



Making REDD Payments Effective:

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 desirable and can create a sustainable system and international confidence in Cambodia’s approach to REDD+. The BDS should be detailed and clearly defined, but also flexible.

The BDS mechanism may include a measure for capacity development to ensure that Cambodian institutions can effectively manage the REDD+ process; establish an equitable REDD+ legal framework, and resolve uncertainties and contestations over land and land tenure.

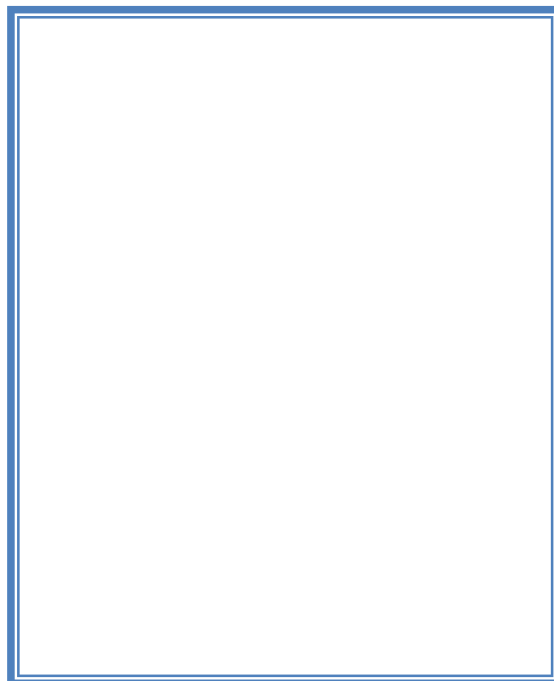
These mechanisms and measures will assist the GoC to establish an efficient and transparent BDS in Cambodia and successfully prepare for REDD+.

Ensuring an effective BDS

The key concept of a BDS is to ensure that REDD+ revenues are equitably distributed. An efficient and transparent BDS will engage and reward those who are directly providing the emissions reductions service and provide a strong incentive to make the reductions permanent.

There are key mechanisms which may be implemented by GoC to ensure the equitable distribution of REDD+ revenues. These could include establishing a REDD+ fund to manage revenues which may be managed by a multi-stakeholder board to ensure accountability and transparency. A further measure could include centralizing the management and disbursement of REDD+ revenues to minimize transaction costs and increase transparency.

The most effective way to establish these mechanisms is to first conduct extensive research to gain a comprehensive understanding of how these mechanisms would be successful in a Cambodian context.



Laos

As almost forty percent of Laos is covered by forest, and with relatively high per-capita emissions and low opportunity costs, REDD+ offers a unique opportunity to place a higher economic value on the country's vast forestry resources thereby reducing deforestation, improving livelihoods and attracting significant international investment. An effective BDS will enable the Government of Laos (GoL) to successfully implement REDD+.

Designing an effective BDS in Laos

In order to ensure that the adopted BDS will meet the minimum standards and protocols of the international community that is supporting the REDD+ fund, the following provisions could