

FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project Cambodia

GRANT MONITORING REPORT

Mid Term Review
ATLAS PROJECT ID: 0087758



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GRANT MONITORING REPORT

Purpose

- Review of the progress towards results
- Support to decision-making
- Problem-solving
- Learning
- Beneficiary satisfaction and feedback
- Accountability

A. ADMINISTRATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY

Framework documentation in place	What to look for	YES/NO	Remarks
Project Document	Is the prodoc signed, attached in Atlas? Is it available on IATI?	Yes	The pro doc signed by the Implementing Partner and UNDP in December 2013, attached in the UNDP Atlas and available in IATI.
LOA	Letter of Agreement signed? Implemented?	Yes	The signed LoA, Annex 7 in the prodoc, is being implemented.
LPAC minutes signed	Attached in Atlas?	Yes	The signed LPAC, Annex 8 in the prodoc, is attached in the Atlas.
Minutes of the Project Board	Documented?	Yes	The next Project Board meeting is planned for September-October 2016.
Donor Reports	On time?	Yes	Annual FCPF Development Partner report due in March. Bi-annual FCPF Country Progress report due on 15 March and 15 August.
Final Reports	On time?	No	Not due. Project under implementation
Finding on Project file	Review the process of procurement and asset inventory	Yes	No outstanding findings on project file

B. MID TERM PROGRESS

This midterm progress report highlights overall results achieved in the development of the institutional framework to enable Cambodia to implement and access results based finance. The National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), Forest Reference Level (FRL) documents were finalized and significant analytical work was undertaken on the Safeguards Information System (SIS). In addition, the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP) was finalized and implementation of REDD+ subnational demonstration activities became operational across five sites.

The completion of the NRS and its presentation at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference of Parties 21 (UNFCCC COP) in Paris in December 2015 was an important milestone in the REDD+ readiness process and enables Cambodia to make the transition from readiness to implementation. A national validation workshop for the NRS will be held in Quarter 3, 2016. The strategic guidance provided by the NRS will form the basis for finalizing an Action Plan that will focus on institutional arrangements and enhanced ownership by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC).

Important progress was made on establishing a NFMS and FRL. Activity data and the establishment of a national forest definition and land use classification system has been developed. A National Forest Inventory (NFI) was designed and a field manual developed. Historical forest inventory data was collected and analysed to develop country emission factors for preparation of the initial FRL submission that the RGC plans to submit to the UNFCCC by January 2017. A database and a monitoring platform were developed and datasets have been collected and reviewed to facilitate and inform land use interpretation. Land use and land use data change assessments for the years 2006, 2010 and 2014 have been completed and country specific emission factors for deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen forest developed.

A national workshop was held to review the final draft of the NPASMP 2016-2030 and the draft is under review for endorsement by the Ministry of Environment (MoE). The guidance provided by the NPASMP will form a basis for the MoE and stakeholders to develop concrete and appropriate measures and actions to strengthen its protected areas. This will be achieved through an Action Plan that will be developed by Quarter 4, 2016. The Action Plan's focus will be on building institutional capacity to strengthen conservation, management and enforcement, expand community livelihood opportunities and to support the sustainable use of protected area resources.

A consultation and participation plan to strengthen stakeholder's engagement with the Community Forestry (CF), Community Protected Area (CPA) groups, Community Fishery (CFi) and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) over the REDD+ readiness process has been completed and multiple events were organised that prioritized capacity building and the participation of local communities and their chosen representatives. These included four training programmes, 28 workshops and 19 meetings. Approximately 2000 participants were involved in these events. The focus of these events was to increase awareness of REDD+ and to ensure that the perspectives and concerns of local communities are reflected in the NRS. Implementation of the consultation and participation plan will further strengthen the capacity of all constituents of the Consultation Group (CG).

Multiple studies have been completed, along with consultation forums and workshops at subnational and national levels, to address social and environmental issues and safeguards. The roadmap to developing the NRS included detailed consultations and inputs on each draft from the

Consultation Group. This ensured that all strategic social and environmental issues were adequately addressed in the NRS. A ToR to develop a preliminary Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been finalized. The ESMF will be developed in accordance with the guidelines of the Common Approach. Other outputs from analytical work related to developing an SIS included a review of Cambodia's laws, policies, regulations and criteria and indicators. Accompanying studies of existing grievance redress mechanisms (GRM) in Cambodia have been undertaken and the decision made that it would be most cost effective and sustainable to use a national GRM for REDD+. A broad consensus on integrating the requirement for a GRM into the Environmental Code has already been reached. Future actions include coordinating with the Environmental Code drafting team to ensure linkages with ongoing legislative changes as they relate to the decentralization of decision making in forestry law and to build a consensus on the structure of a GRM.

Public awareness raising and access to REDD+ information is a priority. A large number of multimedia products including, video documentaries, TV talk shows, radio programmes and video dramas were produced and broadcast. Supplementary products including newsletters, desk calendars, notebooks, and information booklets were produced and disseminated to stakeholders. Print media products were produced and distributed at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris. All communications products were uploaded to the Cambodia REDD+ website and shared via social media to ensure public disclosure. Additionally, in compliance with the Common Approach, all BTORs (Back to Office Reports) related to technical support missions are uploaded to the UNDP Cambodia Country Office website.

The REDD+ Taskforce (RTS) is developing a new communications strategy and reviewing the quality of the impact of its media products. The communications strategy will also focus on improving disclosure and outreach to a wider audience. The RTS is also awaiting the official release of 2014 land use data from the RGC with the intention of uploading this information to the Cambodia REDD+ website for enhanced disclosure.

Significant progress was made in the implementation of REDD+ subnational activities in two protected area sites with the General Department for the Administration of Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), two sites with the Fisheries Administration (FiA), and one site with the Forestry Administration (FA). Field surveys to identify drivers of deforestation and forest degradation were completed. Measures to address key drivers have been agreed with stakeholders and implementation of these measures has been initiated.

REDD+ Development Partners that make a direct contribution to readiness activities are coordinated through the RTS, ensuring that funds are deployed effectively and efficiently. Coordination at the forestry sector level takes place through the Technical Working Group on Forestry Reform (TWG-FR). The REDD+ Taskforce and the UNDP Cambodia Country Office participate in TWG-FR meetings.

This grant follows UNDP National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the FA as the Implementation Partner. The Project Management Unit (PMU) provides technical, financial management and procurement support with input from the UNDP Country Office as required.

C. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

<p>C.1 Management Arrangements</p> <p><i>Does the project structure exist? Roles clearly defined? Staff is clear about their responsibilities?</i></p>	<p>A clearly defined project management structure exists and consists of a Project Executive Board (PEB) that oversees project activities, performance and results. The PEB is co-chaired by the Director General of the Forestry Administration and the UNDP Country Director. Staff at the RTS provide technical and administrative support to the project. All staff, including UNDP contracted staff and consultants, have performed in line with their agreed Terms of Reference. Project structure and staff ToRs are clearly defined in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility REDD+ readiness project Inception Report, March 2014.</p>
<p>C.2 RRF (AWP) revised? Input: initial RRF</p> <p><i>AWP signed? Implementable? (Delivery rate etc.)</i></p>	<p>All work plans and budgets have been approved and signed by the project board. Overall project progress is satisfactory. As of August 2016, US\$3,115,574 has been disbursed and committed. This accounts for 82 per cent of the total FCPF grant of \$3.8 million. Annex 1 provides the status of funds utilization by component up to August 2016.</p>
<p>C.3 M&E Plan updated? Input: initial M&E Plan</p> <p><i>Revisions of the initial M&E framework i.e. M&E Plan prepared? Written track on decisions exist?</i></p>	<p>The project has developed a revision of Results M&E Framework 2013-2017 and a Results M&E Plan 2013-2017 with technical advice from an M&E Specialist. M&E methods conform to the UNDP CO Standard Operating Procedure (SOP).</p>
<p>C.4 MoV & Indicators exist? Input: Initial M&E plan</p> <p><i>Are they still relevant? Are the indicators easily obtainable and SMART? Will they be monitored further? Is data collected as planned?</i></p>	<p>Means of Verification (MoV) and indicators are relevant and easily obtainable. A results monitoring and evaluation assessment tool (RMEA) has been developed in accordance with the UNDP CO Monitoring and Evaluation Plan Country Programme Document (2016-2018) to ensure quality of tracking and reporting. The RMEA will be conducted twice a year.</p>
<p>C.5 Assessment dates Input: Initial M&E plan</p> <p><i>Adherence to assessment dates? Assessment results captured and communicated? Corrective actions taken (if needed)</i></p>	<p>The most recent RMEA reveals satisfactory progress. Planned targets and indicators have progressed on track. National institutional arrangements for REDD+ function effectively and significant progress has been made to develop the implementation framework. The National REDD+ Strategy, NFMS and FRL either have been finalized or are in the process of being finalized.</p> <p>At the stakeholder level, a Consultation Group Work Plan has been developed and will be implemented. Contracting procedures required to outsource a number of activities has slowed development of communications materials. However, contracts have been awarded for the production of videos and other communications material and the first REDD+ Taskforce newsletter of 2016 will be published in Quarter 3.</p>
<p>C.6 Management of risks</p>	<p>The FCPF Risks and Issues Log is updated on a quarterly basis and risks are reviewed and managed proactively. The PMU has</p>

<p><i>Have the foreseen risks materialized? Risks updated and management responses articulated? High risks escalated to Project Board?</i></p>	<p>taken proactive steps to manage the risks arising out of the ongoing jurisdiction change process in the forestry sector. This includes discussions with the UNDP CO and REDD+ Development Partners. It is important to note that there is no direct or foreseen impact on the implementation of the work plan, which remains on track. Table 1 provides further details on the management of risks.</p>
<p>C.7 Evaluations <i>Any planned evaluation? ToR developed? Follow up actions defined (Management Responses)? Any delays/overdue actions?</i></p>	<p>The annual FCPF project audit for 2015 has been completed with unqualified results. The Midterm review of the FCPF project is in production as of July 2016 and will be finalized and submitted to the FCPF with a request for Additional Funding.</p>
<p>C.8 Target Groups <i>Is it clear who they are? Is the feedback regularly collected, stored and used? Data disaggregated?</i></p>	<p>The main focus of the FCPF project is to complete REDD+ readiness for results based payments. Key target institutions are the policymaking agencies within the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and related ministries.</p> <p>At the stakeholder level, the REDD+ Consultation Group (CG) includes members from, Indigenous Peoples' organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs), international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), national non-governmental organizations (NNGOs), Community Forestry (CF) groups, Community Protected Area (CPA) groups, Community Fishery (CFi) groups, the private sector, and academic institutions. In order for the CG to effectively function and fully represent their constituents, CG members need to communicate with their constituents by sharing information and gathering concerns or comments on issues related to the REDD+ process. To further this, the CG, facilitated by the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat, has developed its own work plan to strengthen their contribution and existing networks to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.</p> <p>Cambodia has been selected as one of only six countries to implement the innovative Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) mechanism implemented by UNDP Cambodia. The CBR+ country programme is led by a National Steering Committee comprised of representatives from MAFF, the MoE, Indigenous Peoples' and Civil Society Organizations. Cambodia has produced a CBR+ Country Plan that supports community level projects at the subnational level.</p>
<p>C.9 Capacity Development <i>Any capacity development activities? If yes, individual and institutional changes are observable? How?</i></p>	<p>Over 66 capacity building and stakeholder engagement activities, reaching 417 women and 2,127 male participants, have been held. In 2015, there was an emphasis on consultations with institutions at the national and subnational levels to develop the National REDD+ Strategy and implementation</p>

	framework (29 events). In addition, to maximise community stakeholder inputs, numerous events prioritised the involvement of Indigenous Peoples whose livelihoods are directly dependent on forest resources. In the first six months of 2016 there has been a greater shift to stakeholder engagement, workshops and awareness meetings for REDD+ implementation at subnational demonstration sites.
C.10 Sustainability <i>Transition and phase-out arrangements, including a sustainability plan are in place?</i> <i>National ownership exists?</i> <i>Potentials for scaling up?</i>	The Royal Government of Cambodia remains committed to reducing emissions from the forestry sector and there is growing ownership and capacity. Mechanisms for increased institutionalization continue to be discussed as part of the finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy as it relates to jurisdictional change within the RCG ministries. This commitment is likely to mainstream and strengthen the sustainability of REDD+.
Proposed actions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cambodia REDD+ contributed to the development of the CBR+ country plan and, as grants have been provided to CSOs, it will be beneficial to explore learning opportunities between pilots and REDD+ demonstration sites • Recommend that sustainable arrangements be made to complete media products as per work plan and prepare for the implementation of the recommendations and findings of the ongoing communications strategy review • Acknowledge the ongoing implementation of the Consultation Group Work Plan and suggest a continued focus on the interests of Indigenous Peoples and communities who depend on forest resources 	

D. PROJECT PERFORMANCE-IMPLEMENTATION RISKS AND ISSUES

Table 1 provides information on key risks and issues, including proposed dates of action and responsibilities.

Table 1: Key Risks and Issues

Issues/risks	How to resolve it	Proposed date of action	Responsibility
Institutionalization of existing REDD+ mechanisms	Mechanisms for increased institutionalization continue to be discussed as part of the finalization of the National REDD+ Strategy and results are likely to strengthen the sustainability of REDD+ arrangements, including mainstreaming.	Unable to propose date of action as there is no specific timeline offered by the Implementing Partner	REDD+ Taskforce
Impact of jurisdiction change in the forestry sector on	The PMU has taken proactive steps to manage the risks arising out of the ongoing jurisdiction change	Unable to propose date of action as there is no	REDD+ Taskforce

REDD+ institutional arrangements	process in the forestry sector. This includes discussions with the RTS, FA, MoE, UNDP CO, and REDD+ Development Partners. The RGC is reviewing the impact of jurisdiction change and is committed to managing and mitigating potentially negative impacts on REDD+.	specific timeline offered by the Implementing Partner	
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E. LESSONS LEARNED DURING MONITORING SESSIONS

1. The project can enhance its effectiveness and impact through improved management, communication and coordination mechanisms. The Implementing Partner, Project Management Unit, RTS, TTs and REDD+ Development Partners can together establish appropriate institutional arrangements.
2. Cooperation between agencies has improved and the FA, GDANCP and FiA participate actively in REDD+ institutional mechanisms and activities. The RTS and FCPF PMU continue to establish and sustain constructive partnerships with all agencies. However, stronger government ownership and commitment to oversee and manage all REDD+ activities are required, including increased staffing for fulltime, part time and specific tasks and activities.

F. PARTICIPANTS

- Mr. Chhum Sovanny, Programme Analyst, UNDP Cambodia
- Ms. Ivek Nimnuon, Oversight Analyst, UNDP Cambodia
- Ms. Srey Sraspanha, Programme Associate, UNDP Cambodia
- Mr. Nhem Sovanna, National Project Advisor
- Mr. Douk Daro, M&E Officer

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References

1. Level of Achievement of FCPF Project Planned Targets
2. FCPF Results Monitoring Framework 2013-2017
3. FCPF Results Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2013-2017
4. FCPF Results Monitoring and Evaluation Assessment June 2016
5. FCPF Risks and Issues Log January 2016

ANNEX 1

FCPF Project Status of Funds Utilization

Component	Approved budget (A)	Cumulative Funds Used (up to August 2016)			Funds available (=A-B)	Delivery rate
		Funds committed	Funds disbursed	Total (B)		
Outcome 1: Establishment of effective national management of REDD+ Readiness process, stakeholder engagement and capacity building	1,139,398	68,000	695,442	763,442	375,956	67%
Outcome 2: Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and implementation framework	1,097,827	64,666	843,058	907,724	190,103	83%
Outcome 3: Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels	781,724	423,795	357,929	781,724	-	100%
Outcome 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation	781,051	662,684	-	662,684	118,367	85%
Total US\$	3,800,000	1,219,145	1,896,429	3,115,574	684,426	82%