



**AFoCO** REDD+ Fact Sheet Series

# Cambodia

*Compiled in 2023*

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Asian Forest Cooperation Organization

## ABBREVIATIONS

AIP	Action Investment Plan
CFI	Community Forestry International
CLEC	Community Legal Education Centre
CO <sub>2</sub>	Carbon Dioxide
CRDT	Cambodia Rural Development Team
FA	Forestry Administration
FOLU	Forests and Other Land Use
FREL	Forest Reference Emission Levels
FRL	Forest Reference Level
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GLAD	Global Alert on Forest Loss
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
LULUCF	Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry
MAFF	Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NAPA	National Adaptation Programme of Action
NCSD	National Council for Sustainable Development
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NFI	National Forest Inventory
NFMS	National Forest Monitoring System
NRS	National REDD+ Strategy
PA	Protected Area
RGC	Royal Government of Cambodia
RTS	REDD+ Technical Secretariat
RUA	Royal University of Agriculture
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SIS	Safeguard Information System
SLM	Sustainable Land Management
SoI	Summary of Information
TGC	Terra Global Capital
TWG F&E	Technical Working Group on Forestry and the Environment
WA	Wildlife Alliance
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
WRF	Warsaw REDD+ Framework

# THE KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA

## SUMMARY

The Kingdom of Cambodia's forest cover has rapidly decreased from 61.1% in 2000 to 45.7% in 2020. The highest emissions contributor is the Forests and Other Land Use (FOLU) sector, followed by the agricultural sector. For this reason, Cambodia regards REDD+ with the Cooperative Approaches under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement as an important component of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) target from land use sector. FOLU sector would contribute 59.1% of Cambodia's NDC targets. REDD+ projects and REDD+ readiness initiatives are actively carried out with several development partners.

## 1. COUNTRY OVERVIEW

The Kingdom of Cambodia (Cambodia) is part of Southeast Asia, bordered by Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam and with a coastal region on the Gulf of Thailand (Figure 1). The Mekong River is a prominent geographical feature of the country, flowing from Laos in the north to the Mekong Delta of Vietnam in the south; feeding into the Tonle Sap Lake. The Tonle Sap is a vital natural resource, covering almost 10% of the nation’s surface area during the peak of the Southwest Monsoon season and constituting the nation’s primary protein source<sup>1</sup>. The population of Cambodia is approximately 17 million people (2021). The country has a GDP per capita of \$1,591, growing at 3.0% (2021). About 45.7% of the country is covered by forest, and the proportion of protected terrestrial biodiversity areas covered by designated protected areas is 54.5% in 2020. With approximately 33% of the population living within 5 km of a forest, a high absolute value of forest resources to the well-being of many people is indicated<sup>2</sup>.

*Table 1. General status of Cambodia*

Official name (ISO code)	The Kingdom of Cambodia (KH, KHM)
Capital	Phnom Penh
Population	16,946,446 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP per capita	USD 1,591 (World Bank, 2021)
GDP growth (annual)	3.0% (World Bank, 2021)
Climate	Tropical monsoon with rainy season June-Oct. and dry season Nov.-May
Land Area	176,520 km <sup>2</sup>
Forest Area	80,683.7km <sup>2</sup> (45.7% of land area) (World Bank, 2020)
Important sites for terrestrial biodiversity protected	54.5% (UN, 2020)

<sup>1</sup> Climate Risk Profile: Cambodia (2021): The World Bank Group and Asian Development Bank

<sup>2</sup> Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), Country Profile, URL: Main Details (cbd.int)



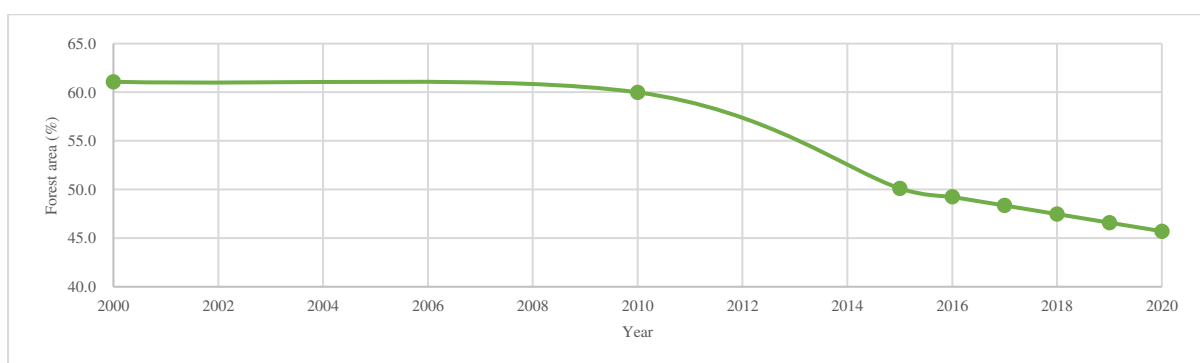
Figure 1. Map of Cambodia

Source: <https://www.un.org/geospatial/content/cambodia-1/>

## 2. Sustainable Development Goals

According to the SDG 15 Life on land, Cambodia's forest area as a proportion of total land area decreased significantly from 60.0% in 2010 to 45.7% in 2020.

Figure 2. 15.1.1. Forest area as a proportion of total land area (%)

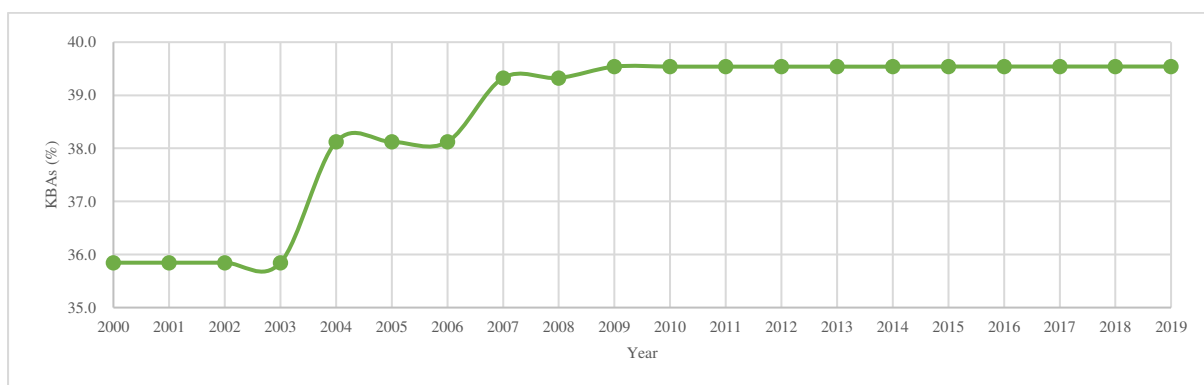


Year	2000	2010	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Forest area (%)	61.1	60.0	50.1	49.2	48.4	47.5	46.6	45.7

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

Cambodia’s Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%) gradually increased from 35.8% (2000) to 39.3% (2008) and has remained at 49.5% since 2009.

Figure 3. 15.1.2. Average proportion of Terrestrial Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) covered by protected areas (%)



Year	2000	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2019
KBAs (%)	35.8	38.1	38.1	38.1	39.3	39.3	39.5	39.5	39.5

Raw data: UNSTATS SDG Indicators

### 3. NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTIONS (2020)<sup>3</sup>

Cambodia's NDCs are a set of commitments made by the government of Cambodia under the Paris Agreement on climate change, and updated in 2020. The updated NDC has set an ambitious target in the Forestry and Land Use sector for halving the deforestation rate by 2030, in line with our REDD+ strategy.

Table 2. Role of forests reported in Cambodia’s NDCs

Mitigation		Adaptation
Unconditional	Conditional	
Y	Y	Y

\* Y: reported / N: unreported

<sup>3</sup> Cambodia’s First Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) report, (2020). pp.11-39.

### 3.1. Mitigation Targets

Cambodia targets the estimated emissions reduction with the FOLU sector by 2030 under the NDC scenario will be approximately 64.6 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year (41.7% reduction of which 59.1% is from FOLU).

*Table 3. Forest-based mitigation targets in Cambodia's NDCs*

Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM
Y	Y	Y	Y	Y

\* Y: reported / N: unreported

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

*Table 4. Mitigation Targets for Forestry and Land Use Sector<sup>4</sup>*

Actions	Targets
REDD+ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improve management and monitoring of forest resources and forest land use</li> <li>- Strengthen implementation of sustainable forest management</li> <li>- Approaches to reduce deforestation, build capacity, and engage stakeholders</li> </ul>	FOLU: Reduce 50% of historical emission by 2030 Activities

*Table 5. Forest-based mitigation Policies/ Plans/ Actions in NDCs*

	Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM*	SLM*
Policies	N	N	Y	Y	Y	N
Plans	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Actions	Y	Y	Y	Y	N	N

\*SFM: Sustainable Forest Management/ SLM: Sustainable Land Management

Source: <https://www.climatewatmchdata.org/>

### 3.2. Adaptation Plan

Cambodia is considered one of the most vulnerable countries to the impacts of climate change. The country is particularly susceptible to floods, droughts, windstorms, and seawater

<sup>4</sup> Cambodia's First NDC report, (2020). pp.11-39.

intrusion. Climate change may reduce the country’s annual average GDP growth by 6.6%, absolute GDP by 0.4% in 2020, 2.5% in 2030, and up to 9.8% in 2050. Accordingly, Cambodia has begun working to develop a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) based on the National Adaptation Programme of Actions (NAPA). The NAP focus on agriculture (17 actions), coastal zones (2 actions), energy (2 actions), human health (5 actions), industry (1 action), infrastructure (15 actions), and water resources (6 actions).

*Table 6. Forest-based adaptation commitments in Cambodia’s NDCs*

Afforestation	Reforestation	Conservation	REDD+	SFM
Y	N	N	N	Y

\*SFM: Sustainable Forest Management

Source: <https://www.climatewatchdata.org/>

*Table 7. Adaptation Measures<sup>5</sup>*

Sector	Actions	Targets
Livelihoods, poverty and biodiversity	Building resilience of biodiversity conservation and restoration to adapt to climate change	Baseline: 0 15 Protected areas (PAs) with species-specific conservation action plans 15 PAs with forest restoration plans under implementation
Agriculture and water resources	Towards on an agroecological transition in the uplands of Battambang	Baseline is 0. Target: 100,000 by 2026 (with policy intervention the project has the potential to scale-up to 5 million people accounting for 30% of total population)
	Establish an automated nationwide hydromet monitoring network and data transmission program, including collection of climate and hydrological data	Baseline: 80 auto hydromet system already installed. Targets (by 2030): a) 90+ automated hydrological stations b) 51 automated weather stations 94 automated water quality stations c) 410 automated ground water stations d) Coverage: at least 40 % of the country with priority areas e) 26 PDWRAM offices By 2050 Coverage: 100 % of the country (Conditional)
Coastal zones	Protection, risk mitigation, and resilience building from marine pollution particularly caused by activities on	% of coastal pollution reduction through marine conservation activities % of coastal pollution reduction through solid waste management of the 4 coastal cities and provinces % of coastal pollution reduction through waste water

<sup>5</sup> Cambodia’s First NDC report, (2020). pp.11-39.



	land including marine pollution from waste and aquaculture activities.	management of the 4 coastal cities and provinces
Human Health	Enable effective decision-making for health interventions through generation of information and improved surveillance or early warning systems	Health care providers working with dengue and other water-borne disease Baseline: 5 existing provinces (Siem Reap, Takeo, Kampong Cham, Battambang, and Kampot) New selected sites: Kampong Thom, Kampong Chhnang, Kratie, Preveang, and Tbong Khmom. Target: 11 for dengue for unconditional (2020-2023) 15 entomological centennial site (2023-2030)

### **3.3. International market-based cooperation**

Despite ongoing efforts, financial demands remain high. Future resource mobilization will look towards a reasonable mix of national and international funds, in addition to possible bilateral and international mechanisms where appropriate, and in line with progress on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

### **3.4. Relevance to the Forestry Sector**

The FOLU sector has three NDC scenarios and two of the three scenarios focus on the FOLU sector. FOLU NDC Scenario 1: 60% forest cover by 2030 – (MAFF, Rectangular Strategy IV). Increment of forest cover up to 60% of national land area was suggested by the MAFF. According to the received information, this target is agreed with the “Rectangular Strategy IV, angle 2 (60% of forest cover is maintained)”. The FOLU NDC Scenario 2: Reduction 50% of historical emission by 2030 (REDD+ programme); This target is based on the REDD+ national strategy which was included due to the suggestions of REDD+ Technical Secretariat (RTS) and the Department of Climate Change. The main assumption of the calculation was to reduce historical emissions from the forest sector by half (76.3 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e) by 2030 (38.1 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e), with an average annual reduction of 21 million tCO<sub>2</sub>e/year.

A main reason for the reduction of forest area is utilizing forest land for agriculture. Therefore, supporting policies such as increasing the yield of agricultural lands and possible interventions like forest gardens where a combination of large and small useful trees are planted in home gardens need to be explored in order to achieve this target without hindering the production of the agriculture sector.

REDD+ remains as an important component of the NDC target from land use sector. Also, the Adaptation Measures considers building resilience of biodiversity conservation and restoration to adapt to climate change.

## 4. UNFCCC WARSAW FRAMEWORK FOR REDD+ PROGRESS

To achieve the mitigation targets of forest conservation and management, Cambodia submitted the four elements to build implementation framework: National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS), Forest Reference (Emission) Level (FRL), and Safeguard Information System (SIS).

*Table 8. Cambodia's submission of UNFCCC Warsaw Framework for REDD+ elements*

National Strategy / Action Plan	National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS)	Forest Reference Level/Forest Reference Emission Level (FRL/FREL)	Safeguards Information System (SIS)
Y	Y	Y	Y

Source: UN REDD+ web platform (<https://redd.unfccc.int>)

### 4.1. National REDD+ Strategy / Action Plan (2017)<sup>6</sup>

National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2026 was submitted to UNFCCC in 2017. The scope of Cambodia's REDD+ Strategy will prioritize addressing deforestation, and build capacity alongside to later address forest degradation. Cambodia will implement REDD+ at the national level under the results-based payment mechanism of the UNFCCC. Cambodia will consider implementation of sub-national and voluntary market-based REDD+ projects subject to specific criteria. The three strategic objectives that have been identified to achieve the vision, mission and goal of the Strategy are to: (1) Improve management and monitoring of forest resources and forest land use; (2) Strengthen the implementation of sustainable forest management; and (3) Mainstream approaches to reduce deforestation, build capacity, and engage stakeholders.

### 4.2. Forest Reference (Emission) Levels (2017)<sup>7</sup>

FRL was submitted to UNFCCC assessed in 2017. The national FRL proposed by Cambodia for the historical reference period 2006–2014 is the annual average of the net carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions associated with deforestation, which in this context includes degradation and the enhancement of carbon stocks in forest land remaining forest land (with changes only in forest subcategories), and the removals of CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere through afforestation

<sup>6</sup> Cambodia's National REDD+ Strategy 2017-2026, (2017). pp.1-4.

<sup>7</sup> UNFCCC Report on the technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission level and forest reference level of Cambodia submitted in 2017, (2017). pp.3-4.

when other land uses are converted to forest land.

The information on activity data used in constructing the FRL was extracted from a historical time series of land-use maps for 2006, 2010 and 2014. Land-use maps for earlier historical time series (before 2006) were found to have inconsistencies in the definition of forest and the forest classification used before 2006; therefore, Cambodia only used information from the maps for 2006, 2010 and 2014.

The FRL presented in the modified submission with the aim of accessing results-based payments for REDD+ activities from 2015 to 2020 corresponds to 78,953,951 tCO<sub>2e</sub>/year.

The proposed FRL includes the above-ground and below-ground biomass pools and excludes the litter, deadwood and soil organic matter pools. Regarding greenhouse gases (GHGs), the submission includes CO<sub>2</sub>.

### **4.3. National Forest Monitoring System**

Cambodia has created the forest cover map in 1989, 1993, 1997, 2002, 2006, 2010, and 2014. However, the data has gaps due to different definition of forest and the classification before 2006.

The Mapathon<sup>8</sup> to collect information on drivers of deforestation and forest degradation all around the country was conducted. The data analysis has been completed and the report finalized. Besides this, the NFMS web portal was also updated with the 2006, 2010 and 2014 Land Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry (LULUCF) maps using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) classification. The LULUCF maps of 2016-2018 are completed, statistics and booklets were finalized and under endorsement by MoE. The emission factors for the flooded forest have been collected. With support from FAO, a team of the Royal University of Agriculture (RUA) is collecting Lianas sampling. The National Forest Inventory (NFI) field manual, which is needed to implement the data acquisition of forest inventories, has been translated to Khmer. The MRV team developed a methodology to import and analyze the global alerts on forest loss (GLAD alerts). This solution, based on cloud computer (Google Earth Engine), takes into account the alerts created by the “GLAD forest alerts” and check the areas with confirmed forest loss, using other spatial source information.

### **4.4. Safeguard Information System (2019)<sup>9</sup>**

The Safeguards Information System (SIS), together with the first Summary of Information (Sol) for Cambodia, has been completed, endorsed by the chairman of the National Council

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<sup>8</sup> Cambodia’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Country Progress Report 2020. pp.2-14

<sup>9</sup> Cambodia’s FCPF Country Progress Report 2020. pp.2-14.

for Sustainable Development (NCS), and has already been officially submitted to and posted in the UNFCCC web portal in 2019. The first Sol presents how Cambodia will address and respect Cancun Safeguards during REDD+ implementation and identifies key modalities and practical arrangements that will be promoted and are in line with national policies, laws and regulations and relevant international treaties and conventions. The Sol analyses the potential social and environmental risks that may be linked to REDD+ implementation and suggests appropriate remedial measures to mitigate those risks. The Sol also provides key indicators for gathering relevant information on how REDD+ safeguards will be addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+ policies and measures.

## 5. REDD+ Projects/Initiatives

### 5.1. REDD+ Projects

Table 9. REDD+ Projects Lists<sup>10</sup>

Project name	Proponent	Partners	Project Period	Project Area (ha)	Amount of emissions reductions and removals (tCO <sub>2</sub> e)		Certification
					Annual	Total	
Oddar Meanchey Community REDD+ Project <sup>11</sup>	Royal Government of Cambodia-Forestry Admin, Terra Global Capital LLC (TGC), Community Forestry International Inc. (CFI)	Children's Development Association, Monk's Community Forestry Association, Community Forestry Federation of Oddar Meanchey Province, community Forestry International, Terra Global Capital (TGC), William J. Clinton Foundation - Clinton Climate Initiative, Technical Working Group on Forestry and the Environment (TWG F&E), SNR Denton, National Council of Ministers	2008 - 2038	63,381	204,792	6,143,767	2013 First Issuance (VCS+CCB Triple Gold)
Tumring REDD+ Project (TRP) <sup>12</sup>	The Royal Government of Cambodia, Forestry Administration	Korea Forest Service, AFD (Agence Française de Développement)	2015 - 2045	66,645	325,680	2,800,000	2018 First Issuance (VCS+CCB)

<sup>10</sup> Based on REDD+ Cambodia (Website: [Project Listing | Cambodia Redd+ \(cambodia-redd.org\)](http://Project Listing | Cambodia Redd+ (cambodia-redd.org)))

<sup>11</sup> 1) Terra's Oddar Meanchey Community-based REDD Project Summary, (2014). pp.1-2.

2) International Database on REDD+ projects and programmes (Website: [International Database on REDD+ projects \(reddprojectsdatabase.org\)](http://International Database on REDD+ projects (reddprojectsdatabase.org)))

<sup>12</sup> International Database on REDD+ projects and programmes (Website: [International Database on REDD+ projects \(reddprojectsdatabase.org\)](http://International Database on REDD+ projects (reddprojectsdatabase.org)))

Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation in Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary <sup>13</sup>	Forestry Administration of Cambodia (Forestry Administration of Cambodia), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), USAID	local NGOs, WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) Cambodia Program, Cambodia Rural Development Team (CRDT), Sam Veasna Centre, World Education Inc., Community Legal Education Centre (CLEC)	2010 - 2069	292,690	314,000	1,570,000	2015 First Issuance (VCS+CCB)
Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project <sup>14</sup>	Forestry Administration of Cambodia (Forestry Administration of Cambodia), Wildlife Alliance (WA)	Institut Gaspard Monge, Equipe LIGM-GTMC UMR CNRS 6164, Rennes UMR CNRS 6164, Rennes, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (MAFF), Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), Provincial Government of Koh Kong, Local communities, ICE BV, Technical Working Group on Forestry and the Environment (TWG-F&E)	2015 - 2044	465,839	3,867,568 3,580,834	-	2018 First Issuance (VCS+CCB)

<sup>13</sup> Climate Link (Website: <https://www.climatelinks.org/blog/improving-community-resilience-and-biodiversity-conservation-sale-carbon-credits>)

<sup>14</sup> International Database on REDD+ projects and programmes (Website: [International Database on REDD+ projects \(reddprojectsdatabase.org\)](http://reddprojectsdatabase.org/) )

## 5.2. REDD+ Initiatives

Table 10. REDD+ Initiatives Lists

Development Partner	Initiatives	Objectives	Period
UN-REDD (UNDP / UNEP / FAO)	Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme by UN REDD Programme Fund (UNDP MPTF) <sup>15</sup>	To support Cambodia to be ready for REDD+ Implementation, including development of necessary institutions, policies and capacity.	2010-2015
UN-REDD (UNDP / UNEP / FAO)	Forest biomass in Cambodia: from field plots to national estimates <sup>16</sup>	To support the NFI and provide initial estimates of forest biomass across the country, this study aimed to harmonise forest inventory data collected by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) in partnership with different institutions, in 30 forest areas, with 15 different methodologies; secondly, test different approaches and combinations of allometric equations to estimate forest biomass; and thirdly to develop local tree height-diameter relationships when possible, and provide recommendations to improve forest biomass estimates	2014
UN-REDD (UNDP / UNEP / FAO)	Cambodia UN-REDD National Programme <sup>17</sup>	The completion of the National REDD+ Strategy by UN-REDD Programme, The elaboration of the national FRL by UN-REDD Programme, A proposal for a national approach to SIS developed by UN-REDD Programme, Completion of the NFMS design, Strengthened capacities to develop a National Forest Inventory (NFI), Revision of its NFI field manual by UN-REDD Programme	2017~
UN-REDD (UNDP)	1 <sup>st</sup> Targeted Support	Community Forestry Network, Community Fishery Network, and Community Protected Area Network strengthened so that they can participate in REDD+ readiness process, Assessment expanded of awareness-raising needs among members of the networks.	2013
UN-REDD (UNDP)	2nd Targeted Support	Stakeholders provided with REDD+ information, and awareness raised through various means of communication, Women effectively included into management of the REDD+ readiness process. By	2014

<sup>15</sup> UN-REDD Cambodia National Programme (NP) Annual Progress Report, (2014). pp.3-23.

<sup>16</sup> Cambodia's UN-REDD Report, (2014). Forest biomass in Cambodia: from field plots to national estimates. pp.3. (Website: <https://cambodia-redd.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Forest-biomass-in-Cambodia-from-field-plots-to-national-estimates.pdf>)

<sup>17</sup> UN-REDD Cambodia (Website: [Cambodia | UNREDD \(un-redd.org\)](http://Cambodia|UNREDD(un-redd.org)))

		March 2015, draft strategy adequately reflects gender perspectives.	
UN-REDD (FAO)	3rd Targeted Support	To strengthen capacity for development of the FREL/REL in Cambodia, and facilitate dialogue and exchange of information between Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal and Viet Nam on FREL/FRL development as they begin to interact with UNFCCC.	2015
FCPF	FCPF Readiness Preparation Grant <sup>18</sup>	FCPF readiness support	2013
FCPF	FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project Phase II (FCPF-II) <sup>19</sup>	<p>(Outcome)</p> <p>In Phase 2, the National REDD+ Strategy (NRS), the first Summary of Information (Sol) on Safeguards, a robust National Forest Monitoring System (NFMS) and the Second National Forest Reference Level. Recently, a REDD+ Action Investment Plan (AIP) has been developed to support the implementation of the NRS activities. Moreover, activities such as supporting key policy reports like the National Determined Contribution, the GHG Inventory, the Biennial Updated Report with REDD+ Technical Annex to the UNFCCC had received direct support through the FCPF Phase II project.</p>	<p>Phase 1: 2017-2021</p> <p>Phase 2: 2022-2026</p>
JICA	Project for Facilitating the Implementation of REDD+ Strategy and Policy (CAM-REDD) <sup>20</sup>	<p>(Outcome)</p> <p>The project assisted various initiatives in the REDD+ readiness stage of the multi-year work plan: Institutional Arrangements, Strategies/Policies, Demonstration Activities, and MRV/REL/ GHG Inventory.</p>	2011-2017

<sup>18</sup> FCPF Cambodia (Website: <https://www.forestcarbonpartnership.org/country/cambodia>)

<sup>19</sup> UNDP Cambodia Project Website - FOREST CARBON PARTNERSHIP FACILITY REDD+ READINESS PROJECT PHASE II (Website: <https://www.undp.org/cambodia/projects/forest-carbon-partnership-facility-redd-readiness-project-phase-ii-fcpf-ii>)

<sup>20</sup> JICA Outline of REDD+ Project (Website: <https://www.jica.go.jp/project/english/cambodia/015/outline/index.html>)



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