



# SPCR NEWS-Cambodia



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

Department of Climate Change  
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## General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development Convenes SPCR Coordination Meeting

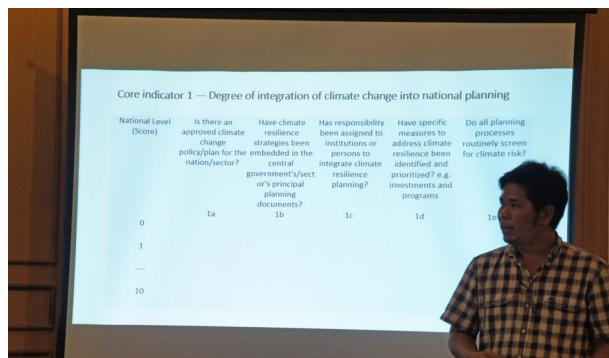
H.E. Pon Sarouen, Under-secretary of State and Deputy Chair of the Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) Coordination Team, H.E. Van Monyneath, Deputy Secretary General of the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development and Dr. Ancha Srinivasan, Principle Climate Change Specialist from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) co-chaired the SPCR Coordination meeting on June 30, 2016. The meeting was called to discuss the progress of the seven SPCR investment projects with the concerned line ministries, including the Ministry of Water Resources, Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry, Ministry of Women’s Affair, Ministry of Rural Development, and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. Key points discussed in the meeting were:



- Recommendations on how to move forward with a set of risk screening tools for Cambodia;
- Decisions on the process and steps for undertaking the feasibility studies to develop climate resilient investment projects to submit for adaptation financing;
- Updates on CSOs selection for adaptation activities implementation, and progress on adaptation activities implementation in agriculture, water resources, transport and urban development.



In the afternoon, the meeting also consulted with key ministries to score implementation progress according to key indicators identified by the Climate Investment Funds (CIF). Through this consultative meeting, ADB will prepare an annual Monitoring Report to CIF and other development partners. The key indicators are the (i) the degree of integration of climate change into national planning; (ii) evidence of strengthened government capacity to mainstream climate resilience; (iii) evidence of strengthened coordination mechanism to mainstream climate resilience; and (iv) quality and extent to which climate responsive instruments/investment models are developed and tested. The key ministries scored those indicators based on comparisons with what results have been achieved since last year's scoring. Most indicators showed a better score while a few indicators had the same score. The improved scoring shows Cambodia is making progress, both at national and sub-national, to be more resilient to climate change.



**New Publication:  
“Review of climate change screening tools available for sectoral agencies in Cambodia”**

The team of International Centre for Environmental Management under Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning recently prepared a “Review of climate change screening tools available for sectoral agencies in Cambodia”. This paper describes the available tools and assesses their suitability. The publication also proposes a new screening tool tailored to Cambodia’s context.



The publication identifies the most suitable screening tools for different types of projects prepared by the key target ministries for the SPCR program – MOWRAM (water resources), MAFF (agriculture), MPWT (national and provincial roads and urban infrastructure) and MRD (rural roads and infrastructure). It will complement the more general environmental and social screening tools being applied by the MOE.

**Civil Society Support Mechanism for Community Based Climate Change Adaptation Launched**

As the implementing agency for the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning – Civil Society Support Mechanism (MCRDP-CSSM), Plan International announced the selection of 19 civil society organizations that will implement community-based Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) grant projects. The announcement was made at a meeting organized on July 1, 2016 with representatives from government, development partners, International Organization, Local NGOs and SPCR implementing agencies.



The 19 civil society organizations (CSOs) were chosen from a shortlist of 35 organizations after having participated in a proposal development training program and rigorous selection process. A total of \$1,400,000 USD



in grants will be allocated under MCRDP for the implementation of community-based CCA and DRR projects. The projects have the common objective to build safe and resilient communities in which women, men, boys, and girls are active participants in managing the risk of a changing climate. The proposed projects will reach 112,607 people (21,035 households) across 17 provinces, focus on various environments (urban, flood plains, coastal and uplands), and will address the needs of diverse vulnerable groups (farmers, urban poor, women, children, indigenous people). The projects cover a diverse range of sectors including agriculture, water supply, infrastructure, natural resources management, education, sanitation and health.

With funding support from the Climate Investment Funds and Asian Development Bank, and in partnership with the SPCR Coordination Unit under the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development, Plan International will provide CSOs with technical and capacity-building support to implement their proposed community-based adaptation projects.

## Adaptation Working Group Gathers Baseline Data on Climate Change Adaptation Measures in Koh Kong and Mondulkiri Provinces

Between April 25 and May 7 2016, the Adaptation Working Group conducted two field missions – one to Koh Kong Province and another to Mondulkiri Province - to collect information on climate change adaptation measures applied by communities and local governments. The Adaptation Working Group (AWG), formed under the technical assistance project Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning, implemented by the Department of Climate Change, General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development, has the mandate to identify and mainstream climate resilient practices into development programs in agriculture, water resources management and urban development and transport. The AWG has 30 members with representation from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, the Ministry of Rural Development, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Women's Affairs, and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The missions were led by H.E. Prof. Dr. Sabo Ojano, Secretary of State of MoE and Chair of SPCR Coordination Team, H.E. Pon Saroeun, Under-secretary of State of MoE and Deputy Chair of SPCR Coordination Team, Mr. Sum Thy, Director of Department of Climate Change and Mr. Suos Pinreak, National SPCR Coordination Specialist from the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The team members were divided into sectors and also accompanied by sub-national officials such as Deputy Provincial Governors of Koh Kong and Mondulkiri, local authorities, commune councils and technical staff.

The group visited a number of communes and identified more than 50 potential adaptation measures that will be further analyzed for their appropriateness and relevance as a climate resilient development practice for the sector. Two examples of the team's findings are presented below.

### **Water Storage in Koh Kong Province**

Koh Kong Province has a number of water storage reservoirs that were built under the Pol Pot regime and are still functional until today. The mission visited three reservoirs: 1) Boeng Prolean Reservoir (about 17 ha) located in Khemarak Phoumin municipality, 2) Chitress reservoir and irrigation canal (about 45 ha) in Andoung



Toek commune of Botum Sakor district, and 3) Bantiet reservoir (50 ha) situated in Dang Peng commune of Sre Ambel district on National Road 48. Despite the fact that 2016 has been the worst year of prolonged drought, these reservoirs have not dried up. Communities with water are depending on the reservoirs for water for both domestic use and farming in particular in Andoung Toek and Chikor Leu communes where small ponds, open wells and pump wells are experiencing water shortages. The mission discussed with local officials the importance of improved operation and maintenance of these reservoirs as a priority adaptation measure given their importance as a water source for communities in coping with drought.

### **Agro-forestry in Mondulkiri Province**

Mondulkiri Province, located northeast of the country, is a mountainous plateau that is one of the provinces most vulnerable to disasters – the disaster impacts are likely to become more intense with climate change. Major disasters common to this area are: abnormal warming winds, drought, landslides and slope erosion that severely impact infrastructure and agriculture. Farmers are regularly seeking ways to cope with the above issues and as a result have integrated some adaptation measures into their livelihood activities, increasingly applying agro-forestry techniques into their cropping patterns.



For example, some farmers are choosing to develop Robusta coffee and durian plantations – this type of cultivation uses less water, but generates a fairly high income for one household based on a land area of approximately 15 hectares. Nget Chanreasmey, is one of farmers with such a plantation. The coffee plantation is relatively well managed being grown under shade and is now 20 years old. Currently the coffee is cultivated under a low input regime with no pesticides applied. This technique yielding results for the farmers but they face some difficulties due to the need for a steady source of water for durian. In addition, the price of Robusta coffee has fallen resulting in lower than expected profit margins. To further develop this technique, farmers will need new technologies such as drip irrigation for durian, more technical support to improve coffee and durian quality as well as support for marketing.

## **Training of Trainers on Climate Resilient Rice Seed Production**

The *Climate-Resilient Rice Commercialization Sector Development Program (Rice-SDP)* is supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia's to implement its Strategy for Agriculture and Water (SAW) that includes objectives to improve food security and economic growth by enhancing agricultural productivity and diversification and by improving water resource development and management. Indirectly, it will create opportunities for further diversification and intensification of production within various farming systems.



The Rice-SDP ([www.ricesdp.org](http://www.ricesdp.org)) is executed by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) through the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) and implemented by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM) and the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC). The project targets the Provinces of Battambang, Kampong Thom



and Prey Veng each having a Provincial Implementation Offices (PIO) to roll out the program. The project is financed by the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program funded by a range of development partners, and implemented with technical and management support from the Asian Development Bank.

From June 6 to June 15 2016, the Rice-SDP undertook a comprehensive training of trainers in climate resilient rice seed production. A total of 30 people, including 9 women, from provincial and district agriculture offices and other departments in Battambang, Kampong Thom and Prey Veng provinces attended this training of trainers. The trainers learned techniques on how to improve quality and increase availability of quality rice seed in the Rice-SDP target provinces namely Battambang, Kampong Thom and Prey Veng province. They also improve their technology transfer and farmer group facilitation skills in order to replicate the trainings in their respective provinces.

Specifically, the training focused on water management in the rice fields, appropriate fertilizer application, Integrated Rice Pest Seed Improvement Program, Farmer Field Schools, trainer facilitation skills, and other rice seed production's measures to be applied at rice reproductive phase. The completion of the training represents an important step in plans to promote the RGC's strategy to scale-up climate resilient rice production and commercialization.

## The Royal Government of Cambodia and Development Partners Join Forces to Increase Resilience to Drought

Since late 2015, Cambodia is facing a prolonged period of drought. The drought is already affecting tens of thousands of families nationwide. Farmers are struggling to cultivate even small amounts of crop on their dry land. Rural women have to travel longer distances to find water for household needs or for their livestock, adding hours to their already long day.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is making efforts to address the situation. Cambodian Prime Minister, Samdech Akeak Moha Sena Padey Techo Hun Sen announced a range of assistance to help farmers affected by the worst drought across the country. In addition, national and sub-national authorities have been delivering water to affected communities especially women and children.



As the Royal Government of Cambodia responds to the immediate situation, it is also working with development partners to put in place measures to enhance long-term resilience to drought and other climate risks. The Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR), funded by the Climate Investment Funds through the Asian Development Bank, is providing both technical and financial support to the Royal Government of



Cambodia. The SPCR encompasses nine investment projects that will strengthen the resilience of key sectors of Cambodia's economy that are vulnerable to climate change: agriculture, water resources management, urban development and transport.

In the water resources sector, the Enhancement of Flood and Drought Management in Pursat Province project, is being implemented by the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology. Part of the larger Greater Mekong Sub-region Flood and Drought Risk Management and Mitigation Program, this project is working to improve capacity and preparedness to manage and mitigate the impacts of flood and drought events, such as the one Cambodia is now facing. The measures include enhancing regional data about

of floods and droughts, designing criteria for assessing flood and drought risks and improving water control infrastructure in the Mekong Delta. The measures will also strengthen Cambodia's National Flood Forecasting Center, and enhance capacity for community-based disaster risk management.

Under the Rural Roads Improvement Project, the Ministry of Rural Development and key stakeholders are implementing the initiative for climate resilience of rural infrastructure in Kampong Cham province. This project is enhancing climate resilient livelihoods, in particular, for vulnerable groups by integrating flood and drought control into rural road improvement and small scale reservoirs restorations. This project will improve flood control and drainage of roads for communities that used to be cut off during the Mekong River flood season. As a result, women and men in flood prone communities will have increased access to the markets and the services that they need year round.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is also taking measures for climate resilience through the Climate Proofing of Agricultural Infrastructure and Business-focused Adaptation as part of the Climate Resilient Rice Commercialization Project. This project is enhancing production of quality rice in Cambodia while preserving the natural resource base. Some of the key outputs are: improved agricultural land-use zoning, better climate resilient rice value chain infrastructure, enhanced rice

value chain support services, and a legal and regulatory environment that is more conducive to climate resilient rice commercialization. The project will also pilot weather-indexed crop insurance.

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport is also involved in these efforts. Under various projects such as the climate proofing of provincial roads, flood-resilient infrastructure and Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development, MPWT is working on climate proofing infrastructure to improve urban infrastructures and enhance climate resilience through wastewater, solid waste management, river embankment protection, drainage and flood control improvement as well as designing road embankments and roadside ditches to reduce erosion with green engineering.

Under each of these interventions, the ministries are working closely with their provincial counterparts – as well as communities and civil society stakeholders - to improve climate resilient development planning over the long term. Cambodian farmers will need to face drought again in the future. But with these measures in place, increasingly the government and communities will be better able to manage these risks and reduce the impacts on livelihoods and other aspects of daily life.



The Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning (MCRDP<sup>1</sup>) technical assistance (TA) is supporting the Cambodian Government to increase the country's resilience to climate variability and climate change. Through MCRDP, the Department of Climate Change under the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development is embarking on a comprehensive process to integrate climate resilience into program planning and policy-making in critical sectors for Cambodia's future development: agriculture, water resources management, urban development and transport.



In July 2015, MCRDP held a Scoping Workshop to finalize its five-year work plan in collaboration with key officials from the Ministry of Environment (MOE), the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), the Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM). After the workshop, the participating ministries formed an Adaptation Working Group (AWG) to implement the five-year work plan. One year later, the Adaptation Working Group has achieved a number of important milestones. Below are some highlights of these achievements:

### **Better tools for climate change risk management introduced:**

The AWG members have increased their skills in using climate resilient planning tools and are better equipped to integrate adaptation measures into their sectors' programs and policies. In November 2015, 21 AWG members and 52 other key stakeholders participated in a training on Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning (VA & AP) in Battambang Province. The training provided participants with theoretical knowledge and practical tools to use in designing adaptation measures for infrastructure improvements, agriculture development interventions and water resources management.



To reinforce this knowledge, 35 government officials were introduced to a more comprehensive set of climate risk screening tools during a workshop held in April 2016. In addition to learning the tools, participants provided inputs to select which screening tools should form part of a climate change risk management framework for designing future investments in their sectors.

### **Adaptation practices documented for knowledge sharing:**

Over the past several months, the AWG members have applied their learning to identifying and documenting priority adaptation practices in some of Cambodia's most climate vulnerable provinces - Battambang, Koh Kong, Kampong Thom, Tboung Khmum, Mondul Kiri, Pursat, Prey Veng, and Kampong Chhnang.

<sup>1</sup> MCRDP is part of Cambodia's Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR), financed by the Climate Investment Funds' Pilot Program for Climate Resilience (PPCR) through the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Royal Government of Cambodia and other international development partners.

Based on the findings from these field-based assessments, the MCRDP technical experts and the AWG have drafted case studies on promising adaptation practices for agriculture, water resources management, urban development and transport. These national case studies will be combined with relevant international examples to prepare Adaptation Resource Toolkits for each sector. The Toolkits will be tailored to the needs of policy makers, program planners, technical experts and other stakeholders in Cambodia to guide them in identifying specific measures to consider for integrating climate resilience into their programs and policies.

**Preparations for feasibility studies on climate change adaptation projects underway:**

Through the application of these learning tools, the Department of Climate Change, with support from MCRDP’s technical assistance experts, is accompanying the key ministries in a step-by-step approach to assess the feasibility of priority adaptation measures. Each sector will prioritize one or two adaptation measures from among the case studies to develop feasibility studies, and in some cases, a full project proposal. The TA will accompany the AWG to prepare feasibility studies in a hands-on learning process on how to apply the climate risk screening tools when preparing projects. In addition, the TA is assisting each ministry to identify relevant adaptation financing mechanisms so that they can transform their proposed project into concrete actions for climate resilience.



MCRDP’s approach to building capacity emphasizes both learning and doing so that each year the key ministries are advancing on the path to climate resilient development planning. As the Royal Government of Cambodia prepares its National Adaptation Plan, the key ministries participating in MCRDP will be ready with concrete proposals on how to address the medium and long-term adaptation needs in their sector.



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