



### UN-REDD PROGRAMME STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The UN-REDD Programme recognizes that the participation of stakeholders including civil society organizations (CSOs), indigenous peoples (IPs) and other forest-dependent communities is an essential element for the success of REDD+ initiatives.

The Programme's strategy on stakeholder engagement focuses on four key outputs:

- IPs, local communities, CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders are informed of national and international REDD+ processes, policies and activities;
- Principles, guidelines and procedures for stakeholder engagement in national and international REDD+ processes developed through inclusive consultation;
- Support for the implementation of effective stakeholder engagement practices and guidelines in REDD+ countries; and
- Stakeholders are supported to engage in and influence national and international REDD+ processes.

At the global level, the Programme ensures representation of CSOs and IPs on the UN-REDD Programme Policy Board. At the national level, stakeholder representation is required on National REDD+ Steering Committees or equivalent bodies.

### CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION PROCEDURE

The UN-REDD Programme in Cambodia started in August 2011. In order to have CSO and IP representation on Cambodia's UN-REDD Programme Policy Board (PEB), the Programme started to facilitate discussions with CSOs and IP groups in February 2012.

Outreaching to the relevant CSOs and IP groups was conducted through REDD+ awareness raising workshops in coordination with NGOs. Mobilizing a number of participants to discuss the selection of representatives, a two-stage process was developed: 1) **selection of candidates** and 2) **election of a representative**. In selecting candidates, CSOs developed eligibility criteria, as shown below.

#### Eligibility criteria

- ◆ Organization must be an **NGO or association with members who registered at the provincial (or higher) level of the Royal Government of Cambodia**;
- ◆ Organization must have been **engaging in forest sector issues for more than 5 years**;
- ◆ Organization should be **a member of an active network with at least 30 members, of which majority of them are in the predominantly forested provinces of Cambodia**; and
- ◆ Organization should have an **experience in working as a representative** for their constituent group and with the government.

The Cambodia UN-REDD PEB welcomed the two elected representatives from the CSOs and IP groups for the first time at the second PEB meeting. Based on the experience gained in this selection process, the Programme is already developing a new selection process. The new process will improve the areas of outreach, election process, and provincial IP representative selection.

### THE UN-REDD PROGRAMME

The UN-REDD Programme is the United Nations Collaborative Initiative on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD). It builds on the convening role and technical expertise of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The Programme supports developing countries prepare and implement national REDD+ strategies.

## STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT:

# CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIGENOUS PEOPLES REPRESENTATIVE SELECTION



Photo by Cambodia UN-REDD

**Lesson 1. The process of selecting CSO/IP representatives can generate a transformational change in attitudes to full and effective participation.** One of the most interesting results of the CSO/IP representative selection process is that it has stimulated interest in designing and implementing even more open and inclusive measures. There had been little previous experience of such processes in Cambodia, and low confidence in the likely success, evidenced by few initial expressions of interest in the process. However, now both governmental and non-governmental participants agree that while they succeeded in designing a process that worked, they can apply lessons learned in developing an even better, more inclusive and more open process. This is now being initiated, demonstrating a significant change in commitment on both sides.



**Lesson 2: Development of a self-selection process can strengthen the coordination and networking capacity of CSOs and IP groups.** In selecting CSO and IP representatives, both the CSOs and IP groups worked together to develop the terms of reference (ToR) and eligibility criteria (see Eligibility Criteria box). From a list of potential candidates, the participants voted to select one representative each for the CSOs and IP groups. However, based on subsequent review of the process and feedback received, they came to know that some organizations were still not aware of the selection activity, and the election process itself needs to be clearer. As a result, a new process is being developed: a committee will be established to select the CSO representative based on the eligibility criteria; and for IP selection, all of the provinces with IP population will be contacted and representatives nominated. Through this experience, CSOs and IP groups gain opportunities not only to increase their understanding on REDD+, but also to coordinate and work together effectively.



**Lesson 3: Engagement with local authorities needs to be managed carefully when selecting representatives for IP groups for the first time.** Since this was the first time to select IP representatives, provincial governments were not aware of some of the IP group members from their province who were selected as candidates. Therefore, a new process will involve the provincial government after IP members select a group of candidates to represent the province. Following the consultations with the provincial government, one member will be recommended as an IP representative from the province. Through this process, the Programme is helping to establish a group of official IP representatives from provinces for the first time.

**Lesson 4: The selection process can identify a group of potential leaders and cultivate and nurture a network of leaders.** Though only one member is elected as a representative (one for CSOs and one for IP members) for the Programme Executive Board, the selection process creates a pool of qualified candidates. Furthermore, due to the number of organizations that they are representing, and their task to consolidate opinions and inform their members about the outcome of the meetings, it appears more beneficial to establish a network of representatives. IP members will therefore form a group of representatives consisting of one member from each of the provinces with IP population, while CSOs will retain the shortlisted candidates. They will become representatives for the Consultation Group to the National REDD+ Task Force, forming the bedrock for building the capacity of the CSOs and IP groups.



For more information, please visit [www.UN-REDD.org](http://www.UN-REDD.org) or contact:

Ms. Heang Thy, Communications Officer, E-mail: [heang.thy@undp.org](mailto:heang.thy@undp.org)

### UN-REDD Cambodia Programme Contacts:

**H.E. Mr. Chea Sam Ang**  
Chair, National REDD+ Task Force, and  
Deputy Director General Forestry Ad-  
ministration  
[samangfa@gmail.com](mailto:samangfa@gmail.com)

**Mr. Vathana Khun**  
Chair, Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secre-  
tariat and Acting Chief, Forest Carbon  
Credit and Climate Change office Forestry  
Administration  
[vathana.khun@gmail.com](mailto:vathana.khun@gmail.com)

**Ms. Ly Sophorn**  
Deputy Chair, Cambodia REDD+ Task-  
force Secretariat and Deputy Director,  
Ministry of Environment  
[sophorn\\_ly@yahoo.com](mailto:sophorn_ly@yahoo.com)

**Mr. Bun Racy**  
Technical Staff, Cambodia REDD+ Task-  
force Secretariat and Chief, Laboratory  
of Inland Fisheries Research and Devel-  
opment, Fisheries Administration  
[racymoly@yahoo.com](mailto:racymoly@yahoo.com)