



Forest Carbon Partnership Facility

Cambodia

Early Idea Note for an Emissions Reduction Program

The Northern Plains ER Program: Strengthening Community based-Forest Management and Conservation

Tenth Meeting of the Carbon Fund (CF10)

Bonn, June 16-19, 2014



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ER Program Idea Background/Context

National readiness is moving well

- *Cambodia was an early actor in the REDD+ space (2007)*
- *Began FCPF process in 2008*
- *Formed REDD+ Secretariat and Taskforce (2012)*
- *REDD+ is embedded in national poverty reduction strategies and the National Forestry Programme*
- *Several supportive legal decisions*

Early action has begun

- *One of first VCS and CCB (triple gold-level) verified REDD+ Projects in Asia (2012)*
- *Other demonstration projects also underway*



The next step for REDD+ in Cambodia

*National REDD+ Roadmap shows **where to focus** – conservation areas, community-managed forests and the threats they face (potentially 8m ha of 10 m ha forest nationally)*

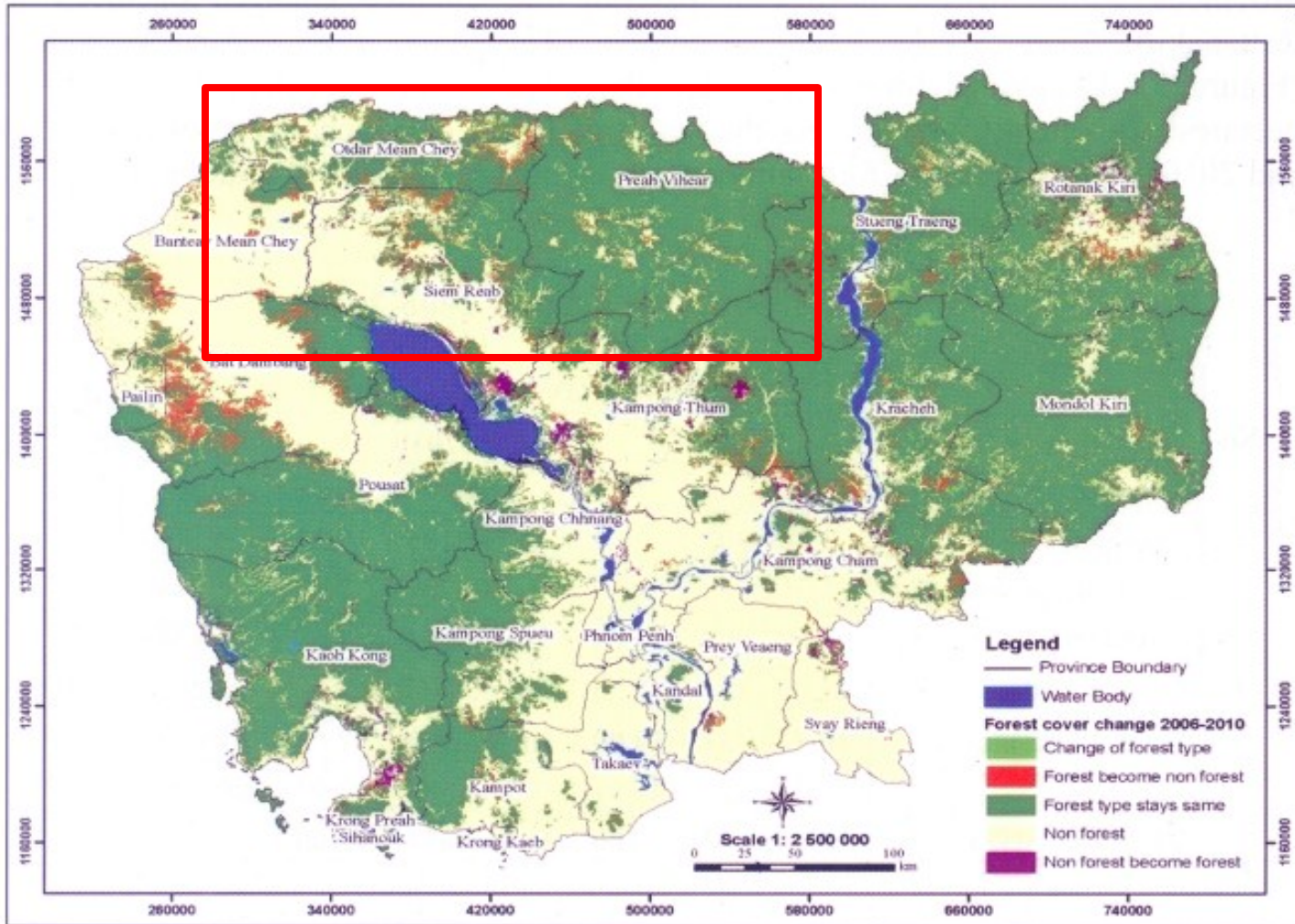
Now we need to

- *show Cambodian society that REDD+ can bring **tangible benefits and better governance** in these areas*
- ***scale up from project to sub-national level** (as a step to truly national programs)*
- ***better engage with landscape-scale drivers of change** around these forests*



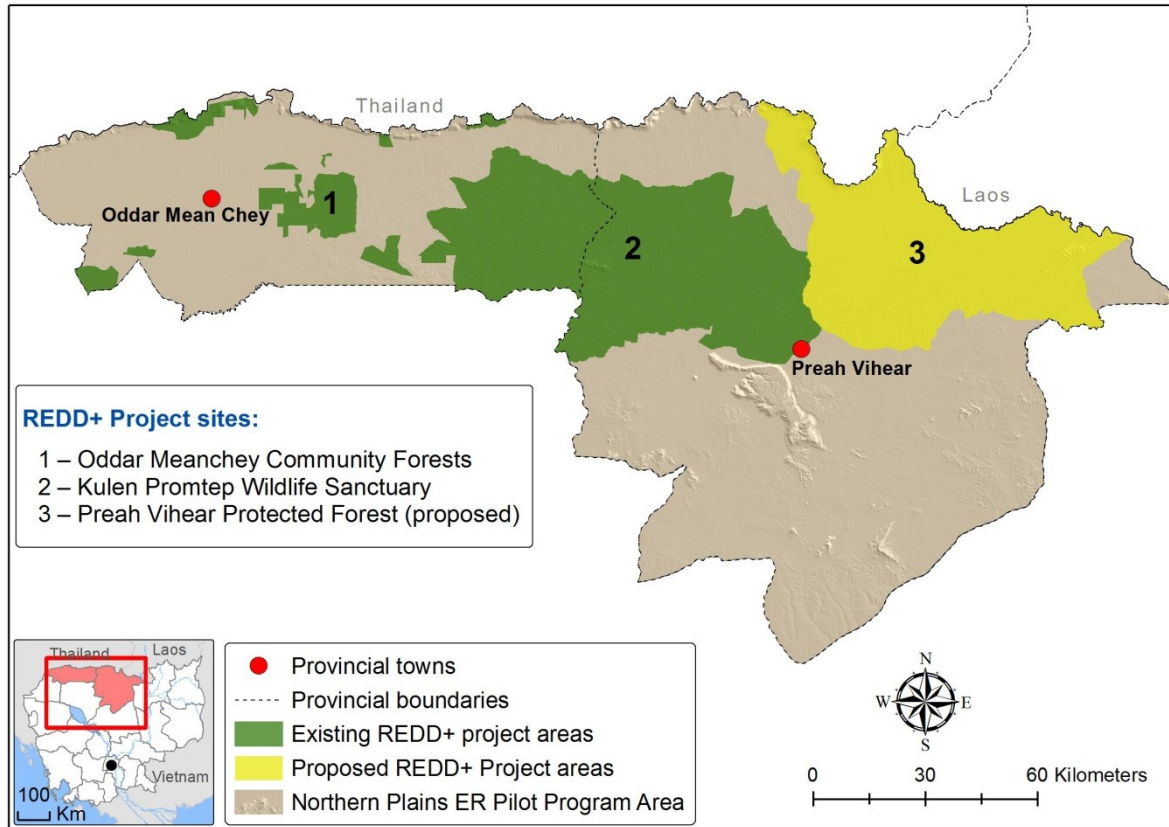
The proposed program in the Northern Plains will achieve these three goals.

The Northern Plains are a deforestation hotspot



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Scale



2 Provinces – Oddar Meanchey & Preah Vihear

High forest, high deforestation

1.9 million ha, **1.6 million ha of which is forest (FA 2012)**

High poverty rates + forest dependence

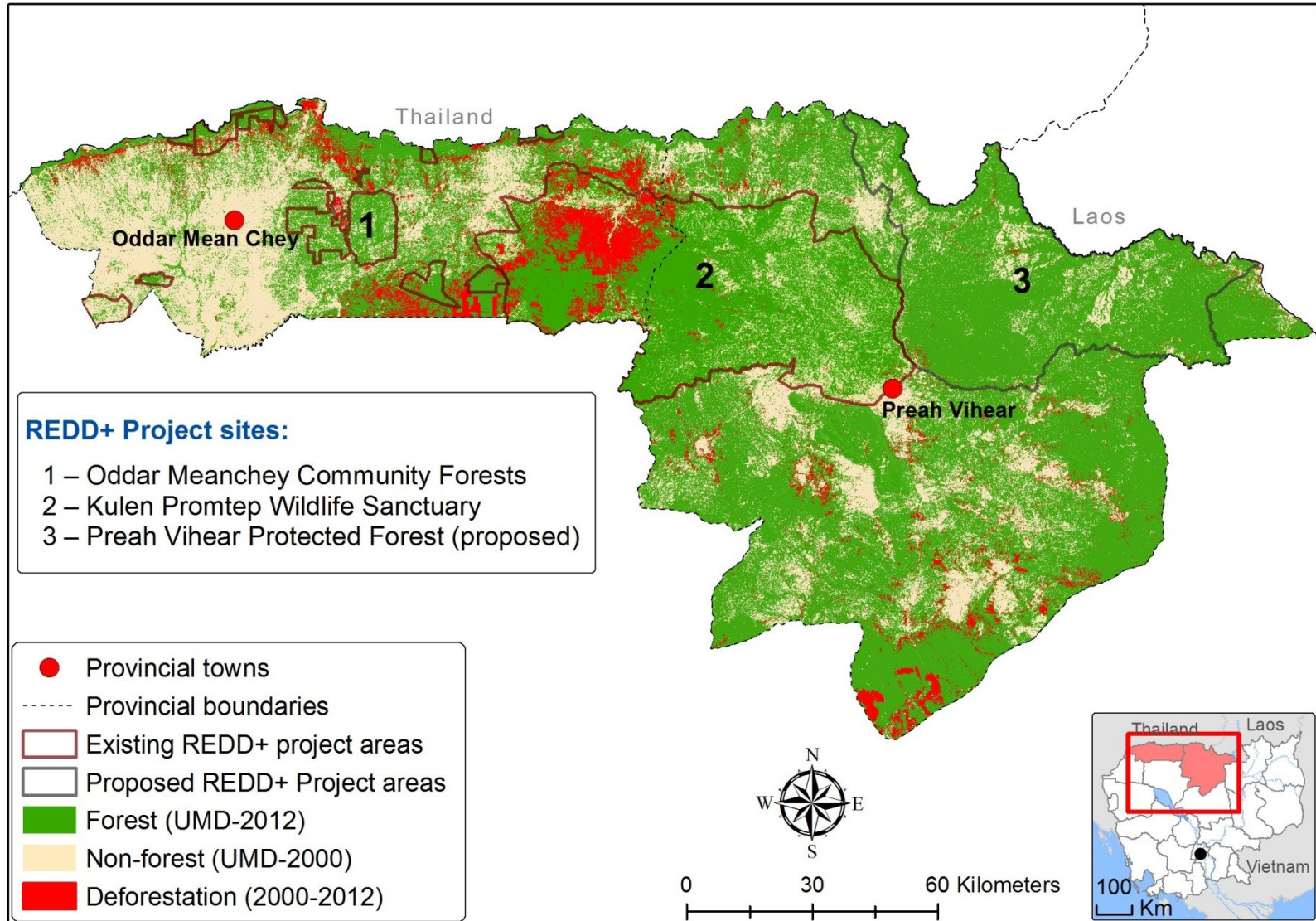
High biodiversity values (e.g. >50 Red-list vertebrates, 6 Critically Endangered)

Indochina's largest Protected Area - Kulen Promtep Wildlife Sanctuary

- Early action enabled by 3 Nested REDD+ Project areas
- Early action models are further scalable across the two provinces
- Both key agencies (Forestry and Environment) are fully involved

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Deforestation in the program area



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Program highlights (1) - Drivers of Deforestation

Direct drivers:

- Agricultural expansion
 - commercial and subsistence
 - legal and illegal
- Expansion of settlements
- Illegal and industrial logging
- Fuelwood harvesting



Indirect drivers:

- Rising demand for agri-produce/fuel
- Population growth and in-migration
- Low agricultural productivity
- Scarcity of livelihood alternatives
- Weak governance, conflicting policies
- Improving accessibility

Additional barriers to REDD+

- Insecurity of tenure encourages rapid resource exploitation
- Lack of reliable demand for emission reductions limits scale of incentives for change



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Program highlights (2) – Core Activities

The ER Program will build on successful models supported by GEF and others. Govt/ngo/community partnerships already exist.

Community-based Forest Management

- Strengthen and expand existing programs around Community Forests, Community Protected Areas and (at a smaller scale) Indigenous Land Titling
- Activities include legal recognition, demarcation, management planning, participatory monitoring and enforcement, assisted natural regeneration, reforestation, and livelihood development

Enhanced management of Conservation Areas

- Strengthen and expand existing programs to support government line agencies and co-management approaches with local communities
- Activities include demarcation, zoning, management planning, outreach/education, law enforcement, monitoring (social, biological, threats), livelihood development

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Program highlights (3) – Enabling activities

1. Land-use planning and policy support

- **Awareness raising** among all relevant stakeholders - links to 'Green Growth'
- Promote networking and **participation by community groups**
- Engagement with key stakeholders on **large-scale planning decisions** (roads, concessions, army bases etc)
- Engage at national level to **strengthen legal mechanisms** for secure land tenure

2. Livelihood development

- **Agricultural intensification** linked to reduced expansion
 - e.g. expand highly successful 'Ibis Rice' PES mechanism
- Reduce fuelwood demand with **improved stoves & biodigester**
- Participatory Village Development
- Creation of **local businesses** and other employment options

3. Engaging with the private sector

- Promote responsible practices on/near existing concessions
- Dialogue over siting of new concessions
- Promote forest retention and restoration within concessions



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Program highlights (4) - Timeline

- ER-PIN: by October 2014 (including consultations)
- ER Program Design: by mid/late 2015
- R-Package: mid/late 2016
- ERPA: end of 2016
- FIRST VER'S delivered to CF: from 2017

*Early delivery may be feasible, given scale of early action.



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Emission Reductions Generated

- Preliminary reference level based on University of Maryland data, 2000-2012
- Overall a flat historical average has been used, without adjustment.
- Average defor. rate for Preah Vihear and Oddar Meanchey provinces implies approx. REL of **5.9 million tons CO₂e/yr**
- Rates vary widely within the Program area, from **0.43%** per year to **3.13%** per year, depending on province, tenure type and forest type
- Strata will be used to direct incentives to areas of highest threat.

Prov.	Forest Type	Annual Defor (ha/yr)	Emission Factor (tC/ha)	Annual Emissions (tCO ₂ e/yr)	Annual Defor (%)
OM	Dense	5,112	181.7	3,404,632	3.13%
OM	Open	1,122	91.3	375,700	0.71%
PVH	Dense	2,683	181.7	1,786,899	0.71%
PVH	Open	884	91.3	296,007	0.43%
Total				5,863,239	

Emissions reductions depend on effectiveness – likely in range 25-66% initially

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Country progress towards Readiness - Outline

Coordinated approach around a single Roadmap. Three main donors.

- UN-REDD since 2011 - Phase 1 nearly complete
- CAM-REDD (Japan) - since 2011
- FCPF signed Dec 2013, launched March 2014

UNDP is the delivery partner for both UN-REDD and FCPF.

Includes a small grant program (focused on Community-based REDD+)

Several demonstration projects are underway. The most advanced is the Oddar Meanchey Community Forestry project, with 597,000 verified credits to date (using a baseline established for the whole province).

Nesting mechanism for this and other demonstration projects will be developed during the sub-national program design phase.



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Country progress towards Readiness - Details (1)

Component 1: Organize and Consult

- Multi-ministries REDD+ Taskforce
 - 7 ministries represented
 - 4 Technical Teams (Benefit-sharing, MRV, Safeguards, Demonstration)
- Stakeholder Consultation Groups – civil society, IP and private sector engagement. Levels of participation to date widely commended.
- Awareness raising and capacity building both national and sub-national level

Component 2: Prepare the REDD+ National Strategy

- Framework developed, agreed
- Focus on supporting existing policies (eg National Forestry Programme)
- Studies for many elements now underway
 - e.g. drivers assessments, finance mechanisms, role of gender, safeguards
- ***Plan: Initial draft strategy Dec. 2014; Final draft Oct 2015 (for COP 21, Paris)***



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Country progress towards Readiness - Details (2)

Component 3: Develop a Reference Level

- Trainings, data collation, harmonisation of earlier studies, method selection and consultations all underway.

Component 4: Design a Monitoring System

- National Forest Inventory design and Forest Definition being finalised
- Manual being field tested. Web interface designed.
- Trainings and consultations underway.

+ Administrative elements:

Component 5: Schedule and Budget

Component 6: Monitoring and Evaluation Framework



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Political commitment to the sub-national pilot

The Cambodia REDD+ roadmap clarified the role of sub-national REDD+ in MRV/REL design. The Northern Plains ER Program is a first kick-off activity of roadmap implementation.

High-level Commitments

- ❖ *2007 Royal Government of Cambodia committed to REDD+*
- ❖ *Sub-national pilots are identified as part of the REDD+ Strategy Framework*
- ❖ *Endorsement from Director-General of Forestry Administration for development of Early Idea/ER-PIN for Northern Plains*

Government Policy Supporting REDD+

- *Government Decision No.699 in 2008 specifying how benefits from sales of REDD+ credits should be distributed amongst stakeholders and be used for expanding new REDD+ sites*
- *Sub-decree No.188 delegate FA as the agent of the RGC for arranging the sale of REDD+ carbon*
- *Government Decision No.62-1552 in 2013 set the minimum price for carbon from REDD+ project, delegate FA to sign ERPA on behalf of RGC*



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Non-carbon benefits

Preliminary information to be refined during the consultation process.

- Improve forest governance (enhance forest law enforcement, increase participation in forest management, transparency...)
- Increase social inclusion (especially women and IP participation)
- Enhance forest tenure
- Improve stakeholders' capacity in forest management
- Increase incomes and provide alternative jobs for forest dwellers
- Protect exceptional forest biodiversity
- Protect supply of forest products, fisheries

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Diversity and learning value

The **Northern Plains ER Program** has significant diversity and learning value:

Within Cambodia

- Includes the key forest management modalities that need to be scaled to national level programs
- Engages with landscape stakeholders beyond the forestry sector

Across the Carbon Fund portfolio

- Focus on community-based forest management/monitoring
- Community-based management of a nested REDD+ Project
- Conservation areas also include high degree of co-management
- Use of the VCS JNRI accounting framework at scale
- Mature Payment for Ecosystem Services Programs that can be scaled under ER Program to address drivers – e.g. Ibis Rice



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Consistency with Methodological Framework (1)

1. Level of Ambition

- >10 % of Cambodia's forest area
- Exact ER reductions require further study but evidently large
- Emissions from deforestation predominate in initial projections
- Degradation/enhancement require further study
- Scaling up of successful PES program to the sub-national scale



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Consistency with Methodological Framework (2)

2. Carbon Accounting

- Use of JNRI approach will assist in meeting all MF guidelines
- Approach is close to the one approved for DRC.
- Methods are believed to be consistent with IPCC
- All significant sources/sinks will be considered
- Uncertainties will be managed and quantified transparently
- Uses REL that follow IPCC Approach 3 guidance; no REL 'adjustment'
- MRV will be closely coordinated with emerging NFMS
- Community participation in MRV already underway at nested sites



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Consistency with Methodological Framework (3)

3. Safeguards

- Will build on FCPF SESA process and development of national Feedback/Grievance Redress Mechanism (both currently underway).
- Multiple public consultations since 2009 - most issues already known.
- Community-based approaches greatly reduce risk.



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Consistency with Methodological Framework (4)

4. Sustainable Program Design and Implementation

- Understanding of drivers and land tenure arrangements already strong, will be improved during design phase/consultations
- Carbon rights issues have been reviewed, further work required.
- Benefit-share arrangements already being piloted (government set 50% share for communities, 50% for other REDD+ activities)
- Strong non-carbon benefits are likely – especially globally significant biodiversity and forest resources/fisheries that underpin local livelihoods.

5. ER Program Transactions

- Will be transparent and registry approach to be discussed
- Program entity is a government agency



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Summary

The program has many strengths and a high probability of success.

- **Well targeted** – supports large scale community-based forest management (a rarity in Asia) and strengthens existing prot. areas
- **Holistic** – addresses key drivers within and outside the forest sector
- **Benefits beyond carbon** – it promotes forest-based livelihoods and globally exceptional biodiversity values
- **Technically sound** – it pilots the VCS Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ standard in Asia; the approach is already accepted in the DRC ER-PIN
- **Well supported** - it has full political support and is the next natural next step in REDD+ development in Cambodia
- **Rapid start-up** - the legal framework, existing site projects and established partnerships will all promote effective implementation



Thank you for your attention