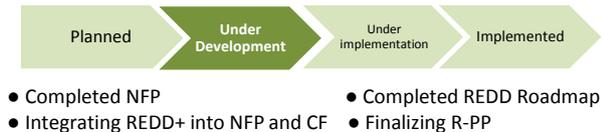


LEAF POLICY BRIEF: REDD+ Policy Support - Cambodia

Overview

Cambodia has a relatively high rate of land use change with Forestry Administration statistics indicating that 370,000 hectares of forest was lost between 2005 and 2010 - equivalent to an average annual deforestation rate of 0.5%. Cambodia has been classified as a “high forest cover, high deforestation” country for the purpose of REDD+. The Cambodia Readiness Plan Proposal on REDD+ (‘the Roadmap’) was developed in 2010 by the interim REDD+ Taskforce and stakeholder groups with support from the UN-REDD National Programme. The Roadmap planning process set a new standard for inter-ministerial cooperation and engagement with stakeholders.

Progress Towards National REDD Implementation



Responsibility for REDD+ Readiness in Cambodia is shared between the Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Forestry and Fisheries Administrations), the Ministry of Environment (MoE, General Department of Administration for Natural Conservation and Protection [GDANCP]), the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Interior/National Committee for sub-National Development (NCDD) and the Ministry of Rural Development. Cambodia is also working to submit a finalized R-PP to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF).

Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation

Direct:

- Unsustainable and illegal logging
- Fire* (role disputed)
- Woodfuel collection

Underlying:

- Lack of demarcation of forest areas
- Low institutional capacity
- Inadequate forest law enforcement
- Weak governance

The National Forestry Programme (NFP), approved in late 2010, sets out a plan for long-term management of Cambodia’s forest estate and will play a vital role in REDD+. The NFP includes policy, strategic and programmatic guidance towards achieving sustainable forest management together with financing estimates. Implementation of the REDD+

Roadmap will be integrated with activities in the NFP including community forestry.

National REDD+ institutions

Ministry of Environment (MoE) - Has direct regulatory and management authority over forest resources within Protected Areas.

Forestry Administration (FA) – Manages national forest resources under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

Fisheries Administration (FiA) - Has jurisdictional management and regulatory authority over flooded forest and mangrove areas outside of the Protected Area network (the fishery domain), including Community Fisheries Areas and Fisheries Protected and Conservation Areas.

REDD+ Taskforce - Has an interim mandate to develop plans for national REDD+ Readiness. It is facilitated and coordinated by the Forestry Administration and includes members from the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. National Responsibilities implementation of the REDD Roadmap have yet to be designated.

LEAF Policy Assistance

LEAF adopts a regional approach in strengthening capacities across the six target countries - Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Thailand and Viet Nam - to produce sustainable reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from the forestry and land use sector.

To help reach this goal, the following areas have been identified for policy assistance in Cambodia:

1. Integration of REDD+ within NFP of the Forestry Administration;
2. Integrating REDD+ activities into the MoE Protected Area Management Plan;
3. Integrating REDD+ activities into the revised 10 year strategic plan of the Fisheries Administration;
4. Linking national and sub-national REDD+ approaches through a 'nested' framework;
5. Supporting a study on maximizing REDD+ benefits to local communities;
6. Supporting the development of a framework for REDD+ benefit sharing.

Implementation:

LEAF support will be focused on the following activities:

- Desk-based reviews in collaboration with relevant authorities including FIA, MoE, and FA;
- Facilitation of participatory processes and consultations;
- Connecting local stakeholders with regional platforms including the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forestry and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC);
- Capacity building regional workshops.

Additional Support:

LEAF will also provide support in other areas critical to the creation of a robust national REDD+ framework. Possible focus areas include:

- Analyzing the potential role of SFM in the national REDD+ strategy
- Reviewing the 30 year work plan for Oddar Meanchey REDD+ pilot and identifying key activities after agreement on carbon marketing has been reached
- Exploring the potential role of bamboo, acacia, and rubber in REDD+
- Helping to clarify which actors are eligible to participate in REDD+ activities
- Supporting aspects of Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) for REDD+
- Connecting national stakeholders with regional platforms including the ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on Forestry and Climate Change (ARKN-FCC).

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