

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

CC RESPONSE: MOVING FROM STRATEGY TO IMPLEMENTATION IN 2015

The Annual Conference of the Ministry of Environment held last February provided an opportunity to take stock of the progress made in the implementation of the climate change response laid out in the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023. The balance was clearly positive, highlighting a number of areas where the efforts of the Department of Climate Change (DCC), working with ministries and various stakeholders at the central and sub-national level, have

delivered significant results in 2015.

► *More effective institutional arrangements for climate change:* The National Council for Sustainable Development and its General Secretariat, where DCC is housed, were established in May 2015. The Council, with an overarching mandate for sustainable development covering climate change matters, has a broad membership, including high level representatives from key line ministries and governors from all provinces.

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INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

NEW CLIMATE AGREEMENT REACHED AT COP 21 IN PARIS



His Majesty King Norodom Sinamoni and Representatives in Cop 21's Leaders Event in Paris, Nov. 30, 2015

The 21st Conference of the Parties (CoP 21) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), held in Paris from 30 November to 11 December 2015, was a historic moment in the fight against climate change. His Majesty the King led 40 Cambodian delegates and delivered a statement at the Conference Leaders Event. The Paris Climate Agreement, from Cambodia's perspective, is a major step forward,

thus the country is ready to initiate a process to ratify it this year.

Cambodia was actively involved in the negotiations and organized side events with other three Least Developed Countries (LDC) - Gambia, Malawi and Senegal - on good practices in implementing climate change adaptation and on strengthening capacity to mobilize financing for adaptation activities.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

We would like to welcome you to this issue of Climate Change Newsletter in 2016. We intend to bring this newsletter to you every quarter to reflect on the new climate policy developments in Cambodia and to keep you updated on the work being conducted by Department of Climate Change at the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development. Twice a year, in the second and fourth quarters, we will share interesting examples of the work being done by many partners and communities to respond to climate change. We are counting on you, the reader, to join us as a regular or occasional contributor – your Voices from the Ground are essential to the newsletter success and for our work as climate change practitioners.

EDITORIAL BOARD

This newsletter is prepared, edited and produced by Department of Climate Change of General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development with technical assistance from Cambodia Climate Change Alliance.

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

CC RESPONSE: MOVING FROM STRATEGY TO...

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► **Sectors better prepared to respond to climate change:** In 2015, the number of sectoral ministries and agencies with approved Climate Change Action Plans (CCAPs) has risen from 8 to 14. These CCAPs are helping sectors to guide implementation of concrete priority adaptation and mitigation measures on the ground, and they are also instrumental in mobilizing funding to scale up implementation of climate change response.

► **Capacity building and awareness raising for mainstreaming climate change at sub-national level:** A growing number of local authorities and communities are getting involved in climate action to build their resilience. In 2015, DCC worked with Provincial Departments of Environment in Kampong Cham, Kampot and Pursat, with the support of Cambodia Climate Change Alliance, to mainstream climate change into 9 Commune Investment Plans.

► **Better prepared to mobilize much needed climate finance:** The Climate Change Financing Framework, approved in 2015, identifies current sources of climate financing available and trends over the next 5-10 years and



Farmers learn about type of paddy rice diseases at Kampong Speu's Samrong Tong District

provides the first estimates of climate change impact on the economy and how climate smart investments can help reduce this impact.

► **Building systems that enable a coordinated and more effective response:** With the National Climate Change Monitoring & Evaluation Framework finalized in 2015 and with baselines established for 7 of its 8 core indicators, the country is ready to roll out its climate change M&E framework. This will provide crucial information to support policy and investment decisions and improve effectiveness in responding to climate change.

CLIMATE CHANGE RESEARCH AND INNOVATION GRANTS

Last September, the Department of Climate Change with support from Cambodia Climate Change Alliance launched a call for proposals for research and innovation projects in an effort to motivate academia, researchers and innovators working in governmental and non-governmental organizations to direct their 'brain power' in support of the climate change work.

Through the grant facility, the support now extends to research and innovation efforts. The proposals submitted needed to clearly show how they will add value to the climate change response in Cambodia. There were 11 focus areas for this call covering all three major areas of climate change response: 1) *Adaptation*, 2) *Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Mitigation and Inventory*, 3) *Adaptation/GHG Mitigation*.

The 50 concept notes received in response to this call for proposals reveal the great interest the call generated, in spite of the relatively small amount to be awarded per grant (ranging from USD 50,000 to 100,000). Through a competitive process, eight applicants were selected and are now developing full project proposals on the following topics:

1. Renewable energy: use of biomass for the garment and brick industries (submitted by: *Groupe Energies Renouvelables, Environnement et Solidarités - GERES*);
2. Testing of medium-sized biodigester technology – 10 to 20 KW (submitted by: *National Biodigester Programme*);
3. Integrated approach to adaptation for farmers – renewable energy, water and crop management,



A team of National Dengue Control Program of Ministry of Health conduct Entomological surveillance in Banteay Meanchey

SMEs (submitted by: *Cambodia Rural Development Team - CRDT*);

4. Solid Waste Management research and strategy for Phnom Penh (submitted by: *Nexus*);
5. Research on health sector vulnerability index (submitted by: *Ministry of Health*);
6. Research on benefits of conservation agriculture practices (submitted by: *General Directorate of Agriculture*);
7. Adaptation strategy for a Ramsar site (submitted by: *Stung Treng Provincial Department of Environment*);
8. Remote sensing technology for monitoring of protected areas/deciduous forest (submitted by: *Wildlife Conservation Society - WCS*).

This newsletter will follow closely the development of these projects and will share details in upcoming issues.

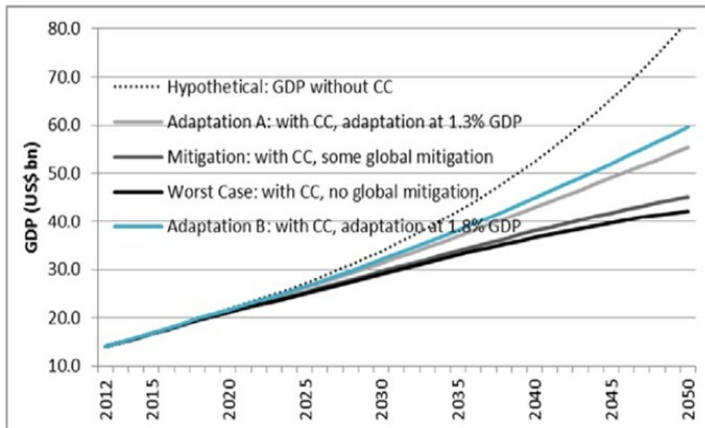
ODA DATABASE ADJUSTMENT ALLOWS CAMBODIA BETTER TRACK INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE FINANCING

Following the adoption of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change last December which includes commitments on climate finance for developing countries, international climate finance will grow in the coming years and will be a key source of financing climate actions for Cambodia.

The Department of Climate Change signed a joint agreement with Cambodian Rehabilitation and Development Board of the Council for Development of Cambodia (CRDB/CDC) in September 2015 to adjust the Official Development Assistance (ODA) database, allowing Cambodia to better track international climate financing



CRDB/CDC and Ministry of Economy and Finance officials tag ODA database 2013-2014 at Sihanouk Ville, Dec. 14, 2015



Long term impacts of climate change and climate financing on GDP

flows. The focus of this effort to track both climate change mitigation and adaptation financing includes:

- ▶ A new climate change thematic marker, allowing donors to tag projects with climate change relevance;
- ▶ Revise sector and sub-sector tags, including the possibility to track new and additional climate change financing.

Over 20 CRDB technical officials were trained on climate finance tagging methodologies. They confirmed that the new template is easier and helps to better track climate change related external funding sources.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

NEW CLIMATE AGREEMENT REACHED...

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Key outcomes from the CoP 21 concluded a successful historic agreement for all nations around the world:

- ▶ Pursue efforts to limit temperature increase to 1.5°C, ensuring that the global temperature increase stays "well below" 2°C (compared to the pre-Industrial Revolution era);
- ▶ Peak greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible and achieve a balance between sources and sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century;
- ▶ Review progress through updating country's Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) every five years, monitoring GHG emission reduction efforts;
- ▶ Countries will continue to make every effort to mobilize \$100 billion per year by 2025 to support climate action in developing countries;
- ▶ Provide greater financial for adaptation and technology transfer to developing countries, with special support dedicated to LDC and Alliance of Small Island States;
- ▶ Promote capacity development, especially in LDC, African countries, Small Island Countries in the



Cambodia's delegate, H.E. Tin Ponlok, Secretary General of the National Council for Sustainable Development shares good practices of Cambodia's climate change response at Paris's CoP 21, December 2015

Pacific Ocean and the Atlantic, for the implementation of the action plan for GHG emissions reduction and adaptation;

- ▶ Build the capacity of developing countries to strengthen their monitoring, reporting and verification systems.

As a Party of the UNFCCC, Cambodia submitted its INDC report (<http://camclimate.org.kh/en/documents-and-media/library/category/137-national-report.html>) to the secretariat ahead of CoP 21 in September 2015.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

- 1) Climate Change Action Plan for Ministry of Environment (Khmer & English), <http://www.camclimate.org.kh/en/documents-and-media/library/category/128-climate-change-action-plan.html>
- 2) Cambodia's Second National Communication submitted to UNFCCC (English), <http://www.camclimate.org.kh/en/documents-and-media/library/category/137-national-report.html>
- 3) Cambodia's INDC submitted to UNFCCC (English), <http://www.camclimate.org.kh/en/documents-and-media/library/category/137-national-report.html>

In the next issue...



VOICES FROM THE GROUND

Many of the farmers say that it is becoming harder for them to grow the long-maturing rice variety because of insufficient rainwater. They say they have “no choice other than waiting for the rain to fall”. A farmer from Prey Veng will share his experiences of “Changing to a new rice variety and planting technique” in the next issue.

✉ Please register to be one of our regular or occasional contributors by sending your stories to the email: reaksmey.neou@camclimate.org.kh

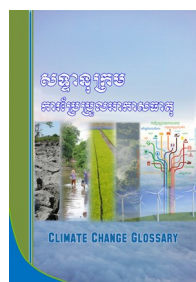
UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS



People's Perception of Climate Change

The second study on *Understanding Public Perception of Climate Change in Cambodia: Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP2)* presents nationwide perceptions of climate change and its challenges. Key findings from KAP2 highlight:

- ▶ 90% of respondents have medium and high level of understanding of climate change.
- ▶ More people have been responding to climate change while the main barriers continue to be lack of budget and limited capacity of human resource.
- ▶ Opportunities for climate change mainstreaming include improving access to information and high commitment of the government.



Climate Change Glossary

Climate change glossary has been compiled to ensure the consistency and accuracy of terminology use. The glossary contains terminology on climate change science, causes and effects, adaptation, mitigation, disaster risk, national and international decisions, ecology and environment. Approximately 500 terms, together with internationally used abbreviations are included. The glossary is now being reviewed by the National Council for Khmer Language.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April: Training workshop on CC for MoE Young Leaders
- April: Training for development partners on climate finance tracking
- April: Launching of National CC M&E Framework
- April: Launching CCCA grant for ministries with approved CCAPs (2nd Round)
- April: Risk Screening Tool workshop
- April: Roundtable Meeting on Determining Feasibility Study Projects for Adaptation Proposal Development
- April: Field mission to document adaptation measures in Koh Kong and Mondulkiri
- May: Knowledge sharing event on CC mainstreaming at national level
- May: Training workshop on CC mainstreaming to Provincial

- Departments of Environment and Commune Councils
- May: Consultation meeting for methodology development to conduct full feasibility studies
- May-June: Advanced sector vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning training for SPCR Adaptation Working Group
- May-June: Curriculum development workshop for university level
- June: First meeting of the National Council for Sustainable Development
- June: Review and develop guidelines and tool kits of CC for key ministries and consultation workshops
- June: Consultation meeting on indicators of effectiveness of SPCR adaptation projects.

For most updated climate change response related events or publications, keep following us at www.camclimate.org.kh

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