



REDD+ Capacity Building Services Assessment

May 2012



UN-REDD
PROGRAMME



List of Acronyms

FA	The Forestry Administration, Cambodia
FCPF	The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FPIC	Free, Prior, and Informed Consent
FiA	The Fisheries Administration, Cambodia
GIS	Geographic Information System
IEC	Information, Education and Communication
IS	Information Systems
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
JICA	The Japan International Cooperation Agency
LI	The Learning Institute
MoE	The Ministry of Environment, Cambodia
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NCCC	The Cambodian National Climate Change Committee
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RECOFTC	Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (also known as The Center for People and Forests)
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation and the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
REL	Reference Emission Levels
ToR	Terms of Reference
UN-REDD	United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries
WCS	The Wildlife Conservation Society

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The views expressed in this report do not necessarily reflect those of RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and United Nations Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation Programme (UN-REDD). RECOFTC, UNEP and UN-REDD disclaim any errors or omissions in the translation of this document from the original version in English into other languages.

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Key messages

- In the space of three years, capacity building and training efforts have transformed REDD+ from a little-known concept to one which is recognized, discussed and on the agenda of the Royal Government of Cambodia.
- Alongside awareness raising at a national level, substantial progress has been made in capacity building for policy development and environmental safeguards, but key gaps remain.
- These gaps need to be filled; otherwise Cambodia may not be able to meet the objectives of the National REDD+ roadmap. Gaps include:
 - » Insufficient attention paid to REDD+ awareness raising for local government and communities.
 - » Insufficient capacity building to better integrate REDD+ into community forestry and community protected area management and planning.
 - » Too little transfer of knowledge by environmental NGOs on how to develop environmental safeguards to the wider capacity building community.
 - » Lack of REDD+ readiness capacity building support for natural resource industries provided among the eight short-listed service providers consulted. This is a cause for concern as natural resource industries are major drivers of deforestation, and have therefore considerable influence on the eventual success or failure of REDD+ in Cambodia.
 - » Limited knowledge among NGO, government and private sector representatives on the formulation of REDD+ benefit sharing policies and mechanisms and a lack of basic understanding of carbon markets, carbon pricing and budgeting.
 - » Limited technical skills on forest management and carbon inventories, on data analysis of carbon stocks and GIS/mapping related to REDD+.
 - » Low levels of understanding of the concept of FPIC in the context of REDD+ within government, communities, the private sector and local NGOs.
 - » A lack of service providers with experience in managing donor or private-sector funds, or trust fund structures. This gap will become more significant if and when donor and private-sector funding for REDD+ grows in Cambodia, and the demand for transparent well-managed fund structures becomes more apparent.
 - » Insufficient engagement from the scientific community and universities in Cambodia in capacity building, which will be important to develop the national REDD+ baseline.
- Recommendations for addressing these gaps are provided in Section 9 of this report.

1. Why is this assessment needed?

Building capacity for developing and implementing a REDD+ mechanism is a key component of REDD+ readiness processes that have been underway for over three years. Backed by substantive funding from a large number of organizations, government agencies, and individuals, a multitude of organizations are conducting awareness raising and training activities in all REDD+ nations. The massive increase in capacity building activities during a rather short period begs the question of whether capacity building service providers are meeting country needs in getting ready for REDD+.

Surprisingly, little is known about the competencies of these organizations which include government agencies, NGOs, community groups, academic institutions, think-tanks, consultants, legal firms, REDD+ projects and the media. To fill this knowledge gap, The Learning Institute (LI) and RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests, with financial and advisory support from the Global UN-REDD Programme through the United Nations Environment Programme, assessed strengths and weaknesses and identified gaps in the capacity building services being provided against Cambodia's REDD+ readiness needs. This report provides the main results of the assessment and recommendations to inform the REDD+ capacity building process in Cambodia.

2. What are the objectives of this assessment?

The objectives of the assessment were to:

1. Identify and map the service providers involved in REDD+ capacity building in Cambodia (a total of 25 service providers were identified during an in-country workshop, see also Annex 2)¹
2. Identify the main objectives, competencies and type of services being offered by a shortlist of eight leading service providers, their target audiences and key achievements². These are divided between the following nine main capacity building themes:
 - » Awareness raising and REDD+ knowledge dissemination
 - » REDD+ policies
 - » Benefit sharing
 - » Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)/ Information Systems (IS)
 - » Social safeguards
 - » Environmental safeguards
 - » Calculating the potential costs versus benefits of REDD+
 - » REDD+ fund management
 - » Developing the national REDD+ baseline
3. Identify the gaps in capacity building service provision between what is needed most in Cambodia and what is actually being delivered.
4. On the basis of these gaps provide recommendations for strengthening and coordinating the actions of:
 - » Capacity building service providers and programs in Cambodia
 - » National government agencies
 - » Donor agencies and the international community including UN-REDD

1 While there are probably more than 25 service providers, it is assumed that providers identified during the workshop are the main providers.

2 The quality of actual training delivered was not assessed as part of this study.

3. Background of REDD+ readiness activities in Cambodia

A National Climate Change Committee (NCCC) was established in 2006 (including representatives from 21 ministries and chaired by the Ministry of Forestry). UN-REDD has convened a Government REDD+ Task Force to produce the REDD+ roadmap for Cambodia, led by the Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, and the Ministry of Environment, along with two NGOs, RECOFTC and the Clinton Climate Initiative, as observers.

Cambodia's REDD+ Readiness process is being supported by a number of multi-lateral and bi-lateral donors including UN-REDD, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), alongside NGOs and other development partners. Capacity building initiatives since 2008 include national measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) workshops, training of government officials on a national carbon accounting system, a 'REDD+ partnerships for Government and Civil Society' training workshop and capacity building workshops on applied GIS (Geographic Information Systems).³

Cambodia's Readiness Preparation Proposal for the World Bank's FCPF has been approved, although there have been NGO and observer concerns primarily relating to the need for a 'clear and robust legal framework for community tenurial and resource use rights', clear identification of the drivers of deforestation (and the cancellation of Economic Land Concessions), the formulation of a ToR for a REDD+ consultation group and strong provisions to safeguard forest communities from being displaced or evicted from forest land.⁴

The country has also signed its UN-REDD National Programme Document in August 2011 with a total estimated budget of USD \$4,201,350 from 2011 to 2013.⁵ The objective of the UN-REDD National Programme is to support Cambodia to be ready for REDD+ implementation including the development of necessary institutions, policies and capacity. In order to meet this objective, four outcomes will be pursued:

- » Effective national management of the REDD+ readiness process and stakeholder engagement in accordance with the roadmap principles
- » Development of the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework
- » Improved capacity to manage REDD+ at sub-national levels
- » Design of a monitoring system and capacity for implementation⁶

With regard to REDD+ project level and demonstration activities the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is working with local communities and the Royal Government of Cambodia to develop sub-national REDD+ projects in the Seima Protection Forest and the Northern Plains, two forest landscapes of national and global importance.⁷

Pact, in partnership with the Forestry Administration and Terra Global Capital, has been implementing a REDD+ pilot project in Oddar Meanchey Province since 2008. In addition the Wildlife Alliance is developing a REDD+ project in the Cardamom Mountains.⁸

3 Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) and Pact, (2011). Review of Cambodia's REDD Readiness: Progress and Challenges.

4 The NGO Forum on Cambodia and the Cambodian Human Rights Action Committee, (2011). Cambodian CSOs and NGO concerns over Cambodia Readiness – Proposal Preparation (R-PP)

5 <http://www.un.org.kh/undp/media/files/Cambodia%20UN-REDD%20National%20Programme.pdf>, (Last accessed on April 4, 2012)

6 UN-REDD, (2011). Cambodia. Available online: <http://www.un-redd.org/AboutUNREDDProgramme/NationalProgrammes/Cambodia/tabid/6896/Default.aspx> (last accessed 4th January, 2011)

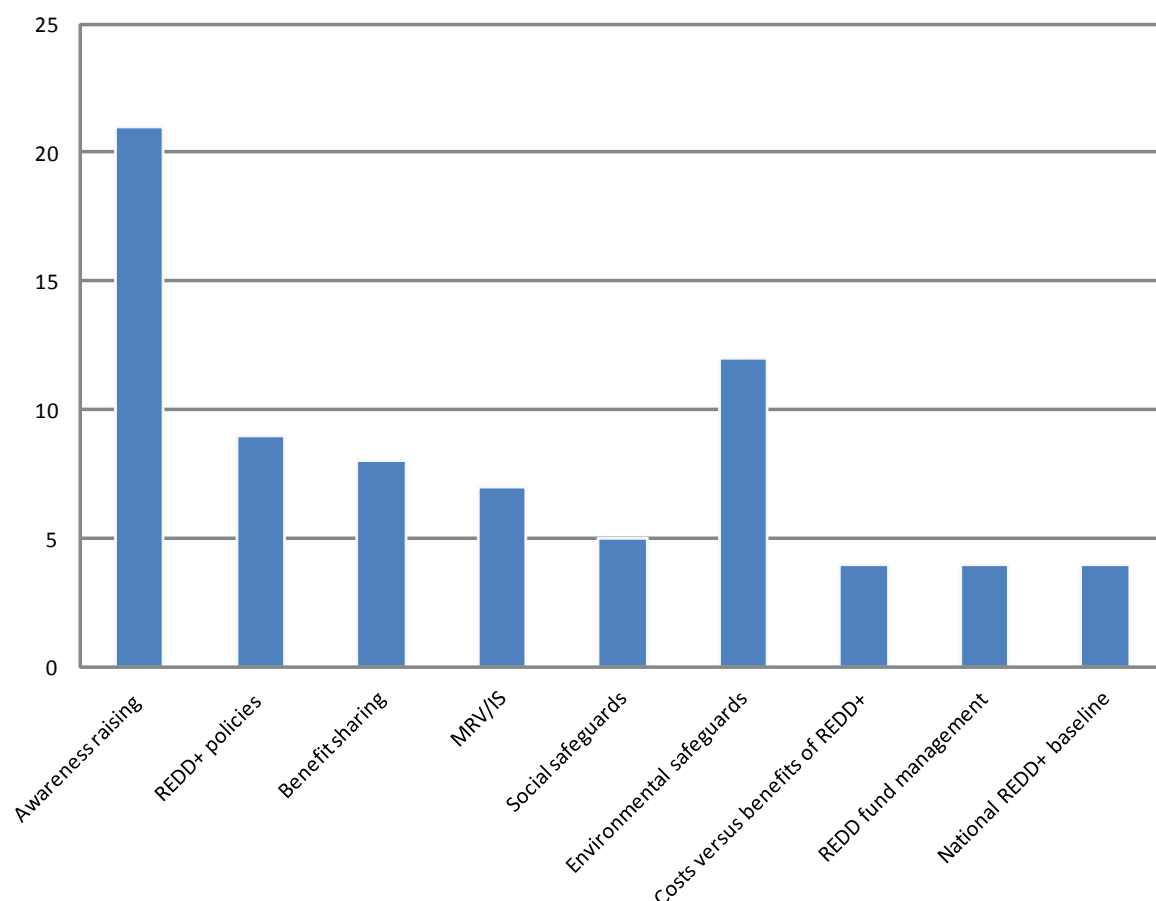
7 WCS website: <http://www.wcscambodia.org/conservation-challenges/climate-change/redd-demonstration-sites.html> (Last Accessed 13th February 2012).

8 Pact website: http://www.pactworld.org/cs/news/cambodia_signs_avoided_deforestation_carbon_agreements_for_voluntary_carbon_standard_project (Last Accessed 13th February 2012)

4. An overview of capacity building service providers in Cambodia

Figure 1 provides an overview of the number of service providers identified under the main capacity building themes in Cambodia as of October 2011.

Figure 1: Total number of service providers addressing each main capacity building theme in Cambodia



Awareness raising has clearly been the focus of many service providers (21 of the total 25 long-listed service providers surveyed). The difference between awareness raising and the second-ranked theme, environmental safeguards, is striking. However, this is understandable given that Cambodia can be viewed as well within Phase One of REDD+ readiness.⁹

Environmental safeguards receive a relatively high level of attention from service providers. Of the 12 service providers engaged in capacity building for environmental safeguards, six are nature conservation organizations. This may help to explain the prominence of environmental safeguards in capacity building services.

Benefit sharing and MRV receive mid-level attention by service providers, with eight and seven providers apiece. Of greater concern is the small number of organizations engaged in calculating the costs and benefits of REDD+, REDD+ fund management, and the National REDD+ baseline. A more detailed description of the potential gaps this creates is provided in Section 8.

⁹ "Phase 1: Development of national strategies or action plans, policies, and capacity building; Phase 2: The implementation of national policies and national strategies or action plans that could involve further capacity-building, technology development and transfer and results-based demonstration activities; Phase 3: Results-based actions that should be fully measured, reported and verified. (In accordance with Paragraph 73 of the Addendum Part Two: Action taken by the Conference of the Parties at its sixteenth session of the Report of the Conference of the Parties on its sixteenth session, held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December 2010)."

5. The leading service providers

Participants in the Cambodia country workshop agreed upon a shortlist of eight organizations that were most active in providing REDD+ capacity building services. Individual consultations were carried out with these organizations to gather more information on their activities. These consultations covered the length of time they have been operating in the country, number of staff, staff skills and experience, principal donors and the key audience for capacity building.

Years of operation in Cambodia – most organizations engaged in capacity building have had a presence in Cambodia since the mid to late 1990s, with the notable exceptions of IUCN which has been present in the country since 1958.

Organization size – the average size of the leading organizations engaged in capacity building in Cambodia is 107 staff. This ranges from organizations with seven staff members to organizations with large extended staff, such as the Forestry Administration (400) and WCS (220). In all organizations, only a fraction of the staff members are engaged in REDD+ capacity building (e.g. in the Forestry Administration approximately ten staff members are engaged in REDD+ capacity building out of the total staff of 400).

Staff skills and experience – Table 1 summarizes the strengths and weaknesses of the leading service providers' skills and experience against the nine REDD+ capacity building themes. Please note that this summary is based on the skills and experience of the service provider group as a whole, and there may be some providers who have particular 'strengths' in areas identified as 'weaknesses' in the summary.

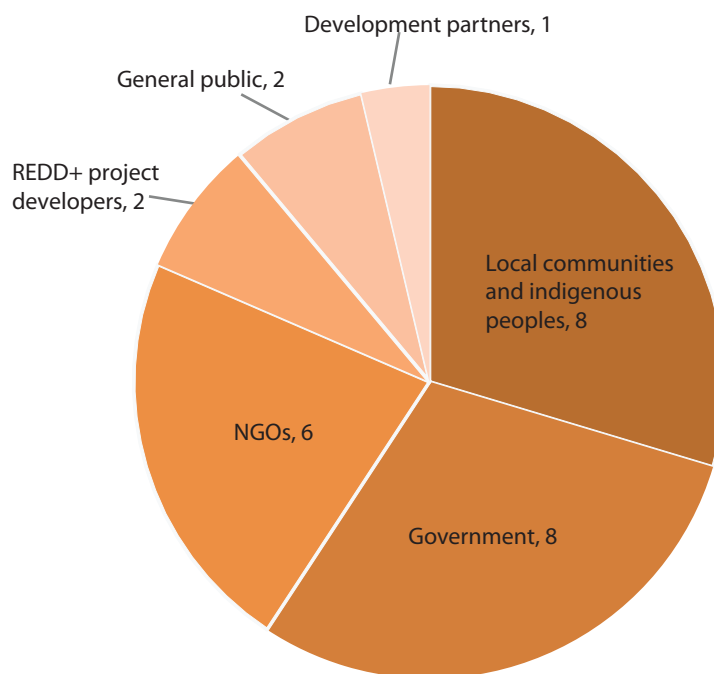
Table 1: Adequacy of skills and experience against the main capacity building themes

Capacity Building Theme	Strengths and weaknesses of service provider skills and experience	
	Strengths	Weaknesses
Awareness raising and REDD+ knowledge dissemination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Excellent networking skills ▪ Experience in communicating complex subjects in a simple manner ▪ Experience in using traditional means of communicating messages at a community level e.g. drama and music 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poor facilitation skills, particularly for participatory-based training ▪ Limited ability to produce media-based information materials e.g. radio programming ▪ Limited 'Training of Trainer' skills
REDD+ policies and measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Up to date understanding of national REDD+ policies and institutional structures ▪ Ability to communicate national and international policy developments effectively at the local level 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of familiarity with the political economy of forest management and the linkages between other industrial sectors and REDD+

Capacity Building Theme	Strengths and weaknesses of service provider skills and experience	
	Strengths	Weaknesses
Benefit sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knowledge of local-level social structures and political dynamics Strong understanding of local level economics 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient knowledge of the process for forming REDD+ benefit sharing structures at a sub-national/national level
Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)/ Information systems (IS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience with community based environmental and social monitoring processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak technical forest management and inventory skills Lack of capacity in data analysis of carbon stocks and GIS/ mapping
Social safeguards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness of democratic governance Awareness of rights-based approaches to natural resource management Strong capacity in livelihoods analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Insufficient understanding of the concept of FPIC Limited awareness of the relationship between gender and REDD+
Environmental safeguards	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical understanding of biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited 'Training of Trainer' skills for environmental safeguards
Calculating the potential costs versus benefits of REDD+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in financial cost/benefit analysis at demonstration project sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weak capacity in natural resource/ environmental economic analysis Little ability to analyze carbon markets and pricing
REDD+ Fund Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Experience in financial management for small organizations and donor funded projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limited experience in managing donor or private funds Weak capacity in fund management design

Target audiences for capacity building – Figure 2 shows the key target audiences of the eight leading REDD+ service providers. All service providers target local communities, indigenous peoples and government agencies. No service providers target the natural resource industry and only two provide services to the general public and REDD+ pilot project developers.

Figure 2: Target audiences of the eight shortlisted service providers



REDD+ readiness events and publications provided since 2008 – the leading organizations reported organizing six separate readiness events since 2008. Most organizations are engaged in REDD+ readiness events from the national to local level. For example, IUCN has provided training on climate change and the drivers of forest degradation and deforestation to 50 local community members and 30 primary and high school students, as well as organizing a forest dialogue session at a national level.

In addition to these events, REDD+ pilot project developers such as WCS and Pact have carried out capacity building events specific to their project sites. For instance Pact and the Forestry Administration have carried out 58 workshops and training events for five thousand participants in Oddar Meanchey Province. This includes 10 training sessions provided by the Forestry Administration for around 100 local community members, REDD+ pilot project developers and NGO staff in Oddar Meanchey and Kampong Thom Provinces.

WCS has organized annual workshops related to natural resource management (not REDD+ specific) in Seima Protected Forest to an audience of approximately 50 participants, including district governors, commune councilors and community members. It has also carried out REDD+ workshops in Phnom Penh with NGOs, government and local communities.

These readiness events have been complemented by at least four Cambodia REDD+ publications. This includes a 'Review of Cambodia's REDD Readiness' and 'Communities & Carbon' both by Pact; 'Supporting REDD Implementation in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia through the Design of a REDD-compliant Benefit Distribution System' and 'Preparing REDD implementation in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia' both by IUCN.

In addition to the information described above, in-depth information was collected for each shortlisted organization on their specific activities under each of the nine capacity building themes, which formed the basis for the analysis provided in sections 5 to 9 this report.

6. Coordination of REDD+ capacity building

The Forestry Administration (FA), as the chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce, plays a key role in facilitating and coordinating policy dialogue and sharing ideas on the implementation of REDD+ at a national and sub-national level. This includes hosting meetings and multi-stakeholder consultation workshops with participants from government, NGOs, local community and REDD+ project developers.

The Ministry of Environment (MoE), actively participates in the REDD+ Roadmap development, planning and readiness process as a vice-chair of the National REDD+ Taskforce. The MoE is also the national implementing partner of UN-REDD Programme.

However during consultations there was no mention of meetings or projects organized by the FA or the NCCC with the specific aim to map and coordinate REDD+ capacity building.

The Cambodian Draft REDD+ Roadmap makes frequent reference to the need for capacity building at a national and sub-national level, though it does not specifically call for a regular review and coordination of capacity building activities, with one exception being a capacity building needs assessment for national and sub-national MRV/REL. This assessment is to be undertaken by the MRV/REL Technical Team, technical staff in the FA/MAFF, GDANCP/MoE, FiA/MAFF and Department of Geography/MLMUPC, field staff from local management units and local communities. The assessment would then allow for targeted MRV/REDD+ capacity building.¹⁰

Capacity building is also a main focus of the UN-REDD National Programme Document¹¹ but there is little reference in the Document to the need to identify and coordinate with existing capacity building initiatives or to improve the coordination of REDD+ capacity building in the country.



¹⁰ Cambodia draft REDD+ roadmap V 3.3

¹¹ Two out of a total of four components of the Programme Document focus on capacity building, namely Component 2: 'National capacity-building towards development of the REDD+ strategy and implementation framework' and Component 3: 'Subnational REDD+ capacity-building and demonstration'.

7. Key strengths

Consultations with eight leading service providers in Cambodia (See Annex 1) revealed the following capacity building themes where service provision is strongest and speeding up progress in getting ready for REDD+.

1. Awareness raising and knowledge dissemination on REDD+ at the national level

A high proportion of service providers are engaged in REDD+ awareness raising and knowledge dissemination, with 21 out of the 25 total long-listed organizations reporting capacity building services in this area. Substantial progress has been made in raising awareness of the fundamentals of REDD+ and climate change within national government agencies and national NGOs. These services cover a broad range of activities such as training courses, consultation workshops, formal and informal consultations, organized site visits/study tours, and dissemination through broadcasting and publications. These are mainly delivered by NGOs (16 in total) but also by the Forestry Administration and the Ministry of Environment, along with a small number of media companies and academic institutions. National NGOs such as Mlup Baitong have produced radio programs on environment and climate change issues through live talk shows and roundtable discussions. This has allowed the organization to reach a broader public audience than conventional trainings and workshops.

However, there is still much to be achieved in awareness raising at the local government and community levels, which is discussed at greater depth in Section 9. See Box 1 for an example of how one organization, Pact, is raising awareness at the local level.

2. REDD+ Policies and measures

In a relatively short space of time Cambodia has produced a REDD+ roadmap, a UN-REDD National Programme Document and an approved FCPF R-PP alongside the formation of the first REDD+ taskforce. The ability to take these important steps is partly due to successful capacity building efforts within the national government, NGO, and academic sectors. Many of these activities have taken the form of training and consultation workshops between government and the civil society such as a 'REDD+ partnerships for Government and Civil Society' training workshop.

Consultations indicated that capacity building on policies and measures is now required to better integrate REDD+ into community forestry and community protected area management planning.

3. Environmental safeguards

Another capacity building success of note has been the development of environmental safeguards in the REDD+ pilot projects implemented to date. This has been fortified by the leadership of conservation organizations in the national REDD+ readiness process, many of whom have developed environmental safeguards for their own REDD+ pilot projects. It is important to transfer the environmental safeguard knowledge from the NGO sector to the wider capacity building community. This will help make sure that REDD+ continues to support national biodiversity and ecosystem service conservation objectives as it is being developed.

Box 1: Case study service provider – Pact Cambodia

Pact has been working in Cambodia since 1991 to build the capacity of local development organizations. Pact's Community Forestry Partnership (CFP) Program supports rural Cambodian communities to protect and enhance their forest resources.

Pact, in partnership with the Forestry Administration and Terra Global Capital, has been implementing a REDD+ pilot project in Oddar Meanchey Province since 2008. As part of the project, Pact has provided relevant capacity building activities for stakeholders at national, sub-national and local levels. Services are mostly delivered in national and local languages with some services delivered in English. Training courses on basic understanding of climate change and the role of forests, role of forest conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks, sustainable forest management for climate change mitigation, NTFP enterprise development, business planning and carbon accounting have been delivered at sub-national level to NGO staff, provincial and district government officials, commune councilors, project developers and local communities in Oddar Meanchey Province. In total, an estimated 58 workshops and trainings have been organized for approximately 5,000 participants. Some trainings/workshops have been directly provided or hosted by Pact, while others have been delivered by a local project partner, the Children's Development Association (CDA).

Pact has facilitated a greater understanding of the REDD+ Readiness process through various awareness raising and capacity building activities to support the readiness process. This includes conducting research at national level, which has been published for public audiences (the report "Review of Cambodia REDD Readiness: Progress and Challenges") and stakeholder analysis at sub-national level to identify causes of deforestation and forest degradation and potential strategies to reduce them.

Pact also facilitates REDD+ policy dialogue among relevant stakeholders at the national level. It has conducted consultation workshops to review forestry related laws and policies, designed agreements for fifteen-year carbon rights in the REDD+ pilot project site, and developed REDD+ benefit-sharing mechanisms in Oddar Meanchey with government agencies (local FA) and local communities.

Finally, Pact has produced a number of videos on REDD+ in Cambodia such as 'Community Forestry in REDD', hosted both on their website and third party video hosting sites. These videos help to raise awareness of REDD+ issues in Cambodia at a national and international level.

References

1. Personal communication: Amanda Bradley and staff. 2011
2. Bradley, A. 2009. Communities and carbon: Establishing a community forestry REDD project in Cambodia. Phnom Penh: Pact and Focali.
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4. Community Forestry International. Annual Report 2008. Available online: http://www.communityforestryinternational.org/about_us/CFI_Annual_Report_2008.pdf (Last accessed 13th February 2012)

8. Key gaps

The assessment reveals numerous capacity-building themes where service provision is lowest and potentially holding back progress toward REDD+ readiness.

1. Awareness raising and knowledge dissemination around REDD+ at a provincial and local level

Although awareness raising at the national level has made some headway there appears to be little progress on REDD+ awareness raising at local levels. Information in Khmer is not widely available as most Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials are still in English REDD+ terminology is also not well defined in Khmer, and training materials are not yet standardized. While there has been progress in awareness raising in and around existing REDD+ sites there has not yet been a coordinated approach to engage local communities and indigenous peoples at national or provincial scales. This process is limited by a small number of qualified and informed community trainers who are able to clearly articulate what REDD+ is, how it will work and what the potential role of local communities and indigenous peoples could be in REDD+ implementation. In general, the focus of the media on climate change and related topics is quite limited, and its coverage of REDD+ has been minimal. The media has been used to some extent at sub-national level to raise awareness and disseminate information on REDD+ through broadcasting to the local population in REDD+ pilot project areas. These efforts have met challenges in following up radio broadcasts with awareness raising sessions in person. This is due to a lack of qualified personnel to deliver such sessions.

Out of a total of eight short-listed service providers consulted, none have any form of REDD+ readiness capacity building support for natural resource industries. This is cause for concern given the dominant influence that natural resource industries (e.g. agriculture, mining and forestry) will have on the eventual success or failure of REDD+ in Cambodia. Without this engagement and capacity building support it may be difficult to meet the Cambodia REDD roadmap request (p.45)¹² that “Further work is required to understand how Cambodia’s REDD+ strategies could be developed in a way that would incentivize private sector action.”

2. Benefit sharing

Stakeholders identified low levels of knowledge on the formulation of REDD+ benefit-sharing policies and a lack of basic understanding of carbon markets, carbon pricing, and budgeting as the key limitations for benefit sharing capacity building efforts outside of existing REDD+ pilot project sites. The low number of organizations engaged in capacity building for benefit sharing is of concern given that p.92 of the Cambodia REDD+ roadmap states that “considerable work is required to understand better how benefit-sharing might work in Cambodia”.

However, there has been some important support provided by organizations such as the Clinton Climate Initiative, which is advising the national government on policy and regulatory reforms that support the development of carbon fund transfer mechanisms and benefit-sharing protocols.

3. Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV)/ Information Systems (IS)

Stakeholders identified limited technical skills on forest management and carbon inventories, and limited skills on data analysis of carbon stocks and GIS/mapping as the key limitations for MRV capacity building efforts outside of REDD+ pilot project sites. Page 91 of the Cambodia REDD+ roadmap states that:

¹² Cambodia draft REDD+ roadmap V 3.3.

"A training and capacity-building needs assessment will need to be undertaken for the MRV/REL Working Group, technical staff in the FA, MoE, FiA and Department of Geography who will be undertaking the analyses, field staff from local management units (e.g. Protected Areas and Protection Forests) and local communities. Based on the needs assessment targeted trainings should then be provided. A suitable office will need to be established to house the technical MRV/REL secretariat."

The Forestry Administration, WCS, RECOFTC and other organizations have engaged in carbon accounting at community level, which may provide lessons for taking forward capacity building for community carbon monitoring. Other groups have also undertaken technology-focused capacity building, such as training workshops delivered by the Clinton Climate Initiative introducing android mobile phone and data kit technology to support forest monitoring.

At the national level, there does not yet appear to have been sufficient capacity building support for the development of a national MRV system and the technical MRV/REL secretariat.

4. Not enough consideration for social safeguards

There is a limited understanding of the concept of FPIC in the context of REDD+ within government, communities, the private sector and local NGOs. This means that outside of a small number of capacity building NGOs such as RECOFTC and Pact there is limited human resource to carry out national or provincial level FPIC training programs. No mention was made during the consultations of capacity building programs that specifically address democratic governance issues or the relationship between REDD+ and development policies. REDD+ site specific courses did address land rights issues within and around project areas.

Without more in-depth understanding of FPIC, it will be difficult to address the 'critical issue' as stated in the Cambodia REDD+ roadmap, that the 'management rights of local people over forest areas is clarified, through existing modalities such as Community Forestry, Community Protected Areas, Community Fisheries and Indigenous Communal Land Titling' (p.46).

This gap could be addressed through national level capacity building activities that use the lessons learned from the social safeguard systems and community forestry approaches taken by WCS in the Seima REDD+ pilot project and the Forestry Administration and Pact in the Oddar Meanchey REDD+ pilot project.

Consultations indicated that capacity building programs are yet to play an active role in promoting gender equality in REDD+.

5. Calculating the potential costs and benefits of REDD+

Capacity building services for calculating the potential costs and benefits of REDD+ are limited due to a lack of trained natural resource economists and a lack of knowledge within capacity building service providers. This is combined with a lack of expertise in REDD+ carbon market trends and a technical understanding of the impact this has on the economic feasibility of REDD+. Without more organizations engaging in this topic it will be difficult to achieve "a more detailed understanding of opportunity costs required in order to assess the impact of potential REDD+ strategies" as stated in p.21 of the Cambodia REDD+ roadmap.

6. Inadequate support for REDD+ fund management

There is a lack of service providers in Cambodia with experience in managing donor or private funds. This gap will become more significant if and when donor and private funding for REDD+ grows, and the demand for transparent well managed fund structures becomes more apparent.

The Cambodia REDD+ roadmap (p.63) states that “Cambodia could establish a REDD+ Trust Fund to provide funding for REDD+ Readiness and for later performance-based payments. The REDD+ Trust Fund could either use an existing modality (e.g. Protected Area Trust Fund mandated under the 2008 Protected Area Law) or establish a new fund or series of funds.” If an existing fund is adapted, or a new fund is established, more capacity building support will be needed in order for such a fund to operate effectively and meet the standards required from donors or investors.

7. Not enough organizations engaged in establishing national REDD+ baselines

The low number of service providers engaged in setting the national REDD+ baseline may be a cause for concern, as the intended outputs of the Cambodia REDD+ roadmap (National baseline by 2012) and the UN-REDD National Programme Document (Output 4.7) all include the development of a national baseline in the near future. Page 83 of the Cambodia REDD roadmap states that:

“Work on this activity will require coordination and inputs from other government departments. In addition to REDD+ Taskforce and MRV/REL working group members, national experts and university staff/researchers will be engaged and consulted with for their assistance in developing the data bases and models to derive adjustment coefficients to modify the historical emission levels for developing future trajectories.”

Stakeholders identified the specific skills gaps being in remote sensing and data analysis, in addition to a limited ability among service providers to analyze the socio-economic drivers of deforestation and national economic trends.

9. Recommendations to address these gaps

The following actions for capacity building service providers, donors and governments are recommended to strengthen capacity building:

Capacity building gap	Recommended actions
Awareness raising and knowledge dissemination REDD+ at a provincial and local level	<p>For capacity building service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage actively with the television and radio media to capitalize on the efficacy of radio and television programming to transmit information in low-literacy areas. <p>For donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase support to translate REDD+ awareness raising materials and terms from English into Khmer and local languages. Support the creation of simplified 'press friendly' information materials, provide training for key journalists, and engage the local media in capacity building. Prioritize the technical aspects of REDD+ within these materials. <p>For governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make a concerted effort to ensure that public awareness raising materials are translated into local languages.
Lack of capacity building services to natural resource industries	<p>For capacity building service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance to industry to help them take REDD+ into account in land-use planning. This may be through demonstrating potential REDD+ opportunities or the financial, social and environmental risks they may face if they continue operating in a business as usual fashion. Engage natural resource sector companies with a targeted REDD+ awareness campaign through industry roundtables, groups and companies that already show leadership on REDD+. <p>For donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the engagement of natural resource sector companies by capacity building service providers. <p>For governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage natural resource sector companies to participate at a greater scale in national REDD+ planning processes.

Capacity building gap	Recommended actions
Inadequate support for REDD+ fund management	<p>For capacity building service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide support to the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the REDD+ Taskforce in reviewing arrangements used in other sectors for distributing funding from a national to provincial level. These mechanisms could follow existing donor trust fund models, or be in the form of revolving funds to allow for investment returns from carbon credit revenue.¹³ Provide further financial management capacity support for national and local NGOs who may be required to receive and manage private REDD+ finance from the voluntary carbon market (and possibly in the future from compliance markets). <p>For donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding support and guidance for capacity building services to support the government to review fund management structures. Provide funding for capacity building service providers to provide financial management capacity support to national and local NGOs. <p>For governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct a capacity building needs assessment within government to identify the areas where fund management capacity building is most needed.
Not enough consideration for social safeguards	<p>For capacity building service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train local-level government officials on social safeguards for REDD+, what they mean in practice and how to monitor and evaluate performance against safeguards. <p>For donor governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide funding support to capacity building service providers for the training of local-level government officials on social safeguards for REDD+. Increase support for analyzing and communicating the lessons from pilot projects on the application of social safeguards in the field. <p>For governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procure and provide capacity building support to communities likely to be affected by REDD+ on the principles of FPIC, and on their rights during the FPIC process.

¹³ See the Conservation Finance Alliance and PwC's 2010 report 'National REDD+ funding frameworks and achieving REDD+ readiness' for more information on REDD+ trust fund models.

Capacity building gap	Recommended actions
More attention to calculating the costs and benefits of REDD	<p>For capacity building service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take into consideration the 'wider benefits' of REDD+ in the design of training and capacity building services. This includes the potential institutional strengthening, reforms that can be made to the forestry sector and the livelihood and ecosystem service benefits that well design REDD+ programs can provide. <p>For donors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support capacity building activities to increase the socio-economic, environmental economic and forest policy knowledge of national NGOs, government and the private sector. This can be carried out in specific pilot project areas and provinces or as part of a wider national program. <p>For governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite service providers to provide capacity building support to the REDD+ Taskforce, to design appropriate benefit-sharing mechanisms at a national and sub-national level.
Not enough organizations engaged in establishing national REDD+ baselines	<p>For capacity building service providers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Train national governments and NGOs in how to access and analyze remote sensing data for establishing historical deforestation rates. <p>For donor governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the training of government, national/local NGOs and community trainers in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 'ground-truthing' of remote sensing data. Socio-economic analysis to provide reliable business as usual and REDD+ scenarios. Cross-referencing data from forest bio-carbon inventories, with remote sensing and sample-plot data. <p>For governments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The REDD+ Taskforce should develop an internal capacity building program for the relevant Taskforce government agencies (including the Forestry Administration, the Ministry of Land Management and the Ministry of Environment) with the assistance of external service providers. This program should equip them with the necessary skills to review and analyze sub-national remote sensing, sample plot and socio-economic data and trends.

Annex 1

List of stakeholders consulted during the assessment

List of stakeholders consulted during the assessment. The eight service providers marked 'L' were included in the shortlisted 'leading' organizations.

1. Conservation International
2. Fauna and Flora International (L)
3. Forestry Administration (L)
4. International Union for Conservation of Nature (L)
5. Ministry of Environment (L)
6. Mlup Bationg (L)
7. Non-Timber Forest Products
8. Pact (L)
9. RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests (L)
10. Royal University of Agriculture
11. The Learning Institute
12. Wildlife Alliance
13. Wildlife Conservation Society (L)

Annex 2

Long list of training and capacity building service providers reviewed

1. Birdlife International
2. Cambodia Daily News
3. Children's Development Association
4. Clinton Climate Initiative
5. Conservation International
6. Cord
7. Fauna and Flora International
8. Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
9. Forestry Administration
10. Geres Cambodia
11. International Union for Conservation of Nature
12. Ministry of Environment
13. Mlup Baitong
14. National Television Kampuchea
15. NGO Forum on Cambodia
16. Office National des Forêts
17. Pact
18. RECOFTC - The Center for People and Forests
19. Royal University of Agriculture
20. Save Cambodia Wildlife
21. Terra Global Capital
22. The Center for Clean Air Policy
23. The Learning Institute
24. Wildlife Alliance
25. Wildlife Conservation Society





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