



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

REDUCING VULNERABILITY OF RURAL CAMBODIANS

One of the key requirements to improve livelihoods resilience to climate change in the long-run is to improve the management and use of locally available water resources for agriculture. The project “Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced Sub-National Climate Change Planning and Execution of Priority Actions”, also known as the SRL project, is doing just that, targeting especially land-poor, landless and/or women-headed households.

The project is being implemented by the Department of Climate Change, General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (GSSD), in coordination with the National Committee for Sub-National

Democratic Development Secretariat (NCDDS). Over the next few years, until December 2019, the project will cover 89 communes and 10 districts of Siem Reap and Kampong Thom Provinces, working to improve sub-national administration systems affecting investments in rural livelihoods through climate sensitive planning, budgeting and execution.

SRL’s aims to achieve three main outcomes:

- ▶ *Strengthened climate sensitive planning, budgeting and execution at sub-national level* by providing support to mainstreaming of climate change adaptation (CCA) into existing plans and investment programs

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Small-scale watershed to climate resilience, Siem Reap Province

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

IPCC’S SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT UNDERWAY

During the first week of May, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) member countries discuss the focus of the next IPCC’s Assessment Report. The outline of the report (including the coverage of the three Working Group contributions: physical science; impacts, adaptation and vulnerability; and mitigation) will be approved next October, but AR6 will only

be completed 5 years from now, in the first half of 2022.

IPCC assessment reports are indeed massive undertakings. They include the review of thousands of scientific papers published each year on a wide range of scientific, technical and policy relevant issues, helping to point out to policymakers what science knows and does not know about the risks related to

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EDITOR’S NOTE

Dear Readers,
We would like to welcome you to this issue of the Climate Change Newsletter. 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. Every other quarter, we will be sharing interesting examples of the work being done by many partners and communities to respond to climate change. We are counting on you, dear reader, to join us as a regular or occasional contributor – your Voices from the Ground are essential to the newsletter’ success and to our work as climate change practitioners.

EDITORIAL BOARD

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

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of ten districts and their constituent communes and by developing technical capacity for climate sensitive agriculture extension and for planning and implementation of climate resilient infrastructure investments.

- ▶ *Improved resilience of livelihoods of the most vulnerable against erratic rainfall, floods and droughts* through investments in small scale water management infrastructure which will help farmers to better cope with the unpredictability of rainfall during the wet season, making agricultural production more resilient. Groups of poor and vulnerable women will receive support to develop livelihood activities requiring only limited amounts of land and will receive complementary support for social capital building activities.
- ▶ *Enhanced enabling environment at sub-national level to attract and manage a greater volume of climate change adaptation finance for building resilience of rural livelihoods* by improving sub-national government performance



H.E. Tin Ponlok, GSSD's Secretary General launched the SRL project, 27 March 2017, Siem Reap province

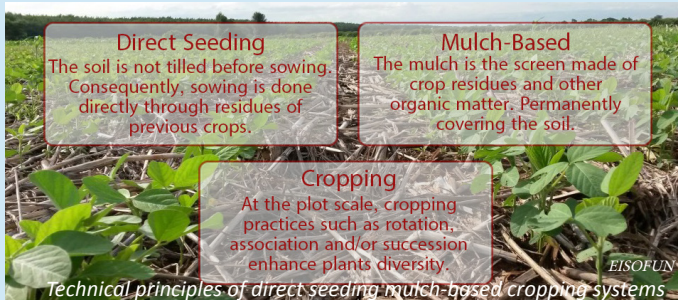
assessment systems for CCA, using Performance Based Climate Resilience Grant (to provide co-financing for infrastructure investments), and strengthening capacity of sub-national administrations to monitor, evaluate and plan improvements in capacity and performance for CCA.

SRL's inception workshop, held in Siem Reap on 27 March 2017, officially launched the project, bringing together 80 relevant national and sub-national stakeholders from government institutions, development partners, non-governmental organizations, and local authorities.

DIRECT SEEDING MULCH-BASED CROPPING SYSTEM: WILL ON-THE-GROUND PRACTICES INFORM NATIONAL POLICIES?

WHAT IS THE DMC SYSTEM?

Direct Seeding Mulch-based Cropping (DMC) system applies three technical principles of conservation agriculture practices: less soil disturbance; permanent soil protection; and crop diversification. With DMC, the optimized use of multifunctional cover crops and adequate crop diversification improve biological processes and the overall production system, contributing to restore living soil. DMC uses a diversity of plants with specific temporal and spatial sequences at farm and landscape levels to optimize plant nutrient availability, reduce water and nutrient losses, enhance soil biota and optimize the mutual benefits in agro-ecosystem through biological interactions and synergies.



Conventional agricultural practices often lead to negative impacts on natural resources such as soil, water and biodiversity. More frequent and severe drought periods are resulting in increased vulnerability of smallholder farmers in rainfed agriculture areas, which account for over 80 percent of total arable land in Cambodia. DMC system was developed to address these challenges, by building soil resilience and increasing adaptive capacity of smallholder farmers vis-a-vis water shortages and drought.

Results of experiments in Cambodia are showing that the system is an effective adaptation measure to improve soil water retention capacity and reduce evaporation. Moreover, this system may minimize crop climate risks by providing local farmers with more flexible options of growing primary crops such as cassava and rice in succession with different short-cycle crop options as secondary crops. DMC also contributes to reducing GHG emissions as it stops soil tillage and ridging, gradually increasing the organic matter in the soil (including



Comparison of conventional agriculture and DMC system shows DMC system (2nd, 3rd from left) are more organic and carbon sequestration

soil organic carbon), and thus increasing carbon sequestration. DCM is thus a joint adaptation and mitigation measure.

Ecological Intensification and Soil Ecosystem Functioning (EISOFUN) Project, implemented by the General Directorate of Agriculture, the Royal University of Agriculture and the Institute of Technology of Cambodia, with support from CCCA, aims to produce scientific knowledge on soil ecosystem services that can assist policymakers in designing sound innovative policies and mechanisms to support farmers and increase DMC dissemination. EISOFUN partners highlight the project's contribution to the implementation of Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan and Strategic Development Plan of the MAFF by promoting climate-smart agriculture and strengthening the development of innovative ecological intensification practices to contribute to both climate change adaptation and mitigation in Cambodia. Results from this project will contribute to inform MAFF's programs and national policies (e.g. law on agricultural land management) and help disseminate DMC through farmer field days, multi-stakeholder forums, policy briefs and wider knowledge sharing and dissemination platforms.

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION ON NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN (NAP) FINANCING FRAMEWORK

GIZ, in cooperation with and financed by USAID, is implementing the Climate Finance Readiness Programme (CF Ready), providing technical support to the Department of Climate Change, General Secretariat of National Council for Sustainable Development, to implement the National Adaptation Plan (NAP). To this effect, a NAP financing framework is an important outcome of the CF Ready Programme and aims at accelerating the readiness of climate finance in Cambodia.

In February 2017, a consultation workshop brought together 44 representatives from 23 line ministries, agencies and development partners to discuss and comment on a draft NAP financing framework and implementation plan. In the consultation, participants undertook a collaborative analysis of 40 Priority Actions shortlisted from 148 non-funded actions of Climate Change Action Plans (CCAPs) of key climate sensitive ministries and agencies.

The results from this participatory process have informed the content of the framework as follows:

- ▶ The implementation plan of the NAP financing framework will propose short, mid and long term recommendations, including issues like packaging and sequencing of actions, with the main aim to direct the CCAP actions to potential funding sources.
- ▶ Some of the 40 priority actions have been classified as being “near implementation phase” or close to ready to access



The stakeholder consultation workshop discusses the draft NAP financing framework and implementation plan, February 2017, Phnom Penh

climate financing.

- ▶ Several actions will need more time and effort before being ready for application to international funding sources and were classified as “under preparation phase”. Additional actions are cross-cutting and classified as “contributing to an enabling environment for the NAP”.

To supplement the NAP financing implementation plan, the NAP financing framework includes a thorough analysis of international climate funding options for adaptation priorities as well as reviews of previous studies, such as the assessment of financing demands for climate change adaptation actions, national budget and expenditure reviews, the study of private sector investment opportunities.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

IPCC'S SIXTH ASSESSMENT REPORT ...

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climate change. So far these reports have proven to be greatly influential in shaping the global policy agenda to respond to climate change. For example, the publication of AR5 in 2014 has provided crucial scientific evidence that has already helped shape the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It has also helped countries like Cambodia access key scientific information that they can use to develop more effective climate policies. For example, AR5 information for example is now being used to develop more sound downscaled climate



Delegates convene at the UNEP Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, for the start of the IPCC-43 meeting, 2016

Methodology Report update



2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories
May 2019

AR6 Main Report



Working Group I, II, and III contribution to the Sixth Assessment Report in 2021
Synthesis Report to the Sixth Assessment Report April 2022

UNFCCC global stocktake 2023

Cities



Attention on cities in AR6 including a conference and special report on cities in AR7

IPCC

IPCC's Sixth Assessment Cycle

projections for the Mekong region and, in the near future, for Cambodia.

IPCC's AR6 and other Special Reports will keep setting new politically agreed climate goals and help design the necessary response mechanisms; for example, as noted in a recent press release, IPCC decided to pay special attention to the impacts of climate change on cities and their unique adaptation and mitigation challenges and opportunities. Cambodia's inputs to the preparation of these reports will help place in IPCC's agenda issues that are critical to the future sustainable development of the country, thus helping to mobilize global support for their resolution. For more information, including links to the IPCC reports, go to: www.ipcc.ch.

In the next issue ...

VOICES FROM THE GROUND



How Kep is strengthening its capacity to tackle increased climate risks

The projected increase in the severity of climate change impacts is increasingly recognized. Communities in coastal areas, such as those located in the Kep province in southern Cambodia, grow increasingly concerned for their future. They are aware of their exposure to climate risk such as storm surges, salt water intrusion and drought.

This is the reason why the Provincial Committee for Disaster Management (PCDM), which is composed of provincial level, district and commune level members, is working together with relevant provincial departments to strengthen their capacity to deal with key climate risk for their province. Ms. Keo Ny, one of the members of Kep's PCDM and deputy director of the Provincial Department of Women's Affair, has been involved in this work. She will tell us, in the next issue, of her own experience in developing capacity to deal with climate change risk and what she sees as the main challenges that need to be tackled.

VOICES FROM THE GROUND



Increased access to water improves health and hygiene

Given the limited access to water and sanitation in coastal provinces, both during rainy and dry seasons, the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) has decided to build drinking water stations in Kampot and Kep to respond to the demand of their community members. In addition, existing ponds have also been rehabilitated and are now supplying water to the water stations, as well as supplying water directly to be used for household consumption, small gardens and animal husbandry. The major beneficiaries of this work are people living in 5 communes in Kep and Kampot, including women headed households, and in particular the extreme poor and widows. The communes targeted by these investments have been selected for their high vulnerability to climate change. In the next issue, readers will see how safe drinking water from the water treatment station, as well as rehabilitated ponds are responding to the communities' needs.

UPCOMING PUBLICATION

Cambodia National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Financing Framework

The National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Financing Framework, mentioned in the article on page 3, will be soon published by the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development. The document presents an analysis of multiple financing dimensions (scoping demand, existing gaps, funding options at domestic and international levels) and it also provides an implementation plan for the framework. NAP's financing implementation plan identifies short and mid-long term actions that would help articulate and resource a set of 40 Priority Climate Adaptation Actions, selected amongst over 148 yet to be funded Climate Change Action Plans actions from key climate sensitive ministries and agencies. This document is expected to accelerate NAP's implementation process in Cambodia, and thus contributing to the overall climate response in the country. The document is now in its final stages of review and should available in June.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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|------|--|------|--|
| Apr: | Official Launch of the Lexicon of the Climate Change | Jun: | Orientation Training for mainstreaming climate resilience into sub-national planning |
| May: | Awareness Raising Workshop on SPCR framework | Jun: | Multi-stakeholder Workshop on M&E of adaptation |
| May: | Consultation Meeting on Gender Master Plan and training manuals | Jun: | Launch event of adaptation guides and case studies of climate resilience |
| May: | Urban Resilience Training for Civil Societies | Jun: | Knowledge-sharing event for implementation climate change priorities among CCCA grantees |
| May: | Training workshop for Youth at Svay Rieng Province | Jun: | CCTWG meeting with Development Partners |
| Jun: | Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG) meeting on M&E issues | | |
| Jun: | Second Training workshop on GIS | | |

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

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Contact:

Department of Climate Change
 General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development
 c/o Ministry of Environment
 No. 503, Road along Bassac River, Sangkat Tonle Bassac, Chamkarmon, Phnom Penh
 Tel: (+855-23) 633 8370 | E-mail: admin@camclimate.org.kh
 Website: www.camclimate.org.kh