



Current Status of Forest Biodiversity and Climate Change in Cambodia

Prepared by

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Convention on
Biological Diversity



United Nations
Forum on Forests



Federal Ministry for the
Environment, Nature Conservation
and Nuclear Safety

Main lessons learned from implementation of international commitments in recent years, e.g. as outlined 3rd and 4th National Reports to the CBD

Outline for 3rd National Report to CBD

- Reporting Party information related to the preparation of the project
- Priority setting, targets and obstacles
- Article of the convention: cooperation, biodiversity and climate change, capacity building etc.
- Thematic areas: inland water ecosystem, marine and coastal biodiversity, forest biodiversity and program of work on forest biodiversity
- Operation of the convention

The implementation of International Commitments:

- Outcomes and impacts of actions taken;
- Contribution to the achievement of the goals of the Strategic Plan of the Convention;
- Contribution to progress towards the 2010 target;
- Progress in implementing national biodiversity strategies and action plans;
- Contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Constraints encountered in implementation.

**Main lessons learned from implementation of international commitments
in recent years, e.g. as outlined 3rd and 4th National Reports to the CBD**

Outline for 4th National Report to CBD

- Overview of Biodiversity Status, Trends and Threats
 - Status Cambodia's Biodiversity
 - Terrestrial biodiversity
 - Freshwater biodiversity
 - Coastal and marine biodiversity
 - Agricultural biodiversity
- Current Status of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
- Progress Towards the 2010 Target and Implementation of the Strategy Plan

Main lessons learned from implementation of international commitments in recent years, UNFF-8 country reports and Secretary General's reports

- The Bali Action Plan, adopted by the Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC in December 2007 (decision 1/CP.13), is a two-year process aimed at finalizing a post-2012 regime for the Kyoto Protocol at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties, to be held in December 2009.
- Bali Action Plan will address mitigation action by considering policy approaches and positive incentives on issues relating to 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.
- The member states to develop policies to support SFM in responding to climate change, deforestation and forest degradation, the EU, SWITZERLAND, NORWAY, the DOMINICAN REPUBLIC and PERU preferred maintaining a reference to forest and land tenure, which was opposed by INDONESIA, BRAZIL, CHINA, VENEZUELA, CAMBODIA, URUGUAY and the AFRICAN GROUP.

Main lessons learned from implementation of international commitments in recent years, UNFCCC-INC report

Cambodia ratified the UNFCCC on 13 December 1995. It entered into force on 17 March 1996.

- Acceded to the Kyoto Protocol in 4 July 2002.
- The Cambodia's INC was submitted to the CoP-8 held in New Delhi, India, in 2002.
- The Cambodian Ministry of Environment (MoE) is the National Focal Point for the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

Key outline of INC to the UNFCCC

- **1994 GHG Inventory and GHG Emission Projection**
- **Mitigation Options**
- **Climate Change Impact and Adaptation Options**
- Capacity building, education and technology transfer

Second National Communication (SNC) to the UNFCCC under preparation

Lessons Learned

- ✓ National Execution (NEX) modality can be a powerful tool to build local capacity, ownership and long-term sustainability, if proper management arrangement, system and procedures, and monitoring mechanisms are in place;
- ✓ If properly selected, encouraged and trained, some local staff can learn complex technical and managerial skills and contribute significantly to project outputs;
- ✓ Direct involvement of government counterparts in implementing project activities with technical backstopping support from consultants - as oppose to complete subcontracts to companies/institutions – is critical for capacity building of local staff (on-the-job training);
- ✓ Exposing government counterparts to international events is important for improving their technical, communication and negotiation skills, exchanging experience, and strengthening self-confidence;
- ✓ Links with international and national agencies/institutions/networks serve as a cost-effective means to facilitate consultations and selection of methodologies for, and implementation of, specific activities of the project;
- ✓ Local media has played an important role in climate change awareness raising and forest biodiversity as well.

Issues and Factors Affected Project Implementation to the conventions

- Limited experiences related to the Forest Biodiversity and CC;
- Relatively low technical capacity of local staff;
- Lack of local data;
- Language barrier;
- New project implementation procedures and systems;
- Relatively low incentive for the government staff;
- New institutional arrangement, insufficient inter-agency cooperation and coordination;
- Lack of relevant experts available in the country;
- Uncertainty in the global implementation of the UNFCCC, KP, CBD and so on.

Process of REDD pilot and demonstration activities – Country's Potential for REDD:

1. Community Forestry Carbon Credit Project

- **Forest area and cover change in Cambodia**
- **Legal Framework for REDD and Carbon Credit from Avoided Deforestation: a Pilot Project in the Seima Biodiversity Conservation Area in Mondulkiri province**
- **Project areas: 180,000 Ha (Core area)**

2. Community Forestry Carbon Credit (CFCC)

- **PIN proposed for Cambodia will build on existing activities such as the pilot REDD project in Oddar Meanchey province**
- **Community Forestry Project area (CFs) : 60,0477 Ha (12 CFs)**
- **Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF)**
- **Biodiversity and livelihood monitoring will need to be instituted during the REDD program.**

3. Consider the country potential on REDD in Protected Areas

- **Royal decree in 1993, Created and Designated 23 PAs covering an area of 3,273,200 hectares equal to 18% of total land area**
- **Law on Environmental Protection and Natural Resource Management approved in 1996**
- **Law on Protected Areas in Feb. 2008**
- **Law on Biosafety approved in Feb. 2008**
- **There are 82 Community Protected Areas jurisdiction and responsibilities under of MoE.**

Process of REDD pilot and demonstration activities – Linkages with other processes:

- CBD national gap analysis for protected area systems: Number of species, including species on IUCN Red List, specifically percentages of mammal, bird, amphibian and tree species that are endangered

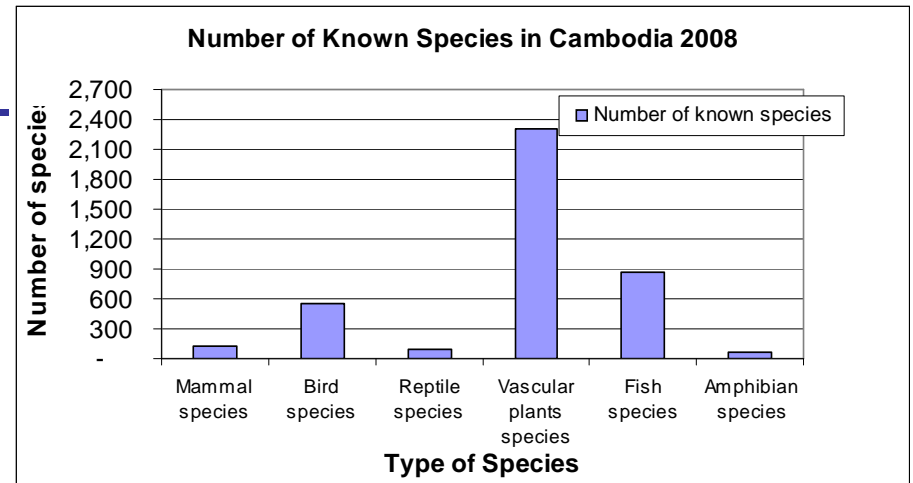


Figure 2 Comparison to Type of Species in Cambodia

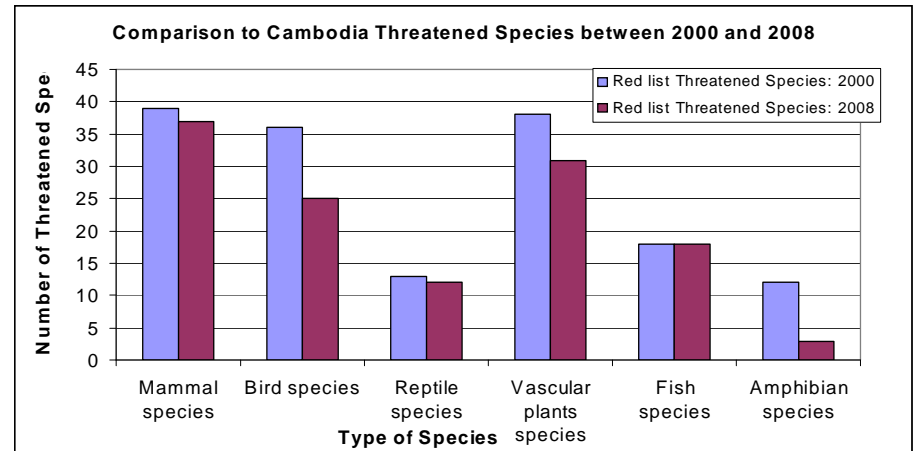


Figure 3 Comparison to Cambodia Threatened Species

Process of REDD pilot and demonstration activities – Linkages with other processes:

- **National Forest Programmes (NFP):** structured as a Framework Document attached with six specific programmes: (i) Forest Demarcation; (ii) National Forest Management and Conservation; (iii) Forest Law Enforcement and Governance; (iv) Community Forestry; (v) Capacity Building and Research; and (vi) Forest Financing.
- **National Biodiversity and Action Plan (NBSAPs):** approved the in July 2002 which consisted of 98 priority actions covering 17 different themes in order to use and conserve biological resources in a sustainable manner
- **Poverty Reduction Strategies:** Improve local people livelihood and Increase income of local community

Links with national adaptation efforts:

- The NAPA aims to develop a realistically achievable country- driven program of action and priority activities addressing the urgent and immediate needs and concerns of the country for adaptation to climate change in key sectors (agriculture, water resources, coastal zone, human health).
- Cambodian NAPA is to provide a framework to guide the coordination and implementation of adaptation initiatives through a participatory approach, and to build synergies with other relevant environmental and development programmes.
- The NAPA consists of 39 adaptation projects which were identified
- Under SNC involved with adaptation of forest ecosystem

Opportunities and challenges:

- **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)**, the panel reviewed current information concerning the link between forest ecosystems and climate and considered climate change impacts-both observed and projected on forests and the people depending on them, as well as their vulnerabilities and options for adaptation in terms of management and policy.
- **Forest Plantation Establishment:** Promotion of forest plantation establishment is important to relieve pressure on the natural forest.
- **Conservation of Protected Areas:** establishment of appropriate legal and policy frameworks, protected area management plans, and an effective monitoring system. Programmes for protecting critical wildlife habitats and for the expansion of species and forest communities.
- **Improvement of Forest Resource Management:** The common goal of forest management is to achieve sustainable management through the utilization of forest resources in sustainable ways.
- **Major challenges** on the way towards sustainable management of forest resources are comprehensive national forest policy and the administrative reform. Additional financial resources and environmental sound technology for sustainable forest management and adaptation forest to climate change are also needed.

Perspective for further interaction at national and regional level for synergies between UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC:

- **The sustainable development of Cambodia** as major national goal to be achieved. The coordinating body for forest issues in Cambodia is Forestry Administration under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) and the General Department of Administration for the Nature Conservation and Protection of the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is responsible for 23 protected areas.
- **The strategic framework** is aimed at facilitating preparations for the post-2012 climate regime and the development of any future Framework Convention mechanism to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) in developing countries.
- **As forestry issues** are interdisciplinary and cross-sectoral in nature and have impacts at national and regional levels, concerted efforts have been made to coordinate the forest, biodiversity and climate change activities with ASEAN.
- **Cambodia as a member of ASEAN and UNFF**, will continue to be instrumental in strengthening regional interaction to ensure that the Forum's thematic issues are effectively addressed, inputs and perspectives are also provided to the UNFF, CBD and UNFCCC Forum.

Thank you for
Your Attention!