



1. Practice Area: Bonn, Germany
2. Service Line: REDD+ and Finance

1. Mission Period (incl. of travel days): 02 - 19 November 2017

4. Type of Service/Mission
• Coordination, support of country delegation

5. Client(s)
• FCPF, UNDP-CO, UNDP-Global, RGC

6. Purpose of Mission
• Support the Cambodian delegation participation on COP 23 and follow the UNFCCC negotiations

7. Documents, Materials, Resources from Mission

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

9. Annexes

1. Summary of the Mission:

From November 6 to 17, the world climate change took place in Bonn, Germany. A team of six representatives from the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC), with support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility II project, took part in this conference, following both the formal negotiations on REDD+ and engaging in important discussions happening in side-events.

Cambodia is a REDD+ country, and is currently working to fulfil all the requirements established by the Warsaw Framework on REDD+ to become eligible to receive results-based payments for its contribution to climate change mitigation through the forest sector.

My mission during the COP-23 was twofold:

1. To support the participation of the Cambodian delegation in the COP -23 by preparing the team before the trip, supporting their participation in negotiations and side events and scheduling bilateral meetings;
2. To support UNDP global team with information and updates about the negotiations about REDD+ and finance.

In the negotiations, the only remaining agenda item on REDD+ is considerations about the need for creating a new institutional arrangement for the coherence and coordination of support. Cambodia is part of the Coalition for Rainforest Nations, who is leading the discussions on this topic (more information below). Cambodian delegates attended some of the REDD+ negotiations.

The Cambodian delegates actively participated as panellists in several side events in Bonn. At the Thai Pavilion, on an event about “REDD+ experiences and challenges: from readiness to results based payments” H.E. Paris Chuop talked about the important progress made by Cambodia with the endorsement of its National REDD+ Strategy, with three strategic objectives: (1) address drivers of deforestation, (2) support local communities livelihood and (3) build capabilities of national and sub-national levels. He also shared with the audience the main challenges that the country currently faces: (1) building capacity especially at sub-national level and (2) ensuring sustainable financing for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy.

At the Japan Pavilion, H.E. Paris Chuop talked about the development of Cambodia’s forest reference level (FRL) for REDD+, with the support from JICA, UNDP and FAO. The FRL went through the technical assessment of experts appointed by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and is a key

element for enabling Cambodia to assess results-based payments for REDD+. At the Indonesian Pavilion, the focus was on “Translating Nationally Determined Contribution to actions”. H. E. Paris Chuop explained that Cambodia is a low emitter country, highly vulnerable to the negative impacts of climate change. In response to the Lima Call for Action, Cambodia has presented its NDC to the UNFCCC ahead of COP-21 in Paris. Cambodia’s NDC includes both adaptation and mitigation actions. It intends to mitigate GHG around 25% by 2030. The key challenges that Cambodia is facing now are: coordination with line instructions; capacity at sub-national level; fund for Climate Change Actions (it estimated that it will need 1.5% of GDP to address CC in the country); and the lack of NDC specific guidance for adaptation and mitigation communication.

During the launch of the Capacity Building Initiative on Transparency (CBIT), Mr. Kamal Uy, presented the country’s efforts to coordinate for the development of Cambodia’s first Biennial Update Report (BUR). Cambodia is one of the few countries that was granted access to the support from this important initiative so far. The status of Cambodia’s National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) was presented by Mr. Chivin Leng in an event in the EU pavilion. Mr. Leng highlighted that Cambodia is working for the establishment of early warning system by using impact tool of Sentinel 2 images and to establish a community based forest monitoring system. He also requested EU’s support on development tool for assessment of dry deciduous forest.

The Cambodian team had fruitful bilateral discussions with representatives from the World Bank/ FCPF, Green Climate Fund, JICA, UNFCCC Secretariat and members of the roster of experts who evaluated Cambodia’s FRL.

Updates from the negotiations:

REDD+: SBI 9. Coordination of support for the implementation of activities in relation to mitigation actions in the forest sector by developing countries, including institutional arrangements: the proposal from the Coalition for Rainforest Nations (CfRN) was to establish a new institutional arrangement under the COP for coherence and coordination of support for forests. All developed countries were against creating new institutional arrangements. Brazil and other developing countries wanted to maintain the voluntary meetings that have been held since the adoption of Decision 10/ CP. 19. No agreement was reached. Rule 16 was adopted. This matter was automatically forwarded to the next section. In plenary, Parties expected CfRN to raise the issue to Ministers, but they didn’t. During the closing of SBI, Brazil made a statement that its understanding is that the voluntary meetings should continue until decided otherwise. Norway made a statement with the opposite understanding. Both points were added to the notes.

Finance (one of the few agenda items negotiated by the G-77 and China as a group)

Long term finance: Discussions on ex-ante information provided by developed countries, leading to the US\$100 billion annually were raised. Most language for this decision came from previous ones. Key issues included the focus on the urgency to scale up finance for adaptation (position defended by G77 and China), issues related to mentioning of enabling environment in developing countries and the main findings of the workshop held in May (developing countries want to bring some of the recommendations to the text while developed countries would rather maintain the text with general mention of the report). A decision was adopted.

Report of the SCF and guidance to the SCF: this report included the outline of the 2018 Biennial Assessment on climate finance flows, which, together with the LTF in-session workshops will inform the High-Level ministerial dialogue on climate finance in 2018. Considerations regarding developing country participation in the SCF and the need to have alternates in the light of difficulties faced by developing country members in participating actively in SCF meetings is a key demand from G-77 and China. A decision was adopted.

Review of the SCF: the role of the SCF in the mobilization of resources, the mandates in paragraph 45 of Decision 1/CP.21 on the financing of adaptation together with the AC and the LEG, the expansion of the work on MRV beyond BA (crucial for APA discussions on the transparency framework, Article 13 of the Paris Agreement), were

among the issues negotiated. After almost not reaching an agreement, a decision was finally adopted.

Guidance to the GCF: Key issues included unresolved policy gaps in the GCF that impact the approval of some projects in particular in the light of the recent rejection of funding approval for projects from Argentina and Paraguay on the basis of their being “middle income countries”, an issue irrelevant to vulnerability to climate change but raised by developed countries based on World Bank criteria, as well as the related issue of concessionality; the simplified approval process and disbursement of funds; approval of NAP funding and accreditation of direct access entities. A decision that addresses the points above was adopted.

Guidance to the GEF: a draft had been prepared by the SCF, but needed to be updated given the developments in the GEF replenishment negotiations. This was done based on the report of the GEF to the COP and its follow-up on GEF replenishment. Challenges included issues related to reduced allocations, the need for the GEF to adhere to Convention priorities if the new programming document does not address these issues. This was one of the most contentious items of finance negotiations. In the last day a decision was adopted.

Article 9.5 of PA, in accordance with the mandate contained in para. 55 of Decision 1/CP21-(ex ante information): the process to identify the information to be provided by Parties in accordance with Article 9, paragraph 5 of the Paris Agreement was initiated by Decision 13/CP.22, and a round-table discussion was held during the May 2017 SB sessions (46th session). A summary report was prepared by the secretariat for consideration of COP-23. Co-chairs prepared an informal note based on the inputs given by the Parties to the summary report. A new informal note was prepared based on inputs from Parties. Developed countries wanted this agenda item to remain as general as possible, given the lack of predictability in the provision of resources in the future. Developing countries, led by the African Group, wanted 9.5 to enter the APA. This item was raised to the Presidency of the COP. This was the most contentious item of the whole COP. In the end, a decision to have an intersessional discussion was made. A draft decision connecting the informal note was adopted by the COP.

Modalities for the accounting of financial resources provided and mobilized through public interventions in accordance with Article 9.7 of the PA- (SBSTA agenda item 12)- (ex post information): the co-facilitators informal note from the previous section was re-arranged now to include a column of definitions, assumptions and methodologies. This new note was forwarded to the next session through a procedural decision adopted by the SBSTA.

APA transparency framework, Article 13 of the PA- (Agenda item 5): a pre-session roundtable was held on Saturday, 4 November on transparency of support provided and received; the technical expert review, including in relation to transparency of support; and facilitative multilateral consideration of progress, including in relation to transparency of support (Article 13.11 and 13.12). Based on inputs from Parties during the roundtable discussions the co-facilitators have prepared a tool (a document with bullet points and a total of 28 pages). This tool was the basis of the work for the transparency issues. On issues related to finance, more specifically information on support provided, a placeholder was added to the tool to ensure that APA takes on the information that will come from SBSTA 12 (details above). Information about the provision of technology and capacity building support need to be held under APA. Information on support needed and received is also part of the tool. Discussions on differentiation separated developed and developing countries, as to what flexibility means in this context. Parties were invited to submit their views in writing. As a result of this process a new tool was presented by the co-chairs, now with 38 pages.

2. Key findings

- This world climate change conference has been a very important opportunity for Cambodia to showcase its important progress implementing both mitigation and adaptation actions.
- The government representatives were able to network with key players in the climate change agenda.

- This was also an important opportunity for the government officials to learn from other countries and in the side events from international organizations, non-governmental organizations, and others.
- The strategy for advancing important elements of REDD+ in Cambodia, including the BUR, the REDD+ TA, the concept note for the GCF was discussed with key players from the government who attended this conference.
- The new developments in the transparency and finance framework should be followed closely, both by UNDP CO and UNDP Global office, as these may lead to new obligations also for reporting from developing countries.