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## Back to Office Report

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Title: Regional Technical Specialist

Date submitted: 1 February 2017

1. Practice area: Environment & Energy

2. Mission period (incl. of travel days): 25-27 January 2017

3. Type of mission:  
FCPF Readiness Project backstopping

4. Clients:  
FCPF PMU, UNDP CO

5. Purpose of mission:  
- Update with PMU on 2017 work planning  
- Support preparation of project document for FCPF-2

6. Documents, materials, resources:  
Mission agenda

7. Mission members:  
Joel Scriven

8. Costs:  
FCPF Project

### 9. Brief summary of the mission:

Cambodia is in the readiness phase of REDD+ implementation. Key milestones in REDD+ readiness include the development of a national REDD+ strategy (NRS) and policies and measures (PAMs) for REDD+ implementation. Cambodia developed its NRS in 2015 and presented a draft version at the 21<sup>st</sup> Conference of the Parties (COP21) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in Paris, December 2015. REDD+ readiness in Cambodia has received various lines of bilateral and multilateral support, including through the UN-REDD Programme and the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). A UN-REDD National Programme ran from 2011 to 2015; a 3-year \$3.8m FCPF readiness grant began implementation in March 2014, with UNDP as delivery partner.

In mid-2016, Cambodia applied for additional funding from the FCPF Readiness Fund, and presented its application with UNDP support to the 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC). A funding allocation of \$5m was approved by the PC. Following this allocation, the next step is to prepare a UNDP project document (prodoc) for the \$5m additional funding and an 'Assessment Note' to meet FCPF requirements. The purpose of this mission was to initiate the development of the prodoc, including by assessing the extent of the relevance of the activities proposed for implementation of the additional funding in mid-2016, as well as to assess and support progress on delivery of the initial (\$3.8m) readiness grant.

#### 9.a Findings

- Financial delivery for the initial grant (FCPF-1) was 57% for 2016; of the total grant (\$3.8m) delivery is at 64%. Cambodia's National REDD+ Strategy is now finalized following further revisions after its presentations at UNFCCC COP, and will shortly be sent to the office of the Prime Minister for final endorsement. Work on the National REDD+ Strategy largely stalled in 2016 due to internal government review and approval processes.
- A key goal for 2017 is the preparation of a National Action Plan. A consultant will be hired through FCPF to lead this process and technical assistance from UNDP REDD+ regional and global advisors is foreseen on this. The National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP) is going through further revisions and a consultant will be hired through FCPF to lead this process (TORs for these consultancies – and the 2017 work plan – were prepared but not shared for review by the RTA).
- Implementation at demonstration sites is ongoing and mid-term reviews are being carried out (though activities under FCPF-1 are scheduled to end in mid-2017). There has been no further progress on safeguards, grievance redress mechanism, REDD+ fund design.
- A lesson learning workshop will be organized, tentatively in March. While FCPF-1 is due to close in mid-2017, it is very likely that a no-cost extension until the end of the year will be required. An extension can be granted via a revised Delegation of Authority signed by Nik Sekran. This can be arranged once an email request for an extension is received from the CO.

- Collaboration with FAO on FCPF-1: \$257,000 has been transferred to FAO, of which \$150,000 has been spent; a further \$405,000 is due to be transferred to them in 2017.
- Programming for FCPF-2: outcomes 1 (organization and consultation) and 2 (strategy preparation) will continue to be supported without major changes to outputs. Outcome 3 on demonstration activities will require a focus on the development of subnational capacities, feasibility studies and assessments, stakeholder engagement, piloting and lesson learning – given that FCPF readiness funds cannot be used to fund implementation. A field visit is planned to the FCPF demonstration sites in March to assess progress and garner lessons for FCPF-2.
- Community-Based REDD+ (CBR+): To date adequate links between CBR+ and the national REDD+ process have not been made – this linkage needs to be strengthened, particularly in light of potentially forthcoming second phase funding for CBR+. As a starting point, selected beneficiaries of CBR+ grants that have implemented particularly innovative activities will be invited to attend the upcoming national REDD+ reflection workshop to share lessons. The regional Bangkok-based stakeholder engagement advisor will be invited to attend this event.
- Staffing and jurisdictional changes between Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and Ministry of Environment (MOE): the institutional transition between MAFF and MOE continues to evolve, with responsibility for REDD+ having been transferred to MOE: according to the DG of the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP), HE Chea Sam Ang, responsibility for REDD+ ‘coordination’ has been transferred to the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSA) while responsibility for REDD+ ‘management’ is under GDANCP. The National Project Director (NPD) for FCPF-2 is likely to be in MOE. PMU and CO staff will continue to monitor the situation for implications for programming and implementation of FCPF-2.
- JICA: technical assistance under the CAM-REDD project has been extended until November 2017 – this will support completion of the 2016 land use map, responding to / facilitating the UNFCCC technical assessment of the submitted FREL, and training for government counterparts. JICA is proposing to establish a technical working committee for Mapping/MRV work to provide a platform for both MoE and Forest Administration (FA) technical officers to co-work and share equipment procured by JICA. In addition, Ms Asako Takimoto has been appointed the new REDD+ policy advisor to the DG of the FA.
- Forest Investment Program (FIP): a consultant team are developing proposals for a potential large-scale FIP funding allocation. The three project proposals are 1) Re-establish and enhance degraded forests in selected catchments in the Cardamom Mountains (\$40m), 2) Establish production forests on degraded land in Siem Reap and Preah Vihear provinces (\$47m), and 3) Design and implement a national forest monitoring system. A World Bank mission will visit Cambodia shortly to assess the proposals. If approved, the investments are scheduled to start implementation in January 2019. The FIP will look to partner and get co-finance for projects it chooses to fund.

#### 9.b Results achieved (key outputs)

- Update on FCPF-1 implementation – 36% of the \$3.8m grant remains to be delivered in 2017. Delivery by FAO on their part of FCPF-1 has been modest to date and they have over \$500k to deliver in 2017.
- Discussions with government counterparts on progress with FCPF and inputs for FCPF-2 content and implementation modalities.
- Stock-taking and planning for FCPF-2 with CO.
- Updates on government ministerial jurisdictional changes and potential FIP investments in Cambodia.

#### 10. Key counterparts:

- UNDP CO – Chhum Sovanny (Programme Analyst ) and Moeko Saito-Jensen (Policy Specialist)
- FCPF PMU – Anupam Bhatia (TS), Sovanna Nhem (National Project Advisor), Lun Kimhy (Coordinator)
- Ministry of Environment
- Forest Administration

#### 12. Distribution list:

- FCPF PMU (Anupam Bhatia, Sovanna Nhem, Kimhy Lun)
- UNDP Country Office (Nick Beresford, Napoleon Navarro, Chhum Sovanny, Moeko Saito-Jensen)
- UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub (Gordon Johnson – Environment and Energy Regional Practice Leader, Sharad Neupane – Desk Officer, COSQA)

**Annex: Mission agenda**

25 January	
PM	Travel BKK – Phnom Penh
26 January	
AM	Meeting with FCPF PMU Meeting with Nick Beresford (UNDP CD)
PM	Lunch meeting with Kent Jingfors (international consultant) Meeting with Dr. Khorn Saret Meeting with HE Chea Sam Ang Meeting with FAO
27 January	
AM	Discussion on FCPF-2 Meeting with Napoleon Navarro (UNDP CO)
PM	Lunch meeting with Asako Takimoto (JICA REDD+ Advisor) Meeting with FIP consultant team Travel Phnom Penh – BKK