



Cambodia's national climate change monitoring & evaluation framework



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INTRODUCTION

Recognizing the country's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and how this global phenomena can derail the nation's development efforts, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has set out its overall strategy for climate change response in the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP 2014-2023). The CCCSP identifies key priority adaptation and mitigation measures to be implemented and the mechanisms to be put in place in the short and medium term.



In alignment with CCCSP, key line ministries have developed sectoral Climate Change Action Plans (CCAP) and are now implementing priority actions aimed at building the sectors' resilience and helping the nation moving towards a resilient low-carbon development path. Likewise, local authorities are engaging in climate change response aiming to reduce communities' vulnerability.



The Government has also put in place appropriate institutional arrangements and mechanisms to enable government and non-government actors to participate effectively in the implementation of the country's response. The establishment in May of 2015 of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD), an inter-ministerial body that oversees climate change response, represents a landmark in the national process of institutional reform, enabling a more effective, inclusive and comprehensive response. Its General Secretariat (GSSD), and in particular the Department of Climate Change (DCC), play a key role, coordinating the implementation of the country's climate change response.



CCCSP underlines the critical importance of establishing mechanisms to assess the progress being made in the implementation of the country's response, setting out the vision of a climate change monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework fully integrated into national and sub-national development planning processes.



As part of the implementation of CCCSP, the DCC/GSSD has coordinated the development of the M&E framework since 2013, together with multiple stakeholders and in close collaboration with IIED, testing indicators and building baselines. The national framework is now established and includes a core set of eight indicators, to which additional (2-3) key sector specific indicators will be added as work on the sectoral CC M&E frameworks progresses.

Cambodia is one of the first countries monitoring CC response with a core set of indicators defined and a dedicated M&E team

Cambodia is one of the first countries to develop such a framework for monitoring and evaluation of climate change response, and though the issues involved are complex, DCC has decided to invest in building its capacity for M&E, establishing a dedicated M&E Team at its Policy and Coordination Office, and extending support to sectors as needed to develop sectoral M&E frameworks.



WHY A NATIONAL M&E FRAMEWORK?

The CCCSP outlines the main aims of the national M&E framework for Cambodia:

- Measure how effective adaptation efforts maintain development on track in a changing climate
- Monitor climate change mitigation actions and low carbon development policies
- Generate evidence and lessons to inform future policy making
- Facilitate the coherent integration of M&E of climate change into national planning and key sectors
- Provide information required to fulfill the reporting obligations of Cambodia to the UNFCCC and development partners

WHAT DOES IT MEASURE ?

The Department of Climate Change, together with key stakeholders engaged in the implementation of the Cambodia's climate change response and in collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA), has developed Cambodia's national M&E framework to track the country's progress in addressing the challenges posed by climate change. It consists of a core set of 8 national level indicators to which will be included 2 to 3 indicators per sector.

The national M&E framework for climate change adopts a twin-track approach, measuring on the one hand how well the national institutions are in managing climate risks – through institutional readiness indicators – and on the other hand how successful climate interventions are in reducing vulnerability or lowering carbon emissions – through impact indicators.

Institutional readiness indicators

- 1 Status of climate policy and strategies:** Status of development of national policies, strategies and action plans for climate change response
- 2 Status of climate integration into development planning:** Status of inclusion of climate change in long, medium (NSDP) and short term (PIP) national and sub-national planning
- 3 Status of coordination:** Status and functionality of a national coordination mechanism for climate change response and implementation of the CCCSP of climate change response
- 4 Status of climate information:** Status of production, access and use of climate change information
- 5 Status of climate integration into financing:** Status, availability and effectiveness of a financial framework for climate change response

Impact indicators

- 1 Percentage of communes vulnerable to climate change:** Percentage of communes with vulnerability index (VI) values classified as 'highly vulnerable' and 'quite vulnerable'*. The indicator can be disaggregated by hazard type (flood, drought and storm)
- 2 Families affected due to floods, storms and droughts:** Proportion of families affected by these extreme weather events (measured in number of affected families per 1,000 families)
- 3 GHG emissions:** GHG emissions by sectors and per capita

+ 2 to 3 indicators per sector

* The Vulnerability Index (VI) was developed by IIED, based on data from Cambodia's Commune Database, with vulnerability thresholds defined based on the distribution of the VI results. For this indicator, vulnerable communes are those for which VI scores are above the mean.

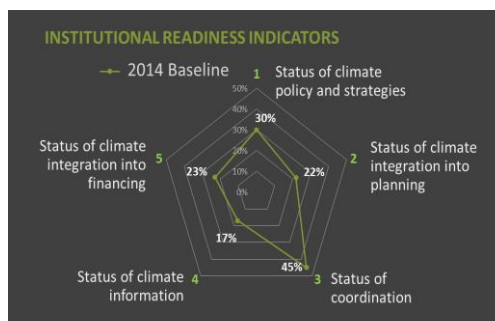


HOW WELL IS CAMBODIA DOING?

The 2014 baselines for 7 of the 8 core set indicators of the national M&E framework for climate change were established, with the exception of the indicator on GHG emissions. The Department of Climate Change expects to be able to measure the baseline for GHG emissions in 2017. Baselines for additional sector indicators that are to be part of the national framework will be established as part of the ongoing effort to develop sectoral CC M&E frameworks.

Institutional readiness indicators – 2014 baseline

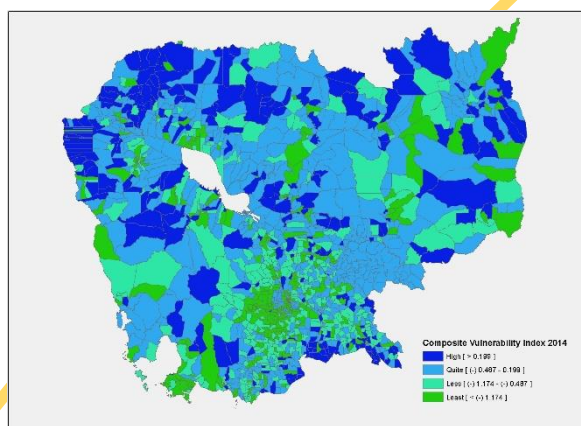
The framework uses scorecards to assess 5 institutional readiness indicators at regular intervals to understand how Cambodia is increasing its institutional capacity to respond effectively to climate change. The baseline results reflect the position of Cambodia in 2014 within the overall process of developing climate policy and institutions, showing the percentage of the progress made. They show for example that while there was significant investment in strengthening coordination mechanisms, the production, access and use of climate related information was lagging behind.



Impact indicators – 2014 baseline

1 Percentage of communes vulnerable to climate change: 49%

In 2014 the vulnerability assessment (using the VI values) indicates that 17.2% of communes were 'highly' vulnerable (i.e. 279 communes) and over 31.5% (512 communes) are 'quite' vulnerable to multiple climate change hazards (see map). The index is calculated based on hazard specific indices of floods, storms and droughts, and for most analysis it is very useful to look at these indices as well.

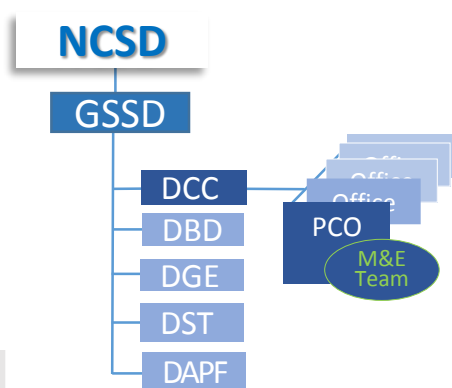


2 Families affected due to floods, storms and droughts: 18/1000 families

In 2014, an average of 18 families out of 1,000 families were affected by these climate hazards. Out of 1,000 families, 16, 36 and 2.5 families were affected respectively by floods, storms and droughts.

WHO MEASURES THE INDICATORS?

The Department of Climate Change (DCC), General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (GSSD), has established a dedicated M&E Team at its Policy and Coordination Office (PCO). This team, lead by the Chief of PCO is in charge of reporting annually on the core set of indicators (currently reporting on 7 of the 8 national level indicators), and assisting sectors in developing their respective M&E frameworks.



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NOTE: Details on the development of the core set indicators of the national M&E framework for climate change, methodologies and establishment of the respective baselines for 2014 can be found in IIED's report: Neha Rai et al (2015) Developing an M&E Framework for Climate Change: Tracking Adaptation and Measuring Development (TAMD) in Cambodia. Research Report, IIED, London [http://pubs.iied.org/10118IIED]