



## PROGRESS REPORT

Annual Report  
January to December 2015

### Korea-Cambodia REDD+ Joint Project



**Implementing Agency:  
Forestry Administration**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
January 2016**

## I. About Tumring REDD+ Project

The Forest Administration (FA) signed an MOU with Korea Forest Service (KFS) on 10th December 2014 to implement the project namely Korea-Cambodia Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Joint Project (KCRP) in Kampong Thom province. The project be implementing in 4 years (2015-2018). The FA is a project implementation agency with financial and technical support from KFS. The project aims to contribute to the long term greenhouse gas emission reduction from forestry sector and enhances livelihood of targeted forest-dependent community in the project area through the implementation REDD+ program. The project seeks to be certificated under VCS<sup>1</sup> and CCBA<sup>2</sup> standard for issuing its REDD+ credits.

The project covers 70,042 hectares (PA), only 56,751 hectares of forest land is defined as project accounting area (PAA), and whole area of Kompong Thong province is defined as a project reference region (RR). The project life is 30 year (2015- 2045), it is expected to sequester 12 - 19 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub>eq over 30 years, however, the detail data on annual CO<sub>2</sub> sequestration will be provided once the first project validation success.

The benefits from Tumring REDD+ project <sup>3</sup> will provides maximum benefits to the participated community, especially women. The finance from this project will add direct support to the local community, local authorities, and local forestry administration that will enable these actors to scale up efforts to protect natural forest, reduce deforestation, degradation, and enhance livelihood of participated community.

The project will partners with 14 community forestry groups, local authorities, local Forestry Administration, and national non-governmental organization partners. Those actors are clearly defined role and responsibilities in long term project implementation, however, the mechanism in sharing project benefits will be define in the second year of project implementation.

This is an annual project report (January-December 2015), highlighting yearly progress against project specific objectives and goal. This report is covering five main components (1) *program management*, (2) *progress on mechanism in stakeholder coordination*, (3) *progress against specific project objectives*, and (4) *challenges, and lesson learn*, and (5) *Program finance and planning*.

Table 1: Detail forest land in each type of project area

No.	Description	Area (ha)			Area (ha)	
I	Hydrological Forest Conservation	24,150	6	Srea Pring	309	
II	Tumring Reforestation	1,510	7	Sbos Srol	1,090	
III	Permanent Forest estate	24,889	8	Hong Chamtit	1,015	
IV	Community Forestry	19,493	9	O bos leav	1,303	
	1	O Thmor	1,064	10	O Das Scor	1,130
	2	Nak Thala	1,301	11	O Kroyong	1,131
	3	Choam Smach	1,446	12	Kbal Dauntei	1,789
	4	Khum Sochet	4,572	13	Prey Kbal O Kra yak	1,583
	5	Rom Chek	497	14	Prey Tatei	1,330
<b>Total Project area</b>			<b>70,042</b>			

(Data source: FA, 2010)

<sup>1</sup> <http://v-c-s.org/>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.climate-standards.org/category/projects/>

<sup>3</sup> refers to the verified forest carbon credits (VCUs) issued by the project during the period of 2015 to 2018, the Turing REDD+ VCU is not necessary to be verified by international third party, however, Tumring REDD+ PDD validation is required.

Table2: Targeted community beneficiaries from the project

No.	CF name	Total area (ha)	Number of Villages	Number of households
1	O Thmor	1,064	1	61
2	Nak Tha La	1,301	1	103
3	Chaom Smach	1,446	1	132
4	Khum Sochet	4,572	4	227
5	Rom Check	497	1	43
6	Srea Pring	309	1	39
7	Lbol Srol	1,090	1	61
8	Hong Chom tith	1,015	1	65
9	Bos Leav	1,303	1	98
10	O das scor	1,130	1	143
11	O Kroyong	1,131	1	120
12	Kbal daun Tei	1,789	1	73
13	O Kro yak	1,583	1	89
14	Prey Tatei	1,330	1	248
	<b>Total</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>1,502</b>

## II. Project Management

The project established Project Management Unit (PMU) and nine contract agreements with PMU were made. Monthly meeting among PMU members regularly conducted, while the PBC meeting to be hold annually. The Management and Operating Policy was developed to guide PMU, and PBC in implementing project, and overall management. The project's office set up inside FA building with equipped office supplies, the PMU developed a series of financial and administrative forms.

### Stakeholder coordination meeting

- A year round, the PMU facilitated, and coordinated stakeholder both national, and local. The coordination meetings mainly focus on: (1) Disseminate project strategies, activities, planning, and seeks for coordination of supports from stakeholders, (2) addressed project technical issue, and (3) enforcing field forest law enforcement, and governance. As result 15 coordination meetings had been accomplished by PMU, The PMU developed a list of stakeholders, and their contact information, those stakeholders who met were categorized as below:
  - *Government Ministry, and Local Government:* Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fishery (MAFF), Forestry Administration (FA), Kompong Thom local FA, relevance provincial departments, and project relevance local authorities included village chiefs.
  - Non-governmental organization, and development partner's program: Cam-REDD Project, Cambodia REDD+ secretariat, RECOFT, Winrock International, ITTO, MLUB BAITONG, and TWG-FR.
  - Community groups: All 14 community forestry groups, and CF management committees.

## III. Results against project specific objectives

*Objective1: Obtain forest carbon credits from the Korea-Cambodia Joint REDD+ implementation. Through the project implementation process, the project aims to bring REDD+ credits to the voluntary carbon market and it is subjected to be certified under CCBA and VCS standard.*

### About Project Standard, and Methodology

The VM0009 (*Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion*)<sup>4</sup> methodology was developed by Wildlife Work Carbon (WWC)<sup>5</sup> under verification of Environmental Services Inc. as first Assessor, and followed by DNV GL Climate Change Service as second assessor. The Meth was approved by VCS on

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.v-c-s.org/methodologies/find>

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.wildlifeworks.com/>

June, 2014 and had successfully been applied for the world first VCS&CCB standard in Africa namely “Kenya based Kasigau Corridor REDD project “. This is a first REDD+ project issued Voluntary Emission Reductions (VERs) in the world, and the VM0009 is being applied to the projects in the Southern Cardamoms with Wildlife Alliance (WA), Samlout Multi-use Area with Maddox Jolie-Pitt Foundation, and in the northern plains with Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Cambodia. According to the project geographical area, historical of deforestation, and degradation, forest administrative management, and stakeholders. The KCRP being used VCS&CCBA to certify its REDD+ credits by using VM0009 to account for forest carbon stock, develop FREL/REL, and design project PDD.

### **Achievements Against Standard**

The PMU contracted WWC as carbon developer for the project (*see contract agreement between PMU and WWC*), WWC was tasked with clear deliverables against payments. The first installment had been made to WWC after obtaining detailed quarterly work plan and other supporting financial requirement. Under the contract, the first deliverable was submitted by WWC to PMU as listed below:

- Assimilate Turing REDD+ Project Data
- Analyzed of REDD+ Project Accounting Area and Reference Area
- Reviewed of the current land cover/and use map
- Kick off workshop and initiative site visit
- Referenced area analysis
- Determined of baseline data. (*detail report available up on requests*)

### **GIS and Remote Sensing**

- The GIS specialist installed EDARS, ArcGis 10.1, Google Earth, and Big Map application to all Project PC, and FA’ PC for BEM training. The GIS specialist downloaded image acquisition, Landsat (2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012, and 2014) to be used for setting FREL in Kompong Thom Province.
- Conducted a biomass emission model (BEM) training course, a 15 days intensive training course on BEM. After training 7 participants are able to interpret satellite image (Landsat 8-), and they were able to stratify forest land use. All forest cover data will be under accuracy assessment by WWC team.
- Completed Imagery Acquisition/Imagery stratification for eight period of times (2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014) in Kompong Thom province. The Pre-processing for Land use/Land cover, the stratification is developed for the project based on the national stratification system, this is enable the project to be nested in future once the nation REDD+ system to be operationalized.
- According to the Forest Cover Assessment Data 2002, 2004, 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012 and 2014 highlighted the significant land use and forest cover change (LUCF) in the project site (70,042 ha). The PMU-GIS specialist has detected the changes in forest cover by analyzing into the eight different period of time. The analysis reveals historical deforestation in the past 12 year.
- Developed 14 community forestry maps based on the official CF boundary data approved by MAFF. Each map will be printed in A0 size with clear coordinates (UTMs). These maps will be officially used for conducting CF boundary demarcation and set up CF poles on the ground.
- Detected deforested area inside 14 community forestry by using data from Landsat (2015). These information will allow the project to calculate emission (GHG) from deforestation inside CF areas, it enables the PMU to create actions in addressing deforestation and forest degradation inside CF areas.

### Biomass Inventory training, and field measurement

- Developed Turning REDD+ Forest Biomass and Soil Standard Operational Procedure. The soil carbon will add value to the current carbon stock assessment. In accordance to methodology requirements it is estimated that 50 soil carbon samples in project area and more 20 soil carbon samples in project proxy area need to be measured.
- Performed a statistically accurate calculation of the number of biomass sampling plots required to achieve an overall minimum standard error level of 10% error rate at a 90% confidence level, as a result the project produced a complete set of biomass sampling plots for each land cover strata, according to stratified random sampling theory, the project developed a forest biomass permanence sample plot (PSP) random map, this map will provide clear location of all PSP coordinates to be set up in the field.
- Followed the Forest Biomass-SOP, the PMU completed the establishment of 21 forest biomass permanence sample plots (PSP) among 128 in total plots within project accounting area (PAA).

Table 3: number of forest biomass plots to be set with different strata

<i>Forest Strata</i>	<i>Number of forest biomass plot to be set up within the total project accounting area (PAA) (plot)</i>	<i>Number of forest biomass plots set up (Plot)</i>	<i>Remaining forest biomass plot</i>
Evergreen Forest	110	18	92
Semi evergreen forest	8	0	8
Deciduous forest	10	3	7
<i>Total</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>107</i>

### An assessment of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation:

- Completed a final draft of driver effects forest cover change in Kompong Thom province, the assessment report has been finalized through conducting a series of field data collection, stakeholder and expert interviews and consultations.

### Social and Biodiversity Assessment

- Compiled data on all steps of CFs development process, data on the recognition of CFs, and number of households participated and number of villages in established CFs.
- In partnership with WWC, a Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) training was held from *November 5th – November 12th*. The goal of the first four days was to achieve understanding of the entire SBIA process, so the SBIA teams as facilitators could subsequently conduct field training over the following 3 days with community committee management members. For the next three days, 28 community members attended the SBIA workshop that was led by Mr. Hort Sothea to collect data and information necessary to prepare PDD. (*detail training report is available upon request*)
- Five biodiversity surveyors were selected as field assistants to support biodiversity specialists. The selected surveyors have extensive experiences on biodiversity surveys; they will be trained on the use of biodiversity assessment guidelines to fit the need of REDD+ mechanisms.
- Biodiversity specialists selected seven community forest sites for conducting interviews on the historical wildlife status in the past ten years compared to the current situation. An interview also focuses on threats to wildlife status, and current hunting activities. Through a primary interview, there were key wildlife species presented in the project site as tiger, elephant, gaur, banteng, Pileated gibbon, sambar etc. However, there were many threats to wildlife status such as population growth in the area, demand for bushmeat for local people and growth of development (rubber plantation), and illegal hunting.

- Conducted a first field biodiversity assessment, the biodiversity specialist led the coordination of Forestry Administration staffs, and select biodiversity surveyors with supported by local community, and former wildlife hunter conducted its first biodiversity field survey that took place from 19th to 25th December 2015. According to the geographical area, ecosystem, and habitat, the team used Transect Line Method (TLM) in assessing the presence of wildlife species and habitat in the project area. The team targeted spotting the presence of mammal, bird, and reptile. *(the detail report available up on request)*

*Objective2: Increase livelihood of forest dwellers within target Korea-Cambodia Joint REDD+ implementation site.* The project will improve livelihood of forest depended communities who are living inside and adjacent the REDD+ project site.

*Forest protection, support community forestry development, and local stakeholder coordination*

- Developed community forestry patrolling protocol, these protocols being used as a guidebook for community forest patrol teams to conduct forest patrol effectively, and to ensure all illegal activities information will be recorded and stored properly.
- Reviewed status of community forestry supporting legal documents, the community engagement specialist has collected existing supporting legal document for 14 community forestry from stakeholders and the documents were stored in the KCRP office both softcopies and hardcopies. The result of the reviews as below:
  - All 13 CF received an approval from MAFF and received official agreement from the Kampong Thom Forestry Administration Cantonment (KTFAC), except 1 CF( Kbal Daun Tei)
  - All 13 CF have (1) CF Deika (The official recognition letter endorsed by commune council on CFMC management structure, roles and responsibility), (2) CF by-law and regulation which endorsed by commune council, and (3) Official CF boundary map.
  - Most of all 11 CFs have conducted CF resources inventory, to develop CF management plan with technical support from FA and NGOs.
  - Only one CF has completed the compilation of CF management plan (CFMP), the CFMP was submitted to KTFAC for technical review prior to submission to FA for review and approval.
- Provided training to community forestry management committee (CFMC), the training participated from 45 CFMCs on (1) How to fill patrol form, (2) The preparation for CF patrol planning and financial expansion report, (3) coordination with other CF to expand area of patrol to more broader landscape, and (4) how to use GPS. The participants confirmed their understanding, and they had successfully in class exercise during the training.
- Within year around (2015), the FIU and community forestry patrol team effectively, and cost-efficiency conduct a report forest patrol to strengthening forest law enforcement in the project area, and its vicinity. As a result within a year the FIU and CF groups achieved significant results below:
  - Confiscated 71 chainsaws, 38 buffalo carts, 67 pieces of wood ( 10,956 m<sup>3</sup>), 19 hand tractor, 19 motorbikes, 04 motorbikes carts, 03 log track, 21 machetes and 02 axes
  - Destroyed 01 camp used by in-migrant illegal forest land clearer,
  - Removed 12 snares (Wildlife traps)
  - Crack down on illegal forest land clearance of 2 cases
  - Issue warning letter and agreement to the owner of 05 tractor

*Objective 3: enhance capacity of key different stakeholders to effective REDD+ implementation. The project will improve capacity of targeted communities and government stakeholders.*

- Organized a successful project inception workshop with participation from 101 participants including Forestry Administration, Community Forestry, and Local Authority, relevance provincial departments in Kampong Thom province and development partners. Field visit was organized with the following day with commemorative tree planting with participation from Triages, Divisions, Cantonment and Inspectorate FA officials. Signing of patrolling agreement came between PMU manager and Choam Smach CF Chief witnessed by KSF delegation and FA officials.
- Conducted capacity need assessment for REDD+ implementation, 30 samplings were identified, and conducted an interview. The capacity need assessment report will be finalized in the next quarter.
- Conducted a two day intensive training workshop (September 29-30, 2015) on REDD+, and Climate Change and Consultation Meeting on KCRP. Representatives from 14 community forestry in total of 28 participants (2 women) participated (*Training report available up on request*)
- Developed a training materials, and awareness raising material, these included two REDD+ posters (*on how REDD+ mechanism works and benefits from REDD+ implementation*), a project flyer, and draft-training module on Climate Change and REDD+ for community in national language, and English. These materials being distribute to project stakeholders.
- Designed capacity building materials for long term planning. Based on the result from the capacity need assessment, the PMU is developing a capacity and knowledge monitoring plan to ensure, and what extend that the effectiveness of implementation of project to meet the outcome of objective 3 with supporting from Korea-Cambodia REDD+ Joint Project.
- The community engagement specialist in cooperation with local Forestry Administrating, local authority and CF representatives disseminated to seven community forestry sites, covering nine villages, the dissemination aims to gain awareness to ordinary community members on (1) basic concept on climate change and REDD+, (2) benefits and risk from REDD+ implementation, (3) CKRP's activities, (4) REDD+ safeguards, and (5) roles and responsibility of local community in participating REDD+ implementation. This awareness raising activity is part of the CKRP's Free Prior Inform and Consent (FPIC) strategy/steps. The awareness raising activities participated by 404 community members with 210 women.
- The community engagement specialist conduct a refresh course on how to fill patrol form, how to use GPS, and report writing to the 13 community forestry management committee.

*Objective 4: Support the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) on REDD+ policy formulation. The project aims to produce a key lesson learns drawing from field Korea-Cambodia Joint REDD+ Project implementation and key policy briefs to inform RGC on national REDD+ policy formulation.*

- Presented the overall project activities during the Technical Working Group on Forest Reform<sup>6</sup> and informed other government representative, and donors.
- Attended the 6<sup>th</sup> training course on REDD+ which was conducted from 18-22 May 2015 in Korea Korea, the training hosted by the Forest Training Institute, Korea. The training

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<sup>6</sup> <http://twgfr.org/>

course aims to strengthening capacity of REDD+ related personnel from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Lao.

- Attended the 7<sup>th</sup> training course on REDD+ in Korea. A five days comprehensive training course was conducted from 12- 19 May 2015 at the Forest Training Institute, Korea. The training course aims to strengthening capacity of REDD+ related personnel from Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Lao.
- Attended the 3rd High Level Dialogue (HLD) on REDD+ in Indonesia. This dialogue aims to share experiences and challenges in conducting REDD+ project in their respective countries; recommend the role of REDD+ Project, firstly in the development of Forest management Unit (FMU), and secondly in strengthening the existing condition for the implementation of REDD+) and share their expectation on the next HL Panel Discussion on REDD+.
- Delivered a presentation on *the experiences on the opportunity for community forestry developer through REDD+ mechanism*, the national workshop hosted by ITTO Forest Law Enforcement and Government, the workshop was held at Phnom Penh hotel with participated from 65 participants comprise of government stakeholder, NGOs, academy, and local community representatives. The key messages and experiences used in the presentation were draw from the implementation of KCRP.
- During the Conference of Party at 21st session of the UNFCCC<sup>7</sup> in Paris, France, the project adviser had delivered KCRP's flyer during his side event session. Some project flyers were distributed at the Korea's Official Boot that hosted by the Korea Ministry of Environment.

#### **IV. Lesson Learnt and Challenges**

##### Lesson Learnt

- Community forestry is one of the most effective, and cost-efficiency approaches to address deforestation, and forest degradation while encourage multiple stakeholders participants, enhance livelihood of local community. The project learnt that scale up, and provide additional support to the community forestry, and support community forestry forest patrol groups will be an effective solution in reducing the trend of increasing deforestation rate, and forest degradation in the project area.
- Ongoing build capacity of stakeholders, especially local Forestry Administration officers, and community forestry groups could results in and positive contributing to the project sustainability. Once, the project move into the full operational phase, community member, and their leaders, with support from local FA, they will play key important role, and directly implementing the project activities.
- Well prepare project documentation, and on ongoing update overtime is key contributing to the project successful validation and verification. This is not only for the PMU that responsible for project documentation but local community, and local Forestry Administration are also be well preparation, and keep track of their activities during REDD+ implementation and planning it.
- The project learnt that without clear and secure forest land tenure, lack of actual boundary demarcation, and not clearly define roles and responsibilities of stakeholder are strongly correlated to deforestation, and degradation in the project area. While, the absent of alternative livelihood, un-control the flooded of in-migrants into the project area or vicinity,

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.cop21.gouv.fr/>



the absent of comprehensive provincial land use planning are the approximate cause of deforestation, and forest degradation in the project area.

### Challenges

- *High investment cost in Project Design Document Development (PDD), Validation, and Verification:* The cost are investing into carbon development is high, it is always a challenges for most of REDD+ project based in Cambodia. Korea-Cambodia REDD+ Joint Project is facing same challenges. It is estimated that 45% of the total investment funding from Korea Forest Service is go to third party to develop PDD, validation, and verification. The potential project registration on the international voluntary market will be an additional fee charged according to market standard.
- *Increase demand for land by in-migrant, and local community members:* Geographical area, and high soil fertilizer in the project area, and its adjacent has been attracted both land seekers from outside (*in-migrants*), and local community. Increasing demand for land has been strongly encouraged those people to clear new natural forest area, and expand existing land in to new area. Most of new clear land is for small and media scale agriculture purpose, it is observed that the most popular agriculture commodities area cassava, rubber, cashew nut, and soya bean.
- *Limited investment fund into implementing the real action to address deforestation, and gradation:* to generate more carbon credits (*Verified Forest Carbon Credits*) for the project, and address the risk of permanence, there is a strong need to increase addition project investment fund into addressing real deforestation, and forest degradation in the ground. It means that, during 2015 to 2018 is a time that the project need to increase efforts to ensure the deforestation rate will be lower compare to its baseline/reference forest emission level (FREL) which is accounted from 2002 to 2014. Those activities are including increase effort for forest law enforcement, increase knowledge, and capacity stakeholder, secure forest land tenure, boundary demarcation, develop land use planning, control in-migrant, and provide alternative livelihoods.