



SPCR NEWS-Cambodia



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

Department of Climate Change
December 2016 No.7



MCRDP Package-A Milestones Achieved

In 2016, the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning - Package A technical assistance completed a number of milestones in its efforts to support key ministries – Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Rural Development (MRD) and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM)- to integrate climate change adaptation into their program planning and investment projects. A few of these achievements are highlighted below:

SPCR coordination, technical support, and capacity to mainstream climate resilience into development strengthened

- A total of 45 government officials from the five key ministries were trained on vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for priority infrastructure assets, agriculture and water resource.



- The technical assistance's field assessments of positive and challenging adaptation practices across eight provinces (Prey Veng, Pursat, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Koh Kong, Monduliri, Tboung Khmum, and Kampong Chhnang) resulted in the documentation of case studies in adaptation for Agriculture, Water Resources, and Urban Development and Transport.
- Three sector-based Adaptation Toolkits summarizing the case studies collected from field visits as well as research into international best practices have been drafted and shared with the relevant ministries. The final versions will be shared more widely in 2017.
- A call for submission of papers on indigenous and traditional adaptation extended the range of

practices documented including examples from academia and civil society along with those researched by the TA sector experts. The indigenous and traditional adaptation practices are being compiled and will be shared in a publication planned for the first quarter of 2017.

- A total of two SPCR coordination meetings were held to strengthen coordination in mainstreaming climate resilience across investment projects.

Detailed feasibility studies for priority adaptation projects conducted

- Based on the assessments of positive and negative adaptation practices, as well as learning from the indigenous knowledge, the TA has identified six project concepts on integrating climate change into agriculture development, water resources management and urban and transport infrastructure development. The feasibility of these six project concepts for climate financing will be further analysed in the coming year.
- Report on climate risk screening tools applicable to assessing and planning projects and programs in the Cambodian context has been documented, shared and finalized based on stakeholder feedback.

Climate change adaptation knowledge products developed and disseminated

- A major conference on Cambodia's Response to Climate Change, featuring the indigenous and traditional adaptation practices, was held in collaboration with the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance and Plan International; the event drew over 100 participants to Sihanoukville Municipality to reflect on the lessons learned and future directions for mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation into Cambodia's national and sub-national development planning.



- An initiative to update and improve climate change content in secondary curriculum has been launched with the Department of Environmental Education (MOE) and the Department of Curriculum Development (Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport).
- The Royal University of Agriculture has commenced activities to produce Khmer versions of curriculum modules on climate change with the TA's support.
- Key knowledge products have been developed including the SPCR website in English and Khmer, four quarterly newsletters, posters and pamphlets, as well as a video that is now under production.



These and other achievements have contributed to deepen learning and build capacity for mainstreaming climate resilience across the key ministries. The knowledge generated will be applied in the coming year to finalizing the tools and training programs that will support each ministry to integrate climate change risk management and adaptation planning into its policy planning and program design.

Package C: Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning held a workshop to consult with stakeholders on three strategic themes

Package C: Gender, Monitoring and Evaluation, and Mainstreaming at Sub-national Levels of the TA 8179 CAM: Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning held a workshop to consult with stakeholders on three strategic themes:

- Project Orientation
- Master Plan on Gender and Climate Change
- Gender Mainstreaming into Climate Change Action Plans of Ministry of Public Works and

Transport (MPWT), Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Ministry of Health (MOH) and Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology (MOWRAM).

The workshop was held on 14-15 December 2016 in Siem Reap. There were 81 participants (more than 50% participants were women) from the target ministries and provincial levels, development partners, civil society organizations and international agencies. The opening session was presided over by H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi, the Minister of Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA) with her key note speech.



In her opening remarks, H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi highlighted that gender mainstreaming into investment projects for climate change adaptation and mitigation across all sectors is one of the priority targets of MOWA. HE Phavi emphasized that gender mainstreaming in climate change initiatives can significantly contribute to poverty reduction and achievement of the Cambodian Sustainable Goals. The dialogue among participants resulted in a number of key actions for the technical assistance to take forward in the coming years:

- Facilitate annual dialogues with Ministers, responsible Secretary of State and relevant key officials from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economy and Finance, MOWA, MAFF, MOWRAM, MOH and MPWT.
- Review and update necessary legal and policy aspects to support the gender mainstreaming processes.
- Develop necessary policy, strategy and specific events for gender mainstreaming into Climate Change Action Plans (CCAPs).

- Ensure implementation is monitored and updated the progress to the coordination team for their further improvements.

Following the workshop, the technical assistance team planned to revise the Master Plan on Gender and Climate Change for making it operationalize and consult with MAFF, MOWRAM, MPWT and MOH on their updated CCAPs in order to highlight the gender mainstreaming specific issues to each plan.

Department of Climate Change Presents and Tests GIS Climate Change Downscaling Tool to Key Ministries

The Department of Climate Change under the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development organized a training workshop on “GIS Climate Change Downscaling” on December 16, 2016. This training workshop 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. Choup Paris, Deputy Secretariat General of the General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development. Participants are from ministries implementing investment projects of SPCR and Adaptation Working Group members.

The main objective of the training was to present and test the new climate change downscaling and gather participants’ feedback on how best to meet sector data requirements. The tool is intended for use by infrastructure and development planners to analyze and apply climate change information in project design and management consistently across all arms of government.



After participating in the training, Ms. Eam Sokchea, GIS Officer from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport stated, “This is a very useful tool. We can use this tool to generate information we need to

manage climate risks such as mapping out climate change projections up to 2050”. Most participants agreed on the utility of the tool in their work and suggested to include data at commune level. Holding a refresher training again next year was another suggestion participants made.



Once it is finalized, the tool will be hosted on the Cambodia Climate Change website (www.camclimate.gov.kh) and can be used by all sectors of the Cambodian Government in their development planning and management as well as the public. However, to finalize this tool, there is a need to form a working group from various ministries. This tool will allow sector experts to shift from the current project-by-project method of compiling climate change data and GIS analysis to a more systematic approach founded on a single information base.

H.E. Prof. Dr. Sabo Ojano expressed in the opening that GIS-based climate change decision-support tool is very important for planners and policy makers to understand the climate change projections for decision making to take action. Climate change is a cross cutting issue and requires scientific data analysis with modern tools.

SPCR Coordination Team Deliberates Adaptation Effectiveness Indicators

H.E. Prof Dr. Sabo Ojano, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, and SPCR Program Coordinator presided over the Fifth Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) Coordination Team Meeting on December 8 2016. The meeting was an opportunity for the seven SPCR investment projects and the technical assistance on Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning to share information about their progress and discuss common issues and challenges to improve program implementation.



The theme of the first session was on indicators for measuring effectiveness of adaptation efforts. The MCRDP Technical Assistance, that is working to mainstream climate resilience in national ministries (Package A), at sub-national level (Package C) and in Civil Society Organizations (Package B) shared methods for measuring climate resilience.

Package A (ICEM and Fraser Thomas Partners) presented a method to design indicators to measure the effectiveness of adaptation efforts. The indicator system would focus on adaptation measures related to the mandates and assets of the key ministries covering water resources, agriculture and roads, and rural and urban infrastructure (MOWRAM, MAFF, MPWT, MRD and MoE). The proposed method would compare the climate related damages or losses to assets with or without adaptation – for example, comparing the state of climate proofed and non-proofed roads over time. The system would control for the severity of climate events in order to assess the extent to which climate-proofing measures are making infrastructure assets more resilient.

The MCRDP Package B (Plan International) described examples of the indicators being used by the TA's Civil Society Organization grantees to measure their results at the community level. The MCRDP Package C (UN Habitat) outlined the indicators being used under the SPCR investment projects, and for the SPCR as a whole. Package C was working with the Ministry of Planning to integrate these measures of climate resilience into national monitoring and evaluation systems.

The discussion highlighted a number of key points to address for the way forward in the development of indicators of effectiveness of adaptation such as enhancing capacity for measuring effectiveness at sub-national level, and clearly assigning roles and

responsibilities across sector ministries and for different level of government.



Following the session on indicators, each SPCR investment project reported on its status. Although the investment projects are in the early stages of implementation, the meeting participants were briefed on some key progress underway such as flood and drought risk modelling, training in Community-Based Disaster Risk Management, climate resilient infrastructure design, and training farmers in climate smart agriculture.

Learning from Indigenous Practices to Enhance Knowledge on Climate Resilience

Diverse communities across Cambodia collectively preserve knowledge on indigenous, practices essential to their daily living. Indigenous communities depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and so must constantly adapt to climatic stresses and other changes in their environment. As a result, indigenous practices evolve over time into measures that can be applied to respond to climate change impacts.



Under the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience in Development Planning (MCRDP), part of Cambodia's Strategic Program for Climate Resilience, the

Department of Climate Change has been working to systematise knowledge on Indigenous and Local Knowledge and Practices for Climate Resilience. The purpose of this initiative is to better understand how indigenous practices could be applied to climate change adaptation policies and programs. To this end, the MCRDP technical assistance specialists and government technical officers have researched and documented indigenous practices in diverse parts of the country in the agriculture, water resources, urban development and transport sectors. MCRDP also issued a call to NGOs, civil society organizations, academics, and private sector to share indigenous and traditional practices that they have researched and documented.

A diverse array of practices were compiled through this initiative. Examples include bamboo forest conservation, rain-water harvesting, community-managed natural springs, sustainable animal-raising techniques, using local varieties of shorter cultivation rice, and traditional bridge construction techniques.

The indigenous practices collected were shared with policy-makers, government planners, development partners and NGO stakeholders at a conference on Cambodia's Response to Climate Change held in Sihanoukville November 29 – 30. This knowledge-sharing event highlighted how these measures tend to be low-cost, easily adopted, practised by women and men, making replication more feasible. It also highlighted the importance of developing policies and programs that value and promote indigenous practices to address climate change impacts.



As climate change exacerbates extreme weather events, indigenous practices on their own will not overcome the adaptation deficit faced by communities. But learning from these traditional practices and combining this knowledge with scientific research and new

technology, will generate new solutions to addressing the challenges of climate resilient development.

Sharing Knowledge on Indigenous Practices for Climate Resilience

The Department of Climate Change in the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCS), with support from the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience in Development Planning (MCRDP) technical assistance, Cambodia Climate Change Alliance and Plan International, held a knowledge-sharing event covering a broad range of local climate change interventions in Sihanoukville from November 29 – 30 2016.

The event convened more than 120 stakeholders from government agencies, community representatives, NGOs, academia, private sector and development partners to share their experiences in implementing and supporting community based climate change related practices in Cambodia. In his opening address His Excellency Tin Ponlok Secretary General, NCS emphasized that knowledge sharing was a priority area in Cambodia's efforts to address climate change as significant progress can only be made through multi-stakeholder engagement.



The event featured examples of climate change adaptation and mitigation practices being implemented in diverse sectors and regions of Cambodia. A key feature of the event was a session about learning from indigenous and traditional practices to enhance climate resilience. The session highlighted how diverse communities across Cambodia were collectively preserving knowledge on indigenous, practices essential to their daily living. Indigenous communities depend on natural resources for their livelihoods and so must constantly adapt to climatic stresses and other changes in their environment. As a result, indigenous practices evolve over time into measures that can be applied to respond to climate change impacts.



MCRDP has been working to systematise knowledge on indigenous practices for climate resilience. The purpose of this initiative is to better understand how indigenous practices could be applied to climate change adaptation policies and programs. Over the past year, MCRDP specialists and government technical officers have researched and documented indigenous practices in diverse parts of the country in the agriculture, water resources, urban development and transport sectors. In September 2016, MCRDP issued a call to NGOs, civil society organizations, academics, and private sector to share their research on indigenous and traditional practices in order to widen this knowledge base.

MCRDP's research and the the wider call have resulted in the compilation of a diverse array of practices. One example presented at the Sihanoukville workshop is the bamboo forest conservation by the Bunong minority group in Mondulkiri province. The Bunong people farm land near bamboo forests so that the trees become a natural fence protecting their crops from storms or strong winds. Elderly people teach others the techniques for sustainably harvesting bamboo

so that they can use this natural resource for house repair or construction without depleting the forest area. With the expansion of commercial farming, the knowledge of sustainable management of bamboo forest and meadow protection is in decline. Conserving, and scaling-up, the practice to use bamboo as a renewable building material and natural protection for crops is one adaptation measure to promote in Cambodia's climate change policies and programs.



Other examples presented covered rain-water harvesting, community-managed natural springs, sustainable animal-raising techniques, using local varieties of shorter cultivation rice, and traditional bridge construction techniques. The presentations highlighted how these measures tend to be low-cost, easily adopted, practised by women and men, making replication more feasible. Cambodia's climate change policies need to consider how to combine learning from indigenous practices along with researching new technology in order find the best options for adaptation.



Senior Officials from the Ministry of Environment Visit Civil Society projects on Community-Based Adaptation

From October 21st to November 8, 2016, H.E. Prof. Dr. Sabo Ojano, Secretary of State for the Ministry of Environment (MoE), H.E. Pon Saroeun, Under Secretary of State and technical officials from MoE, visited ongoing projects implemented by Cambodian Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). The CSOs visited have received grants from the Civil Society Support Mechanism implemented by Plan International. The CSO Mechanism is one component of the Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning technical assistance funded by Climate Investment Funds through the Asian Development Bank.

The visits served to strengthen collaboration between CSOs and the National and Sub-national government on implementation of community-based climate change adaptation projects. These projects aim to reduce the vulnerability of poor communities to the impacts of climate change and improve their capacity to adapt. The objective of the visits were to monitor and share experiences on implementation of adaptation action plans set out at the beginning of each sub-project.



Kraing Serei Community Forestry (KSCF) in Kirovan Commune, Phnom Srouch District, Kampong Speu Province

On October 21 2016, the MOE officials visited the site where this community is expanding the capacity of a community pond. The implementing CSO KCSF procured and installed a water pump to supply water from this mid-level storage facility to a larger storage facility located on higher ground from where the

water is gravity fed through a piped network to surrounding villages. The works will include installing a piped water network to provide connections to 430 additional households across 4 villages. The newly installed year-round water access will enable the community to better cope with dry season water shortages. KSCF provided an update on the project and visitors shared positive feedback on the progress, encouraging the community to continue with their action plan to protect forestry resources, safeguard wildlife, and generate a sustainable livelihood.

Community Resource Improvement for Development (CRID) in Tboung Khmum Province

On November 4, the MoE officials joined an orientation on the distribution process and usage of water filters that the CSO CRID had organized with 15 water filter group representatives from 4 villages in Doun Tei commune Ponhea Kraek Tboung Khmum. These representatives were being trained in water treatment and hygiene in order to share their learning when they return to their village. The

delegation and the village group representatives also discussed upcoming canal renovation works anticipated for the next quarter. A canal with potential to supply enough water for irrigating 150ha of land across 4 villages, benefiting 130 families will be rehabilitated. The MoE representatives advised that the rehabilitation of irrigation infrastructure is a strategic approach to enable farmers to access irrigation especially during droughts, contributing to sustainable development goals. They emphasized the need for village groups to identify multiple solutions for climate change adaptation such as using disaster resistant seeds, climate smart home gardening and vegetable growing.

HURREDO, Siem Reap Province

On November 7-8, the visitors discussed with commune councils and technical district officers in Chansar commune, Sotre Nikum district about the construction of a water gate and dam that will enable people to better cope with droughts. The delegation then visited the construction site in Chbar Loeu and Chorm village and noted that the place for the construction is currently affected by polluted water from a pig farm nearby. The MoE senior officials

suggested to local authorities to talk with the pig farmer to solve the problem before works commence. In the afternoon of the same day, visitors met with saving groups and visited chicken activities, fish ponds, and vegetable growing in Chhouk village, Khnar Po commune. The MoE senior officials gave some technical advice and encouraged farmers to commit to production in order to generate more income for their families.

The MoE delegates were overall satisfied with the progress of activities supported under the Civil

Society Support Mechanism. They stressed that they will continue to strongly support CSO partners, communities, and closely collaborate with government at sub-national level for community-based climate change adaptation activities. The delegation encouraged the Plan International team and the CSOs staff to sustain their high commitment to these promising initiatives for community-based adaptation.



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