

Climate Change Newsletter

#6

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CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

CLIMATE CHANGE MAINSTREAMING AT SUB-NATIONAL

As part of Cambodia's overall response to address the foreseen impacts of climate change and to better adapt to the changes taking place, the Government of Cambodia as well as non-government institutions have put a number of efforts in place to address climate change impacts at sub-national level, aiming at building communities' resilience throughout Cambodia. The approach followed is two-prong: (1) the development and implementation of adaptation measures, either by local NGOs or by government entities, often through

projects carried out with the support from development partners, and (2) the development of local governments and communes' capacity to mainstream climate change into commune planning and budgeting processes, a work led by the Secretariat of National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDD-S) and supported by the Department of Climate Change (DCC).

Recognizing the importance of developing capacity to mainstream climate change into subnational planning and budgeting processes,

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INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

CAMBODIA READY FOR PARIS AGREEMENT RATIFICATION



H.E. Say Samal, Minister of Environment, and MoE delegates meet with National Assembly's Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information, and Media, October 12, 2016

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) achieved one of the most significant agreements in its over 20 years of global negotiations at the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP21) in Paris last year – the Paris Agreement. The purpose of the Paris Agreement is 1) to keep global temperature rise this century well

below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degrees Celsius, and 2) to strengthen the ability of countries to deal with the impacts of climate change. At COP21, Parties to the Convention were urged to ratify the Agreement as soon as possible so it could enter into force before 2020.

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Readers,

We would like to welcome you to this 6th issue of the Climate Change Newsletter. We intend to bring this newsletter to you every quarter to reflect on the new climate policy developments in Cambodia and to keep you updated on the work being conducted by Department of Climate Change at the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development. Every other quarter, we will be sharing interesting examples of the work being done by many partners and communities to respond to climate change. We are counting on you, dear reader, to join us as a regular or occasional contributor – your Voices from the Ground are essential to the newsletter's success and to our work as climate change practitioners.

EDITORIAL BOARD

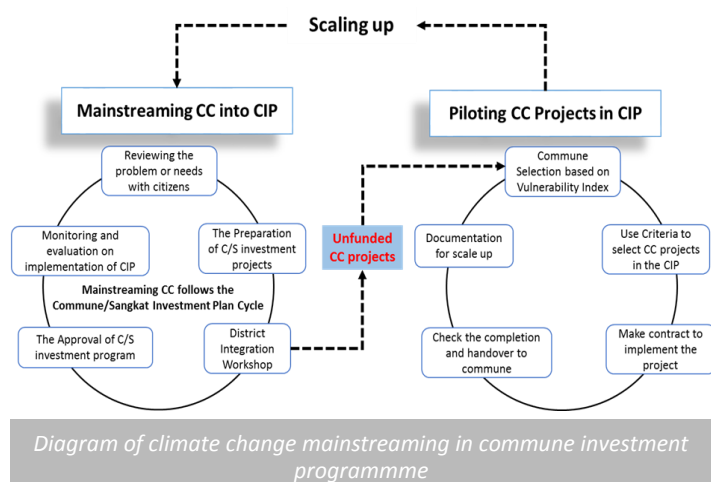
This newsletter is prepared, edited and produced by Department of Climate Change of the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development with technical assistance from Cambodia Climate Change Alliance.

CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY AND IMPLEMENTATION

CC RESPONSE: MOVING FROM STRATEGY TO...

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and the need to accelerate and scale up these efforts, DCC, with support from Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA), is using a similar approach to NCDD-S through enhancing the roles of Provincial Departments of Environment (PDoE) to mainstream climate change to Commune Investment Plans (CIP), in alignment with the government's policy of delegation of functions from central to sub-national levels. The figure below illustrates the approach used by DCC-CCCA, in which PDoEs, with technical support from CCCA, are involved throughout the process, from mainstreaming to piloting small scale climate change projects. All PDoEs and communes have received training on climate change, including identification and design of response measures, prior to mainstreaming and piloting climate change projects.



DCC-CCCA has so far supported six PDoEs in mainstreaming climate change into CIPs, namely Kampong Cham, Kampot

and Pursat in 2015, and Oddar Meanchey, Tboung Khmum and Takeo Provinces in 2016, totaling 19 communes. PDoEs have worked closely with communes to produce CIPs that include proposed priority projects focusing on climate change adaptation measures, ranging from 7 to 15 proposed priority projects for each commune. Furthermore, CCCA has also provided funding to two climate change projects prioritized through the commune led CIP process and which were not funded through commune funds. These projects are now being implemented, one in Kampot, the construction of a water gate to prevent saltwater intrusion in the coastal zone, and the other in the Tonle Sap area of Pursat to rehabilitate water gates in a damaged irrigation system to retain more water for rice field irrigation, with each project receiving a CCCA grant of approximately US\$ 5,000.

CCCA has learnt that PDoEs and Communes have shown high enthusiasm to address climate change in their locations. At the same time, it is evident that sub-national authorities including communes face some challenges due to their limited capacity to identify suitable adaptation options, requiring further technical support from climate change experts. Although each commune is entitled to receive Commune/Sangkat Fund, the opportunity for implementing the climate change projects in CIP still relies heavily on funds from local NGOs, development partners and other interest groups. The scale up NCDD-S and DCC's efforts on mainstreaming climate change into sub-national planning and budgeting processes will require a great deal of support, making the dissemination of the current approach to a broader range of stakeholders a crucial step towards their engagement and scaled up support.



Commune council presents the costs of climate related construction projects proposed by local bidders in July 2016 at Pursat Province

CLIMATE FINANCE: MOBILIZING FUNDING FOR PRIORITIZED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS

The Climate Finance Readiness Programme (CF Ready), implemented by GIZ, in cooperation with and financed by USAID, is supporting the Department of Climate Change, General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development, to prepare the Cambodia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process focusing on a finance strategy and implementation plan. An important step towards the development of the financing strategy has been the assessment of the potential of sector priority actions (as outlined in the Climate Change Action Plans, CCAPs) to mobilize climate financing and to improve the costing of their prioritized project ideas.

CF Ready supported respective target line ministries in understanding the required steps to develop detailed costing structures of their CCAPs. This included training on concepts and methods of costing climate change projects. In addition, all CCAP priority actions were screened and prioritized with regard to their potential and readiness to be funded by international climate funds.

While CCAPs currently remain largely underfunded, the assessment concluded that the existing CCAPs present a good starting point to further mobilize resources for their implementation. In view of international climate finance, it is recommended to further develop a limited set of bankable project proposals that can eventually be presented to donors. Twenty CCAP actions were identified as possible priority actions.

Other findings and recommendations from the costing exercise were:



Meeting with Ministry of Rural Development to discuss the experience of costing climate change adaptation projects and the status CCAP implementation in July 2016

- ▶ Existing CCAP actions will require further project development steps to be turned into full-fledged proposals. This will require project preparation funds and increased project development capacities.
- ▶ Programmatic and inter-ministerial approaches should focus on efforts to jointly apply knowledge in planning and implementing climate change actions.
- ▶ In view of mobilizing domestic funds, programme-based budgeting is a positive step towards a policy-guided financial decision-making process and the integration of climate change action into regular development planning.
- ▶ In addition to focusing on the mobilization of additional financial resources, the best way to generate more impact is to increase effectiveness of adaptation measures.

INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE DIALOGUES

CAMBODIA READY FOR PARIS AGREEMENT...

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On the 5th October 2016, the threshold for entry into force of the Paris Agreement was achieved, and is now known that the Agreement will into force on 4th November 2016, as this issue of the newsletter is being published.

The Royal Government of Cambodia, having signed the Paris Agreement on 22th April 2016 at the UN Headquarters in New York, is now in the process of ratifying the Agreement. The Department of Climate Change (DCC) of the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development, being the focal point to the UNFCCC, has been assisting the Government throughout the ratification process. The translated text in Khmer of the Paris Agreement, produced by DCC, was already reviewed by the Council of the Ministers and subsequently submitted to the National Assembly. On the 12th October 2016, the Assembly's Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information, and Media placed the ratification of the Paris Agreement as item in the agenda for the next general meeting of the Assembly to be held in December. Once endorsed by the Assembly, the Paris Agreement will be discussed at the general meeting of the Senate and to be then submitted to His Majesty the King of Cambodia for signature, before the Country deposits its ratification instrument with the



The National Assembly's Commission on Foreign Affairs, International Cooperation, Information, and Media meets with MoE delegates on Paris Agreement on October 12, 2016

United Nations.

Once the Paris Agreement is ratified by Cambodia the country can expect, among other benefits:

- ▶ Greater financial support, technology transfer and capacity building responding to climate change and disasters;
- ▶ Participation in a new carbon pricing mechanism;
- ▶ Reduction of the country's adaptation costs in the long-term.

Although Cambodia will also be subject to specific obligations under the Agreement, the rights and privileges are expected to considerably outweigh the obligations, as the Paris Agreement provides flexibility for developing countries, based on common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities, taking into consideration actual national circumstances.

LANGUAGE NEGOTIATIONS ON CLIMATE CHANGE TERMINOLOGY

To ensure the consistency and accuracy in the use of climate change terminology, the Department of Climate Change (DCC) of the General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development has compiled the climate change glossary in Khmer, with support from the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) and the Strategic Programme for Climate Resilience (SPCR). As a final step, and to ensure the glossary meets the highest standards of quality, the document was submitted to the National Council of Khmer Language (NCKL) on 4th March 2016 for an in depth review, to verify the meaning and spelling of each term against the Khmer language system.

The glossary team, formed by NCKL members and DCC, CCCA and SPCR experts, has been meeting regularly every Tuesday and Wednesday, since 30th March, to provide a



Climate change technical staff clarifies concepts of particular terms in the meeting, April 5, 2016 at NCKL

thorough review of the document, verifying the meaning and spelling of each term against the Khmer language system.

The terms included in the Climate Change Glossary were compiled from terminology used in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) documents, and cover a number of areas including climate change science, causes and effects of climate change, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster management, mechanisms and response at the national and international levels and ecology and environment.

Since the start of the review process in March and up until the end of September 2016, the glossary team has reviewed and approved over 300 of the 500 terms that constitute the glossary. The NCKL review process is expected to be completed by end of 2016, with the glossary to be published in early 2017.



H.E. Chan Samnol, Chairman of the National Council of Khmer Language, leads the glossary review meeting, August 23, 2016 at NCKL

In the next issue...



VOICES FROM THE GROUND

Villagers in Chop Tasok Community Protected Area, located in Phnum Kulen National Park, are facing a number of challenges when trying to improve agriculture productivity of their land, not least of which is the increasing difficulty in accessing water for their crops. The project “Enhancing Climate Change

Resilience of Rural Communities Living in Protected Areas in Cambodia” is working with villagers to understand how they can best be prepared to face present and future climate-related risks. We will learn in the next issue of the different strategies that are being adopted by villagers to overcome these challenges and see how they are improving their livelihoods.

Please register to be one of our regular or occasional contributors by sending your stories to the email: reaksmey.neou@camclimate.org.kh

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov: Awareness raising workshop on climate change to undergraduate students and lecturers at Royal University of Agriculture and University of Battambang
- Nov: Training on climate responsive budgeting to finance and planning staff of nine ministries/agencies
- Nov: Training workshop on climate change downscaling for SPCR's working group (MAFF, MRD, MOWRAM and MPWT)
- Nov: Knowledge-sharing event on Cambodia's response to climate change
- Nov: First meeting of NCSD's Climate Change Technical Working Group
- Dec: Consultation meeting on indicators of effective adaptation

For most updated climate change response related events or publications, keep following us at www.camclimate.org.kh

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