



Ministry of Environment



SPCR NEWS

Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR)
General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development,
Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment (Cambodia)

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SPCR UPDATES:

June

Under the climate resilience output of the provincial road improvement project, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) held a workshop **“Result of climate change adaptation study on climate proofing of roads”** on June 10, 2015 at the Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh. Participants from MPWT and other SPCR stakeholders discussed risk planning for flooded roads (vulnerability maps), changes to road standards for climate resilience and the use of flood risk management systems.

July

On 6 July 2015, 25 representatives from the government, civil society, universities and development partners attended a workshop to score PPCR Core indicators. PPCR Program Director and a representative of the Ministry of Economy and Finance will attend the PPCR Pilot Countries meeting to be held in Italy from 20 to 23 July.

The Mainstreaming Climate Resilience in Development (MCRDP) project held two workshops in July both at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh. On July 7, His Excellency Minister of Environment Say Sam Al presided over the **“Scoping workshop on the five-year implementation plan for MCRDP”**. The 125 participants from government and diverse stakeholder groups exchanged views on the roadmap for providing climate resilience technical support to key ministries involved in agriculture, water resources and transport and urban infrastructure. On July 8, participants at the **“Inception Workshop for the Civil Society Support Mechanism”**, deliberated the way forward for strengthening NGO and CSO capacity on climate resilience.

Preparing Farmers for a Changing Climate: Shifting from Response to Resilience

Monsoon rains are later and lighter than normal this year, raising concerns about rice productivity during Cambodia's main agriculture season. Risk of drought-like conditions is growing as climate models forecast stronger El Niño levels in the coming months. El Niño is associated with a higher likelihood of droughts in South East Asian countries¹. Reports of damaged rice plants due to water stress in Battambang Province indicate that farmers are already starting to feel the effects of a drier than normal season².

Given these warning signs, the government is monitoring the potential impacts on the country's agricultural productivity and food security over the coming weeks.

This year's dry conditions underline the importance for Cambodia to make its agricultural sector more climate resilient. South East Asia's water resources are already under stress and climate change is expected to intensify this problem. Climate change projections indicate that South East Asia will experience more variability in precipitation in the future, in particular during El Niño years.

1. World Meteorological Organization (WMO). 2015. WMO El Niño-La Niña Update -June 15, 2015.
https://www.wmo.int/pages/prog/wcp/wcas/enso_update_latest.html

2. Chang Muyhuong. 2015. El Nino raises drought fears. The Phnom Penh Post, June 16, 2015.

Higher temperatures will also impact agricultural productivity. Cambodian farmers depend heavily on the wet season rice crop. This reliance makes their livelihoods highly vulnerable to climate change. Supporting farmers with more strategies to deal with variable rainwater supply is of prime importance to climate change adaptation. Agriculture adaptation strategies for Cambodian farmers involve introducing ways to store water in the soil, in surface reservoirs or in underground reservoirs. Changes in crop selection and seasonal calendars, will also help farmers adapt to new temperatures and rainfall patterns.



Photo Credit: Heng Chivoan

A farmer works in a parched rice paddy in Kampong Speu province's Kong Pisei district earlier in June

The SPCR will be testing and introducing some of these adaptation measures in the upcoming project Promoting Climate-Resilient Agriculture in Koh Kong and Mondulakiri Provinces. Some of the adaptation measures this project will introduce to 4300 households living in climate vulnerable communities include:

- Rainwater harvesting ponds for climate resilient high value crop productivity in Mondulakiri and Koh Kong;
- Climate resilient irrigation and system of rice intensification techniques in Mondulakiri;
- Ecosystem based adaptation to improve forest cover, soil and water management in Mondulakiri;
- Bioengineered sea barriers reducing saltwater intrusion in Koh Kong and adoption of salinity resistant crops.

In parallel, the SPCR technical assistance Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning (MCRDP) will support the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) to build its technical and institutional capacity to plan and implement climate resilient approaches. The technical assistance will support MAFF to document and build on lessons from the experience in Koh Kong and Mondulakiri provinces and integrate these into policy initiatives and future programs to promote climate resilient agriculture.

Environmental stresses, such as this years' dry conditions, have always had an impact on crop production. Farmers have always looked for ways to manage these stresses. Climate change adaptation requires developing strategies that support growth and improved performance of the agriculture sector under changing climate conditions. SPCR will accompany MAFF, Cambodian farmers' and other stakeholders to build and apply knowledge to make this shift towards climate resilient, sustainable agricultural growth over the long-term.

Climate Resilience Capacity Assessed Using 7S



Roundtable Meeting on Capacity Need Assessment was held with Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology on May 20, 2015

From May 11 to 29 2015, the project Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning held five roundtable meetings with key ministries that will benefit from the project's training programs and technical support. More than 100 officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology participated in these events.

These ministries will test and apply adaptation practices during the implementation of SPCR projects. The roundtable workshops were an opportunity to assess the ministries' institutional capacity for climate change adaptation, and define the training and other supports they will need to integrate climate resilience into SPCR projects and future initiatives.

The methodology for the capacity needs assessment applied the 7-S Framework³. Institutional and staff capacities were assessed under categories such as: strategy, structure, style, system, staff, skills and support. Questions were formulated to apply to climate change adaptation. Box 1: provides an overview of the factors that were scored on a scale of 1 to 10.

For each ministry, the results of the scoring were mapped in a spider diagram that portrays the priorities for capacity enhancement. The scoring was a starting point for roundtable discussions, with animators facilitating exchanges to delve more deeply into the ministry's specific capacity issues.

While each ministry's findings were unique, the results in Figure 1 indicate some general trends. Generally Structure and senior management Style were rated as sufficient for addressing climate change adaptation. The highest priorities for capacity development were developing Supports and Systems, along with Staffing issues. For example, ministries had little in the way of tools and climate

3. Adapted from McKinsey & Company 7S Framework as sourced from Stephen, P. and Tiriraganon, R. 2009. Strengthening Voices for Better Choices: A capacity needs assessment process. Gland, Switzerland: IUCN.

Box 1: 7 S Framework on Capacity for Climate Resilience

Strategy: Direction and scope of the agency over the long term.

Existence and level of implementation of approved climate change action plans for the sector.

Structure – Relationships and responsibilities for implementation.

Climate Change (CC) Coordination within the ministry.

Identification of CC roles and responsibilities in key departments.

System – Formal and informal procedures for CC strategy and structure.

Procedures, processes and routines characterize how CC work will

Screening and checking of climate change resilience.

Monitoring and evaluation systems for the CC strategies.

Style – How key managers support implementation of CC action.

Senior staff understanding of climate resilience and leadership on.

Staff – How human resources are developed, trained and motivated.

Adequacy of staffing levels and to recruitment implement CC action

Job descriptions and performance systems address climate change.

Skills – Internal capabilities and competencies for CC resilience.

Staff training programs address skills needed to implement CC action

Level of staff skills develop and implement climate change adaptation

Support – Knowledge management support systems.

Manuals, guidelines and tools integrate climate change measures accessible to staff.

CC data, maps and sources of information are available.

change related data for assessing climate resilience or for economic and financial analysis. Scores on the Skills of existing staff varied across ministries. Participants highlighted that staff had built up their general knowledge on climate change but needed more specialized knowledge. Strategy for climate change adaptation varied across ministries, with most participants pointing to gaps in resources to implement action plans.

Based on the results, MCRDP will prepare Capacity Development Plans with each ministry on how to enhance and embed institutional capacity for climate resilient development.

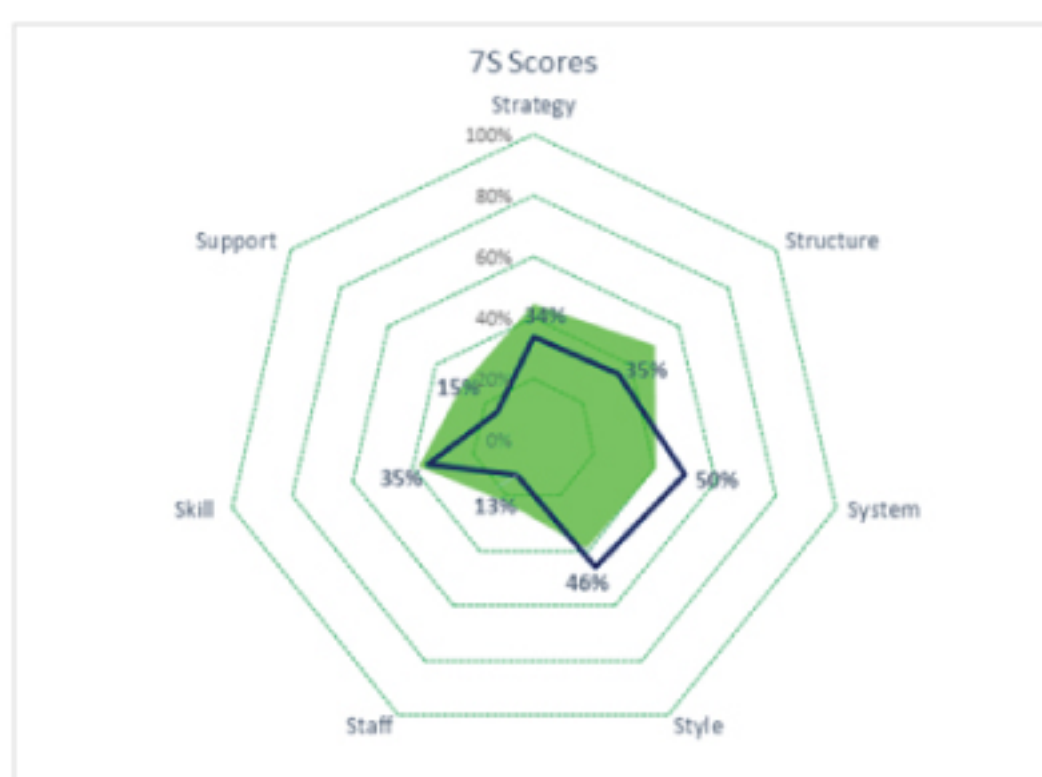


Figure 1 –Spider Diagram of one sample ministry scores (dark blue line) compared to average scores for 5 key ministries (green shape).

Tracking Progress towards Climate Resilient Development Planning

On 6 July 2015, 25 representatives from government, civil society organizations, universities and development partners participated in a workshop Monitoring and Reporting of Core Indicators of the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) at ADB's office in Phnom Penh. The core indicators are part of the PPCR results framework and are common to all pilot countries. The indicators track how each pilot country is progressing in terms of mainstreaming climate resilience into development planning.



SPCR program representative discuss scoring for CIF Indicators

For example, one set of sub-indicators looks at the core indicator 1: Degree of integration of climate change into national, including sector, planning. For national planning, participants scored this indicator as half-way (5 out of 10) in 2014. The reason was that the Climate Change Strategic Plan was launched and several sectors had developed a climate change action plan. For 2015, the score was increased to 6 out of 10 reflecting how the government is continuing to make this strategy and action plan a reality. Specifically, considerable progress was made in 2014 to develop a national framework for monitoring and evaluation of climate change investments.

Another set of sub-indicators tracks the core indicator 2: Evidence of strengthened government capacity and coordination mechanism to mainstream climate resilience. Participants confirmed that progress is less than half-way but is moving up. For example, the indicator for Government participation in coordination mechanisms for climate resilience has increased from a score of 3 in 2014 to 4 (out of 10) in 2015, especially because specific individuals have been identified by the government to participate in coordination in each sector ministry.

The scores for PPCR core indicators were then validated at a larger workshop held at Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh on 7 July. The numerical scoring of the core indicators provides a simplified means to track PPCR progress. For each country, while the scores are important, the insightful part of this exercise is the exchange of perspectives from various stakeholders on what kind of difference the program is making on the ground. The participatory scoring exercise creates a forum to review and reflect on what is being achieved in the SPCR, and what are the priorities for the coming year to continue to advance on the path toward climate resilient development. The full report will be prepared in July and circulated to SPCR stakeholders, as well as publicized through the Climate Investment Funds website for PPCR Core Indicator Monitoring Data - <http://www.climateinvestmentfunds.org/cif/node/12503>

Ministry of Environment Convenes Consultations on Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning



Scoping Workshop on the 5-year Implementation Plan for Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning, was presided over by H.E. Say Sam Al, Minister of Environment



Group photo of Scoping Workshop on the 5-year Implementation Plan for Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning



H.E. Prof. Dr. Sabo Ojano interviewed by media agencies for establishing civil society support and strengthening capacity of NGOs and CSOs to mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and DRR into their operation



Group photo of inception workshop on establishing civil society support and strengthening capacity of NGOs and CSOs to mainstream Climate Change Adaptation and DRR into their operation



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