

Cambodia REDD+ Activity Cover Page

Title of Activity:

Development of a draft national REDD+ strategy

Related Activities in UN-REDD/FCPF Workplan:

FCPF 2.1b. Preparation of a national REDD+ strategy including development of a comprehensive national consultation validation process of the REDD+ strategy and implementation framework.

Objectives of Activity:

To develop a draft national REDD+ strategy.

Brief Description:

Background The aim of developing a national REDD+ strategy is to prepare Cambodia to be involved in a REDD+ financing mechanism, identify the actions (policies and measures) necessary to generate results in terms of reducing emission or enhancing removals of greenhouse gasses as well as the costs of implementing the identified actions and addressing the other required aspects needed for participation in an international UNFCCC REDD+ mechanism.

A strategy should provide strategic direction for all stakeholders involved especially ministries and line agencies where key political decisions on land use including forests are made. At the same time a strategy should be a tool to communicate the strategic direction of the Royal Cambodian Government to stakeholders as well as international donors as a mean to attract financial support.

Building on existing work Building on the work done under all four outcomes of the UN-REDD programme and the FCPF project, including work carried out by the four technical teams and lessons learned from REDD+ pilot projects and also building on the REDD Road Map through not officially adopted.

Time frame A draft national REDD+ strategy should be developed by the second half of 2015 in order to allow presentation of the draft strategy at COP21 in Paris in November/December 2015.

Consultation A national REDD+ strategy will require extensive consultation with all relevant stakeholders, including government ministries to allow for full ownership, consultation with provincial and local level (e.g. CF, CPA, CFi and IPs) where REDD+ action will take place and other non-governmental stakeholders to secure support from all actors working with land use and forest management.

Key Outputs:

The expected output is:

- A timeline with milestones for the development of a national REDD+ strategy.
- A plan for consultations on the draft national REDD+ strategy.
- An draft national REDD+ strategy

| | Signature | Name and Function | Date |
|-----------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|------------|
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| Implemented by: | | REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat | |
| Approved by: | | UN-REDD Programme Director | |

CONCEPT PAPER

Development of a draft national REDD+ Strategy

1. Objective

To develop a draft national REDD+ Strategy for Cambodia.

2. Content of a national REDD+ strategy

The National REDD+ Strategy could include the following elements/sections following requirements by the UNFCCC and ensuring that it includes all relevant elements necessary for the successful implementation of REDD+.

1. Objective of the strategy – This should preferably include a target (measured in tons CO₂ emission reductions by year 20XX)– this will be particularly useful for attracting further donor support;
2. Background on Cambodia, the forest sector, relevant ministries and line agencies, existing legal framework, existing plans and strategies including possible targets, economic and environmental importance of the forest sector and information on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation;
3. Institutional arrangements for implementation of the strategy including responsibility and authority for all the elements mentioned below, e.g. safeguards, national forest monitoring, finance etc.
4. Policies and measures to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation (Policies and measures should build on existing laws and policies by responsible line agency)¹, this can be developed into actions plans for the relevant line agencies;
5. A national benefit sharing system to incentivize REDD+ actions;
6. A national system to address the safeguards including consultation processes with all relevant stakeholders and a system to provide information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected²;
7. A robust and transparent national forest monitoring system to enable reporting of emissions and removals from REDD+ activities³;
8. A national forest reference level or forest reference emission level⁴;
9. A national system to report greenhouse gas emissions and removals following IPCC Guidelines including quality control and quality assurance procedures⁵;

¹This could include some legal reforms if necessary.

²Decision 1/CP.16, 12/CP.17 and the decision on safeguards from COP19 all provide guidance on this.

³Decision 4/CP.15, 1/CP.16 and the decision 11/CP.19 on national forest monitoring systems from COP19 provide guidance on this

⁴Decision 5/CP.15, 1/CP.16, 12/CP.17, 13/CP.19 and 14/CP.19 all provide relevant guidance for this.

⁵Decision 14/CP.19 on MRV with the reference to decision 2/CP.17, annex III on biennial updates report and the technical annex provide guidance on this even if this is not specific to REDD+.

10. A national fund to receive and disburse REDD+ payments⁶;
11. Possibly some description on the relationship to subnational implementation;
12. Funding for the implementation of strategy – the strategy should be accompanied by a number of action plans e.g. by line agency to implement the strategy with clear milestones and costs. While the later implementation should be financed by the result-based REDD+ mechanism, there might be a need for some up-front financing. How to achieve up-front financing should be considered. In case there are different financing entities then the strategy could also provide direction for how to obtain results-based funding.

3. Work flow (see overview in annex A)

Not all of the above section can be developed in parallel. A logic sequence of work would be 1) identify the drivers (number 2 above) –this work is already happening: 2) decide on policies and measures for how to address the drivers, this will include cost assessment and some drivers may be impossible to address. (this will require substantial discussion – and the results will have to be a compromise between ambition and realism) (policies and measures can be translated into action plans for each line agency)(number 4 above); 3) consider costs of doing REDD+ activities and how benefit sharing can be used to finance implementation? (number 5); 4) Consider how the safeguards can be implemented while developing and implementing the policies and measures/action plans (number 6 above); 5) Decide on a target to be achieved (number 1 above).

Some activities can be done independently of the above work, this include the national forest monitoring system, the development of a REL/RL, a GHG reporting system, a national fund, considerations on how to deal with subnational implementation in a national system – possible something on how to track emission reductions (a registry).

Some activities will take longer time than others and the sum of the costs of all activities will contribute to providing an estimate for the cost of financing the implementation of the strategy (number 12 above) – the target to be achieved will of course also depend on available funding.

Much of the above work will require decisions by the government – national forest definition, type of REDD+ fund, scale of implementation (sub-national or national), policies and measures etc. This should be done with full and effective participation of stakeholders following the Cancun Safeguards and the system with Technical Teams, Consultation Group and REDD+ Taskforce complemented by broader consultation meetings should ensure such an inclusive process.

Other elements will support the formulation of the strategy and the policies and measures such as information on benefits provided by forests, costs and benefits provided by REDD+ including opportunity costs, analysis of existing laws and policies, available forest monitoring technologies etc.

4. Activities

- Develop a workplan with clear timeline with milestones for when different sections of draft strategy should be produced (in draft) and how different sections are linked and who will take the lead in

⁶Decision 10/CP.19 on REDD+ coordination of support paragraph 2 invites countries to nominate their entities to obtain and receive results-based payments, consistent with any specific operational modalities of the financing entities providing them with support.

developing the various sections including whether additional support will be required for particular sections.

- The timeline mentioned above should also include possible prerequisites and assumptions including needs for decisions before a final draft text can be produced. An initial draft text can in some cases include more than one option e.g. in case the Taskforce wants to have a more complete picture before taking decisions on individual elements.
- Develop a proposal for a series of consultation meetings on the REDD+ Strategy taking into account the consultations on specific elements which are planned or already has taken place.
- Develop an initial draft national REDD+ strategy to be presented for the Taskforce, allowing sufficient time for the Consultation Group to make their comments and recommendations.
- Present the draft national REDD+ strategy at a number of national consultation meeting allowing for possible comments to be integrated.

5. Outputs:

- A workplan with a timeline with milestones for the development of a national REDD+ strategy.
- A plan for consultations on the draft national REDD+ strategy.
- Input to the draft national REDD+ strategy from consultations.
- A draft national REDD+ strategy

6. Roles and Responsibilities

- RTS will develop ToR for the consultant team and manage the recruitment of the national consultant.
- RTS will provide oversight of the work by the consultants.
- RTS will develop concept note for national consultation meetings with input from consultant team
- RTS will prepare awareness raising material including translation into Khmer and facilitate its distribution.
- UNDP CO will manage the recruitment of the international consultant if needed.

7. Budget

| Activity | Budget |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| • Recruitment costs | 150 |
| • National consultant 315 days | 28 350 |
| • Miscellaneous | 1 500 |
| Total | 29 000 |

Budget for consultation is not included

8. Time frame

| Activity | Time period |
|---|-----------------|
| • Development of ToR and announcement and recruitment of consultant | May 2014 |
| • Development of a timeline with milestones consulted with technical teams for the development of a draft national REDD+ strategy | July 2014 |
| • Skeleton of national REDD+ strategy | August 2014 |
| • Initial draft national REDD+ strategy | February 2015 |
| • Develop proposal for consultation | March 2015 |
| • Conduct extensive consultation on the initial draft national REDD+ strategy | April-July 2015 |
| • Draft national REDD+ strategy | September 2015 |

