



Second National Forum on Climate Change Cambodia

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Barriers to effective adaptation – insights from the Cambodian Human
Development Report 2011

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OVERVIEW

- This presentation draws on the findings of the Cambodia Human Development Report 2011, discusses
- Main challenges of climate change
- Principles of action
- Opportunities and Risks in Cambodia



Uncertainty and Risk

- Climate change requires a new way of looking at the future
- Climate change is largely a product of development in the past (industrialisation, land use changes)
- Forces us to rethink meaning and direction of 'development'
- But cannot simply 'predict and act'
- Need to deal with high degree of uncertainty and risk
- Need new ways of doing development



Principles of resilience

- Informed strategic, participatory planning and decision-making
- Rights-based approaches
- Putting ecological considerations at the heart of development
- Integrated, area based approaches
- Promoting adaptive, flexible and learning-oriented institutions
- No regrets options – ‘safe to fail’



Address current vulnerabilities

Cambodia's vulnerability related to

- Weak assets and entitlements of rural people
- Limited adaptive capacity – technical, financial & human capacity, institutional constraints, weak governance & decision-making

Reducing current vulnerabilities

- Forging a climate resilient, long-term, low carbon development pathway
- Both:
- Technologies, techniques and practices
- More strategic approaches to integrated management – water and land



Strengthen people's assets & entitlements

- Strengthen social protection – health, education, cash transfers (public works)
- Strengthen Disaster Risk Reduction
- Strengthen access to productive assets – land, water, forests, fisheries - and the means to turn assets into livelihood benefits (markets, credit, technology)



Water and Land

- Much of climate change will be felt through water
- Not only look for infrastructure solutions
- But implement IWRM – move from policy (already in place) to practice
- This also requires looking at landscapes – river basins
- And critically managing watersheds, forests, floodplains – and LAND



Need for local action

- Climate change will be felt at local level
- Most of effort so far has been targeted at national or regional
- Current D&D reforms provide an opportunity to have more locally relevant, representative, transparent and accountable actions
- And to move from sectoral to integrated approaches
- Need to incorporate climate change considerations into functional re-assignments



Action at different scales

- But action at local level is not enough on its own
- Need national level
- And regional
- For Cambodia – the Mekong River Basin is a critical region



Effective management of \$

- Significant funding coming to Cambodia to deal with climate change
- A huge potential resource – if used well
- But also serious risks if funds are not used well
- Essential that effective systems are in place to ensure the funds are put to good use
- And also to ensure coordination and consistency from the donors



Information

- Principle 10 of Rio Declaration 1992 – ACCESS Rights
- Climate change action needs a lot of information from different disciplines, and different sources (scientific and local)
- Information needs to be publicly available so that debates can be well informed



Public Participation

- Climate change has long term risks and uncertainties
- Need to ensure all affected parties are involved in decision-making – to ensure fair and equitable outcomes
- And to encourage innovation
- This hinges on public participation



Redress and Remedy

- The risks associated with climate change are high
- There must be an effective legal framework to establish standards – eg around pollution, land use changes etc
- And mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency

