



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO IMPROVE COORDINATION WITH CLIMATE CHANGE PARTNERS

With the scale up of climate change efforts, the number of development partners, NGOs, academic institutions and businesses involved in climate change response has increased significantly in recent years. This has brought much needed additional resources, but it has also led in some cases to duplication of efforts and less effective interventions.

Recognizing the need to improve coordination of climate change mainstreaming efforts and secure greater impact and

alignment with national priorities, National Council for Sustainable Development (NCS) has now established an ongoing policy dialogue between key line ministries and a wide range of partners, including development partners and non-government organizations, academia and the private sector.

The Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG), representing 20 governmental ministries/agencies including those that are currently implementing

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NCS's Secretary General opens first meeting of CCTWG with DPs, 27th Jun 2017 in Phnom Penh

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AT THE CENTER OF PRE-COP 23 MEETING

The Pre-Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting was organized from 17-18 October 2017 on Denarau Island in Nadi, Fiji, three weeks before the COP23 was to take place, to exchange views on key issues to be achieved for COP23. A Cambodia delegation joined these preparatory discussions.

The Pre-COP23 meeting was organized

around five important themes:

1. Expectations for COP23;
2. Operationalization of the Paris Agreement;
3. Climate finance;
4. Raising the ambition of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs); and
5. Risk management and resilience.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

We would like to welcome you to this issue of the Climate Change Newsletter. We intend to bring this newsletter to you every quarter to reflect on the new climate policy developments in Cambodia and to keep you updated on the work being conducted by Department of Climate Change at the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development. Every other quarter, we will be sharing interesting examples of the work being done by many partners and communities to respond to climate change. We are counting on you, dear reader, to join us as a regular or occasional contributor – your Voices from the Ground are essential to the newsletter's success and to our work as climate change practitioners.

EDITORIAL BOARD

This newsletter is prepared, edited and produced by Department of Climate Change of the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development with technical assistance from Cambodia Climate Change Alliance.

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ESTABLISHING A MECHANISM TO IMPROVE ...

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Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP), will now meet at least once every six months with external partners involved in the climate change response in Cambodia.

At their first meeting, which took place in Phnom Penh on 27th June 2017, participants discuss the terms of reference for CCTWG and Development Partners' meetings. Discussions also aimed at creating common understanding of:

- ▶ Cambodia's Climate Change priorities and their linkages to international processes (CCCSP/CCAPs and INDC, NAP processes);
- ▶ Institutional, planning and management frameworks for climate change projects;
- ▶ Role of development partners, academia and private sector in CC information management;
- ▶ Modalities for managing carbon credit projects; and
- ▶ Cambodia's engagement with the Green Climate Fund,

including readiness programme and pipeline development. The second meeting will be in November 2017 to discuss key areas of focus for the country programme between Cambodia and the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for the next 3 to 5 years. Discussions will seek to identify climate change adaptation and mitigation activities best suited for GCF, and activities which may have better chances of being funded through other sources.



Ms. Kristina Kuhnel, Sida/Swedish Embassy, gives her impression at the coordination mechanism establishment, 27th Jun 2017 in Phnom Penh

ENHANCING CLIMATE RESILIENT WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT IN PURSAT AND BATTAMBANG PROVINCES

The Royal Government of Cambodia, through the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM), is investing in enhancing climate resilience and reducing flood risks by rehabilitating the Damnak Chheukrom irrigation and drainage system. This canal system is located on the foothills of the Cardamom mountain range in Pursat and Battambang provinces. This area is very vulnerable to flash floods from the mountains and has experienced frequent prolonged droughts over the past ten years, with the deterioration of the irrigation and drainage system worsening these risks.

Before construction starts, technical experts from the Enhancement of Flood and Drought Management Project in Pursat Province are working with MOWRAM to develop models that project climate change impacts on water resources in the canal system. This information will assist engineers to prepare a design for a first phase of rehabilitation works that will reduce risks of drought and floods in Pursat province in light of future climate change scenarios. This project is financed through the Asian Development Bank with support from the Climate Investment Funds under Cambodia's Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR).

In parallel, the project is training 46 villages around the Damnak Chheukrom Canal to develop and implement Safer Village Plans. The Safer Village Plans describe the steps the community must take to reduce their disaster risks, including maintaining Early Warning Systems that will monitor water levels in the canal and alert villagers when they need to evacuate.



Technical experts together with sector officials examine feasibility of canal system expansion, 2017, in Pursat Province

SPCR's technical assistance program on Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning (MCRDP) is also assisting MOWRAM with technical analysis to further enhance the Damnak Chheukrom irrigation and drainage system. The MCRDP study examines the feasibility of an expansion of Damnak Chheukrom canal and its irrigation system components by rehabilitating and connecting canal sections in Battambang and Pursat provinces.

MCRDP is also identifying measures to climate-proof rural roads, improve climate-resilient agriculture production and marketing, and build community resilience to climate change. Once finalized, MCRDP will assist MOWRAM to identify adaptation funds so that improvements to climate resilient water resources management and disaster risk reduction become a reality for more communities living around the Damnak Chheukrom system.

LAUNCH OF THE CAMBODIA'S COMPONENT OF THE REGIONAL PROGRAMME ON STRENGTHENING THE GOVERNANCE OF CLIMATE CHANGE FINANCE TO ENHANCE GENDER EQUALITY 2017-2022

General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (GSSD) and UNDP-Sida launched a second phase of the “Cambodia’s Component of the Regional Programme on Strengthening the Governance of Climate Change Finance to Enhance Gender Equality 2017-2022”, on 27th September 2017. The programme, funded by Sweden, focuses on strengthening the integration of climate change issues in the national budget, taking into account gender and vulnerable groups. It is expected to generate evidence on the links between climate investments and growth at a macro level and how climate investments affect vulnerable groups, including a gender perspective at micro level. From this evidence it will help demonstrate to decision-makers how investing in climate change adaptation and mitigation will deliver higher economic and social benefits.

Under the regional programme over the past three years, General Secretariat of the NCSG has worked closely with Ministry of Economy and Finance to integrate climate change into Government’s planning and budgeting systems from three main angles:

- 1) Improving capacity at MEF level to track the allocation of climate finance, understand its costs and benefits, and issue clear guidance to ministries as part of the budget process. As a result, for the past two years, climate change guidance has been included in budget circulars, and Climate Public Expenditure Reviews have been regularly conducted and published by MEF;
- 2) Focusing on key line ministries such as MAFF, MOWRAM, MPWT and MRD to analyze their budget submissions, identify where a climate change lens needed to be integrated, and helped them to conduct cost-benefit analysis of key projects, taking into account the impacts



Representatives of UNDP RBAP, GSSD, Sweden Embassy, and UNDP-Cambodia, at the project launch, 27th September 2017 in Phnom Penh



Group photo of the participants, 27th September 2017 in Phnom Penh

of climate change. This analysis provided evidence to support climate-proofing of key projects during budget negotiations;

- 3) Focusing on capacity development, and establishing training capacity in country on climate finance issues

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INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

OPERATIONALIZATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ...

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The meeting counted with more than 300 participants, bringing together Ministers, Heads of Climate Change Delegations and Chief Negotiators from 68 countries. This was the largest pre-COP meeting so far in the history of UNFCCC, revealing that Parties remain actively committed to expediting the operationalization of the Paris Agreement and work out the details regarding financial, capacity and technology transfer issues.



Delegates attend the pre-COP23 meeting, October 2017 at Fiji

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LAUNCH OF THE CAMBODIA'S COMPONENT ...

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through partnership with UNITAR and the Economics and Finance Institute to develop and deliver tailored courses for Cambodian civil servants, both online and through face-to-face events.

The added value of the regional programme in its partnership with Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) is that it brings expertise and experience from other countries, which can be called upon when there is no full-time expertise in country, for example for methodologies for tools like the climate public expenditure reviews, or the climate change budget integration index.

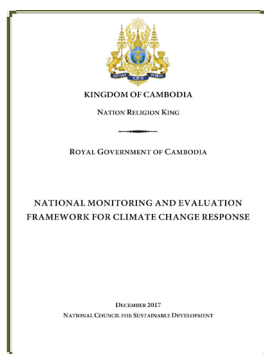
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LIVELIHOOD VULNERABILITY INDEX OF FOUR COMMUNES IN STUNG TRENG RAMSAR SITE

Stung Treng province, located at the northeast of Cambodia, has recently experienced in severe flood and drought. A study has been conducted to assess livelihoods vulnerability in Stung Treng Ramsar Site, as well as to define recommendations to solve leading factors to the vulnerability. IPCC's livelihood vulnerability index (LVI), with its three dimensions - exposure, sensitivity and adaptive capacity - is used to study livelihood vulnerability among 350 sample households within 4 communes. In the next issue, the readers will explore major components of climate change vulnerability and how it should be addressed.

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS



NATIONAL MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE CHANGE RESPONSE

The Department of Climate Change, with support from the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA), has developed Cambodia's national M&E framework to track the country's progress in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. The national M&E framework includes a core set of institutional readiness and impact indicators. This twin-track approach is used at the macro, national level to assess whether climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts lead to effective development, and how development interventions can boost communities' capacity to adapt to climate change. The framework has been submitted to senior management for final review and approval.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct: 2nd National Council for Sustainable Development meeting
- Oct: Launch of National Adaptation Plan Financing Framework
- Nov: Climate change technical working group with development partners meeting
- Nov: MoU signing ceremony on sustainable development partnerships between GSSD and 4 universities

- Nov: Training workshop on climate change to undergraduate students at Prek Leap National School of Agriculture and Svay Rieng University
- Dec: Knowledge-sharing event on climate change research and practice in Cambodia
- Dec: Climate change training for Youth in Kratie province
- Dec: Inception meeting of Third National Communication (TNC) and Biennial Update Report development project (BUR)

For most updated climate change response related events or publications, keep following us at www.camclimate.org.kh

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CAMBODIA CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE

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Contact:

Department of Climate Change
 General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development
 c/o Ministry of Environment
 No. 503, Road along Bassac River, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh
 Tel: +855-23 640 8370 | E-mail: admin@camclimate.org.kh
 Website: www.camclimate.org.kh