

CLIMATE FINANCE READINESS (CFR) PROGRAMME

SUPPORT TO THE NATIONAL ADAPTATION PLAN PROCESS IN CAMBODIA

Background

Cambodia is considered highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to frequent flooding and unpredictable rainfall including tropical storms, drought and sea-level rise¹. As over 48 percent of economically active Cambodians work in agriculture climate change hits the population hard threatening income and food security.

The Cambodian Government has put measures in place in response to the challenges presented by climate change. To reduce the country's vulnerability in the medium to long term and integrate climate change adaptation into policy and budget planning, the Government has instigated a process to implement its National Adaptation Plan (NAP).

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) in cooperation with and financed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is supporting the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) of the Royal Government of Cambodia to institutionalize Cambodia's National Adaptation Plan (NAP) focusing on the finance strategy.

The main objectives of a NAP process include:

- Taking a medium and long term approach to reducing vulnerability to the adverse effects of climate change.
- Facilitating the integration of climate change adaptation, in a coherent manner, into relevant new and existing policies, programmes and activities, in particular development planning processes and strategies, within all relevant sectors and at different levels, as appropriate.

Project name	Climate Finance Readiness Programme (CF Ready)
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	United States Agency for International Development (USAID)
Project region	Cambodia
Lead executing agency	General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD)
Duration	Three-year timeframe (mid 2015 – mid 2018)

The NAP process is underpinned by a number of different strategy documents, such as the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023, which represents a significant step towards integrating climate change into the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 and into the sectoral development plans of all the relevant ministries.

The Government's endeavours to counteract the impacts of climate change are also reflected in the development of the Cambodian Climate Change Financing Framework, in sectoral Climate Change Action Plans and in the submission of the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) to the UNFCCC secretariat. The main institutional responsibility for climate change coordination rests with the NCSD, which is chaired by Minister of the Ministry of Environment and joined by relevant line ministries as members of NCSD. NCSD is responsible for policy, regulation and planning coordination related to sustainable development including climate change.



Photo left: Signing ceremony for Memorandum of Understanding between National Council for Sustainable Development and GIZ Cambodia, Climate Finance Readiness Programme in order to support the implementation of National Adaptation Plan (NAP) process for Cambodia, in September 2015

Photo right: Training on Environment and Social Safeguards and their role in Green Climate Funds to technical staff of General Secretariat of NCSD and line ministries in March 2016

¹ Ministry of Environment 2015, Cambodia's Second National Communication, General Secretariat, National Council for Sustainable Development, Phnom Penh, Cambodia.



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Challenges for the implementation of climate change policies in Cambodia include limited cross-sectoral collaboration on climate adaptation programming at national and sub-national levels; the need to refine the financing strategy for the NAP's implementation; insufficient climate data; the need to put a sound monitoring and evaluation system in place, and institutional capacity. By addressing these challenges, a significant step towards a coherent and transformative governmental approach to prioritizing the most urgent climate change adaptation demands, mobilizing the necessary financing and finally, implementing climate change adaptation policy in Cambodia could take place.

Objective

The objective of the support is to strengthen the capacities of the General Secretariat of NCSD and other institutions for the implementation of the NAP through a strong financing framework.

In collaboration with USAID, CF Ready is supporting the Cambodian Government in implementing its NAP process with the following activities:

- Advising the NCSD on drawing up a finance strategy and an implementation plan for the NAP;
- Strengthening the capacity of sectoral ministries to integrate climate change considerations into sectoral planning and budget processes;
- Advising national institutions on access to national and international climate finance; and
- Providing support to develop a communications strategy for the NAP.

Progress Made

An important first step has been made towards the development of the financing strategy and implementation plan including the financial demand assessment identifying financing gaps for the implementation of sector-specific climate change policies. The concrete costs for the implementation of priority actions will be identified and these actions will be analysed sector-by-sector reviewing the opportunities for approaches to be combined into a cross-sectoral programmatic approach. As a final step of this process, a financial supply assessment will analyse availability of national and international public and private funding, thereby providing guidance on funding sources and priorities for Cambodia.

Several capacity building measures have taken place, for example, a training on climate finance and adaptation as well as a training on environmental and social safeguards and their roles in accessing the Green Climate Fund. Most participants showed strong interest in the topics and in incorporating the concepts and tools in their daily work.

An important advisory process started on strategic options for a communication strategy on climate change adaptation policies and the NAP in Cambodia.

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