

**UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
BDP/EEG - MISSION REPORT SUMMARY**

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Approved Mission Itinerary: BKK-Phnom Penh -BKK	List of Annexes:
Inclusive Travel Dates: 15-16 May 2013	Key counterpart(s) in each location: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMB: UNDP CO (Napoleon Navarro, Sovanny Chhum) • CMB: USAID/Winrock (Susan Walker, Hour Limchhun, Dennis Cengel) • CMB: Secretariat staff (Kimhy Lun, Peter Iversen, Mathieu van Rijn)

Purpose/Objectives of Mission
To meet with USAID/Winrock and JICA to discuss coordination and cooperation on REDD+ readiness and to discuss with UNDP CO issues related to overcoming barriers to implementation

Context
Cambodia has been implementing its national UN-REDD Programme for over 18 months, with good cooperation with the JICA-funded Cam-REDD programme. Two other initiatives are intended to provide support for REDD+ readiness at the national level, namely the FCPF (implemented by UNDP) and USAID’s LEAF Programme.

The goal of the five-year, USAID-funded LEAF program is to achieve meaningful and sustained reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the forestry/land use sector in Asia. LEAF, which is implemented by Winrock International, SNV-Netherlands Development Organization, Climate Focus, and RECOFTC-The Center for People and Forests will focus activities within four components: replicate and scale-up innovation through regional platforms and partnerships; establish policy and market incentives for greenhouse gas reductions; build and institutionalize technical capacity for economic valuation of forest ecosystem services and monitoring changes in forest carbon stocks; and demonstrate innovation in sustainable land management through REDD+ pilot projects.

In Cambodia, although approved many months ago, implementation of LEAF has been delayed due to concerns within MAFF. There have also been indications that USAID/Winrock might proceed without reference to the Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. A mission involving various Winrock and USAID staff to Phnom Penh was intended to prepare for the expected imminent approval of the programme by MAFF, and it was considered important to ensure that the LEAF programme both respected the Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap and avoided duplication of activities with UN-REDD or Cam-REDD.

Taking advantage of the meeting with USAID/Winrock, further meetings were held with UNDP CO to discuss possible solutions to current implementation problems for UN-REDD in Cambodia.

Summary of Mission Activities/ Findings
USAID/Winrock clarified that while LEAF would support capacity building for REDD+ at the national level, it would also have a geographical focus within Cambodia on the eastern plains. This corresponds with the geographical interest of their national implementation partner, WCS, which has been working extensively in Monduliri.

It was also clarified that, administratively, LEAF would be implemented as part of USAID’s SFB (Sustaining Forests and Biodiversity) project. Although it was not clear precisely what this means, the implication seems to be that SFB and LEAF should be viewed as a single, integrated initiative. This apparently reflects the past tension between USAID/Cambodia, through which SFB is funded, and USAID Regional Office/Bangkok, through which LEAF is funded.

Thematically, LEAF will have a strong focus on:

- Gender, looking especially at case studies in the eastern plains;
- Methodological approaches and institutional arrangements used in REDD+ field activities to provide decision makers and stakeholders with information on how current REDD+ activities can be integrated into a national framework; and
- Development of curricula on REDD+ for universities

USAID/Winrock committed to ensuring alignment with the Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. Potential risks of duplication and opportunities for cooperation relate to gender, where UN-REDD/WOCAN/LEAF are proposing a national-level assessment, and curriculum development, which needs to take account of efforts led by UN-REDD on ensuring a common message for all communication materials under all partners in Cambodia.

Meetings were held with UNDP CO staff on possible solutions to implementation problems for UN-REDD, including financial

management, such as the option of opening a common bank account for all three Agencies, and the official division of responsibilities for FA and GDANCP.

Follow up actions:

- Evaluate and pursue long-term solutions to UN-REDD/Cambodia implementation problems
- Investigate opportunities for integration of UN-REDD, Cam-REDD, LEAF and FCPF work plans
- Ensure that LEAF is actively engaged in the common communication materials initiative
- Ensure coordination of LEAF/Cambodia and UN-REDD/WOCAN/LEAF gender activities

Distribution List:

- Tim Clairs, UN-REDD UNDP PTA