of carbon rights with the developing world, and forest-dependent and Indigenous communities or individuals, applying a 'human rights lens' means that communities or individuals have rights to benefits generated through REDD+.

Safeguarding carbon rights in communities can take multiple forms, such as engaging them in leading REDD+ activities and recognizing their rights to land and natural resources. They should be fully considered in benefit-sharing arrangements, an objective that nesting can support.

Source: World Bank, Nesting of REDD+ Initiatives: Manual for Policymakers



5. FINDING THE WAYS FORWARD

Any nested system can improve over time. As Cambodia strengthens its institutions and systems for monitoring, it will increase the quality of the NFMS and the SIS and advance alignment among emissions reductions on different national and local scales. This could open the door to new flows of finance and faster progress on climate and development goals, including through upholding safeguards aimed at an equitable sharing of benefits.

In 2021, a set of rules on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement was finally agreed at international climate talks in the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties in Glasgow, Scotland. Article 6 covers international carbon markets that trade in all sources of carbon credits, including under REDD+. So-called nature-based solutions, such as those under REDD+, are expected to be more transparent and consistent to track and trade. But having made progress in developing nesting, as a method gaining increasing acceptance, Cambodia may be able to move more rapidly towards participating in Article 6 transactions. Meanwhile, Cambodia has been engaged as an observer in the Country Contract Group of the Voluntary Carbon Market Initiative (VCMI), an initiative that aims to support demand-side integrity and transparency to voluntary carbon market transactions through the development of guidelines for companies' credible use of carbon credits and associated public claims. This participation allowed Cambodia to improve their capacity and knowledge about the functioning of carbon markets.

More work is needed to provide guidance and support to countries to establish policies that regulate emissions and help to direct voluntary finance. One step Cambodia has already taken, under the Subdecree on National GHG Emissions Reduction Mechanisms, is to agree on a national registry tracking REDD+ and all other initiatives to reduce emissions. The next steps will be the signing of the Sub-decree followed by the formal endorsement of the Prakas which will then create full enabling condition for the operationalize the REDD+ guideline and registry and will help Cambodia to move from early nesting to the full-nesting stage (see Table 1). Since one of the challenges of nesting is the potential mismatch in performance between different scales, Cambodia also needs to carefully develop policies to manage the benefits of positive performance and the liabilities for underperformance.

The international VCM is expanding rapidly and a similar trend is anticipated in the coming years. Similarly, an increase in average unit price has been observed based on the analysis of transected voluntary carbon credits by project region 2019-2021. The indicators of the voluntary market have shown promise. Setting the required stage through policy design to the operationalization of the nested system and enhancing capacity to participate in markets and providing a testing ground for innovative approaches that can inform future regulations and can direct investment to local communities and technologies that go beyond policy can directly stimulate. Together these initiatives could allow Cambodia to take advantage as well as attract much needed finance from the international VCM.



GLOSSARY

All terms are adapted from the World Bank's Nesting of REDD Initiatives: Manual for Policymakers unless otherwise noted.

Accounting:	The tracking of changes in carbon pools associated with human-induced sources and sinks of greenhouse gas emissions. ⁷
Benefits:	Monetary and/or nonmonetary support for participation in forest carbon projects or a jurisdictional emissions reduction programme.
Benefit-sharing system:	The arrangement under which a government institution allocates, administers, and channels benefits funded by payments for emission reductions to national actors.
Carbon credit:	An emissions reduction that has been created according to the rules of a private or public carbon standard and is issued, tradable and traceable in a greenhouse gas registry.
Carbon dioxide equivalent:	A metric measure used to compare the emissions from various greenhouse gases on the basis of their potential contribution to global warming. It entails converting amounts of other gases to the equivalent amount of carbon dioxide with the same global warming potential. ⁸
Carbon finance:	Results-based finance that involves the issuance of tradable carbon credits.
Carbon neutrality or net zero carbon dioxide emissions:	This is achieved when emissions produced by human activities are balanced globally by carbon removals from human activities over a specified period. 9
Carbon rights:	The rights of communities and individuals to forest-related emissions reductions. When used in the context of REDD+, carbon rights are mostly understood as the right to benefit from emissions reductions or to participate in a REDD+ benefit-sharing system.
Compliance carbon market:	A regulated market that by law holds entities accountable for their greenhouse gas emissions. The regulatory regime that covers the compliance market can be set up at the national, regional, or international levels.
Crediting:	The accounting of emissions reductions against a forest emission reference level or project baseline.

^{7.} UN-REDD.

^{8.} Eurostat.

^{9.} IPCC glossary.

- Deforestation: The conversion of forest uses/cover to other land uses/cover through loss of trees.
- **Double counting:** Under the Paris Agreement, this refers to accounting for a greenhouse gas emission reduction or removal against more than one NDC.
- Environmental A carbon market-based mechanism has environmental integrity if the transfer of credits through that mechanism leads to the same, or lower, aggregated global emissions. Integrity is ensured through accounting that avoids double-counting (that is, using the same unit twice to offset emissions), as well as through the quality of the ER baseline or reference level estimates, additionality, permanence, uncertainty, and leakage.
- **Forest degradation:** Reduction in the capacity of a forest to produce ecosystem services such as carbon storage because of human activities.
- Forest emission Reference levels are expressed as tons of carbon dioxide equivalent per year for a reference period against which the emissions and removals from a results period will be compared. Reference levels serve as benchmarks for assessing each country's performance in implementing REDD+ activities. They need to maintain consistency with the country's greenhouse gas inventory estimates.¹⁰
- Jurisdictional: A governance level that covers an administrative area for which public authorities can make decisions (for example, the national or subnational level).
- Leakage: In the context of climate change, carbon leakage happens when interventions to reduce emissions in one area (subnational or national) lead to an increase in emissions in another area. The official UNFCCC term is 'displaced emissions'.¹¹
- Megatons: One megaton is 1,000 tones.

^{10.} UNFCCC REDD+ web platform.

^{11.} CIFOR glossary.

GLOSSARY

National forest monitoring system:	One of the elements to be developed by developing countries in implementing REDD+ activities. Data and information provided by national forest monitoring systems should be transparent, consistent over time, and suitable for measuring, reporting, and verifying, taking into account national capabilities and capacities. ¹²
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC):	National climate action pledges made by parties to the Paris Agreement.
Nesting:	The coordinated and harmonized implementation of REDD+ programs and activities at multiple accounting scales and governance levels within a country.
Prakas:	A Cambodian term that means official proclamation. As a ministerial or inter-ministerial decision signed by the relevant minister(s), it must conform to the Constitution and to the law or sub-decree to which it refers. ¹³
REDD+:	The international policy framework that provides incentives for reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and promotes the role of conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.
Results-based finance:	Payments for results, mostly in the form of emissions reductions, which may or may not involve the issuance of tradable carbon credits.
Safeguards:	Measures to prevent and mitigate harm to people and the environment, and to increase benefits for them in the context of REDD+ activities.
Safeguards information system:	A system for providing information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected. It is one of the elements to be developed by developing countries implementing REDD+ activities. ¹⁴

^{12.} UNFCCC REDD+ web platform.

^{13.} Law Insider.

^{14.} UNFCCC REDD+ web platform.

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លេខាធិការដ្ឋានរេដបូកកម្ពុជា Cambodia REDD+ Secretariat

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