

## Minute

### Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC)

#### **Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced Sub-National Climate Change Planning and Execution on Priority Actions (SRL Project)**

Date: 10 September 2015

Time: 9.00 – 11.30 Am

Venue: Lad Conference Room, Building 5, UNDP Cambodia Office

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#### **Attendance:**

Co-Chair: Mr. Sum Thy, Director, Climate Change Department, Ministry of Environment

Co-Chair: Mr. Enrico Gaveglia, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Cambodia

**17 participants** who are the representatives from relevant line ministries and development partners. (**Annex 1: Participants list**).

#### **Agenda:**

1. Introduction and Agenda of the meeting
  2. Remarks, by Mr. Enrico Gaveglia, Deputy Country Director, UNDP
  3. Remarks, by Mr. Sum Thy, Director, Climate Change Department, MoE
  4. Presentation of "Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodia Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced Sub-national Climate Change Planning and Execution Priority Actions" Project Document
  5. Discussion session: questions and comments from participants
  6. Concluding remarks
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#### **Background of the project and objective of the meeting:**

The **Reducing the Vulnerability of Cambodian Rural Livelihoods through Enhanced Sub-National Climate Change Planning and Execution on Priority Actions (SRL project)** was developed in 2014 with fund support from GEF, Project Preparation Grant (PPG phase), through an extensive consultative process with all relevant stakeholders ranging from government partners, development agencies, private sector, and local NGOs. Full-scale project document was finalized and submitted to GEF in Q1 2015.

Based on the full-scale project document, the Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting (LPAC) was organized on 10 September 2015. In addition to the consultations in 2014 with the relevant stakeholders, this LPAC meeting was a formal forum for discussion and review the technical soundness and relevance of the project.

The objective of the meeting was to review the project document and generate the comments with specific focus on, but not limited to, the following areas: 1. Relevance to national priorities/policies and community needs; 2. Project Strategy to address underlying problems and promote sustainability; 3. Strategy result framework; 4. Implementation arrangement; and M&E and risk management.

More specifically, the project team aimed to get the comment from LPAC on the following specific areas as highlighted below:

1. **Relevance.** Whether or not there is a consensus on the problem being addressed the results the project/annual work plan intends to produce; and whether the posed project is a priority for Government and UNDP;

2. **Feasibility.** Whether or not the project strategy will present a credible approach towards intended results;
3. **Commitment.** Whether there is evidence that all concerned parties are committed to implementation of the project/ annual work plan and whether the selected implementing partner is the best choice for the work to be done;
4. **Accountability.** Whether or not the proposed management and implementation arrangements clearly articulate accountabilities and roles and responsibilities;
5. **Cost effectiveness.** Whether the project/annual work plan is designed to be cost effective and whether it promises to yield good value for money;
6. **Sustainability.** Whether the project results will be sustained with the capacity to be developed;
7. **Social and Environmental Impacts.** Whether or not any potential environmental and/or social impacts and opportunities have been adequately addressed;
8. **Risk management:** whether or not risks have been identified, assessed and prioritized, and the possible actions to deal with these risks have been incorporated in the project work-plan;
9. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** whether a Project Monitoring and Evaluation framework has been adequately developed.

***The recommendations captured during the LPAC will be instrumental for the operationalization of the project document.***

The meeting was co-chaired by representative from MoE, Mr.Sum Thy, and representative from UNDP Cambodia, Mr. Enrico Gaveglia.

#### **I. Remark from the co-chair of the meeting**

- **Remarks by Mr. Enrico Gaveglia, Deputy Country Director, UNDP Cambodia**

Mr. Enrico welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed his gratitude to all the meaningful and substantive contributions from stakeholders during an extensive consultative process to develop the project since late 2014.

He reiterated the importance of this project which aimed to help the country addressing the issue of climate change which has become more prominent and impacted strongly to the livelihood of the rural Cambodia especially those who are considered as the vulnerable group depending on agriculture as their main sources of income and food security.

He also encouraged the participants to share comments in the 9 areas as mentioned in the above section to appraise the project.

- **Remark by Mr. Sum Thy, Director, Climate Change Department, MOE**

Mr. Sum Thy expressed many thanks for all the participants who attended the meeting, he noticed that all the main stakeholders of the project were around the table. He expressed that the comment from stakeholder will be very crucial for the project in making sure its sound design. Relevant contributions will also be captured into the design of the project and more importantly throughout the implementation.

In all, he also reiterated the fact that the scope of the project is relevant to the current country need.

#### **II. Presentation about the project**

Before moving in to the session where the stakeholders can provide comments, Ms. Ratana Norng, Programme Analyst, UNDP Cambodia, provided a detail presentation of the project focusing on the following areas:

- Rationale of the project and alignment to the national development policy on climate change;
- Target of the project: target impact, target outputs, target location, target beneficiaries group;
- Project strategy: who are the stakeholder that the project aims to engage with in delivering its specific activities and outputs; the engagement approach with both stakeholders and beneficiaries group of the project;

- Project budget allocation;
- Project M&E framework and relevant indicator at the "objective" and "outcome" levels;
- Project management arrangement;
- Fund flow.

The presentation was concluded by a series of slides providing summary of the project design in line with quality criteria as practice in appraisal sessions:

1. Relevance
2. Feasibility;
3. Commitment;
4. Accountability;
5. Cost effectiveness;
6. Sustainability;
7. Social and Environmental Impacts;
8. Risk management;
9. Monitoring and Evaluation.

***(Annex 2: Slide presentation)***

**III. Discussion session**

Below is the summary of the main discussion/clarification points from the LPAC participants:

1. National ownership:

- o Alignment of the project to the national priority: the project is addressing the issue that the country is currently faced – climate change, which brings negative impact to the livelihood of the poor;
- o The project is developed in line with the strategic direction of the country in regards to addressing the climate change issue as stated in the main strategic documents of the country: the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP), Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP), and National Programme for Sub-national Democratic Development;
- o The project is implemented through the national system developed to channel the support from national to sub-national level to address the issue of climate change at the community level.

2. Small scale water infrastructure

- o Technical specification of the small scale water infrastructure: the project aims to produce a technical standard of small scale water infrastructure which is agreed by NCDD-S and MOWRAM to be applied at the sub-national level. This technical standard if agreed will be then used as the national standard that can be used in other parts of the country beside the project target areas. This means that the project aims to bring NCDD-S and MOWRAM to dialogue together to achieve this output;
- o Type of small scale water infrastructure supported under the scope of the project: as articulated clearly in the project design, the project will support only the establishment of the small scale water infrastructure which is linked to agricultural production in the target areas of the project.

3. Development of the agricultural extension training tool:

As per the project design, this output of the project will be based on the previous knowledge generated by other initiatives:

- o The participants have raised few big initiatives that the project should look into building synergies as they have been working extensively on the agricultural technical extension package:
  - Recommend to consult more with MAFF who has worked extensively in various occasions on the development of the extension package for different types of agricultural products;

- Recommend to consult more detail with ADB. They have produced a lot of knowledge products through their work with MAFF on extension services. This include extension modules, short training video, etc.

#### 4. M&E framework of the project:

A set of indicators were developed by the project at the objective and outcomes level. Below are the comment on the logframe, specifically on the specific indicator:

- Indicator 1 of the project objective, Impact of the project - *"% increase in income from agriculture and linked activities of target small households"*

Since the project aims to bring positive impact to the livelihood of the poor and specifically on the increment of the income. It might be very challenging for the project to capture this impact.

Acknowledging this, in the project design, the project allocates the investment on the impact survey and also aims to work with USAID to use their household survey tool to collect the info. Hopefully, this info will be collected for baseline, for midterm monitoring, and final evaluation of the project impact.

- Indicator 1, Outcome 2 – *"#resilient infrastructure measures introduced to prevent economic loss and co-financed by commune/sangkat funds"*

While the indicator measures the number of resilient infrastructure built, it would be useful to as well set specific target or sub-divided the indicator into the specific type of small scale water infrastructure ex. pond, community road, canal, etc. and the target number of each type of the infrastructure should be sub-divided accordingly.

#### 5. Budget allocation:

- Proportion of budget for each outcome: with consideration of the overall project objective which is to bring positive impact to the livelihood of the poor through subnational level, the current budget allocation is considered as allocating in a reasonable proportion: around 2 M for outcome 2 which related to infra investment and investment in livelihood activities, around 1 M for outcome 1 for capacity building for subnational level which will be the main sustainability stand point of the project intervention.

- Implementation by the project main partners:

- Outcome 1: will be implemented by MoE
- Outcome 2 and 3: will be implemented by NCDD-S as responsible party

- Arrangement of fund flow

- MoE is the Implementing Partner of the project and hence will hold accountability in the execution and progress of the project toward its expected outputs/outcomes/objective. With this:

- The overall work plan covering activities plan under Outcome 1, Outcome 2, and Outcome 3 for each year of the project will be endorsed by the project board which is co-chaired by high level representative from MoE and UNDP representative. The board decision is made on consensus basis and MoE is the executive of the project board.
- Fund to implement the project activities at the national level under outcome 1 and will be allocated to MoE directly;
- While MoE will monitor the progress of the activities under Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 based on the agreed work plan endorsed by the Project Board and signed off by MoE, the fund to implement the project activities at the subnational level under outcome 2 and outcome 3 will be channeled through NCDD-S system to the provincial, district, and commune level (using the national treasury system)

accordingly on demand of MoE (National implementation – Direct disbursement modality)

6. Sustainability of the project:

- To ensure the sustainability of the small scale water infrastructure, the current project design factors in the engagement of the beneficiaries of this resilient infrastructure to form a Farmer Water User Group which can be further transformed into Farmer Cooperative which can be self-sustained after the project end;
- In addition to the support directly to the vulnerable group, the project was designed to focus as well on the capacity building to the subnational level to deliver effectively the support to community level in order to address the climate change issue. The project was designed to focus on building capacity of the subnational administration to develop climate resilient planning, mobilize budget, and effectively implement the project through a solid M&E capacity. By building their capacity, the support to community level will still be in place through strong subnational system/administration even after the project ends.

7. Other recommendation/clarification points captured:

- The project mentions to support to 10 districts, 89 communes. Should double check how the project come up to 89 communes as in each district there is only around 5 communes;
- Synergies with ongoing initiatives: while the current project is developed through extensive consultation, since ADB Tonle Sap project is currently working in the same target areas of the project, it should be useful to discuss in more specific detail to define the specific synergy possible especially during the implementation stage of the project;
- The project aims to provide technical support to improve resilient agriculture practice to the target group of the project, to ensure the sustainability, there should be the consideration on the linking those producers group to the market (more than just the training on market linkage);
- The project mentioned to focus on the vulnerable group mainly for vulnerable women and also the landless/land poor farmers, how about the disable group? The project could explore more on this by looking into other initiatives of UNDP directly funding the disability sector;
- Since the project provides technical support on resilient agricultural extension services, suggestions were made for the project to work with CARDI who is an entity working on research and development in agriculture.
- Gender mainstreaming: On top of the specific support designed to bring positive impact on the vulnerable women group at the sub-national level, the project is recommended to consult with gender team from PGE project of UNDP to discuss further on how the project can further mainstream gender in alignment with the 5 years strategic plan for gender equity which is recently produced;
- The concern in regards to the timely reporting especially from subnational level through NCDD-S is also raised by the LPAC members in several occasions. This specific item should be brought for further detail discussion during the consultation stage to firm up the implementation approach – before the Inception Workshop of the project;
- Budget allocated for the project management is stretched to the minimum, around 4%, the project team will revise budget up to 10% of total project budget accordingly;
- Co-financing meaning: it was clarified that co-financing will not lead into physical budget transfer to the project budget, but the project partners who committed to co-finance will need to make sure that the parallel investment are in place so that the project can build its intervention on, ex. the investment on infrastructure on commune/district investment funds.

#### **IV. Concluding remarks**

Through the fruitful discussion, the project team generated useful recommendations/comments were made to farther refine the initiative during the project implementation stage.

Relevant stakeholders will be closely engaged during the next steps of consultation of the project to firm up its implementation approach and work plan.

Mr. Enrico concluded that the LPAC committee endorsed on the project and he also informed about the next step for project within this year which are to:

- Under the leadership from MoE, form the project board and organize the first project board meeting before 2016 to approve its yearly Work Plan;
- Under the leadership of MoE, a round of consultation to organize Inception Workshop (as required by GEF) will be taking place. The Inception Workshop is expected by the end of 2015.

The meeting was adjourned at 11.30 Pm.

Minute prepared by:  
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Co-chair of the LPAC meeting

**Mr. Sum Thy**  
Director  
Climate Change Department  
Ministry of Environment

Signature:



Date:

10/Nov/2015

**Mr. Enrico Gaveglia**  
Deputy Country Director  
UNDP Cambodia

Signature:



Date:

10/11/2015