



A Strategic Framework for Tackling Climate Change, and for Sustainable, Resilient and Low Carbon Development



Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padey Decho HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, presided over in the 3rd National Forum on Climate Change, November 2013

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The Royal Government of Cambodia on 5th November 2013 launched the first-ever **Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2014-2023** during the 3rd National Forum on Climate Change.

The CCCSP captures the main strategic objectives and directions for a climate-smart development of Cambodia in the next 10 years. It builds synergies with existing government policies to ensure a strategic cohesion to address a wide range of climate change issues linked to adaptation, GHG mitigation, and low-carbon development.

The CCCSP emphasizes the need to build institutional capacity and science-based knowledge for projection of climate change impacts, adaptation, and disaster risk reduction since these would have immediate far-reaching implications on vulnerable sectors such as agriculture, water supply, infrastructures, forestry, fisheries, and tourism. The CCCSP also envisages building resilience capacity

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The CCCSP covers 8 strategic objectives:

1. Promote climate resilience through improving food, water and energy security;
2. Reduce vulnerability of sectors, regions, gender and health to climate change impacts;
3. Ensure climate resilience of critical ecosystems (Tonle Sap Lake, Mekong River, coastal ecosystems, highlands etc.), biodiversity, protected areas and cultural heritage sites;
4. Promote low-carbon planning and technologies to support sustainable development of the country;
5. Improve capacities, knowledge and awareness for climate change responses;
6. Promote adaptive social protection and participatory approaches in reducing loss and damage;
7. Strengthen institutions and coordination frameworks for national climate change responses; and
8. Strengthen collaboration and active participation in regional and global climate change processes.

Adaptation Projects Contribute to Flood Preparedness and Response

The pilot climate change projects funded by CCCA are designed to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities to the long term impacts of climate change, but these projects also bring more immediate benefits for local populations trying to adapt to current climate variability and extreme events.

This was recently demonstrated during the floods which hit Cambodia between August and October 2013, affecting 21 provinces and over 400,000 households, and leading to the loss of at least 168 lives.

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and production skills, especially at the community level, to effectively overcome climate change impacts.

The implementation of the CCCSP requires a programme-based approach to ensure the strategic coordination and prioritization of activities. These include i) institutional arrangements at central, line ministry and sub-national level, ii) developing action plans by relevant ministries, iii) developing a Climate Change Financing Framework highlighting a number of different funding modalities, iv) developing a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to measure impacts of climate change responses and tracking lessons learnt, and v) developing a Climate Change Legal Framework that mainstreams climate change issues into related policies and core legislations.



Local Response Actions to Climate Change

Adaptation Projects Contribute to Flood

Many of the CCCA’s pilot projects have contributed to better preparedness and resilience of vulnerable communities. For instance:

Climate Resilience of Irrigation Systems: Kop Trabek Reservoir

In Takeo Province, the Kop Trabek reservoir – with its storage capacity of over 33 million cubic meters – and related irrigation systems play an essential role in supporting rice and rice-fish farming in six communes.

During periods of intense floods and heavy rains, the reservoir dyke is facing unusually high water pressure, and may collapse if not properly managed, with risks to the lives and livelihoods of nearby communities.

Through the project “Building Climate Change Resilience Food Systems: Integrating Reservoir and Rice-Fish Systems”, implemented by the Prek Leap National College of Agriculture, CCCA has provided support to:

- i) Execute necessary repairs and maintenance on the dyke in partnership with the Provincial Department of Water Resources;
- ii) Build local capacities of Water Management Committee to effectively manage release of water from the reservoir in cooperation with the upstream reservoir committee when risks become too high.

The combination of an effective maintenance and capacity development for local management of the reservoir has allowed the six concerned communes to effectively manage the impacts of the 2013’s flood on the reservoir and protect over 1,000 hectares of rice paddy.



Flood-Proofing Rural Roads: Borei Chulsar Commune

With financial support from CCCA, the National Committee for Sub-national Democratic Development (NCDD) has provided technical assistance for pilot communes in Takeo Province to improve the planning and design of their investments in the context of climate change. A pilot funding scheme provided climate finance through national systems to complement the existing Commune Sangkat Fund and climate-proof priority investments. In Borei Chulsar Commune, a road was built according to these standards. Unlike the nearby “business as usual” road, it has withstood the October 2013 floods and allowed 892 households to maintain access to services and markets during the flood period. This is an example of the higher return on investment and cost-effectiveness of climate-resilient infrastructures.



Climate-resilient road in Borei Chulsar Commune, Takeo

Integrated Climate and Disaster Preparedness in Aek Phnom District, Battambang

Located west of the Tonle Sap Lake and near Sangkae River, Aek Phnom District is particularly vulnerable to floods and was severely affected in 2013.

The project has an innovative engagement approach, building on a strong partnership with Older People Associations (OPAs) in concerned communes, providing services and managing inputs for climate adaptation activities such as distribution of water filters and construction of large earth tanks accessed to clean water during floods.



Accessing clean water through earth tank, Bak Amrek Village, Aek Phnom District, Battambang Province

Mr. Huom Kosal, a Commune Council member of Prek Lourn, noted that health issues of villagers during the 2013’s flood had been reduced compared to previous years. Short term rice varieties (Chulsa, Sen Pidaor and IR66) were also introduced which could be harvested in time before the floods, therefore, averting major losses for rice farmers.

Other adaptation measures also included:

1. Home gardens on higher land, and growing vegetables in hanging pots during the floods.
2. Skills acquired during the disaster risk reduction training were put into practice, including better monitoring of weather forecast information through the media and government channels, prevention measures against snake and other insect bites during floods, and distribution of disaster relief kits for most affected and vulnerable households.
3. Additional adaptation measures are being proposed for inclusion in the Commune Investment Plan for 2014, based on experience gained in 2013. These include rehabilitation and climate-proofing roads and watergates, resilient rice and vegetable seeds, and tree planting.

Moving From Initial Pilots to National Systems for a Scaled-Up Response

Cambodia is already well under way towards realizing this vision. H.E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment and Chair of the National Climate Change Committee, mentioned in his opening statement during 3rd National Forum on Climate Change “over the last few years, an estimated \$250 million has been mobilized to support the implementation of various climate change projects. (...) These activities are generating lessons to support the establishment of a national level climate change financing framework”.

This wealth of experience is now being harnessed to build a coherent, attractive and reliable Climate Change Financing Framework for Cambodia as follow:

- Based on the CCCSP, line ministries are currently finalizing climate change action plans;
- Various existing modalities for the delivery of Climate Finance at national and sub-national level are being reviewed, together with additional options (such as budget support), and concrete Government propositions will be available early in 2014;
- Initial cost-benefit analysis of climate change interventions is being conducted;
- Institutional arrangements and the climate change legal framework are being reviewed;



H.E Say Samal, Minister of Environment, delivering speech during 3rd National Forum on Climate Change, November 2013

- A national monitoring and evaluation framework for climate change is being designed and integrated with the National Strategic Development Plan. Specific research and benefit incidence analysis of climate change expenditures will be part of this framework.

National Climate Change Monitoring & Evaluation Framework Begins in Cambodia

The Climate Change Department (CCD) of the Ministry of Environment launched a workshop for the development of a “National Climate Change Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Framework” on 12-13 December 2013 in Preah Sihanouk Province.

The workshop objective was to initiate the development of a national M&E framework for tracking climate change responses in consultation with key stakeholders, and to share international experiences and best practices in this area. There were 80 representatives from key line ministries-institutions, NGOs and academia.

The establishment of a national framework for M&E of climate change responses is one of the priority actions identified in the CCCSP. The framework will be indispensable to track the implementation of the strategy and of investments for climate change adaptation, mitigation and low-carbon development.

The event focused on sharing lessons and international best practices on M&E for adaptation based on the project “Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD)” implemented by International



Opening workshop on National Climate Change M&E Framework Development

Institution for Environment and Development in several developing countries, including Kenya and Nepal. The overall design of the national climate change M&E framework were presented by CCD and discussed with stakeholders and indicators for climate change were identified through parallel working group sessions.

The way forward will envisage the progress of M&E

Conference of Party 19 to UNFCCC

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) 19th Conference of the Parties was organized from 11–22 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland, just a week after the 3rd National Forum on Climate Change in Cambodia. The event was attended by about 10,000 representatives from 189 parties including NGOs and media representatives. There were 16 delegates from Cambodia led by the Ministry of Environment, representatives of Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Cambodia's Key Positions for CoP 19 includes:

- ◆ Support the efforts to address climate change based on the UNFCCC principles and full association with LDCs and G77+ China.
- ◆ Need for developed countries to take lead in GHG mitigation while developing countries can voluntarily participate based on financial and technological support.
- ◆ Support National Adaptation Plans in developing countries and the Work Programmes on Loss and Damage based on each country's priorities.
- ◆ Urge the implementation of the Adaptation Framework established in Cancun and its provisions for LDCs process for adaptation in developing countries.
- ◆ Support Kyoto Protocol Second Commitment Period.
- ◆ Urge for agreement on the methodology and modalities for implementation of REDD⁺.
- ◆ Urge developed countries to commit and increase their financial supports to countries vulnerable to climate change by providing 100 billion USD per year to developing countries by 2020, as well as by filling the financial gaps between 2013-2020.
- ◆ Support enhanced actions to improve capacities and capabilities of developing countries. The capacity building should be a continuous process, country-driven, fully participatory and an integral process.

Post-CoP 19:

The Royal Government of Cambodia principally approved Ministry of Environment to undertake the following actions:

- ◆ Initiate the preparatory process for country's ratification of the 2nd Commitment Period of the Kyoto Protocol (the Doha Amendment).
- ◆ Designate the Ministry of Environment as the national entity for REDD⁺.
- ◆ Negotiate the draft text for an agreement with the Government of Japan on Joint Crediting Mechanism, a new Japanese initiative to promote mitigation activities via bilateral cooperation.



United Nations' General Secretary Delivering Climate Change commitment during CoP 19, Poland



Minister of Environment and Chair Of NCCC Called for International Communities to Address Climate Change in the CoP 19, Poland

CoP 19 Decisions:

- ◆ Pursuing preparation of a new legally binding agreement for CoP 21 approval in 2015 and to enter into force from 2020.
- ◆ Establish the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage under Cancun Adaptation Framework.
- ◆ Commit to pursuing reduction in GHGs emission by 2020 through technical measures and more involvement from the ministerial level.
- ◆ Developed countries commit to provide 100 billion USD by 2020 globally for climate change response in developing countries. Also, USA, Norway and UK pledged to finance 280 million USD for REDD⁺.
- ◆ The Board of Green Climate Fund will conduct the early resource mobilization by developed countries by CoP 20 to enable an effective operationalization.
- ◆ Many governments commit to work on REDD⁺ and agree on guideline of monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) procedure.
- ◆ Establish a Climate Technology Center and Network (CTNC) to assist in the transfer of technology.
- ◆ CoP 20 will be held in Lima of Peru, and CoP 21 will be in Paris of France.

National Climate Change Monitoring &

framework, and thus, including

i) the review of the status of M&E systems in Cambodia with opportunities to include climate change in the existing tools, ii) establishing and drafting roles and responsibilities of climate change M&E team, iii) integrating climate change indicators into indicators of the NSDP 2014-2018, iv) enhancing coordination between CCCA and Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR) to work on climate change M&E framework development, and v) pursuing studies on vulnerability and adaptation capacity scorecard based on climate change Second National Communication.



Parallel discussion on cross cutting indicators & sectoral indicators of M&E framework

News Highlight:

The 1st Cambodian Standardized Baseline of Rice Mill Sector is Adopted

The Clean Development Mechanism Executive Board of the UNFCCC adopted the **Cambodian DNA's proposal on standardized baseline "Technology switch in the rice mill sector of Cambodia"** in its 76th meeting held from 4—8 November 2013 in Warsaw, Poland. Globally, this is the 4th approved standardized baseline and the 1st one in rice mill sector.

The standardized baseline was developed jointly by the Cambodian Ministry of Environment and the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) of Japan and was submitted to the CDM Executive Board for approval in December 2012. It applies to



Announcement of Cambodia Standardized Baseline in Warsaw of Poland

the rice mill sector via installation of new equipment and/or retrofitting of existing equipment to generate mechanical or electrical power to drive rice mill machines. Eligible, less carbon-intensive technologies with change of energy source include rice husk gasification and engine, steam turbine with rice husk combustion, and sterling engine with rice husk combustion. The approved standardized baseline was developed based on a national level survey of nearly 92 rice mills in Cambodia.

A baseline (or "baseline scenario") for a CDM project is the scenario that reasonably represents the anthropogenic emissions by sources of greenhouse gases (GHG) that would occur in the absence of the proposed CDM project. The aim of standardizing baselines is to reduce the time and costs associated with designing CDM projects.

Up to date, Cambodia has 10 CDM projects approved by the UN CDM Executive Board. These projects are estimated to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 2 million tCO₂-equivalent annually. The projects produce electricity and heat using renewable energy sources, such as hydropower, industrial waste heat, agricultural residues and livestock wastes.

The **National Climate Change Committee (NCCC)** supported by the **Climate Change Department** of the Ministry of Environment as its Secretariat, has progressed in coordinating the preparation and implementation of a range of policies, plans and measures that are necessary to respond to the negative impacts of climate change. **Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA)** is a comprehensive and anchored in the NCCC, a mandated Government coordination and policy support entity for all aspect of climate change.



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