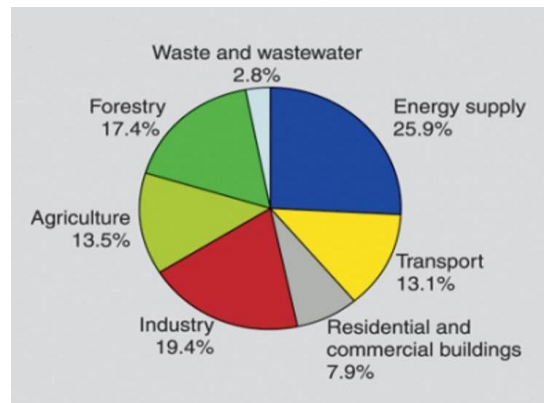


## Supporting Cambodia to get ready for REDD+

Deforestation and forest degradation contribute to more than 17 percent of global emissions of greenhouse gases. This is more than the transportation sector. Countries in Asia are a major source of these emissions. The conversion of forests to other land uses and its degradation through unsustainable use do not only contribute to climate change. They also affect the livelihoods of million of people who live around forests.

Not all deforestation and degradation is necessarily bad. We do need timber and other forest products. Agriculture needs good soils to grow crops and economic development requires that we set aside land for infrastructure and housing. Unfortunately, what is happening to our forests is often poorly planned. We continue to treat forests as a resource with little or no value. Action is urgently needed to reduce emissions or the impacts of climate change will be disastrous.



Under the United National Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), countries are discussing, how to avert the impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise, changes to growing seasons and more intensive rainfall. Forest-related mitigation measures are widely considered to be practical and cost-effective interventions to slow climate change. Therefore, Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (also called REDD+) has strongly featured in the Cancun Agreements, reached in 2010. Under a REDD+ mechanism, developed countries would pay developing countries to manage and conserve their forests better, and to increase forest carbon stocks. Financial flows resulting from REDD+ will not only significantly reduce carbon emissions, but can also benefit countries, such as Cambodia, by supporting poverty reduction, and preserving biodiversity and other vital ecosystem services and stimulate a transition towards low-carbon development trajectories. Furthermore, maintaining healthy forest ecosystems can contribute to climate change adaptation.

The UN-REDD Programme was created in September 2008 to assist developing countries, like Cambodia, to get ready for REDD+. The number of partner countries of the Programme is continuously growing. Currently, there are 35 UN-REDD partner countries. By the middle of 2011, 13 countries were receiving direct financial support.

The UN-REDD Programme builds on the 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) to support the partner countries in their REDD+ readiness efforts. The Programme brings together technical teams from around the world to develop nationally appropriate approaches, analyses and guidelines on issues such as measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of carbon emissions and flows. It helps countries to put in place suitable policies and measures, to develop decision-making tools on land use that consider the multiple benefits of forests to people and national economies, and to design sound benefit distribution systems.

Working at the global and country levels, the Programme builds capacities and contributes to the development of national REDD+ strategies. It provides technical advice on ways to address deforestation and forest degradation. It promotes REDD+ financing as an opportunity to develop low-carbon growth and helps countries access financial and technical support. The Programme promotes and facilitates broad-ranging consultations among stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and other forest-dependent communities, and helps establish linkages with existing national programmes in the areas of governance, development, poverty reduction, food security and natural resource management.

With the support of a large number of stakeholders, Cambodia prepared a REDD+ Roadmap during 2010. In this plan, the Government of Cambodia and key stakeholders, including development partners, laid out how they intend to move forward with REDD+ readiness. A National Programme Document proposal was approved by the UN-REDD Policy Board in November, 2010, and signed by the implementing partners during July 2011.

What will the National Programme do? Through wide stakeholder participation, it will organize, as part of the implementation process, consultations to ensure that the voices of all concerned forest stakeholders, including farmers, the private sector, and various government agencies are heard and considered. It will support the development of MRV and benefit-distribution systems to ensure that payments made by developed countries reach those making the greatest contributions in reducing emissions coming from Cambodia's forests. Through its work on safeguards it will provide guidance on how to minimize negative social and environmental impacts. Over a two-year period, four critical outcomes at national and subnational levels are expected to be achieved to set Cambodia on a path to implement REDD+.

**Four critical outcomes to get Cambodia ready for REDD+**

- Outcome 1: Effective National Management of the REDD+ Readiness process and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the Roadmap principles.
- Outcome 2: Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework.
- Outcome 3: Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels.
- Outcome 4: Design of a Monitoring System and capacity for implementation.

An Inception Workshop will bring together a broad group of stakeholders in Phnom Penh on November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2011 to launch the National Programme and provide the critical inputs and discussions to make it a success.

For further information on the  
UN-REDD Cambodia Programme  
Please contact:

Omaliss Keo  
REDD Focal Point  
Forestry Authority  
40 Norodom Blvd.  
Phnom Penh  
E-mail: [omaliss@gmail.com](mailto:omaliss@gmail.com)

