



1st March 2023

Dear Forest Carbon Partnership Facility,

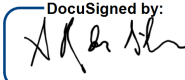
Subject: Project "FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project"
Final Report

Reference is made to the contribution agreement between Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and UNDP for the project "FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project" effective December 2013.

I am pleased to submit herewith the Final Report for the above-mentioned project.

The report summarizes the progress of the project as of December 2022 and provides an overview of the achievements, challenges, lessons learned, final financial status and way forward.

I thank Forest Carbon Partnership Facility for its contributions to UNDP and look forward to continuing to strengthen our partnership in support of REDD+ development in Cambodia.

DocuSigned by:

18AD51DDF77B42C...

Sonali Dayaratne
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP Cambodia

Attached:
FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project Final Report

Andrés Espejo
Fund Manager
Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
Washington D.C., United States

FINAL REPORT

United Nations Development Programme
Cambodia
FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project – Phase I and Phase II
December 2022



Reporting Period	2013-2016
Donor	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Phase I (FCPF I)
Country	Cambodia
Project Title	FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project
Project ID	00076292
(Atlas Award ID)	00087758
Outputs	
(Atlas Project ID and Description)	Cambodia FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project
Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	CPD Outcome: By 2015, more people living in Cambodia benefit from, and participate in, increasingly equitable, green, diversified economic growth
Implementing Partner(s)	Forestry Administration, Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fishery (FA/MAFF) Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce and REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTF/RTS)
Project Start Date	1 November 2013
Project End Date	31 December 2017
Total resources required	USD 4,184,728
Revenue received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular: UNDP-TRACK USD 142,197 Other: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility USD 4,042,531 Total USD 4,184,728
Unfunded budget	USD 0.00
UNDP Contact Person	Name: Alissar Chaker Title: Resident Representative UNDP- Cambodia Email: alissar.chaker@undp.org Tel.: +855 12812723

Reporting Period	2017-2022
Donor	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility Phase II (FCPF II)
Country	Cambodia
Project Title	FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project
Project ID	00091590
(Atlas Award ID)	
Outputs	00096720
(Atlas Project ID and Description)	Cambodia FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project
Strategic Plan and/or CPD Outcomes	CPD Outcome: By 2018, people living in Cambodia, particularly youth, women and vulnerable groups, are enabled to actively participate in and benefit equitably from growth and

	development that is sustainable and does not compromise the well-being or natural or cultural resources of future generations
Implementing Partner(s)	General Directorate of Administration, Nature Protection and Conservation, Ministry of Environment Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce and REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTF/RTS)
Project Start Date	1 July 2017
Project End Date	31 December 2022
Total resources required	USD 5,844,769
Revenue received	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regular: TRACK USD 12,609 Other: Forest Carbon Partnership Facility USD 5,832,160 Total USD 5,844,769
Unfunded budget	USD 0.00
UNDP Contact Person	Name: Alissar Chaker Title: Resident Representative UNDP- Cambodia Email: alissar.chaker@undp.org Tel.: +855 12812723

Table of Content

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 4

II. BACKGROUND 19

III. PROGRESS REVIEW 20

IV. PROJECT RESULT SUMMARY 27

V. PROJECT RISKS AND ISSUES 39

VI. LESSONS LEARNED 42

VII. CONCLUSIONS AND WAY FORWARD 43

VIII. FINANCIAL STATUS 48

IX. ANNEXES 51

List of abbreviation

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and other Landuse
AIP	Action and Investment Plan
BUR	Biannual Update Report
CBR+	Community Based REDD+
CDP	Country Programme Document
CCB	Climate Community and Biodiversity
CCTWG	Climate Change Technical Working Group
CCCA3	Cambodia Climate Change Alliance Phase III
CEMIS	Cambodia Environmental Management Information System
CG	Consultation Group
CF	Community Forestry
CFi	Community Fisheries
CI	Conservation International
COP	Conference of the Parties
CPAP	Country Programme Action Plan
CPA	Community Protected Area
CPD	Country Programme Document
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DEFRA	Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs
EF	Emission Factor
ELSA	Essential Life Support Area
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FA	Forestry Administration
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FiA	Fishery Administration
FOLU	Forest and Other Land Use
FRL	Forest Reference Level
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCF-SAP	Green Climate Fund Simplify Approval Process
GG	Gender Group
GDNPA	General Directorate for Nature Protection Area
GHG	Green House Gas
IAT	Independent Assessment Team
IP	Indigenous people
ISDS	Information System Decision Support
JCM	Joint Credit Mechanism
JFA	Japan Forest Agency
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
JNR	Jurisdictional Nested REDD+

KFA	Korean Forest Agency
LT-LEDS	Long Term Low Emission and Development Strategy
LT-S4CN	Long Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality
LULUCF	Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
MEF	Ministry of Economic and Finance
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MOWA	Ministry of Women Affairs
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
N/A	Not Applicable
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NIM	National Implementation Modality
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
NFP	National Forestry Programme
NPASMP	National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan
NPFSP	National Production Forestry Strategic Plan
PAMP	Protected Area management Plan
PMU	Project Management Unit
RBP	Results-Based Payment
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
R-PP	Readiness Preparation Proposal
RTF	REDD+ Taskforce
RTS	REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat
SESP	Social and Environmental Screening Procedures
SIS	Safeguards Information System
SO	Strategic objective
Sol	Summary of Information
SBSTA	Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
TA	Technical Assessment
TTs	Technical Teams
UNDAF	United Nation Development Assistance Framework
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nation Development Programme
UN-REDD	United Nation REDD+ Initiatives
WA	Wildlife Alliance
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

WF	Warsaw Framework
WOCAN	Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management
WWC	Wildlife Work Carbon

I. Executive summary

Over the last decade, Cambodia's Reduce Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Programme has been successful in opening a public dialogue on the management of forest resources and in increasing transparency in the forest sector, as well as in building the capacities of all stakeholders in the field of forest monitoring, forest governance and sustainable forest management. REDD+ readiness efforts have notably contributed to improve the understanding of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, and to design appropriate policy responses.

Over the years and with the support of several technical and financial partners, with the support from Forest Carbon Partnership Facilities (FCPF) project, Cambodia's REDD+ Programme has produced a wide range of policy and technical documents and capacity building materials, that can be found on the [website](#) of Cambodia's REDD+ Programme. The following highlights are key achievements that enable Cambodia to effectively participate in REDD+ and are crucial to transition from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation.

Inter-sectoral coordination and stakeholders' engagement

Inter-sectoral coordination is critical to ensure that appropriate REDD+ policies and measures can be taken to address the various drivers of deforestation. Stakeholders' engagement is also instrumental to ensure that views of all stakeholders are represented. Cambodia's REDD+ Programme has been successful in opening a public dialogue for the management of forest resources, notably in providing a platform to represent the views of all stakeholders (government, development partners, civil society organizations, indigenous people, private sector) concerned by forest management. Earlier support resulted in the establishment of the REDD+ Taskforce (RTF) and REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS) for effective inter-sectoral coordination, and in the establishment of the REDD+ Consultation Group (CG) and Gender Group (GG) for effective stakeholder engagement.

National REDD+ Strategy and elements of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+

Developing countries that meet requirements set by the Warsaw Framework (WF) may be eligible to apply for REDD+ results-based payment (RBPs) under the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The FCPF II project has supported the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) to develop the *National REDD+ Strategy* (NRS) and meet the other requirements of the WF:

National REDD+ Strategy (NRS): In 2017, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) endorsed its NRS to set vision, strategies, and key actions to achieve REDD+ in Cambodia. The NRS primarily builds upon three national policy frameworks that guide forest management: (i) the Production Forests Strategic Plan 2018-2032 (PFSP), (ii) the National Protected Areas Strategic Management Plan 2017-2030 (NPASMP) and (iii) the Strategic Planning Framework for Fisheries 2010-2019 (SPFF). In 2021, the RGC also finalized and endorsed the **Action & Investment Plan** (AIP) for the implementation of the NRS. While ensuring a gender-responsive approach, the AIP sets up the Policies & Measures, Financial Plan and Monitoring & Evaluation Framework needed to achieve REDD+ objectives. It also seeks to guide

investments for effective implementation of various REDD+ actions across the country in a way that ensures social inclusion and gender equity. The AIP links existing policies and addresses gaps in an implementation framework that enhances coherence and coordination, especially between the RGC Ministries and their technical and financial partners.

Forest Reference Level³: the RGC has submitted its first national forest reference level (FRL) for the 2006-2014 reference period in 2016 and has been formally accepted and accessible in the UNFCCC web portal [here](#). The second updated FRL (for the 2016-2018 period) which was approved and submitted by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) to UNFCCC in May 2021 was successfully assessed and the [technical assessment report](#) was officially released by the independent Assessment Team (IAT) of the UNFCCC on 11 March 2022. The updated FRL is formally accepted and accessible in the UNFCCC web-portal [here](#). This shows good progress compared to most countries in the Asia and Pacific region. Key improvements in the second FRL were the use of more plot data (e.g., from the REDD+ projects), improved methods to produce activity data, such as sample-based change estimates, and updated allometric equations, and Emission Factor (EF) calculations with a narrower range of uncertainty.

National Forest Monitoring System⁴ (NFMS): Cambodia has launched its NFMS in 2017 to monitor REDD+ activities and is continuously working to improve methodologies for EF (i.e., data on forest carbon stocks) and *Activity Data* (i.e., data on forest cover change) estimation. Web portal has also been established. The NFMS will continue to improve and strengthen with new data from the National Forest Inventory (NFI) and more sampling plot data from REDD+ projects to improve accuracy in estimation of greenhouse gas (GHG).

Biennial Update Report (BUR) and REDD+ Technical Annex (TA): The RGC has submitted its first *Biennial Update Report* (BUR) to the UNFCCC in August 2020. The BUR *REDD+ Technical Annex* (TA) compares GHG emissions and removals for the forest and land use sector for the reporting periods (2015-2016 and 2017-2018) with estimates of the reference period (2006-2014). REDD+ TA analysis shows encouraging results, with GHG emission reductions (ERs) assessed with high confidence for the 2017-2018 period (i.e., 4,8 MtCO₂e/year).

The Safeguards Information System (SIS) and the Summary of Information on Safeguards (Sol): The SIS together with the first Sol for Cambodia has been completed, endorsed by the chairman of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) and has already been officially submitted to UNFCCC. The first Sol presents how Cambodia will address and respect Cancun Safeguards during REDD+ implementation and identifies key modalities and practical arrangements that will be promoted and are in line with national policies, laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and conventions. The Sol analyses the potential social and environmental risks that may be linked to REDD+ implementation and suggests appropriate remedial measures to mitigate those risks. The Sol also provides key indicators for gathering relevant information on how REDD+ safeguards will be addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures. Cambodia has also completed the development of an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for its AIP-NRS.

REDD+ Regulatory Framework (Nested System):

Guideline and PRAKAS on REDD+ Nested System: Cambodia has also finalized the PRAKAS and the Guidelines on the Rules for REDD+ Nesting. The PRAKAS and Guideline have been formally accepted by MoE and under the process of endorsement. However, the Guideline and PRAKAS have not been endorsed, pending the adoption of a sub-decree on Rules and Procedures to participate in GHG Reduction Mechanisms in Cambodia by Royal Government of Cambodia being prepared by NCSD. The PRAKAS and Guideline provides important inputs for the implementation of the sub decree. It provides clear rules and procedures for coordinating multiple actors implementing REDD+ at different spatial scales, notably in terms of carbon accounting, safeguards monitoring and benefit-sharing. These guidelines are going to permit Cambodia to comply with emerging international requirements for REDD+, supplement government capacity to implement AIP-NRS. Moreover, the nesting process will support Cambodia to achieve its NDC and to set out a foundation for participation in future Paris Agreement's Article 6 transaction, as well as promote alignment, transparency, and equity among REDD+ stakeholders in Cambodia. In addition, to support REDD+ nested operationalization, several details technical procedures were also developed including:

- **Nesting Roadmap:** The completion of the Nesting Roadmap outlining steps and activities needed to operationalize nested system.
- **Positive List:** The finalization and technical endorsement of a Positive List presenting the standards that are eligible for use in REDD+ implementation in Cambodia by the REDD+ Taskforce.
- **Safeguards in a Nested System:** The analysis of information gaps concerning safeguards monitoring at the project and national level to for the National REDD+ Safeguards Information System under UNFCCC was conducted including identifying what and measures to meet the gaps and requirements for subnational REDD+ nested project in Cambodia, which was also completed. The information gaps and mitigation measures will form part of an additional safeguards' information needs for nesting REDD+ projects under the national programme.
- **Project Registry:** The development of a National REDD+ Project Database (Registry) including the design of the project registration form and procedures has been completed and can be accessed via Cambodia REDD+ website: <https://cambodia-redd.org/policies-and-strategies/redd-project-database.html>). The database is ready for operationalization once the PRAKAS and Guideline are formally endorsed. The National REDD+ Programme Website was also upgraded to ensure it can support the operationalization of the Registry. Currently, the manual for operating and management of the National REDD+ Project Database and web portal is being developed.
- **FRL Allocation Tool (FRL- AT):** The FRL allocation methodology including a deforestation and forest degradation risk map, has also been developed. The current version of the FRL-AT has been considered to be used by the REDD+ project proponents. In addition, based on the recommendation from the technical assessment team of the UNFCCC on the second FRL (2022) and with the financial support from FCPF-II, DGIS/GDEKI has conducted a new pilot study on forest fire study and recommendations from the study, if needed the FRL will be updated/improved accordingly.

Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ Forest Reference Level (JNR-FRL)- Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS): Cambodia was selected by Verra as the first pilot country for its JNR framework or platform which will enable the country to access Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) credits for both subnational REDD+ projects and government-led jurisdictional REDD+ programmes. To this end a first draft (or version 1) of the JNR - FREL Description Template for JNR Scenario 1 (VCS Version 4.0) was completed and is currently under review by MoE before soliciting public consultation and feedback.

National Strategic Plans and Strategies: In addition, as part of the transition to REDD+ implementation phase, with the continuous support FCPF project, several inter-linked national strategic plans and strategies intersect with and inform the NRS implementation were also developed and officially endorsed by RGC including:

- National Protected Area Strategic Management 2017-2031 and action and investment plan (AIP – NPASMP) that prioritize and guide the strategies and actions necessary to safeguard a network of more than 7 million hectares of protected areas that will contribute to the country's economy and sustainable development, including poverty reduction, through the conservation and sustainable use of its biological, natural and cultural resources and other ecosystem services.
- Technical Guideline for Developing zoning and management plan for Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors in the Kingdom of Cambodia were also developed and endorsed by MoE.
- The National Production Forest Strategic Plan (NPFSP) 2018-2032 that will guide the future development and sustainable management of production forests for their contribution to poverty alleviation, enhanced livelihoods and economic growth was also developed.

REDD+ on the ground - Capacity building for REDD+ implementation at subnational level

Improving subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation has taken a multi-pronged approach and includes awareness-raising, knowledge generation and mainstreaming safeguards implementation with stakeholders. With support from FCPF, the RTS in partnership with the three government forestry institutions have successfully implemented REDD+ demonstration activities at subnational level. The key outputs completed to date including:

General Directorate of Natural Protected Area (GDNPA/MoE) is focused on sustainable management of the Phnom Kulen National Park through zoning, reforestation and strengthening law enforcement in Siem Reap. To date, the final draft of the zoning has been finalized and validated through consultation with relevant stakeholders. The zoning report has been prepared. A Sub-Decree on Zoning has been prepared for approval by MoE and RGC. Capacity building to Park Rangers to enhance law enforcement has also progressed well through regular field patrolling activity. As part of the support to facilitate forest conservation, restoration, and maintenance, seedlings of native species have been planted in about 20 ha of degraded forest land in the park by the local communities, Provincial, District and Commune Authorities, Parks staff and Provincial Department of Environment.

Fishery Administration (FiA/MAFF): focused on restoring of the degraded flooded forest as part of its effort to strengthen flooded forest conservation in Sarsarsdam commune, Siem Reap Province and supporting innovative and efficient bioenergy technology to combat forest fire resulting from wood biomass collection from flooded forest conservation area in Tonle Sap Great Lake. In addition, of flooded forest, the impact of forest fire and land encroachment. Approximately 260,000 seedlings collected from the flooded forest stands were collected and managed in nursery, and 60 ha of degraded flooded forest conservation area have been successfully restored using those naturally grown seedlings. Local fishery community particularly women-headed and poor household families actively participated and benefitted from these activities. Additionally, 61 biodigesters have also been supported and used by local community for daily cooking. Each unit of biodigester will last for 25 years these will help to save 1,270 Kg¹ of firewood's collected from the flooded forest conservation areas per unit and will help to reduce between 2,096 to 2,286 kg of CO₂e/year².

Forestry Administration (FA/MAFF) focused on strengthening the implementation of community forestry in Samroang commune, Pursat province through testing community woodlot establishment to provide sustainable wood biomass supply for charcoal production for income generation, scaling up innovative bioenergy efficient technology and strengthening law enforcement. To date, all the key planned activities and outputs have been successfully completed including 20 ha of community woodlot with fast-growing trees established (30,000-40,000 seedlings). A community woodlot management plan has also been developed to ensure long term management and maintenance of the woodlot. Twenty biodigesters have been supported and operationalized among twenty poor families, of which 9 families of indigenous group. In addition, two women saving's groups have also been established to provide access to credit and thereby enable them to benefit and actively participate in the project implementation.

Knowledge Products on Nesting and REDD+: As part of the project documentation and closure, the development of booklet "[REDD+ in Cambodia](#)" was completed. The booklet presented 'institutional memory' on the development of REDD+ in Cambodia. It included a section on the development of nested REDD+ over the period 2019-2021. In addition, a new knowledge product on the nested system was also developed and finalized. It outlines the story of Cambodia's pioneering work on nesting. Both knowledge products chronicled experiences that should be of interest to other developing countries those, like Cambodia, are seeking to strike a complex balance between development and climate priorities through nesting. In addition, four video documentaries on REDD+ related development in Cambodia, both in Khmer and in English subtitle, were also developed and uploaded into the REDD+ Cambodia website and social media outlets (<http://www.cambodia-redd.org>). A storytelling product that recounts the results of conservation and restoration activities under the FCPF-II project support in the Tonle Sap Great Lake was also developed and published ([Here](#))

1.1 In brief, what were the main REDD+ readiness-related activities delivered within your country during the project period?

¹ ATEC project assessment report for FiA-Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, Cambodia-December 2022.

² Kaltimber: <https://www.kaltimber.com/blog/2017/6/19/how-much-co2-is-stored-in-1-kg-of-wood?format=amp>

During the project period (2013-2022), the national REDD+ process in Cambodia has focused on the following activities:

- The establishment of effective National Management of REDD+ Readiness process.
- Capacity-building and engagement of REDD+ stakeholders and institutions through trainings, workshops, meetings, awareness raising campaigns and consultations in accordance with consultation principles, including capacity building for subnational REDD+ implementation at subnational level.
- Development of communication materials and platform.
- Development of the NRS and the AIP for the implementation of the NRS (AIP-NRS).
- Development of relevant national strategic plans and strategies on National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan (NPASMP) and its Actions and Investment Plan (AIP), Guidelines for Development of Protected Zoning and Management Plan, National Strategic Plans for Production Forestry, Land Use Finance Mapping.
- Supporting sub-national capacity building for REDD+ implementation.
- Development of a Forest Reference Emission-Level (FREL) and National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).
- Development of a Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Summary of Information (SOI) including Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF)
- Development of REDD+ Regulatory Framework (PRAKAS and Guideline on REDD+ Nesting) associated details technical guidelines for operationalization of REDD+ Nesting System.
- Development of Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ Forest Reference Level (JNR-FRL) to enable the country to access Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) credits for both subnational REDD+ projects and government-led jurisdictional REDD+ programmes.
- Development of REDD+ Knowledge products including video documentaries.

1.2 What were the main REDD+ readiness-related achievements in your country for the project period?

- REDD+ Institutionalization: REDD+ Readiness management Structure including REDD+ Taskforce (RTF), REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS), four Technical Teams-TTs (MRV, Safeguards, benefits sharing and demonstration) as well as Gender Group (GG) and REDD+ Consultation Group (CG) have established and have been active and engaged in the implementation of REDD+ activities throughout the readiness process.
- Strengthening capacities: Stakeholders' capacities on REDD+ particularly the REDD+ national groups: RTF, RTS, TTs, GG and CG including subnational stakeholders has been developed through organization of various consultation meetings, workshops, trainings, south-south cooperation, conducting exchange visits and awareness raising events. Those various events at the national and the subnational levels have contributed to create and enhance awareness and capacities of 8,985 participants (1,914 women)³ from a wide range of stakeholders including local community, indigenous people, and civil society organizations (CSOs) representatives and networks.

³ Among these numbers, many are of course the same people participating in a different event.

- REDD+ Governance: The project has supported cross-sectoral coordination between key national agencies and REDD+ Development Partners (DPs) through NCSD, RTF/RTS, TTs, CG and GG. At the strategic level, NCSD and RTF oversee, coordinate, and govern the development and implementation of REDD+ process in Cambodia, provided oversights to improvements in forest resource governance, foster inter-ministerial cooperation, advise on the RGC's position in international conventions and provided guidance on financial resources and sustainability. At the technical level the RTS and TTs, representing seven Government institutions, led and provided inputs on REDD+ related issues and the GG and CG ensured stakeholders inputs.
- Improving communication: REDD+ stakeholders' information has been significantly enhanced through a REDD+ website, as well as social media channels ([Facebook](#), [Tweeter](#)), a wide range of communication materials (posters, videos, calendars, booklets, stories, articles etc.) and policies and strategy documents developed and accessed via [Cambodia Redd+ Website](#) and also summarized in annex 3.
- A National REDD+ Strategy ([NRS](#)) has been developed and endorsed by the RGC in 2017.
- The Action and Investment Plan ([AIP](#)) for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy (AIP-NRS) has been developed and endorsed by the RGC in May 2021.
- The First Forest Reference Level (1st FRL) has been submitted to the UNFCCC in 2016, technically assessed, and officially posted in the UNFCCC Web Portal and can be accessible [here](#).
- The second update Forest Reference Level (2nd FRL) has also been submitted to the UNFCCC in May 2021, technically assessed and officially accepted and is assessable through the UNFCCC web portal [here](#).
- A Biennial Update Report ([BUR](#)) has been submitted by the country in 2020, including a REDD+ annex (covering the 2017-2018 period), which has been deemed compliant by the UNFCCC, allowing Cambodia to be eligible for Results-based Payments, for example under the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- Activity data: Cambodia's national land use/cover change map has been updated biennially. The land use/cover change assessment for 2010, 2012, 2014, [2016](#), [2018](#), 2020 was completed and published.
- Emission factor:
 - A [web portal](#) has been established for its National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS).
 - A Safeguards Information System (SIS) and Summary of Information (SOI) have been developed and endorsed by the RGC in 2019. The SOI can be accessed through UNFCCC Web portal, [here](#).
 - An Environmental and Social Management Framework ([ESMF](#)) for AIP-NRS had developed and endorsed by the RGC in the year 2018 and has been applied in the three REDD+ pilot sites supported by the project and can be accessible via the following links: [FiA-SOI](#), [FA-Sol](#), [GDNPA-Sol](#).
- The project has supported the development of key forest strategies and guidelines. All these policies, strategies and guidelines provide the foundation and are being used by MoE, conservation NGOs and DPs for protected area management nationally including:
 - The National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan ([NPASP](#)) 2017-2031 endorsed by the Ministry of Environment (MoE) in 2017.
 - The Action Plan for the implementation of the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan 2018-2022 ([AP-NPASMP](#)) developed and endorsed by MoE in 2018.

- Technical guideline on Protected Area Management Plan ([PAMP](#)) Development developed and approved by MoE in November 2018.
 - [Zoning Guideline](#) for Protected Area in Cambodia developed and approved by MoE in 2017.
 - Final draft of Production Forest Strategic Plan (PFSP) developed and validated.
- REDD+ Regulatory Framework (PRAKAS and Guideline on REDD+ Nesting) developed and formally accepted by MoE awaiting official endorsement of the Sub-Decree on Greenhouse Gas Mechanism in Cambodia before the REDD+ regulatory framework will be approved by MoE. Associated details technical guidelines for operationalization of REDD+ Nesting System developed including:
- a. A National Roadmap for Nesting has been prepared to guide Cambodia towards full operationalization of Nested REDD+.
 - b. The National REDD+ Project Database ([Registry](#)) has been developed. The registry is being updated and a manual to operate and manage the National REDD+ Project are under development.
 - c. A positive list presenting the standards that are eligible for use in REDD+ implementation in Cambodia developed.
 - d. The draft of Forest Reference Level (FRL) allocation methodology including a deforestation and forest degradation risk map developed.
- First draft of Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ Forest Reference Level (JNR-FRL) to enable the country to access Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) credits for both subnational REDD+ projects and government-led jurisdictional REDD+ programmes developed, under review by MoE before soliciting public consultation and feedback.
- Three REDD+ pilot projects on Capacity building for REDD+ implementation at subnational level supported and successfully implemented including:
- **General Directorate of Administration, Nature Protection and Conservation (GDANCP/MoE)** focused on sustainable management of the Phnom Kulen National Park through zoning, reforestation and strengthening laws enforcement in Siem Reap.
 - **Fishery Administration (FIA/MAFF):** focused on restoring of the degraded flooded forest as part of its effort to strengthen flooded forest conservation in Sarsarsdam commune, Siem Reap Province and supporting innovative bioenergy efficient technology to combat forest fire resulting from wood biomass collection from a flooded forest conservation area in Tonle Sap Great Lake.
 - **Forestry Administration (FA/MAFF)** focused on strengthening the implementation of partnership/community forestry in Samroang commune, Pursat province through testing community woodlot establishment to provide sustainable wood biomass supply

for charcoal production for income generation, scaling up innovative bioenergy efficient technology and strengthening law enforcement.

- REDD+ Knowledge products including video documentaries finalized for public awareness and dissemination including:
 - a. Video documentary on “Testing of REDD+ Safeguards implementation in Cambodia” ([Link](#))
 - b. The REDD+ 10 years achievements (retrospective report on Cambodia’s approach to REDD+) booklets ([Link](#)) including video documentaries on:
 - REDD+ Development in Cambodia - Cambodia (Khmer with English subtitle - December 2021),
 - Measurement, Reporting and verification (MRV-FRL) - Cambodia (Khmer with English subtitle - December 2021),
 - REDD+ Nesting in Cambodia (Khmer with English subtitle - December 2021)
 - A knowledge product (booklet) on status of REDD+ nested system in Cambodia ([Link](#)).
 - c. A case story on [Flooded forests crucial for Cambodian livelihoods](#) in the Tonle Sap Great Lake.
 - A case story on community flooded forest conservation and restoration activities under the FCPF project support in the Tonle Sap Great Lake ([Link](#)).

1.3 What were the main REDD+ readiness-related challenges and/or problems during the project period?

Cambodia started its REDD+ Programme a decade ago. While the concept of making standing trees worth more than dead ones is still valid, the Cambodia REDD+ Programme is not easy or quick to develop and implement and faces a range of important challenges.

Reconciling economic growth and environmental sustainability

Cambodia has made huge strides in reducing poverty, particularly through the garment industry, agricultural production, and tourism. Cambodia has emerged from a difficult period to be a dynamic and stable country which, over the last 20 years, has experienced remarkable economic growth.

Beyond their role for climate change mitigation, forests provide invaluable services for the environment and society, and have an enabling ability to continued growth in key sectors of Cambodia’s economy (e.g., agriculture, tourism, energy, etc.). However, while forests are of vital importance for Cambodia and while many rural communities rely on them for their livelihoods, the country is experiencing one of the highest deforestation rates in the world.

Despite the critical role of forests for environmental sustainability and human wellbeing, Cambodia suffers from shortfalls in policy, governance and resources hindering good forest management. Furthermore, gender inequalities exist which result in women being minimally engaged in decision-making processes and underrepresented in forest management institutions.

Multi-level governance

The implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia faces a range of issues in terms of capacity of the government to coordinate and deliver the necessary set of policies and measures that are effective in reducing deforestation associated with the country's rapid economic development. The cross sectoral nature of REDD+ and its emerging matters linked with the Paris Agreement (e.g., compliance and voluntary markets) remains insufficiently understood and integrated at both national and subnational levels.

However, some governance issues cannot be addressed through improved coordination only because their origin is to be found in fundamental differences in goals and interests of various actors and sectors at different scales. This is particularly true when differences in interest coincide with unequal power relations. In that respect, political commitment at *all* levels is critical for successful REDD+ implementation.

Assessing impacts

Since the emergence of REDD+, monitoring of forest-cover change (through remote sensing technologies), forest carbon stocks (through field forest inventories) and GHG fluxes in the forest and land-use sector has seen remarkable advances. While depending on the data availability and therefore on financial and technical capacities, the accuracy of measurements has improved substantially over time.

Still, the alignment of different carbon accounting methodologies, and the avoidance of double counting at different spatial scales is a major challenge.

Furthermore, measuring impact of specific interventions on forest cover change remains highly complex. Besides the significant technological progress to monitor forest resources, measuring the impact of various policies (e.g., land-use planning, forest law enforcement, livelihoods development programme, etc.) implemented by various actors (government, NGOs, private sector, local communities, etc.) at different (and sometimes overlapping) spatial scales (e.g., national, subnational jurisdiction, project scales, etc.) remains a major challenge.

Sharing benefits

Designing and implementing a transparent financial mechanism to channel REDD+ finance towards the achievement of REDD+ objectives remain a challenge in Cambodia.

Another challenge (interlinked with the challenge of monitoring the impact of various policies implemented by various actors at various spatial scales) is the design of a fair system to share REDD+ benefits. Defining what portion of the ERs/RBPs received at the national level should be kept at the national level, what portion should be shared with subnational jurisdictions, and what portion should be used to incentivize local actions remains a complex task.

In addition, defining potential (monetary and non-monetary) benefits, developing benefit sharing plan, benefit distribution mechanism, and identifying potential beneficiaries represent a range of challenges faced by Cambodia, as by many other REDD+ countries.

Financing implementation

Cambodia has been successful in securing funding for REDD+ readiness. However, the volume of funding required to transition from readiness to implementation is substantially higher and necessitates the coordination of multiple permanent sources of finance, from national budget and development aid to private and public climate finance.

While REDD+ readiness support is coming to an end, REDD+ implementation also needs political and financial support from both REDD+ developing countries and developed countries. And while RBPs, the main innovation brought by REDD+, is still in a pilot phase worldwide, the sustainability of Cambodia REDD+ Programme might be jeopardized without substantial international financial support to help the country to transition from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation.

1.4 To help build an understanding of the FCPF strengths, weaknesses, and contributions to REDD+, please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
The FCPF's support has had a central influence on the development our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved the quality of our national REDD+ systems and processes					X
The FCPF's support has improved national capacities to develop and deliver REDD+ projects					X
The FCPF's support has helped to ensure substantive involvement of multiple stakeholders (including women, IPs, CSOs and local communities in our national REDD+ systems and processes					X

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

FCPF support has been instrumental in allowing the country to achieve REDD+ readiness requirements.

1.5 To help assess the usefulness and application of FCPF knowledge products ([publications](#), [seminars](#), [learning events](#), [web resources](#)), please indicate the extent to which you agree with the following statements:

Mark 'X' as appropriate

	Completely disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Completely agree
We regularly access FCPF knowledge products to obtain REDD+ related information				x	
FCPF knowledge products are relevant to our REDD+ related information requirements				x	
FCPF knowledge products are sufficient to address all of our REDD+ related information requirements				x	
The FCPF website is a useful resource for accessing FCPF and REDD+ related information					x

Comments / clarifications, if appropriate:

As described above, while waiting for the official endorsement by the RGC on the National Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects or Nested System, RTS/RTF with the coordination support from UNDP currently is working to facilitate the Government particularly the MoE to participate in diverse initiative related to Carbon Market. At the side events of the Glasgow CoP26, Cambodia side events presented its achievements in tropical forest protection and conservation includes REDD+ nesting, mitigation actions under the Paris Agreement, shared work progress on preparation of the national long-term low emission and development strategy (LT-LEDS) on various economic sectors including FOLU, progress made to achieve NDC commitments and future plan in FOLU/REDD+ related activities. Cambodia also submitted the national report of Long-term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN) to the UNFCCC in December 2021.

Cambodia endorsed the Glasgow leader's declaration on forest and land use and is committed to conserve remaining forest, reverse forest loss and degradation, and accelerate restoration. At CoP27, Cambodia continued its engagement at various forums on climate and forest issues and has been in a process of mobilizing resource through donors, markets, and UN-REDD global programme, for instances.

Going beyond the FCPF support, RTS has secured additional funding of around USD380,000 to continue supporting a priority list of REDD+ related activities. The list includes activities related to strengthening the

readiness activities, institutionalization and strengthening of REDD+ unit within the MoE organogram, enhancing country capacities in various aspects of carbon markets, alignment of REDD+ activities to support achievement of NDC and LTS4CN commitments. UNDP-led Climate Promise 2.0 will fund those activities and work together with the Royal Government of Cambodia through RTS.

II. Background

In 2009, The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) officially endorsed REDD+ as a crucial strategy to tackle the alarming trend of deforestation and biodiversity loss, and to improve the livelihoods of forest dependent communities. The main objective of REDD+ is to incentivize developing countries to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, and foster the conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Over the last ten years, several initiatives and partners provided support for Cambodia to develop the technical elements of the *Warsaw Framework for REDD+ (WF)* and comply with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requirements to be eligible for REDD+ Results-Based Payments (RBP). Over the recent years, the *UN-REDD Programme* and the *Forest Carbon Partnership Fund (FCPF)* provided instrumental policy support for Cambodia to be ready for REDD+ implementation by 2020.

The World Bank-funded FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project has been implemented in Cambodia since March 2013 and will end in December 2022.

The first phase of the project (FCPF I) lasted from December 2013 to December 2016 with a US\$ 3.8 million⁴ budget. Building on the initial progress made by UN-REDD Programme support, the FCPF project I focused on development and enhancement of Cambodia government capacities to pursue the following outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Establishment of effective National Management of the REDD+ Readiness process and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the consultation principles
- Outcome 2: Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework
- Outcome 3: Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels
- Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation.

The decision to fund the second phase was taken on the basis of a mid-term review of the phase 1 of the project conducted in 2016. With a US\$ 5 million⁵ budget, FCPF project II is being implemented for the period 2017 – 2020 to prepare Cambodia for implementation of REDD+ under the UNFCCC.

Hence, the project will ensure the following four outcomes to be attained:

- Outcome 1: strengthening of REDD+ management arrangements.
- Outcome 2: development of NRS Action (or Investment) Plan(s) and other relevant enabling

⁴ This amount excludes the fees received for GMS. When added, the amount for FCPF project 1 is USD 4,042,531 million.

⁵ As per footnote number 2, this amount excludes the fees received for GMS and additional funding in 2021. When added, the amount for FCPF project II is USD 5,832,160 million.

policy instruments for REDD+.

- Outcome 3: enhancement of subnational capacities for REDD+ planning.
- Outcome 4: monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation.

In addition, in 2021, FCPF has also provided additional support of USD 425,645 to FCPF II focused on enabling private finance to support Cambodia's forest and climate goals through a functional REDD+ Nested regulatory framework.

Both projects were implemented by UNDP Country office in Cambodia under support to National Implementation Modality (NIM). The lead implementing agencies were the Forestry Administration of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (FA/MAFF) for the first phase with the General Directorate of Administration, Nature Protection and Conservation, Ministry of Environment (GDANCP/MoE) and the Fisheries Administration (FiA) of MAFF as the responsible party and GDANCP/MoE for the second phase⁶, while FA and FiA of MAFF acted as the responsible party.

III. Progress Review

3.1 Overall progress towards the UNDAF outcome

While the first phase falls under UNDAF and CPD/CPAP (2016-2018), the second phase of the project contributed to the current UNDAF and CPD (2019-2023). The FCPF project has contributed to achieving the United Nations Development Assistance framework (UNDAF) – Outcome 1 “by 2018, people living in Cambodia, in particular youth, women and vulnerable groups, are enabled to actively participate in and benefit equitably from growth and development that is sustainable and does not compromise the well-being, natural and cultural resources of future generations”, through the development of the NRS and implementation framework, the NPASMP and the NPFS that will contribute to reduce emission from deforestation and forest degradation by 1) strengthening management of forest conservation areas, 2) improving tenure security for forest dependent communities, 3) promoting sustainable forest management, and alternative livelihoods development, 4) strengthening of law enforcement and 5) promoting land use planning/zoning and management plans. Implementation of these strategic actions are under ways and is expected to lead to increases in forest cover, enhanced conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, as well as increases in the provision of forest products such as timber, non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and firewood, creating more livelihood opportunities for forest dependent communities.

3.2 Overall progress towards the CPAP outcome and output(s) relating to your project

Two key indicators that have contributed to achieve Country Programme Action Plan (CPAP) outputs including the approved NRS and operational document and institutional arrangement and capacity strengthening to implement National REDD+ Strategy. As part of strengthening capacity, the project have supported the RTS to organize multiple events including trainings, workshops, awareness raising,

⁶ OCCD became CCDA under the Climate Change (Management) Act 2015.

south-south cooperation and knowledge exchanges, participating in Conferences of Parties (COP) and FCPF Participants Committee (PC) conferences and subnational capacity building through piloting field REDD+ activities implementation to increase capacity of RTF, TTs, CG, GG and relevance officials of the MoE and MAFF to enable the effective management of the REDD+ readiness process and stakeholder engagement. At the community level, multiple outreach events with Community Forestry (CF), Community Fishery (CFi), Community Protected Area (CPA) and Indigenous people (IPs) were also conducted to ensure high standards of stakeholder engagement are maintained throughout the development process of the NRS and NPASMP, safeguards and in the Cambodia National REDD+ programme implementation. As a results, to fulfil the requirements of the Warsaw Framework for accessing REDD+ results-based finance, Cambodia has completed the NRS and endorsed by the Prime Minister, completed, and submitted the Forest Reference Level (FRL) to the UNFCCC, finalized the national Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and developed a proposed national approach to REDD+ safeguards. In addition, several key forestry related policies and strategies has been prepared and endorsed by RGC which will contributed to reduce emission, sustainable forest management and conservation and livelihood improvement. These achievements have been directly contributing to the Country Programme Document (CPD) Output 1.1. "Establishment and strengthening of institution, coordination mechanisms and policies for sustainable management of natural resources, ecosystem services".

3.3 Capacity development

Institutional capacity building occurred across a wide range of scale, from the local to international level.

At the international level, Cambodia REDD+ continues to participate actively in the international forums including participation in all the UNFCCC COP, representation at the FCPF PC meetings and in the discussions of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA), in the regional knowledge management and sharing as well as in south-south cooperation through exchange visits to REDD+ pioneer countries and in all biannual PC meetings of the FCPF with occasional presentations as panel members on key thematic issues.

At the country level, over 300 events of capacity building have been developed supported by the FCPF, and all REDD+ management arrangements and key institutional elements, PEB, RTF, RTS, and TTs, CG, GG remain in place and active. The PEB, RTF, RTS, CG and GG continue to hold regular meetings to provide oversight and technical inputs to the Cambodia REDD+ programme. The capacity building of these management and institutional arrangements continues to be provided and has progressed well.

A series of training sessions have also been organized on the concepts of REDD+, Warsaw Framework, Climate Change, forest monitoring, safeguards and benefits sharing including FIPIC, laws enforcement and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) related topics (seventy-three national and subnational training sessions). In addition, seventy-two stakeholders' engagement events with CF, CPA, CFi, IPs and local authorities on REDD+ were also conducted. The events have contributed to build awareness and increase knowledge and understanding of REDD+ among key stakeholder groups to

facilitate their engagement in consultations and the decision-making processes. 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.

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. Under the FCPF grant, subnational capacity building through the subnational demonstration sites has been supported and implemented. These additional sites have been 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.

Capacity building continues to be an integral part of the implementation of REDD+ at both national and subnational authorities to their active participation and engagement in REDD+ implementation. Trainings on the concept of gender and REDD+ has also been delivered to GG, TTs and CG to enable them to provide regular feedback to the policy deliberation processes to incorporate gender concerns and promote active participation of women in designing and implementing the NRS. The gender check list for the NRS was developed to provide the Cambodia REDD+ GG with guidance on possible ways gender equality and women's empowerment considerations could be promoted throughout the discussions and stakeholder consultations for the NRS. Table 1 summarizes capacity building efforts under different categories.

Table 1: Summary of Capacity Building Activities September 2014 – December 2022

Year	Programme Development	Capacity Building	Technical Team	Stakeholder Engagement	Management Coordination	Governance	Total Events	Participants	
2014	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	Total:217	
								F 0	M 217
2015	14	04	02	27	08	02	57	Total: 1,973	
								F 295	M 1,673
2016	12	20	00	03	06	03	44	Total: 1,662	
								F 348	M 1,314
2017	09	14	05	21	03	02	85	Total:1,612	
								F 450	M 1,162
2018	0	16	03	12	04	02	37	Total: 1,582	
								F 319	M 1,263
2019	08	07	10	07	03	02	37	Total: 1,260	
								F 376	M 884

2020	09	04	06	01	03	00	23	Total: 499	
								F 100	M 399
2021	02	03	03	01	05	01	15	Total: 303	
								F 26	M 159
2022	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Total	54	73	29	72	32	12	303	Total: 8,985	
								F 1,914	M 7,071

3.4 Gender Marker

The main achievement of the FCPF project as regards to gender mainstreaming has been its role in the process of gender planning and analysis becoming institutionally embedded in the key ministries and departments for REDD+. The basis for this was firstly the establishment of the National REDD+ Gender Group (GG) composed of representatives from MoE (GDANCP), MAFF (one each from FA and FiA) and the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MOWA). As noted in the report by WOCAN (2019) the GG has been active and well respected and their role had grown in influence (e.g., making inputs into key policy and planning documents) and capacity.

At the strategic and project management level, a representative from the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) is a member of the RTF and the FCPF project board, providing strategic guidance and a gender perspective for both the policies and the project's execution. "The ministries involved in REDD+ (MoE, FiA, FA, etc.) have undertaken various efforts to help promote the integration of gender into the work they support. They have provisioned for gender through their strategies, action plans and activities. To illustrate, the MoE, to help contribute to reducing gender gaps and promoting those benefits equally reach men and women, the ministry has developed a gender main-streaming strategic plan for the environmental sector for the period of 2016-2020." (WOCAN 2019, p.7)

Even before the 2019 training workshop, WOCAN (2019, p.7) reported that "awareness and motivation among the national and subnational level of MoE, MAFF and its department staffs to integrate gender is high." It has also been reported that the National REDD+ and departmental Gender Groups participated strongly in the development of the NRS and the AIP-NRS.

At the project level, particularly in the in the three REDD+ pilot projects, FCPF has provided budgetary support for gender-specific activities. These included tree planting, establishing woodlots, community nursery, micro-credit or women saving groups, and establishing biodigesters. Field monitoring data from the projects showed that most women were pleased with the projects and the associated income earning opportunities; particularly in the Pilot REDD+ Project in the Samraong Partnership Forest, Pursat Province and in the Flooded Forest Conservation in Sarsar Sdam, Seim Reap Provinces. These government-led pilot projects, although they were quite small-scale, demonstrated that it was possible and practical to increase women's participation in forest management or conservation activities, and

that this should be beneficial for REDD+, e.g., it was observed that women have proved to be effective communicators to their families on the need for, and benefits from, forest conservation.

The incorporation of gender into REDD+ planning was also strengthened through the work on safeguards. It was noted that gender issues are well covered in the SIS, including gender targets and indicators. The report on the 'Analysis of Information Gaps for SIS for REDD+ in Cambodia' (Version 2, October 2021) should help gender mainstreaming - it identified several actions to close gender-related information gaps, e.g., increased use of gender differentiated indicators. Finally, the draft of GCF-SAP Proposal (plus annex) includes a comprehensive 'Preliminary Gender Assessment Action Plan, set out as a Results Framework including baselines, indicator, and targets has been built on the gender assessment work carried out by FCPF.

3.5 Impact on direct and indirect beneficiaries.

The NRS, the NPASMP and the draft of the NPFS incorporates elements that address both livelihoods of local communities and biodiversity conservation. A specific action in these strategies aims to "identify and implement alternative and sustainable livelihood development programmes for local communities most dependent on forest resources". Broadly these strategies will strengthen governance and management of forest resource by enhancing capacity, prioritizing forest conservation areas, establish a robust national forest monitoring system and intensifying law enforcement capacity and implementation and promote the development of a national energy policy. Forest conservation areas located in high forest cover and high deforestation provinces and key landscapes will be prioritized for developing management plans. The strategies plan to enhanced co-benefits and promote livelihoods and stakeholder engagement by strengthening tenure, community based natural resource management and integrate and enhance contribution for forest resources to livelihoods. In addition, the strategies have outlined special attention to promote participation of vulnerable communities, women, indigenous people and those most dependent for livelihoods on forest resources will receive due attention in planning and implementation. However, successful implementation of these strategies to realize the impact is likely to be limited due to the external factor. The competing national development priorities will likely see efforts such as REDD+ and these strategies given low priority unless immediate financial benefit. Therefore, the programme is more likely to achieve intermediate results rather than directly support poor communities to improve their livelihoods while lowering emissions.

3.6 Participatory/consultative processes

The CG continues to have a pivotal role in REDD+ stakeholder engagement in Cambodia. The CG represents nine constituencies that include indigenous people representatives, community institutions, civil society organizations, private sector, and academic institutions. The CG participates in decision making through its representation in the PEB; provides inputs to annual work plans and budgets, participates actively in RTF meetings and consultations; nominates representatives to subnational, national and international capacity building events and policy forums; and contributes through facilitation of events, review of media products and as requires ensuring and upholding high standards of stakeholder engagement in the Cambodian National REDD+ Programme. Throughout the NRS and

NPASMP development process, the CG, IPs and GG have actively participated and facilitated consultation meetings. Multiple national and sub-national consultations were held to ensure all key stakeholders from local communities, women, forest users, civil society organizations, sub-national government administration, and relevant national government ministries were given adequate opportunities to provide comments and contribute with inputs to the strategies.

3.7 Quality of partnerships

The FCPF project continue to support and provide capacity building to the existing institutional arrangements for management of the readiness process include an inter-ministerial taskforce and a secretariat.

The National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) 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 NCSD has also been appointed the RGC focal point for the UNFCCC and oversees the Departments of Climate Change and Green Economy and has become an important institutional partner for REDD+ planning and implementation.

The RTF was established to oversee the implementation the UN-REDD National Programme and continues to oversee the implementation of the FCPF Grant. The Taskforce continue to govern and coordinate the development and implementation of REDD+ in Cambodia and to provide oversight to improvements in forest resource governance, foster inter-ministerial collaboration, advise on the RGC's position in international conventions and provide guidance on financial resources and sustainability. The RTS continue to be responsible for the effective management of Cambodia REDD+ including the implementation of RTF decisions and agreed annual work plans and provide support to stakeholder mechanisms and TTs. The host of RTF has been changed from the FA to the GDANCP of MoE. Currently the secretariat continues to function effectively.

At the technical level, the four technical teams whose members are from seven Ministries continue to lead and provide inputs on subject matter issues and a CG and GG ensure stakeholder inputs.

The project has also closely collaborated with the following agencies/projects for REDD+ readiness activities. The implementation arrangement is enabling a continuous learning process through constant technical support from the United Nation REDD+ Initiatives (UN-REDD), UNDP, Food and Agriculture of the United Nation (FAO), Japanese International Cooperation Assistance (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. All initiatives have contributed and complemented to the implementation of the Cambodia REDD+ Readiness Roadmap. In addition, several initiatives led by UNDP, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) have established REDD+ demonstration sites in different regions with various forest types.

3.8 National ownership

The RTF, RTS and TTs are the primary constituted of government official from seven ministries under the leadership of NCSD, MoE and MAFF to oversee policy decision making and development, ensuring its consistency and complementary with national policies and strategies with technical support and advice by REDD+ Development Partners. They take lead in coordinating, reviewing, and implementing all REDD+ readiness activities in Cambodia.

In addition, a clearly defined project management structure exists and consists of a 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 RTS continue to provide technical and administrative support to the project.

This grant follows the UNDP National Implementation Modality (NIM) with the Forestry Administration (FA) as the Implementation Partner for FCPF I and the General Directorate of Administration, Nature Protection and Conservation (GDANCP) for FCPF II. 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. In addition, a new institutional reform in the RTS has been undergoing through UNDP's technical assistance to restructure and stronger institutionalization of REDD+ in the MoE within the context of NDC and LTS4CN.

3.9 Sustainability

The project has been operating through existing inter-ministerial taskforce, secretariat supported by related government agencies. The outcomes are mainstreamed into the regular mandates, policies, strategies, and operations of these agencies to the maximum extent possible. Capacity development measures for MoE, NCSD, MAFF and RTF members at the national level and subnational government officials have been undertaken through a range of tools related to REDD+. The government agencies have been leading in all project activities such as designing, managing, coordinating and implementation to ensure national ownership. The NRS and AIP, NPASMP, NPFS and other policy documents that have been developed through the project support are examples of the national ownership. A REDD+ centred updated NDC and LTS4CN in the Forest and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector. The commitment of senior and technical professional in GDNPA/MoE, FA/MAFF and FiA/MAFF is an indicative given to REDD+ in Cambodia. In addition, CG and GG groups continued to hold regular meetings to discuss inputs and provide inputs to the RTF for policy formulation relevant to them through its bi-monthly forum, strengthening stakeholder engagement with CF, CPA, CFi and IPs in the REDD+ readiness process through various communication and outreach activities. As stipulated in the NRS and AIP documents, endorsed by the RGC, REDD+ mechanism will continue to play pivotal roles in the Cambodia REDD+ transition from readiness to implementation.

IV. Project Result Summary

4.1 Assessment of national progress against all REDD+ readiness sub-components

Table 1 below covers both progresses in FCPF1 and FCPF 2.

Table 1- Readiness assessment

5	Completed	The sub-component has been completed
4	Significant progress	Significant progress
3	Progressing well, further development required	Progressing well, further development required
2	Further development required	Further development required
1	Not yet demonstrating progress	Not yet demonstrating progress
0	N/A	The sub-component is not applicable to our process

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
R-PP Component 1: Readiness Organisation and Consultation				
Sub-component 1a:	5	Completed	x	- The institutional arrangements for REDD+ that was set up for the readiness process include the National REDD+ Taskforce (NTF), REDD+ Secretariat (RTS), Consultation Group (CG), Gender Group (GG) and four Technical Teams (Safeguards, Benefits Sharing, Demonstration and MRV/FRL). With an ongoing engagement capacity building and awareness raising, there has been growing of interest and increasing of participations at both national and

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
National REDD+ Management Arrangements	4	Significant progress	<p>subnational level. The current institutional arrangement for REDD+ readiness stage remains functional and continue to provide strong leadership and engagement to support transition to REDD+ implementation phase in Cambodia.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Action and Investment Plan for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy (AIP-NRS) has been formally endorsed by MoE in May 2021. The AIP-NRS recommended the necessary institutional arrangement for REDD+ to be operational. With the support from the project and climate promise, work has been initiated to refine and institutionalize a new institutional arrangement within MoE, organogram with the aim to create stronger mandates of the institutions responsible for REDD+ implementation at national and subnational levels, as well as coordination, monitoring, and reporting lines across institutions at various levels.
	3	Progressing well, further development required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The financing of the UNDP Climate Promise 2.0 will evaluate a restructure of the MoE that ensures the full institutionalization of REDD+ in its management. Establishing a permanent REDD+ Unit within its organization chart.
	2	Further development required	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RTF/RTS with the technical support of the FCPF Project Management Unit (PMU), also hosted and shared Cambodia REDD+ progress and experiences with the Indonesian and Nepal REDD+ Delegations during their visit to RTS/MoE office in Cambodia
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - RTF and National Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Team with the coordination support from FCPF project team has also taken the lead in providing technical support to estimate the potential of forest carbon emission reduction of the activities of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). A new set of REDD+ related indicators for tracking NDC and to support Cambodia Climate Change Alliance, Phase 3 (CCCA3) project in preparation of the annual report for NDC tracking has been developed. The REDD+ indicators list has been reviewed by the MoE for official endorsement.
	0	N/A	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Sub-component 1b: Consultation, Participation and Outreach	5	Completed	x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Consultation, participation, and outreach remain the key strategy for REDD+ implementation. RTF and RTS continue to effectively manage and promote continual consultation, participation and engagement stakeholders from relevant government institutions, all REDD+ Project proponents and development partners in Cambodia and in the region to move to implementation stage. These stakeholders actively engaged and participated throughout the process to prepare Warsaw Framework, to design and operate the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects "Nested System", i.e., the PRAKAS and Guideline on the Rules for REDD+ nesting in Cambodia. - FCPF has also provided technical support and coordination to ensure the support of the UNDP Climate Promise 2.0 determining how international regulated and voluntary carbon markets can offer opportunities to mobilize investment to implement the REDD+ Strategy's activities in the NDC. This support has also extended to its participation as an observer in the VCMI to develop guidelines for using and claiming high-quality carbon credits. - Additionally, in March of 2022, FCPF contributed to organizing a workshop to strengthen the capacities of the Government's technical and senior staff on the carbon markets organized by UNDP. It was constituted as a relevant milestone to advance governance that encourages the development of REDD+ projects and large-scale programme through international carbon market financing. - As a part of communication, outreach and stakeholder engagement, FCPF continues to coordinate with various REDD+ Development Partners: Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Wildlife Alliance (WA), Conservation International (CI), Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Mitsui & Co., Ltd, USAID Greening Prey Lang, Japan Forest Agency (JFA), Korean Forest Agency (KFA), Wildlife Work Carbon (WWC).
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The preparation of the REDD+ 10 years achievements (retrospective) booklet including four videos on REDD+ and a new knowledge product on the status and experience of REDD+ nested system in Cambodia.
R-PP Component 2: REDD+ Strategy Preparation				
Sub-component 2: REDD+ Strategy	5	Completed	x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National REDD+ Strategy was developed and endorsed by Royal Government of Cambodia in December 2017. The Action and investment plan for the implementation of National REDD+ Strategy (AIP-NRS) was also completed and endorsed by Minister of Environment since May 2021. In addition, as part of the transition to REDD+ implementation phase, with the continuous support from the FCPF project, several inter-linked national strategic plans and strategies intersect with and inform the NRS implementation were also developed and officially endorsed by RGC including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Protected Area Strategic Management 2017-2031 and action and investment plan (AIP – NPASMP) The Technical Guideline for Developing zoning and management plan for Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors in the Kingdom of Cambodia The National Production Forest Strategic plan (NPFSP) 2018-2032
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2a:	5	Completed	x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cambodia land use/cover change was updated every two years. (2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020) land use/cover change assessment was completed published.
		Significant progress		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	3	Progressing well, further development required		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final draft FRL allocation methodology including a deforestation and forest degradation risk map, has been developed. The training on FRL Allocation was conducted to REDD+ government officials and development partners. The training gathered (i) technical feedback to improve methodology and tool; (ii) tested the proposed improvement methodology and tool, and (iii) documented the improvement process to enhance transparency and robustness of the updated Risk Map Methodology and Tool. The project is currently working with Verra to test the allocation tools that was developed by RTS with the support from FCPF-II. Following the pilot study and recommendations from the study, if needed the FRL will be updated/improved accordingly.
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Sub-component 2b: REDD+ Strategy Options	5	Completed	x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Under FCPF support, Cambodia have completed all Warsaw Framework elements to meet requirements for results-based payment and has its AIP-NRS officially endorsed by the MoE on 12 May 2021. In addition, Cambodia has also finalized its REDD+ Regulatory Framework (REDD+ nested system) and associated technical guidelines for nested operations The UNDP Climate Promise 2.0 will make it possible to consolidate progress in the institutionalization of REDD+, guarantee coordination between the stallholders related to FOLU sector in the NDC/LTS and recommend suitable options to address potential new gaps and requirements, as well as development of capacities for the operation of the nesting system. Coordination meetings with DPs including USAID and JICA integrated natural Resource management (INRM) project were conducted to identify areas of support needed to further strengthen the support needed for National REDD+ Programme and continue support activities after the closing of FCPF-II as well as to facilitate the implementation of the AIP-NRS.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
	5	Completed	x	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Sub-component 2c: Implementation Framework	4	Significant progress		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Under the FCPF support, Cambodia have completed the development of nested guideline and was acceptance by the Ministry of Environment on May 12th, 2021. In addition, all the technical requirement to support the operationalization of nested system in Cambodia including, nesting roadmap, positive list, Safeguards in a Nested System, National REDD+ Project Database (Registry) and the FRL allocation tool which will be crucial to set clear rules that will guide how various actors operate and report to the government were also completed. - Further refinement and support to operationalize REDD+ nested system will continue to be supported through the remaining of FCPF II (till end December 2022) and through Climate Promise and Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs of the United Kingdom (DEFRA/UK) funding support.
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
Resolution Sub-component 2d: Social and Environmental Impacts	5	Completed		<p>As part of the PRAKAS and guideline on REDD+ nesting/GHG in the Kingdom of Cambodia, all REDD+ project Proponent and REDD+ Project Partners must meet the eligible conditions, i.e., <i>"have organizational policies and procedures that demonstrate social and environmental safeguards are sufficiently taken into account and are consistent with the national REDD+ safeguards"</i>. Under the REDD+ Regulatory Framework mechanism, all REDD+ projects are required to align their activities with the national REDD+ safeguards established in line with the UNFCCC. As part of the project registration and verification by an independent party, it will be required to prepare and submit project implementation plans that include monitoring and a completed national</p>
	4	Significant progress	X	

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)		Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)	
	3	Progressing well, further development required	REDD+ safeguards implementation reporting template to the RTS. In this connection, two main key activities in relation to safeguards monitoring in 2021 were: First, a “positive list” of standards or certifications that have been assessed as consistent with the UNFCCC safeguards principles and process has been developed and will, therefore, be approved for use by the REDD+ Projects to meet the safeguard provisions specified in the nested guidelines. The second activity was a <i>gaps analysis</i> , to identify what information, both at the project and national level, are missing in the current Climate Community and Biodiversity (CCB) safeguard required under the VCS and under the Joint Credit Mechanism (JCM) to meet the UNFCCC (Cancun) safeguards, and what are needed to meet the gaps. Currently both a positive list and safeguards monitoring assessment have been developed.	
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		
R-PP Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels				
Component 3: Reference Emissions Level/Reference Levels	5	Completed	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none">– The first FRL for the 2006-2014 reference period was approved and submitted to UNFCCC in 2017.– The second updated FRL which was approved and submitted by MoE to UNFCCC in May 2021 was successfully assessed and the technical assessment report was officially released by the independent Assessment Team (AT) of the UNFCCC on 11 March 2022. The updated FRL is formally accepted and accessible in the UNFCCC web-portal here.– First draft (or version 1) of the JNR - FREL Description Template for JNR Scenario 1 (VCS Version 4.0) was completed and is currently under review by MoE before soliciting public consultation and feedback.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
	0	N/A		
R-PP Component 4: Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards				
Sub-component 4a: National Forest Monitoring System	5	Completed	X	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) web-portal has also been completed and will continue to be improved. It can be access through the following link: http://178.33.8.114 - New vision and NFMS road map for REDD+ implementation have been developed based on capacity gap assessment on the current and future requirements of the MRV technical team and the institutional arrangements and the roles and responsibilities of the MRV team. - As a part of Government's commitment to digital transformation, the CEMIS has been under development and is expected to be a central repository for geospatial information related to the environment. UNDP is providing technical lead of the CEMIS and Informational System and Decision Support (ISDS) component. Migration of NFMS into CEMIS/ISDS will ensure integration of a wide range of environmental and land cover databases into the system and create sustainability. The provision of better monitoring of forest change will benefit various stakeholders. Currently the draft version of beta version of CEMIS has been developed for stakeholders review and comment - Essential Life Support Areas (ELSAs) mapping is a UNDP-led global initiative and Cambodia has been selected as one of the pilot countries to test the ELSA activities. The activities have been supported through FCPF-II project human resources. A new ELSA map showing areas suitable for protection, restoration and management is expected to release in end 2022. The ELSA map of Cambodia will add a new monitoring layer for NFMS and MRV and the ELSA web-tool will add values to enhance NFMS and MRV platforms, creating new ELSA data layers (showing areas for protection, restoration, and management) at a regular interval (annually) in future.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		

Sub-component	Progress rating (mark 'X' as appropriate)			Narrative assessment (briefly explain your rating)
Sub-component 4b: Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards	5	Completed	x	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Environmental and social management framework (ESMF) for NRS/AIP developed and endorsed by RGC, - A Safeguards Information System (SIS) has been developed. - Cambodia have also submitted its first Summary of Information (Sol) to UNFCCC in 2020. - The safeguards have been under further development to align safeguards across different jurisdictional levels. The preliminary analysis and reporting protocols have been developed. Further improvement to make the entire system transparent will be continued through Climate Promise and DEFRA funding. - As report in the sub-component section above, with technical support from UNDP, Ministry of Environment is currently working to final CEMIS/ISDS and ELSA where all environmental related data will be stored and shared through this CEMIS system with multi- stakeholders. The CEMIS will also allow opportunity to incorporate monitoring and evaluation framework and tracking.
	4	Significant progress		
	3	Progressing well, further development required		
	2	Further development required		
	1	Not yet demonstrating progress		
	0	N/A		

4.2 Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to sustain and enhance livelihoods (e.g., one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at livelihoods; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates livelihoods)?

Yes	
-----	--

(Delete as appropriate)

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach:

The National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) have outlined 3 strategic objectives (SO) to address the various direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation: SO1: Improve management and monitoring of forest resources and forest land use; SO2: Strengthen implementation of sustainable forest management and SO3: Mainstream approaches to reduce deforestation, build capacity and engage stakeholders.

The SO2 targets particularly the main direct drivers of deforestation and forest degradation by promoting better forest management practices and support to sustainable livelihoods, as well as by enabling more sustainable private sector investment with the aim to enhance sustainable local livelihoods through communities' empowerment. Under SO2, the AIP-NRS incorporates several strategies/actions that aim to address and enhance livelihoods of local forest dependence community. Broadly, the AIP-NRS will strengthen implementation of sustainable forest resources management by strengthening and scaling up community-based forest management initiatives, identifying and implementing alternative and sustainable development programmes for local communities most dependent on forest resources, expand afforestation, reforestation and restoration activities, engage and encourage the private sector to implement alternative and sustainable supply chains from agro-industrial plantations, and to reduce emissions, enhancing timber supply and wood-based energy sourced from community-based forest management areas and private plantations to reduce pressure on forest areas and promoting effective, equitable, sustainable management and use of forests, forest lands and non-timber forest products with a view to increase employment and business opportunities for local community. Special attention will be given to promote participation of vulnerable communities, women, youth, indigenous peoples, and those most dependent for livelihoods on forest resources will receive due attention in planning and implementation. [AIP-NRS](#): "Action and Investment Plan for the implementation of National REDD+ Strategy of Cambodia" outlines strategies that will contribute to sustain and enhance livelihoods of local community.

4.3 Does your national REDD+ Strategy or Action Plan include activities that directly aim to conserve biodiversity (e.g., one of your program objective/s is explicitly targeted at biodiversity conservation; your approach to non-carbon benefits explicitly incorporates biodiversity conservation)?

Yes	
-----	--

(Delete as appropriate)

If yes, please provide further detail, including attachments and/or references to the documentation that outlines your approach

SO1 of the NRS focus particularly on addressing the main underlying drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through better land use planning and natural resources management, and enhanced capacity for forest and land monitoring and enforcement of regulations with the aim to conserve the remaining natural forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks. Under SO1, the AIP-NRS, incorporates elements that address biodiversity conservation. Broadly, the AIP-NRS will strengthen governance and management of forest resources by enhancing capacity, prioritizing forest conservation areas such as protected areas and flooded and mangrove conservation areas; establish a robust national forest monitoring system and intensifying law enforcement capacity and implementation; and promote the development of a national energy policy. Forest conservation areas located in high forest cover and high deforestation provinces and key landscapes will be prioritized for developing management plans. The strategy plans to enhance co-benefits and promote livelihoods and stakeholder engagement by strengthening tenure security through forest land classification, zoning, demarcation, and registration, while at the same time identifying important forest areas and ensuring that these are managed both for biodiversity conservation and forest management, community-based natural resource management and integrate and enhance contribution for forest resources to livelihoods.

4.4 Please describe how project comply with FCPF Common Approach for Multiple Delivery Partners.

The project complied with FCPF Common Approach for Multiple Delivery Partners.

Based on UNDP's Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP) applying UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES), an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) has been developed and endorsed by RGC with the aim to implement National REDD+ Strategy (NRS). The ESMF has also been used for subnational capacity building and embedding in subnational REDD+ implementation particularly in the three REDD+ pilot sites implemented by the three forest institutions supported by FCPF.

In addition to the SIS and the first Sol that was already submitted to UNFCCC, as part of the PRAKAS and guideline on REDD+ nesting in the Kingdom of Cambodia, RTS with the support from FCPF, continue to work with all REDD+ project Proponent and REDD+ Project Partners to discuss and ensure that eligible conditions are met including that their "organizational policies and procedures that demonstrate social and environmental safeguards are sufficiently taken into account and are consistent with the national REDD+ safeguards" and that safeguards implementation will be monitored and reported to RTF/RTS as part of REDD+ registration process. In this connection, two main key activities in relation to safeguards monitoring in 2021 were:

First, a “positive list”, of standards or certifications that have been assessed as consistent with UNFCCC safeguards principles and process has been developed and will therefore, approved for use by REDD+ Projects to meet the safeguard provisions specified in the nested guidelines.

Other main activity in relation to safeguard monitoring was a ‘gaps analyses to identify what information, both at the project and national level, was missing in the current CCB safeguard required under the Volunteer Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Joint Credit Mechanism of the Government of Japan in order to meet the UNFCCC (Cancun) safeguards, and what needed to be done to meet the gaps. This initiative will continue to develop and finalize through Climate Promise support.

The National REDD+ Programme established a clear and structured system of stakeholder engagement as well as disclosure of information that includes the RTF, RTS, 4 TTs (Safeguards, benefit sharing, demonstration and MRV/FRL), CG and GG. Effective participation of stakeholders during the REDD+ readiness phase had been maintained as strong and consistent through the CG. The capacity building of these institutions and stakeholders' engagement for REDD+ implementation has progressed well and continued to be strengthened through active engagement in regular meetings, workshops, south-south exchanges, and knowledge sharing events in accordance with their Term of References (ToR) as relevance. In preparation to transition from readiness phase to implementation phase, the CG strongly recommended sustainable flow of funding to ensure that remaining and upcoming activities in the AIP for NRS could be coordinated and implementation including safeguards.

As part of the subnational REDD+ capacity building pilots, the project has provided support and engaged with the three forestry institutions to build awareness-raising, knowledge generation and mainstreaming safeguards implementation at subnational level. In addition, building on the work of the Community-based REDD+ (CBR+) in close coordination with the UNDP Small Grants Programme', CBR+ small scale funded projects support to develop and enhance Community Forestry (CF), Community Protected Areas (CPAs) and Community Fisheries through Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) continued and have demonstrated as promising to strengthen local community participation in forest protection and livelihood enhancement.

The project seems to have complied with FCPF Guidelines on the Disclosure of Information. Communication, information, and transparency is generally perceived as adequate. Public disclosure and access to information are had been and continuing through workshops, meetings, trainings, print and online publications and the dissemination of reports and REDD+ material via national REDD+ website (<http://www.cambodia-redd.org>) and social media channels have also been used. The website contains all information and documents on national REDD+ activities and is updated regularly. Moving forwards through climate promise support, the website will be updated in consultation with various stakeholders to make this as a central repository of Management Information System (MIS) to share information to public and various interest groups.

V. Project Risks and Issues

Risks or issues	Mitigation measures
Sustainability of the National REDD+ Programme	<p>Cambodia has been successful in securing funding for REDD+ readiness, which resulted in building Cambodia REDD+ Program foundation thus far to meet all the requirements and be eligible for results-based payment from UNFCCC Green Climate Fund (GCF). However, with current FCPF support project coming to an end, it may jeopardize the continuation of national REDD+ program. The following actions are being taken to address the challenges:</p> <p>The development and finalization of a USD10-million GCF-SAP Project funding proposal. Currently, the draft is under final internal review by UNDP before submission to GCF.</p> <p>In the meantime, additional UNDP funding was secured through: Climate Promise 2.0 (USD350,000 by Germany's Financing through BMZ) and additional USD200,000 from UK's Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (DEFRA). These will continue to support key and emerging issues related to NDC implementation. In particular, the DEFRA funding is intended for the FOLU Sector and implementation of REDD+ activities.</p> <p>In addition, progress is underway to discuss and agree on an exit strategy with RTS and MoE to ensure continuous functions of the RTS without which, may jeopardize the continuation of the national REDD+ program. Currently, the proposed action to refine and institutionalize the proposed reformed REDD+ institutional arrangements through a new institutional structure within MoE organogram has obtained support from the MoE and Chair of RTF. With the support from FCPF project team, RTS is working to define mandates of the institutions responsible for REDD+ implementation at national and subnational levels, as well as coordination, monitoring, and reporting lines across institutions at various levels that will discuss and finalize with MoE, RTF/RTS.</p> <p>MoE in collaboration with REDD+ project proponents have generated USD 12 million from selling carbon credits. According to the current arrangement, 90% of the income has been channeled to the subnational (project and/or provincial) level to continue protection of forest resources and to improve local</p>

	<p>community livelihoods. Whereas the remaining 10% of the income has been allocated at the national level, under the Environmental and Social Fund (ESF). However, the draft REDD+ nesting PRAKAS and guidelines mentioned that after deducting transaction cost, 20% of the income from the REDD+ finance has to be allocated under the ESF, a 10% increase compared with the current allocation. This additional allocation has been recommended to support and coordinate the national REDD+ programme and operationalize the regulatory framework. This proposed allocation is subjected to the approval of the nested framework.</p>
<p>Cambodia has been recognizing as one of the pioneer countries in development of on REDD+ Nested System for REDD+ implementation to unlock private sector finance. Unexpected decision to delay and or prolong the endorsement process may undermine and negatively impact the effort to attract and enhance donors and private sectors interest in Cambodia's REDD+ Program.</p>	<p>UNDP-CO, continue to coordinate with RTF and partners to prepare and develop details guidance's/guidelines to cover all the technical ground/requirement needed to operationalize the PRAKAS and guideline.</p> <p>More explicit strategy to promote high level political support including RR & DRR meeting with MOE to advance decision on nested guideline as well as communication through UK embassy to build political will on the issues have been conducted.</p> <p>With the coordination support from UNDP Forest & Climate Team, Cambodia has been selected as an observer of the Country Contact Group (CCG) of the new initiative on Voluntary Carbon Market Initiative (VCMI) where nested system has been promoted as once of the approached to ensure environmental integrity.</p> <p>Finally, with the coordination support from UNDP policy unit, work is underway to provide a comprehensive overview of the progress made at COP26 on the international carbon markets and on the potential for nested REDD+ in Cambodia. This work has been focused on capacity building for senior management and technical staff of the MoE representatives from the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), members of the Climate Change-Technical Working Group (CC-TWG).</p> <p>The nested system has been completed and officially accepted by MoE. However, there is still no formal endorsement yet by end 2022. A process is ongoing to expedite the endorsement on the sub-decree on GHG mechanism in Cambodia by NCSD.</p>

	Once the sub-decree on GHG mechanism is endorsed by the RGC, the endorsement of the PRAKAS and Guideline on REDD+ nesting is expected to follow.
<p>Government agencies do not cooperate and coordinate activities effectively</p> <p>Failure of Government agencies, especially GDNPA, NCSD, FA and FiA, to work together effectively would slow progress towards REDD+ implementation.</p>	<p>The Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce has been explicitly established to mitigate this risk. The Taskforce's decision-making process ensures adequate coordination and consensus between Government agencies. Currently, as Cambodia is transitioning from readiness to implementation stage, the proposed concept note to reform the current readiness RTF/RTS structure has been developed and agreed by MoE, with special attention to (i) the identification of appropriate institutions for REDD+ implementation at both national and sub-national levels, (ii) the definition of their mandates, roles and responsibilities, and (iii) the definition of clear communication lines between the different implementation levels.</p> <p>Besides, Technical Advisors and National Project advisor under the FCPF coordinates with both FA/MAFF, GDANCP/MoE and NCSD throughout implementation.</p>
Emerging carbon markets	Carbon markets are proving to be a concrete and sustainable financing source for implementing the NDC's forest commitments and REDD+ programs through high integrity activities. In this context, UNDP is supporting the country's efforts to enhance access to carbon finance. This support, tailored to the needs of Cambodia, is directed to strengthen the country's capacities and define a framework that will enable it to advance based on its needs, priorities and shared advantages in terms of its experiences with voluntary carbon projects, its nesting system and progress in its REDD+ program. Cambodia can take advantage of this support to define a comprehensive strategy that ensure it to participate in both voluntary and compliance international carbon markets.
Establishment of an operational Safeguards Information System (SIS)	A vital factor in attracting REDD+ finance is building enough confidence among the investors, both private and public sectors, through the SIS, including, for example, robust monitoring of indigenous people's rights. In order to ensure that safeguard reporting in the nested REDD+ system conforms to the Cancun safeguards, PRAKAS Guidelines and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), a SIS Gaps Analysis of Cambodia's safeguard policies, laws and practices, including in the ongoing REDD+ projects is completed. Although it may go

	beyond the current FCPF project, an operational SIS for nested REDD+ (including testing and subsequent modification), with particular attention on issues around indigenous peoples' rights, resettlement, and tenure, as well as clarity in data collection, analysis and preparation of reports should be developed.
--	--

VI. Lessons Learned

Despite improved institutional and technical capacities in the field of forest policy, forest monitoring, forest management and social and environmental safeguards, governance challenges to address drivers of deforestation still persist in Cambodia, and technical guidance as well as financial support are still needed to move from technical data analysis and policy design to effective REDD+ action on the ground. In this regard, several lessons can be learnt from a decade of REDD+ Readiness Programme in Cambodia.

- **National ownership.** Cambodia's National REDD+ Programme has been supported by various partners over the years, notably by the UN-REDD Programme and the FCPF project implemented by UNDP and FAO. While these supports have been critical to design the institutional arrangements for REDD+ and to support the regular meetings of the REDD+ Taskforce and CG, national ownership remains limited after a decade of REDD+ readiness efforts, to the point that operations of the REDD+ Taskforce, RTS and REDD+ CG are jeopardized, putting the sustainability, financial attractivity and environmental integrity of Cambodia's REDD+ Programme at risk.
- **Political and financial commitment.** Political support is essential to improve environmental governance. There has been positive response to the jurisdictional changes in 2016 that resulted in the transfer of all Protected Areas and Biodiversity Conservation Corridors from MAFF to MoE. But such reforms require expedient implementation of relevant administrative, legal and regulatory instruments and hence political and financial commitment to come into effect.
- **Broader stakeholder engagement.** Experience shows that REDD+ policies are more likely to achieve REDD+ objectives if all stakeholders (i.e., government agencies, development partners, civil society organizations, indigenous people, local communities, private sector, universities, and research institutions, etc.) are involved from the onset. In that regard, multi-stakeholders dialogue needs to be operated at *all levels of governance* to improve the chance of finding sustainable and lasting solutions for land management. A specific attention needs to be paid to local context, in order to address sources of inequity. In that regard, the NFMS and SIS tools can help to address participation and transparency to prevent the differences in the capacities, resources, and powers of various stakeholders.
- **Cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms.** Coordination at national level through the REDD+ Taskforce needs to be improved to address potential sectoral policy conflicts. Also, policy conflicts still happen at the local level as coordination is much more complex and under-resourced.

Therefore, cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms need to be operationalized at *all levels of governance* to address differences in goals and interests. Similarly, REDD+ policies and measures need to be mainstreamed *across all sectors at levels* for REDD+ to be effective.

- **Integrated land use management.** The RGC acknowledges the *importance of tackling non-forestry drivers* to halt forest loss. Beyond capacities for forest monitoring, forest law enforcement and sustainable forest management, there is an urgent need for better *land-tenure* and *land use planning* processes, more *sustainable agricultural* models and *renewable sources of energy* to support the needs of a growing population and contribute to sustainable rural development.
 - **Land use planning & Land tenure.** Over the past decade of REDD+ Readiness Programme in Cambodia, there has been constant feedback that land tenure security and land governance are closely intertwined with rights of indigenous peoples and local communities. REDD+ initiatives at national and local levels have resulted in some progress on tenure, but this is far from enough to ensure the proper functioning of REDD+. Major obstacles are business-as-usual interests favouring forest conversion, as well as the exclusion of forest dependent communities (notably indigenous peoples) from land-use decision-making. Therefore, support is needed for integrated land use planning at all levels. There's an urgent need to develop coherent and integrated land use plans according to the potentialities of the resources and perspectives of their valorisation, with a view of securing land tenure and promoting conservation agriculture to reduce pressures on forest lands.
 - **Forests.** Support is needed for forest law enforcement to address unauthorized logging and encroachment, by investing in human and material resources and raising awareness of local communities and authorities on forest laws. Public Private Partnerships are needed for reforestation, forest restoration and sustainable forest management under government and community management to better consider timber and fuelwood demand.
 - **Agriculture.** Expansion in agriculture area is a main historical driver of deforestation in Cambodia and remains a threat to forest cover. Public and private sectors need support to implement sustainable supply chains from agro-industrial plantations. Considering the historical importance of Economic Land Concessions (ELC) on deforestation in Cambodia, there's a need to reallocate some existing ELCs to communities and indigenous people in order to create new forest areas and contribute to livelihood improvements and community development.
 - **Energy.** Firewood is closely associated with forest degradation and alternative sources of energy are needed to avoid future degradation (and deforestation). Importantly, timber and wood-based energy production and supply sourced from community-based forest management areas and private plantations need to be enhanced under more sustainable production systems.

VII. Conclusions and Way Forward

7.1 Conclusion

Overall, the project has been very successful in establishing the building blocks of REDD+ readiness in the country, which was its key objective to build Cambodia to be ready for the transition to REDD+ implementation. Beyond putting in place the Warsaw Framework, it has generated significant policy reforms and facilitated the engagement of key stakeholders and cross-sectoral cooperation.

However, much remains to be done to continue to ensure long term success of REDD+ implementation in the country. The REDD+ implementation framework is evolving, particular with the new emerging market and requirements. Many important questions remain on how to operationalize REDD+ that is catalyzing climate finance for forests, including from the private sector, through participation in voluntary carbon markets and compliance markets. The RGC is interested in attracting private finance for project-scale action and is also interested in achieving national-scale results for claiming RBPs to the Green Climate Fund.

The REDD+ readiness foundation in Cambodia was mostly achieved and some individual and institutional capacities of RTF/RTS have also been built. While REDD+ readiness support is coming to an end, REDD+ implementation also needs political and financial support from both REDD+ developing countries and developed countries. And while RBPs, the main innovation brought by REDD+, is still in a pilot phase worldwide, the sustainability of Cambodia REDD+ Programme might be jeopardized without substantial international financial support to help the country to transition from REDD+ readiness to REDD+ implementation. It is estimated that the AIP-NRS implementation needs approximately USD 186 million over the next 5 years requires the mobilization of multiple sources of funding.

7.2 Ways Forwards

The project will be operationally closed on 31 December 2022. However, the national REDD+ programme will continue with the additional new funding support under the UNDP's Climate Promise 2.0 programme (funding from DEFRA-UK and BMZ-Germany) until December 2023.

The activities and anticipated deliverables or achievements have been listed below and are aligned to support operationalizing of national REDD+ implementation in Cambodia to reach its forest and climate goals and make a transition from readiness phase to implementation phase.

1. Adoption and enhancement in the operationalization of the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects (Prakas & Guidelines) to enable carbon crediting at multiple scales (project, subnational, national) through clarifying the rules and methodologies for carbon accounting, applying a fair system to share REDD+ benefits among various stakeholders, and implementing a registry/database to keep track of REDD+ ERs and transactions at multiple spatial scales.
2. Support institutionalization and implementation the **Institutional Arrangements** for REDD+ to support restructuring the REDD+ Taskforce Secretariat (RTS) to adopt under the new changing dynamics of the operational environment (domestic and international) and to fulfil the pledges under the FOLU sector of Nationally Determined Contributions and Long-Term Strategy.

The creation and staffing of the following technical units within the RTS is critical to ensure the sustainability and environmental integrity of Cambodia's REDD+ Programme.

- **REDD+ Policy and Programme Unit** (each sub-unit will be supported through a specialized consultation group)
 - Policy formulation
 - Programme development (project proposal)
 - Research & Development
 - Sustainable Finance (should have strong resource mobilization strategy): Catalyse, manage, and channel REDD+ finance towards REDD+ implementation.
- **REDD+ Operations** (Project/Programme/Nested Implementation) (each unit will be supported through consultation group)
 - Operate the NFMS (includes five REDD+ activities) and report land use/land cover change and GHG emissions/removals from the forest and land use sector to the UNFCCC;
 - Safeguards: Operate the SIS and report safeguards implementation to the UNFCCC;
 - Programme/Project/Nested Implementation
 - Finance and benefit-sharing
 - Stakeholder engagement (could be under marketing and communication)
- **REDD+ Performance monitoring and evaluation**
 - Monitoring and evaluation of project/programme activities
 - Communication and Outreach (aim to reach public and international audience)
 - Knowledge management (manage new developments and work progress)
 - Enforce the RF for REDD+ Projects (Prakas);
 - Periodic revision and allocation of the FRL;
 - Manage the Projects registration process and maintain the national REDD+ project database (Registry);
 - Monitor compliance with REDD+ safeguards and benefits sharing plans.

Support is still needed to strengthen the RGC's technical capacities to comply with the UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ RBPs, to implement the RF for REDD+ Projects, as well as to improve intersectoral coordination and ensure broad-based stakeholder engagement for REDD+ implementation at national and subnational levels.

3. Develop a detail Carbon Market Readiness Workplan for Cambodia for AFOLU sector including scoping on market networking and engagement.
4. Strengthen the integration between the LTS4CN/NDC and Climate Finance in the Land use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector.
5. Strengthening MRV system for REDD+ through enhancement of deforestation methods and develop new methods for forest degradation estimate
6. Prepare report outlining data/information gaps in the NDC, training reports and manuals
7. Enhancement and refinement of REDD+ Safeguard for better alignment across jurisdictional level to build enough confidence to attract REDD+ finance among the investors, both private and public sectors.

8. Design and endorsement of a Financial Mechanism to channel REDD+ finance towards priority investments for REDD+ implementation.
9. Mobilization of adequate finance for REDD+ implementation: Cambodia has been successful in securing funding for REDD+ readiness. As detailed in the AIP, the volume of funding required to transition from readiness to implementation is however substantially higher, and necessitates the coordination of multiple sources of finance, from national budget and development aid to private and public climate finance.
10. Continue to conduct activities related to awareness raising on REDD+ and Climate Change.

7.3 Exit Strategy

Building on the recommendation from the project terminal evaluation and risks presented in section V above, the project exit strategy has been developed and discussed with RTS emphasising on addressing three aspects:

1. Sustainability and continuity efforts to function and strengthen the REDD+ institutional arrangement for smooth transition from readiness to implementation stage to continue to lead and oversee implementation of national REDD+ programme
2. Sustainable financial support to bridge the transitional gaps post completion of FCPF support.
3. Continue capacity building for RTS/MoE officials to address technical gaps and build policy coherence to operational REDD+ regulatory framework

Following are the actions/recommendations under each aspect including the status to date:

- 1) **Sustainability and continuity to function and strengthen of REDD+ Institutional Arrangement:**
 - Reform and institutionalize REDD+ in MoE organogram: The draft concept notes to propose restructuring the REDD+ institutional arrangement in MoE has been developed and presented to MoE. Currently, the FCPF project team in close coordination with RTS, the letter of no objection on the propose restructuring REDD+ institutional arrangement has been endorsed by MoE and work is ongoing to appoint relevance MoE management and technical competencies for the arrangement. This effort will continue to support and finalize with the support from Climate Promise 2.0/DEFRA1
- 2) **Sustaining financial support post FCPF:**
 - Finished and submitted proposal focus on implementation of REDD+:
 - a. GCF-SAP Project Funding proposal completed and submitted to GCF.
 - b. Develop a set of strategic areas of cooperation for the financing streams from UN-REDD and additional financing from Climate Promise 2.0/DEFRA 2.
 - c. JNR VCS document/proposal Scenario 1 and 2 submissions to VERRA-VCS.
 - The development of carbon markets during the year 2021 as well as advances into Article 6 of the PA and its financing mechanisms are offering opportunities to leverage financial resources Cambodia is taking advantage of (See, Table 4):

Climate Promise 2.0: Cambodia will receive funding for USD 350,000 under the funding channelled by the UNDP linked to the Glasgow Forest Declaration. This financing is multisectoral-oriented. The actions carried out with the FOLU sector deem to the institutionalization of REDD+ in MoE, improve the data/information and procedures in the MRV System, and strengthen the participation of stakeholders. Related to the AP, this financing will seek to facilitate the access to the carbon market.

Additional Financing from DEFRA: In addition to the initial contribution under the Climate Promise grant, Cambodia was selected to receive an additional USD 200,000 grant focused on the FOLU sector. It is hoped that this support allows the integration of the forestry targets of the NDC and the Long-Term Strategy of Cambodia, develop a workplan to engage the country in the Carbon Markets as well as strengthens their implementation, as well as engages key stakeholders.

Consultancy of Assessment of carbon market potential for Cambodia's NDC: The objective of this assignment is to assess the eligibility and potential of Cambodia's climate change mitigation actions for carbon markets. The findings will be used by the RGC to inform its strategy to access carbon markets to finance climate action.

Voluntary Carbon Market Access Strategy (VCM-AS): As part of Cambodia's participation in the Voluntary Carbon Market Integrity Initiative (VCMI), Cambodia was selected to develop this Strategy. It aims to support Cambodia, maximizing investments into VCM activities that are aligned with its national climate strategies and contribute to (and go beyond) the compliance with NDCs during 2023. Also, it will help to the country to showcase its progress to development partners and corporates to identify and accelerate investments in VCM activities and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships. It will count on the coordination of the UNDP Climate and Forests Team, with analytical support provided by Climate Focus.

3) Continue capacity building for RTS/MoE officials:

- Continuous support and capacity building are needed to:
 - a. Strengthen institutional arrangements and improve intersectoral coordination and broad-based stakeholder engagement at national and subnational levels.
 - b. Enforce the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects and maintain the National REDD+ project Database.
 - i. Specially, continue to facilitate PRAKAS & guideline endorsement and operationalization.
 - c. Operate the NFMS and SIS, and monitor progress of REDD+ implementation
 - d. Understand the scope, opportunities and challenges that the carbon markets present to the REDD+ Program, as well as the financing mechanisms linked to Art 6 of the Paris Agreement.

VIII. Financial Status⁷

Summary

Please detail the amount of all finance received in support of development and delivery of your national REDD+ readiness process since the date that your R-PP was signed. Figures should only include secured finance (i.e., fully committed) – ex ante, (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions should not be included:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g., FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Date committed (MM/YY)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
\$3,800,000 \$304,000⁸ Total \$ 4,103,788.43	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant Phase I	01 November 2013 31 December 2017	Public	Grant
\$5,200,000 \$200,000 ⁹ \$ Total \$5,400,000	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant Phase II	01 July 2017 31 December 2022	Public	Grant

Please detail any ex-ante (unconfirmed) finance or in-kind contributions that you have secured in support of your national REDD+ readiness process:

Amount (US\$)	Source (e.g. FCPF, FIP, name of gov't department)	Public or private finance? (Delete as appropriate)	Grant, loan or other? (Delete as appropriate)
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

The table below provides up-to-date cumulative financial progress of the FCPF-I and FCPF-II implementation on planned, committed, and disbursed funds, at the end of the reporting period and

⁷ Disclaimer: Data contained in this financial report section is an extract of UNDP financial records. All financial provided above is provisional.

Disclaimer: UNDP adopted IPSAS (International Public Sector Accounting Standards) on 1 January 2012, cumulative totals that include data prior to that date are presented for illustration only.

⁸ 8% GSM added up to total project budget USD 3,800,000 in the project document

⁹ Additional 50% of the GSM cost of the USD 5,000,000 project budget.

including all cumulative yearly disbursements.

FCPF I

Table 1: *Contribution Overview* [01 January 2014 – Project end: 31 December 2017]

Donor Name	Contributions		Actual Expense	Balance	Delivery %
	Committed	Received			
UNDP (04000 - TRAC)	142,197	142,197	136,274	5,922	95.84%
Program Cost Sharing (12100 – FCPF II)	4,042,531	4,042,531	4,040,219	2,312	99.94%
Total	4,184,728	4,184,728	4,176,493	8,234	99.80%

Table 2: *Cumulative Expenditure by Activities* [Project started: 01 January 2014 – Project end: 31 December 2017]

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS					
OUTPUTS-Descriptions	Amount Transferred by UNDP	Cumulative Expenditure up to End December 2022			
		Commitments (B)	Disbursements (C)	Total Expenditure	Delivery (%)
				(D) = B + C	
OUTPUT 1: Establishment of national management of REDD+ Readiness Process	1,425,016		1,425,016	1,425,999	100.07%
OUTPUT 2: Development of National REDD+ Strategy	1,414,859		1,414,859	1,405,651	99.35%
OUTPUT 3 - Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels	720,587		720,587	720,587	100%
OUTPUT 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation	624,266		624,266	624,256	100%
Subtotal US\$	4,184,728		4,184,728	4,176,493	99.80%
Remarks: TRAC =	142,197		142,197	136,274	95.84%
Programme CS =	4,042,531		4,042,531	4,040,219	99.94%
Total=	4,184,728		4,184,728	4,176,493	99.80%

FCPF-II

Table 1: Contribution Overview [Project started: 01 June 2017 – Project end: 31 December 2022]

Donor Name	Contributions		Actual Expense	Balance	Delivery %
	Committed	Received			
UNDP (04000 - TRAC)	12,609	12,609	12,609	-	100%
Program Cost Sharing (12100 – FCPF II)	5,832,160	5,832,160	5,813,279	18,881	99.67%
Total	5,844,769	5,844,769	5,813,279	18,881	99.46%

Table 2: Cumulative Expenditure by Activities [Project started: 01 June 2017 – Project end: 31 December 2022]

IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS					
OUTPUTS-Descriptions	Amount Transferred by UNDP	Cumulative Expenditure up to End December 2022			
		Commitments (B)	Disbursements (C)	Total Expenditure	Delivery (%)
				(D) = B + C	
OUTPUT 1: Establishment of national management of REDD+ Readiness Process	1,951,955		1,934,839	3,429	100%
OUTPUT 2: Development of National REDD+ Strategy	1,485,150		1,490,496	5,308	100%
OUTPUT 3 - Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at subnational levels	516,255		534,441	(22,082)	104%
OUTPUT 4: Monitoring system designed for REDD+ with capacity for implementation	1,891,408		1,866,111	32,227	98%
Subtotal US\$	5,844,769		5,825,888	18,881	99.67%
Remarks: TRAC =	12,609		12,609	0	100%
Programme CS =	5,832,160		5,813,279	18,881	99.67%
Total=	5,844,769		5,813,279	18,881	99.46%

IX. Annexes

Annex 1: Exit strategy

EXIT STRATEGY
FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACIITY PHASE II (FCPF-II)

Version 1
May 17

Table of Contents

SUMMARY 51

1. PROGRESS CARRIED OUT BY FCPF-II..... 52

1.1. PROJECT’S TERMINAL ASSESSMENTS 52

1.2. ACHIEVEMENTS OF PROJECT 54

1.3. CHALLENGES 55

1.4. LEARNED LESSONS..... 55

2. WAY FORWARD 56

2.1. ONGOING ACTIVITIES 56

2.2. NEXT STEPS: TRANSITION FROM READINESS TO IMPLEMENTATION 58

3. CLOSURE..... 61

Summary

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) received two grants from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) to support National REDD+ Strategy (NRS). The first grant of USD 3.8 million (FCPF-I) started in 2013 and ended in 2017. Following a mid-term review (MTR) of the FCPF-I and a request for additional funding in 2016, the RGC was granted an additional USD 5 million grant (FCPF II) which was signed in 2017 and will finish in June 2022.

This document presents the alternatives of the Exit Strategy (ES) to continue of the implementation of Cambodia’s NRS and its Action & Investment Plan (AIP) once the World Bank’s FCPF-II finalises. This ES responds to the technical commitments required under the FCPF’s committed activity 1.2. "Preparation of the end of FCPF-II project report including the exit strategy" in its 2022 extension. Its purpose is to establish guidelines on how once the financing is finalized and the FCPF-II objectives have been achieved, to ensure a smooth transition post-FCPF stage and continues to make significant progress on the implementation of the AIP as well as giving sustainability to the forest commitments of Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC).

Since 2009, Cambodia’s national REDD+ readiness efforts have been supported by numerous initiatives. These include the UN-REDD Programme, the Readiness Fund of the FCPF, CAM-REDD (Japan), USAID’s Lowering Emissions from Asia’s Forests (LEAF) programme, and Climate Promise (UNDP). Some of these initiatives continue to operate in Cambodia, so they have been considered within the cooperation scheme proposed by the ES.

The main data and information considered for the development of this ES correspond to the deliveries associated with the outputs and results of the project, reports sent to the FCPF Secretariat, the Terminal Evaluation Report of the FCPF-II (2020) and to the Supplementary Terminal Evaluation of the FCPF-II (2021). Finally, the structure of this report has been framed in a brief revision of the achievements, synthesising the main challenges, and learned lessons and identifying actions and support and finances to ensure the continuity of the actions undertaken under the FCPF-II.

1. Progress carried out by FCPF-II.

1.1. Project's Terminal Assessments

The **Terminal Evaluation Report of the FCPF-II (2020)** concluded the project's outputs were produced following a comprehensive and consultative Mid-Term Review (MTR), which identified priority gaps such as the continued efforts to strengthen the REDD+ institutional and operate the REDD+ Strategy. Secondly, I identify the Action and Investment Plan (AIP) for REDD+ as a key component to prioritize and guide resource mobilization to fund and achieve REDD+ objectives and Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commitments.

Also, the Evaluation identified that policy coherence and coordination linked to AIP and the REDD+ implementation framework at the subnational level, and other elements as national Forest Monitoring Systema (NFMS) or Safeguards Information System (SIS) or technical components as National REDD+ Project Database or the nesting approach need a continue support beyond the FCPF grant. Also, it was highlighted design's start of the Regulatory Framework and Financial Mechanism for REDD+ implementation has been initiated and will continue beyond the project, which were evaluated in the next evaluation. The general result of evaluation per component can see in the Table 1.

Table 1. Results of Terminal Evaluation per Output, 2020¹⁰

Component	R-PP Components, Sub-components, and Progress Indicators	Progress Status	
		MTR	Terminal Evaluation
1	Readiness Organization and Consultation	Yellow	Green
1a	National REDD+ Management Arrangements	Yellow	Green
1b	Consultation, Participation and Outreach	Green	Green
2	REDD+ Strategy Preparation	Orange	Green
2a	Assessment of Land Use, Land Use Change Drivers, Forest Law, Policy and Governance	Orange	Green
2b	REDD+ Strategy Options	Yellow	Green
2c	Implementation Framework	Orange	Green
2d	Social and Environmental Impacts	Yellow	Green
3	Reference Emissions Level/Reference Level	Yellow	Green

¹⁰ Progress Indicator Key (Traffic Light System): Significant progress (**Green**), Progressing well, further development required (**Yellow**), Further development required (**Orange**) and, Not yet demonstrating progress (**Red**)

3a	Improved subnational capacity for REDD+ implementation		
4	Monitoring Systems for Forests and Safeguards		
4a	National Forest Monitoring System		
4b	Information System for Multiple Benefits, Other Impacts, Governance, and Safeguards		

While the **Supplementary Terminal Evaluation of the FCPF-II in 2021**, tackled the additional activities undertaken in 2021, most of which, but not all, were linked to development of a REDD+ nested system for Cambodia. The additional activities evaluated were focused on those associated with implementing the nesting system and its operational and regulatory components (PRAKA) to enable private finance to support Cambodia's forest and climate goals.

The delays identified in some key components it was due to the high technical complexity and the need for better international clarity concerning these approaches and their potential impact on the achievement of the forestry targets of the NDC.

This highlighted the need for constant political and financial commitments to put the system in place. However, the evaluation highlighted the international importance of Cambodia's nesting mechanism as a model for other countries to follow or learn from. The general evaluation of the activities carried out in 2021 can be seen in Table 2.

Table 2. Results of Supplementary Terminal Evaluation per Indicator, 2021

Additional Nested System Activities	Indicators	Status/progress (in December 2021)
N1. PRAKAS & Guidelines endorsed and operationalized	N1.1 PRAKAS regulation officialised	PRAKAS regulation accepted not endorsed
	N1.2 Detailed technical documents/ manual completed for nested system operationalization	Final Draft Guidelines submitted and accepted; Nesting Roadmap developed
N2. Positive list – Standards for REDD+ implementation is eligible for use in Cambodia	N2.1 Positive List approved by the RTS	Positive list approved by RTS
N3. Safeguard monitoring requirements for subnational scale & nested projects	N3.1 Safeguard monitoring requirements for subnational scale & nested projects	Analysis of information gaps/ requirements completed
N4. Modification of the Second Forest Reference Level (FRL)	N4.1 Modified FRL submitted to UNFCCC	Submitted; UNFCCC technical assessment being reviewed by MRV team
N5. FRL allocation methodology finalized and FRL allocated to REDD+ projects	N5.1 Videos, presentations and report of training	Training undertaken and reported
	N5.2 Technical note with the adoption of the FRL allocation	Ongoing consultations on FRL allocation tool; waiting for comparative analysis of project allocation tool and Verra JNR tool
N6. National REDD+ Project Database finalized and operationalized	N6.1 REDD+ website upgraded	REDD+ website upgraded and operational
	N6.2 National REDD+ Project Database finalized and operationalized	Database accessible on the Cambodia REDD+ website; 3 projects registered

	N6.3 Specific manuals for internal and external users	TORs were being developed for consultant to develop manual for projects to register
N7. Financial mechanism to receive and distribute REDD+ carbon finance (from project) developed	N7.1 A financial mechanism is submitted to the MOE for their approval	Postponed due to delayed endorsement of PRAKAS and Sub decree 'Rules and Procedures for Participation in Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Mechanisms'
N8. Apply to the JNR Standard [option]	N8.1 Technical report (JNR gap assessment) submitted	JNR Analysis report submitted; RTF agreed on the options
		Final draft of PD for JNR (option 1) finalised for stakeholder consultation

1.2.Achievements of Project

Key strategic products that are being developed and finalized to engage potential finances to the transit REDD+ implementation stage, including:

The AIP for the implementation of the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS) (endorsed, 2021): The AIP sets up the programmatic framework of investments needed to achieve the REDD+ Strategic Objectives (SOs) identified in the NRS. The AIP presents the policies and measures, financial plan and monitoring and evaluation framework needed to implement REDD+, which seeks to guide investments for effective implementation of various REDD+ actions.

REDD+ Regulatory Framework (Nested System) (developed, 2021). The PRAKAS and Guidelines provide clear rules and procedures for coordinating multiple actors implementing REDD+ at different spatial scales. These guidelines are going to permit Cambodia to comply with emerging international requirements for REDD+, supplement government capacity to implement AIP. Moreover, the nesting process will support Cambodia to achieve its NDC and to set out a foundation for participation in future Paris Agreement's Article 6 transaction, as well as promote alignment, transparency, and equity among REDD+ stakeholders in Cambodia.

Jurisdictional Nested REDD+ (JNR) Proposal (ongoing, 2022): Parallely, in order to ensure REDD+ projects have "crediting pathway" to generate and issue "nested" carbon credit and given that majority of REDD+ projects currently use VERRA-VCS standard, Cambodia is working to develop and finalize VERRA-JNR project proposal to be submitted to VERRA.

Financial mechanism (developed, 2022): It provides a clear platform for financial resource mobilization to REDD+ Implementation through private sector engagement in REDD+ actions.

Other relevant products are:

- Options to Allocate Forest Reference Level (FRL) (ongoing, 2022)
- REDD+ Project Database (ongoing, 2022)
- Second Forest Reference Level (FRL) (submitted, 2022)
- Land Use Financial Mapping in Cambodia (developed, 2020)
- BUR and REDD+ Technical Annex (submitted, 2020)

1.3.Challenges

Despite of significant progress in the different ambit of the REDD+ implementation, still needed additional financing, build capacity, and move from technical data analysis and policy design to effective REDD+ action on the ground. The synthesis of the main challenges is below:

National ownership: Cambodia's National REDD+ Programme has been supported by various partners over the years which progress has been notably under FCPF, however national ownership remains limited putting the sustainability, REDD+ investment opportunities and environmental integrity of Cambodia's REDD+ Programme at risk.

National Determined Contribution (NDC): The implementation of the NDC remains a challenge. Even though the NDC becomes a key cross-sectoral policy and the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ has been placed at the core of the forest targets in the NDC, Cambodia still needs to put into motion other elements to be able to fully implement REDD+ such as nested approach, operation process, transparency mechanism and strong coordination with other sectors

Political and financial commitment: Political support is essential to improve environmental governance of REDD+. Despite progress and positive reform in the land management their regulatory instruments and financial commitment to come into effect.

Broad-based stakeholder engagement: multi-stakeholder dialogues need to be operated at all levels of governance -specially at the local level- to improve the chance of finding sustainable and lasting solutions for land management and operate the component s on the REDD+ Program (NFMS and SIS.

Other challenges and gaps that need to be covered are the cross-sectoral coordination mechanisms among the institutions that land-tenure and land use planning processes in different sectors. The Integration of policies and mechanism with other non-forestry activities whose activities are drivers and barriers to halt forestry should be considered (commodities), as well as activating processes that can promote of sustainable agricultural models and renewable sources of energy that contribute to sustainable rural development.

1.4.Learned Lessons

Evaluations have identified the following Learned lessons linked with the implementation of the FCOF-II in possible actions to move forward to the full implementation of the REDD+ Program in Cambodia:

Institutional reforms require political and economic commitment: Political support is essential to improve environmental governance. There has been a positive response to the regulation and institutional arrangements. Such reforms require expeditious implementation of relevant administrative, legal, and regulatory instruments to come into effect.

Land tenure security is essential for indigenous peoples and local communities: This constant feedback reflects the complexity of addressing land tenure security. REDD+ success could be limited without strengthening the capacities for participatory planning, promoting clarity about tenure rights for communities, and facilitating investments in sustainable climate-smart livelihoods.

Broadening sectoral coordination will increase the policy effectiveness of the REDD+ implementation. It requires not only coordination at the national level through the REDD+ Taskforce, and the NCSD is an important mitigation measure to reduce potential sectoral policy conflicts but also coordination and participation of all sectors. More effort is needed to mainstream REDD+ in non-core forestry sectors and sub-sectors at both the national and sub-national levels.

National approach to REDD+ Implementation, especially linked with the nested approach, is an important and strategic decision that could have been made during the REDD+ readiness process, developing the necessary systems and legislative instruments such as Prakas at an earlier stage. Going forward, Cambodia has an opportunity to ensure subnational projects are implemented with integrity and in line with national policies and guidelines.

2. Way Forward

2.1. Ongoing Activities

Currently, the FCPF has been extended for a period of 6 months (January 2022 - June 2022). During this period, the activities defined under the 4 thematic areas have continued to be developed and completed (See, Table 3). These activities will allow progress in the implementation of key elements indicated in the previous assessments such as improving the FRL and the allocation tool or the National REDD+ projects Database.

Table 3. Activities of the extension period 2022.

Thematic	Activities	Status at Dec 2022
1. Institutional arguments, intersectoral coordination and stakeholder engagement.	1.1. Organization of the final joint PEB and REDD+ Taskforce meeting.	
	1.2. Preparation of the end of FCPF II project report including the exit strategy.	
	1.3. Publication of the REDD+ readiness results for public dissemination and awareness raising.	
2. National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework.	2.1. Reviewing and updating the NPASMP Action Plan.	
3. Subnational capacity building for	3.1. Support alternative energy efficient technology to reduce dependent on wood biomass for cooking.	

REDD+ Implementation.		
4. Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects and National REDD+ projects Database.	4.1. Development of guidelines for the operationalization of the database for REDD+ projects. 4.2. Improvement of FRL update and FRL allocation.	

Despite such activities, and those that were defined to strengthen Cambodia's Nesting System, still reaming challenges of moving from the REDD+ Readiness stage of Cambodia to its implementation. New financing and technical support will be required to strengthen the REDD+ institutions in Cambodia, putting all components in place and coordinating its operation at different levels.

2.2. Recommendations/findings from FCPF Terminal Assessment

According to the terminal assessments there are critical area and activities to move smoothly to the transition of the implementation stage of REDD+, some of them are:

- Detail technical documents/manual/process for REDD+ operationalization including:
 - Safeguard monitoring requirements for subnational scale.
 - MRV, NFMS & Nested projects.
 - National REDD+ Project Database and Registry.
- Consultations with REDD+ project partners on:
 - Allocation methodology/risk map and conduct to training on the FRL Allocation tool to MRV team once these components are finished.
 - Mainstream gender considerations in REDD+ implementation at national and subnational levels.
 - Partners and stakeholders for specific areas and process?
- Improve, detailed and cover data/information gaps
 - Continue improving land use/cover map of 2020 and Forest Inventory
- Finished and submitted proposal focus on implementation of REDD+:
 - GCF-SAP Project Funding proposal completed and submitted to GCF.
 - JNR project document/proposal submission to VERRA.
- Continuous support and capacity building are needed to:
 - Strengthen institutional arrangements and improve intersectoral coordination and broad-based stakeholder engagement at national and subnational levels.
 - Enforce the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects and maintain the National REDD+ project Database.

- Specially, continue to facilitate PRAKAS & guideline endorsement and operationalization.
- Operate the NFMS and SIS, and monitor progress of REDD+ implementation

The development of carbon markets during the year 2021 as well as advances into Article 6 of the PA and its financing mechanisms are offering opportunities to leverage financial resources Cambodia is taking advantage of (See, Table 4):

- **Climate Promise 2.0:** Cambodia will receive funding for USD 350,000 under the funding channelled by the UNDP linked to the Glasgow Forest Declaration. This financing is multisectoral-oriented. The actions carried out with the FOLU sector deem to the institutionalization of REDD+ in MoE, improve the data/information and procedures in the MRV System, and strengthen the participation of stakeholders. Related to the AP, this financing will seek to facilitate the access to the carbon market.
- **Additional Financing from DEFRA Fund:** In addition to the initial contribution under the Climate Promise grant, Cambodia was selected to receive an additional USD 200,000 grant focused on the FOLU sector. It is hoped that this support allows the integration of the forestry targets of the NDC and the Long-Term Strategy of Cambodia, as well as strengthens their implementation, as well as engages key stakeholders.
- **Consultancy of Assessment of carbon market potential for Cambodia's NDC:** The objective of this assignment is to assess the eligibility and potential of Cambodia's climate change mitigation actions for carbon markets. The findings will be used by the RGC to inform its strategy to access carbon markets to finance climate action.
- **Voluntary Carbon Market Access Strategy (VCM-AS):** As part of Cambodia's participation in the Voluntary Carbon Market Integrity Initiative (VCMI), Cambodia was selected to develop this Strategy. It aims to support Cambodia, maximizing investments into VCM activities that are aligned with its national climate strategies and contribute to (and go beyond) the compliance with NDCs. Also, it will help to the country to showcase its progress to development partners and corporates to identify and accelerate investments in VCM activities and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships. It will count on the coordination of the UNDP Climate and Forests Team, with analytical support provided by Climate Focus.

2.3. Next Steps/Exit Strategy: Transition from Readiness to Implementation

Facilitating the implementation phase of REDD+, Cambodia is preparing proposals for cooperation and financing that will allow to the country access new support to smoothly transit to the implementation through the piloting of its REDD+ program as well as fully operation of the set of elements developed for REDD+. The main initiatives that are being carried out emphasizing on addressing on addressing three aspects:

1) **Sustainability and continuity to function and strengthen of REDD+ Institutional Arrangement:**

- Reform and institutionalize REDD+ in MoE organogram: The draft concept notes to propose restructuring the REDD+ institutional arrangement in MoE has been developed and presented to MoE. Currently, the FCPF project team in close coordination with RTS, the letter of no objection on the propose restructuring REDD+ institutional arrangement has been endorsed by MoE and work is ongoing to appoint relevance MoE management and technical competencies for the arrangement. This effort will continue to support and finalize with the support from climate promise 2.0.

2) **Sustaining financial support post FCPF:**

- Finished and submitted proposal focus on implementation of REDD+:
 - a. GCF-SAP Project Funding proposal completed and submitted to GCF: Cambodia is working on proposal to the Green Climate Fund by up to USD 10M, which will generate a paradigm shift from REDD+ readiness to implementation in Cambodia, supporting NDC implementation in the land use and forest sector through public and private sector engagement in REDD+ actions. The REDD+ program's technical components will be enhanced to support quality reporting to the UNFCCC, as well as the Nesting Framework for REDD+ is made functional and enforced. The project will therefore enhance the environmental integrity of REDD+ in Cambodia in conformity with the PA.
 - b. JNR project document/proposal submission to VERRA: With FCPF's support, Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Verra signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) to develop a FREL Proposal for JNR Scenario 1 a national-scale jurisdictional reference level for deforestation. Currently, the Draft JNR FREL Description Template is being finalized. MoE and the Department of Geographic Information Services (DGIS) are overseeing the completion of a pilot study with Verra on its FRL Allocation Tool and testing the Quality of Risk Map and Allocation Map. Testing and running the FREL allocation tool would allow Cambodia to progress toward a fully operational REDD+ nested mechanism that is key to aligning procedures and accounting within the context of the NDC, and including the potential access of, Article 6 cooperative approaches and/or mechanism, VCM and in estimating and maximizing the issuance of potential high-integrity credits.
- The development of carbon markets during the year 2021 as well as advances into Article 6 of the PA and its financing mechanisms are offering opportunities to leverage financial resources Cambodia is taking advantage of (See, Table 4):

Climate Promise 2.0: Cambodia has received funding for USD 350,000 under the funding channelled by the UNDP linked to the Glasgow Forest Declaration. This financing is multisectoral-oriented. The actions carried out with the FOLU sector deem to the institutionalization of REDD+ in MoE, improve the data/information and procedures in the MRV System, and strengthen the participation of stakeholders. Related to the AP, this financing will seek to facilitate the access to the carbon market.

Additional Financing from DEFRA Fund: In addition to the initial contribution under the Climate Promise grant, Cambodia was selected to receive an additional USD 200,000 grant focused on the FOLU sector. It is hoped that this support allows the integration of the forestry targets of the NDC and the Long-Term Strategy of Cambodia, as well as strengthens their implementation, as well as engages key stakeholders.

Consultancy of Assessment of carbon market potential for Cambodia's NDC: The objective of this assignment is to assess the eligibility and potential of Cambodia's climate change mitigation actions for carbon markets. The findings will be used by the RGC to inform its strategy to access carbon markets to finance climate action.

Voluntary Carbon Market Access Strategy (VCM-AS): As part of Cambodia's participation in the Voluntary Carbon Market Integrity Initiative (VCMI), Cambodia was selected to develop this Strategy. It aims to support Cambodia, maximizing investments into VCM activities that are aligned with its national climate strategies and contribute to (and go beyond) the compliance with NDCs. Also, it will help to the country to showcase its progress to development partners and corporates to identify and accelerate investments in VCM activities and facilitate multi-stakeholder partnerships. It will count on the coordination of the UNDP Climate and Forests Team, with analytical support provided by Climate Focus.

3) Continue capacity building for RTS/MoE officials:

- Continuous support and capacity building are needed to:
 - e. Strengthen institutional arrangements and improve intersectoral coordination and broad-based stakeholder engagement at national and subnational levels.
 - f. Enforce the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects and maintain the National REDD+ project Database.
 - i. Specially, continue to facilitate PRAKAS & guideline endorsement and operationalization.
 - g. Operate the NFMS and SIS, and monitor progress of REDD+ implementation

Table 4. Technical support and additional financing.

Initiative	Type In-kind or In-cash	Source / Partner	Public / Private	Grant, loan or other	Status End Dec 2022
Climate Promise 2.0.	USD ~350K	BKZ, Germany Govt	Public	Grant	Approved
DEFRA Fund	USD ~200K	DEFRA, UK Govt	Public	Grant	Approved
Consultancy: "Assessment of carbon market potential for Cambodia's NDC"	USD ~25/30K	Climate Finance Network UNDP.	Nil	Grant	Approved
VCM-AS	In-kind	VCMI and Climate Focus	Private	Technical Support	Ongoing

GCF SAP Proposal	Up to USD 10 million	GCF	Public	Grant	Ongoing
JNR Proposal	In-kind	Verra	Private	Technical Support (MoU)	Ongoing
Others?					

3. Closure

As described above, while waiting for the official endorsement by the RGC on the National Regulatory Framework for REDD+ projects, RGC (RTF/RTS) with the coordination support from UNDP currently is working in different areas and initiatives to facilitate the transition to the implementation of REDD+ and facilitate the participation of Cambodia in the carbon markets.

To the initiatives indicated above, one can add contributions from the private, donors and partners that see Cambodia as an essential partner, in the implementation of jurisdictional REDD+ activities as well as stand-alone carbon projects, due to the significant progress shown as well as the current work to participate in the markets.

Annex 2: Risk and Issue Log – Updated December 2022

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter measures / management response	Owner	Submitted / updated by	Last Update	Status
1	Government staff capacity is not fully available for programme implementation	24 March 2017	Strategic Organizational	Probability =2 Impact = 5	The project activities centre on capacity building of key government staff for effective design and implementation of REDD+. Key government staff include members of REDD+ taskforce and technical teams at the national level and provincial, district and commune government officers at the subnational level continue to improve through extensive awareness-raising, training and REDD+ pilot activities implementation with FA, FiA and GDANCP. The AIP-NRS has been endorsed in May 2021, where the 4 technical units within the RTS to ensure the sustainability and environmental integrity of Cambodia's REDD+ Programme and will continue to strengthen the RGC's technical capacities to comply with the UNFCCC requirements for REDD+ RBPs, to implement the Regulatory Framework for REDD+ Projects, as well as to improve intersectoral coordination and ensure broad-based stakeholder engagement for REDD+ implementation at national and subnational levels.	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Completed
	Non-forestry sectors such as mining, energy, agriculture, land use do not place a	24 March 2017	Political	Probability =4 Impact = 4	The project supports the REDD+ Taskforce as well as the NCSD (both of which are inter-ministerial bodies) to facilitate inter-ministerial discussions to mainstream REDD+. The project also supports enhancing the NCSD's role in Strategic Environment Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment to properly assess potentially negative social and environmental impacts	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Completed

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter measures / management response	Owner	Submitted / updated by	Last Update	Status	
	priority on REDD+ and undermine REDD+ activities				of policies, programme and projects and to propose measures to avoid, mitigate and eliminate these impacts. Action and investment plan for the implementation of the national REDD+ strategy (AIP-NRS) was finalized and endorsed by MoE in May 2021. The AIP-NRS has prioritized thematic and sectoral priorities, PaMs related to intersectoral coordination & stakeholders' engagement, land use planning & land tenure, forests, agriculture, and energy. Environmental and Social Management Framework from the AIP-NRS has been developed to ensure effective remedies in case negative e impacts arise due to REDD+ actions.					
3	Other sectors' laws (e.g. draft Agriculture Law) may undermine national REDD+ efforts	24 March 2017	Political	Probability =4 Impact = 4	The project closely monitors the development of other sectors' laws and their implications. When significantly negative impacts are anticipated, the project will address concerns through inter-ministerial bodies such as the Taskforce and NCSD to ensure coordination among line ministries and to mitigate any negative impacts. AIP-NRS development has taking into account all these concerns and that appropriate policies and measures have been incorporated to achieve REDD+ results. RTS is currently working to update FRL to update and monitor land use and land use change map. Through the global joint UNDP and FAO Scaling Up Climate Ambition on Land Use and Agriculture through NDCs and NAPs (SCALA) supported project, as part of the output on the evidence base for implementation of transformative climate action in land-use or agriculture	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Stable probability reduced	

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter measures / management response	Owner	Submitted / updated by	Last Update	Status	
					strengthened, RTS with support from FCPF will undertake a study on the key commodities driving deforestation in the Stung Treng Province and define opportunities to improve the sustainability.					
4	Government agencies do not cooperate and coordinate activities effectively Failure of Government agencies, especially GDANCP, NCSD, FA and FiA, to work together effectively would slow progress towards REDD+ Readiness.	24 March 2017	Organizational	Probability = 3 Impact = 3	The Cambodia REDD+ Taskforce has been explicitly established to mitigate this risk. The Taskforce's decision-making process ensures adequate coordination and consensus between Government agencies. Currently, as part of AIP-NRS, the current institutional arrangements are being reviewed, with special attention to (i) the identification of appropriate institutions for REDD+ implementation at both national and sub-national levels, (ii) the definition of their mandates, roles and responsibilities, and (iii) the definition of clear communication lines between the different implementation levels. UNDP Technical Advisors and National Project advisor under the current FCPF project is coordinated with both FA/MAFF, GDANCP/MoE and NCSD throughout implementation.	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Stable probability reduced	
5	Sub-national authorities do not share central government's	24 March 2017	Political	Probability = 2 Impact = 2	The project component 3 targets the subnational level authorities to raise their awareness about the importance of REDD+ and to build their capacities in planning and implementing REDD+ related activities.	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Completed	

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter measures / management response	Owner	Submitted / updated by	Last Update	Status	
	commitment to REDD				Extensive awareness-raising events to build their knowledge and understanding including discussion on their roles and engagement in REDD+ implementation was conducted for subnational administration and community networks across the country. REDD+ activities pilot testing is being implemented with FA, FiA and GDANCP in collaboration with subnational administration and the local community to build their awareness and capacity to manage REDD+ implementation.					
6	Programme inputs (funds, human resources, etc.) are not mobilized in a timely fashion	24 March 2017	Operational	Probability = 2 Impact = 3	The project seeks to avoid this risk by ensuring that procurement of services (individuals, firms) would be done in a most efficient manner with due consideration of needs for the top levels of expertise to successfully implement the project. In coordination and support from UNDP REDD+ Team, the project has successfully received an additional funding support through Climate Promise 2 and DEFRA-UK to continue National REDD+ programme in 2023. Standards GCF-SAP Project funding proposal is at the finalize stage. Currently, the proposal is under final review and clean up and is expected to submit to GCS end of this year.	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Stable	
7	National planning processes (national policies and actions plans)	24 March 2017	Political/social and environmental	Probability = 2 Impact = 3	The project establishes a national safeguard information system (SIS) at the national level to avoid, mitigate and eliminate any adverse social, and negative impacts of REDD+. The grievance redress mechanism (GRM) will also be an integral part of the SIS to enable	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Stable probability reduced	

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter measures / management response	Owner	Submitted / updated by	Last Update	Status	
	give a rise to environmental and social impacts that could affect indigenous people, local communities or other vulnerable groups				affected stakeholders to seek effective remedies in case negative impacts arise due to REDD+. First Summary of Information (SOI) for REDD+ implementation in Cambodia has been developed, endorsed, and officially submitted to UNFCCC for results-based payment in December 2019 outlining how Cambodia will address and respect safeguards.					
8	Subnational activities pose environmental and social impacts that significantly affect land tenure arrangements and/or traditional cultural ownership patterns	24 March 2017	Political, social and environmental	Probability = 3 Impact = 2	The project supports land use planning and development of management plans of natural resources including forests in a manner that pays due attention to existing tenure arrangements and ownership. The project also includes specific components to promote community-based REDD+ to strengthen community land tenure and ownership of forests and to promote sustainable management of natural resources. Also, the project finalized the development of a number of strategic management plans, strategies and guidelines including environmental and social management framework to ensure that environmental and social impact are addressed throughout REDD+ implementation process. The Environmental and Social Management Framework for the implementation of NRS and AIP-NRS has been developed which requires all REDD+ actions must ensure general management plans for addressing likely	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Improved	

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter measures / management response	Owner	Submitted / updated by	Last Update	Status
					risks on biodiversity, Indigenous people, women and resettlement and to address the requirements of applicable policies and standards, including the UNDP SES has been developed. Training and operationalization of safeguards implementation conducted and tested in the three REDD+ pilot activities implementation with FA, FiA and GANCP. The safeguards report of the three pilot sites has been prepared				
9	Potential impact on gender equality and women's empowerment Inappropriate REDD+ implementation could impact gender equality and women's empowerment	24 March 2017	Political, social and environmental	Probability = 2 Impact = 2	The project fully considers and promotes gender equality and women's empowerment. A REDD+ gender group was established in 2013, with four members from four institutions including the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Forestry Administration (FA), Fisheries Administration (FiA) and the Ministry of Environment (MoE). This inter-institutional Gender Group has played a key role in raising awareness on gender and women's empowerment issues relevant to REDD+ among members of the REDD+ Taskforce, Consultation Group and technical teams. The project has supported the group to play an important role in providing regular feedback to the policy deliberation processes to incorporate gender concerns and promote the active participation of women in designing and implementing the National REDD+ Strategy. Assessment on Gender mainstreaming has been conducted and integrated into the development of AIP-NRS. Capacity to relevant REDD+ implementors has been conducted. Gender risks analysis and mitigation plan have been embedded as an integral	National Project Director and REDD+ Taskforce	RTS and UNDP CO	Dec 2022	Completed

#	Description	Date Identified	Type	Impact & Probability	Counter measures / management response	Owner	Submitted / updated by	Last Update	Status	
					part of REDD+ safeguards pilot implementation in the field to ensure gender equality and empowerment. The incorporation of gender into REDD+ planning and implementation strengthened through the work on safeguards implementation of the three REDD+ pilot projects implemented by the three forestry institutions.					

TYPE: Environmental, Financial, Operational, Organizational, Political, Regulatory, Security, Strategic or Other
PROBABILITY: 1: Very unlikely, 2: Unlikely, 3: Possibly, 4: Likely, 5: Almost certain
IMPACT: 1: Adverse effect is marginal, 2: Adverse effect is moderate, 3: Adverse effect is substantial, 4: Project result is severely damaged, 5: Kill the project

Annex 3: Project results and communications

Project results in REDD+ policies and strategies development

List of REDD+ policies and strategies developed and can be accessible via this link: www.cambodia-redd.org

No	Policies and Strategies	Status	Year
01	National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2026 (Khmer and English)	Approved	2017
02	Action and Investment Plan for Implementation of National REDD+ Strategy 2018-2031 (AIP-NRS)	Approved	2021
03	Cambodia REDD+ Safeguards Information System	Final draft	2018
04	First Summary of Information (Sol) on Safeguards	Approved	2019
05	Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) for AIP-NRS	Approved	2018
06	First Forest Reference Level (1 st FRL)	Approved	2016
07	Second Forest Reference Level (2 nd FRL) 2021	Approved	2021
08	National Forest Monitoring Web Portal	Final version	2016
09	Biennial Update Report (BUR) and REDD+ Technical Annex	Approved	2020
10	Final draft of the action plan for the implementation of the National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan	Completed	2017
11	Revised version of the Forest Reference Level for Cambodia under the UNFCCC Framework	Completed	2017
12	National Forest Monitoring System of Cambodia	Working draft	2015
13	Activity Data: Land Use/Cover Change Map for 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016, 2018 and 2020	Approved	
14	National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan 2017-2031 (Khmer and English)	Approved	2017
15	National Protected Area Strategic Management Plan Action Plan 2018-2022 (Khmer)	Approved	2018
16	Technical guideline on protected area management plan (Khmer and English)	Approved	2018
17	Technical guideline on protected area zoning (Khmer and English)	Approved	2017
18	National Production Forest Strategic Plan	Final version	2019
19	REDD+ Regulatory Framework (PRAKAS and Guideline on REDD+ Nested)	Final version	2021
20	A national roadmap to operationalize REDD+ nesting	Final version	2021

21	National REDD+ project database (registry)	Final version	2021
22	Positive list of eligible standards for use in REDD+ implementation in Cambodia	Final version	2021
23	Forest Reference Level allocation methodology	Working version	2021

Project communication products

The below list of communication products on REDD+ can be accessible via this link: www.cambodia-redd.org

Nº	Name of Communication products	Type
1.	Testing of REDD+ safeguards implementation in Cambodia	Video
2.	The REDD+10 years achievement (retrospective)	Booklet
3.	REDD+ Development in Cambodia	Video
4.	Measurement, Reporting and verification (MRV)	Video
5.	REDD+ nesting in Cambodia	Video
6.	Status of REDD+ nested system in Cambodia	Knowledge product
7.	Flooded forest crucial for Cambodia in the Tonle Sap Great Lake	Case story
8.	Community flooded forest conservation and restoration activities under the FCPF project support in the Tonle Sap Great Lake	Case story
9.	REDD+ Readiness in Cambodia	Leaflet
10.	Frequently Asked Question on (FQA) on REDD+	Leaflet
11.	Misperception about REDD+	Leaflet
12.	Cambodia National REDD+ Strategy	Leaflet
13.	Cambodia National Forest Monitoring System	Leaflet
14.	Cambodia Forest Reference Level	Leaflet
15.	REDD+ Demonstration Project in Siema Protected Forest	Leaflet
16.	Training Manual/course on an introduction to the Concept of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation – REDD+”	Book
17.	Drawing to Save Our Forest	Book
18.	Introduction to REDD+	Book
19.	What is REDD+?	Video and voice record
20.	REDD+ Activities	Video and voice record
21.	Costs and benefits of REDD+	Video and voice record
22.	Referent Emission Level and REDD+ Results	Video and voice record

23.	REDD+ Safeguards	Video and voice record
24.	REDD+ Benefits Sharing	Video and voice record
25.	Forest and Climate Change	Video and voice record
26.	Community Participation in REDD+ Implementation	Video and voice record
27.	Gender and REDD+	Video and voice record
28.	Process and Status of National REDD+ Strategy Development	Video and voice record
29.	REDD+ core-benefits	3D video animation
30.	Community Based REDD+ (CBR+) Project	Voice record
31.	Roles, Responsibilities and Participation of Cambodia REDD+ Consultation Group	Voice record
32.	REDD+ Demonstration Project: Sustainable Management and Conservation of Flooded Forests and Mangrove Forests	Voice record
33.	Challenges of REDD+ Implementation in Cambodia	Voice record
34.	Awareness Raising on REDD+ in Cambodia	Voice record
35.	Cambodia REDD+ Coordination Mechanism	Voice record
36.	Free, Prior and Informed Consent (REDD+)	Voice record
37.	Participation of relevant stakeholders in Cambodia REDD+ Implementation	Voice record
38.	What Is REDD+?	Video Spot
39.	Introduction to REDD+	Video
40.	Cambodia REDD+ Safeguards	Video Documentary
41.	Cambodia REDD+ Benefits Sharing	Video Documentary
42.	Technical reports	Reports

Certificate Of Completion

Envelope Id: 149CF29D4BEA4D74898C0A8C69388782

Status: Completed

Subject: Complete with DocuSign: Minutes of PEB final-FCPFil.pdf, Final Version_Cambodia_FCPF_Final Proj...

Source Envelope:

Document Pages: 92

Signatures: 2

Envelope Originator:

Certificate Pages: 1

Initials: 0

Chenda Nuon

AutoNav: Enabled

One United Nations Plaza

Envelopeld Stamping: Enabled

New York, NY 10017

Time Zone: (UTC-08:00) Pacific Time (US & Canada)

chenda.nuon@undp.org

IP Address: 203.176.138.138

Record Tracking

Status: Original

Holder: Chenda Nuon

Location: DocuSign

3/1/2023 2:29:48 AM

chenda.nuon@undp.org

Signer Events**Signature****Timestamp**

Sonali Dayaratne

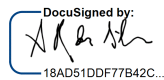
sonali.dayaratne@undp.org

Deputy Resident Representative

UNDP Cambodia

Security Level: Email, Account Authentication
(None)

DocuSigned by:



18AD51DDF77B42C...

Sent: 3/1/2023 2:42:25 AM

Viewed: 3/2/2023 1:47:49 AM

Signed: 3/2/2023 1:49:34 AM

Signature Adoption: Uploaded Signature Image

Using IP Address: 45.115.211.130

Electronic Record and Signature Disclosure:

Not Offered via DocuSign

In Person Signer Events**Signature****Timestamp****Editor Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Agent Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Intermediary Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Certified Delivery Events****Status****Timestamp****Carbon Copy Events****Status****Timestamp****Witness Events****Signature****Timestamp****Notary Events****Signature****Timestamp****Envelope Summary Events****Status****Timestamps**

Envelope Sent

Hashed/Encrypted

3/1/2023 2:42:25 AM

Certified Delivered

Security Checked

3/2/2023 1:47:49 AM

Signing Complete

Security Checked

3/2/2023 1:49:34 AM

Completed

Security Checked

3/2/2023 1:49:34 AM

Payment Events**Status****Timestamps**