

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Plan Idea Note (R-PIN) Template

Guidelines:

1. The purpose of this document is to: a) request an overview of your country's interest in the FCPF program, and b) provide an overview of land use patterns, causes of deforestation, stakeholder consultation process, and potential institutional arrangements in addressing REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest degradation). This R-PIN will be used as a basis for the selection of countries into the FCPF by the Participants Committee. Information about the FCPF is available at: www.carbonfinance.org/fcpf
2. Please keep the length of your response under 20 pages. You may consider using the optional Annex 1 Questionnaire (at the end of this template) to help organize some answers or provide other information.
3. You may also attach at most 15 additional pages of technical material (e.g., maps, data tables, etc.), but this is optional. If additional information is required, the FCPF will request it.
4. The text can be prepared in Word or other software and then pasted into this format.
5. For the purpose of this template, "Deforestation" is defined as the change in land cover status from forest to non-forest (i.e., when harvest or the gradual degrading of forest land reduces tree cover per hectare below your country's definition of "forest." "Forest degradation" is the reduction of tree cover and forest biomass per hectare, via selective harvest, fuel wood cutting or other practices, but where the land still meets your country's definition of "forest" land.
6. When complete, please forward the R-PIN to: 1) the Director of World Bank programs in your country; and 2) Werner Kornexl (wkornexl@worldbank.org) and Kenneth Andrasko (kandrasko@worldbank.org) of the FCPF team.

Country submitting the R-PIN: Cambodia

Date submitted:

1. General description:

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2. Which institutions are responsible in your country for:

a) forest monitoring and forest inventories:

Forest Management Office, Forestry Administration (FA), MAFF
 Forestry and Wildlife Science Research Institute (FWSRI), Forestry Administration (FA), MAFF
 Forest Land and Watershed Management Office, Forestry Administration (FA), MAFF

b) forest law enforcement:

Legislation and Litigation Office, Forest Crime Monitoring and Reporting Unit, Forestry Administration (FA),
 Local Authority Forestry Administration

c) forestry and forest conservation:

Wildlife Protection Office (WPO), Forestry Administration (FA), MAFF
 Forestry and Wildlife Science Research Institute (FWSRI), Forestry Administration (FA), MAFF
 Local Authority Forestry Administration
 Department of Nature Conservation and Protection (DNCP), Ministry of Environment (MoE)
 International NGOs (Conservation International, Wildlife Conservation Society, Wildlife Alliance, WWF...)

d) coordination across forest and agriculture sectors, and rural development:

Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWGF-E). The TWGF-E is a mechanism jointly established by The Royal Government of Cambodia and its Development Partners for multi-stakeholders dialogue on forestry issues among relevant governmental ministries/ agencies, development partners, civil society and private sector.

3. Current country situation (consider the use of Annex 1 to help answer these questions):

a) Where do forest deforestation and forest degradation occur in your country, and how extensive are they? (i.e., location, type of forest ecosystem and number of hectares deforested per year, differences across land tenure (e.g., national forest land, private land, community forest, etc.):

In 2006 the forest cover in Cambodia was estimated to **10.730.781 hectares**, or **59.09 %** of the total territory (FA, 2007; FA, 2008). The forest massif is predominantly distributed (*a*) in the north-eastern part of the country, bordering Laos and Thailand, covered by a lowland tropical moist forest; (*b*) in the hilly country around the Gulf of Thailand and east of the Mekong River, covered by a medium-altitude closed forest; (*c*) in the north-western part of the country, we found a mix of closed deciduous forests and open forests (*map in appendix*). Four forest types were recognized in Cambodia for the two last national land cover study produced in 2002 and 2006¹: evergreen forest (3.668.902 hectares, 20.2%), semi evergreen forest (1.362.638 hectares, 7.5%), deciduous forest (4.692.098 hectares, 25.9%), and other forest class (1.007.143 hectares, 5.6%) which combine regeneration, stunted forests, mangroves, inundated forests, forests plantations and bamboo.

A total of 5 national land cover maps were produced in Cambodia since 1965, with support of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and Mekong Secretariat (MRC) and German Technical Cooperation (GTZ). The first forest cover assessment of 1965 shows that approximately 73% of the country was covered by forest at this time. The last forest assessment in 2006 shows that the forest cover was reduced to 59%. Therefore, the total lost of forest cover between 1965 and 2006 is about 2.496.319 hectares (23%) that represent an annual rate of deforestation of 0.56%/year. The forest cover change between 2002 and 2006 show a decline of 2.06% in forest cover that represent an estimated loss of 373.510 hectares. Based on land cover dataset produced in 1997, 2002 and 2006, key areas of deforestation² in the country are (map in appendix):

- Deciduous and semi-evergreen areas of the **far northeast region**;
- Semi-evergreen and evergreen forests in **Rattanak kiri**;
- Evergreen forests along the newly repairs roads in the **coastal region**;
- Evergreen forests associated with areas along **road No4**;
- Deciduous forests across **northern and northeastern region**;
- **Flooded forests** associated with the **Tonle Sap Lake**.

No information is available on a national assessment of forest degradation³, as this parameter was not taken into account into the several produced national land cover maps. Deforestation and forest degradation are mainly concentrated on the boundary between agricultural and the major forests cover and in the flooded forest. The development of new access road through isolated forest is enabling the deforestation and forest degradation of primary forest.

According to the forestry law, all forest land belongs to the state; therefore there is no private ownership of the land. The forest massif in Cambodia is divided into 3.098.000 hectares of **Protected Area** (17% of the total country land), 1.434.032 hectares of **Protected Forests** (8%), and 3.374.328 hectares of **Forest Concessions** (19%), 330.732 hectares of **Community Forestry** (2%), and other remaining forests are not classified yet.

b) Are there any estimates of greenhouse or carbon dioxide emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in

¹ Maps produced by the GIS and RS Unit of the Forestry Administration with external quality assessment carried out by GRAS A/S Geography Department, University of Copenhagen.

² Following the decision of the 11/COP.7, of the UNFCCC, **deforestation** or forest clearance was defined as a direct anthropogenic conversion of a forested area to a non-forested area.

³ Forest **degradation** is understood here as the definition given by the IPCC, i.e. a long term reduction of carbon stocks of anthropogenic origin without a change in land use (within those forest zones which remain forests)

your country? If so, please summarize:

A **national estimation** of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (GHG) was realized within the framework of Cambodia's national communication in 2002⁴. Calculations were based on 1994 national statistical data from FA and were completed by factors originating from the IPCC's guidelines for national GHG inventories⁵. Results of LULUCF emissions have been presented without any distinction between deforestation and forest degradation. These estimations suffer from a certain number of limitations however, such as the lack of reliability and precision of data, lack of national competence in the elaboration of GHG inventories in addition to the lack of national statistical data for the realisation of Carbon stocks. However, the total emissions for LULUCF sector in 1994 are about 67.9MCO₂e.

In 2006 was published a first estimation of carbon emissions due to land-use change and logging in Cambodia (N. Sasaki, 2006). Land-use and forest inventory data were used to develop simple models capable of estimating the change of carbon stocks and carbon emissions from dryland and edaphic forests. This study estimated the annual deforestation rate to be 500.000 hectares between 1973 and 2003, or about 0.7%. Between 1993 and 2003, annual carbon emissions amounted to about 13.7 TgC, owing to deforestation and logging.

c) Please describe what data are available for estimating deforestation and/or forest degradation. Are data published? Describe the major types of data, including by deforestation and forest degradation causes and regions if possible (e.g., area covered, resolution of maps or remote sensing data, date, etc.).

Cambodia has received assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in carrying out two major forest inventories and one pilot scale inventory:

- 1958-1962, inventory of East of Mekong region (5.5 million hectares);
- 1968-1970, inventory of Cardamom range (300.000 hectares);
- And 1996-1998, inventory of Sandan district, Kompong Thom, (275.000 hectares).

In **1989**, the Mekong Committee produced an atlas of land cover of Cambodia based on LANDSAT TM/MSS imagery. In **1993**, the Japan Forest Technical Association (JAFTA) assisted the Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DFW) in analysing satellite imagery of LANDSAT TM data **1992/1993** to assess the country's forest resources. In 1997, the Forest Cover Monitoring Project carried out an estimate of forest cover, with support of GTZ/MRC, based on **1996/1997** LANDSAT TM. Then Forestry Administration (GIS and RS Unit) produced two more forest cover maps in **2002** and **2006**, with support of Royal Danish Embassy and the University of Copenhagen. These maps were produced with LANDSAT ETM+ and ASTER data.

Scale of interpretation and smallest interpretable unit are quite different between the land cover databases (table in appendix). Land cover 1989 and 1996/1997 were produced at a scale of **1/250.000**. Only land cover 2002 and 2005/2006 were produced at a scale of **1/50.000**. The smallest interpretable unit of **1 km²** was conserved in all databases.

In the framework of a support program to national policies of the agricultural sector in Cambodia, AFD is funding a sub-project aiming to reinforce FA capacity on CDM and REDD. Through this program FA is receiving a support on cartography harmonization for land cover database 1989 / 1997 / 2002 and 2006. This project should produce a Geodatabase of national land cover, providing an 18 years baseline of forest cover change over the whole country, at a scale of 1/250.000 and 1 km² minimum mapping units. An initial work of quality assessment was provided by the University of Copenhagen on land cover maps 2002 and 2006 (GRAS A/S, 2007). The same work will be carried out on land cover maps 1989 and 1997. This work will provide to FA a **harmonized national forest land cover mapping over 18 years, with external quality assessment**.

⁴ <http://unfccc.int/resource/docs/natc/khmmc1.pdf>

⁵ Cambodia's Initial National Communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNFCCC. <http://unfccc.int/national_reports/non-annex_i_natcom/items/2979.php>

⁶ NIS, 2005. Statistical Yearbook 2005. National Institute of Statistics, Ministry of Planning, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

⁷ IFSR, 2004. Independant Forest Sector Review. Royal Danish Embassy Development Cooperation Section and Forest Administration, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. www.cambodia-forest-sector.net/docs-part2.htm

⁸ CDRI, 2006. Forest Management Options in Cambodia. Cambodia Development Resource Institute Policy Brief, March 2006 – Issue 4

d) What are the main causes of deforestation and/or forest degradation?

The principles deforestation and forest degradation causes are (without any distinction of direct and indirect causes):

- (i) **Fuel wood collection** is a major activity in Cambodia. Based on the last Cambodia census population, it was estimated that 84% of the population rely on fuel wood and 5.5% on charcoal, for cooking⁶. This represent roughly a volume of 6.968.000m³ of dead wood collected annually⁷. The existence of a fuel wood deficient area as led to the creation of fuel wood and charcoal market. The charcoal is much more damaging as it requires green wood collection. In some provinces like Kampong Speu, producers claims that charcoal is more profitable than agriculture and constitute their main incomes.
- (ii) **Forest Land demarcation:** lack of permanent forest estates' boundaries on the ground and lack of clarity over what forest resources may be used for, and by whom;
- (iii) **Illegal timber harvesting.** It takes place inside and outside the concession system area. The debate around illegal logging has focused on detection, monitoring and prosecution. The high value of the wood, the remote areas and long boundaries make virtually difficult to prevent illegal logging;
- (iv) **Population grow** at a high annual rate of 1.7%. As the majority of the population is living in rural area (84%), we can expect that agricultural encroachment will accelerate. This phenomenon could lead to:
 - Migrations towards less populated area in the forested regions of North-east and South-west of Cambodia;
 - And expansion of land dedicated to agriculture due to the poor agricultural productivity of the land. There is clearly a danger of ongoing deforestation and forest degradation as the rural population will increase (19 million in 2020, with a growing rate of 1.7%);
- (v) **Land Alienation:** as local people become alienated from their lands, there may be increasing apathy and a limited sense of responsibility towards natural forest areas. Land alienation also leads to increased poverty and often forces people to degrade land they do have access to, or to harvest forest products illegally in the areas to which access is denied;
- (vi) **Limited institutional capacity:** the capacity and capability of the central institutions to manage, monitor and enforce the laws in the forestry sector are still limited due to diverse constraints to forest and land management (low number of trained personnel, scarce funds);
- (vii) **Inadequate development and administration funds:** the RGC has limited budget for rural development which can affect the respect of the law and sustainable forest management;
- (viii) **Regional dynamics:** Neighbouring countries have played a large part in the deforestation process. Having both suffered high rates of deforestation themselves (Thailand during the 1970s and 1980s, and Vietnam largely due to the ravages of the Vietnam war) both have turned to Cambodia to satisfy their demand for timber;

e) What are the key issues in the area of forest law enforcement and forest sector governance (e.g., concession policies and enforcement, land tenure, forest policies, capacity to enforce laws, etc.?)

Before 2002, the forest management system in Cambodia was focused on the **commercial concession system** but currently it is focused on **Annual Bidding Coup** and **Community forestry**:

- 1) **The community forestry system** as been recognized as a form a forestry management by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in December 2003⁸. Actual CF project have clearly demonstrated that communities can manage forest and that, where community title is established, this is usually respected by other people and groups. However, the proportion of the under community forestry activities is still reduced (**2%**) and is largely focused in degraded forest areas. To make community forestry self-financing and sustainable, communities have to be sure of an adequate level of benefit flows. This provides the incentive for management and protection. It is not clear that either of these conditions (secure and adequate returns) have yet been put in place on a widespread basis throughout the whole country.
- 2) **The concession system** was introduced to bring order and systems to the anarchic logging practice which went on previously. In order to achieve the sustainable management of the forest, the RGC introduced mandatory compliance requirements for every concessionaire in 2001 of a Strategic Forest Management Plans (SFMPs) and ESIA reports, consistent with international standards. To ensure the forest resources will be managed in a sustainable way, FA cooperated with the Asian Development Bank and World Bank to develop a manual for forest concession management plan. The selective cut system has been used in all logging activities, especially in forest concession management plan. According to this manual, the forest concession management planning system will be based upon three steps forest in-

ventory and planning approach: *(i)* Concession level forest inventory (long term, 25-30 years); *(ii)* Compartment level forest inventory (medium term, 5 years); and *(iii)* Annual bidding coup (Annual term, 1 year).

- 3) **Remaining forest resources** of the country shall be considered as Permanent Forest Estate (Forest Policy Sector 2002) and managed by exclusively promoting conservation and sustainable forest management initiatives that directly contribute to the rehabilitation and conservation of a maximum stock of forested land and forest resources;

4) What data are available on forest dwellers in lands potentially targeted for REDD activities (including indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers)? (e.g., number, land tenure or land classification, role in forest management, etc.):

Available information:

According to the last census of population, Cambodia's total population in 2004 was 13.4 million. **85%**⁹ of the population is living in **rural areas** sometimes very isolated. Around 7% to 9% is living in Phnom Penh. Population density is higher in the central region of Phnom Penh (4.969pp/km²) and Tonle Sap (67pp/km²), traditionally dedicated to agriculture and fisheries. The remaining provinces are averagely or weekly populated as in the north-east region of the Plateau and Mountain region (23pp/km², 11% of the total population) and the south-west region of the Coast (65pp/km², 7% of the total population). These regions are mainly forested area and remained generally poorly equipped in infrastructures, roads and economical activities.

Cambodia's national statistics do not allow for the precise estimation of the indigenous population, as they do not make a distinction for ethnic groups. Statistics for indigenous populations are therefore not often very accurate being obtained from different sources. Taking these uncertainties into consideration Cambodia has a fairly homogeneous population mainly represented by Khmer people (around 87% to 90%). Small ethnics groups know as Khmer Loeu are essentially represented in the mountains areas; distinct minority groups in the lowland area are knows as Vietnamese (4%), Chinese (3%) and Cham (2%).

Main preoccupations:

The livelihood of rural population is mainly concern by:

- (i) **The lack of effective rights:** these rights are primarily rights of access to forest areas and forest products. As well as conflicting rights, between traditional use and centrally allocated forest and economic land concessions, there are inconsistencies in legal mandates and boundaries between state agencies. Perhaps, more fundamentally, there are conflicts between state and customary institutions especially around the economic, social and cultural rights of indigenous people.
- (ii) **Lack of resources for services:** the main focus of the Forest Administration has been on the management of unharvested areas with high value timber. Although there has been progress on community forestry, this remains on a relatively small scale.
- (iii) **Lack of demarcation and zoning and maps.** Each commune is required to prepare a commune development plan. The lack of land and water use maps hamper the ability of the commune councils to plan adequately and to ensure access to particular areas for specific purposes. The lack of clarity over what forest resources may be used for, and by whom, creates an obstacle for an effective resource management on the ground.
- (iv) **Lack of voice and organisation:** many poor vulnerable groups are unaware of their rights and of the opportunities to engage in public decision-making, until those rights are challenged or removed. This is partly due to the absence of information, but partly, also, to a lack of expectation and demand by poor people, whose interests are not well represented in decision-making.
- (v) **Lack of market opportunity:** there is huge potential for promoting Cambodia's natural resource, and especially forest, products. There is scope for additional processing and better marketing, which would increase incentives for sustainable forest management. Given the distance from markets and limited infrastructure, the only obvious growth path is through development of markets for higher-valued, more processed forestry products.

⁹ NIS statistical Yearbook, 2005

Community Forestry:

The first Community Forestry (CF) project was developed in 1992 in a degraded forest in Takeo province. In 2002, areas under CF management represented 0.7% of the total area suitable for CF management¹⁰. According to the data from the Forestry Administration (FA), actually there is **365 CF** initiatives in Cambodia, covering a total area of **330.732 hectares**, approximately **2%** of the total forested areas in Cambodia.

Due to lack of official data about forest communities and Community Forestry activities, in 2004, the RGC took the decision to establish a **Community Forestry Office (CFO)** within the Forestry Administration (FA). This office is in charge of gathering information on CF programmes to complete a national database that should help to build a framework in which to develop a National Community Forestry Programme. This database should provide an increasing quantity of precise information about communities and local population as community forestry activities are in development in Cambodia.

REDD Pilot Project:

Cambodia is experimenting a first REDD pilot project involving community forest population in Oddar Meanchey province, with the support of Community Forestry International. The province's forests have been under intense pressure from illegal loggers due to their close proximity to the border with north-eastern Thailand for the past two decades. A growing number of communities in the province are organizing to protect the remaining natural forests under threat. This project should demonstrate that carbon financing can establish incentives for allocating and approving community forestry groups, as well as generating a long-term funding flow to both community forest population and local forest administrators.

5. Summarize key elements of the *current* strategy or programs that your government or other groups have put in place to address deforestation and forest degradation, if any:

a) What government, stakeholder or other process was used to arrive at the current strategy or programs?

In 1998, the RGC started to restructure the forestry sector through the Forestry Reform Program (FRP) with support of the World Bank. The FRP had to provide specific actions to establish sustainable forest management. In 2001, the RGC issued a Declaration on the Suspension of Forest Concession Logging Activities, which suspended all logging activities in concessions starting from January 2002 until new forest concession management plans could be prepared and approved. The licenses of 17 companies covering 3.50 million hectares in 24 concessions were cancelled and twelve concessions covering a total area of 3.37 million hectares were suspended. In addition the FA closed, and sometimes destroyed, 1,552 illegal sawmills and 737 small wood-processing plants. In 2002, the RGC adopted a National Forest Policy with the following objectives: *(i)* to conserve and sustainably manage the country's forest resources; *(ii)* to establish the remaining forest reserves as Permanent Forest Estate; *(iii)* to promote the maximum involvement of the private sector and the participation of local people; *(iv)* to establish a coordinated multi-stakeholder process for forestry development; and *(v)* to promote programs of forestation on arable lands and farms.

The 2002 Law on Forestry replaced Decree No 35 of 1988. It defines the framework for management, harvesting, use, development, conservation and protection of the forest. The major objective is to ensure sustainable forest management and customary user rights of forest products for local communities. A number of guidelines and codes serve to regulate forest management, such as: the Cambodian code of practice for forest harvesting (1999), the construction code for forest engineering works, guidelines for sustainable forest management, and a planning manual for the management of forest concessions. The forest-sector reforms, however, are in the process and have not yet completed; the enforcement of existing policies, laws and regulations is limited.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF) together with the Ministry of Environment (MoE) are the two main governmental institutions that formally constitute the policy and institutional agencies with responsibility for the forestry sector. Within these ministries the main agencies of government that have management over state public lands described as forest lands are the **Forestry Administration (FA)** and the **Department of Nature Conservation and Protection (DNCP)**.

¹⁰ Fichtenau et al. 2002, www.mekonginfo.org

The system of provincial and district forest offices under the direct authority of provincial and district officials was abandoned in 2000. With the new structure operational in 2005, the government decentralized ministerial functions to lower authorities through four regional forest inspectorates. The Swiss-based company SGS was contracted to act as an independent monitor of the Forest Crime Monitoring Project.

b) What major programs or policies are in place at the national, and the state or other subnational level?

Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment (TWG-F&E): Following the Plan of Action for Harmonization and Alignment, the RGC and development partners established the TWG-F&E. The overall objective of the TWG-F&E is to support and strengthen the RGC in its role of forest development. The TWG-F&E is co-chaired by the Director General of Forest Administration and the DANIDA Representative. The Co-chairs are responsible for the delivery of the TWG-F&E work plan, which reflects Forestry and Environment Action Plan 2006. The TWG-F&E is supported in its work by the TWG-F&E Secretariat. The overall objective and purpose of the Secretariat is to assist TWG-F&E to support and strengthen forest sector development including strategic development, national sector planning and monitoring, networking, promoting of transparency and good governance, and managerial and logistic advice. The secretariat is fully owned and managed by government with donor assistance. Under the auspices of the TWG-F&E, an Independent Forest Sector Review (IFSR), the National Forestry Programme was completed in early 2004.

The National Forest Programme (NFP): The NFP is an internationally agreed protocol, supported by DANIDA, covering different approaches to the process of planning, programming and implementation of forest activities in a country. The protocols can be applied at national and sub-national levels, based on a common set of guiding principles. The NFP task force has identified six programs, six sub-groups were established accordingly, and the following programs are in development:

- National forest demarcation, classification and registration;
- Forest resource management and conservation program;
- Forest law enforcement and governance program;
- Capacity building and research development program;
- Forest, climate change and innovative financing.

6. What is the current thinking on what would be needed to reduce deforestation and forest degradation in your country? (e.g., potential programs, policies, capacity building, etc., at national or subnational level):

a) How would those programs address the main causes of deforestation?

Deforestation and forest degradation is still high in Cambodia. The recent history of Cambodian forestry has been unstable, and the timber sector is in disarray. The logging concession system has been suspended, yet unauthorized timber production apparently continues. The implementation of recent reforms, and increased law enforcement, are urgently required. The implementation of the following programmes will have positive effects in the fight against deforestation/ forest degradation (by order of priority):

1. Improve the national criteria and indicator system for **strengthening Monitoring Assessment and Reporting (MAR)-Sustainable Forest Management (SFM)** in Cambodia;
2. Comprehend current situations of MAR-SFM for **harmonization of forest-related MAR information**;
3. Develop a methodology to **monitor forest degradation** due to several mechanism (shifting cultivation, encroachment, the development of agro-industries, illegal logging, over-harvesting and forest fire)
4. The management of forest concessions has been poor; the government cancelled some licences and, in 2002, suspended all remaining forest concessions until they fully complied with requirements;
5. By permitting **the acquisition of complementary information** on the evolution of forest cover and on its capacity for carbon storage, a necessary condition for the elaboration of future scenarios;
6. **Strengthen capacity building** to national network members on the MAR-SFM system;

b) Would any cross-sectoral programs or policies also play a role in your REDD strategy (e.g., rural development policies, transportation or land use planning programs, etc.)?

The development of inter-sectoral programs is not very common in Cambodia. There is more often a lack of communication and sharing of information between the different sectors. The implementation of a national REDD strategy will implicate several economic sectors (forestry, environment, agriculture, industry, transport, etc), the interests of which are in general divergent.

Cambodia and the Forestry Administration, therefore recognize that it is important within the framework of a REDD strategy to have synergy between these sectors or at least an exchange of information. The implementation of such an exchange platform at the interministerial level will be one of the priorities of the REDD strategy

c) Have you considered the potential relationship between your potential REDD strategies and your country's broader development agenda in the forest and other relevant sectors? (e.g., agriculture, water, energy, transportation). If you have not considered this yet, you may want to identify it as an objective for your REDD planning process.

During the drawing-up of the NFP, the REDD mechanism had not yet been taken into account, but rather:

- **Sustainable management** of forest resources to respond in priority to the domestic demand;
- **Conservation** of the environment;
- And the **fight against poverty**.

All those objectives and related programs go in the sense of the REDD and the adoption of a REDD strategy in Cambodia will require anyway a review of the management plan for all forest types (production, conservation, unorganized area).

d) Has any technical assistance already been received, or is planned on REDD? (e.g., technical consulting, analysis of deforestation or forest degradation in country, etc., and by whom):

Activities or programmes already done or in execution:

1. Development of a **REDD project in Oddar Meanchey** Province. Forestry Administration, Community Forestry International (CFI) and Terra Global Capital, in execution;
2. **Feasibility study of a REDD** project in Mondul Kiri Province. Proposal by Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) to the Forestry Administration.
3. **Quality assessment** of 2005/2006 forest cover map: funded by Danida / DFID and realized by GRAS A/S, University of Copenhagen, March 2007. Component of the Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods Program, Cambodia 2006-2010;
4. Capacity building for the forestry sector phase I: funded by JICA from 2002 to 2005. Component of the training for the local forestry staff;
5. **Capacity building** and development of the GIS and RS Unit within the FA: funded by Danida / DFID and realized by GRAS A/S, University of Copenhagen, March 2007. Component of the Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods Program, Cambodia 2006-2010;
6. **Financial support to the Forestry, Climate Change and Innovative Financing Working Group**: funded by Danida / DFID, in execution. Component of the Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods Program, Cambodia 2006-2010;
7. Development of an **18 years deforestation baseline** over the whole country (1989-2006) at scale 1/250.000: funded by AFD and realized by ONF international, in execution. Component of the project "Support for the definition of agricultural sector policies in Cambodia – sub component forest";
8. Participation to UNFCCC meeting in Tokyo. Funded by DANIDA/DFID;
9. Participation to UNFCCC meeting in Accra. Funded the by Woods Hole Research Center.

Activities to be done:

1. Development of a regional "**REDD learning center**" for the development and dissemination of capacity building materials: funded by RECOFTC. Planned for October 2008;

2. Organization of a regional **REDD workshop for the lower Mekong** (Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia): organized by RECOFTC, Queensland University and ITC Netherlands. Planned for end of October 2008;
3. **Participation to COP 14** in Poznan: funded by AFD. Component of the project “Support for the definition of agricultural sector policies in Cambodia – sub component forest”;
4. **Capacity building** for the forestry sector phase II: funded by JICA from 2005 to 2010. Component of the training for the local forestry staff and Community Forestry in the field;
5. Capacity building within Forestry Administration on spatial modeling for deforestation in Cambodia: funded by AFD, to be planned in 2009. Component of the project “Support for the definition of agricultural sector policies in Cambodia – sub component forest”;
6. **Regional workshop** for the lower Mekong to prepare negotiations for COP 15 in Copenhagen: Funded by AFD, planned in May 2009 in Phnom Penh, FA. Component of the project “Support for the definition of agricultural sector policies in Cambodia – sub component forest”.

7. What are your thoughts on the type of stakeholder consultation process you would use to: a) create a dialogue with stakeholders about their viewpoints, and b) evaluate the role various stakeholders can play in developing and implementing strategies or programs under FCPF support?

Currently, there is one technical inter-ministerial working group who could participate in implementing REDD strategies:

The Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment chaired by the head of FA is composed of representatives from relevant ministries (Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Economic and Finance, Ministry of Land Management Urbanization, Planning and Construction, Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of Interior and Ministry of National Defense), and development partners (AFD, DANIDA, DFID, JICA, FAO, UNDP, USAID and World Bank) and private sectors (civil society and NGOs). Within this working group, a new group was created in September 2008 to be dedicated to CDM and REDD topics. This group, called **Forestry, Climate Change and Innovative Financing Working Group**, is composed by 6 members of the Forestry Administration. These persons were selected and financially supported by the Royal Danish Embassy-DANIDA.

The Forestry, Climate Change and Innovative Financing Working Group is dedicated to develop consultations about REDD mechanism in Cambodia and can be called when necessary, especially about implementation of REDD pilot projects financed by FCPF and other involved partners. To prepare this document, the working group was called two times and to improve the discussion, various actors from other entities were invited.

The Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment will be potentially the best platform to develop consultation about a national REDD strategy. The Forestry, Climate Change and Innovative Financing Working Group, should better be dedicated to technical aspect and project evaluation.

a) How are stakeholders normally consulted and involved in the forest sector about new programs or policies?

National and specific forest sector policies and strategy formulation is an RGC responsibility. The **Government Donor Coordination Committee (GDCC)** & the **Technical Working Groups on Forestry and Environment (TWG –F&E)** have an important advisory function in the process and can play a supporting role in identifying options and approaches. The specific nature of the TWG-F&Es work, in particular the extent to which it play a policy development, financing or monitoring role, is therefore to be determined by RGC, in dialogue with the Development Partners Forum (DPs). TWG-F&E members list in appendix.

b) Have any stakeholder consultations on REDD or reducing deforestation been held in the past several years? If so, what groups were involved, when and where, and what were the major findings?

The various consultations of the Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment¹¹ did not focus on REDD *per se*,

¹¹ Since his creation in 2004

but on methods to reduce deforestation and support efforts to strengthen the sector's capacity to contribute to economic growth.

The sub-group, called Forestry, Climate Change and Innovative Financing Working Group, was consulted two times in September 2008 on REDD topic. The first meeting was dedicated to the preparation of the Cambodia R-PIN submission and on the methodological aspects on cartographic and historical baseline preparation. A second meeting was organized to discuss and validate the draft of the Cambodia R-PIN submission. These two meetings took place in Forestry Administration, various office of FA and NGOs members were invited. This participative consultation on REDD aimed to build a good synthesis of all activities related to avoided deforestation, actual RGC, donors and NGOs projects, and future initiatives and improvement that need to be conducted in the future to fight climate change, poverty and forest resources reduction.

c) What stakeholder consultation and implementation role discussion process might be used for discussions across federal government agencies, institutes, etc.?

The *Government Donor Coordination Committee (GDCC)* is a higher level RGC Development Partner Forum mechanism for review of overall all policies, reform programmes and specific activities covering cross-cutting issues. Meeting not more than three times a year, it is a forum to review and agree upon the Joint Monitoring Indicators (JMI) prepared by TWGs, and will also decide upon arrangements for specific JMIs not covered by TWGs or covering areas outside the mandate of more than one TWG. It involved bilateral countries, multilateral institutions and various NGOs. GDCC's role and functions are:

- Establish a *common understanding on major thematic* and policy matters, particularly those related to the broader reform agenda and those that are generic, cross-cutting and of an overarching nature;
- Discuss progress on issues identified for further discussion during the Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum, and to *discuss matters specifically brought up by TWGs* for resolution and/or advice;
- Serve as a forum to identify and select a set of core JMIs that are informed by those JMIs used at TWG level, as well as to review progress all JMIs before submission for endorsement by the annual Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum;
- Serve as a forum for "advocacy" matters, including the representation of invited NGO and civil society representatives.

d) Across state or other subnational governments or institutions?

The *Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum (CDCF)* meetings are designed to be an important and overarching forum for a higher level (than GDCC) government-donor discussions regarding Cambodia's socio-economic development. Main features and essential functions are:

- Undertake impartial stock-taking and evaluation of Cambodia's overall progress and challenges in a broader context, informed by the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), and with a long-term perspective;
- Analytically discuss policy and reform based on background documents prepared by RGC and analytical and thematic papers prepared by development partners to arrive at a common understanding of the overall situation, future needs and challenges;
- Review the progress made in regard to implementation of the Paris Declaration on the basis of a special RGC paper on aid coordination containing a report on the functioning of TWGs, GDCC and JMIs;
- A high-level forum where policy statements of significance are made by development partner representatives. These bring to bear clear "outside" and neutral perspectives on Cambodia's socio-economic development from development partners, and provide an opportunity to discuss matters considered of overarching importance relating to Cambodia;

e) For other stakeholders on forest and agriculture lands and sectors, (e.g., NGOs, private sector, etc.)?

Ref to 7a) and 7c)

f) For forest-dwelling indigenous peoples and other forest dwellers?

As explained in question 4/, the Cambodia's population is quite homogeneous and mainly represented by Khmer people. Minority groups have little community associations and local NGOs. The **weak organization of rural communities** limits the effectiveness of participatory processes to formulate sectoral policies in Cambodia. It is clear that the involvement of civil society in a REDD process is crucial to ensure the transfer of carbon benefits to rural populations, to guarantee economic development of these populations, and to encourage communities to manage their forest resources on a sustainable way.

But in 2003, the government endorsement of the **Sub-Decree on Community Forestry Management** was a milestone in the establishment of CF in Cambodia and dialogue with rural communities. For the first time, communities were legally allowed to request a community forest agreement in order to manage an area of forest. The promulgation of the Guideline on Community Forestry and Its Relevant Policies (Prakas) in 2006 marked a further milestone. The Prakas clearly define and outline the operational steps communities must take in order to secure a forest management agreement and gain approval of their CF management plan.

8. Implementing REDD strategies:

a) What are the potential challenges to introducing effective REDD strategies or programs, and how might they be overcome? (e.g., lack of financing, lack of technical capacity, governance issues like weak law enforcement, lack of consistency between REDD plans and other development plans or programs, etc.):

The actual main challenges that will face the development of a REDD strategy in Cambodia are:

1. The limited human and financial resources to carry out forest protection activities, such as patrol, awareness local people and private sector;
2. The limitations of capacity and financial resources on forest demarcation, monitoring and protection for the FA staff, especially local FA staff;
3. The limitations of financial capacity in forest monitoring and forest inventory, especially at district and provincial levels;
4. The limitations of human resources into Forestry Administration and in local FA staff to control and verify the sustainable management plan in Economic Land Concessions;
5. The fight against illegal exploitation. Despite the strong decision of the RGC in 2001, with the Declaration on the Suspension of Forest Concession Logging Activities, the government is still facing numerous difficulties to control the old concessions and control remote forested area. Important efforts are inevitable in order to *(i)* reinforce control and administration structures; *(ii)* develop studies in order to determine the level of biomass removals in these areas; *(iii)* reinforce community forestry in remote area; *(iv)* and reduce pressure linked with fuel wood (for example more efficient ovens, alternative energy, cogeneration...).
6. The development of the agricultural sector is linked to demographic growth and represents a major challenge which clashes with the principle of development of countries and the fight against poverty. Solutions adapted to local conditions such as the transformation of more intensive cultural practices;
7. The coordination problems between inter-sectoral and inter-provincial planning.

b) Would performance-based payments through REDD be a major incentive for implementing a more coherent strategy to tackle deforestation? Please, explain why. (i.e., performance-based payments would occur *after* REDD activities reduce deforestation, and monitoring has occurred):

According to the actual forest management figure adopted by RGC, the transfer of revenues associated with REDD from the State, or project, towards populations and local stakeholders should lean partly on the existing community forestry system. A better analysis must be developed in order to determine how to adapt the actual system and how improve it.

An initial work is currently underway on juridical and fiscal questions associated with carbon. From may 2008, RGC choose the FA as the seller of forest carbon in Cambodia. Revenues from future REDD project will be channeled through the Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment (TWG-F&E) during the first five years of the project (Council of Ministers No. 699). The implementation of a more exhaustive legislation on carbon will be a fundamentally strategic step forward for the development of REDD projects and a Cambodia's REDD policy.

9. REDD strategy monitoring and implementation:

a) How is forest cover and land use change monitored today, and by whom? (e.g., forest inventory, mapping, remote sensing analysis, etc.):

The **GIS and Remote Sensing Unit** (RS/GIS) at the Forest Administration is producing national forest cover maps and local maps supporting forest demarcation, evaluation of the function of the forest and forests management plans. The present GIS and remote sensing settings and capabilities were established in 1993 up to 1998 with the support from GTZ. Other donors have supported the unit for short periods or for specific purposes (DANIDA, AFD). Consequently, the unit has received substantial support in the past both in terms of equipment and training. Today the unit is well functioning, well organized and is capable of producing forest maps by **visual interpretation** and is actually receiving training on automatic remote sensing analysis.

Furthermore, the staff should receive regularly remote sensing and GIS training on specific national case, to allow them to fulfill all their statutory commitments, produce maps of a high standard and to undertake new assignments, it's necessary to ensure **quality and product verification**, and thus, credibility of the forest cover assessment in Cambodia. The Forestry Administration (FA) requires an **independent and external verification** by an institution/consultant. Also a support capacity development of the GIS and Remote Sensing Unit will enable the Forestry Administration, other RGC partners to solicit their services on support to the national REDD strategy.

b) What are the constraints of the current monitoring system? What constraints for its application to reducing deforestation and forest degradation? (e.g., system cannot detect forest degradation of forest stands, too costly, data only available for 2 years, etc.):

For an effective monitoring that include not only forest areas and land use changes between two periods, but also biomass and carbon quantities in forest, the main constraints of the actual monitoring system are the following :

- (i) **Forest degradation detection:** the actual methodology developed to perform forest land cover classification by visual interpretation, is not taking into account the detection of forest degradation¹². A specific study should be implemented to test the feasibility of forest degradation in Cambodia.
- (ii) **Scale of data:** Land cover database for 2002 and 2006 are at 1/100.000 and 1/250.000 for year 1989 and 1996. The process of harmonization over 18 year will produce maps at 1/250.000.
- (iii) **Low estimation of deciduous forest** superficies as they are generally mixed with bare soil or fired area, if no cloud free Landsat TM imageries are available during humid season;
- (iv) **High estimation error of "wood & shrubland"** units, as they are really difficult to separate from forested area units;
- (v) The **non detection of forest mosaic**, due to low Landsat TM resolution and shading;
- (vi) **Satellite images:** Institutional and private actors are confronted with difficult access to recent satellite images of the country and difficulty in obtaining good definition data at a reasonable cost. This difficulty explains in part the lack of initiatives in the area of forest cartography in Cambodia. The presence of a direct reception station in the sub-region seems to be the only solution to this problem.

c) How would you envision REDD activities and program performance would be monitored? (e.g., changes in forest cover or deforestation or forest degradation rates resulting from programs, using what approaches, etc.)

- (i) **Forest cover monitoring:** the FA is in charge of the forest cover monitoring. After several years of capacity building and donor's support, the team is well prepared for the commitment of FA on forest monitoring. The last national forest land cover was produced by the GIS and RS Unit from FA with support of DANIDA. DANIDA was providing funding for capacity building on GIS and remote sensing analysis, equipments and satellite imagery. In the context of a future REDD mechanism, it will be necessary for Cambodia to develop a sustainable way to finance FA in updating regularly the national forest land cover database and ensure a continuous work on forest mapping and training of the

¹² In reference to the definition proposed by IPCC

GIS and RS Unit team.

- (ii) **Deforestation and forest degradation baseline:** taking into consideration the historical deforestation rates in Cambodia, the REDD strategy within the country will especially be based on an **historical baseline** from deforestation and on the **modeling of futures changes** in forest cover, based on spatial models.
- Regarding the historical baseline, the Forestry Administration, with support of AFD, is driving a cartographic work aiming the harmonization of all land cover databases from 1989, providing Cambodia an 18 year baseline of deforestation. This project, started in July 2008, is working on nomenclatures, scales, minimum mapping unit harmonization and quality assessment by an external team. Quality assessment and harmonization are already done on the land cover 2002 and 2006; some more efforts are needed for land cover 1989 and 1997 and should be finished by the end of the year. Forest degradation was not identified in all land cover produced over Cambodia. The funding of the FCPF should be an opportunities to develop research and pilot works about a methodology to detect forest degradation in the particular case of Cambodia's forest.
 - Taking into account the threats that are facing Cambodia's forests, the Forestry Administration planned to initiate a pilot work on modeling deforestation base on spatial models. This training will be implemented in 2009 within the FA, with support of AFD.
- (iii) **Clarification of biomass and forest carbon data:** define specific expansion and conversion factors for Cambodia that are necessary for the calculation of biomass and forest carbon. Crossing these biomass and carbon data with pertinent geographic information, it will be possible to support a REDD strategy in Cambodia. This system could efficiently identify priority conservation or management zones in the framework of REDD. These activities could be implemented by collaboration between Forestry Administration, producing forest land cover data, and the Ministry of Environment.
- (iv) **Capitalize the existing consultations network:** through the valorization of the actual technical working group within FA.
- (v) Valorize the existing platforms of **discussion alongside community forestry:** Community Forestry Office and RE-COFTC on the improvement of the revenue from forest management and the transparency of the revenue from forest management redistribution process alongside communities and communes. Identify mechanisms for the redistribution and control of the revenue from forest management which are adapted to necessities of communes (infrastructures, employment, credits, reinforcing of controls, etc.)

10. Additional benefits of potential REDD strategy:

a) Are there other non-carbon benefits that you expect to realize through implementation of the REDD strategy (e.g., social, environmental, economic, biodiversity)? What are they, where, how much?

The adoption of a REDD strategy will have direct consequences on:

- the **understanding of ecosystems and biodiversity protection** through the pursuing of conservation projects in protected areas;
- the **maintaining of traditional sedentary forest population structures** depending on forest;
- the **improving of the forestry sector in Cambodia** with the promotion of the Community Forestry projects;
- the **development of tourism** in protected areas and community zones through the improvement of long term forest management vision capacity building of local population;
- the **fight against erosion** through the respecting of harvesting rules in sensitive areas (slopes, proximity to water courses);

b) Is biodiversity conservation being monitored at present? If so, what kind, where, and how?

Currently, Cambodia does not have a national monitoring program on biodiversity. At the local level, biodiversity is monitored in Protected Areas or regions of interest through studies and programs implemented by NGOs (WCS, CI, WWF, FFI...). This data represents an abundant source of information and it would be important to consider harmonizing and synthesizing all existing data to prepare a status of biodiversity in Cambodia that could be held by the Wildlife Protection

Office within Forestry Administration.

A first step to a **national biodiversity monitoring** could be attributed to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), a joint initiative of Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility (GEF), the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. The fundamental goal is the identification of biodiversity hotspots in Cambodia (and other south-east countries) based on regions that harbor especially high number of **endemic species** and, at the same time, have been significantly impacted by human activities (map in appendix). This inventory is updated on a regular year basis.

Recently, a proposal for the creation of a Center of applied Research and Conservation (CARC) in the Cardamom area was initiated by Conservation International (CI). To be implemented the project is waiting the endorsement by the RGC, what should be obtained in the next few weeks. As proposed for the moment, CARC will have two main components: *(a)* developing research on Climate Change in the Cardamom area; *(b)* and conduct biodiversity inventories within the Cardamom area.

c) Under your early ideas on introducing REDD, would biodiversity conservation also be monitored? How?

A national REDD program in Cambodia and the recent development of various voluntary REDD initiatives, will imply strengthening the knowledge about biodiversity in every area spotted area as a potential REDD area. All finalized activities and studies should be capitalized to build a national inventory on biodiversity. This work will contribute to the dissemination of information and therefore to the development of sound conservation strategies.

d) Are rural livelihood benefits currently monitored? If so, what benefits, where, and how?

Rural population, mainly implicated in community forestry programs are already monitored by NGOs in charge of CF programs and by the Community forestry Office (CFO) within the Forestry Administration (FA). The CFO key function is to develop and improved the national database on CF activities. Therefore this database will be an important information resource for rural population depending on forest, and as the RGC and FA is promoting this form of forest management, it is expected that more information will be collected in the next few years.

Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA): The Project on the Capacity Building for the Forestry Sector, Phase II (CBFS-II) has been implemented since December 2005 for 5 years, following the Phase I of the Project that had been conducted from 2001 to 2004 with achievements including establishment and enhancement of the function of the Forestry and Wildlife Training Center (FWTC), and overall capacity development of the FA staff. The CBFS-II is focusing on i) capacity building of the FA staff, particularly its field staff, and ii) promotion of community forestry, with the Project Purpose of '*Through the capacity building of FA officers, sustainable utilization of community resources is secured for stabilizing the living of local people in the Field Project (FP) sites*'. The description of the Project's components is stated as below:

- 1) **Field Project (FP):** The main purpose of the component is to provide opportunities for the local FA officers to obtain practical experiences and skills in promotion of community forestry. The target area covers two FA cantonments of Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Thom. The major assistance extended so far is i) formalization process of community forestry, ii) forestry related activities such as plantation in community forest, ii) livelihood improvement related activities such as fish farming, fruit growing and reservoir construction.
- 2) **Training:** The component aims to provide the nation-wide FA local officers with training opportunities chiefly on three subjects, i.e. i) Forest Management Plan (FMP), ii) Silviculture, iii) Community forestry. The component also assists the ex-trainees as a follow-up of the past training courses to conduct small-scale activities, e.g. nursery establishment, formulate FMP at the FA division level and forest boundary demarcation.

Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC): In early 2007, RECOFTC began implementing the **Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project** in Cambodia. This project is expected to push CF forward and support the livelihoods of rural communities in Kratie, Pursat, Kampot, Ratanakiri and Kampong Thom provinces. To follow and support this program a technical advisor from RECOFTC is based within FA and the Community Forestry Office.

The objectives of the project are to help communities through innovative approaches to manage forest resources sustainably and to guide them through the CF registration process. The project works with the existing 99 communities in the five cantonments managing some 70.000 hectares under CF and seeks to increase these figures. The project has three main components:

1. **Community Forestry Field Training Program:** this process aim to prepare a team of trainers that will be responsible of the capacity building of the Community Forestry Committee members, Forest Administration field staff, NGOs and local government representatives in CF laws, regulations, and management systems.
2. **Piloting Community Forestry Partnerships for Implementation:** Community forestry has been piloted in Cambodia over several years through the efforts of many national and international organizations. These efforts have generated a broadening base of support for the approach and contributed significantly to the passage of the supporting national Sub-decree and Prakas for CF. The established legal framework is complemented by a Community Forestry Unit within the Forest Administration. This component complements Component A through experiential learning for newly appointed government staff, NGOs, and local government partners who share responsibility for supporting CF implementation at the village and commune levels. Existing CFs will be guided through the CF registration process and new CFs will be initiated in order to double the number of existing CFs in the five provinces.
3. **Participatory Monitoring, Evaluation, and Dissemination:** Accurate and timely flows of information are necessary to build and maintain confidence in highly decentralized natural resources management programs. Activities under this component provide support to communities to develop forest and land management and monitoring systems.

e) Under your early ideas on introducing REDD, would rural livelihood benefits also be monitored? How?

The first REDD pilot project in Cambodia is focusing on CF management and is involving 12 community groups, comprised in 55 villages. The CFO office is closely working with Community Forestry International (CFI) in the development of the project, assuring that the benefits for these communities will be transparently monitored by the Forestry Administration in Phnom Penh through the support of FA local offices in Oddar Meanchey province, where the project takes place. The project was officially endorsed by H.E. **SAMDECH AKKA MOHA SENA PADEI TECHO HUN SEN, Prime-Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia through Decision n° 699 dated 26 May 2008** (see Appendix 7). The guiding principles ensure that carbon revenues are used to: 1) improve the forest quality; 2) provide maximum benefits to local communities which participate in the project activities; 3) study the potential area for new REDD projects in Cambodia. The Decision n° 699 confirm the high-level commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia to make the REDD project a success and its revenues effectively.

11. What type of assistance are you likely to request from the FCPF Readiness Mechanism?

- **Identify your early ideas on the technical or financial support you would request from FCPF to build capacity for addressing REDD, if you are ready to do so. (Preliminary; this also could be discussed later.)**
- **Include an initial estimate of the amount of support for each category, if you know.**
- **Please refer to the Information Memorandum and other on-line information about the FCPF for more details on each category:**

a) Setting up a transparent stakeholder consultation on REDD (e.g., outreach, workshops, publications, etc.):

The FCPF support in Cambodia should respond to the following goals:

- Diffusion UNFCCC progress in Cambodia's pertinent governmental institutions;
- Optimized funding in Cambodia toward Cambodia's REDD strategy;
- Support the multi-partners discussion on REDD in Cambodia;

Action to be fulfilled:

1. Support the participation of members of the Working Group on REDD to various *UNFCCC meetings* (COP, SBSTA...), international or regional meetings on REDD.
2. Make *a list of actual financial partners* in Cambodia according to their objectives about REDD. This list should help the RGC to evaluate the potential resources available in the country to build a national strategy on REDD in agreement with Cambodia's needs and partners objectives in Cambodia;

3. **Translation in Khmer** of key conclusions on REDD from UNFCCC meetings. This should improve the diffusion of knowledge on REDD within governmental institution.

Estimated budget : \$500.000

b) Developing a reference case of deforestation trends: Assessment of historical emissions from deforestation and/or forest degradation, or projections into the future.

Action to be fulfilled:

1. **Prospective study** of deforestation and forest degradation **trends** in Cambodia. Starting from the historical forest cover database, an analysis of the evolution of international markets in the forestry and agriculture sectors and the demographic evolution, it will be important to develop modeling of deforestation and forest degradation per province in Cambodia;
2. For all major types of forest ecosystem in Cambodia, develop **equations** for deriving carbon stocks from standing volume based on forest types. Research including field and laboratory measurements correlated with neighbouring countries.
3. **Calculate trends in forest carbon stocks**, and thus emissions, using historical inventory data and spatial modeling;
4. Training programs for local FA staff, NGOs and private sector;
5. Analysis of the potential improvement of the Community Forestry sustainability with the development of REDD mechanism in Cambodia;
6. Realize a synthesis of the work produced on fuel wood production in Cambodia. This work should improve any spatial modelling on deforestation and degradation in Cambodia. And the estimation of the future fuel wood demand in Cambodia might be an important tool to evaluate new REDD targets area in the country.

Estimated budget : \$1.500.000

c) Developing a national REDD Strategy: Identification of programs to reduce deforestation and design of a system for providing targeted financial incentives for REDD to land users and organizations (e.g., delivery of payments, governance issues, etc.):

Action to be fulfilled:

1. **Study on political and economical consequences** of proposed mechanisms in the REDD framework ; what are the challenges and risks for Cambodia of the implementation of such mechanisms in terms of governance and developments and at the local level on populations dependant on the forest for their livelihoods;
2. Study the needs for **transparent revenue distribution mechanisms** (how to bring a fair share of carbon credits from foreign buyers to local communities on the ground in Cambodia) and how revenue streams are to be governed all the way down to local government and communities;
3. **Determine REDD targets** in Cambodia through analysis of RGC national development priorities, deforestation and forest degradation trends scenario, UNFCCC progress on REDD mechanism and incentives.
4. **Development of the REDD strategy** through a consultative process between governmental institutions, private sector, province and NGOs.

Estimated budget : \$500.000

d) Design of a system to monitor emissions and emission reductions from deforestation and/or forest degradation:

The FCPF support in Cambodia should respond to the following goals:

- Improve national capacities on forest monitoring and CO₂ emission;
- Develop new programs following UNFCCC recommendations.

Action to be fulfilled:

1. **Statement of forest inventories** that have been conducted by governmental institutions, private sectors and NGOs,

in Cambodia. This work should help the Forestry Administration to build a national forest inventory protocol;

2. Realized a ***national forest inventory*** adapted to the data requirement for REDD. The design of the national forest inventory must take into account IPCC requirements for the LULUCF sector;
3. ***Capacity building*** on remote sensing analysis within the Forestry Administration;
4. ***Update the national forest land cover mapping in 2009***. This work should integrate the last recommendations from UNFCCC and the panel of experts from “Global Terrestrial Observing System” (GTOS);
5. ***Transparent auditing*** for forest inventory, biomass assessment and carbon stocks assessment through national or international expertise in agreement to standards approved by UNFCCC;
6. Set up a **national repository** where all organizations could deposit forest cover maps, land use and land use change maps, carbon stock data, biomass assessment etc. Such a collective repository should than slowly build up the data required for a national carbon baseline, or at least make it possible to identify where in the country there are data gaps;
7. Training program for national and provincial FA staff, NGOs and private sector;

Estimated budget : \$3.000.000

12. Please state donors and other international partners that are already cooperating with you on the preparation of relevant analytical work on REDD. Do you anticipate these or other donors will cooperate with you on REDD strategies and FCPF, and if so, then how?

A certain number of donors have already expressed their interest in supporting Cambodia in its reflexion on REDD and in the development of tools to better understand what could be possible to develop on REDD. Among those partners wishing to cooperate on this theme, we can mention :

- DANIDA, through the financial support to the sub-group Forestry, Climate Change and Innovative Financing Working Group ;
- Japanese Forestry Agency, received 2 Cambodian FA staff who are in charge of REDD in the REDD seminar in Japan and providing REDD information to FA;
- ITTO, by providing support for Cambodia in the participation to UNFCCC meetings;
- DFID;
- AFD, providing support on training on CDM and REDD, as the treatment of cartographic data in the Forestry Administration;
- Clinton Foundation;
- Woods Hole Research Institute, by providing support for Cambodia to participate in international meeting.

13. Potential Next Steps and Schedule:

Have you identified your priority first steps to move toward Readiness for REDD activities? Do you have an estimated timeframe for them yet, or not?

A timeframe for the development of a REDD strategy in the framework of the FCPF process, have not been yet established. But Cambodia is already implemented a pilot REDD project in Odddar Meanchey that will be a case study to identify exactly the requirement and challenge of the implementation of such project in the country.

With the potential participation of Cambodia in the FCPF process, several meetings of the TWG-F&E will be needed in order to organize the Readiness of the country for REDD activities.

14. List any Attachments included

(Optional: 15 pages maximum.)

Abbreviations

AFD: Agence Française de Développement

DPs: Development Partners Forum

CARC: Center of applied Research and Conservation
 CDCF : Cambodia Development Cooperation Forum
 CEPF : Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
 CF: Community Forestry
 CFI: Community Forest International (NGO)
 CFO: Community Forestry Office
 CI: Conservation International
 DNCP: Department of Nature Conservation and Protection
 FA: Forestry Administration
 FMO: Forest Management Office
 FRP: Forestry Reform Program
 FWSRI: Forestry and Wildlife Science Research Institute
 GDCC : Government Donor Coordination Committee
 GEF: Global Environment Facility
 GTOS: Global Terrestrial Observing System
 JICA: Japan International Cooperation Agency
 JMIs: Joint Monitoring Indicator(s)
 LULUCF: Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry
 MAFF: Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fishery
 MAR: Monitoring Assessment and Reporting
 MEF: Ministry of Economy and Finance
 MIME: Ministry of Industry, Mining and Energy
 MOE: Ministry Of Environment
 NSDP: National Strategic Development Plan (2006-2010)
 MRC: Mekong River Commission
 NGO: Non-Governmental Organisation
 PFE: Permanent Forest Estate
 RECOFTC: Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific
 RGC: Royal Government of Cambodia
 SFM: Sustainable Forest Management
 TWG: Technical Working Groups
 TWG –F&E: Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment

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Appendix 1 : Forest cover map 1989

Appendix 2 : Forest cover map 1997

Appendix 3 : Forest cover map 2002

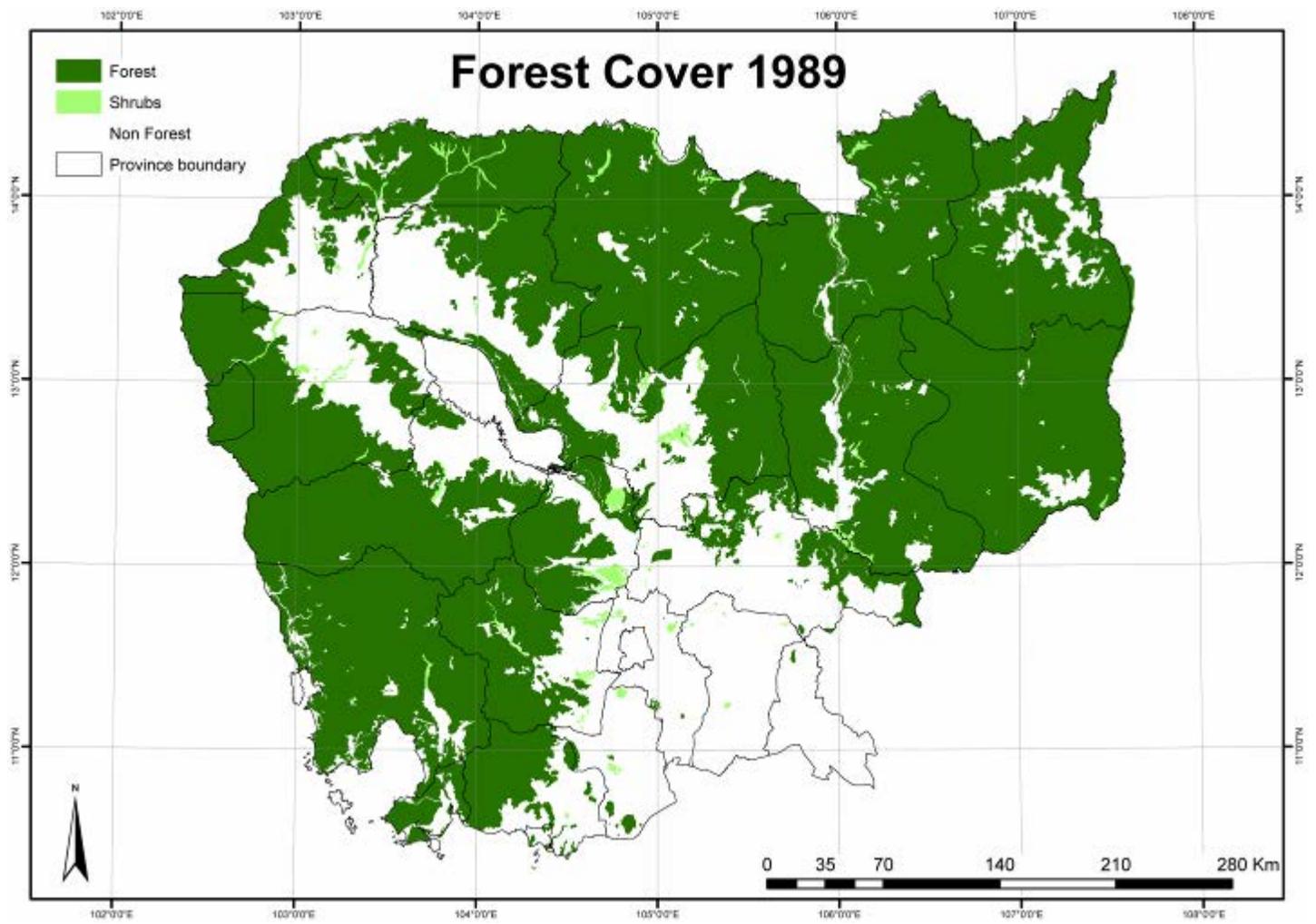
Appendix 4 : Priority Sites for Conservation in Cambodia: Key Biodiversity Areas map

Appendix 5 : Protected Areas and Protected Forests map

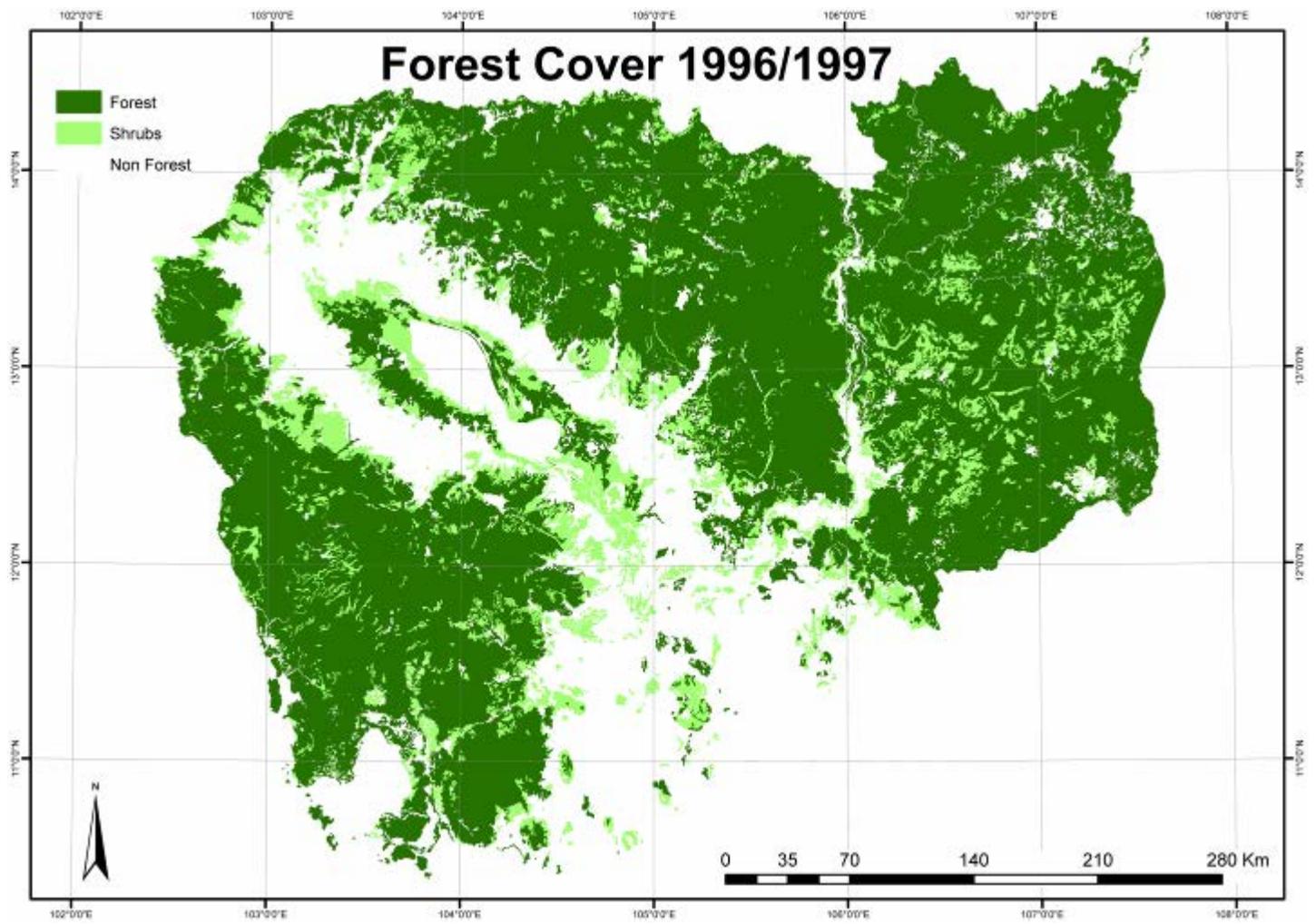
Appendix 6 : Comparisons of land cover methodologies used for Cambodia.

Appendix 7 : TWG-F&E members

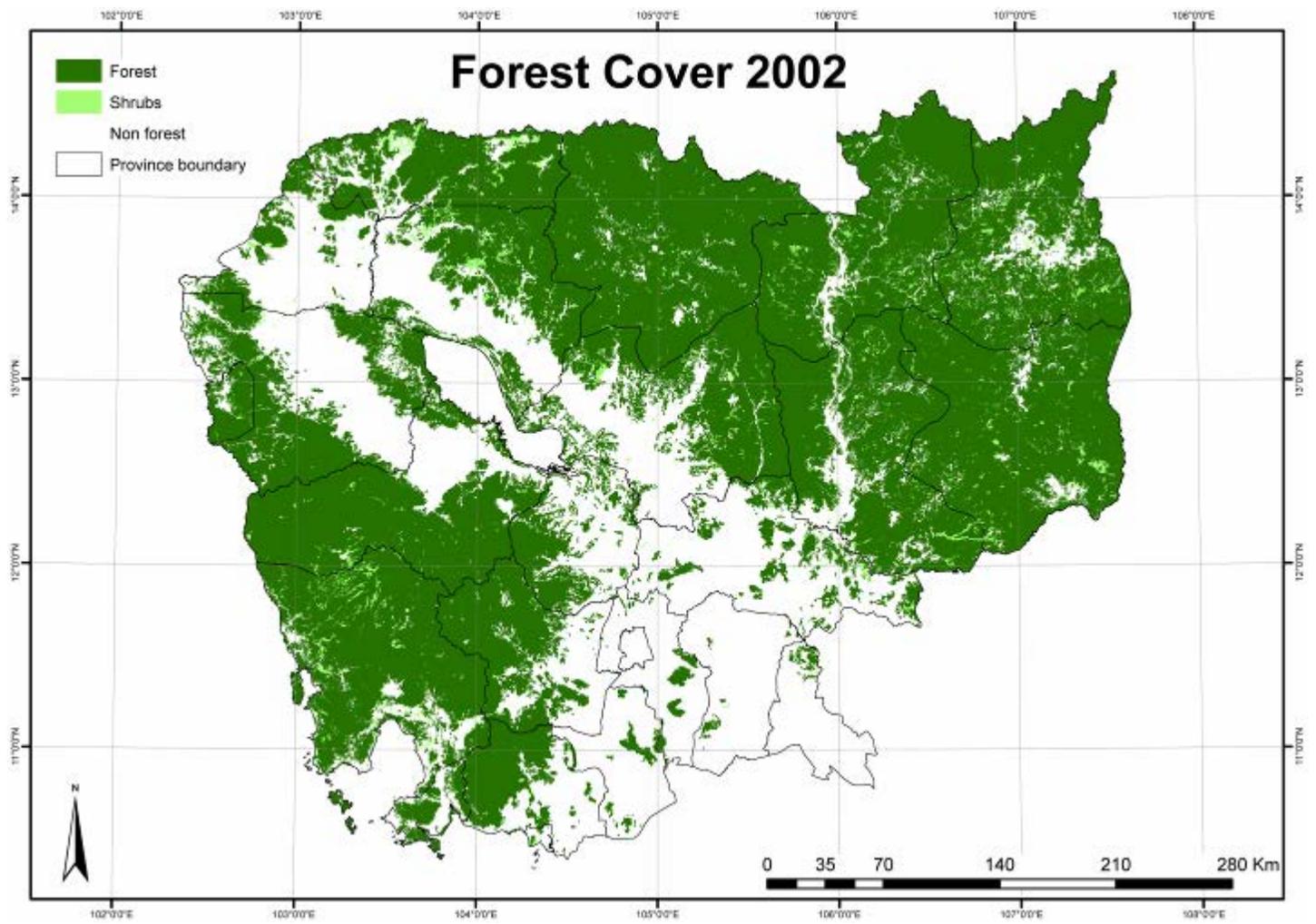
Appendix 1 : Forest cover map 1989 (Mekong Secretariat)



Appendix 2 : Forest cover map 1997 (MRC)



Appendix 3 : Forest cover map 2002 (GIS/RS Unit-FA)

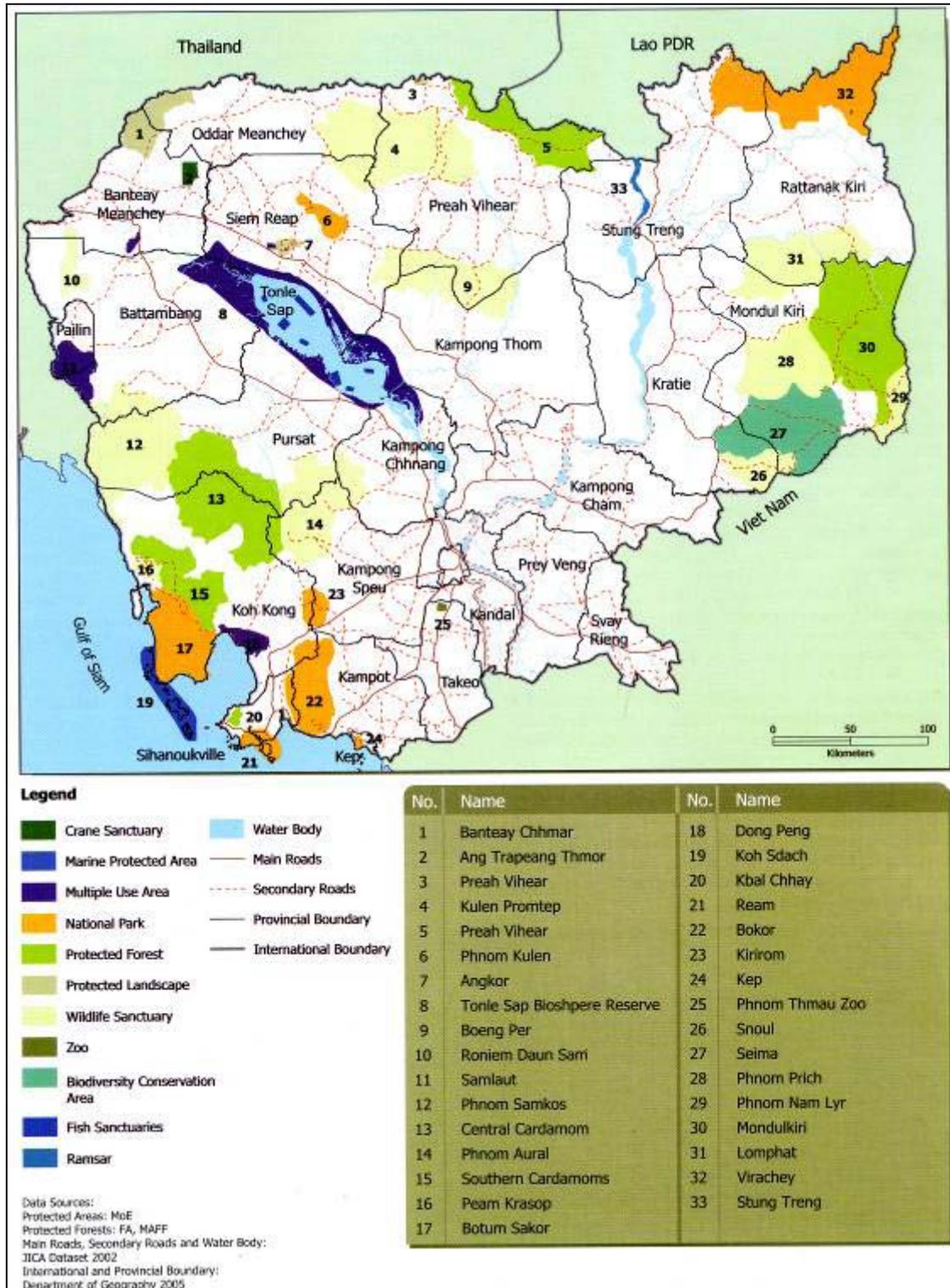


Appendix 4 : Priority Sites for Conservation in Cambodia: Key Biodiversity Areas Map (CI)

**Roster of Key Biodiversity Areas**

| | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 Ang Tropeang Thmor | 15 Koh Rong Archipelago | 30 Sesan River |
| 2 Bassac Marsh | 16 Koh Tang Archipelago | 31 Snoul / Keo Sema / O Reang |
| 3 Basset Marsh | 17 Lomphat | 32 Sre Ambel |
| 4 Boeung Chhmar / Moat Khla | 18 Lower Stung Sen | 33 Stung / Chi Krong / Kampong Svay |
| 5 Boeung Prek Lapouv | 19 Mekong River from Kratie to Laos | 34 Stung / Prasat Balang |
| 6 Boeung Veal Samnap | 20 Mondulkiri / Kratie Lowlands | 35 Stung Kampong Smach |
| 7 Central Cambodia Lowlands | 21 Northern Santuk | 36 Stung Sen / Santuk / Baray |
| 8 Central Cardamoms | 22 O Skach | 37 Upper Srepok Catchment |
| 9 Chhiep | 23 Phnom Aural | 38 Upper Stung Sen Catchment |
| 10 Chhnuk Tru | 24 Phnom Bokor | 39 Veal Srongae |
| 11 Dei Roneat | 25 Phnom Samkos | 40 Virachey |
| 12 Kampong Trach | 26 Preah Net Preah / Kra Lanh / Pourk | 41 Western Siem Pang |
| 13 Kirirom | 27 Prek Taek Sap | |
| 14 Koh Kapik | 28 Prek Toal | |

Appendix 5 : Protected Areas and Protected Forests Map (Atlas of Cambodia - Save Cambodia's Wildlife)



| | 1989 | 1996/1997 | 2002 | 2005/2006 |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Institution: | Mekong Secretariat | Mekong River Commission | Forestry Administration | Forestry Administration |
| Cartography: | Land cover | Land cover | Land cover | Land cover |
| Nomenclature: | 20 classes | 30 classes | 8 classes | 8 classes (5 classes after merging) |
| Forest definition: | Crown cover >10% Tree height >5m | Crown cover >10% Tree height >5m | Crown cover >20% Tree height >5m | Crown cover >20% Tree height >5m |
| Interpretation: | Visual on hardcopies | Visual on hardcopies | Visual on screen | Visual on screen |
| Minimum Mapping Unit: | 1 km ² | 1 km ² | 0.2 km ² | 0.2 km ² |
| Scale: | 1/250.000 | 1/250.000 | 1/50.000 | 1/50.000 |
| Source imagery: | Landsat TM | Landsat TM | Landsat ETM+ | Landsat ETM+ gap-filled |
| Imagery provider: | Remote Sensing and Mapping Unit | Department of Forestry and Wildlife GIS Unit | FA's GIS/RS Unit | FA's GIS/RS Unit |
| Additional imagery: | - | SPOt and Aerial photo | Landsat TM 2000 | Landsat TM, Quickbird |
| Ground truthing: | - | - | 88 samples | 100 samples |
| Limitations: | Forest definition, Scale, MMU, Accuracy | Scale, MMU, Accuracy | Superposition with 1988/89 and 1996/97 | Superposition with 1988/89 and 1996/97 |
| Benefits: | Reference Year for CDM eligibility | Reference Year for REDD 10 years baseline | Compatible with 2005/06 | Compatible with 2002 |

Appendix 6 : Comparisons of land cover methodologies used for Cambodia.

APPENDIX 7

KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
Nation - Religion - King

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
No. 699 Sar.CHor.Nor

Phnom Penh, 26 May 2008

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER IN CHARGE OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS
INFORM TO

- H.E Senior Minister, Minister of Ministry of Environment
- H.E Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
- H.E TY SOKHUN, Adviser to Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, and the Chief of Forestry Administration.

Subject: Request the support from Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia on Forestry Carbon Credit Project in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Reference: - Letter dated on 28 April 2008 of Dr. Mark Poffenberger, Executive Director of Community Forestry International (CFI).
 - Letter dated on 5 May 2008 of H.E Ty Sokhun, Adviser of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
 - Decision dated 8 May 2008 of Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN SEN, Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia.

As stated in the above subject and references, the Council of Ministers would like to inform Your Excellencies that the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) decides to support the forest carbon credit project in Cambodia as follow:

1. Designates the Forestry Administration (FA) as the seller of the forest carbon in Cambodia with the CFI.
2. The RGC, as seller of the forest carbon, is responsible for helping to fulfill the terms and conditions in the contract “selling carbon” with the buyer.
3. Have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between CFI and the RGC, represented by FA that would allow CFI to identify buyers, and explore terms and carbon prices subject to the review and approval of the RGC. The Royal Government of Cambodia decides in the MOU that revenue from selling Carbon in the Carbon Credit for community forestry Project will be used to:
 - a. Improve the quality of the forest;
 - b. Maximize the benefits flows to local community who is participating in the project;
 - c. Study potential sites for the new forest carbon credit REDD project
4. Revenue from forest carbon REDD project will be channeled through the Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment (TWG-F&E) during the first five years of the project.
5. Delegates the Forestry Administration as the representative of RGC to execute the sale of Cambodia forest carbon with consultation within the Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWG-F&E), as necessary.

As stated above, may Your Excellencies understand and follow the instructions.

Please accept, Your Excellencies, the assurance of my sincere consideration.

Minister of Council Ministers

Secretary of State

Signature and stamp: Prak Sokhon

Copy to:

- Cabinet of Prime Minister
- Council for Development of Cambodia
- Forestry Administration
- Community Forestry International
- TWG-F&E
- Documentation.