



United Nations Development Programme

BACK TO OFFICE REPORT (BTOR)

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1. Practice Area: BPPS/SD

2. Service Line: REDD+

3. Mission Period (incl. of travel days): 10-14 July 2017

4. Type of Service/Mission

- Coordination, programming

5. Client(s)

- FCPF PMU, UNDP-CO, MAFF-FA, MOE

6. Purpose of Mission

- FCPF-2 inception support

7. Documents, Materials, Resources from Mission

8. Mission Member(s) (include Consultants, if any)

- Joel Scriven

9. Annexes

- Mission agenda

1. Brief Summary of the Mission:

1.a. Background

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 21st 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 21st meeting of the FCPF Participants Committee (PC). A funding allocation of \$5m was approved by the PC for a second phase of FCPF readiness funding in Cambodia (so-called 'FCPF-2' project). Following this allocation, a draft project document (prodoc) and assessment note for the \$5m additional funding was developed in March-April 2017, consulted with government counterparts and is now pending UNDP HQ clearance. While project staff are being recruited, a start-up advisor is in place to initiate FCPF-2 activities and develop work plans and terms of reference (TORs) for assignments to be carried out in 2017. Under FCPF-2 UNDP will support the further development of Cambodia's national forest monitoring system (NFMS), which will include monitoring and measurement, report and verification (MRV) functions.

1.b. Mission Objective

The objective of this mission was to support FCPF-2 project inception planning and participate in coordination meetings with government.

2. Key findings

- Inception of FCPF-2 is proceeding well, with TORs, budgets and work plans being developed as well as government counterparts being briefed and consulted on planned activities and assignments. The start-up advisor is working on a roughly 50% (in-country) basis until October. The MRV advisor is due to report for duty on 21st August. There is no set start-date yet for the CTA as the selected candidate is awaiting clearance of a leave of absence from her current government employer.

- FCPF-2 Output 3 will support the building of capacities at subnational level for REDD+ implementation. This will involve support to the development of action plans and/or management plans for different forests types under the jurisdiction of the three main forest-related government agencies: the Forest Administration (FA) for production forests, the Fisheries Administration (FiA) for mangroves and flooded forests and the General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) for protection forests. In addition to supporting these action plans within the forest estate, FCPF-2 will promote a cross-sectoral approach to land use planning in subnational jurisdictions (either at provincial or 'landscape' level) to ensure the drivers from outside of the forest estate are included within the REDD+ planning and implementation framework. TORs will therefore be developed for (an) assignment(s) on land use planning, potentially including a stock-taking exercise to first collate all relevant previous related assessments.
- FCPF-2 Output 4 will support the continued development of Cambodia's national forest monitoring system, including for MRV of emissions reductions and carbon stock enhancements resulting from the implementation of REDD+ activities. Priority support areas identified in coordination with government counterparts are: a) land use change assessment through point sampling using open-source software (work has begun on this and shall be strengthened); b) exploring methods for assessing forest degradation; c) development of more Cambodia-specific emission factors; d) development of a REDD+ project registry database; e) compilation and reporting of Cambodia's first Biennial Update Report (BUR) to the UNFCCC including a REDD+ Technical Annex reporting results through a GHG inventory; f) development of a methodology for monitoring the effectiveness of the implementation of REDD+ action plans (through non-carbon proxy indicators); g) further development of Cambodia's forest monitoring web-portal. In addition to these priority areas, continued technical and financial support will be provided to the MRV team meetings, for equipment and relevant training.
- Government counterparts were briefed on the proposed study into the mapping of land use financing flows (similar to the work done in Ivory Coast by Climate Policy Initiative in 2016). This was well received and TORs will be developed and share with counterparts for their endorsement.

Distribution List (BTOR sent to):

Tim Clairs, UNDP REDD+ Team, UNDP CO, FCPF PMU

Annex 1: Mission agenda

10 July	PM: Travel BKK-Phnom Penh
11 July	Meetings with Mr. Chhun Delux, Dep. Dir. International Cooperation, Forest Administration; and Dr. Koe Omaliss, Dir. International Cooperation, Forest Administration
12 July	AM: Meetings with H.E. Chea Sam Ang, DG, GDANCP, MOE; and Mr Kim Nong, GDANCP PM: Meeting with JICA (HQ representation)
13 July	AM: Meeting with Mr Leng Chivin and Mr. Uy Kamal, both of GDANCP; and H.E. Chuop Paris, NCSD
14 July	AM: Meeting with Chhun Delux and internal coordination PM: Travel Phnom Penh-BKK