



CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO CAMBODIA LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

Mainstreaming climate change into legal and regulatory frameworks is needed to facilitate and support the development and implementation of measures for addressing climate change in the medium and long-term in key sectors of development and resource management, such as agriculture, water, fisheries, forestry, public health, infrastructure and urban areas. The effort to mainstream climate change into the Cambodia legal and regulatory frameworks started in 2013 with the

assessment report to identify entry points to revise and strengthen the existing laws in Cambodia and to mainstreaming climate change into new pieces of legislation and regulations being drafted. As a result, a new institutional arrangement to address climate change in Cambodia was enacted, with the establishment in May 2015 of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) and its General Secretariat (GSSD). The Council, in addition to climate change, also has

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INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

LAW ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT IS APPROVED



H.E. Say Sam Al, Minister of Environment, led the delegates to clarify the draft law in the 9th Plenary Session of the 3rd Senate, December 5, 2016, Senate

Continuing our coverage of international dialogues and commitments, and as an update to the Paris Agreement article published in the previous issue of this newsletter, note that Cambodia has recently ratified the Paris Agreement and is now ready to submit to United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). This signals that the country's commitment to address climate change, together with the

international community, continues strong, increasing also the possibilities to receive much needed support to Cambodia's sustainable development efforts.

The Department of Climate Change, of the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development, as the country's focal point to the UNFCCC, has been assisting the government throughout the ratification. Its efforts include:

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,
We would like to welcome you to this 7th 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, starting with this issue, 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's 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 the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance.

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

MAINSTREAMING CLIMATE CHANGE INTO...

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the mandate to address green growth, biodiversity and science and technology matters, making it easier to address sustainable development issues in a more holistic manner.

The Department of Climate Change (DCC), part of the GSSD, with the support from CCCA, is currently developing efforts to ensure that climate change is systematically mainstreamed into the draft legislations being revised or developed by other governmental ministries and agencies. DCC reviews and provides recommendations aimed at strengthening draft legislations or amendments, and has also identified available tools, such as UNEP's Guidebook on National Legislation for Adaptation to Climate Change, that can assist sectors in conducting this type of mainstreaming work directly.

Currently CCCA/DCC is focusing on the upcoming Environmental Code and National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan (being developed by the MOE) and on the revision of the Fisheries Law and the development of the new Agriculture Law (both being prepared by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries). The current drafts of the Environmental Code and of the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan already integrate measures to address

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ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES CODE OF CAMBODIA

Seventh Draft (Final) – 31 December 2016

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Mainstreaming of climate change into the draft legislations being revised or developed by other governmental ministries and agencies

climate change, with a full Title of the Code constituting the future climate change law; DCC recommendations regarding the amendment to the Fisheries Law and the draft of the new Agriculture Land Law have also been prepared.

Given these processes are yet to be completed, CCCA/DCC is continuing to communicate with MOE and MAFF on the development of these important pieces of legislation. In the future, NCS's Technical Working Group on Climate Change will play an active role in this mainstreaming effort, ensuring that legal and regulatory frameworks under development duly consider and incorporate climate change aspects.

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 project 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 systematize 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 on November 29 – 30 of 2016. This recent 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 the impacts of 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. (www.sprccambodia.org)

VOICES FROM THE GROUND

MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP TO WORK ON A HOLISTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR THE CITY OF PHNOM PENH

Phnom Penh city urgently needs waste management solutions that match the rapid pace of urbanization and economic development. Unsustainable waste management practices negatively impact water, soil and pose serious public health risks. Methane, a powerful greenhouse gas emitted by landfills, is one of the significant contributors to climate change. Current methane emissions from landfill sites across Cambodia's four major cities have been estimated to be as high as 360,000 tonnes CO₂ equivalent per year and play a major role in the country's overall emissions.

Nexus for Development, a sustainability network organization based in Phnom Penh, is partnering up with the UNEP and IGES in Japan (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies) to convene city stakeholders to work on the formulation of a new Waste Management Strategy for Phnom Penh city. This project will address and mitigate the serious climate change risks associated with both landfill emissions and unsustainable waste management practices by prioritizing proper landfilling practices, waste prevention, reuse, recovery and recycling and innovative waste-to-energy technologies.

The proposed outcomes and impacts of the project align with the vision for achieving climate-smart development promoted

by Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023 (CCCSP). The project's implementation will also be delivering on actions set forth in the Cambodian Climate Change Strategy and the Green City Strategic Plan Phnom Penh.

- ▶ The Strategy will highlight key challenges and promote low carbon planning and technologies to support sustainable development.

- ▶ The emission reduction analysis and mitigation potential of proposed interventions in waste management will promote appropriate technology transfer for low-carbon development that facilitate its diffusion through carbon market mechanisms; it will also promote low carbon city development planning and develop city level coordination mechanisms.

- ▶ The Strategy will also align with the Climate Change Action Plan (2016-2018) which highlights the management of solid waste in capital, urban and provincial cities as a strategic priority for Cambodia's sustainable development ambitions.

The Project Inception Workshop, chaired by representatives from Phnom Penh Capital Hall, Ministry of Environment and the National Council for Sustainable Development, took place on 20 October 2016 in Cambodianna Hotel in Phnom Penh and was attended by approximately 60 representatives from central and local governments as well as academia and development practitioners. Public officers and technical specialists from the city administration and city districts are now playing an active role in the design of context-appropriate solutions to improve waste management practices.

At the moment, consultation meetings with small groups of city- and national-level stakeholders are being conducted to assess the situation in each district and prioritize appropriate SWM solutions according to their "ripeness for action" (based on such factors as technical feasibility, financial viability, and institutional capacity). A city-level kick-off gathering already took place at the Phnom Penh City Hall during the last week of December with the participation of 12 district deputy governors and representatives of line departments of relevant ministries; further consultations are scheduled through May 2017. The input from these consultations will feed into the content of the Strategy to assure that it reflects the current capacity. *(Credit to: Nexus Carbon for Development, <http://nexusfordevelopment.org/>)*



Mr. Lim Vichet, Deputy Director of Administration from Phnom Penh Capital Hall delivering the opening speech at the Inception Workshop, 20 October 2016, Cambodianna Hotel

NEW AGRICULTURE TECHNIQUES BRING FARMERS BETTER LIVELIHOODS

Mr. Srey Sitha, 52 years old, with his wife, Mrs. Hong Lamhuor, and their four children, live in O'Rumdeng village, Trapeang Russei commune, Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province. They plant vegetables as their primary occupation and rent land for seasonal dry rice farming as a secondary income. Over several years Mr. Srey Sitha's family had never obtained any profits from agricultural production because of the many increasing challenges, including extreme weather hazards such as increasing temperature and prolonged drought.

In 2014, Mr. Sitha saw an opportunity when Action for Development (AFD), under the USAID funded Cambodia HARVEST Project, came to the village. They had brought with them innovative agricultural techniques to increase adaptive capacity of local farmers, and Mr. Sitha decided to participate and test those techniques.

He has followed all the guidelines introduced by the agricultural specialists such as drip irrigation system and plastic coverage of crops, and he is now a model farmer. In total, he has already managed three rounds of

vegetable production using the adaptation technologies he learnt, and has seen his profits increase. Has he put it, these new agricultural climate adaptation techniques have brought hope to his family and to other farmers in O'Rumdeng village.

With a total land of 4,000 m², Mr. Sitha has planted in the first round half of his plot with winter melon and half with long bean, keeping to the width spacing, height and row spacing recommended by the specialists (respectively, for long bean 1.50m, 0.25-0.30m, 0.30m-0.35m, and for winter melon 1.50m, 0.25-0.30m, 0.60m). He has also used plastic cover, drip irrigation system, trellis net as advised. Mr. Sitha notes "in the past I had to go to the forest to cut down small trees to use them as poles. It was quite time-consuming and environmentally destructive task. Plastic cover and drip irrigation installation have also reduced my work load, especially as I do not have to take out the weeds as much as before." From January to April of 2016 the temperatures were high in O'Rumdeng village and caused most of the wells to dry up. Like other farmers, Mr. Sitha worried about the drought but with his drip irrigation



Mr. Sitha shows his high yield of melon in the farm resulted from drip irrigation system and plastic coverage, 2016



Mr. Sitha is in his bitter melon farm applied drip irrigation system and plastic coverage of crops, 2016

system and the other techniques he had used, his vegetable farming had become more productive and profitable, earning a net profit of US\$ 652.

In the second round, Mr. Sitha has planted bitter melon and cucumber over 2,000m² and 1,000m² of land respectively. Using similar techniques - with a slightly different row spacing of 0.60m and 0.25m for bitter melon and cucumber respectively, but continuing to use drip irrigation and plastic cover - he was able to increase crop productivity and receive a net profit of US\$ 1,233.

Even though the technical support provided by the project has ended, Mr. Sitha is now confident that he can continue to use these new technologies to expand the cultivation land to increase the productivity of his farm; he is also keen to share his knowledge about these practices to other villagers. More importantly, he stopped renting land for seasonal dry rice cultivation in faraway places given that vegetable crop farming is more profitable, and his family can now have more time together in the village. Mr. Sitha has expressed his appreciation to USAID and AFD, who had supported this program in introducing this innovative farming technology to farmers in remote areas. *(Credited to AFD through NGO Forum on Cambodia)*

ADAPTATION IN ACTION: IMPROVING WATER SUPPLY IN CHOP TASOK'S COMMUNITY PROTECTED AREA

Villagers in Chop Tasok Community Protected Area, located in Phnum Kulen National Park, Siem Reap Province, are facing a number of challenges when trying to improve agriculture productivity of their land, not least of which is the increasing difficulty in accessing water for their crops. At present, they fail to grow crops out of the season, including upland rice, cashew, taro-banana intercropping, pineapple, mango and lychee; in the future, with climate change expected to exacerbate the problem, this community grows increasingly concerned with the possible impacts to its agriculture production.

The project "Enhancing Climate Change Resilience of rural communities living in Protected Areas in Cambodia", implemented by the Ministry of Environment and funded by UNEP, is working with villagers to understand how they can best be prepared to face present and future climate-related risks. Steps already taken include:

- ▶ Identification of climate-related risks and potential impacts at the household level, with climate change expected to lead to increasing temperatures, a shifting and lengthening of the rainy and dry season, and increase of erratic rainfall and droughts;

- ▶ Determination of key vulnerability of the target groups being affected from climate-related risks;

- ▶ Analysis generated information on the climate change impact on household livelihoods;

The project has also identified those household-level adaptation strategies most likely to reduced impact of climate related shocks and stresses. Focusing on poor households while developing the possible adaptation strategies was important because of their vital contribution to family well-being, and their greater vulnerability. The analysis done is now being used as the basis for the development of Community Action Plans which identify the priority actions to reduce vulnerability to climate change.

Some of the adaptation interventions identified to enhance resilience have received support from the project including:

- ▶ The construction of reservoirs (building barriers around pools of captured spring water) leading to the establishment of 8 water storage sites in the village;

- ▶ The construction of a water distribution over 2,000 meters long installed by the project has

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ADAPTATION IN ACTION: IMPROVING WATER...

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significantly helped targeted households to have greater access to clean water, and to make water available for their home gardens and livestock raising;

► Establishment of water management committee, development of the committee's capacity and awareness raising amongst water users so that the water management committee and water users can manage more effectively their water resources.

► Other climate change interventions were also supported by the project, such as the establishment of nurseries and reforestation activities, as well as livestock raising, in order to create greater resilience in the community and promote conservation of natural resources.

Villagers, including the head of the Community Protected Area (CPA) committee, the village chief and some of the heads of households emphasized that the water system



Construction of pumping well in the community since 2015 and on going maintenance by the community

that was installed by the project had significantly helped villagers and community members, providing greater access to safe water and contributing to food security during the dry season. Approximately 50 households are now using the water system. (Credit to Adaptation Fund in Cambodia: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/project/enhancing-climate-resilience-of-rural-communities-living-in-protected-areas-of-cambodia/>)

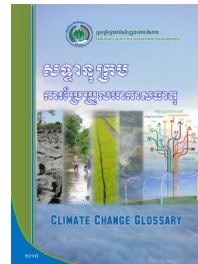
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CLIMATE CHANGE GRANTS ARE HELPING FIND NEW WAYS TO BUILD ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

Around US\$ 4.2 million of funds in grants have been awarded, through the CCCA Grant Facility, to ministries and government agencies, NGOs, research institutions, and sub-national authorities who are interested in combating climate change. The Facility has established three windows to promote the engagement of these different entities in climate change intervention. The next issue will provide an overview of the grant projects underway and an interview of one of the Facility's grantees working on novel ways to build adaptive capacity.

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS



LEXICON OF CLIMATE CHANGE

Department of Climate Change will launch the Lexicon of Climate Change containing 446 terms, their definition and explanation. The Lexicon will be launched in the first quarter of 2017. The Lexicon sets the standard terminology to be used in the climate change field, providing consistency, accuracy and consensus on the use of climate change related terms. Climate change professionals together with the National Council for Khmer Language have held 71 meetings to review all 446 terms during an extremely intensive 10-month work, using the Khmer language standard, technical and practical aspects. The Lexicon can be found at www.camclimate.org.kh.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jan: Refresher training of grant implementation guideline to CCCA grantees
- Jan-Feb: Feasibility study on Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Planning Initial Environmental Impact Assessment, and Project Design in Kampong Chhnang, Pursat, Battambang, Kampong Thom, Prey Veng and Tboung Khmum

- Feb: 1st meeting of the Climate Change Technical Working Group
- Feb: 11th CCCA Programme Support Board meeting
- Mar: Consultative workshop on draft finding of climate responsive budget and planning for 2018 for Ministry of Rural Developments
- Mar: Launching ceremony on climate change glossary

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

Supported by:



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