



Enhancement of Engagement of Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples in the Cambodia REDD+ Programme

Output 1 – Project work plan and approach

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Background

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) acknowledges REDD+¹ as an important policy initiative to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in Cambodia. RGC plans to complete its national REDD+ strategy before the COP 21 to be held in Paris in December, 2015. The strategy is a key policy document that provides an overall strategic direction for REDD+ implementation in Cambodia. The strategy will identify key causes of deforestation and forest degradation, and policies and measures necessary to reduce emissions and to enhance carbon storage.

As of March, 2015, an initial draft of the strategy was produced and will be brought into a series of stakeholder consultations from April to September, 2015. Considering that the strategy will be applicable for the entire nation of Cambodia, it is essential that all relevant stakeholders including local communities and Indigenous Peoples (IPs) will have ample opportunity to share their comments to the draft Strategy so as to ensure their views to be adequately incorporated into the Strategy and to foster their active participation for future REDD+ implementation. In order to realize the full and effective participation of stakeholders into the consultation processes, it is important that the constituents themselves have adequate knowledge about key aspects of REDD+ and key contents of the national REDD+ strategy.

In August, 2013, the RGC established the REDD+ Consultation Group (CG) with a total of 18 members, two each from 9 different types of stakeholders including representatives of local communities and IPs. The key functions of the CG are to provide comments to the REDD+ Taskforce on the REDD+ Readiness process, and to provide a forum to represent the views of local stakeholders, particularly for the development of the national REDD+ strategy. A significant effort was also made for selecting IP representatives from 15 provinces prior to the CG selection. Through these representatives, the communication line to the IP groups was established.

However, reaching out to local communities and IPs at provincial and community levels remains to be a significant challenge. Local communities such as those from Community Forestry (CF), Community Fisheries (CFi), and Community Protected Areas (CPA) groups do not yet have a forum with a sizable number of stakeholders to share and express their collective voice. The geographical distance between these communities and the capital cities, and internet access problems were among added-challenges for the CG members in effectively disseminating information that concern them. Given that local communities and IPs are highly dependent on forest resources for a significant part of their livelihoods, but have been historically marginalized from policy discussion, they may potentially face negative consequences of REDD+ if REDD+ is designed and implemented without adequate consideration of their needs and concerns. Thus, further awareness raising and capacity building is critically needed to ensure their full and effective participation of local communities and IPs. Such need has been further reaffirmed by an IP representative who requested for awareness raising for IPs during the 9th UN-REDD Programme Executive Board. To address this challenge, with the funding from the UN-REDD programme, RECOFTC – the Center for People and Forests has proposed a communication mechanism (i.e. Information flow (IF) and feedback mechanism (FM)) based on inputs received from the CG. This communication mechanism is envisaged to connect CG

¹ REDD+ stands for Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries, and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries.

representatives to local community networks and Indigenous Peoples. The RECOFTC has also provided initial trainings to 10 pool trainers to conduct outreach activities.

This document presents the revised project approaches and revised work plan for the project. The revised approach and work plan was developed based on the original proposal submitted to the UNDP in June 2015. The approach and work plan are described in detail in the following sections.

Project methodology and approach

To meet the requirement of term of reference of the assignment, RECOFTC proposed technical approach that center in three interlinking outputs:

- 1) *Revised approach and work plan*
- 2) *One two-day preparatory meeting for consultation and outreach meetings for community networks and IPs; and Final agendas for - Final agendas for consultation meetings and outreach activities and outreach materials.*
- 3) *Four one and a half day consultation meetings for IP, CF, CPA and CFi participants with a final report (no more than 20 pages) including 1) objective, 2) agenda, 3) complication of stakeholders' comments for IF and FM and the national REDD+ strategy*
- 4) *Nine half-day outreach meetings for IPs with a final report (no more than 20 pages) including 1) objective, 2) agenda, 3) complication of stakeholders' comments for the national REDD+ strategy*

Achieving these components will contribute to the overarching goal of “enhancing of engagement of the local communities and indigenous people in Cambodia REDD+ programme” through the operationalization of the proposed communication mechanism (information flow and feedback mechanism) for local communities and indigenous people, obtaining their feedback to improve and refine the proposed communication mechanisms, and raise their awareness about and receive their initial comments on the draft national REDD+ strategy as well as its potential impacts on their forest management practices and livelihoods.

In order to achieve the outputs following the steps suggested in the Terms of Reference, RECOFTC has developed a strategic approach that building on existing RECOFTC’s organizational capacity and expertise in Cambodia, consisting of the following key elements:

- Close collaboration and regular communication with the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat and key stakeholder groups in Cambodia’s REDD+ especially in the update of national REDD+ strategy
- A core Project Team, supported with strong backstopping from RECOFTC Headquarters in Bangkok and organizations in Cambodia with relevant expertise
- Participatory process to facilitate the consultations and awareness raising events
- Mainstreaming of participatory practices, social inclusion, and gender-sensitive perspectives
- Documentation and sharing of key stakeholder group concerns, particularly future needs and key areas of interest for consultation and engagement

Output 1 – Revised work plan approach

The first step project implementation is to revisit the proposed approach and work plan as per updated Term of Reference for the project. The work plan for this project described detail activities to be implemented over the period of 5 months from 01 August to 31 December 2015 (see section 2 for detail).

Output 2 - The 2-day preparatory meeting in Phnom Penh and Finalization materials for consultation and outreach events

➤ The 2-day preparatory meeting

The meeting will be taken place for two days in Phnom Penh and bring together 25-35 persons include 8 members (2 each from CF, CFi, CPA, IPs) and 10 pool trainers, and 12 Indigenous Peoples. Main objectives

of this meeting are to: Provide specific awareness raising to identified trainers, community and IP representatives with the most updated information about the national REDD+ strategy, and proposed outreach mechanisms; Provide a platform to review and receive feedback for proposed communication mechanism (Information-Flow and Feedback Mechanism); and Discuss plans for consultation meeting and outreach meetings with selected IP outreach focal points and Community consultation group member (CF, CPA, and and IP).

Key content of the discussion in this preparatory meeting included: REDD+ including the information of the Warsaw Framework, Safeguards and MRV/REL building on modules previously prepared by RECOFTC; Key aspects of the draft national REDD+ strategy that concern stakeholders; Potential risks and opportunities that may arise from REDD+ implementation; and Proposed Information Flow and Feedback Mechanism for REDD+ consultation.

➤ **Finalization materials for consultation and outreach events**

There will be two main activities to contribute to this outputs; the initial review and adaptation of existing materials (REDD+ awareness raising and REDD+ consultation and participation plan) that were developed by RECOFTC; and the refinement and finalization of the materials including the operationalization of the communication mechanism in the REDD+ consultation and participation plan.

The materials for awareness raising materials will be developed prior to the preparatory meeting (output 1). Awareness raising materials will be adapted from REDD+ awareness raising project implemented by RECOFTC. The update of Warsaw framework, safeguard and MRV will be updated into the existing materials. A finalization of the proposed communication mechanisms will be operationalized and mainstreamed to the sub-national levels and local community through the consultation meetings and outreach activities to inform about the decision and implementation and increase awareness.

In addition, relevant section in the draft REDD+ strategy will be used for the consultation with stakeholder as well. RECOFTC team will work closely with the RTS, UNREDD, and FPCF team in developing or/and adopting the questions or guidance for discussion on the REDD+ strategy. This will contribute to the consultation of the REDD+ strategy that is going on.

Output 3 – consultation meetings with community based networks

Building on the results of output 2, there will be four consultation meetings conducted with four REDD+ stakeholders group as mentioned in the REDD+ roadmap and consultation and participation plan. These four groups were identified as the groups that need most support in information flow and feedback on REDD+ process within their respective constituency. There will be 4 one-and-a-half day consultation meetings will be organized for CF, CFi, CPA, and IPs to enable discussions to focus upon specific challenges faced by each constituency and initial feedback for the national REDD+ strategy. A total of 115 people to 180 people represent CF, CPA, CFi and IP from different geographical areas in Cambodia are expected to participate. The first day is spent on informing participants of REDD+, key aspects of the national REDD+ strategy and its potential impacts, opportunities and risks to receive their initial feedback. The second half day is a closed session only with community representatives to discuss the proposed IF and FM. Ideally to deliver the meeting in an effective way is to provide enabling environment to discuss deeply and actively which emphasis on specific constrains and challenges and the comments for draft Cambodia national REDD+ strategy. This will assist all participants (stakeholder constituency) to build the common consensus on potential impacts on them from implementation of REDD+ strategy.

Output 4 - Outreach meetings for Indigenous Peoples

Outreach activities for IPs will be conducted through a series of half-day meetings, held in 3 districts in three provinces of Mondulkiri, Ratanakiri and Stung Treng. The IP outreach focal points will be sent to those districts where their particular language skills are required, and will be accompanied by a contractor and the RTS. A total of more than 100 indigenous people will be reached on the proposed IF and FM as well as information in the draft REDD+ strategy.

Project Work Plan

Activity	2015																WHO	WHERE	Remark		
	August				September				October				November							December	
	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4	W1	W2	W3	W4				W1	W2
General Activities																					
Discussed, agree up on and finalize activities plan and timeframe																			RECOFTC	Phnom Penh	The due date is 13 August 2015
Team inception meeting based on results of the discussion																			RECOFTC	Phnom Penh	RECOFTC team deployed for the assignment
Revised work plan and approaches provided																					
Update work plan for the project and submitted to UNDP (18 Aug)																			RECOFTC	Phnom Penh	Work plan included timeframe with detail remark of each activity
Review and Approval the revised work-plan																			UNDP	Phnom Penh	One week for technical clearance (include incorporation of comments from TRS and FCPCF PMU)
Output 1: The 2-day preparatory meeting in Phnom Penh and Finalization materials for consultation and outreach events																					
Provide the updated materials for the assignment (draft REDD+ strategy, Warsaw Framework, Safeguards and MRV/REL, IF &FM) to RECOFTC																			UNDP	Phnom Penh	Including materials from UNREDD regional, FCPF, and TRS
Developing session for consultation with community group on the draft national REDD+ strategy																			RECOFTC	Phnom Penh	RECOFTC team through close discussion with RTS, UNREDD, and FCPF team
Preparation for the preparatory																			RECOFTC	Phnom	RECOFTC team will consult with

Community Protected Area																				Sihanouk	members	
Consultation meeting with Indigenous people																				RECOFTC	Kratie	RECOFTC team with the IP-CG members
Documentation and compilation of feedback from the consultation meeting																				RECOFTC	Traget provinces	RECOFTC project team with discussion and consultation with RTS, UNREDD and FCPF
Final report of consultation meeting will be submitted to UNDP (15 Oct)																				RECOFTC	Phnom Penh	Submission as per signed contract
The technical deliverable will be reviewed by UNDP																				UNDP	Phnom Penh	One week for technical clearance
Outputs 4 - Outreach meetings for Indigenous Peoples																						
Preparation and arrangement for the outreach events includes logistical arrangement (invitation venue etc.)																				RECOFTC FCPF team	Phnom Penh	RECOFTC team in consultation with UNREDD and FCPF team
Conduct outreach meeting in Mondulkiri																				RECOFTC	Mondulkiri	Three events at village level
Conduct outreach events in Ratanakiri																				RECOFTC	Ratanakiri	Three events at village level
Conduct outreach events in Stung Treng																				RECOFTC	Stung Treng	Three events at village level
Documentation feedback from the outreach events																				RECOFTC	Provinces	RECOFTC project team with discussion and consultation with RTS, UNREDD and FCPF
Final report of outreach meeting will be submitted to UNDP																				RECOFTC	Phnom Penh	Submission as per signed contract
The technical deliverable will be reviewed by UNDP																				UNDP	Phnom Penh	One week for technical clearance



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