



CAMBODIA PROGRESS- LESSONS FROM UN-REDD NATIONAL PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION

SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT STATUS AND MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS THE NATIONAL PROGRAMME?

Cambodian government committed itself to managing Cambodia's forests through win-win solutions. Cambodia fully supports the inclusion of REDD+ in a post-Kyoto climate regime. The Cambodian Prime Minister has stated clearly that "we must protect our forest, by not only stopping logging for export, but by protecting the forest for selling carbon credit and using these revenues for better forest management and rural poverty alleviation."

Cambodia developed its REDD+ Readiness Road Map in 2009. Later in late 2009, Cambodia applied to join the UN-REDD Programme. With support from UN-REDD agencies the Road Map was developed by an interim taskforce into the UN-REDD National Programme (NP) and subsequently a R-PP. The UN-REDD NP is integrated with other relevant initiatives, including CamREDD and other Japanese support, and the FCPF. The Japanese support will primarily focus on infrastructure, equipment, capacity building and technology with particular focus on development of MRV. One of the main achievements of the UN-REDD NP is the establishment of the National REDD+ Task Force and Task Force Secretariat. Another significant achievement is the process for selecting CSO and IP representatives to the NP Program Executive Board (PEB), which is considered a best practice process in the REDD Secretariat. Irrespective of the representatives selected, all candidates will be invited to play a role in the Advisory Group to the Task Force and forge links with provincial administrations.

MAIN LESSONS FROM EARLY IMPLEMENTATION?

Again, I think an important lesson is the value of the Roadmap. Another very important lesson is that we did lose momentum after the Roadmap was completed, so that by the time we signed the NP document, we had to rebuild that momentum, which took a lot of time. Therefore, for future NPs, I think that some funding should be made available up-front in order to keep the processes developed during formulation active during the period between submission of the proposal and inception. This would have been particularly valuable in Cambodia, where three different agencies share mandates for the forest estate, and implementation procedures are therefore more complex than in most other countries.

ELEMENTS THAT HAVE TRIGGERED MOVING FORWARD FROM DESIGN TO IMPLEMENTATION

- I would attribute the recent surge in activities to the establishment of the Task Force and Secretariat. I also think that problems and delays in hiring technical advisors – both the overall advisor and the MRV specialist – have slowed progress.
- A harmonized work plan to be used by UN-REDD Agencies and other initiatives such as CAM-REDD
- The strong commitment from the government agency to support the implementation
- Identified individual activities (eg: NFM, NFI, GHG) and then develop action plan. The important thing is to identify activities gaps, data gap, capacity need assessment
- Finally, capacity building and awareness rising at all levels are also crucial for the successful implementation of the REDD+ projects,