



# SPCR NEWS-Cambodia



General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development  
Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR)

Department of Climate Change  
December 2017 No.11

## Annual Progress of Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning Package A

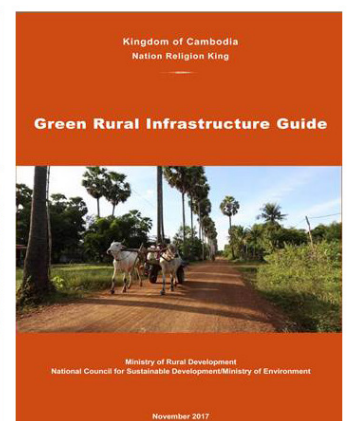
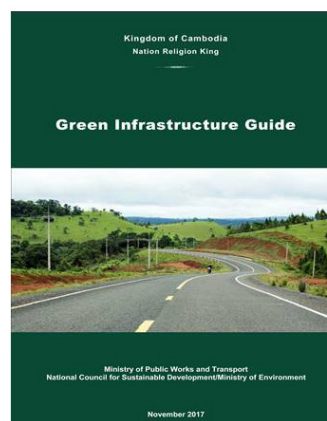
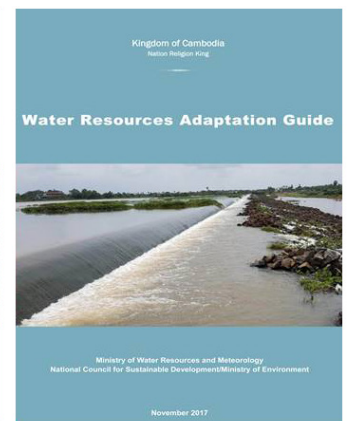
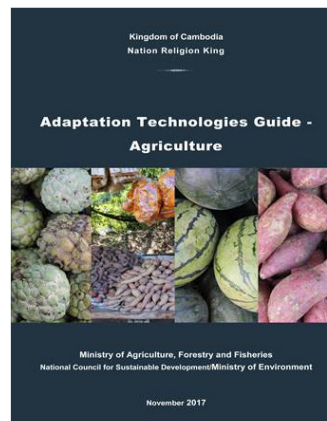
The Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning Technical Assistance has achieved a number of results in 2017 to enhance capacity of sector ministries to promote gender-responsive climate resilient development planning. Some highlights include:

**Output 1: Coordination and Capacity Building on Climate Resilience (SPCR coordination, technical support, and capacity to mainstream climate resilience into development planning strengthened.)**

### Documenting practices for climate resilience

- Adaptation guides were finalized and submitted to government and ADB for approval:
  - Adaptation Technologies Guide - Agriculture
  - Water Resources Adaptation Guide
  - Green Infrastructure Guide
  - Green Rural Infrastructure Guide
  - Indigenous and Traditional Practices for Climate Resilience: A Compendium

- A series of roundtable meetings on agriculture, water resources and urban development and transport were held in March and April in order to seek inputs from sector ministries to improve the adaptation guides.



- A new risk screening tool adapted to the Cambodian context was developed and is being tailored to the needs of each sector.
- Initial consultations on mainstreaming guidelines were held with relevant ministries during the 6th and 7th SPCR Coordination Team Meeting in July and December 2017 including identifying design standards, tools and processes to be developed for each sector.
- A series of roundtable meetings for mid-term capacity needs assessment on SPCR investment projects implementation and climate change action plans were held in November and December 2017 in order to compare the baseline data collected in 2015 of the inception phase.

**Indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of adaptation**

- A consultation on indicators for monitoring the effectiveness of adaptation took place during the SPCR Coordination Team meeting on December 8, 2016 and documented in the report: Indicators of Effectiveness of Adaptation.

**Enhancing tools for climate resilient planning**

- Following the introductory training in 2016, a second training workshop on using GIS Climate Change Downscaling was completed on September 4, 2017. During this workshop, participants learned and tested new features of the GIS tool and contributed to its further development including initial discussion to form a GIS Task Force.
- Preliminary planning has been undertaken to compile a GIS Climate Change Toolbox to further enhance capacity to apply GIS tools to adaptation planning by line ministries and other stakeholders.
- Proposal to establish the special Task Force with members from SPCR ministries to develop the interactive web-based GIS Climate Change Downscaling Toolbox has been made.

**Output 2: Feasibility Studies for Adaptation Projects (Detailed feasibility studies for selected NAPA projects conducted)**

**Feasibility studies for priority adaptation projects**

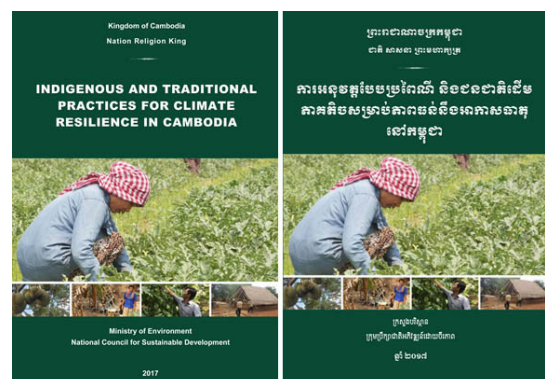
- Identification of six Adaptation Projects to submit for international financing in priority areas for adaptation planning in each sector – agriculture, water resources management and urban/transport infrastructure - were completed for review with sector ministries.
- Field surveys on vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning, technical, economic, environmental, social and gender analyses and stakeholder consultations were conducted to prepare feasibility studies for each project.

- A workshop to validate the social and gender assessment was held in Phnom Penh on 29 September 29, 2017.
- The write-up of the six feasibility study reports is underway and will be completed early in 2018.
- Sources of international adaptation financing have been researched and discussed with relevant officials in order to prepare the way for development and submission of the project proposals.
- Consultation meeting with key development partners including ADB, WB, KfW, FAO, and Ministry of Economic and Finance, held to explore their interests in financing the proposed adaptation projects.
- Preliminary draft documents were prepared for consultative workshop to be held in early 2018 in order to select two adaptation projects from the six for submitting to Global Climate Funds and other development partners who are interested in funding.

**Output 4: Knowledge Management (CCA knowledge products developed and disseminated)**

**Ongoing improvements to communications and information management**

- Continued updates are being made to expand the content of the SPCR web site and make it more user-friendly.
- A common Google Drive has been developed to consolidate project documents from across all MCRDP technical packages.
- Information from TA Packages A, B and C, as well as from SPCR investment projects are being shared regularly through the quarterly SPCR e-newsletter.
- Organizing and participating in knowledge-sharing events
- A ‘Conference on community-based disaster risk management and adaptation’ was organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Community Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) and Farmer Water Users Community (FWUC) Support project in October 2017.
- A report on community based climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction is being drafted.





- A delegation from the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) Zambia and the Climate Investment Funds Executive Director and other Senior Officials participated in the CBDRM conference and visited SPCR project activities in Battambang and Pursat Provinces.
- Three videos documenting practices for climate resilient development applied in Cambodia in agriculture, in water resources management, and in urban development and transport were produced.
- Team members attended the '2nd Technical Stakeholder Meeting on FAO-led Green Climate Fund Project' in Phnom Penh on July 28, 2017. The meeting provided important insight on developing proposals for GCF funding, which will be used to develop future training materials.
- SPCR collaborated with CCCA and DCC join a National Career and Productivity Fair 2017 to disseminate climate change awareness materials and knowledge products.
- The PMU attended a workshop on M&R in USA organized by Climate Investment Funds held on April 26-28, 2017.
- Two missions to review the progress of five community-based climate change adaption and disaster risk reduction projects being established by various CSOs under Package B of the TA were undertaken by the SPCR PMU.
- Mainstreaming climate resilience into curriculum development

- Completed the Khmer student booklets prepared by the Department of Curriculum Development/ MoEYS with comments proposed by Department of Environmental Education/MoE and submitted to ADB for review and endorsement.
- Initiated discussions on poster development with new head of DEE and proposed consultation workshop with stakeholder at national level for draft booklet and poster before pre-testing with teachers and students in Phnom Penh and some selected provinces.
- Completed two Khmer language modules with the Royal University of Agriculture: Basic Introduction to Climate Change and Climate Change Adaptation in Agriculture and submitted to ADB for approval.
- Proposals of funding support to MOE's Eco-school and scholarship of Master of Science in Climate Change program at Royal University of Phnom Penh have been requested.



## Progress of the Implementation of Rural Road Investment Project

The Climate Investment Funds has allocated a grant and loan of US\$ 16 million for the Rural Road Improvement Project (Phase 2) of the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience to connect the five islands of the Mekong River: Kaoh Soutin, Kaoh Mit, Kaoh Thmey, Kaoh Samrong and Kaoh Pi.



The main activity of this fund is to develop the transport connectivity network between these five islands and the mainland. The planned works involve improving rural roads, reinforcing slopes along 50 kilometers of roadway, and building 11 ferry ports.

To date, the following results have been achieved: a total of 32 kilometers of concrete roads constructed, and 6 pipe culverts and 7 box culverts installed. The construction of the port will be launched early in next year's dry season. The Norwegian Development Fund's contribution of US\$ 5.4 million has also contributed to the development of the five islands, focusing on key development activities aiming to improve the living conditions of the islands' population. Key activities include integrated farming, construction of irrigation systems or reservoirs for the dry season, construction of health infrastructure at village level, and health education.



## SPCR Package “A” develops ideas for mainstreaming climate change adaptation

Over the past few weeks, the Package A team have been working with the four sector ministries to review progress in building their capacities to integrate climate change adaptation into their work, and to identify possible activities for mainstreaming adaptation. Round table meetings have been held with the Adaptation Working Groups in MPWT, MOWRAM and MRD and one to come with MAFF. There were three tasks for these round table meetings: (i) to revisit the 7S capacity needs assessment questionnaires two years on from the first application in 2015; (ii) to consider the progress in implementing the Climate Change Action Plans and to identify the challenges; and, (iii) to carry out a SWOT analysis on the implementation of the SPCR investment projects also to identify gaps and challenges.

Mainstreaming, like capacity building, is an almost never-ending process, and is a process that is carried forward incrementally, piece by piece. The SPCR team have used a tool – the Sector Adaptation Planning Approach (SAPA), to help to identify the entry points for mainstreaming at each turn of the Policy to Project implementation cycle. Already the policies and action plans for climate change adaptation are in place and the Draft Environmental Code clearly states the responsibility of each ministry to include climate change in their decisions and to include impact analysis in EIAs.

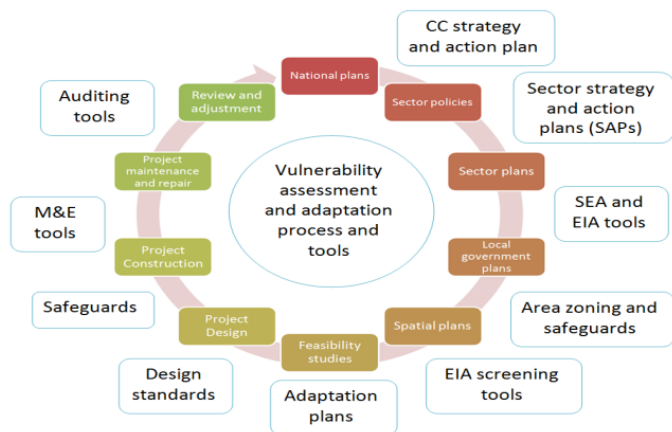
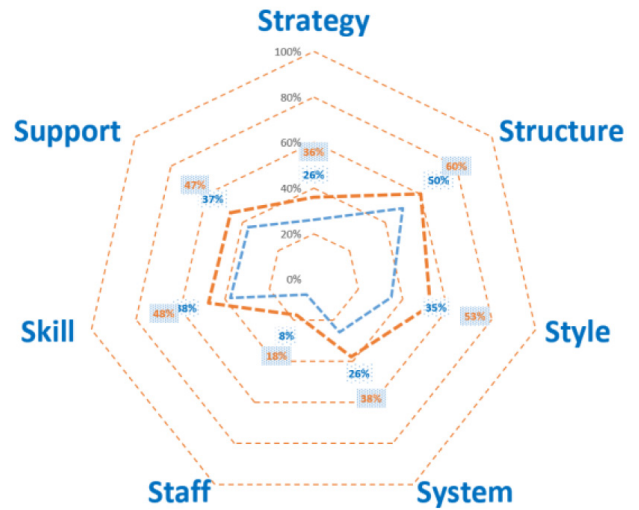


Figure A SAPA cycle for identifying entry points for mainstreaming

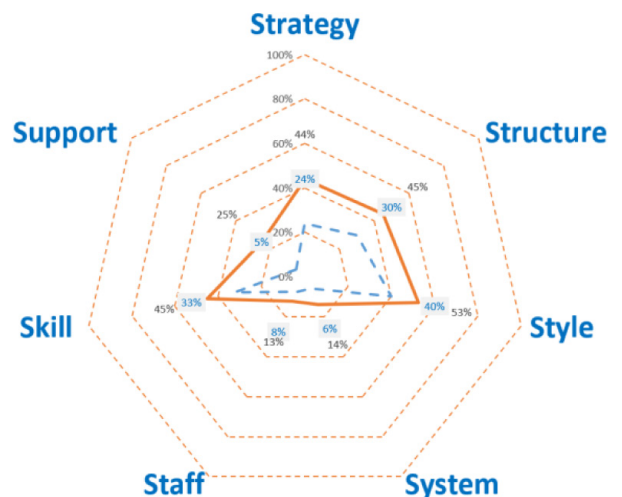
The 7S questionnaire asks a series of questions about Strategy, Structure, Style, Systems, Staff, Skills and Support from which a capacity scoring diagram can be developed. The results for MPWT and MRD are shown below. Both MPWT and MRD feel that they have made progress in Strategies, Structure, Style, but less in Systems, Staff, Skills and Support. The comments attached to the questions help to identify areas where progress has been made.

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and Support. The comments attached to the questions help to identify areas where progress has been made.



7S spider diagrams for MPWT, comparing progress from 2015 to 2017



7S spider diagrams for MRD, comparing progress from 2015 to 2017

Some of the challenges that the ministries have faced in implementing the CCAPs and the SPCR investment projects include:

- Limited budgets for adaptation of infrastructure and for Operation and Maintenance at community level and Farmer Water User Committee strengthening
- Building in climate proofing often increases infrastructure costs by 15 – 20%, and this extra expenditure needs to be justified to Ministry of Economy and Finance, which does not yet have the tools for assessing the costs and benefits of the added adaptation costs.
- Accessing key information for designs on climate risks is often difficult, e.g. hydrological and hydraulic projections, or underground water.
- Climate change adaptation design skills are lacking, and contractors do not appreciate the adaptation specifications



- Lack of tools for vulnerability and adaptation assessment for specific types of infrastructure
- Lack of design standards and design manuals for adaptation of infrastructure – for fully adapted design now, or for a partially adapted design that can be upgraded later.
- Lack of design skills for adapted infrastructure
- Lack of climate change screening tools and skills for developing climate resilient projects
- Lack of appropriate indicators for monitoring and evaluation of adaptation at different levels.

Based upon these challenges and limitations of the sector Ministries, the following ideas for mainstreaming activities will be developed in consultation with them:

**For Ministry of Public Work and Transport (MPWT) and Ministry of Rural Development (MRD):**

- Development of design standard supplements for climate resilient road for different types of road. This would build on the experience that MPWT and MRD have got in implementing the SPCR investment projects
- Preparation of a design manual for application of the climate resilient road design standards, together with cost norms for climate proofing
- Training of national and provincial level roads engineers in the design manual
- Training of roads contractors in the application of climate resilient road design standards
- Development of M & E Indicators for climate resilience at Ministry level

**For Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM)**

- Development of design standards/design manual for climate proofed irrigation schemes
- Guidance on integrating climate resilience into irrigation projects
- Development of indicators of effectiveness of climate resilience in irrigation projects
- Training of national and sub-national water engineers in climate proofing design manual
- Guidance on watershed management for climate resilient water resources management

**For Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries– based upon a mainstreaming analysis carried out earlier by the SPCR agriculture team**

- Develop procedures for regular climate screening of agriculture projects,
- Prepare a manual for climate change risk assessments in agriculture
- Develop manual for inclusion of climate change resilience into project proposals

- Develop indicators for assessing effectiveness of climate resilience in agriculture
- Training and awareness of climate change adaptation techniques amongst extension staff
- Awareness raising of climate adaptation techniques in agriculture private sector



*Meeting at the MPWT*



*Meeting at the MRD*



*Meeting at the MOWRAM*



*Meeting at the Ministry of Environment with the Ministry of Economy and Finance, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Planning and National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development*



## Seventh SPCR Coordination Team Meeting Held

The Department of Climate Change and the ministries involved in implementing the SPCR investment projects gathered on December 15, 2017 in Phnom Penh to hold their seventh coordination meeting. The objectives defined for the meeting were to:

- Review the progress and issues of SPCR TA;
- Share the recent achievements and issues being faced by SPCR investment projects;
- Consider the findings of recent sector round table meetings mainstreaming adaptation;
- Identify required mainstreaming guides, design standards, tools and processes to be developed for each sector;
- Discuss the potential entry points for mainstreaming climate resilience into sector planning and implementation under the TA; and
- Consult on further opportunities for collaboration, support and learning among the SPCR investment projects.



This meeting was chaired by H.E. Prof. Dr. Sabo Ojano, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Environment and a Chairman of SPCR Coordination Team, and H.E. Chuop Paris, Deputy Secretariat General of the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development and Dr. Peter John Meynell, Team Leader of MCRDP Technical Assistance Package A.

Participants are from the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Planning, National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development, and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology.



In addition, the meeting reviewed the progress of climate change action plans of each ministry and challenges for implementation of SPCR investment projects. Participants also shared their future plans listed a number of requirements that each sector required in order to enhance their adaptation planning. The potential tools discussed included sector mainstreaming guides, standards, tools and processes for agriculture, water resources, roads and urban infrastructure. Also, participants exchanged views on the term mainstreaming and its meaning. The group agreed that mainstreaming is about making climate change adaptation a part of your everyday work.

Important mainstreaming activities include developing the tools, guides and training programs that makes climate change adaptation clearer and easier for those responsible for developing policies or for implementing programs and projects.





## Climate Change and Indigenous Bunong Community

Ever since anyone in the community can remember, the Bunong<sup>1</sup> have always known how to weave. They make a lot of their clothes and bed linen themselves. The woven cloth with distinctive symbols and designs is considered a precious part of their cultural identity. Woven blankets and scarfs play a vital role in ceremonial gift exchanges and rituals. Bunong women, and occasionally men, weave at home when there is time to spare between farming and foraging the forests for non-timber produce.



The Bunong have lived around Monduliri for hundreds of years. They are an ethnic minority in Cambodia with a distinct language and culture. Like most indigenous cultures, the existence of the Bunong people has depended heavily on a symbiotic relationship with their natural ecosystem. Climate change and its effects have had severe consequences on the Bunong livelihood. Most Bunongs are subsistence farmers that live in small communities near forests. In recent years the Bunong have had to cope with reduced agricultural yields arising from outdated agricultural practices and changing weather patterns.



Cambodia, is rated among the countries most vulnerable to climate change. With funding from the Asian Development Bank under its Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning Project of the SPCR, the local NGO - Monduliri Indigenous People's Association for Development (MIPAD), and Plan International Cambodia undertook participatory vulnerability assessment in the Bunong community of Chong Phang and Putang Village. The assessment shows that, in the last ten years, irregular weather patterns, prolonged droughts, strong winds, and flash floods have persistently had a negative impact on crops. The erratic changes in the climate have made it hard for the community to follow farming cycles. It has hurt their ability to survive on subsistence farming alone. Consequently, a lot of the men have had to become wage labourers in cities to earn an income. The women have also had to find alternate sources of sustenance. Families no

longer see the value in passing down the weaving tradition compared to other pressing needs on their time. The forced changes in lifestyle have put the unique culture and traditions of the Bunong at risk.

To support the community, MIPAD decided to adopt a strategy that would help the Bunong continue farming while reducing their dependency on agriculture. The participating villages were given training on climate resilient agricultural practices. Simultaneously, MIPAD and Plan International Cambodia saw an opportunity in capitalising on the pre-existing culture of weaving to reduce their economic dependence on fluctuating weather patterns. MIPAD worked in Chong Phang and Putang villages and helped communities form weaving groups. The groups were provided with training on a variety of weaving methods. The intervention aimed to preserve indigenous knowledge and tradition, while giving the Bunong better climate adaptive capacity by diversifying their livelihood options.



Ea, who is a member of one of the weaving groups, says that the group has helped her see the commercial viability of weaving. According to Ea, working in a group helps the weavers improve product quality and design and makes the products more marketable. She says she makes at least 10 USD per month selling the products she makes in her spare time. She makes even more during high tourist season. The income from selling weaving products currently helps her family buy food and agriculture material. She thinks that the income from weaving will be especially helpful during severe droughts.

For more reading related on climate change and indigenous livelihoods, consult the sources below:

Leng, V. (2017). *Indigenous People Weaving Culture in Cambodia. Angkor youth for peace and development*. Retrieved from <http://angkorypd.blogspot.hk/2017/10/indigenous-people-weaving-culture-in.html#>

Adger, W., Barnett, J., Chapin, F., & Ellemor, H. (2011). *This Must Be the Place: Underrepresentation of Identity and Meaning in Climate Change Decision-Making*. *Global Environmental Politics*, 11(2), 1-25. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/glep\\_a\\_00051](http://dx.doi.org/10.1162/glep_a_00051)

Roncoli, C., Crane, T., & Orlove, B. (2016). *Fielding Climate Change in Cultural Anthropology*. In *Anthropology and Climate Change: From Encounters to Actions* (pp. 86-92). Routledge

<sup>1</sup> Sometimes written as Pnong.

## Progress on Gender in Response to Climate Change in Cambodia

Under the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience in Development Planning (MCRDP) – Package C Technical Assistance, a number of key achievements to integrate gender in climate resilient development planning were achieved over the past year. Some notable results include:

- A Capacity Needs Assessment on gender and climate change was completed drawing on existing knowledge products related to gender mainstreaming in climate change investments.
- At least 38 Gender and Climate Change Committee (GCCC) members from Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA), 26 gender and climate change focal points from sector ministries, 16 officials from each of the target four provinces (Battambang, Kampong Thom and Prey Veng), 56 civil society representatives from ADB-Plan International grantees and others were trained on gender mainstreaming in climate change investments related fields.
- Two awareness raising and multi-stakeholder workshops were conducted.
- Two consultative workshops were conducted for making gender mainstreaming as a regular development agenda.
- Following the coordination mechanism, GCCC organized two coordination meetings with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, and line ministries with participation on gender and climate change, gender mainstreaming guidance manual, master plan on gender and climate change, and gender-inclusive results framework was developed to monitor gender specific outcomes and results.
- One joint meeting with inter-departmental key officials Technical Coordination Desk (TCD) of MOWA chaired by MOWA Minister HE Dr. Ing Kantha Phavi

### The following outputs and activities are planned for Jan-June 2018

- Finalization of the draft Master Plan on Gender and Climate Change
- Support to 4 sectoral ministries (MAFF, MoH, MoWRAM and MoPWT) to effectively integrate gender concerns into their respective Climate Change Action Plans
- Capacity development of GCCC and focal points of line ministries along with preparation of an awareness raising plan

- Publication of guidance manuals for line ministries on effectively integrating gender concerns into climate change relevant projects in 4 sectors (English and Khmer)
- Organization of public awareness raising campaigns on gender-responsive and climate change issues in collaboration with women's groups at all levels
- Annual monitoring and evaluation of gender impacts of SPCR investment projects, and capacity assessment of policy makers and civil society
- Drafting of educational curriculum related to gender mainstreaming and climate change





## Highlights of achievements in integrating climate resilience into decentralized development planning

Under the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience in Development Planning (MCRDP) – Package C Technical Assistance, the National Council for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD) has advanced its agenda to integrate climate resilience into local development planning over the past year. Some highlights include:

### Institutional capacity development

Project team members explored the on-ground situation of different climate change variables (drought, flood, erosion, sea-level rise) in Pursat, Takeo, Koh Kong and Kampong Speu provinces and possible responses through sub-national administrations (SNAs). The site visits included reviewing results from SPCR investment projects in these provinces as well as consulting with more than 200 government officials and SNA staff (including 39 women).

A technical manual “Inclusion of climate resilience in local development planning in Cambodia” (KP1) was produced. Building on recent official NCDSDS guidelines, it is the most contemporary guide on sub-national planning processes and official vulnerability reduction assessment tools appropriate to this level.

Weekly and quarterly meetings of the Technical Assistance Team and Counter Part officials helped to develop work plans, budgets to implement training sessions for province, commune, and district level staff.



### Technical capacity development

Six workshops on “Orientation training and review of local climatic changes” were organized for province, district and commune level staff (hosted in Battambang and Prey Veng provinces). These workshops launched an extensive training cycle on different technical subjects (vulnerability reduction analysis, risk screening, climate resilience in

design and implementation, planning budgeting, M+E). A total of 458 SNA officials and staff (including 66 women) participated in these workshops. Feedback surveys showed that the participants found the sessions useful and relevant. The first modules of the step-by-step production of a training booklet were developed and compiled.

### Demonstration projects

In all training workshops the importance of applying technical criteria for climate resilient investment was emphasized. A reconnaissance mission to Prey Veng province (Peam Chhor and Preah Sdach districts) brought initial data and information for potential demonstration projects, collecting initial advice from 12 key contact persons. A formal consultation of potential local partners (45 informants and partners) for execution of such pilot projects was completed by the end of December 2017.



### Financing schemes

A technical manual “National and sub-national schemes for mainstreaming climate resilience at province, district and commune level” (KP4) was drafted in a close dialogue with institutional stakeholders and resource persons. The manual looks at the broad range of existing financial modalities serving the sub-national level in Cambodia and makes recommendations for enhanced financial flows in support of local climate resilience.

### Promotion of climate resilience through NCDD-S

One poster entitled ‘Process for enhancing climate resilience at sub-national levels’ was designed and printed. Also, one leaflet ‘NCDD-S/SPCR Achievements in 2017’ was produced and printed.



## Cambodia Shared Environmental Lessons Learnt with Zambia



Over the past 20 years, the Cambodian environment has shifted to new faces. Cambodia, from countries that do not understand the environment and passes the war, has become a country that gives experience to the friendly countries from the progress on the environment. On October 2, Minister of Environment and the delegation of 20 members of Zambia led by Dr. Auxilia Ponga, permanent secretary of Monitoring & Evaluation Department of the Ministry of National Development Planning discussed and exchanged experiences from the environment sector of the two countries.

H.E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment and Head of Delegation of Zambia, discussed in depth issues on natural resource protection, adaptation to climate change, the creation of a forum between the government and civil society, private sector participation and some social issues related to climate change and disaster risk management.



Basically, what makes other countries want to learn and gain experience from Cambodia is reconciliation with government ownership of implementing the Millennium Development Goals, Implementation of climate change adaptation activities, expansion of conservation and protection of over 7.5 million hectares of land, transfer function duties on environmental management to sub-national level, effective response to climate change, addressing the different approach between civil society and government on the environmental sector through the national forum for reporting and addressing environmental concerns, private sector mobilization and youth participatory with incentives to recognize and reward.

Not only that, the attitude of the general public in the environment has been significantly changed, which has been contributed by the political stability factor, the economic growth of around 7% in 20 years, and the press freedom that Cambodians enjoy.





## More Than 100 National and International Delegates Shared Past Learning and Future Approaches to Strengthen Community Disaster Risk Management Systems

The Department of Climate Change in the National Council for Sustainable Development in collaboration with the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology organized a conference Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) from October 3 – 4 in Siem Reap Province. More than 100 Cambodian and international participants attended to exchange information, novel approaches and future plans to strengthen disaster resilience at the community level. The program emphasized a proactive, gender-responsive and inclusive approach to building capacities for more effective disaster risk reduction at local level. The conference is supported by Cambodia's Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) funded by Climate Investment Funds through the Asian Development Bank.



In welcome remarks, H.E. Prof. Dr. Sabo Ojano, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment and SPCR Program Coordinator highlighted the need for inclusive, gender-based approaches to improving disaster risk management systems at community level. “Being more responsible for young children and the elderly, women are often at greater risk during disasters,” noted H.E. Prof. Dr. Ojano. “We need to ensure that all community members, including women are getting enough training about disaster preparedness and what to do when disasters strike. Today we will share experiences of Cambodia gender mainstreaming in CBDRM, and we are interested to learn more from other countries on this and other topics”. Also, he emphasized “sharing information to increase capacity, timely delivery of information about droughts, floods and storms to all stakeholders is an important requirement to reduce the loss of the national economy and support the lives of the people of Cambodia as well as those globally.”

A government delegation from Zambia, another pilot country under the PPCR, also participated in the conference in order to learn about effective approaches within CBDRM. Their participation was a crucial part of the knowledge exchange activities between Cambodia and Zambia, orchestrated through support from the CIF/PPCR. In addition, they also had the opportunity to demonstrate key issues for disaster risk reduction by examining agriculture cooperative, rice miller and irrigation and drainage canal system in Battambang and Pursat provinces that is being rehabilitated with support from SPCR-Cambodia.

Mafalda Duarte, Manager of the Climate Investment Funds attended the field visit along with a delegation from Zambia in Cambodia to exchange learning on climate resilience with Cambodian government counterparts. She shared information about how CIF is helping Cambodia and countries like it to tackle climate challenges through innovative investments. The conference also brought together a wide range of stakeholders from participating South East Asian countries, Asian Development Bank, community representatives, NGOs, academia and development partners.

Cambodia as well as other developing countries faces high level of risks associated with multiple natural hazards and is experiencing flood and drought almost every year. Rural communities have borne the impacts of such natural hazards consisting primarily of floods followed by droughts, and intermittent epidemics and storms. In certain years flooding becomes extreme and results in the loss of human lives, destruction of crops and livestock, and impacts on homes and the prevailing network of community infrastructures. Drought has also become a severe disaster recently, causing water shortage for both human consumption and agriculture.

The CBDRM is a very appropriate approach in coping with such catastrophic events and is gaining popularity in Cambodia and the Greater Mekong Sub-region. The conference aimed to create a forum to share experiences in implementing and supporting CBRDM. Presenters discussed good practices and strategies for strengthening community-based disaster preparedness and responses, innovative ways of building capacities of local communities to reduce risks of natural disasters, and novel approaches for sustainable management of community-based disaster risks.





## Upcoming Activities

**February  
2018**

Knowledge-sharing events to raise sector stakeholder awareness on gender-responsive climate resilience and indigenous adaptation



**February  
2018**

Workshop to shortlist two projects for detailed feasibility study



**February  
2018**

Proposal preparation meetings



**March  
2018**

- Kick off meeting of GIS Technical Working group to set up workplan
- GIS toolkit development approach and GIS Technical Working Group meetings on GIS toolkit development (in provinces)



**March  
2018**

A launch event on adaptation guides and case studies, involving sector ministries and development practitioners



### For more information:

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