



Quarterly Report

Oddar Meanchey Community Forestry REDD+ Demonstration Project

Submitted by Pact

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1. Introduction

The Royal Government of Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), along with Pact and Terra Global Capital (TGC) has developed Cambodia's first Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD) project. The project involves 13 community forestry (CF) groups, comprised of 58 villages and 10,036 households, which protect 64,138 ha of forest land in the Northwestern province of Oddar Meanchey. The project is the first REDD+ pilot project which is used a new methodology and be submitted under both the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) guidelines. The project is expected to sequester 8.3 million metric tons of CO₂ over 30 years.

Pact received a grant of \$150,000 to support the implementation of the OM CF REDD+ project over a period of 8 months. The funds will be used to support 1) finalization of the Emissions Reduction Purchase Agreement (ERPA), including Cambodian legal counsel, 2) project verification, including 100 inventory plots and 100 household surveys, 3) planning for better enforcement, 4) Monitoring Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems training and expansion of SMS monitoring, 5) policy briefs and project documentation.

2. Recent Achievements

2.1. Progress Towards Validation

The project is very close to validation and only 2 – 3 issues remain. The technical partner Terra Global Capital (TGC) has suggested that the Forestry Administration needs to sign two standard agreements (Deed of Representation and Communications Agreement) before the validation can be finalized. Pact has facilitated the translation of these two documents and they are now under consideration by the Forestry Administration.

In addition, Pact has prepared a Scope of Work for a lawyer to assist the Cambodian government in the legal aspects of the carbon transaction. The Scope of Work and selection process for the lawyer is currently under consideration by the FA and project partners. It has been challenging to identify Cambodian lawyers with practical experience in this area.

Pact recruited one staff, Mr. Neab Keng, to be based at the FA to serve as a liaison for the project. Keng has a background in forestry with a BSc from the Royal University of Agriculture. He has been splitting his time between office work at the FA and assisting the biomass plot inventory work in the field.

2.2 Biomass Plot Re-measurement for Credit Verification

Some 100 biomass plots are currently being re-measured with the collaboration of local FA officers, CDA staff and CFMC/CF members. The objective of re-measuring plots is to assess change in biomass since the project start and to determine the number of credits earned. By the end of March, 42 biomass plots in Andong Bor, Dung Beng, Sorng Rokavorn, Ratanak Ruka, Chhouk Meas, and Sangkrous Preychheu CFs were re-measured (Picture 1). The Pact

team is concurrently inputting the field data into Excel for biomass analysis. While originally, the team planned to re-measure 116 plots, the current advice from TGC is to re-measure 100 plots and establish 50 new plots in the areas of assisted natural regeneration (ANR). Pact is working towards this goal within the allotted budget.

The household survey work has not yet started. Pact plans to change to conduct PRAs instead of household surveys according to the advice from TGC.

While inquiries have been made, it has not yet been possible to purchase satellite imagery due to poor responsiveness from the company in India (Hyderabad) selling these images.

2.3. Monitoring, Reporting & Verification (MRV)

The OM CF REDD+ project will require a comprehensive Monitoring Reporting Verification (MRV) system. Pact has drafted a Framework for monitoring the OM CF REDD+ project which is currently under review by its technical partner, TGC. The Monitoring Framework is based on the VCS project methodology, the VCS Project Design Document (PDD), the CCB PDD, the project's 30-year workplan, and a series of consultations with local partners as well as the FA.

Between September and December 2011, the Pact piloted Frontline SMS¹, an open-source mobile phone SMS (Short Message Service) communication interface. In the trial the Frontline SMS application Frontline Forms² was used for community forest patrol reporting by community forest management groups. The purposes of the trial were to use mobile phones for forest patrol reporting, and to determine the applicability of Frontline SMS for the Oddar Meanchey Community Forestry REDD+ project (OM CF REDD). The trial was conducted in three community forests (CFs), including Sorng Rokavorn (the 'Monks Forest'), Samaky and Romdoul Veasna. The trial was accompanied by training in the use of the Frontline Forms application for participating CFs³.

Under the support of the UNDP, the Frontline SMS trial is being extended to the 10 remaining CFs in the project. As a result, 10 mobile phones were distributed to the remaining CFMC leaders in March (Picture 2). With the Frontline SMS, the local communities can send all the patrol reports to Pact's hub computer. Pact will prepare and distribute monthly feedback reports among the stakeholders.

2.4 Input to National and International REDD+ Policy

¹ See <http://www.frontlinesms.com/>

² See <http://www.frontlinesms.com/resources/frontlineforms/>

³ See in depth report on Frontline SMS trial: <http://www.frontlinesms.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/02/FINAL-OM-REDD-FrontlineSMS-Trial-Report-2012.pdf>

Pact staff have participated in national consultations related to the national REDD+ institutional structure (as part of the REDD+ Contact Group) as well as discussions to prepare Cambodia for UN REDD discussions on social safeguards, at the invitation of the Forestry Administration.

3. Other Activities

- On 08, March Mr. Douglas Broderick, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to Cambodia went to Oddar Meanchey province to visit the OM CF REDD+ project (Picture 3). The aim of this visit was to learn about the ongoing support to the REDD+ demonstration site in Oddar Meanchey and to understand the linkage between the REDD+ demonstration site and the UN-REDD initiatives. Sorng Rokavorn and Samaky CFs were selected for the purpose of this visit.
- On 28, March Mr. Selva Ramachandran UNDP's North East Asia Division Chief and Mr. Douglas Broderick, UN Resident Coordinator, and UNDP Country Director Ms. Elena Tischenko visited Sorng Rokavorn CF (Picture 4). In addition, The Head of OM Cantonment, Pact and CDA staff, as well as the CF Network Chief and CFMC/CF members were invited to join the discussion on the achievements and challenges in OM CF REDD+ project.

4. Challenges

One of the most important challenges for the project is the incursion by the military into two of the Community forestry sites: Andong Bor CF and Dung Beng CF. Although these two sites have been managed well over the years and have received 15-year Community Forestry Agreements for legal tenure, the military has installed overlapping camps throughout these two sites, with plans to move up to 10,000 soldiers to the area. A new “strategic” road has been built inside Andong Bor CF and several camps are already set up. Soldiers are beginning to log the area, and freshly cut trees and stumps were observed in many places during the inventory work. The communities have prepared reports and letters to the Forestry Administration and the Provincial Governor, but to date, no solution has been found. The Community forestry leaders have made several appeals to Pact and to UNDP to try to assist in finding a solution to this issue.

5. Photos



Picture 1. Forest biomass plot re-measurement in Dung Beng CF



Picture 2. Pact staff shows about the Frontline SMS to the CFMC leaders



Picture 3. Mr. Douglas Broderick, UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative to Cambodia visits to Sorng Rokavorn CF



Picture 4. Pact staff presents about the OM CF REDD+ project the UNDP delegates during the discussion in Sorng Rokavorn CF



Picture 5. A new soldier camp in Andong Bor CF. Cut timber may be seen in the background.



Picture 6. A new military road inside Andong Bor CF.

Table of Progress for OM CF REDD+ Project

Outcomes	Progress toward Outputs and Outcomes
Outcome 1.0: <i>The Project Documents for CCBA and VCS are drafted.</i>	
Output 1.1: Complete biodiversity assessment	Completed in 2011
Output 1.2: Draft project documents	Completed in 2011
Outcome 2.0: <i>OM CF REDD+ is successfully validated and FA is supported to negotiate offers</i>	
Output 2.1: The Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and Clarification Requests (CRs) in the validation report are sufficiently addressed and the project is validated by both VCS and CCBA	Not yet completed. This work is ongoing in coordination with Terra Global Capital. There are only 2 -3 remaining issues to be addressed before completing validation.
Output 2.2: Cambodian legal counsel is provided to analyze constraints for REDD+ contracts under Cambodian law	Not yet completed. A Scope of Work has been drafted and reviewed by the Forestry Administration. Several lawyers have been contacted.
Outcome 3.0: <i>OM CF REDD+ activities contribute towards project verification</i>	
Output 3.1 116 additional biomass inventory plots are conducted	Completed 42 plots. The technical partner TGC has advised to reduce the number of plot re-measurements to 100, but to add an additional 50 new plots in areas of assisted natural regeneration (ANR). We plan to follow this advice.
Output 3.2 100 household surveys are conducted	Not yet completed. TGC has advised us to switch from a household survey format to the PRA format. TGC is currently preparing the Standard Operation Procedures for this work.
Output 3.3 Additional remote sensing images are purchased and analyzed	Not yet completed. Appropriate images are available from a company in New Delhi; however, it has been challenging to communicate and process an order for the images.
Outcome 4.0: <i>Mechanisms to resolve land disputes and internal CF management issues are put in place</i>	
Output 4.1 The FA mobile enforcement unit is planned (membership, TOR) and agreed upon	Not yet completed. This is planned for the next quarter.
Output 4.2 The CF Network facilitates resolution of internal disputes within a few CFs	Ongoing. A small grant was provided to the CFN based on an approved workplan. Pact is regularly monitoring this work.
Outcome 5.0: <i>A comprehensive REDD+ project monitoring system is designed</i>	
Output 5.1 The project monitoring and evaluation system is further defined through development of monitoring tools and protocols	The monitoring framework was updated to reflect the updated PDDs.

and consultation	
Output 5.2 Training materials for community MRV systems are designed	Not yet completed. Planned for quarters 2 & 3.
Output 5.3 An SMS trial for collecting patrol data is expanded to 13 CF sites	10 additional mobile handsets were distributed and patrol reports are being collected via SMS
Outcome 6.0: Project field implementation informs national and international REDD+ policy	
Output 6.1 Regular quarterly newsletters on the project are circulated	The OM REDD+ quarterly issue no.5 for Jan-March 2012 will be circulated
Output 6.2 Three lessons learned / policy briefs are drafted: 1) Legal constraints on REDD transactions, 2) Community based MRV systems, and 3) Community Awareness Raising and Consultation Experience	Not yet completed. Planned for quarter 2 & 3.
Output 6.3 Project staff participate in national REDD+ meetings and discussions to share experience	Project staff have participated in meetings at the national level to discuss 1) UN REDD social safeguards as well as 2) the national REDD institutional structure