



Consultation Group Selection Process, Phnom Penh, Photo Credit: NTFP-EP

Cambodia REDD+ Consultation Group Selection Workshop

The 18 members of the Cambodia REDD+ Consultation Group (CG) were elected during a two-day national “REDD+ Consultation Group Selection Workshop” on 29-30 August 2013.

This is a ground-breaking development for civil society in Cambodia to have self-selected representatives on a high-level advisory body. Representatives come from nine stakeholder groups, including academia, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), national NGOs, indigenous peoples, civil society organisations (CSOs), private sector, and community forestry, community protected area, and community fishery networks. Each group is represented by two members.

The Cambodia REDD+ CG is a national platform providing a link between the Cambodia REDD+ Programme and existing networks of stakeholder groups. It is tasked to provide comments to the REDD+ Taskforce (TF) on the REDD+ Readiness process, while also serving as a forum to represent the views of different stakeholder groups from national to subnational levels. The TF is made up of a cross section of ministries.

Following an extensive application and screening process that ran from May to July, 24 candidates, excluding IPs, stood for election. Representatives for the three community networks and private sector were elected by acclamation since each of these stakeholder groups received only two applications.

The selection process for IPs was based on provincial election meetings in the 15 provinces where there are populations of IPs. This approach was developed through discussions with IP representatives during a stakeholder consultation meeting in September 2012. There were over 180 participants from throughout Cambodia. In addition to the results from the on-line voting process, representatives of eligible organisations also voted in person on 30 August. At the same workshop, the 15 provincial IP candidates elected two representatives from among themselves.

The workshop not only raised awareness about REDD+, the Cambodia REDD+ Programme, the roles and responsibilities of the CG, it also collected baseline data on knowledge about REDD+ from the nine stakeholder groups and the government. These data will be used to measure progress and effectiveness of ensuing awareness raising activities.

More information, please contact the REDD+ Secretariat

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Who's Who in REDD+ Cambodia?



Consultation Group Selection Process, Phnom Penh, Photo Credit: NTFP-EP

NGO Forum on Cambodia

The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum) is a membership-based organisation, which exists for information sharing, debate and advocacy on priority issues affecting Cambodia's development. The Goal of the NGO Forum is to ensure that the rights of poor and vulnerable groups are recognized and supported by the policies and practices of Cambodia's government and donors, and by the wider community.

Three of NGO Forum's programmes are of relevance to REDD+ in Cambodia. The Development Issues Programme includes the Development Policy Project, which contributes to ongoing dialogue on key policy reforms between the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and its Development Partners; the Economic Development Policy Project, which promotes dialogue and advocates for pro-poor fiscal policies in economic development; and the Aid Effectiveness Project, which advocates for aid information transparency, alignment and effectiveness of aid against the poverty profile and priority sectors in Cambodia.

The Environment Programme deals with climate change and agricultural policies, community rights related to hydropower development and monitoring climate change. It includes work on climate change policies and practices; advocacy on community rights; and REDD+ policy monitoring, which focuses on ensuring the interest and rights of the indigenous and forest-dependent people are protected.

The Land and Livelihoods Programme (LLP) includes projects on Land Security; Indigenous Minority Land Rights; and Forest Rights, with a focus on advocacy and influencing policy change at the national level.

- See more at: <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/ngo-partners/ngof>

Up Coming Events

FCPF Inception Workshop, early 2014

Cambodia has received US\$3.8M from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility to support implementation of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. FCPF funding will be implemented through UNDP. An Inception Workshop will be held in early 2014 to give stakeholders an opportunity to review the proposed results framework and planned activities. More details will be distributed through the Consultation Group and REDD+ Cambodia website.

ConcertPhoto and Drawing Concert

The Photography & Drawing Concert is a follow-up to the Photo and Drawing Competitions. It is being organised to raise awareness about climate change, the role of forests, and REDD+. The concert will be on Saturday, 14 December, 2013. Winning entries from the photography and drawing competitions will be displayed during the concert. The public and all stakeholders are invited to the important event.

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Understanding REDD+

The Three Phases of REDD+

The REDD+ Cambodia Programme needs to build capacities to implement actions to reduce emissions, measure the results, and distribute benefits in a fair, equitable and transparent way. This process of preparing for REDD+ is often referred to as “REDD+ Readiness”.

This is a long and complex process. In order to bring some structure to the process, the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC agreed in Cancun in 2010 that REDD+ should be implemented in phases. The first phase involves the development of national strategies or action plans, policies and measures, and capacity-building. Most countries, including Cambodia are still in this initial phase of getting ready for REDD+. This is to be followed by a second phase which involves implementation of national policies and measures and national strategies or action plans, and this could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities. This second phase starts to implement some measures to reduce emissions, but does not yet represent full REDD+ implementation. This comes in the third phase, where results-based actions are undertaken that are fully measured, reported and verified.

The current challenge is to get Cambodia through the first and then the second phase as quickly and effectively as possible.

The Five Eligible Activities of REDD+

The UNFCCC first started discussing the reduction of emissions from deforestation nearly 10 years ago. The debate subsequently broadened to include reduction of emissions from forest degradation, and ultimately became what we know as REDD+, which includes conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

The five “eligible activities” of REDD+ are therefore:

- Reducing deforestation, which occurs when land use changes from forest to non-forest;
- Reducing forest degradation, which occurs when forest remains forest, but with lower carbon stocks as a result of poor management;
- Conservation, through which forest which has been conserved continues to benefit from conservation activities
- Sustainable management of forests, which can include extraction of timber or other forest products, but in a sustainable manner; and
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks, which can include afforestation of bare land, or restoration of degraded forest.

Performance is measured in tonnes of CO₂ per year and countries should as the minimum include all activities with significant emissions in their National REDD+ Strategy. In the case of Cambodia, it is very likely that all five activities will be included.



Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth, in her organ shirt, was talking to JICA HQ and some Secretariat staff including FiA officers during the field trip in September 2013 in Seima, Mondulkiri, Photo Credit: Thy Heang

Khveurv Phyeurth's Understanding of REDD+

“Emissions from Industrialized countries can be absorbed by the forest in our country, Cambodia”, said Khveurv Phyeurth, a 45-year-old mother of four from Andoung Kroleng village, Mondulkiri province.

Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth is one of the only four female committee members among the thirteen who are in charge of land titling for indigenous peoples of Andoung Kroleng village. She, along with others, has shown much interest in REDD+, participating in various seminars, workshops, lectures, and activities organized by organizations like the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS). WCS has been carrying out an awareness raising campaign in two pilot areas: Seima (Mondulkiri) and Kulen Promtep (Preah Vihear), Cambodia.

Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth plays a major role in disseminating information she has gained to her fellow people as well as returning feedback to the WCS programme.

She told the program how much she has noticed the changes in climate due to the loss of forest, and how it affects cultivation patterns, and has led to deteriorating yields for her people. The forest is no longer as beautiful; foraging is becoming harder, and so is her livelihood.

As put by Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth, there is very little, if anything, that her people can do about the illegal logging when those behind it are influential people. But against all odds, Mrs. Khveurv Phyeurth retains much hope in the programme.

She said, “...But I believe that implementation of REDD+ will surely help improve our forest, and along the way our livelihood. We are determined to participate, to protect the forest because we believe when there is forest; there are natural resources, wildlife, and so much more that we and our descendants can once again rely upon.”

MRV and Monitoring: What is the difference?



Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) is something you hear a lot about in the REDD+ world. You often hear that local stakeholders need to be engaged in MRV, because they want to be able to measure and see results for themselves. However a common misunderstanding is that benefits for local stakeholders will be based on how much carbon they conserve. Why? Because that's how it works for voluntary market projects, like Oddar Meanchey or Seima. But that's not how it will work for REDD+ under the UNFCCC.

To understand this difference, let's look at what is involved in MRV for REDD+. Starting with the "R", the government must submit regular reports to the UNFCCC on climate change in Cambodia. The Ministry of Environment is the agency designated to submit reports, and no other stakeholder may do so. "Verification" is an international process by which the UNFCCC evaluates the quality and accuracy of the information in the report. Since it is an independent process, no Cambodian stakeholder can be involved in verification.

This leaves "Measurement". This is an everyday word, but in the context of REDD+, it has a very specific meaning, referring only to measurement of forest carbon at the national level. Measurement of carbon involves analysis of remote sensing images (e.g. from satellites), supplemented by data from a large network of forest measurement plots located around the country, often as part of a national forest inventory.

Analysis of remote sensing data requires specialized skills. Collection of data from forest inventory plots could make use of local labour, but it is important to understand that the data collected are used to calculate carbon stocks at the national level. They are not located necessarily in places where REDD+ interventions have been carried out.

Local participation in the inventory process provides an opportunity for 1) local stakeholders to learn about forest measurement; 2) for the inventory crews to make use of local forest knowledge; and 3) local stakeholders to earn additional income by supporting inventory crews, but will not directly provide the data that will be used to determine who receives benefits from REDD+ implementation.

On the other hand, local involvement in monitoring the forest is essential. Measurement and monitoring are very similar words, but in the context of REDD+, they are quite different. Monitoring refers to many other variables, besides carbon, whereas "measurement" refers only to carbon. So, recording the size of trees, counting them, documenting observations of wildlife, or the value of products obtained from the forest are all elements of monitoring. Local stakeholders should be engaged in monitoring their forests, as they possess the most relevant knowledge to do so and could receive incentives from the government based on their efforts under REDD+, rather than on carbon conserved.

Latest from the REDD+ Cambodia web-site

For more information on REDD+ in Cambodia, don't forget to visit the REDD+ Cambodia web-site: www.cambodia-redd.org. Recent updates on the site include:

- CG workshop documents, at: <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/document-centre/consultation-group-national-redd-taskforce-minutes/consultation-group-selection-documents>
- 1st Taskforce meeting minutes, at: <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/document-centre/taskforce>
- Photos from Seima Visit, at: <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/document-centre/photo-gallery>
- Job announcements, at:
- <http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/media/vacancy>

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