



Technical Report

**Building Awareness and Support for REDD+ among
Forest dependent Communities in Siem Reap:
Consultation with Forest Management Committees
Cambodia, 2014**



Disclaimer

This report was prepared by Edward Maningo and Chan Sophal, consultants working for the Institute for Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IFWRD), and does not necessarily represent the views of the National REDD+ Taskforce, the Forestry Administration, the General Department for Administration of Nature Conservation and Protection, the UN-REDD Programme or the participating UN agencies.

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Acronyms

APFNet	Asia-Pacific Network for Sustainable Forest Management and Rehabilitation
CF	Community Forest
CFMC	Community Forest Management Committee
CFMP	Community Forest Management Plan
IFWRD	Institute for Forest and Wildlife Research and Development
FGD	Focus Group Discussions
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries

1 Introduction

The Institute for Forest and Wildlife Research and Development (IFWRD) is implementing awareness raising by targeting five Community Forests in Siem Reap province. The purpose of the project is to raise awareness among Community Forestry members of REDD+ and develop the means of integrating REDD+ with Community Forest Management Plans. There has been a workshop organized in Siem Reap with the Community Forest members in which the concept of REDD+ and potential benefits were presented. The Community Forest Management Committee (CFMC) Chiefs have visited Community Forest communities in Oddar Meanchay to be made aware of the issues confronted by those communities in implementing REDD+. Subsequent to that visit, the CFMCs consulted their respective community members on the possible integration of REDD+ into their Community Forest Management Plans. The purpose of the consultations with the CFMCs is to consolidate information on the outcomes of their consultations with their respective Community Forest members.

2 Methodology

The IFWRD Staff met with each of the CFMCs and request them to respond to the following questions:

1. May we know when you conducted consultations with your Community Forest members?
2. How many members attended those meetings? May we have a copy of your attendance sheets, photos and minutes of those consultation meetings?
3. Did the members make commitments to include REDD+ in their Community Forest Management Plans? Why?
4. What support do you and the Community Forest members require to make REDD+ successful? From whom will you seek that support?
5. How are you going to make the activities sustainable? How will the activities be supported?
6. How will you ensure that REDD+ will be successful and sustainable in your Community Forest?
7. If there are benefits that would be generated from REDD+, how would those benefits be allocated? How would those benefits be shared?
8. What were the suggestions of the members on how the Community Forests might benefit from REDD+?
9. What suggestions did the members make in order to make the REDD+ successful?

3 Expected Outputs

1. Consolidated information on the proceedings of the meetings that were conducted with the Community Forest members.
2. Insights on the collective decisions of the Community Forest members regarding the integration of REDD+ into their Community Forest Management Plans.

4 Outcome of the Consultation

4.1 Participants

The different CFMCs reported to the Team that they conducted consultations in the respective constituents after returning from Oddar Meanchay field trip. The different CFs conducted their consultations in the following dates (source: FGD with CFMCs):

- Tbeng Lech: March 14, 2014
- Phum O: March 22, 2014
- Varin: March 23, 2014
- Bos Thom: March 25, 2014
- Choam: March 25, 2014

The meeting was attended by CF members and members of CFMC. The participants of the meeting are (source: FGD with CFMCs):

- ❑ Tbeng Lech: 50 participants (26 are women)
- ❑ Phum O: 59 participants (33 are women)
- ❑ Varin: 76 participants (25 are women)
- ❑ Bos Thom: 48 participants (23 are women)
- ❑ Choam: 41 participants (23 are women)

4.2 Organizations Assisting the CFs

In Bos Thom, Phum O and Choam CF, there are no NGOs that work or support CFs especially REDD+ (source: FGD with the CFMC in Bos Thom CF). During the consultation with the constituents, the CFMC reported that they community members asked for tools, funding support to conduct patrolling (source: FGD with the CFMC in Choam CF). In Tbeng Lech, FAO, DANIDA and APFNet provided support to their CFs (source: FGD with the CFMC in Tbeng Lech) while Mlup Baitong, FFI and GIZ provided support to CFs in Varin CF (source: FGD with the CFMC in Varin CF). The community members in Tbeng Lech requested for support, both technical and financial for the extension works of the community (source: FGD with the CFMC in Tbeng Lech).

4.3 Commitment to REDD+

The consultation indicated that the community members decided to include REDD+ in the CFMP. They decided to include REDD+ because they wanted to protect their community forests, the animals therein and at the same time provide sustainable livelihoods to the villagers. There is also a need to absorb pollutants from the atmosphere. The communities believe that anyway, there is no significant difference if REDD+ will be included in the CF since the community can still use the forests in traditional ways (Source: FGD with CFMCs).

4.4 Support Needed

The community reported that they need support for the establishment of firebreaks, demarcation off boundaries, patrolling, and dissemination of REDD+ to the CF members. The CFMC feel that their CFs needs assistance in linking with the relevant institutions for financial and technical and logistical support (e.g. materials for patrolling) (source: FGD with CFMC in Bos Thom CF, Phum O, Varin and Tbeng Lech). The CFMC

is expecting that the CF members will actively participate in the protection of the forest, planting, establishment of firebreak, and patrolling the CF (source: FGD with CFMC in Choam, Varin and Tbeng Lech).

4.5 Making REDD+ Successful

The CFMCs are counting on their effectiveness in protecting the forest and participation of the CF members as factors for successful implementation of REDD+. The support extended by the local authorities, national government, other relevant institutions and NGOs to forest fire protection will also contribute to the successful implementation of REDD+ in the CFs (source: FGD with Bos Thom, Phum O, Varin and Tbeng Lech CFs). The CFMC claimed that if indeed there is money in REDD+, the forest will just be consequently conserved and protected (source: FGD with CFMCs in Choam CF). The CF members further suggested that the forest has to be protected from illegal activities, from forest fire, demarcate the CF boundaries and plant more trees (source: FGD with the Bos Thom, Varin and Phum O CFMC). These activities should be participated by the community members and the NTFPs should be utilized on a sustainable manner (source: FGD with CFMC in Choam CF). There is also a need to implement the agreed rules and regulations. Funding, tools and equipment and technical support from the concerned authorities is also important (source: FGD with the CFMC in Tbeng Lech). A wider dissemination of REDD+ is also necessary to make it successful (source: FGD with the CFMC in Phum O). Mr. Kuy Hut (Commune Chief) said that in order to make the CF successful, the CFMC should have a strong commitment, regularly patrol the CF and knew the forest resources off the community. There is also a need to have close collaboration and commitment among members (source: FGD with CFMC in Phum O).

4.6 Making the CF Activities and REDD+ Sustainable

The CFMC believes that the participation of the members are key to the making the REDD+ successful (source: FGD with the CFMCs in Bos Thom), especially in reporting about illegal logging. A financial and technical support from authority and related institution will also sustain the CF activities (source: FGD with the CFMC in Choam, Varin, Phum O and Tbeng Lech).

4.7 How CF Might Benefit from REDD+

The Community Forestry (CF) can get benefits from REDD+ by compensating the community members' efforts in protecting the community forest and keep it in good condition (source: FGD with the CFMCs in Bos Thom CF). The CFs also expects that they will be compensated because there is already a regulation compensating the CF. Besides this, the CF members is already committed to protect the forest. Various institutions and authorities already support the idea that the community will get benefits from REDD+ (source: FGD with the CFC in Tbeng Lech). The community must also adhere to the law and help in enforcing it if they will be benefited from REDD+. The members must also understand about REDD+ (source: FGD with the CFMCs in Varin CF).

4.8 Allocation of Benefits from REDD+

The community suggested that the benefits generated from REDD+ will be used for social services such as: building school and patrolling station, planting more trees, building dam and road around community forest and helping member who are poor (source: FGD with the CFMCs in Bos Thom, Phum O, Varin and Choam CFs), construction of deep wells and establishing savings group (source: FGD with CFMCs in Tbeng

Lech CF) and boundary demarcation (source: FGD with CFCMs in Phum O and Varin CFs). The CF members suggested that the income from REDD+ should be used to implement the plan for the development of the village, help the poor, support patrolling, construct village hall, and to supporting putting up a Saving Group (source: FGD with the CFMC in Phum O CF).

5 Decision of the CFMC on REDD+

Finally, after consulting with their constituents, the CFMC came up with their decisions on whether to include REDD+ in CFMP. The CFMC in Bos Thom and Choam decided to integrate REDD+ in the CFMP. The CFMC will disseminate REDD+ to all members to understand and participate in protection of the forest. The CFMC is planning to seek for support from related institution to instruct on how to integrate REDD+ in CFMP (source: FGD with the CFMC in Bos Thom and Varin CF). The CFMC in Tbeng Lech is keen on integrating REDD+ since they are expecting that their protection works will generate income (source: FGD with the CFMC in Tbeng Lech). The CFMC in Choam also commit to plant more trees (source: FD with the CFMC in Choam CF). In Phum O, the CFMC is keen on including REDD+ in the CFMP. However, they need support for information dissemination and in strengthening the capacity of the CFMC (source: FD with the CFMC in Phum O).

There is an apparent need to explain further what is REDD+ to the communities. During the consultation in Choam, one participant asked the question: “Does REDD+ intend to sell our forest to foreign countries?” The CFMC explained that the forests will not be physically sold to the foreign countries. What the CF needs to do is to protect the forest in order the forest can absorb air pollutants and release oxygen to the atmosphere (Source: FGD with the CFMC in Choam CF)

In Bos Thom, Mr. Soeurng Oun asked the project staffs, how much carbon stock is expected in in one hectare of community forest. The CFMC Chief answered that they have to wait until a technical team will conduct the forest carbon inventory. That is the time the carbon stock from the forest can be determined (source: FGD with CFMC in Bos Thom CF).

Awareness raising can be expected to improve the implementation of REDD+ in the CF areas.

6 Lessons Learned

Informing the different stakeholders on REDD+ and securing their consent is indispensable in REDD+ implementation. This has to be observed in REDD+ implementation. However, due to the complexity of the climate change issues and the carbon trading, there is a need for effective extension and simplified explanation of the concepts. Financial benefits is an important factor that motivates the stakeholders to participate in REDD+. There is an apparent need to explain further what is REDD+ to the communities. Awareness raising will expectedly improve the implementation of REDD+ in the CF areas.

7 Recommendations

The awareness raising on REDD+ will have long way to go. The concept of REDD+ has to be explained to other CFs as well. There is also a need to build the capacity of the community in the measurements of the carbon stocks and integrating REDD+ in their CF Management Plans.



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