



H.E. Dr. Chea Sam Ang giving his opening remarks during the First Meeting of Technical Teams in January 2014 in Sihanouk province (Photo Credit: RTS)

The First Meeting of Technical Teams

First meeting of the four Technical Teams was held on 20 January 2014. Participants were from the four technical teams (Benefit sharing, Safeguards, Demonstration, and Measuring, Reporting and Verification/ Reference Emission Levels) (34 people), Secretariat staff and related stakeholders (17 people).

Members of the teams have been nominated by the relevant ministries and line agencies as well as by the Consultation Group. The technical teams will play an important role in providing recommendations on technical elements necessary for the implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia and work under the instruction of the Taskforce with the support from the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat.

In opening the meeting, H.E. Chea Sam Ang, PhD said, “To be ready for REDD+ we need to develop capacity of relevant institutions from national to local authorities, and we need clear strategies for REDD+ - we need to have clear policies and mechanisms for REDD+ implementation.”

The meeting sought to raise awareness among all the members of the four technical teams of their role in supporting REDD+ in Cambodia, of their ToR and how it relates to the REDD+ Taskforce workplan; to update them on the status of REDD+ readiness in Cambodia; and to

provide a thorough introduction of each team’s topic. Each team will nominate a team leader to be endorsed by the Chair of the REDD+ Taskforce, and agree on future meetings and work to be done in the coming months.

First part of the meeting included a general introduction to REDD+ readiness in Cambodia and the role of the four Technical Teams. The second part of the meeting focused on the initial meeting of each of the four technical teams where they received further introduction to their respective topics and agreed on a work plan for the coming months as well as nominating a team leader to chair the team’s meetings.

H.E. Chea Sam Ang, PhD said, “For REDD+ to be successful, the technical teams need to be effectively functioning. Without them we will not be able to move from phase one to phase two.”

Inside:

- ◇ WCS in Cambodia p2
- ◇ REDD+ Safeguards p3
- ◇ Study Tour to VietNam p4

Who's Who in REDD+ Cambodia?



WCS in Cambodia REDD+

Within Cambodia, WCS is working with local communities and the Royal Government of Cambodia to develop sub-national REDD projects in the Seima Protection Forest (SPF) and the Northern Plains (NP), two forest landscapes of national and global importance.

Work on the SPF REDD project in Mondulkiri Province was launched in mid-2008 with the completion of an independent feasibility study by Winrock International, which concluded that the proposed project was highly feasible and that even under a conservative scenario would avoid millions of tons of carbon emissions. WCS is now working with the RGC's Forestry Administration to complete the Project Design Document (PDD), which will be submitted for verification by the Voluntary Carbon Standard and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance in 2010.

Following WCS's experience in the SPF, a similar feasibility assessment is currently underway in the NP in Preah Vihear Province, and will be completed in early 2010. Preliminary results are promising, and it is very likely that at least some management units would be able to proceed to PDD development during 2010.

WCS has worked with government and other partners in both landscapes for almost a decade. In doing so we have built strong collaborations and excellent levels of trust with key stakeholders at all levels, including groundbreaking work with many communities on natural resource management and diversifying livelihoods.

Link: <http://www.wcscambodia.org/ConservationInitiatives/ClimateChange/REDDDemonstrationSites.aspx>

Up Coming Events

6th Consultation Group Meeting, 23 May 2014

The meeting will discuss the documents and agenda for the taskforce meeting on safeguards and satellite remote sensing for measurement of land areas. The meeting will also discuss comments from individual constituents.

5th Taskforce Meeting, May 2014

The meeting will touch on safeguards and satellite remote sensing for measurement of land areas. The meeting will look at the update from the last meeting.

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Understanding REDD+

What are “safeguards”? How do they benefit Cambodia?

REDD+ is a new approach to environmental governance for developing countries to address deforestation, forest degradation and sustainable livelihood development with large scale result-based funding as its defining characteristic.

While REDD+ has the potential to deliver significant benefits for society and the environment, concerns have been raised that it could also bring negative impacts. In terms of social risks, REDD+ may induce stringent controls over forests, which could negatively affect the use of forests by indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities.

REDD+ could also exclude indigenous peoples and forest dependent communities in decision making and benefit sharing. Even if they are included, elite capture may occur. As for environmental risks, REDD+ may promote the conversion of natural forests into mono-culture plantations, which may have adverse impacts on ecosystem services and biodiversity.

Arresting deforestation and forest degradation in one area may shift such pressure to forests located outside the REDD+ areas. Finally, a risk of reversals refers to a possibility that the areas protected and treated under REDD+ will be deforested and degraded in the future. These concerns about the impacts of REDD+ led to the establishment of

REDD+ “safeguards” within the UNFCCC decisions.

Safeguards refer to the procedures and approaches that can help to ensure not only that REDD+ activities do no harm to people or the environment but that they do good by providing what is called “co-benefits”. Co-benefits may include secure tenure, improved forest governance and enhanced ecosystems and biodiversity.

Countries undertaking REDD+ activities need to develop country-level approaches that enable them to respond to the requirements outlined in UNFCCC decisions on safeguards. Two such decisions – Cancun Agreements and Durban Guidance – provide important social, environmental and procedural criteria for REDD+ implementing countries to follow and to provide information on how safeguards are addressed and respected.

Taking these two guidelines into consideration and in full consultation with stakeholders, the government of Cambodia is devising a range of safeguards measures to be applied for the development and implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia. These will be reported as they are developed, in future editions of the newsletter.

(Source: Moeko Saito-Jensen, Pheakkdey Nguon, and Naomi Matsue)



Presentation on options for a safeguards system by Mr. Khun Vathana, the Head of the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat during a meeting on REDD+ Readiness and Ways Forward (Photo Credit: RTS)

REDD+ Taskforce Members Visit Viet Nam to Learn about REDD+



The Taskforce members listening to Vietnamese foresters describing REDD+ activities in a forest plantation in Lam Dong province (Photo Credit: RTS)

On 12-17 January 2014, nine members of the REDD+ Taskforce Group undertook a study tour to Vietnam to learn and gain experiences about the REDD+ readiness process in Vietnam. The members gained exposure to REDD+ readiness activities and payment for environmental services from relevant government officials and partner organizations.

The members first visited Hanoi to meet with the UN-REDD Vietnam team, RECOFTC staff, and officials from Vietnam Forestry Administration. The tour continued with a visit to Lam Dong Province to meet with officials from the provincial agriculture department and SNV staff. In Lam Dong the team visited Di Linh District to see the results of a payment for environmental services project (Di Ling Forest Enterprise), to Bao Loc District, and to Bao Lam Forest Enterprise to see half-finished products of the enterprise and to see the results of a reforestation programme by the Bao Lam enterprise and to discuss carbon inventory of tree plantations.

The members learned from the study tour that the success of the first phase of REDD+ implementation needs a strong commitment from the government and effective involvement of communities in the process. Payment for forest ecosystem services proved to be one way to provide benefits to the communities to encourage participation in forest conservation

and management. Tree plantations providing materials for wooden furniture making can also provide significant benefits.

The members greatly benefitted from the study tour. Mr. Dok Doma, the REDD+ Taskforce Member and Deputy Director of Department of Water Supply of Ministry of Rural Development, observed that, in Lam Dong Province, there are integrated policies and instruments to generate benefits to the rural poor and to entrepreneurs undertaking forest management.

He said that such integrated policy is rare in other countries; and that to develop something similar in Cambodia, it is necessary to analyze options carefully before coming up with a possible integrated policy and associated instruments. Otherwise, the efforts in forest management made by government and other stakeholders would be useless.

He also commented, "I am really happy to have seen that the mechanisms of financial flow and forest policy in Vietnam particularly, in Lam Dong province, are so practical and meaningful. I would like to express my thanks for the opportunity provided me to learn from the experiences of Vietnam on the ground and at the national level in forest management."

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:

- Meeting on Valuation of Forest Ecosystem and Costs and Benefits from Implementing REDD+ in Cambodia
- Workshop on Identifying Drivers of Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Cambodia

<http://www.cambodia-redd.org/category/document-centre>

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