

Making REDD Payments Effective:

Designing REDD+ Benefit Distribution Systems (BDS) in VietNam, Cambodia and Laos

ISSUES AND OPTIONS PAPER

Cambodia

In 2009 Cambodia became an official observer of the UN-REDD Programme. UN-REDD in Cambodia focuses on preparing the country for REDD+. The unique history of Cambodia, its rapid development and the current challenges Cambodia faces over land tenure, governance and technical capacity result in a requirement for more extensive research of the Cambodian context if REDD+ is to be successfully introduced.

Preparing for REDD

To successfully prepare for REDD+, the Government of Cambodia (GoC) could initially develop a research programme comprised of:

- Producing a detailed needs assessment for what is required in Cambodia to establish REDD+ projects;
- Conducting field research to evaluate previous REDD+ related or community conservation projects;
- Researching and identifying legal options to establish a REDD+ legal framework;
- Articulating how the Cambodian political environment affects natural resource management;
- Conducting research with local and government stakeholders to establish expectations, concerns and how REDD+ will be developed in Cambodia.

Establishing a sustainable BDS

A comprehensive BDS framework that is managed and regulated with mechanisms to ensure accountability and transparency is