



Cambodia REDD+ Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Grant

Midterm Review and request for Additional Funding

Submitted to: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Submitted by: Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat

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Preface

The Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat is pleased to submit the midterm review report (MTR) of its REDD+ Readiness Project to the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF). The MTR also includes a request for Additional Funding.

This document is being submitted as per Section 6.3(b) of the FCPF Charter and Resolution PC/7/2010/3, that requires a REDD Country Participant to submit a midterm progress report to the FCPF Participants' Committee.

The MTR was prepared by International Consultant Nelson Gapare and was based on a Terms of Reference and approach and methodology agreed between the Consultant and the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat. The MTR is based on interviews, project reports, technical documents, media products and material made available to the Consultant. The Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat would like to acknowledge its appreciation of the Consultant's considerable international experience with REDD+, his insights and the diligence in the preparation of this report.

The progress made by Cambodia in its REDD+ Readiness process would not have been possible without the support of the FCPF grant and the significant contribution and support of the Facility Management Team.

An affirmative decision of the FCPF Participants' Committee for Additional Funding for the 2017-2020 period would enable Cambodia REDD+ to continue with its momentum to complete readiness and to transition to implementation, including completion of its implementation framework to access results based finance for emission reductions.

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Acronyms

AWP	Annual Work Plan
BUR	Biennial Update Report
CBR+	Community Based REDD+
CCCA	Cambodia Climate Change Alliance
CF	Community Forestry Group
CFi	Community Fishery Group
CG	Consultation Group
CLUP	Commune Land Use Planning
COP	Conference of the Parties of the UNFCCC
CPA	Community Protected Area Group
CS Fund	Commune/Sangkat Fund
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
ELC	Economic Land Concession
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FA	Forestry Administration
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FiA	Fisheries Administration
FIP	Forest Investment Programme
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Level
FRL	Forest Reference Level
GDANCP	General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GG	Gender Group
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographic Information System
INDC	Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MEF	Ministry of Economy and Finance
MoE	Ministry of Environment
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NCCC	National Committee on Climate Change
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NFP	National Forest Programme
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NPASMP	National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan

NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
NRTF	National REDD+ Taskforce
NSSF	National Social Security Fund
PEB	Project Executive Board
PF	Partnership Forestry
PLRs	Policies, Laws, and Regulations
RBP	Results Based Payments
RECOFTC	Center for People and Forests
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus conservation, sustainable forest management and enhancement of carbon stocks
REL	Reference Emission Level (also called the REDD+ Baseline or Reference Scenario)
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
R-PIN	Readiness Plan Idea Note
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RTS	REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
SEPC	Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria
SES	Social and Environmental Standards
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SPFF	Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries
SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UN-REDD	United Nations REDD+ initiative

Executive Summary

- i. This is the mid-term review report (MTR) of the implementation of Cambodia's FCPF Readiness grant, which is supporting the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to become ready to implement REDD+ under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The report covers the entire REDD+ process in Cambodia since 2010 and Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) implementation since 2011 encompassing Cambodia's progress in all REDD+ activities towards being ready for REDD+ implementation.
- ii. The Cambodia REDD+ process has been guided by a Roadmap approved in September 2010, covering six main components of REDD+ Readiness: 1. Management of National REDD+ Readiness 2. Consultation, stakeholder engagement and awareness raising 3. Development and selection of REDD+ strategies 4. Implementation framework (including benefit sharing and safeguards) 5. Development of the Reference Scenario against which performance will be measured and 6. Development of the monitoring system for national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) of emissions reductions.
- iii. The progress reported through the annual and quarterly reports suggest the implementation of R-PP specifically under the FCPF components is progressing very well. This is correct at the activity level but the overall country REDD+ readiness still has significant work to do. The RGC is showing a strong commitment to mainstreaming climate change and intervention mechanisms such as REDD+ into economic development plans, but it is also expressing the need for technical and financial support to ensure initiated efforts succeed and have a long-term impact. The challenge to mainstream climate change and readiness for implementing REDD+ action plans at national and subnational level is beyond the current capacity of the RGC and specifically the line agencies. The FCPF grant implementation transitioned following the completion of the UN-REDD Cambodia National Programme, which concluded in 2014. Of the total FCPF grant of \$3.8 million, the FCPF project has disbursed and committed a total of \$3,115,574 (82%).
- iv. The institutional arrangements have evolved significantly and positively. A National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSd) has been established to address development issues at the highest level of policy and to mainstream sustainable development principles in the national policy framework that will have a positive impact on the governance and management of forest resources. Oversight of the allocation of forest land resources for national development plans has been strengthened through a 2012 moratorium on granting contracts for Economic Land Concessions (ELCs) and the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to ensure compliance and improved management of ELCs.
- v. A process to rationalize and harmonize Cambodia's existing architecture of laws and regulations has been initiated which aims to create a new Environmental Code. The Environmental Code is expected to benchmark international best practices and to adapt these to the context of Cambodia. The Environmental Code is expected to enshrine standards for social and environmental safeguards and a grievance redress mechanism that will contribute to the Cambodia REDD+ implementation framework and UNFCCC requirements for results based payments (RBP).
- vi. To accelerate the sustainable management and conservation of its forest and biodiversity resources, the RGC has embarked upon significant jurisdiction change of its forest lands and agencies. In March 2016 the RGC announced the consolidation of conservation areas under the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and the unified management of ELCs under the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF). By April 2016, rapid implementation of this policy measure led to the transfer of 1.6 million ha of protection forests from the Forestry Administration (FA) to the MoE and the transfer of approximately 450,000 ha of land under ELCs from the MoE to MAFF. In addition, a National Protected Areas Strategic Management

Plan (NPASMP) has been prepared and an action plan is under development that will provide impetus to mobilizing financial resources and to strengthening implementation. These changes, while positive and conducive for REDD+, increase the need for capacity building, both technical and functional, to ensure the intended impacts are achieved. The coordination mechanism will be affected by these changes and will require significant strengthening to ensure that progress to date is maintained and improved.

- vii. Concerning the FCPF grant progress, under **Component 1**, all REDD+ management arrangements and key institutional elements, Project Executive Board (PEB), National REDD+ Taskforce (NRTF), REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS), Technical Teams remain in place and active. Effective participation of stakeholders in the REDD+ readiness remains strong and consistent through the active participation of the Consultation Group (CG) and the Gender Group (GG). The capacity building of these management and institutional arrangements has progressed well. There has also been significant progress in awareness raising and information access at the national level, and in selected provinces at the local level where the agents and drivers of deforestation are dominant. Stakeholder engagement will be further strengthened with the ongoing implementation of the Consultation and Participation Plan and an annual work plan (AWP). The proposed Additional Funding under this component will focus on continued support of the national REDD+ coordination mechanism and provide technical assistance to ensure the effective functioning of the National REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat. The ongoing jurisdiction change process in the forestry sector are positive and conducive for REDD+ but increase the need for capacity building, both technical and functional. These changes necessitate further and significant coordination, engagement, and communication at subnational level to enable active and broader participation of local constituency.
- viii. Under **Component 2**, land use and land use change analysis of agents and drivers of deforestation and national circumstances have been carried supported by the spatial mapping for 2006, 2010, and 2014 land use and land cover.
- ix. The National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), and the NPASMP were finalized and implementation of the REDD+ subnational demonstration activities is well underway. Reviews have been completed of REDD+ cost and benefit analysis, approaches and options on benefit sharing and a REDD+ fund mechanism. However, strengthening of policy implementation and capacity for monitoring policy effectiveness remains a big challenge for the RGC line agencies. This is an area where the FCPF grant support could increase the impact of efforts under the R-PP to ensure the country is ready for results based payments.
- x. The NRS was developed under the overall guidance of the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat with technical inputs from REDD+ Technical Teams, CG, GG and key institutions including, the FA, General Department of Administration for Nature Conservation and Protection (GDANCP) and the Fisheries Administration (FiA). Over 1,000 participants were consulted through a series of national and subnational consultations in 20 provinces. These consultations brought together representatives of community forestry, fisheries, and protected area networks, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), civil society organizations (CSOs), non-government organizations (NGO), international non-government organizations, academic institutions, and the private sector. The final working draft of the NRS was presented at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Conference of the Parties (COP) 21 in Paris in December 2015. The draft is under final review by the FA for final validation and endorsement by the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat and approval by the RGC. Subnational demonstration activities are underway that continue to build capacity and provide valuable lessons that will contribute to the preparation of the National REDD+ Strategy Action Plan. The FCPF grant has enabled Cambodia to establish five new demonstration sites in partnership with the three key agencies of the FA, MoE, and FiA. The broad objective of these sites is to identify key drivers of deforestation and to test innovative approaches, methods,

and tools to address these drivers. In addition, approaches for co-management are also being tested.

- xi. Cambodia is a trailblazer in implementing REDD+ pilot projects. The RGC started to implement REDD+ pilot projects following the Bali COP in 2007, with the approval of a first REDD+ pilot in the Oddar Meanchey Community Forests in May 2008 and in the Seima Protection Forest REDD+ pilot in 2009. These pilot projects are amongst the most advanced in the Greater Mekong region. In developing these pilots, the RGC has made maximizing transparent and equitable community benefit sharing an explicit policy priority under the Council of Ministers Decision no' 699 that approved the first pilot project.
- xii. Demonstration activities provide valuable insights, lessons and options for successful REDD+ implementation. Consolidation of lessons and identifying opportunities and options for upscaling REDD+ actions need to be undertaken. It is necessary at this point to ensure an increase in the breadth of knowledge through increasing capacity at the subnational level during this readiness phase.
- xiii. Under **Component 3**, a Forest Reference Level FRL submission has been prepared and endorsed by both MoE and MAFF and is waiting for official endorsement from the RGC before submission to the UNFCCC for technical assessment in 2017. The general approach in developing the FRL is well outlined but will be formally evaluated once submitted to the UNFCCC as planned in 2017 and includes national circumstances. Inter-linked to Component 4, the FRL will be improved and refined as more accurate activity data is collected.
- xiv. The scope of the initial FRL covers deforestation, degradation and enhancements and removal of CO₂ through afforestation with two carbon pools (above-ground and below-ground biomass). However, information on carbon is expected to be further elaborated once further data from the Forest Reference Level becomes available. The FRL is based on an historical average of net emissions from deforestation for the period 2006 to 2014 taking into account national circumstances and data availability. The methodological approach takes into consideration UNFCCC and IPCC guidance and takes into consideration Decision 1/CP.16 Appendix 1E (safeguard natural forest).
- xv. Under **Component 4**, important progress was made in establishing monitoring systems for forests through the National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), integration of activity data, establishment of a national forest definition and completion of the land use classification system. A National Forest Inventory (NFI) was designed and a field manual developed. Historical forest inventory data was collected and analyzed to develop country emission factors for the preparation of the initial FRL submission. Analytical work has been undertaken for the Safeguards Information System (SIS) but further work needs to be done and is already being initiated with drawing of lessons from the demonstration and pilot project sites in Oddar Meanchey and Seima. Because of the development of monitoring systems being in their early stages, it is not yet clear how and what the likely sources of emissions displacement or leakage will be. However, it is anticipated that an assessment of leakage will be carried out as the GHG accounting framework becomes clearer and is supported by a verifiable measurement system.
- xvi. Land use data for 2014 has been developed by using improved methodologies. In addition, the RGC made the strategic decision to undertake land use and land cover mapping at two to four year intervals. This is ambitious, but warranted, as current data has inconsistencies that need to be resolved to contribute to improving accurate estimation of emissions and this is, in part, the reason for the need for additional funding. Frequent and improved land use and land cover mapping will help in resolving the challenge of inconsistencies and will improve the FRL and the accuracy of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions estimation from the forestry sector. Such a frequent regime will require remote sensing data and significant technical data collection and verification capacity at national and subnational levels. The current level of technical capacity

for MRV at both national and subnational levels can at best be described as limited, and recent jurisdictional changes in forest resource management create an impetus for greater strengthening of capacity. The establishment of a national MRV system will lead to the strengthening of capacity for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities and provide critical data and information relevant for forestry sector investment plans. The Additional Funding sought will increase the likelihood of the RGC developing robust, evidence-based sector strategies and investment plans.

- xvii. Table 1 provides a summary overview of progress. The progress made in each subcomponent is reported following the indicators of the Readiness Package outlines in the, "Guide to the FCPF Readiness Assessment Framework, June 2013." This uses the traffic light system as follows: green = significant progress; yellow = progressing well, further development required; orange = further development required; and red = not yet demonstrating progress. Annexes 1, 2, and 3 provide the FCPF monitoring and evaluation framework, plan, and assessment undertaken in June 2016 and also form the basis for the assessment of progress of FCPF activities.

Table 1 Summary Overview of Progress

		R-PP Components, Sub-components, and Progress Indicators	Level of Progress			
			Red	Orange	Yellow	Green
1	Readiness Organization and Consultation					
1a	National REDD+ Management Arrangements					
	1.	Accountability and transparency				
	2.	Operating mandate and budget				
	3.	Multi-sector coordination mechanisms and cross-sector collaboration				
	4.	Technical supervision capacity				
	5.	Funds management capacity				
	6.	Feedback and grievance redress mechanism				
1b	Consultation, Participation, and Outreach					
	7.	Participation and engagement of key stakeholders				
	8.	Consultation processes				
	9.	Information sharing and accessibility of information				
	10.	Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes				
2	REDD+ Strategy Preparation					
2a	Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance					
	11.	Assessment and analysis				
	12.	Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement				
	13.	Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities				
	14.	Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance				
	15.	Implications for forest law and policy				
2b	REDD+ Strategy Options					
	16.	Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options				
	17.	Feasibility assessment				
	18.	Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies				
2c	Implementation Framework					
	19.	Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations				
	20.	Guidelines for implementation				
	21.	Benefit sharing mechanism				
	22.	National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities				
2d	Social and Environmental Impacts					
	23.	Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues				
	24.	REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts				
	2.5	Environmental and Social Management framework				
3	Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level					

3a	Improved subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation					
	26.	Demonstration of methodology				
	27.	Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances				
	28.	Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPPC guidance and guideline				
4	Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards					
4a	National Forest Monitoring System					
	29.	Documentation of monitoring approach				
	30.	Demonstration of early system implementation				
	31.	Institutional arrangements and capacities				
4b	Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards					
	32.	Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues				
	33.	Monitoring, reporting and information sharing				
	34.	Institutional arrangements and capacities				

Progress Indicator Key (Traffic Light System)

	Significant progress		Progress well, further development required
	Further development required		Not yet demonstrating progress

Background

Cambodia is highly vulnerable to climate change threats because of its location in the lower Mekong Basin, its low lying central plain and its limited adaptive capacity. Effects of climate change include higher temperatures, greater rainfall, rising sea levels and extreme weather-related events and disasters. Other effects include an increased number of infectious and waterborne diseases and worsened conditions for malaria and dengue fever.

From 1980 to 2009, Cambodia experienced 30 natural disasters, resulting in 1,969 deaths and caused a substantial economic cost of US\$518 million to the country. Cambodia is also the most vulnerable country to flooding in the Asia Pacific region, with 12.2 per cent of Cambodians exposed to the threat of flooding. As agriculture relies heavily on rainfall (less than 10 per cent of agricultural land is irrigated during the dry season), any change in rainfall patterns may have negative impacts on food and water supplies. Rural women are likely to suffer most because of their high dependency on natural resources and their primary responsibility in securing water, food and fuel for cooking and heating. Drought, uncertain rainfall and deforestation are likely to make it harder to secure these resources. The poor and marginalized, who heavily depend on natural resources, are also highly vulnerable to environmental degradation and climate change due to their low capacity to adapt to the changes.

The Royal Government of Cambodia is committed to reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to first slowing, and then reversing the decline in forest cover. In 2007 at the Bali UNFCCC Conference of Parties, the RGC voiced strong support for the adoption of REDD+ as a global policy initiative to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and for the role of conservation, sustainable forest management and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks.

Cambodia began its engagement in the REDD+ Readiness process very early, with the submission and acceptance of the Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) to the FCPF in early 2009. In August of the same year, Cambodia was invited to join the UN-REDD Programme and was granted observer status on the UN-REDD Policy Board in October 2009. Following Cambodia's entrance to UN-REDD, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Cambodia and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Cambodia Country Offices committed their support to the Royal Government with a REDD Readiness planning process. This led to the development of the Cambodia REDD+ Roadmap, 'The Cambodia Readiness Plan Proposal on REDD+'.

Cambodia was able to benefit from the coordinated support of UN agencies in the development of the Roadmap and in developing a National Programme that specifically supported the implementation of the Roadmap. Cambodia was already a step ahead, with an interim REDD+ Taskforce and its engagement with stakeholder groups.

The Cambodia REDD+ Roadmap, approved in September 2010, guided six main components of REDD+ Readiness: 1. Management of National REDD+ Readiness 2. Consultation, stakeholder engagement and awareness raising 3. Development and selection of REDD+ strategies 4. Implementation framework (including benefit sharing and safeguards) 5. Development of the Reference Scenario against which performance would be measured and 6. The development of the monitoring system for national Measurement, Reporting and Verification.

The RGC submitted the R-PP to the FCPF in 2011 with the UNDP as its Delivery Partner and the FA as the project implementing partner. The R-PP was approved in June 2013 and the project document signed by both parties in December 2013. This was followed by a project inception workshop in March 2014.

Cambodia is a trailblazer in implementing REDD+ pilot projects. The RGC started to implement REDD+ pilot projects following the Bali Conference of the Parties in 2007, with the approval of a first REDD+ pilot in the Oddar Meanchey community forests in May 2008, and the Seima Protection Forest REDD+

pilot in 2009. These pilot projects are among the most advanced in the Greater Mekong region. In developing these pilots, the RGC has made maximizing transparent and equitable local benefits sharing with communities an explicit policy priority under Council of Ministers Decision no' 699 that approved the first pilot project.

Cambodia is also a pilot country for the UN-REDD Programme's Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) which is a partnership between the UN-REDD Programme and the Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme. CBR+ aims to deliver grants directly to Indigenous Peoples and communities to empower them to fully engage in the design, implementation and monitoring of REDD+ readiness activities, and to develop experiences, lessons, and recommendations at the local level that can feed into national REDD+ processes. In 2014, Cambodia established a four-member CBR+ National Steering Committee (NSC). The NSC comprises one representative each from the FA, the MoE, civil society and Indigenous Peoples organizations. A national university was contracted to develop a CBR+ Country Plan through three regional and national multi-stakeholder consultations.

One of the important lessons of the REDD+ readiness process is that REDD+ principles and approaches must be mainstreamed into existing and planned national government development policies and plans. In addition, these principles need to be integrated with ongoing national initiatives on climate change, resilient agriculture, forest resource conservation and low carbon development pathways. The National REDD+ Strategy has incorporated these lessons into its strategic approach to ensure that the causes of forest cover change that originate outside the forest sector also receive appropriate attention.

To date, in addition to FCPF funding, implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia has received support from various development partners including, the UN-REDD Programme (UNDP, FAO, UNEP) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). Table 2 provides a summary of annual funding support from development partners since 2013. Annex 4 provides a list of development partners that have supported the readiness implementation in various forms.

REDD+ Context

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fifth Assessment Report (AR5) (2014) deforestation and forest degradation contribute to approximately 11% of global anthropogenic GHG emissions. This finding led to the introduction of a global mitigation initiative, REDD+, to address deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries. Soon after the UNFCCC Bali Conference of the Parties in 2007, the RGC made a decision to implement REDD+ in the country.

Table 2: Development Partner Support for REDD+ Readiness 2013-2017

Development Partner	2013	2014	2015	2016-17	Total US\$
FCPF	-	335,271	1,129,887	2,334,842	3,800,000
UN-REDD National Programme					
UNDP	1,062,370	502,606	-	-	1,564,976
FAO	363,157	309,881	503,323	-	1,176,361
UNEP	30,000	34,200	-	-	64,200
JICA	399,813	304,323	159,024	-	863,160
Total US\$	1,855,340	1,486,281	1,792,234	2,334,842	7,468,697

Cambodia is classified as a country with “high forest cover” and a “high deforestation rate”. Cambodia’s forest cover has undergone significant change first, in earlier years as the result of civil war and social dislocations, and more recently as a result of the evolving role of forest resources with respect to the country’s development priorities, prevailing levels of poverty, and a dependence on forest resources. Estimates for 2014 indicate that Cambodia’s forest cover is 49.48 per cent with a high deforestation rate. Key drivers for deforestation and forest degradation in Cambodia vary but are mainly attributed to the rapid pace of economic development, especially within the large-scale agro-industrial sector, and because of ineffective implementation of existing laws and policies related to forest land and forest resources.

The RGC recognizes that on the basis of its national circumstances, ongoing development priorities and commitments to agro-business, mining and other concessions and requirements, its forest cover will continue to decline in the short term. This trend can be reversed with the implementation of the approaches developed under the NRS that will lead to a reduction in the impacts of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

The Midterm Review

The objective of REDD+ is to reduce GHG emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and the conservation and sustainable management of forests and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks. REDD+ participant countries shall be eligible for results based payments for verified emissions reductions and/or enhanced carbon stocks.

Prior to seeking such results based payments, the RGC has to establish a REDD+ implementation framework. The key elements of the framework include a national REDD+ strategy, national forest reference emission level (FREL), NFMS, and a safeguards information system. The readiness phase also requests countries to engage meaningfully with a broad set of stakeholders to ensure the process is transparent, inclusive, and participatory. As part of this commitment, the RGC has developed a Communications Strategy; a Consultation and Participation Plan, established a Consultation Group with nine stakeholders, created a GG and produced diverse multimedia products.

During the period 2011-2015 significant activities have been undertaken to create awareness of REDD+ and to enhance capacity through workshops, capacity building programmes and consultations. Cambodia REDD+ is now in an advanced stage of readiness and is making the transition to implementation. A National REDD+ Strategy and a Forest Reference Level have been finalized and an initial version of the NFMS has been prepared.

The RGC commissioned an external midterm review (MTR) of its Readiness Preparation Proposal to provide an overview of the progress made in the implementation of the R-PP. The RGC plans to submit the MTR, with a request for Additional Funding, to the FCPF to ensure continuity and satisfactory completion of Cambodia’s REDD+ readiness. The preparation of the MTR was done with due consultation of government stakeholders and with the Consultation Group that represents different constituencies from civil society, NGOs, Indigenous Peoples representatives, community institutions, and academia. Outcomes from a consultation on the NRS that was held in June 2016 was made available to the Consultant, and factored into individual and focus group discussions. A specific group discussion was held with key members of the Consultation Group that included the Chairperson and other members, including a representative of Indigenous Peoples who is also on the PEB of the FCPF project. The focus of this MTR is on the progress made in achieving the four main components of the R-PP and their respective subcomponents. The MTR also analyses progress achieved in those activities financed by the FCPF grant.

Scope of the MTR

The objectives of the MTR are to undertake:

- An overview of progress of REDD+ readiness activities since 2011
- An analysis of progress achieved in activities from the FCPF grant
- A review of compliance with the Common Approach
- The preparation of a financing plan for additional FCPF readiness funding.

Process and Approach of the MTR

The MTR evaluation framework and methodology is designed to be relevant to objectives of the MTR and to report on the progress made on activities funded by the FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant in addition to providing an overview of the overall progress in implementation of the R-PP. The results of the progress inform the preparation of the proposal for Additional Funding. As such, the evaluation framework assessed progress by drawing on the monitoring and evaluation system, stakeholder interviews and the FCPF normative guidance. The MTR assessment focused on the following areas:

- Technical aspects
- Financial status of the programme
- Opportunities
- Priorities
- Coordination, and
- Learning experiences.

Overview of Progress: RPP-Implementation

This MTR finds REDD+ implementation in Cambodia to be progressing well, with significant evidence of government commitment and ownership. REDD+ falls within the broader context of the RGC's climate change response. The National REDD+ Strategy, NFMS, and FREL documents were finalized and significant analytical work was undertaken for the Safeguards Information System. In addition, the NPASMP was finalized and REDD+ subnational demonstration activities in five sites became operational.

The completion of the NRS and its presentation at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in December 2015 were important milestones in the REDD+ Readiness process and enable Cambodia to now make the transition from readiness to implementation. The strategic guidance provided by the NRS will form the basis for finalizing an Action Plan that will focus on institutional arrangements and enhanced ownership by the government.

Important progress was made in collecting activity data and establishing a national forest definition and land use classification system. The NFI was designed and a field manual developed. Historic forest inventory data was collected and analyzed to establish country emission factors in preparation for the initial FRL submission. A database and monitoring platform was developed, and datasets have been collected and reviewed to facilitate land use interpretation, a national GHG inventory, a review of national circumstances and a review of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. Land use and land use change assessments for years 2006, 2010 and 2014 were completed and country specific emission factors for deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen forests developed.

Progress on the FCPF Grant Activities

This section provides a summary of overall progress to date for Cambodia's REDD+ process. Table 3 outlines components supported by the FCPF grant.

Table 3: Components supported by the FCPF Grant

Please indicate which of your country R-PP components and subcomponents have received support from FCPF through the Readiness Preparation Grant (>3.4 million USD)
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Components	Subcomponents	Support from FCPF to date (Yes/No)
1. Readiness Organization and Consultation	1a. National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yes
	1b. Consultation, Participation, and Outreach	Yes
2. REDD+ Strategy Preparation	2a. Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	No. All planned activities completed with support from UN-REDD and JICA.
	2b. REDD+ Strategy Options	Yes
	2c. Implementation Framework	Yes
	2d. Social and Environmental Impacts	Yes
3. Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels		
4. Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards	4a. National Forest Monitoring System	No. All planned activities completed with support from UN-REDD and JICA.
	4b. Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	Yes for Safeguards

COMPONENT 1: READINESS ORGANISATIONS AND CONSULTATION

With recent positive transformational changes, Cambodia's 9.3 million ha of forests are managed under the jurisdiction of the MAFF and the MoE. The FA within MAFF is responsible for the management of the permanent forest estate that includes production and conversion forests. The FiA in MAFF is responsible for the management of the country's flooded forests and mangrove areas. The GDANCP of the MoE is responsible for the management of the protected area network that includes the Tonle Sap Biosphere Reserve and for the protection forests transferred from the FA as part of the consolidation of conservation areas.

Sub-component 1a National REDD+ Management Arrangements

Progress Indicator 1: Accountability and Transparency

In 2006, the RGC established the National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC), a cross-sectoral and multi-disciplinary body with the mandate to prepare, coordinate and monitor the implementation of policies, strategies, legal instruments, plans and programmes related to climate change. With an amendment in 2014, the NCCC has functioned since its establishment as the inter-ministerial mechanism for coordination of climate change response in the country.

Its functions have recently been taken over by the NCSD since its establishment in May 2015. The Council comprises high-level representatives (Secretaries and Under-Secretaries of State) of concerned government ministries and agencies, with the Prime Minister as its Honorary Chair and the Minister of Environment as its Chair. Council membership has increased, when compared to the NCCC, and now covers a greater number of ministries and agencies, including provincial governors.

The NCSD has made efforts to improve the coordination of climate change activities in Cambodia and to promote a stronger, comprehensive and effective climate change response, including the preparation of the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023, the Sectoral Climate Change Action Plans and the Climate Change Financing Framework.

National REDD+ Taskforce

Existing institutional arrangements for management of the readiness process include an inter-ministerial taskforce and a secretariat. Four technical teams on demonstration, safeguards, benefit sharing, and MRV provide inputs on subject matter issues and a consultation and gender group ensure

stakeholder inputs. The key agencies engaged in the readiness process are the FA and FiA of MAFF alongside the GDANCP of the MoE.

The NCS core mandate as an inter-ministerial council is to provide guidance to the government on sustainable development priorities and plans and to coordinate across ministries. The NCS has also been appointed the RGC focal point for the UNFCCC and oversees the Departments of Climate Change and Green Economy and will become an important institutional partner for REDD+ planning and implementation.

The NRTF was established to oversee the implementation of the UN-REDD National Programme and continues to oversee the implementation of the FCPF Grant. Although there have been recent departmental and jurisdictional changes in forest resource management, there is no effect on the functions of the NRTF or the REDD+ Secretariat. In fact, there is a signal by the RGC to formalize, and by an act of law, strengthen the ability of the NRTF to continue to provide direction to the National REDD+ Strategy and Action Plans. The NRTF will be directly accountable to the RGC. The Taskforce mandate will be to govern and coordinate the development and implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia and to provide oversight to improvements in forest resource governance. In addition, the NRTF will foster inter-ministerial collaboration, advise on the RGC's position in international conventions and provide guidance on financial resources and sustainability.

The NRTF Secretariat will continue to be responsible for the effective management of Cambodia REDD+ including the implementation of NRTF decisions and agreed annual work plans, and provide support to stakeholder mechanisms and technical teams. The NRTF is hosted by the Forestry Administration and continues to function effectively.

To accelerate the sustainable management and conservation of its forest and biodiversity resources the RGC has embarked upon significant jurisdictional changes over forest lands and agencies. In March 2016, the RGC announced the consolidation of conservation areas under the MoE and the unified management of ELCs under MAFF. Rapid implementation of this policy measure by April 2016 led to the transfer of 1.6 million ha of protection forests from the Forestry Administration to the MoE and the transfer of approximately 450,000 ha of ELCs from the MoE to MAFF. In addition, a NPASMP has been prepared and an action plan is being developed that will provide the impetus to mobilize financial resources and strengthen implementation.

As part of the jurisdiction change process, all bilateral, multilateral, and INGO supported projects with the FA are currently under review. The host agency of the NRTF Secretariat will be reviewed to ensure the Secretariat is housed in a government agency that allows it to function effectively and to achieve its objective of supporting the readiness process and the transition to implementation and access to results based payments.

Progress Indicator 2: Operating mandate and budget (Financing Approach)

During Phase 1 of NRS implementation 2016-2020 the RGC will prioritize access to upfront non-results based finances from bilateral and multilateral development partners. This will enable the RGC to consolidate its REDD+ readiness process and to transition to implementation. The RGC will continue to implement and enforce forest protection rules and regulations from the national budget for forest management. A review will be undertaken in 2020 to determine and provide a specific timeline for results based payments for Phase II 2021-2025. Institutional approaches to manage finances based on internationally accepted principles will be developed as required by different modalities and development partners.

Despite the advances made in Cambodia's public financial management in recent years, substantial capacity constraints remain, especially in light of the complexity of REDD+ and the arrangements related to future RBPs. Therefore, the recommendation from a study commissioned by the NRTF is to use a fund-based approach to manage RBP in the first interim phase with a subsequent second phase

relying more on national public financial systems following a transition. It should be noted that using a fund-based approach does not necessarily entail complete separation from the country's public financial management systems. On the contrary, the fund-based approach should incorporate those components that have already revealed positive results. As an initial step, the government charts of account might be used to report data, enabling the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF) to capture that data for broader planning, budgetary, and reporting purposes.

Progress Indicator 3: Multi-sector coordination and cross sector collaboration

The RGC has acknowledged REDD+ as a mechanism for the protection of forests in Cambodia. This commitment was underlined in 2010-2011 by the development of a Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap to guide the process for the preparation of the national level REDD+ implementation. The REDD+ readiness process requires the participation and engagement of relevant CSOs and IPs to ensure that the concerns and interests of local communities and IPs are considered and included in the development of the National REDD+ Strategy and REDD+ frameworks.

The involvement of stakeholders began with the Roadmap development. Since late 2010 CSOs and Indigenous Peoples have participated in meetings and consultations which involved the interim REDD+ Taskforce and stakeholder groups between January and September 2010 and a two-month national consultation process on Roadmap drafts. The Roadmap was a product of extensive consultations with multiple diverse stakeholders from the local to international level. In addition, while contributing to current national forest management strategies and programmes, the NRS has been closely linked to the current national socio-economic and environmental development policies, strategies, plans, and programmes. It is envisioned that the NRS should support/ complement the implementation of these broader development plans, and not establish parallel or competing plans and management structures for Cambodian forests. In particular, the development of the NRS has taken into account the following national policies, strategies, and programmes:

1. Cambodia Vision 2030 (in draft at the time for preparing the NRS)
2. Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan, 2014-2023
3. National Policy on Green Growth and National Green Growth Strategic Plan
4. Rectangular Strategy Phase III, 2013-2018
5. Cambodia's Second National Communication under the UNFCCC
6. Cambodia's Millennium Development Goals
7. National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), 2014-2018
8. National Forestry Program (2009-2029), National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (2016-2030), and Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries (2010-2019)
9. Policy and Strategic Framework on Gender Mainstreaming in Agricultural Sector
10. Gender and Climate Change Action Plan, 2014-2018

Progress Indicator 4 & 5: Technical supervision capacity / Funds management capacity

The implementation arrangement is enabling a continuous learning process through constant technical support from the UNDP, FAO, JICA and other development partners. REDD+ Development Partners that make a direct contribution to readiness activities are coordinated through the RTS, ensuring that funds are deployed effectively and efficiently. Coordination at the forestry sector level takes place through the Technical Working Group on Forestry Reform (TWG-FR). The REDD+ Taskforce and the UNDP Cambodia Country Office participate in TWG meetings.

A clearly defined project management structure exists and consists of a Project Executive Board (PEB) that oversees project activities, performance and results. The PEB is co-chaired by the Director General of the Forestry Administration and the UNDP Country Director. Staff at the National REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS) continue to provide technical and administrative support to the project.

This grant follows the UNDP National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the FA as the Implementation Partner. The Project Management Unit (PMU) provides technical, financial management and procurement support with inputs from the UNDP Country Office (CO) as required. This 'National Execution' is a modality of delivering assistance whereby governments, through their coordinating agencies, exercises its ownership and responsibility for UNDP activities.

While not entirely a result of the R-PP implementation, the recent jurisdictional changes related to improved management of forest lands is driven by a better understanding of drivers and agents of deforestation, the gaps in institutional coordination and historical policy failures – which are at the core of the NRS and its strategic objectives. Thus, the capacity to assess national circumstances and define a locally relevant strategy in the light of national economic development (e.g. Sustainable Development Goals) and links to national climate change response strategies shows in the formulation of policies and strategies based on participatory principles and approaches.

Senior government officials constantly pointed to governance failures in the forestry sector as a key issue that needs to be addressed, including inadequate and poorly trained staff, a lack of predictable funds and paucity of technical skills. The recent and ongoing jurisdiction change process in the forestry sector aims to address some of these issues by consolidating management of conservation areas with the MoE, and of ELCs with MAFF. The changes in roles and responsibilities between MoE and MAFF are a reflection of this challenge and attempts to find the optimal institutional setup that will strengthen both governance and the sustainable management of natural resources including REDD+ implementation in Cambodia.

At the international level, Cambodia REDD+ continues to participate actively in international forums including participation in the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties, representation at the FCPF Participants Committee meetings and in deliberations of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA). The Royal Government of Cambodia delegation to the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in December 2015 was led by His Majesty King Norodom Sihamoni. His Majesty in his statement at the Leader Event of the UNFCCC drew attention to Cambodia's response to climate change including its commitments in the Intended Nationally Determined Contribution (INDC).

In assessing capacity building, it is necessary to understand that REDD+ includes activities that occur across a wide range of scales, from the local to the international level. In 2014, the Alliance for Global REDD+ Capacity published a REDD+ competency framework that outlines the need to understand the scale at which a stakeholder will engage. Like any other country, stakeholders in Cambodia include those who participate in the design and implementation of global or bi/multilateral REDD+ policies such as through the UNFCCC. Then there are those who participate in the design and implementation of REDD+ activities at the national scale, for example in the national REDD+ Readiness process. Finally, there are stakeholders who participate in the design and implementation of REDD+ activities occurring at the subnational level through, for example, the demonstration projects and activities at site level. Each of these will operate within the R-PP thematic components.

An important milestone at COP21 was the presentation of Cambodia's National REDD+ Strategy that would enable Cambodia to make the transition from readiness to implementation. Presentations were also made on the FRL and the early version of the NFMS. In addition, specific print media products related to REDD+ were produced and distributed at the COP.

A representative of the RGC has participated in all biannual Participants Committee meetings of the FCPF since 2014, with occasional presentations as panel members on key thematic issues. Several meetings have made positive references to Cambodia's progress on REDD+, both at a formal and informal level. Two senior professionals, that include a member of the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce

and the Head of the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat, participated in the Bonn Climate Change Conference held in Germany in May 2016. They contributed to discussions at the subsidiary bodies for implementation and scientific and technological advice.

A series of training sessions have also been organized on the concepts of REDD+ (two national and six subnational training sessions), four network meetings for CF, CPA, CFi and IP groups, and nine IP outreach meetings. They also provided REDD+ extension materials for further dissemination at the community level. The CG members and representatives of community and IP groups at the provincial level were also invited to participate in and provide comments on the NRS at national and subnational consultation workshops.

In Cambodia, capacity building continues to be an integral part of the implementation of REDD+ and several achievements are presented in this report. The process of developing the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap required both national and subnational authorities to engage with stakeholders and create a participatory approach to identify benefits (carbon and non-carbon) and risks from REDD+ implementation. The R-PP process has deliberately targeted capacity building on the concept of gender through the implementation of the UN-REDD programme and its continuation under the FCPF grant. Table 4 summarizes capacity building efforts under different categories.

Table 4: Summary of Capacity Building Activities 2015 – June 2016

	Development of Implementation Framework	Capacity Building	Stakeholder Engagement	Management	Governance	Total Events	Participants	
2015	15	04	21	08	02	50	Total: 1954	
							F 294	M 1660
June 2016	04	00	09	02	01	16	Total: 580	
							F 123	M 457

Capacity building is inherently embedded in REDD+ implementation at all levels. The 2011 R-PP articulated a consultation and participation plan with two key objectives: ensuring that stakeholders are empowered to engage in the National REDD+ Readiness process through the development of strategies and methods of implementation and a review of proposed policies and in ensuring that stakeholders have access to information on the REDD+ and the National REDD+ Readiness process.

Under the FCPF grant, training courses, materials and manuals have been prepared to articulate the challenges of implementing REDD+ and formulating a mechanism for increasing stakeholder understanding and effective participation. For instance, RECOFTC, the Center for People and Forests, have developed a training programme entitled, “An introduction to the Concept of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation – REDD+”. This was designed to support the implementation of the REDD+ Readiness Roadmap, and in particular, to support capacity development to provide inputs to the REDD+ strategy and implementation framework in Cambodia. The aim of the training programme is to increase knowledge and understanding of REDD+ among key stakeholder groups to facilitate their future engagement in consultations and the decision making processes.

In 2014, a technical report on “Breaking the Barriers: Revealing Opportunities and Obstacles in REDD+, Forestry and other Natural Resources Management Sector in Cambodia”, was prepared with the support of the Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme. This study aimed to investigate practical entry points for women’s inclusion in REDD+ policies and practice. The study explored the status and effectiveness of policies and practices related to gender integration in forestry, REDD+ and other natural resource management sectors in Cambodia. It analyzed the current policies and practices, identified the gaps between policies and practice and determines what factors enable the inclusion of

women in the policies and practice and which elements prevent their participation in effective implementation.

There are various other efforts geared towards increasing awareness and understanding of REDD+ at national and subnational levels. One such example is the initiative related to building awareness amongst forest dependent communities in a selected provinces. A technical report was also produced that is titled “Building Awareness and Support for REDD+ among Forest Dependent Communities in Siem Reap: Consultation with Forest Management Committees Cambodia”, 2014.

Progress Indicator 6: Feedback and grievance redress mechanism

Two studies have been undertaken, one in 2013 on the Assessment of Cambodia’s Forest Sector/REDD+ Dispute Resolution Mechanisms with Options for Institutional Strengthening, and one in 2015 Towards the Design of a REDD+ Grievance System in Cambodia. The reports reviewed the patterns of forest sector disputes in Cambodia, with a focus on the REDD+ pilot sites, it also assessed the mechanisms and practices currently being used for dispute resolution at different levels of forest governance and identified areas of strength and opportunities for institutional strengthening.

The major findings of these studies have provided the RGC with useful information and insights on dispute patterns and how each type of dispute can be addressed with opportunities from REDD+. Sources of disputes ranged from land conversion, unsustainable resource extraction, logging, commercial agriculture, migration, land development, ELC holders and the involvement of the military, to infrastructure development. The review concludes that most of the conflicts and disputes that affect pilot sites are handled informally and *ad hoc*, rather than through formal mechanisms for dispute resolution. Disputes can be handled by local governance bodies at pilot sites or by the FA, provincial government or national government ministries or bodies.

The main conclusion of the 2014 study is that REDD+ grievance and dispute resolution mechanisms are intended primarily as “reactive” tools to respond to concerns raised by REDD+ stakeholders. With respect to REDD+, the key point raised is that Cambodia’s forest sector stakeholders have a significant opportunity to use the REDD+ process to build upon existing mechanisms to prevent and resolve disputes. Though the disputes are significant and often complex, there is evidence of substantial and sometimes successful dispute resolution efforts. On the other hand, the 2015 study concludes that little official information exists on the number, locations, severity and outcome of forest disputes in Cambodia. The RGC is yet to establish a way for collecting and displaying reliable data on natural resource disputes. Some data exist on land disputes though this is gathered through cases filed with the cadastral commission or courts and through data gathered by CSOs in Cambodia.

There is a general acknowledgement, that given the circumstances, the grievance redress mechanism will be set up in a complex and fluid environment. There is a need for proper capacity and expertise to lead decisions on priority issues such as designing a ‘proactive’ or ‘reactive’ type mechanism, for designating existing institutions with a mandate to respond and resolve REDD+ grievances or to establish new inter-agency bodies. There is also the standing recommendation that further decisions for the development of an effective grievance response mechanism for use in REDD+ and more generally in forest management in Cambodia.

Discussions with stakeholders during this review show a likely convergence of safeguards and grievance redress mechanisms in the emerging Environmental Code that is now in its third draft. This would be an important contribution by REDD+ with the caveat that the Environmental Code does not encounter significant delays. However, R-PP implementation is enabling the RGC to focus on addressing these issues in both specific and broader senses through the NRS strategic objectives by drawing lessons from pilot projects and demonstration activities being implemented through to 2020.

Sub-component 1b Consultation, Participation, and Outreach

Progress Indicator 7: Participation and engagement of key stakeholders

The RGC has acknowledged REDD+ as a mechanism for the protection of forests in Cambodia. This commitment was underlined in 2010-2011 by the development of a Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap to guide the process for the preparation of the national level REDD+ implementation. The REDD+ readiness process requires the participation and engagement of relevant CSOs and IPs to ensure that the concerns and interests of local communities and IPs are considered and included in the development of the National REDD+ Strategy and REDD+ frameworks.

The involvement of stakeholders began with the Roadmap development. Since late 2010 CSOs and Indigenous Peoples have participated in meetings and consultations which involved the interim REDD+ Taskforce and stakeholder groups between January and September 2010 and a two-month national consultation process on Roadmap drafts.

In August 2013, the REDD+ Consultation Group was formed with 18 members representing nine CSOs and community groups, and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs), national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) Community Forestry (CF) groups, Community Protected Area (CPA) groups, Community Fishery (CFi) groups, IPs groups, the private sector, and academic institutions.

The CG has so far played a pivotal role in REDD+ stakeholder engagement in Cambodia. The CG participates in decision making through its representation on the PEB and provides inputs to annual work plans and budgets while actively participating in NRTF meetings and consultations. Representatives are able to participate in subnational, national and international capacity building events and policy forums. The stakeholder engagement process in Cambodia appears strong, ensuring that high standards of stakeholder engagement are maintained in the Cambodia National REDD+ programme implementation.

Progress Indicator 8: Consultation processes

Throughout the development process the NRS and NPASMP, the CG, IPs and GG have actively participated and facilitated consultation meetings. Participation is now based on a consultation and participation plan that has been prepared to strengthen stakeholder engagement with CF, CPA, CFI and Indigenous Peoples in the REDD+ readiness process. For example, five events were conducted in the last quarter of 2015 in Phnom Penh and four subnational meetings were held, aiming to increase participants' awareness of REDD+ concepts and involvement in discussions on the evolution of the draft National REDD+ Strategy.

The NRTF has made significant inroads in putting into place an Information Flow and Feedback Mechanism for stakeholder groups, as well as providing an opportunity for participants (CG and IPs representatives) to prepare and agree upon action plans for subnational outreach events. Part of this effort has involved setting aside adequate financial resources to enable the active participation of IPs, CSOs and local communities in the national REDD+ readiness process. In addition, support is provided in organizing CG bi-monthly meetings, training and other activities to broaden understanding of REDD+ and climate change. However, this has to be put in the context of a large rural population in excess of 12 million. Although financial and organizational support to the REDD+ GG and the REDD+ Consultation Group were provided to help them conduct independent reviews and provide recommendations and inputs to integrate gender and community concerns in the NRS, going forward, more effort is necessary to ensure this representation is broader as the country transitions from readiness to implementation.

Progress Indicator 9: Information sharing and accessibility of information

Cambodia has made strident efforts to make information readily available to stakeholders through active engagement during the R-PP process. In 2013, a communication strategy was prepared to enhance communication with all relevant stakeholders and to raise awareness and disseminate knowledge on REDD+ issues.

The communication strategy clearly maps out the target audience, from academics and research institutes to government agencies (decision makers including legislators, politicians, government bodies, including central and local government), development partners, private sector, international NGOs, both national NGOs, civil CSOs, Indigenous Peoples, journalists, the media, and the general public. The strategy further elaborates how and what material will be made available to each of these stakeholders.

Access to information is provided through programme leaflets, workshops, training workshops, special events, newspapers, print and online publications and the dissemination of reports and REDD+ material via the Cambodia REDD+ website (<http://www.cambodia-redd.org>). The website is informative and contains a wealth of information on REDD+ and climate change. It outlines the national REDD+ framework, institutional setup, implementation progress, outputs from the implementation of the different development support mechanisms, as well as current highlights.

There are two observations that need some consideration. Firstly, in its current form the website is cluttered and difficult to navigate for a novice user looking for basic information. The list of events, updates and reports is lengthy and needs some form of structured archiving to ensure new material and updates are clearly visible. Secondly, the website and the majority of the publication material is still in English, limiting reach to the Khmer speaking community.

Access to information on land use, land cover and forest inventory is evolving with the gradual release of data. Currently this data is presented for higher level and obligatory reporting to the NRS for the purpose of FRL. Considerations will need to be made in future as to how the spatial data generated, specifically for Component 4, will be made available for public and private use.

As the RGC is working through completion of the land use and land cover mapping quality control, it is anticipated that a transparent information sharing system will be established as required by the FCPF. The development of the national multi-sector MRV system is yet to take shape although some of the components such as the NFMS are already in place. It is also anticipated that the MRV system design concept will provide timely, transparent and up-to-date information to all relevant stakeholders, including an integration with the Safeguards Information System and other monitoring components.

Progress Indicator 10: Implementation and public disclosure of consultation outcomes

In the first instance the NRS outlines the guiding principles for stakeholder engagement including supporting the CG, IP and cross-sector players. Participation of stakeholders is promoted the consultation process and communication plan at both national and subnational level. Reports, studies or progress made in connection with the REDD+ process are published on the REDD+ website including work currently underway through the demonstration sites. However, as indicated, the material would be more beneficial if it is translated into relevant local language.

COMPONENT 2: REDD+ STRATEGY PREPARATION

National REDD+ Strategy

Cambodia has successfully prepared its National REDD+ Strategy covering the period 2016-2025. The NRS is the overarching policy document that establishes national goals and objectives and outlines measures to achieve REDD+ results based payments in Cambodia. The final draft has been developed

through a series of extensive, inclusive and participatory consultative processes to ensure broad based participation of key stakeholders.

Cambodia's NRS takes note of the Cancun Agreements, the Warsaw Framework for REDD+, and the Paris Agreement. Cambodia has strengthened its NFMS, finalized a FRL and undertaken significant analytical and awareness work on establishing a safeguards information system and grievance mechanism.

The NRS was developed under the overall guidance of the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat with technical inputs from the four REDD+ Technical Teams, the REDD+ Consultation Group, the GG and key institutions including the FA, GDANCP and the FiA. Over 1,000 participants were consulted through a series of national and subnational consultations in 20 provinces. These consultations brought together representatives of community forestry, fisheries, and protected area networks, Indigenous Peoples, civil society organizations, NGOs, international NGOs, academic institutions, and the private sector. A draft of the NRS was presented at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in December 2015. Currently, the draft is under final review by the Forestry Administration, awaiting a national validation workshop and endorsement by the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat.

The development of the NRS provides significant impetus to ongoing national policies and measures related to sustainable development and the recognition of the role and importance of forest resources. It is also important for the mainstreaming of approaches to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and the rationalization of the national legal framework for forest and environmental resources through the development of an Environmental Code. The NRS also advocates for the development of a national energy policy to address domestic energy demands over the long-term that will contribute to a reduction of forest degradation.

Going forward, the establishment of an enabling environment will involve the strengthening of the governance and management of forest resources by enhancing capacities, prioritizing forest conservation areas, establishing a robust NFMS and intensifying law enforcement implementation. The NRS will enhance co-benefits and promote livelihoods and stakeholder engagement by strengthening tenure, community based natural resource management and lending centrality to the participation and wellbeing of vulnerable communities and women.

The RGC has established appropriate institutional arrangements for the effective management and monitoring of the NRS. The National REDD+ Taskforce will provide direction to the vision, mission and goal of the strategy and be responsible for national REDD+ governance, advocating for the sustainable development of forest resources, fostering inter-ministerial collaboration, guiding the management of financial resources and ensuring financial sustainability.

The RGC will continue to finance operational costs for law enforcement and will prioritize access to upfront non-results based investment finance for the period 2016-2020 from bilateral and multi-lateral partners. This will enable the consolidation of the readiness process and complete the transition to implementation. There will be a review undertaken in 2020 to determine a timeline and targets for results based payments for the period 2021-2025.

The development of the NRS followed an approach that supports and compliments the implementation of broader development plans particularly taking into account the following key national policies, strategies, and programmes: Rectangular Strategy Phase III, 2013-2018; National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), 2014-2018; Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan, 2014-2023; and the National Policy on Green Growth and National Green Growth Strategic Plan.

Sub-component 2a Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance

Progress Indicator 11: Assessment and analysis of land use

In Cambodia most areas of forest loss occur in the hilly zones and along the mountain ranges where evergreen and semi-evergreen forests are located. Changes to both evergreen and deciduous lowland forests have also been recorded in the flatlands. Furthermore, forest change hotspots are frequently located in areas bordering Lao PDR, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

Overall, deforestation and forest degradation results from a complex set of processes, including:

- Improvements in accessibility to remote forested areas encouraged initially by a rapid increase in commercial logging activity in the 1990s, which ceased when the Government declared a logging moratorium in 2002, and recently by road-building, hydropower and mining projects;
- Uncertain land tenure and increasing land prices, which encourages land-grabbing based on squatters' rights (despite being illegal under the Land Law 2001);
- A lack of Government capacity to adequately manage forests in remote areas, which are state public property under the Forestry Law 2002, the Protected Area Law 2008 and the Land Law;
- A rapid increase in agricultural expansion and other large-scale development PAMs, which lead to widespread clearance of some areas; this is usually driven by declaring economic and social land concessions (ELCs and SLCs);
- Increasing regional and global demand for raw materials such as rubber and sugar;
- Increased population and demand for agricultural land; and
- Rural poverty, which is still widespread in Cambodia.

The drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are also derived from sources outside the forestry sector. Although definite separation of the two sources would be arbitrary, drivers of deforestation and forest degradation from sources outside the forestry include in-migration to forest areas, agro-industrial developments such as land concessions, poor implementation of land laws and subsidiary regulations, economic incentives promoting forest clearance, poor implementation of environmental and social impacts assessment regulations, and a lack of state land registration and forest estate demarcation

At this point significant work has been undertaken on the development of national data. Land use and land use change assessments for the years 2006, 2010, 2014 are complete. The land use data produced for 2006 and 2010 is, in part, based on existing data while the 2014 land use data was developed from the ground up using improved methodologies. It is foreseen that time series data will be updated for the year 2016 to provide up-to-date information on land use and land use change for the Biennial Update Report (BUR) and technical annex on REDD+.

At the moment the land use data is insufficient to assess forest degradation (reduced emissions from forest degradation). Options to improve assessment of forest degradation will be reviewed. Land use and land cover maps for 2016 and 2018 will be produced under a mapping cycle of 2 to 4 years and this will be done with FCPF additional funding. It is anticipated that all the necessary remote sensing data will be acquired under the additional funding and include building capacity within the key forest sector institutions.

Progress Indicator 12: Prioritization of direct and indirect drivers/barriers to forest carbon stock enhancement

The NRS outlines the approach to addressing the drivers starting with addressing conversion of forests occurring through, (a) large scale commercial agriculture (e.g. Economic Land Concessions), (b) settlements and farm lands, (c) infrastructure development (e.g. Road, Dam Constructions) and (d) mining. The second area to be addressed is forest lands encroachment arising from land speculation/land grabbing while the third area is unsustainable forest harvesting processes especially through illegal logging.

Key indirect drivers and barriers that are subject to prioritization include:

- Limited governance and monitoring capacities in the forest and land use sector
- Lack of coordination between ministries on land use planning
- Low levels of stakeholder participation and involvement in the forest and land use sector
- Lack of long term finance/ human resources to support the effective implementation of forest sector plans
- Insufficient data and evidence to design effective forest crime prevention measures
- Rural poverty due to lack of alternative livelihood

Progress Indicator 13: Links between drivers/barriers and REDD+ activities

The NRS outlines three strategic objectives that will form the basis for addressing the above-mentioned drivers. Strategic Objective 1 focuses inactions to improve effectiveness of monitoring on the utilization of forest resources forest land and management. Strategic Objective 2 focuses on encouraging implementation of sustainable forest management activities while Strategic Objective 3 will focus on promoting stakeholder participation and enhance capacities, knowledge and awareness to implement the national strategy.

The NRS provides a broad framework for the implementation of REDD+ PAMs in Cambodia. However, there is a need for the development of a REDD+ Action Plan and implementation framework mechanisms, such as a financing mechanism, a monitoring and evaluation (M&E) framework, and a legal framework to implement the NRS and to provide a solid foundation for mobilizing resources.

Progress Indicator 14: Action plans to address natural resource rights, land tenure, governance

The forestry sector policy framework is guided by the National Forest Programme (NFP) 2010-2029, the Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries (SPFF) 2010-2019 and the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP) 2016-2029. The NFP consists of six programmes that includes forest demarcation, classification and registration, conservation and development of forest resources and biodiversity, forest law enforcement and governance, community forestry, capacity and research development, and sustainable forest financing. Current national policy commitments under the NFP include increasing the country's forest cover to 60 per cent. One of the principal aims of the NFP is to support the establishment of community forests through the allocation of up to two million hectares of forest land to rural communities. Under the Forest Law, rights of local communities and the importance of decentralized management of natural resources are well recognized.

The RGC has taken several transformative steps and made the sustainable management of natural resources, including its forest resources, its primary policy priority. The Rectangular Strategy Phase III and the National Strategic Development Plan 2014-2018 reinforce, as well as broaden, the management of the country's natural resources to achieve an optimal "balance between development and conservation" (NSDP). That balance aims to enhance the contributions of natural resources to Cambodia's development by ensuring the conservation of the country's forests and wildlife, sustaining its fisheries' resources and maintaining the integrity of its forest ecosystems.

At the international level, the RGC submitted its INDC to the UNFCCC in October 2015. This demonstrated its commitment to conserving national forests by maintaining a total forest cover of 60 per cent by 2030 through the implementation of the NRS. The RGC is developing a comprehensive strategy and a finance plan to achieve the national climate action plan; Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). The RGC also ratified the Paris Agreement on Climate Change in April 2016

Progress Indicator 15: Implications for forest law and policy

The establishment of the NCSD addresses development issues at the highest level of policymaking. It offers a greater opportunity to mainstream sustainable development principles into the national policy framework that will have a positive impact on the governance and management of forest resources. Oversight of the allocation of forest land resources for national development plans has been strengthened through a 2012 moratorium on granting contracts for ELCs and the establishment of an inter-ministerial committee to ensure compliance and improved management of ELCs.

A process to rationalize and harmonize Cambodia's existing architecture of laws and regulations has been initiated and aims to create a new Environmental Code. The Environmental Code is expected to benchmark international best practices and to adapt these to the context of Cambodia. The Environmental Code is expected to enshrine standards for social and environmental safeguards and a grievance redress mechanism that will contribute to Cambodia's REDD+ implementation framework and the country's ability to meet UNFCCC requirements for results based payments.

Sub-component 2b REDD+ Strategy Options

Progress Indicator 16: Selection and prioritization of REDD+ strategy options

The strategic objectives outlined in the NRS outline a suite of actions that are likely to be consolidated as the basis for REDD+ strategy options and also supported by lessons learnt from demonstration activities and voluntary pilot projects that have existed since 2008. The particular modalities for prioritization are still to be developed as part of preparing the REDD+ Action Plan.

Progress Indicator 17: Feasibility Assessment

In order to evaluate options and opportunities for REDD+, development of the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan and implementation of demonstration activities are already underway. This is explained in more detail below.

Develop a National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan

The NPASMP has been designed around four strategic objectives that aim to strengthen conservation, enhance sustainable management, expand community livelihood opportunities and strengthen infrastructure and institutional capacity. The MoE, the country's focal point for the UNFCCC, is responsible for implementing the Climate Change Strategic Plan 2014-2023, promoting green growth, and low emissions development approaches.

Today, the network of protected areas in Cambodia is under heavy pressure and concerns remain about the nation's effectiveness in safeguarding significant conservation values and providing sustainable livelihood opportunities. As is the case for most protected areas in the Asia Region, the main threats relate to habitat degradation and the unsustainable use of natural resources precipitated by high population densities and increasing demands from a globalized market. Conversion of lands within protected areas to agro-industrial plantations contributes to a change in forest cover and fragmentation of natural habitats.

Development activities inside protected areas, such as hydropower, mining and road construction result in direct habitat losses. Indirectly, the improved access provided by new roads can further pressure on protected areas through illegal encroachment and the unsustainable use of wildlife and

forest products. The illegal trade in wildlife has resulted in significant population declines and local loss of species, leaving some protected areas void of the biodiversity they were created to protect.

There is an urgent need to develop a sustainable finance plan using a diversified set of funding sources to address the funding needs of protected areas. Currently, there is no overall mechanism to direct revenues collected from fees, fines or taxes back into the protected area system to cover operational costs, infrastructure investments, or habitat restoration efforts. As part of fiscal reform, consideration will be given to directing these revenues into an operationalized Protected Area Fund that could be used by the MoE and GDANCP to invest in protected areas. Furthermore, the benefits and costs of protected areas must be mainstreamed into national development strategies and budgets.

The purpose of the NPASMP is to prioritize and guide the strategies and actions necessary to safeguard a network of protected areas that contributes to the country's economy and sustainable development. This includes poverty reduction through the conservation and sustainable use of its biological, natural and cultural resources and ecosystem services. The NPASMP will guide the MoE and will assist non-governmental organizations and development partners in developing concrete and appropriate measures and actions to strengthen the effectiveness of protected areas. This will contribute to the National Sustainable Development Plan, the National Strategic Plan on Green Growth, the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan, the National REDD+ Strategy and the National Environmental Strategy and Action Plan.

The principal challenges for forestry sector institutions are capacity constraints for management of forest resources, land use planning, forest resource assessment and forest monitoring. In addition, law enforcement capacity and implementation requires strengthening. Forestry staff also need new skills and methodologies to apply innovative approaches to land and forest resource management, to enhance community based natural resource management, green value chains and to contribute to rural livelihoods. Capacity constraints are especially important at the subnational level to strengthen field operations for forest management and law enforcement. The NFP, NPASMP and SPFF will provide the impetus to address these challenges and will also absorb additional funds to effectively operationalize its programmes and objectives.

The development of the NPASMP is based on a broad and inclusive consultation process to ensure consensus, strategic cohesion and ownership of the plan by relevant stakeholders. Much emphasis is placed on building institutional capacity and knowledge to strengthen conservation management and enforcement, expand community livelihood opportunities and to support sustainable uses of protected area resources. A renewed investment in protected areas is urgently required to realize their potential in contributing to Cambodia's economy, sustainable development, and poverty reduction efforts that target some of the most vulnerable groups. The creation of the NCSD is key, as collaboration at unprecedented levels will be required with other line ministries, with the private sector, with conservation NGOs and with development partners to safeguard a representative and well-connected national network of protected areas that will continue to benefit future generations in Cambodia.

Develop and implement demonstration activities

Cambodia's first REDD+ pilot in the Oddar Meanchey community forest was approved in 2008, and the Seima Protection Forest REDD+ pilot initiated in 2009. These pilot projects are amongst the most advanced in the Greater Mekong Region. These two sites have provided valuable lessons for subnational REDD+ implementation.

Progress Indicator 18: Implications of strategy options on existing sectoral policies

Cambodia is one of the selected pilot countries for preparing an Investment Plan under the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) of the Climate Investment Funds. FIP supports efforts in developing countries by providing financing for REDD+ readiness reforms and for public and private sector

investments identified through national REDD+ strategy building efforts. On the basis of the NRS strategic objectives, this presents a key opportunity for Cambodia to consolidate the NRS and ensuing strategic options as the country transitions to REDD+ implementation.

Noting the institutional reform and jurisdictional changes in forest management, a priority for the RGC will be to ensure the reformed institutions have the technical, managerial and financial capacity to absorb these new responsibilities. Both the FIP and the FCPF Additional Funding applied for are opportunities for reinforcing both the design of the REDD+ institutional framework, the effective implementation of the National Forest Programme, the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan and the Strategic Planning Framework of Fisheries. The RGC could consider initiating the development of the investment plan with FIP for the medium range of US\$ 30-40 million.

A renewed investment in protected areas is urgently required to realize their potential in contributing to Cambodia's economy, sustainable development and poverty reduction efforts that target some of the most vulnerable groups. The creation of the NCSD is key as collaboration at unprecedented levels will be required with other line ministries, with the private sector, and with conservation NGOs and development partners to safeguard a representative and well connected national network of protected areas that will continue to benefit future generations in Cambodia.

Implementation of the NPASMP (2016-2030) is estimated to require additional financing for the first five years of USD 9.4 million over and above the core operational funding currently provided by the MoE. As the primary implementing agency, GDANCP needs to have its own financial accounting and budget to be able to prioritize annual investments in individual protected areas.

The establishment of a NFMS and the FRL will lead to the strengthening of capacity for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities and provide critical data and information relevant for the forestry sector and should be viewed as a priority. The development of the NFMS needs to be placed in the context of a multi-purpose MRV system. At present, the design of a national MRV system is still evolving. It is worth noting that the level of investment in the NFMS and the development of FREL require a robust platform and capacity for data management and clear custodianship.

As priorities and opportunities in terms of REDD+ implementation, many participants suggested that forestry sector agencies should focus on strengthening the management of protection forest and fishery conservation areas, scaling up community-based REDD+ pilots, promoting alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on forests and integrate landscape management into critical biodiversity regions.

Developing capacity for valuation of costs and benefits

It is necessary for the RGC to fully understand the cost implications of REDD+. There is still work required on this aspect. The work undertaken on developing broad capacity for valuation of REDD+ costs and benefit is limited. In collaboration with and support from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)-World Conservation Monitoring Centre, some progress was made through the UN-REDD Programme to design a cost-benefit spatial decision-making tool. A five-day training programme on the development of the spatial Geographic Information System (GIS) tool was conducted. This capacity building process will make an important contribution to the development of the GIS tool that will result in enhancing the understanding of costs and benefits of REDD+ options.

Generating options for REDD+ fund mechanisms

Progress at the UNFCCC COP 19 in Warsaw (2013) included a focus on REDD+ financing. Decisions at COP 19 emphasized that finance for REDD+ should be results-based and should come from entities including the Green Climate Fund, which is to play a key role. COP 19 also reinforced that REDD+ funding should come from a diversity of sources, that results-based actions should be fully measured, reported and verified to qualify for results-based financing and that developing countries will have to provide information on how they meet safeguards before they can receive the payments

During the development of the NRS, a series of reviews assessed existing fund mechanisms under Cambodian law. The 2014 review assessed existing fund mechanisms and opportunities to identify possible avenues for establishing a National REDD+ Fund in Cambodia. The review incorporates both a national level legal analysis and a review of the international context, as well as international experiences related to national REDD+ fund mechanisms. Based upon this review and assessment, the report provides recommendations for a possible avenue of approach for a REDD+ fund in Cambodia that takes into account the range of domestic options and international lessons.

The NRS already articulates the options presented by the review process and highlights a number of key institutional and policy setting considerations in making decisions about REDD+ funds. First, is the need for a national level entity to take responsibility for REDD+ finance, second is that REDD+ finance is to be based on verifiable results based payments, third is the implementation of safeguards, and fourth is the importance of meeting robust fiduciary standards.

The RGC is cognizant of the need to align a REDD+ fund mechanism with international arrangements which for instance, necessitates closely following the progress of the development of the Green Climate Fund's modalities, in particular those relating to the Fund's access, which is likely to be centered on meeting environmental and social safeguards and robust fiduciary standards. The review of the fund mechanism further highlights that, for the domestic institutional setting, it is important to emphasize that the participation and access of all line agencies in MAFF and the MoE to a National REDD+ Fund is assured on an equal basis. However, this view was formulated prior to the current jurisdictional changes and the formation of the NCSD.

In the short-term, for a viable fund mechanism, some key questions need to be addressed. It is anticipated that the RGC will clarify the transition to the new jurisdictional boundaries of the MoE and MAFF and review, and revise if needed, natural resources management related policies to address these changes along with assessing the capacity needs for managing new mandates and responsibilities.

Three funds that have been studied in depth during the implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia. The Commune/Sangkat Fund (CS Fund), the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) and the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (CCCA) Trust Fund. The CS Fund was established under the *Law on the Administration and Management of Communes/Sangkat 2001* (the Commune/Sangkat Law) and operates to transfer national and other revenues to the Commune/Sangkat budgets. The NSSF was established to support and manage a pension benefits scheme and an occupational risk scheme and is founded on the *Law on Social Security Scheme for Persons Defined by the Provisions of the Labor Law*. The CCCA Trust Fund, not established by law, is a project-based fund developed in 2010 as a funding mechanism to support strengthening of government technical and institutional capacity regarding climate change through a unified donor engagement mechanism. CCCA Trust funds activities and operates from within the MoE with a focus on securing external funding for priority interventions from development partners in the form of pooled and non-targeted resources and in ensuring a coordinated approach to climate change funding.

The general observation is that all three mechanisms provide useful insights regarding revenue sources, and in particular the pooling of domestic and international funds. Both government-administered funds identify domestic and international funds to provide revenue and, in the case of the CS Fund, this approach is understood to have been relatively successful. This is perhaps based on the fact that the fund was established through a World Bank project and has been able to build international donor confidence in its effective use of funds and its compliance with international management standards. It is also a strong precedent for the mandatory inclusion within domestic law to provide a consistent stream of revenue into a national level fund through its use of percentage-based transfers from the state budget.

Sub-component 2c Implementation framework

Progress Indicator 19: Adoption and implementation of legislation/regulations

As indicated, a process to rationalize and harmonize Cambodia's existing architecture of laws and regulations has been initiated and aims to create a new Environmental Code. The Environmental Code is expected to benchmark international best practices and to adapt these to the context of Cambodia. The Environmental Code is expected to enshrine standards for social and environmental safeguards and a grievance redress mechanism that will contribute to Cambodia's REDD+ implementation framework and the country's ability to meet UNFCCC requirements for results based payments.

However, the implementation of pilot projects and demonstration activities will generate highly useful collateral knowledge and lessons that will contribute better implementation of legislative instruments and regulations with respect to REDD+. The next section outlines progress with demonstration and pilot activities.

Improving subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation

Improving subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation has taken a multi-pronged approach and includes awareness raising and knowledge generation through direct and indirect engagement with stakeholders. Following on from notable successes of Cambodia's pilot voluntary carbon market projects in Oddar Meanchey and Seima in Mondulkiri provinces, under the FCPF grant at least five additional subnational demonstration sites will be initiated. These additional sites will differ in that, in contrast to the carbon credit model utilized in Oddar Meanchey and Seima, the additional sites will be established with the explicit intention of building capacity, raising awareness and to evaluate and inform the desired subnational REDD+ framework against the realities faced at the subnational level.

As Cambodia embarks on implementing REDD+ actions, a local level constituency that is conversant and aware of their role in climate change response becomes critical. Therefore, the appropriate overarching goal of the REDD+ subnational demonstration is to integrate lessons from activities, to mainstream REDD+ governance at the subnational level and to draw lessons from the field-pilot implementation of policies and measures to address drivers of deforestation and forest degradation to better design approaches at the national level.

This is a component that needs further strengthening and consolidation, especially noting that the combined or aggregated objectives of the demonstrations under the FCPF grant are to:

- a. Identify the main drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in forests and mangrove forests. Demonstrate an inter-institutional landscape approach to addressing drivers.
- b. Enhance the capacity of Commune Councils to undertake land use planning, consensus building, design management options and implementation modalities
- c. Integrate climate change risks and measures into commune land use planning
- d. Generate lessons for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy.

These objectives are relevant, but more importantly, efforts need to be effective and sustained in preparation for the results based payment regime. It is also appropriate that demonstration work is spread across the three line agencies FA, FiA and MoE noting that the agents and drivers of deforestation and forest degradation tend to vary across different sectors. In addition, the testing of policy options, financing, MRV and alternative livelihoods will also provide useful reference knowledge for upscaling.

Pilot Testing Co Management of Forest Resources

In Samroang Commune, work has been undertaken in promoting and testing Commune Land Use Planning (CLUP) with the integration of Partnership Forestry (PF) and CF as a means to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to also to improve rural livelihoods. Partnership Forestry is decentralized forest management between the commune council and the Forestry Administration where the FA extends rights to communes to manage the forest resources under specific conditions.

A study on drivers of deforestation identified unsustainable forest land management, unclear forest boundaries, and encroachment as key issues. The PF area has been demarcated with community discussions and with strategic markers. In addition, consultations and workshops have been organized to create awareness about REDD+ concepts and climate change in collaboration with the commune council. Discussions with the district governor's office has led to the integration of the community investment plan of the CLUP into the district investment plan as this would provide a sustainable source of finance for managing commune natural resources.

Demonstration work in Samroang aims to build on and integrate lessons from CLUP, CF and PF activities and to mainstream REDD+ governance at the subnational level while contributing early integration REDD+ experiences into the National REDD+ Strategy. The proposed demonstration activities will build on the initiatives of CLUP, CF and PF and identify potential areas for REDD+ integration through generating improved understanding of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. This includes testing a set of policies and measures to address the identified drivers including demarcating clear boundaries for land uses and titles.

Addressing rapid decline and deforestation of mangroves and flooded forests

In collaboration with the FiA, two sites have been selected to develop approaches to address the rapid decline of mangroves and flooded forests. One site is a Fisheries Conservation Area that is managed in partnership with a community group in Kampong Chhnang Province, and the second, Preynup Mangrove Forest, is located in the coastal province of Preah Sihanouk. In Cambodia, flooded forests are located in 12 provinces, covering 766,440 hectares while mangrove forests are located in four provinces, covering 78,405 hectares. These forests host a diverse array of aquatic species. Fish are not only a vital food source but also an important source of income for communities. Flooded and mangrove forests are also known for their high rates of carbon sequestration and therefore play an important role in climate change mitigation.

The conservation area is a flooded forest, inundated by water through most of the year, and covers an area of approximately 3,433 ha. The site is located on the eastern part of the Tonle Sap Lake and is protected from severe deforestation due to its inaccessibility; being mainly accessible by boat. The flooded forest serves as a habitat and spawning ground for fish and other aquatic organisms and also serves as an important nesting site for birds. Most of the communities living within the conservation area the majority depend on fishing, hunting and trading, and occasionally livestock raising.

A 2015 drivers of deforestation study identified the impact of unauthorized settlements, land encroachment and unsustainable development as key drivers. The activities proposed included clear demarcation and mapping of the area, strengthened patrolling and community-based forest management, enhancing economic benefits from sustainable management of mangroves and flooded forests, and the restoration of degraded areas.

Preynup mangrove lies in the coastal province of Preah Sihanouk and covers an area of approximately 5,000 ha. Its low lying southern region often floods during seasonal rises in sea levels, placing it at greater risk from climate change related sea level rises. The mangroves play an important role in buffering the impacts of these sea level rises while providing protection against erosion. Livelihoods of the local community are mostly dependent on fish, molluscs and crustaceans.

Several awareness forums have been organized that focus on eliciting community inputs to the sustainable management of ocean resources and in developing appropriate responses. A mangrove boundary zone map was agreed during these consultations and improved signage for demarcation are being installed. To strengthen law enforcement patrol teams have been formed and a Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) training was organized resulting in the prevention of several attempts at encroachment. MAFF has initiated efforts at a policy level to address unsustainable practices by institutions that have been allotted tenures to land in mangrove and flooded forest areas.

Promoting sustainable management of conservation areas

Two sites with the GDANCP and MoE aim to promote a diversity of approaches that will contribute to the sustainable management of conservation areas. A driver of deforestation study was conducted in the two sites of Bothom Sakor National Park in Koh Kong and Phnum Kulen National Park in Siem Reap. The study analyzed the tenure situation in the core, conservation, sustainable use and community development zones and identified key stakeholders and utilization of conservation areas. The drivers identified were unauthorized logging, encroachment and the unsustainable utilization of non-timber forest products.

Bothom Sakor National Park in Koh Kong Province covers an area of approximately 23,308 hectares and its forests and mountainous areas provide protection to coastal areas by reducing surface runoff. The national park is home to diverse flora and fauna, including 15-20 elephants and the last remaining elephant trail to the Central Cardamom range. Poverty is prevalent in this area. Despite the proximity of an industrial zone, limited skills see most people in the area dependent on farming. Newly resettled communities are fisherpersons who were relocated as their lands were acquired for the development of a coastal tourism project.

Situated on a plateau covering approximately 37,373 hectares, Phnum Kulen National Park is located in Siem Reap province. It is an important habitat for native flora and fauna and a source of water for rice production. The park is important economically as a tourist destination with visitors coming for both its natural beauty and its importance as an Angkorian archaeological site. There is an existing CPA and a privately owned tourist concession. This interplay of actors with limited cooperation remains a challenge both for managing and conserving the biodiversity of the park and in efforts to enforce stricter controls on drivers of deforestation.

The drivers of deforestation study recommended four priority interventions that include land use planning, strengthening community-based forest management, enhancing economic benefits from sustainable management of the protection forests and the restoration of degraded areas.

Consultations and workshops have been arranged with local communities, protected area park staff and commune and district representatives. A common vision and approach has been developed to address drivers and initial plans have been drawn up to prioritize improved law enforcement, reforestation and rehabilitation of degraded areas and developing and testing livelihood options.

Progress Indicator 20: Guidelines for implementation

No specific implementation guidelines have been prepared yet but this work is expected to be implemented in line with the development of the REDD+ Action Plans.

Progress Indicator 21: Benefit sharing mechanism

REDD+ countries can receive payments based on demonstrated reduced emissions against a reference emissions level. Such payments may be deposited into a national REDD+ fund, at which point decisions would be made on the allocation of incentives. Thus, benefit sharing is a downstream component that must note the fact that the strategic options established at the beginning must reflect the roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders.

For Cambodia, the current focus is to address the upfront costs of readiness and to establish a financing framework for REDD+ actions during implementation. The three main basic modalities for finance that the NRS highlights include:

- Investment finance: Finance delivered upfront to support the implementation of policies and measures that have been agreed upon in advance by the donor and recipient.
- Performance-based payments for actions: Finance is delivered in return for demonstrating successful implementation of “REDD+ actions” that are seen as necessary to the success of REDD+, such as demonstrated improvements in forest governance or establishing a national reference emission level.
- Performance-based payments for carbon: Finance is delivered upon demonstration of verified emissions reductions generated by REDD+ activities.

The issue of benefit sharing captures considerable attention among both policymakers and local communities. The success of REDD+ in achieving effectiveness, efficiency and equity will depend greatly on the design and implementation of its benefit sharing mechanisms that will operate across multiple levels of governance. In Cambodia, a preliminary review was carried out through the UN-REDD Programme on possible approaches and systems for the allocation of incentives and benefit sharing for REDD+. In some cases, premature dialogue about REDD+ financial benefits can create expectations beyond the reality of what can be achieved. In Cambodia, there is need to manage such expectations through the stakeholder engagement process.

Progress Indicator 22: National REDD+ registry and system monitoring REDD+ activities

No national REDD+ registry and system for monitoring REDD+ activities is in place yet but it should be noted that discussions are underway within government institutions on formulating the a consolidated national MRV system under Component 4.

Sub-component 2d Social and environmental impact

Progress Indicator 23: Analysis of social and environmental safeguards issues

Several reviews of policies and legal frameworks have been completed, gaps identified and draft principles, criteria and indicators developed. A proposal for a national approach to REDD+ SIS has been developed. The plan is to finalize institutional arrangements for social and environmental safeguards and undertake research to develop the SIS.

Safeguards frameworks relevant to REDD+ under the UNFCCC that are available at the global level include:

1. UN-REDD: Social and Environmental Principles and Criteria (SEPC) developed as a guiding framework building on the Cancun safeguards.
2. World Bank FCPF: Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) developed with the objective of meeting the World Bank Operational Policies and Procedures.

These two systems address the seven Cancun safeguards, although there are differences in the types of criteria that each safeguard framework recommends for inclusion in a national safeguards system.

As articulated in the NRS, the RGC understands that eligibility for RBP requires the development of a national approach to safeguards to promote and support the seven Cancun safeguards and to establish an SIS to provide a summary of information on how the safeguards have been addressed and respected throughout the implementation. A preliminary gap analysis of policies, laws, and regulations (PLRs) was carried out through UN-REDD. It concluded that the RGC already has a number

of PLRs that can address some safeguards principles and criteria. It also identified the need to consider environmental safeguards to address the risk of reversals and displacement.

Thus in the NRS, the RGC has proposed an initial set of indicators and data sources to monitor and report on how safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout implementation. Further work is required to assess the types of information to be collected and analyzed for each indicator. The approach taken in this analysis is to fully incorporate stakeholder perspectives. Accordingly, the RGC conducted a series of subnational and national consultation meetings with a total of 317 stakeholders from government agencies and institutions, CSOs, local communities, Indigenous Peoples and women. These extensive consultations resulted in a final proposal of a set of 7 principles and 14 criteria for Cambodia, which build primarily on the Cancun safeguards. The stakeholder consultations have resulted in the inclusion of the terms, “women” and “for planted forests”; addressing Cancun Safeguards (e) and (f) respectively.

All key national level policies, laws and regulations that are related to forest governance were reviewed, including those developed by the Forestry Administration, the MoE, the FiA, and the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction. Other PLRs reviewed were (1).Major international conventions/agreements (2).National policies (3).The national Constitution (4).Laws (5). Royal decrees (6).Sub-decrees (7).Decisions (8).Circulars and (9).Proclamations. The results of the review indicate that many of the proposed safeguards principles and criteria are addressed by existing PLRs in Cambodia except for the following:

- Ensure REDD+ will not be used for conversion of natural forests to planted forest
- Address the risk of reversals
- Address the risk of displacement

Cambodia has two voluntary carbon market projects since 2008 and the ongoing demonstration work described in section 4.3.2 provide a wealth of information and lessons to support the formulation of country-led social and environmental safeguards framework and a Safeguards Information System.

Progress Indicator 24: REDD+ strategy design with respect to impacts

As highlighted under Progress Indicator 23, the RGC is fully cognizant of the need to ensure REDD+ impacts both negative and positive are understood at all levels and by all relevant stakeholders. This is to be achieved through developing a national approach for safeguards which might require revision of proposed principles and close links to PAMs and consistency with national legislation.

Progress Indicator 25: Environmental and Social Management framework

A study in 2014 analyzing gaps in existing policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) in Cambodia and a proposed set of safeguards principles and criteria for Cambodia indicates that, the RGC already has a set of PLRs that can “address” safeguards principles and criteria. But as already indicated in earlier sections, RGC may need to consider PLRs for the following:

- Ensure REDD+ will not be used for conversion of natural forests into planted forest
- Address risk of reversals
- Address risk of displacement.

In terms of the way forward, the RGC is already in the process of engaging consultants to review key policies, laws, regulations, manuals, codes, and produce a draft ESMF for national consultation and to ensure achievement of “substantial equivalence” to the “material elements” of the World Bank’s social and environmental safeguard policies. The key point to note is that at this stage, the national REDD+ framework has, in greater part, been a policy programme with limited substantive operational activities on the ground and adequate measures have been taken to ensure the critical criterion for compliance with the Common Approach have been taken. This MTR acknowledges that the RGC needs

to address the gaps already identified and the current work planned will build on the first analysis of policies, laws and regulations as well as the developed criteria indicators highlighted in the NRS. The planned work also intends to further assess compliance with the Common Approach

The ESMF work is expected to commence in the last quarter of 2016 and will draw from the NRS and incorporate safeguards related to forests, natural habitats, biodiversity, high conservation value forests, pest management, and small civil works. This will also include safeguards and risk mitigation related to indigenous peoples, access restriction, livelihoods impacts, resettlement framework, physical and cultural resources supported by a comprehensive grievance mechanism and a monitoring and evaluation system.

There is reasonable assurance and confidence that the ESMF process and actions to ensure compliance with the Common Approach will ensure stakeholder engagement and disclosure to information. This assurance is based on the evident participation of the CG and IP.

COMPONENT 3: REFERENCE EMISSIONS LEVEL/REFERENCE LEVEL

Sub-component 3a Improved subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation

Progress Indicator 26. Demonstration of methodology

Forest Reference Level

The Forest Reference Level FRL has been prepared and endorsed by both the MoE and MAFF and is awaiting official endorsement by the RGC before submission to the UNFCCC for technical assessment in 2017. The submission of the FRL is exclusively for the purpose of obtaining and receiving payments for results from Cambodia's REDD+ programme implementation.

The initial FRL focuses on REDD+ deforestation activities. Deforestation is assumed to be one of the main drivers of GHG emissions in the country. Cambodia is striving to improve its assessments and capacities in a gradual process consistent with UNFCCC decisions and the time required to establish national capacities and systems. Currently, the FRL submission has been prepared and endorsed by both MoE and MAFF and is waiting for official endorsement from the RGC before submission to the UNFCCC for technical assessment in 2017.

The general approach in developing the FRL is well outlined but will be formally evaluated once submitted to the UNFCCC as planned, in 2017 and includes national circumstances. Inter-linked to Component 4, the FRL will be improved and refined as more accurate activity data is collected.

The scope of the initial FRL covers deforestation, degradation and enhancements and removal of CO² through afforestation with two carbon pools (above-ground and below-ground biomass). However, the information on the carbon is expected to be further elaborated once data from the National Forest Inventory is complete and available.

Improving assessment of data related to activities, emission factors and GHG

Country specific emission factors for deciduous, semi-evergreen and evergreen forest were developed. Field data obtained from various institutions during the NFI design was used to establish local emission factors. Locally developed allometric models were compared to pan-tropical models, and a combination of both was applied to the tree, plot and forest data which were collected and harmonized. A new tree height-diameter model was developed, based on the tree measurements available. Carbon stocks were estimated for a wide range of forest conditions in Cambodia; in Mondulakiri, Ratanakiri, Preah Vihear and Koh Kong, which are among the most important forest and biodiversity hotspots of the country. Three forest types were included: evergreen broadleaved, semi-evergreen and deciduous forests and data was collected from the three FAO ecological zones present in the country: tropical dry forests, tropical moist deciduous forests and tropical rainforests. The

results of this initiative constitute a sound basis to better understand carbon stock distribution in the country and form a reference point to refine the NFI design. It is anticipated that field data collection under additional funding will contribute to more robust and representative data to improve the emission factors for Cambodian forest types.

Progress Indicator 27. Use of historical data, and adjusted for national circumstances

The FRL is based on historical average of net emissions from deforestation for the period 2006 to 2014 taking into account national circumstances and data availability. The methodological approach draws takes into consideration UNFCCC and IPCC guidance for instance taking into consideration Decision 1/CP.16 Appendix 1E (safeguard natural forest).

Progress Indicator 28. Technical feasibility of the methodological approach, and consistency with UNFCCC/IPPC guidance and guideline

The process and methodological approach used to prepare the FRL are based UNFCCC and IPCC guidelines taking into national circumstances into consideration.

COMPONENT 4: MONITORING SYSTEM FOR FOREST AND SAFEGUARDS

National Forest Monitoring System

Cambodia has decided to develop a NFMS that meets the requirements of implementing REDD+ activities in Cambodia and the MRV guidelines of the UNFCCC. The first version of the NFMS was developed and presented at the UNFCCC COP21 in Paris in December 2015. Updated versions are planned as the NFMS methods and approaches are further refined. There are a number of components that are still to be discussed regarding linkages to a broader national MRV system, further refinement of the monitoring functions of the NFMS will need to be evaluated and added, and the linkages between the NFMS and the SIS should be further explored. Royal Government of Cambodia the NFMS will be established using a phased approach with increasing technical development accompanied by the strengthening of the capacity of the stakeholders who will be responsible for operating the system.

Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System

A NFMS database has been developed and initial data sharing procedures between institutions established. The MRV/REL technical team members are able to perform basic GHG emissions calculations. Further capacity building will enable Cambodia to report its GHG emissions from land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector and provide a technical annex to the BUR to be submitted to the UNFCCC as part of the process to request results based payments for results based actions. It is expected that the first BUR will be submitted in 2018

Cambodia's NFMS is expected to provide information relevant to MRV REDD+ activities and to support broader forest sector policies and programmes, including the NFP, NPASMP and SPFF. Cambodia has monitored the extent and distribution of forest areas by developing maps based on satellite images. Several types of forest inventory surveys have also been conducted. Cambodia's NFMS consists of two functions – MRV and Monitoring. The MRV function is for reporting GHG inventories and may be divided into three elements, Measurement, Reporting and Verification. The measurement part consists of GHG Inventories, the Satellite Land Monitoring System (SLMS) and the National Forest Inventory (NFI).

National Forest Inventory

Through its Technical Cooperation Programme and the UN-REDD Programme, the FAO supported the design of the first multipurpose NFI for Cambodia. Technical support was provided to develop the methodology for the NFI, prepare training materials and a NFI field manual and to provide training to

a core group of staff from the MAFF and the MoE as the initial steps towards the systematic sampling of sites across Cambodia. Existing data and the existing forest inventory methods used by the MAFF, MoE, NGOs and other stakeholders were compared with best practices from other countries and used to develop a Cambodia specific NFI design. The field manual and datasheets produced were field tested in a range of forest conditions.

Progress Indicator 29. Documentation of monitoring approach

During the design of the National MRV System there will be analytical justification of the selection of the methodology and its improvement over time, through the combination of systems of tele-observation and inventories, resolution, coverage, and fine-tuning of the systems, among others. Insofar as possible, potential sources of uncertainty will be identified.

Progress Indicator 30. Demonstration of early system implementation

The integration of REDD+ activities is imminent with the implementation of pilot projects and demonstration sites needing national level guidance in monitoring and reporting. The current institutional discussions suggest that a system to be developed is expected to monitor the activities that are in line with the National REDD+ Strategy, to identify leakage and assess spatio-temporal changes in land use and land cover as well as forest carbon stock and GHG emissions, based on estimates of the national baseline set in the FRL.

Progress Indicator 31. Institutional arrangements and capacities

As highlighted, the institutional arrangements have evolved as part of the RGC's acceleration of the sustainable management and conservation of its forest and biodiversity resources. The significant jurisdictional changes over forest lands and agencies in March 2016 consolidated conservation areas under the MoE and the unified management of ELCs under MAFF. Rapid implementation of this policy measure by April 2016 led to the transfer of 1.6 million ha of protection forests from the Forestry Administration to the MoE and the transfer of approximately 450,000 ha of ELCs from the MoE to MAFF. The departmental level functions are being prepared to align with these jurisdictional changes including identifying capacity needs, mobilization of financial resources and strengthening implementation.

Sub-component 4b Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards

Progress Indicator 32. Identification of relevant non-carbon aspects, and social and environmental issues

The implementation of demonstration activities and drawing of lessons from existing pilot projects is expected to support the articulation of relevant non-carbon benefits and social and environmental issues. These elements are expected to be included in the national MRV system. During this MTR, stakeholders expressed the urgent need for established appropriate national mechanism of ensuring appropriate consultation with IP on social and environmental impacts of REDD+. Part of the work by the RGC under the FCPF Grant is to strengthen capacity for planning and monitoring impacts of REDD+

Strengthen capacity for planning and monitoring impacts of REDD+

Principal challenges for forestry sector institutions are capacity constraints for the management of forest resources, forest resource assessment and forest monitoring. Forestry staff need new skills and methodologies to apply innovative approaches to land and forest resource management and monitoring. Under component four, much emphasis is placed on building institutional capacity. The capacity in this instance relates to both infrastructure, technical and human capacity for regular and consistent spatial data collection, analysis and reporting. Under results based payments, the demand

for transparency, consistency and repeatable data collection increases and at the moment there is a level of incoherence that will need to be addressed. JICA support is committed through to 2017 to see the completion of the 2016 land use map. FAO technical assistance will continue through to 2020.

Progress Indicator 33. Monitoring, reporting and information sharing

Access to information on land use, land cover and forest inventory is evolving with the gradual release of data. Currently this data is presented for higher level and obligatory reporting to the NRS for the purpose of FRL. Considerations will need to be made in future as to how the spatial data generated, specifically for Outcome 4, will be made available for public and private use.

As the RGC is working through completion of the land use and land cover mapping quality control, it is anticipated that a transparent information sharing system will be established as required by the FCPF. The development of the national multi-sector MRV system is yet to take shape although some of the components such as the NFMS are already in place. It is also anticipated that the MRV system design concept will provide timely, transparent and up-to-date information to all relevant stakeholders, including an integration with the Safeguards Information System and other monitoring components.

Progress Indicator 34. Institutional arrangements and capacities

Cambodia's forest resources have undergone significant change, in earlier years as the result of civil war and social dislocations and, more recently as a result of the evolving role of forest resources with respect to the country's development priorities, prevailing levels of poverty and a dependence on forest resources. Estimates for 2014 indicate that Cambodia's forest cover is at 49.48 percent with a high deforestation rate that requires urgent intervention measures to curb. The RGC recognizes that on the basis of its national circumstances, ongoing development priorities and commitments to agro-business, mining and other concessions and requirements, that forest resources will continue to decline in the short term. This trend can be reversed with the implementation of the approaches developed under the NRS that lead to a reduction in the impacts of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

Important progress was made in establishing a NFMS and FRL through support from UN-REDD and JICA. A national forest definition and land use classification was established along with activity data. The NFI was designed and a field manual also developed. Historical forest inventory data was collected and analyzed to develop country emission factors for preparation of the initial FRL submission. A database and monitoring platform were developed and datasets have been collected and reviewed to facilitate land use interpretation, a national GHG inventory, a review of national circumstances to review the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMMON APPROACH

The assessment of Compliance with the Common approach by Cambodia's REDD+ Process encompasses the following elements: a) Multi-delivery partner and adherence to environment and social safeguards; b) Stakeholder engagement; c) Disclosure of information; d) Grievance and accountability. There is a high level of coordination and harmonization as described throughout this report, especially when the preparation of the NRS involved a large number of stakeholders. The FCPF grant transitioned well to continue implementation of planned outcomes.

As of necessity, the assessment of the compliance with the Common approach takes note of the fact that the UNDP and FAO as two of the agencies constituting UN-REDD—have been approved by the Participants Committee to become DPs and they have their own sustainability policies. On the basis of being required to achieve “substantial equivalence” to the “material elements” of the World Bank's existing social and environmental safeguards policies, there is general compliance in addition to the significant work planned under the Cambodia REDD+.

It is noted that the Common Approach centers on the use of a **strategic environmental and social assessment (.)**, particularly in relation to the upstream development of a country's REDD+ strategy. A study in 2014 analyzing gaps in existing policies, laws and regulations (PLRs) in Cambodia and a proposed set of safeguards principles and criteria for Cambodia indicates that, the RGC already has a set of PLRs that can "address" safeguards principles and criteria. But as already indicated in earlier sections, RGC may need to consider PLRs for the following:

- Ensure REDD+ will not be used for conversion of natural forests into planted forest
- Address risk of reversals
- Address risk of displacement.

In terms of the way forward, the RGC is already in the process of engaging consultants to review key policies, laws, regulations, manuals, codes, and produce a draft ESMF for national consultation and to ensure achievement of "substantial equivalence" to the "material elements" of the World Bank's social and environmental safeguard policies. The key point to note is that at this stage, the national REDD+ framework has, in greater part, been a policy programme with limited substantive operational activities on the ground and adequate measures have been taken to ensure the critical criterion for compliance with the Common Approach have been taken. This MTR acknowledges that the RGC needs to address the gaps already identified and the current work planned will build on the first analysis of policies, laws and regulations as well as the developed criteria indicators highlighted in the NRS. The planned work also intends to further assess compliance with the Common Approach.

The ESMF work is expected to commence in the last quarter of 2016 and will draw from the NRS and incorporate safeguards related to forests, natural habitats, biodiversity, high conservation value forests, pest management, and small civil works. This will also include safeguards and risk mitigation related to indigenous peoples, access restriction, livelihoods impacts, resettlement framework, physical and cultural resources supported by a comprehensive grievance mechanism and a monitoring and evaluation system.

There is reasonable assurance and confidence that the ESMF process and actions to ensure compliance with the Common Approach will ensure stakeholder engagement and disclosure to information. This assurance is based on the evident participation of the CG and IP.

5.1 Multi-delivery partner and adherence to environmental and social safeguards

In compliance with the Common Approach, the UNDP, as the delivery partner, has been applying its Social and Environmental Standards (SES) to the project. The SES provides detailed guidance on social and environmental assessment and the management of projects. The assessment of specific types and impacts of the project will be derived from the NRS once it has been finalized and endorsed.

The next step with regards to safeguards includes the review of existing guidelines, tools and manuals related to sustainable forest management and social impact guidelines. As Cambodia plans to pursue a national approach and as specific project components, exact locations, and social and institutional attributes remain unknown, the plan is to develop an ESMF as highlighted above. The ESMF will take guidance from the outline of the ESMF that is part of the UNDP SES.

The FCPF project is also engaged with discussions related to the ongoing development of the Environmental Code in Cambodia. The approach is to advocate and influence the drafting process and to promote stronger inclusion of social and environmental standards in the document. As an outcome of these discussions, references will be strengthened and a national grievance mechanism outline will be included. These standards will be benchmarked to global standards within the Cambodian context and enable Cambodia to meet safeguards obligations of diverse development partners and reduce transaction costs. These measures will contribute not just to REDD+ requirements, as per the Cancun safeguards, but would also make a significant contribution to the development of a national framework for safeguards and effective remedial measures.

5.2 Stakeholder engagement

As outlined in Section 1.4, there has been a relatively comprehensive stakeholder engagement process which began with the Cambodia REDD+ Roadmap development. The REDD+ process has allowed full civil society organizations and Indigenous Peoples participation. Stakeholder engagement has been particularly enhanced with the formation and support of the REDD+ Consultation Group in 2013. The group continues to be well engaged with 18 members representing nine CSOs and community groups, international non-governmental organizations, national non-governmental organizations, Community Forestry groups, Community Protected Area groups, Community Fishery groups, Indigenous Peoples groups, the private sector, and academic institutions. The CG plays a pivotal role through its participation on the Project Executive Board, NRTF, and by providing inputs to annual work plans and budgets. Representatives are also able to participate in subnational, national and international capacity building events and policy forums. In 2016 the CG developed its annual work plan for the year and the NRTF will support the implementation of this plan to further strengthen stakeholder engagement. The stakeholder engagement process in Cambodia appears strong, ensuring that high standards of stakeholder engagement are maintained in the Cambodia National REDD+ programme implementation. Throughout the development process of the NRS and NPASMP, the CG, IPs and Gender Group have actively participated and facilitated consultation meetings.

5.3 Information disclosure

The RGC is becoming aware of the need to make information related to REDD+ readily and easily accessible in a transparent manner. The NRS has indicated this aspect clearly; however, this will also need to cascade into individual components such as the national MRV system and fund management across relevant institutions. At present, data sharing processes and the assignment of legal custodianship between institutions and accessibility by the public is yet to be established.

5.4 Grievance and accountability

The RGC plans to build a grievance mechanism based on its existing national and subnational institutions and mechanisms. In case of a grievance, appropriate action will be undertaken. The grievance redress mechanism will be compatible with the requirements of the FCPF Common Approach to Environmental and Social Safeguards. These will be independent, transparent, effective and accessible to multiple stakeholders.

As outlined in Section 2.6, the two studies carried in 2013 and 2015 provide a substantial basis for designing a REDD+ Grievance redress system. The studies provide important lessons and recommendations to address the entire spectrum from re-active to pro-active grievance redress mechanism suggesting that a GRM is designed in a complimentary pyramid structure where the different conflict management procedures (prevention, conciliation, arbitration, adjudication) are equally considered as and when relevant. From these two studies, there is much better and broader understanding of the key issues of GRM legitimacy, accessibility, equitability, transparency and rights compatibility for the RGC to establish a robust framework going forward and as part of the priority areas. In particular, the classification of the main drivers for forest related conflicts in Cambodia provide a sound basis for identifying priority entry points for establishing a GRM.

OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIORITIES

Cambodia is one of the selected pilot countries for preparing an Investment Plan under the Forest Investment Programme (FIP) of the Climate Investment Fund. FIP supports efforts in developing countries by providing financing for REDD+ readiness reforms and for public and private sector investments identified through national REDD+ strategy building efforts. This presents a key opportunity for Cambodia to consolidate the NRS and ensuing strategic options as the country transitions to REDD+ implementation.

Noting the institutional reform and jurisdictional changes in forest management, a priority for the RGC will be to ensure the reformed institutions have the technical, managerial and financial capacity to absorb these new responsibilities. Both the FIP and the FCPF Additional Funding applied for are opportunities for reinforcing both the design of the REDD+ institutional framework, the effective implementation of the National Forest Programme, the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan and the Strategic Planning Framework of Fisheries. The RGC could consider initiating the development of the investment plan with FIP for the medium range of US\$ 30-40 million.

A renewed investment in protected areas is urgently required to realize their potential in contributing to Cambodia's economy, sustainable development and poverty reduction efforts that target some of the most vulnerable groups. The creation of the NCSD is key as collaboration at unprecedented levels will be required with other line ministries, with the private sector, and with conservation NGOs and development partners to safeguard a representative and well connected national network of protected areas that will continue to benefit future generations in Cambodia.

Implementation of the NPASMP (2016-2030) is estimated to require additional financing for the first five years of USD 9.4 million over and above the core operational funding currently provided by the MoE. As the primary implementing agency, GDANCP needs to have its own financial accounting and budget to be able to prioritize annual investments in individual protected areas.

The establishment of a NFMS and the FRL will lead to the strengthening of capacity for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities and provide critical data and information relevant for the forestry sector and should be viewed as a priority. The development of the NFMS needs to be placed in the context of a multi-purpose MRV system. At present, the design of a national MRV system is still evolving. It is worth noting that the level of investment in the NFMS and the development of FREL require a robust platform and capacity for data management and clear custodianship.

As priorities and opportunities in terms of REDD+ implementation, many participants suggested that forestry sector agencies should focus on strengthening the management of protection forest and fishery conservation areas, scaling up community-based REDD+ pilots, promoting alternative livelihood options to reduce pressure on forests and integrate landscape management into critical biodiversity regions.

LESSONS

The REDD+ Taskforce, key government institutions and the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat continue to provide strong leadership to Cambodia REDD+ readiness. As a result, several key policies and strategic milestones have been completed including, the National REDD+ Strategy, FRL and the NFMS. With the expected finalization of these elements, Cambodia is well positioned to meet key requirements for future results based payments. The NRS, FREL and NFMS have also been presented at the UNFCCC COP21. In addition, the final draft of the NPASMP has also been developed and is being reviewed for endorsement by the MoE.

Along with these positive achievements, there are several key lessons and challenges that need further improvement in anticipation of Cambodia making a transition from readiness to implementation. These are presented in the progress report and summarized here as follows:

Need for improved management, communication and coordination

The project can enhance its efficacy and impact through improved management, and communication and coordination mechanisms. The Implementing Partner, Project Management Unit, RTS, TTs, and REDD+ Development Partners can together establish a mechanism that meets regularly for improved communication and coordination. Such a mechanism would be managed by the RTS and hold its meetings congruent to the Technical Working Group on Forestry Reform.

Mechanism to engage and expand REDD+ Development Partners

Donor coordination has remained varied and is being addressed through frequent discussions with the RTS, dialogue with development partners and participation in the Technical Working Group on Forestry Reform. There is a need to establish a more effective mechanism to engage and expand REDD+ development partners to enhance support for REDD+ implementation.

Stronger government ownership of REDD+

Cooperation between agencies has improved and the FA, GDANCP and FiA participate actively in REDD+ institutional mechanisms and activities. The RTS and FCPF PMU continue to establish and sustain constructive partnerships with all agencies. However, stronger government ownership and commitment to oversee and manage all REDD+ activities are required, including the involvement of an increased number of staff on a fulltime, part time and contract basis.

Mechanism to institutionalize arrangements

The institutional arrangements for the implementation of the NRS recognize the different roles and responsibilities of government institutions that have jurisdictional authority over forest resources in the country. Implementation of the NRS is expected to follow the RGC's agency jurisdictions, with different government agencies contributing to developing REDD+ Action Plans for forest areas according to current laws and policies. Between 2016 and 2020, current functions of the institutional arrangements, such as the Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce (RTF) and its Secretariat, Technical Teams, Consultation Group and GG will be retained. However, to oversee the NRS implementation and subsequently moving into the RBP implementation phase, there is a need for discussion on institutional arrangements and review the roles of the RTS, TTs, CG and GG for the needs and effective implementation of NRS.

Strategy for resource mobilization for NRS implementation

An effective strategy for resource mobilization for NRS implementation is required and this should be a priority in 2016-2017.

Request for Additional Funding

An FCPF grant of approximately \$5,000,000 is requested in the context of analysis of activities and progress to date. The identification of activities and allocation of financial resources for this Additional Funding during the period 2017-2020 has been done after giving due consideration to the progress of ongoing activities with the current FCPF grant and its likely status in June 2017. In addition, an assessment of progress and sequencing of the implementation framework – completion of NRS and FRL and ongoing activities related to NFMS with significant priority to safeguards has been made. These are reflected in the activities and budget allocation. Table 5 provides the budget performance and the financial plan by R-PP components. For detailed activities that will be undertaken with Additional Funding, please see Table 6.

An internal assessment will be undertaken in the last quarter of the current FCPF grant to validate proposed Additional Funding activities against the status of activities, impacts of jurisdiction change, the environmental code process and decentralization. Activities will be revised based on priority and relevance.

8.1 Additional Funding Components

Cambodia REDD+ has retained the original four components that were developed as part of the REDD+ Roadmap, as these remain relevant during the planned transition from readiness to implementation during the period 2017-2020. This is also consistent with the National REDD+ Strategy phases. A brief outline is provided for each outcome below

Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation

Drawing from the lessons learnt, this component will deliberately continue to support the national REDD+ coordination mechanism and provide technical assistance to ensure the effective functioning of the National REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat. Hence the additional funding is significantly targeted for Outcome 1 sub-component 1.1. Appropriate support will be provided to ensure continuity to the readiness process if there are institutional developments following the ongoing jurisdiction change process in the forestry sector. These changes, while positive and conducive for REDD+, increase the need for capacity building, both technical and functional, to ensure the intended impact is achieved. More specifically, under Sub-component 1.2, there is continued need to ensure engagement and communication at subnational level enables active and broader participation of local constituency. As highlighted in this MTR, the current mode of communication and information dissemination via the website needs to be in local language to ensure local communities are able to fully understand the process, their role and how they are affected. Translation of publications and future material will be a key part of the sub-component. The REDD+ coordination mechanism will be affected by these changes and need further and significant strengthening to ensure the progress to date is maintained and improved.

Additional Funding resources may also be utilized to support and accelerate land use planning, tools and methods to improve management planning of conservation areas and corridors and the environmental code process. Cambodia REDD+ will continue its strong focus on stakeholder engagement and implement the recommendations of a revised communications strategy, improve the quality of its media products and use media tools to achieve its broader goals. Capacity building and training for REDD+ planning and implementation will continue with the aim of broadening its outreach to key ministries in Cambodia and developments related to decentralization objectives of the RGC.

Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation

The strength of policy implementation and capacity for monitoring policy effectiveness remains a challenge for the RGC line agencies. This is an area where the FCPF grant can provide support in order to increase the likelihood of greater impacts under the R-PP and ensure the country is ready for results based payments. The RGC is showing significant commitment to mainstreaming climate change and intervention mechanisms such as REDD+ into economic development plans, but it is also expressing the need for technical and financial support to ensure initiated efforts succeed and have a long term impact. The challenge to mainstream climate change and readiness for implementing REDD+ action plans at national and subnational level is beyond the current capacity of the RGC line agencies.

Two priority actions supported through this component include policy support to key agencies responsible for managing Cambodia's forest and biodiversity resources and the development of capacity to address safeguards, an information system, and a grievance redress mechanism. The process of endorsement of the National REDD+ Strategy and the National Protected Area Strategic Management and respective action plans is expected to be completed over the next year.

During the Additional Funding period, policies and measures for addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation will receive specific support. As a reflection of the policy gaps already identified with regards forest resource management, social and environmental safeguards, there will be significant work to strengthen support policy reform. In line with the Common Approach, this MTR highlights that the RGC still has significant work to undertake to establish credible REDD+ Grievance redress system on the basis of the recommendations of studies carried out to date. These elements will be closely interlinked between Sub-component 2.1 and 2.3.

Capacity building of national and subnational staff to implement REDD+ actions will receive priority. Manuals, guidelines, and practical tools will be reviewed, upgraded and revised to incorporate best practices and most notably in local language. A Safeguards Information System that will include a grievance mechanism will be established to complete the REDD+ implementation framework. Support will be provided to implement action plans that will prioritize mobilization of upfront investment finance for implementation and options for development of appropriate arrangements for management of REDD+ finance.

Component 3: Forest Reference Levels /Reference Level

This component will provide enhanced focus on consolidating the progress of actions to address drivers in the demonstration sites at the subnational level. Results of the midterm assessment will already be under implementation and will receive consistent support through the Additional Funding period. An important priority will be to strengthen linkages with subnational institutions that are likely to be given increased or new roles under the RGC decentralization efforts. Consistent technical and financial support will be provided to the demonstration sites to consolidate activities, establish models for management, community based resource management, cooperative law enforcement, and to develop capacity for monitoring and reporting. In addition, case studies and analytical activities will be undertaken to capture key lessons that could have a bearing on upscaling at landscape, regional, and national level. This will also provide ample opportunities to test and document methodological approaches, undertaking further analytical work on drivers and agents of deforestation and cross-sector interactions to strengthen policy effectiveness. It is essential that at this point, a comprehensive compilation is undertaken of lessons from the implementation of the both the voluntary pilot projects (Oddar Meanchey and Seima) and the additional subnational pilots. Fundamentally, the compiling of lessons will then be used as a basis of further refinement of aspects such as site suitability analysis for future upscaling, designing of deforestation intervention strategies, incentive mechanisms, carbon and non-carbon benefits assessment as well the cost elements of REDD+ at the community level.

The establishment of a NFMS and the FRL will lead to the strengthening of capacity for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities and provide critical data and information relevant for the forestry sector and should be viewed as a priority. The development of the NFMS needs to be placed in the context of a multi-purpose MRV system. At present, the design of a national MRV system is still evolving. It is worth noting that the level of investment in the NFMS and the development of FREL require a robust platform and capacity for data management and clear custodianship.

The general approach in developing the FRL is well outlined but will be formally evaluated once submitted to the UNFCCC as planned, in 2017 and includes national circumstances. Interlinked to Component 4, the FRL will be improved and refined as more accurate activity data is collected.

Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests And Safeguards

This component will continue to support the development of the monitoring system for a national MRV system and to provide technical assistance to ensure capacity for implementation. A land use and forest cover change map 2018 will be produced, subnational implementation trailed, and methods and tools to improve forest monitoring at subnational level will be developed. Additional Funding will also be utilized for field data collection and to reinforce local forest inventory data.

While the RGC has developed the key components of its NFMS and developed a FRL, the establishment and the necessary capacity to undertake regular monitoring will increasingly become critical as the country is transitioning to REDD+ implementation and is aiming at result-based payments.

At present, the forestry sector agencies - GDANCP, FA, and FiA - still need substantial capacity development which is one of the main reasons for the proposed substantial additional funding. The proposed work will support the capacity building with agencies responsible for land-based resource monitoring and reporting, strengthen institutional interlinkages, and establish a long-term system for improving the national data, including emission factors, activity data, GHG estimates, and system for national monitoring. Specifically, support will be provided to MAFF and MoE in developing the national MRV framework and improving the status of the NFMS, NFI and FRL as well as the capacity for meeting national and international reporting requirements under Sub-component 4.1 and 4.3.

As the country moves from readiness to implementation, demands for robust resource assessments, spatial data, emission estimates and the system to support data management will become increasingly critical to success. The RGC is making a strategic decision to undertake land use and land cover mapping at a two-year interval in the beginning. This is ambitious but warranted to expand the current set of data, and resolve possible inconsistencies and improve accuracy and suitability of GHG emissions estimation from the forestry sector. Such a frequent regime will require remote sensing data and significant technical capacity at national and subnational level for data collection and verification. Forest inventory data collection has often been ad-hoc and spatially dispersed. It is anticipated that field data collection under Additional Funding will contribute to generating more robust and representative data to improve the emission factors for Cambodia's forest types. The current level of technical capacity for MRV at both national and subnational is still limited and the recent jurisdictional changes in forest resource management create the impetus for greater strengthening of this capacity across relevant institutions.

The establishment of a national MRV system will lead to the strengthening of capacity for monitoring and reporting REDD+ activities and provide critical data and information relevant for forestry sector investment plans. Hence, the Additional Funding requested from the FCPF will increase the likelihood for the RGC to come up with robust and evidence-based sector strategies and investment plans.

BUDGET PERFORMANCE AND FINANCIAL PLAN FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING

Of the total FCPF grant of \$3.8 million, the country has committed **\$3,115,574 (82%)** as per Table 5.

Table 5: FCPF Grant funds utilization

R-PP Component	Total needed (A)	Total pledged (B)	Funds used (C)		Funds Available (=B-C)	Financing gap (=A-B)	Request to FCPF
			Funds Committed	Funds Disbursed			
Component1: Effective national management of REDD+ Readiness, stakeholder engagement and capacity building							
1.1 National REDD+ readiness coordination mechanism established	1,483,736	767,906	20,000	582,164	165,742	715,830	715,830
1.2 Stakeholder engagement and communication and dissemination	366,228	230,873	48,000	90,304	92,569	135,355	135,355
1.3 Capacity building and training for REDD+ implementation	290,419	140,619	-	22,974	117,645	149,800	149,800
	2,140,383	1,139,398	68,000	695,442	375,956	1,000,985	1,000,985
Component 2: Development of REDD+ implementation framework							
2.1 Policy support for forest resource management agencies	1,517,251	950,151	64,666	804,240	81,245	567,100	567,100
2.2 Establishment of Safeguards Information System including grievance redress mechanism	461,176	140,176	-	38,818	101,358	321,000	321,000
2.3 Develop arrangements for management of REDD+ finance	87,750	7,500	-	-	7,500	80,250	80,250
	2,066,177	1,097,827	64,666	843,058	190,103	968,350	968,350
Component 3: Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels							
3.1 Development of subnational capacity	265,326	186,961	54,728	132,233	-	78,365	78,365

R-PP Component	Total needed (A)	Total pledged (B)	Funds used (C)		Funds Available (=B-C)	Financing gap (=A-B)	Request to FCPF
			Funds Committed	Funds Disbursed			
3.2 Development and design of demonstration activities	1,547,063	594,763	369,067	225,696	-	952,300	952,300
	1,812,389	781,724	423,795	357,929	-	1,030,665	1,030,665
Component 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation							
4.1 National MRV/REL Technical Team and national capacity strengthened	1,149,358	306,358	269,192	-	37,166	843,000	843,000
4.2 Nationally-derived Activity Data, Emission factors, GHG estimates for LULUCF/AFOLU sector improved, and reporting supported	1,122,307	294,307	220,281	-	74,026	828,000	828,000
4.3 Capacity for monitoring impacts of REDD+ interventions improved	509,386	180,386	173,211	-	7,175	329,000	329,000
	2,781,051	781,051	662,684	-	118,367	2,000,000	2,000,000
Total US\$	8,800,000	3,800,000	1,219,145	1,896,429	684,426	5,000,000	5,000,000

Table 6: Activities under Additional Funding Request

Components	Activity No.	Activities	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Component 1: Readiness Organization and Consultation							
1.1 National REDD+ readiness coordination mechanism established	1.1.a	Operation of Taskforce, Secretariat and Consultation Group to enable effective coordination of REDD+ readiness and implementation	7,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	49,000
	1.1.b	Technical support to Secretariat	77,500	182,250	182,250	147,500	589,500
	1.1.c	Travel	15,000	30,000	30,000	20,000	95,000
			99,500	226,250	226,250	181,500	733,500
1.2. Stakeholder engagement and communication and dissemination	1.2.a	Develop and sustain effective stakeholder engagement	15,000	20,000	20,000	15,000	70,000
	1.2.b	Knowledge management and dissemination of research and lessons	10000	15000	15000	10000	50,000
	1.2.c	Design and production of communication and media products	3,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	6,500
			28,500	36,000	36,000	26,000	126,500
1.3 Capacity building and training for REDD+ implementation	1.3.a	Capacity-building and training for Taskforce, Secretariat, and government agencies	10,000	20,000	20,000	-	50,000
	1.3.b	Capacity building and training for Consultation Group and representatives of constituent groups	10,000	15,000	15,000	-	40,000
	1.3.c	Strengthen South-south cooperation and learning	-	25,000	25,000	-	50,000
			20,000	60,000	60,000	-	140,000
		TOTAL OUTCOME 1	148,000	322,250	322,250	207,500	1,000,000
Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation							
2.1 Policy support for government agencies	2.1.a	Technical support to development of implementation framework	75,000	150,000	150,000	75,000	450,000
	2.1.b	Support development of enabling policy and action plans	-	15,000	15,000	-	30,000
	2.1.c	Mainstreaming REDD+ in national development plans and policies	10,000	15,000	15,000	10,000	50,000

			85,000	180,000	180,000	85,000	530,000
2.2 Establishment of Safeguards Information System including grievance redress mechanism	2.2.a	Undertake analytical activities to develop framework and plans to address social and environmental safeguards	10,000	20,000	10,000	10,000	50,000
	2.2.b	Capacity building for implementation of safeguards	25,000	75,000	50,000	25,000	175,000
	2.2.c	Develop options for safeguard information system including grievance redress mechanism	10,000	25,000	20,000	15,000	70,000
			45,000	120,000	80,000	50,000	295,000
2.3 Develop arrangements for management of REDD+ finance	2.3.a	Support approaches to mobilize resources for implementation	10,000	15,000	15,000	-	40,000
	2.3.b	Develop options for management of REDD+ finance	-	-	25,000	10,000	35,000
			10,000	15,000	40,000	10,000	75,000
		TOTAL OUTCOME 2	140,000	315,000	300,000	145,000	900,000
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level							
3.1. Development of subnational capacity	3.1.a	Undertake research and consultations to integrate REDD+ in subnational planning and implementation	15,000	15,000	10,000	-	40,000
	3.1.b	Capacity building and training of stakeholders	10,000	15,000	15,000	-	40,000
			25,000	30,000	25,000	-	80,000
3.2 Development and design of demonstration activities	3.2.a	Development and design of demonstration activities	150,000	300,000	300,000	150,000	900,000
	3.2.b	Support and monitoring of demonstration activities	10,000	20,000	20,000	10,000	60,000
	3.2.c	Documentation and dissemination of lessons learned	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	60,000
			175,000	335,000	335,000	175,000	1,020,000
		TOTAL OUTCOME 3	200,000	365,000	360,000	175,000	1,100,000
Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards							
	4.1.a	Support Technical Team to strengthen National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)	124,000	239,000	240,000	117,000	720,000

4.1 National MRV/REL Technical team and national capacity strengthened	4.1.b	Strengthen and consolidate national framework through capacity building for the NFMS	21,000	21,000	21,000	-	63,000
	4.1.c	Support NFMS web-portal development, maintenance and dissemination of knowledge products	-	25,000	10,000	25,000	60,000
			145,000	285,000	271,000	142,000	843,000
4.2 Nationally-derived Activity Data, Emission Factors, GHG estimates for LULUCF/AFOLU sector improved, and reporting supported	4.2.a	Support REDD+ Activity Data development at the national level	80,000	75,000	165,000	-	320,000
	4.2.b	Support REDD+ Emission Factors development using nationally derived data	100,000	100,000	140,000	60,000	400,000
	4.2.c	Strengthen capacity in GHG inventories and reporting to the UNFCCC	27,000	27,000	27,000	27,000	108,000
			207,000	202,000	332,000	87,000	828,000
4.3 Capacity for monitoring impacts of REDD+ interventions improved	4.3.a	Strengthen capacities to monitor REDD+ activities	41,000	-	-	-	41,000
	4.3.b	Support implementation of monitoring of REDD+ demonstration activities	50,000	100,000	100,000	3,000	253,000
	4.3.c	Support development of REDD+ registry	-	-	20,000	15,000	35,000
			91,000	100,000	120,000	18,000	329,000
		TOTAL OUTCOME 4	443,000	587,000	723,000	247,000	2,000,000
		GRAND TOTAL	931,000	1,589,250	1,705,250	774,500	5,000,000

Note: Budget includes 7% Support Costs.

ANNEXES TO THE MTR

Annex 1 FCPF Results Monitoring Framework 2013-2017

Project Goal: To enhance capacity to address deforestation and forest degradation and to measure and verify emission reductions

Output/Result	Indicator	Baseline	Target	Means of Verification	Assumptions
1. Establishment of effective National Management of the REDD+ Readiness process, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building	1.1 Level of multi-agency Taskforce/Secretariat/ Consultation Group effectiveness	Not effective	Effective	- Minutes of meetings - Annual report - Midterm review - Final review	Government staff and stakeholders remain active participants
	1.2 Effective implementation of Consultation Group plan	Some extent	Great extent	- Minutes of meetings and work plan - Midterm review - Final review	Stakeholders remain active participants
	1.3 Number of communication products produced and uploaded to the website	Limited material available	- Two newsletters per year - Three video animation - One video documentary dubbed into IP language - Twelve technical reports and articles uploaded to website	- Communication products - Report on assessment of media products - Website of REDD+ - Midterm review - Final review	All materials endorsed by Government to publish and disseminate
2. Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework	2.1 National REDD+ Strategy endorsed	Draft	Endorsed	- Strategy document - Midterm review - Final review	Government provides approval of data for NRS; Jurisdiction change does not delay endorsement
	2.2 Extent of progress of implementation framework development for safeguard information system, grievance and REDD+ fund mechanism	Some extent	Moderate extent	- Technical reports - Annual Report - Midterm review - Final review	Government agrees to participate in development of implementation framework
	2.3 National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP) endorsed	None	Endorsed	- Strategy document - Midterm review - Final review	Jurisdiction change does not delay endorsement

3. Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels	3.1 Extent of participation of stakeholders in REDD+ activities at demonstration sites	Some extent	Great extent	- Studies - Annual Report - Midterm assessment - Final review	Government staff available and participate in REDD+ planning and implementation
	3.2 Number of established REDD+ demonstration activity sites	Two	Five	- Field reports - Annual reports - Final review	Proposals for REDD+ demonstration approved by Government
	3.3 Number of reports that document lessons learned from demonstration sites	Two	Six	- Case studies that document lessons - Field reports - Midterm assessment - Final review	Government staff and stakeholders share field experiences from implementation
4. Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation	4.1 Level Activity Data and Emission Factors (Tier 2) availability for reporting to UNFCCC	Low	Improved	- Database contains Tier 2 Emission Factors, Activity Data, and GHG estimates	Government staff available and participate in data creation; Data required for NFMS is made available by Government
	4.2 Cambodia National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) developed	None	NFMS developed	- NFMS document - Web platform	Government allocates staff to develop NFMS; Data endorsed by Government to publish on web platform
	4.3 UNFCCC technical assessment incorporated into the Forest Reference Level (FRL)	None	UNFCCC technical assessment incorporated	- FRL document	Government approves data required to finalize and FRL; Cambodia FRL submitted to the UNFCCC; Government staff available and participate in technical assessment of FRL improvements

Annex 2 FCPF Results Monitoring and Evaluation Plan 2013-2017

Project Goal: To enhance capacity to address deforestation and forest degradation and to measure and verify emission reductions

Output/Result	Indicator	Definition	Baseline and Target	Data sources	Frequency	Responsibility
1. Establishment of effective National Management of the REDD+ Readiness process, stakeholder engagement, and capacity building	1.1 Level of multi-agency Taskforce/Secretariat/ Consultation Group effectiveness	Effectiveness measured on a three-point scale: 1= Not effective <i>Mechanisms function on an ad-hoc basis</i> 2=Somewhat effective <i>Mechanisms function partially</i> 3=Effective <i>Mechanisms function as expected</i>	Baseline: Not effective (1) Target: Effective (3)	- Minutes of meetings of Taskforces/Secretariat/ CG - Annual report - Midterm review - Final review	- Semi-Annual - Annual	RTS/PMU
	1.2 Effective implementation of Consultation Group plan	Measured on a three-point scale: 1=Some extent 2=Moderate extent 3=Great extent	Baseline: Some extent (1) Target: Great extent (3)	- Minutes of meetings of CG - Work plan of CG - Annual report - Midterm review - Final review		
	1.3 Number of communication products produced and uploaded to the website	Number of products produced	Baseline: Limited material available Target: - 02 newsletters per year - Three video animation - 01 video documentary dubbed into IP language - 12 technical reports and articles uploaded to website	- Communication products - Report on assessment of media products - Website of REDD+ - Midterm review - Final review		
2. Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework	2.1 National REDD+ Strategy endorsed	National REDD+ Strategy endorsed by REDD+ Taskforce	Baseline: Draft Target: Endorsed	- Strategy document - Midterm review - Final review		
	2.2 Extent of progress of implementation framework development for safeguard information system, grievance and REDD+ fund mechanism	Development of REDD+ implementation framework measured on a three-point scale: 1= Some extent <i>Initial assessment and analysis</i> 2= Moderate extent	Baseline: Some extent (1) Target: Moderate extent (2)	- Technical reports - Annual Report - Midterm review - Final review		

Output/Result	Indicator	Definition	Baseline and Target	Data sources	Frequency	Responsibility
3. Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels		<i>Improved assessment</i> 3=Great extent <i>Drafts of options developed</i>				RTS/PMU
	2.3 National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP) endorsed	National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan endorsed by NPASMP Committee	Baseline: None Target: Endorsed	- Strategy document - Midterm review - Final review		
	3.1 Extent of participation of stakeholders in REDD+ activities at demonstration sites	Measured on a three-point scale: 1= Some extent <i>Limited participation</i> 2= Moderate extent <i>Stakeholders engaged in planning</i> 3=Great extent <i>Stakeholders actively engaged</i>	Baseline: Some extent (1) Target: Great extent (3)	- Studies - Annual Report - Midterm assessment - Final review		
	3.2 Number of established REDD+ demonstration activity sites	Number of functioning REDD+ demonstration sites	Baseline: Two Target: Five	- Field reports - Proposals for REDD+ demonstration - Annual reports - Final review		
	3.3 Number of reports that document lessons learned from demonstration sites	Reports of midterm assessment and end of project evaluations of all five sites.	Baseline: Two Target: Six	- Case studies that document lessons - Field reports - Midterm assessment - Final review		
4. Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation	4.1 National Activity Data and Emission Factor (Tier 2) availability for reporting to UNFCCC	Measured on a three-point scale: 1= Low <i>Database contains limited data of Emission Factors and GHG estimate</i> 2= Moderate <i>Only some data available related to Emission Factors and GHG estimate</i> 3 = Improved <i>Database contains improved Emission Factor, Activity Data, and GHG estimates, including new land use map and two biomass model</i>	Baseline: Low (1) Target: Improved (3)	- Database contains Tier 2 Emission Factors, Activity Data, and GHG estimates	- Semi-Annual - Annual	RTS/FAO
	4.2 Cambodia National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) developed	Web-platform functioned and expanded with capacities and mechanisms to monitor REDD+ interventions	Baseline: None Target: NFMS developed	- NFMS document - Web platform		
	4.3 UNFCCC technical assessment incorporated into	Comments from UNFCCC duly reviewed and incorporated	Baseline: None	- FRL document		

Output/Result	Indicator	Definition	Baseline and Target	Data sources	Frequency	Responsibility
	the Forest Reference Level (FRL)		Target: UNFCCC technical assessment incorporated			

Annex 3 FCPF Results Monitoring and Evaluation Assessment June 2016

Project Goal: To enhance capacity to address deforestation and forest degradation and to measure and verify emission reductions

Indicator	Project Baseline		Reporting Period (Q2 2016)			Comments/Notes
	Date	Value	Target (FY 2016)	Actual Progress	% of Target	
CPD Outcome/Output indicators (1.1)						
Approved National REDD+ Strategy and operational document	2014	Draft	Approved	Final draft	80%	Final draft of NRS awaits for national workshop validation
New institutional arrangement and capacity strengthening to implement REDD+ Strategy	2014	Not effective (level 1)	Effective (level 3)	On-track	100%	Institutional arrangement for REDD+ implementation functional
Project output indicators						
1.1 Level of multi-agency Taskforce/Secretariat/ Consultation Group effectiveness	2014	Not effective (1)	Effective (3)	On-track	75%	• A two-day REDD+ Taskforce meeting organized to review final version of National REDD+ Strategy • REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat conducted two meetings to review the progress of readiness • One-day Consultation Group meeting conducted to review work plan
1.2 Effective implementation of Consultation Group plan	2014	Some extent	Great extent	On-track	60%	Annual work plan of CG for 2016 drafted. Implementation to start in Q3
1.3 Number of communication products produced and uploaded to the website	2014	6	2 / year	On-track	40%	Newsletter No 10 being finalized and will be published and uploaded to the website in Q3
- Newsletters						
- Video animation	2014	0	3	On-track	70%	Creative decisions being finalized. Videos will be produced in Q3

Indicator	Project Baseline		Reporting Period (Q2 2016)			Comments/Notes
	Date	Value	Target (FY 2016)	Actual Progress	% of Target	
- Video documentary dubbed into IP language	2014	0	1	On-track	50%	IP language has been selected
- Technical reports uploaded to website	2014	13	12	On-track	100%	Reports produced and uploaded to website.
2.1 National REDD+ Strategy endorsed	2014	Draft	Endorsed	Final draft	80%	NRS is expected to get endorsement from RTF after national validation workshop
2.2 Extent of progress of implementation framework development for safeguard information system, grievance and REDD+ fund mechanism	2014	Some extent	Moderate extent	On-track	60%	Consultant for safeguards being contracted
2.3 National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan endorsed	2014	None	Endorsed	On-track	90%	National validation workshop completed
3.1 Extent of participation of stakeholders in REDD+ activities at demonstration sites	2014	Some extent	Great extent	TBD	TBD	Midterm assessment will be conducted in Q3
3.2 Number of established REDD+ demonstration activity sites	2014	2	5	On-track	100%	Five REDD+ pilot sites established and functional
3.3 Number of reports that document lessons learned from demonstration sites	2014	2	3	1	35%	Midterm assessment will be conducted in Q3 Field monitoring report prepared
4.1 Level of Activity and Emission Factors data availability improvements for reporting to UNFCCC	2014	Low	Improved	On-track	60%	Significant improvement
4.2 Cambodia National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) developed	2014	None	NFMS developed	On-track	60%	NFMS draft completed
4.3 UNFCCC technical assessment incorporated into the Forest Reference Level (FRL)	2014	None	UNFCCC technical assessment incorporated	On-track	70%	Awaiting RGC approval of FRL, prior to submission to UNFCCC

Annex 4 RGC and Development Partners Support to Readiness and Implementation 2013-2016

	Total US\$	2013	2014	2015	2016
Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC)					
RGC	13,597,472	1,109,738	1,166,982	4,820,384	6,500,368
Development Partner					
ADB	3,157,274	154,000	1,163,511	473,281	1,366,482
Conservation International	1,004,873	594,873	-	-	410,000
European Union	8,503,311	2,039,856	2,233,929	1,000,305	3,229,221
FAO	1,051,475	802,854	7,000	163,893	77,728
International Tropical Timber Org	1,065,325	409,537	412,403	-	243,385
Republic of Korea	685,517	685,517	-	-	-
Swiss Agency for Dev and Coop	345,000	-	120,000	-	225,000
UNDP	11,202,130	5,519,563	3,132,859	2,549,708	-
USAID	21,165,508	3,583,939	4,938,191	6,256,172	6,387,206
Wildlife Alliance	6,424,049	1,710,808	1,917,009	970,314	1,825,918
Wildlife Conservation Society	3,720,914	739,000	871,914	1,080,000	1,030,000
World Bank	690,000	690,000	-	-	-
World Wildlife Fund	963,457		-	348,898	614,559
REDD+ Readiness					
FCPF	3,258,125	-	335,271	1,129,887	1,792,967
UN-REDD+					
UNDP	1,564,976	1,062,370	502,606	-	-
FAO	1,176,361	363,157	309,881	503,323	
UNEP	64,200	30,000	34,200	-	-
JICA	863,160	399,813	304,323	159,024	-
Others		216,137	1,475,380	2,682,042	1,560,158
Total US\$	86,436,844	20,111,162	18,925,459	22,137,231	25,262,992

Source: Technical Working Group on Forestry Reform and REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat

Annex 5 List of Participants Consulted

No	Name	Official Title	Cambodia REDD+ Role/Title	Contact information
Royal Government Agencies				
1	H.E. Chheng Kimsun	Director General Forestry Administration	- Co-Chair Project Executive Board	chheng.kimsun@yahoo.com
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Consultation Group				
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