



## **PROGRESS REPORT**

First Quarterly Report (Q1Y1)  
January to March 2015

**Korea-Cambodia REDD+ Joint Project**

**Implementing Agency  
Forestry Administration**

**Phnom Penh, Cambodia  
March 2015**

## Introduction

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 will be implementing in 4 years (2015-2018) which covers 65,300 hectares of forest area. 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.

## Report Timeframe

This is a quarterly report (01 Jan – 27 March 2015), the report was consolidated from individual project specialist and field project semi-report. Each specialist report available up-on request.

## Progress on project management and administration

### Set up PMU, FIU and PBC

- In the first quarter, the project has established Project Management Unit (PMU) which are comprised of project manager), one technical advisor, four technical specialists, and three field officers (Field Implementation Unit, FIU). The PMU facilitated to establish PBC which is consisted of multi-stakeholders involvement (**Annex I: Project Management Structure**) and nine contract agreements for PMU and FIU were developed and signed on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015.
- The PMU has set schedule for conducting monthly meeting which -will be held in the fourth week of the months, and the PBC will be coordinated by PMU to have annual meeting which will be held at the late fiscal year.
- The Management and Operating Policy was developed to guide PMU, and PBC in implementing project and overall management. This guideline was signed by the Head of FA, and co-signed by representative from KFS. The guideline can be amended in the future in accordance with the consent of both parties.
- The PMU has been coordinated with seniors in the Forestry Administration to get approval on setting the office for the project and equipped with project materials (**Annex II: list of purchased equipment**). The project's office is located in the FA's building, and the FA provides daily support such as security guard, office cleaning service, and with standard power and water utility.
- The PMU has developed a series of financial and administrative forms, these forms are subjected to be used in monitoring project activities, and for evaluation purposed, the forms available up on request (**Annex III: Project financial and administrative forms**).

### Stakeholder coordination meeting

- The PMU and representative of KFS have conducted meetings with H.E Man Sokry, the undersecretary of state of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), and H.E Dr. Chheng Kimsun, Delegate of the Royal Government, Head of the Forestry Administration, MAFF. The meetings aims at introducing the overall project activities, and request for advise on policy support for project implementation.

- The PMU and representative of KFS have conducted a meeting with technical adviser to FA's DG, which focus on addressing the REDD+ project based-against the REDD+ National implementation mechanism, while the Cam-REDD<sup>1</sup> supports four projects based-REDD+ on the ground. It is important that KCRP need to have a strong collaboration with Cam-REDD. It was concluded that KCRP presents its progress either during the Forestry Administration Climate Change Committee (FACCC) and Technical Working Group on Forest Reform (TWG-FR) meeting.
- The PMU and the representative of KFS has held a meeting with Chief of Kampong Thom FA Cantonment and FIU in order to address the following matters:
  - Presented the proposed four year work plan, and consulted it with chief of the cantonment and FA field officer to receive feedback and ensure that activities and suggestion proposed were included in the proposed four year work plan.
  - The chief of Kampong Thom FA cantonment requested to add a representative from Kampong Thom provincial authority to be part of the PBC. He also requested the project to support one more field staff. The PMU and the representative of KFS accepted the requests.
- The PMU had a meeting with the Kampong Thom provincial governor, the meeting touch on the issues of :
  - The provincial governor expressed his interesting to support the project. However, he provided some recommendations to ensure the project implement successfully. He mentioned the project should not only address the issue of deforestation and forest degradation but also engage local community to be one of key beneficiaries, and support their livelihood.
  - Consider the local community members as one of the key players in forest conservation activities, and the project should include local authority and keep them informed on the progress of the project implementation activities.
- Meeting with Center for People and Forests (RECOFTC) coordinator, Kampong Thom province and Mlup Baitong coordinator at Sandan district. The PMU collected relevant information on community forestry development program in the area. However, RECOFTC has not implemented community forest program in the project site, while Mlup Baitong has supported implementation of community forestry activities including demarcation, group savings, livelihood improvement, and preparation of community forestry to Cham Smact CF, O Tala, and Sochet CF. At the moment Mlup Baitong continues to support these CFs.
- Meeting with Tumring, and Sokchet commune chiefs and its members, the PMU presented the overall project activities. The commune chiefs requested that the project should improve sustainable livelihood activities and provides capacity building in small scale agriculture development and increase yield. In addition, the PMU collected an information related to land use such as proposed and planned social land concession, and other future development project in his/her jurisdictional area.
- Meeting with Sandan FA Division, Tumring and Kra Yea FA Triage. The meeting focus on past and current situation of forest within the area and challenges. As a result they

---

<sup>1</sup> A project funded by the government of Japan to support national REDD+ implementation in Cambodia

shared information on the status of social land concession, status of current and past forest land clearing, and the current land titling in the project site.

- Meeting with Chief of Choam Smach CF, Chief and member of Khum Sochet CF, and Veal O'kdeyCF members. The PMU collected an information on the status of community forestry development, community forest networks, and the support from NGOs to these CFs.

### **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 volunteer carbon market and it is subjected to be certified under CCBA and VCS standard.*

- *Initial communication with carbon developers:* The role of carbon developer will be responsible for developing GHG & Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) methodology for REDD+, lead the designing of project VCS&CCBA-PDD, lead in project validation and verification, design social assessment, provide technical assistant to FA in project registration under voluntary carbon market, and provides capacity building to PMU and KFS through the project life. The following are the progress up to date on the communication between PMU and Carbon Developer:
  - Since PMU has communicated with the carbon developer, there were three consulting firms expressed of interest to the project (1) Terra Global Capital (TGC), (2) Wildlife Work Carbon, and (3) Nexus. After the PMU presented the proposed project site, the two consulting firms decided to withdraw their interest in the project implementation due to the size of the project and amount of investment fund of the project which are limited. In the nut shell, PMU received only one proposal from TGC which has proposed budget of *USD 274 K (Annex IV: The proposed proposal of TGC)*, and proposed 3% of total VCUs to be shared with the firm.
  - The PMU conducted an internal discussion and designed criteria for selecting the carbon developer such as (1) experienced in developing REDD+ methodology, Validation, and Verification, (2) have experience in project based-REDD+ in Cambodia, (3) have good relationship with government agency, (4) the consulting firm was selected by VCS as a professional VVB, and the REDD+ MOSAIC Methodology developers.
  - On February 19, 2015, the PMU and the Head of Forestry Administration decided to select TGC to be a Carbon Developer for the KCRP. However the Head of FA suggested PMU continue the negotiation on price and the VCUs to be shared among parties which include the VCUs to be shared with KFS as well.
  - The PMU developed a drafted agreement between FA and TGC by including the carbon development plan and carbon development budget. Through the negotiation process FA and TGC agreed to have separated agreement (1) the agreement focus on carbon development plan and budget, and (2) VCUs share agreement. However the PMU requested TGC to estimate total budget of the 3% projection VCUs whether there is any possible option to include this budget

project into the contract agreement. TGC will send PUM with draft agreement on two different options of the agreement, the submission of the draft agreement will be expected in the fourth week of March 2015.

### **VCS&CCBA PDD Development**

- *Conducted primary assessment on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation:*  
The PMU conducted a reviewing existing documents related to drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. To verify the information on drivers of deforestation the PMU carried out interview with stakeholders and collected existing legal documents from different provincial line agencies, conduct interview with selected community members, and NGOs partners. The report on drivers to be built once the social, biodiversity assessment, satellite image interpretation activities are completed. The PMU will continue to collect and update data and information on drivers, once the carbon developer is selected they will assist PMU to quantify these drivers, and convert it to emission activities data and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission reduction under project area.

### **Progress on social assessment:**

- A number of documents of Oddor Meanchey REDD+ project, Mondulkiri Protected Forest REDD+ and social assessment of Sothern Cardamom Protected Forest have been reviewed including:
  - Social assessment of SOP
  - Questionnaire of social assessment
  - Livelihood assessment in Mondulkiri Protection Forest
  - Livelihood assessment of local community in and adjacent Sothern Cardamom Protected Forest.

The documents reviewed contribute to the development and preparation of KCRP social assessment standard operational procedure (SOP). However, consultation of SOP and modification will be discussed and consulted with the carbon development firm once contract agreement is signed.

- Collected data related to population growth, and existing community development program in the project site from the Department of Planning of Kampong Thom province and other sources such as RECOFTC<sup>2</sup>, Mlup Baitong<sup>3</sup>, Kampong Thom FA Cantonment and other stakeholders. These information were used to develop the social assessment SOP. The existing social guideline for Oddor Meachey REDD+ project was reviewed especially associated with questionnaires. The review of SOP will be done with carbon development firm (TGC).
- After the assessment of potential and experienced social survey, the PMU decided to select five surveyors to work with social specialist and field assistant in conducting social assessment for the VCS&CCBA PDD design. The selected surveyors will be trained prior to conducting social assessment, project will provide DSA and travel support for the survey to conduct data collection at household level, and conduct participatory rural appraisal (PRA) in the field.

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.recoftc.org/>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.mlup-baitong.org/>

### **Progress on biodiversity assessment:**

- The PMU conducted a review on existing research report in the area such biodiversity assessment report in Oddor Meanchey REDD+ project, rapid socio-economic assessment and hydrological assessment of Prey Lang Forest, and REDD+ and conservation of Prey Lang forest, Carbon Biodiversity & ecosystem service report. The review highlighted a primary identification on the distribution of key wildlife species and its habitat. The review also provided a biodiversity assessment report structure and improve the existing methodology on wildlife survey.
- Moreover, to verify information in the review document, the PMU conducted preliminary interview with commune chief and CFs member on wildlife status within the area. As a results they noticed the presence of some wildlife species such as Wild pig, Red manjunc, Long -tailed marque , Red jungle fowl, Sambar, Asian porcupine, Mongoose, Palm civet, and Pileated gibbon..etc. However, the biodiversity assessment need to continue conducting large scale assessment and ground biodiversity assessment will be done in the Q2.
- Five surveyors were selected as field assistants. The surveyors selected have extensive experiences on biodiversity survey. The surveyors selected will be trained to use biodiversity assessment guidance based on REDD+ mechanism.

*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.*

### **Community Forestry, hydrological forest conservation legalization process, and forest protection**

- The PMU had developed community forestry patrolling protocol. This protocol will be 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. The protocol will be consulted with CF management committees and FA field assistants, and will be tested in the Q2 (April-June 2015).
- Four forest community patrol teams were selected, the project will provide monthly support in term of foods, fuel and motorbike and the support will be started in Q2. The remaining CFs patrol team will be selected in the Q2 as well. Each group of community forestry patrol members will be responsible for patrolling while community committee chiefs are coordinated with members for patrolling. In addition commune police and military will join patrolling with community forestry members and FA field assistants.
- Discussion with Chief of FA Cantonment of Kampong Thom (Mr. Nheata) was made, the meeting focused on the forest demarcation. Mr. Nheata is willing to continue to demarcate boundary of hydrological research forest where new boundary have been updated and submitted to MAFF for viewing and approval. However, discussion should be continued while the boundary not yet approved by MAFF.
- Results from local stakeholder consultation and based on the review existing legal documents, the PMU defined clear legal status and status of the project boundary, these are encompassed of:

- Four Social Land Concessions (SLCs) covers 6,637 hectares have been proposed by local commune (Tum Ring commune), and landless households to the governor of Kampong Thom province, these propose sites situated in the west part the project site. However, the status of these proposed SLCs not receive official approval from the government.
- The assessment satellite image (Landsat, 2015) data include data from ground truth, and interview with local stakeholder indicated that the forest land/forest cover in two community forestry (O'phum, and O' Romeas CFs) in the project site have been almost totally converted to crop land, and residential area by local communities members, and in-migrants families from Kampong Cham province (lowland province). Thus the PUM decided to withdraw these two CFs from the targeted project area (**Annex V : Comparison of the land use change in the project site from 2005-2009-2014 and 2015 by using Landsat Images**)
- After conducting stakeholders discussion, a bunch of data from satellite image which verified by GIS specialist, and review existing legal document. The PMU proposed a new project site boundary for Cam-Korea REDD+ Joint project. The site includes::
  - The Community forestry covers 14,899.00 hectares. These community forestries have legal right to manage the forest for 15 year through the community forestry agreements between Forestry Administration and Community Forestry Management Committee (CFMC).
  - The Reforestation Area (RA) covers 1,323.00 hectares of degraded forest.
  - Hydrological Forest Conservation (HFC) area cover 24,151.00 hectares
  - The permanence forest estate which is under control by MAFF/FA (Forestry Law, 2002), the area covers 48,071.00 hectares, this area subjected to be covered into other forest management modalities to ensure the long term concrete legal support under REDD+ project.

In total the revised project area cover 88,444.00 hectares (**Annex VI: proposed revision of project map**).

Table: Forest Classification in project area (Data source: FA, 2010)

ID	Land Use		Forest Cover 2010					Area (Ha)
			EF	SE	DF	OF	NF	
I	<b>Hydrological forest conservation</b>		<b>21653</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>745</b>	<b>1709</b>	<b>24151</b>
II	<b>Reforestation area (Tomring II)</b>		<b>1234</b>				<b>89</b>	<b>1323</b>
III	<b>Community Forestry</b>		<b>13687</b>	<b>117</b>		<b>179</b>	<b>916</b>	<b>14899</b>
	1	CF-Dambon Prey Cheam Smach	1402				44	
	2	CF-Lbos Sral	1109				10	
	3	CF-Ou Bos Leav	1310				12	
	4	CF-Ou Das Sko	1091			31	2	
	5	CF-Ou Kra Nhoung	1032				98	
	6	CF-Prey Hong Chamtet	996			9	11	
	7	CF-Prey Khum Sochet	3962			95	512	
	8	CF-Prey Neak Tala	1070			44	188	
	9	CF-Prey Ou Thma	1058				6	
	10	CF-Prey Phum Rumchek	471				26	
	11	CF-Prey Srea Pring	186	117			7	
IV	<b>Forest permanent estate</b>		<b>41846</b>	<b>2650</b>	<b>1519</b>	<b>530</b>	<b>1526</b>	<b>48071</b>

	<b>Total project area</b>	<b>78420</b>	<b>2768</b>	<b>1562</b>	<b>1454</b>	<b>4240</b>	<b>88444</b>
--	---------------------------	--------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	-------------	--------------

Note: EF=every green forest, SE=semi-ever green forest, DF=deciduous forest, NF=Non-Forest, and OF=other forest

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

- Activities under objective 3 were not proposed in Q1, however in Q2 the PUM will provide training, information sheets, and update on REDD+ related information in Forestry Administration webpage.

*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.

- The project manager presented the overall project activities during the Technical Working Group on Forest Reform<sup>4</sup> and informed other government representative, and donors. The presentation aim at informing different stakeholders at the national level. The PUM also integrated Korea-Cambodia REDD+ joint project into annual program of the National Forestry Program (2010-2029). The integration of project planning will be useful to ensure that the project activities are contributing to the Cambodia National Forestry Program of the country.

#### *Project Planning and Budgeting*

- The PUM had developed clear Q2 (April-June 2015) budget and work plan that align with the four year work plan. The PMU supposes to submit the Q2 (April-June 2015) to KFS in the (third) week of March 2015.
- The PMU also coordinated with carbon developer to set a clear target for carbon development plan and milestones. In Feb, the PUM reviewed and provided inputs on the carbon development plan that proposed by the consulting firm, currently the PUM is waiting for responding from the firm.

---

<sup>4</sup> <http://twgfr.org/>