



PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

Project Code	AFoCO/012/2019
Project Title	The Registration of Small-Scale Private Forest Plantations
Project Duration	Start date: 1 January 2020 End date: 30 September 2022
Implementing Agency	Cambodia Forestry Administration
Implementing Country	Cambodia
Project Site	Han Chey Mountain in Han Chey commune, Kampong Siem district, Kampong Cham province. The project sites also include 16 communes located in Stueng Trang, Kampong Siem, and Chamkar Leu districts in Kampong Cham province as recipients of seedling distribution program.
Target Area¹	Primary Target Area: Priority 1: Initiating customized reforestation models. Secondary Target Areas: Priority 4: Local livelihood improvement through forest-related activities and Priority 5: Strengthening institutional capabilities and resource and regional actions.
Budget and Source of Finance	Total: US\$ 275,110 - AFoCO: US\$ 249,410 - National budget: US\$ 25,700

Implementing Agency Profile

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¹ Refer to the list of target areas which is in accordance with the objectives and prevailing strategic plan of AFoCO (provided by the Secretariat).

Notes to the Authors & Readers

The project completion report is a formal document, which presents all the relevant information about the project implementation. The report should be written in an accessible language, avoiding very technical terms. The use of graphical information, such as maps, tables and graphs, is an effective way of improving communication.

The following table of contents presents a sample list of items to be included in the completion report; however, the addition or revision of those items is recommended in pursuit of more effective and transparent delivery of the project results.

Draft of this completion report should be presented at the Final Coordination and Evaluation Meeting. The final version of this completion report should be submitted to the Secretariat within 3 months from the completion the date of the project together with the financial audit report.

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Summary

The overarching Goal of this project is to enhance forest cover, increase sustainable livelihood opportunities, reduce degradation of natural forests, and support local development by establishing small-scale, private forest plantations.' its Main (Development) Objective is 'To initiate the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations and prepare for a succeeding phase of the project in which the rate of establishment of those plantations is increased, and its Specific Objective is to institutionalize the means to encourage the establishment of sustainable small-scale private forest plantations. The project has been designed to achieve that Goal and those Objectives by addressing the principal problem of the 'Insufficient development of small-scale private forest plantations. The underlying causes of that problem include an 'Inadequate Enabling Environment,' resulting from the government's limited commitment and insufficient consideration of stakeholders' perspectives in resource management decision-making processes; and the 'Limited expertise selecting suitable small-scale plantation tree species' that reflects the incomplete information describing the patterns of growth of selected tree species and the imperfect understanding of markets for small-scale forest plantation products.

The project provides two remedial interventions that are compatible with the current situation in the country, designed to curtail the causes of the inadequate development of small-scale private forest plantations. The first of those addresses the inadequate enabling environment through the development and endorsement of appropriate guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations. The emergence of that enabling environment was made available from the organization of extensive consultations with broad-based stakeholder representation.

"Guidelines on Private Forest Registration in Cambodia" that aims at encouraging the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations were adopted by the Forestry Administration in June 2021 as the results of several consultations from which inputs have been collected such as "The inputs gained from this workshop following intensive discussion and consultations among participants especially inputs from the private sector will be used to improve the drafted guidelines especially the process and procedures ranging from submission of application to the issuance of registration certificate. The process is simplified to accommodate the local context." The positive impact of the Guidelines has resulted in approximately 360 ha of private forest plantations registered. This tendency will continue to grow, when farmers or owners of private plantations realize that only through the registration of private forest plantations, their harvesting and processing of wood from their forest plantations are legal.

The second intervention addresses the limited expertise selecting suitable small-scale plantation tree species by consolidating information on the patterns of growth and market demand of a preliminary selection of indigenous and introduced fast-growing tree species to assess their relative comparative advantages.

The implementation of these remedial measures provided the means for the application of the enabling environment and the comparative assessments of the patterns of growth and market demand in the selection of species to initiate pilot plantations and prepare plans to support the continued establishment of small-scale private forest plantations. That application required several interrelated actions, which included an initial step to corroborate that the processes and procedures that are developed for registering small-scale private forest plantations are consistent with the objectives of national reforestation and forest restoration programs. It also contributed to the strengthening of institutional capacity and expansion of outreach initiatives; the provision of multiple levels of training to prepare private sector entities and small-scale farmers to participate in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations; and the distribution of 100,000 seedlings of the selected tree species to 65-105 small-scale farmers to initiate the piloting of 375-425 ha of small-scale private forest plantations.

The project's contributions to achieving its Goal, as well as its Development Objective and Specific Objective, unleashed a process designed to ameliorate the effects of the primary problem addressed through the project, which is the insufficient development of small-scale private forest plantations, and ultimately result in more forest cover, improved local livelihoods, reduced degradation of natural forests, and increased investment in local development.

1. Introduction

Cambodia's natural forests, which have experienced significant declines in recent decades, have been under the management of the state and, until recently, there has been limited recognition and encouragement associated with the establishment of private forest plantations. This situation has discouraged the private sector, as well as those small-scale farmers who, except for their concerns about ownership claims and user rights, might otherwise have invested in plantation development. There is increasing recognition now of the constraints associated with excessive reliance on funding from the government for reforestation and forest restoration activities, however, that limits the application of those activities to a relatively small proportion of the country's degraded forestlands. Efforts to integrate an interrelated approach into forest landscape restoration activities that would arouse the private sector, small-scale farmers, and financial institutions – the latter of which have heretofore lacked collateral assurances from the government for loan programs - to invest in forest plantations – are increasing.

The principal elements of that approach were recently espoused when the country's first Declaration on Private Forests with the avowed aims of promoting public-private-farmer partnerships for establishing small- and medium-scale forest plantations and increasing forest cover throughout the country was promulgated. The implementation of that declaration requires an effective enabling environment, however, which would include the establishment of practical guidelines and incentives for confirming tenure and registering small-scale private forest plantations, accompanied by extensive stakeholder consultations and awareness raising campaigns, as well as the piloting of private small- and medium-scale forest plantations.

2. Background and Objectives

2.1. Project rationale

The principal problem addressed through the project is underscored in the Problem Tree. It is the 'Insufficient development of small-scale private forest plantations.' The limited development of those plantations has several consequences. It constrains investments in local development; reduces contributions to forest cover; increases degradation of natural forests; and limits opportunities to improve local livelihoods.

The underlying causes of the insufficient development of small-scale private forest plantations under current conditions in Cambodia include (1) an inadequate Enabling Environment, resulting from the government's limited commitment and insufficient consideration of stakeholders' perspectives in resource management decision-making processes; and (2) the limited expertise selecting suitable small-scale plantation tree species that reflects the absence of sufficient information and materials describing the patterns of growth of potential target tree species and the imperfect understanding of markets for small-scale forest plantation products.

The project provides two remedial interventions that are compatible with the current situation in the country designed to curtail the causes of the inadequate development of small-scale private forest plantations. The first of those addresses the inadequate enabling environment through the development and endorsement of appropriate guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.

The second intervention addresses the limited expertise selecting suitable small-scale plantation tree species by consolidating information on the patterns of growth and market demand of a preliminary selection of indigenous and introduced fast-growing tree species to assess their relative comparative advantages. That assessment was conducted under Output 2 of the project.

The most significant socioeconomic impacts experienced by local people, who were the primary beneficiaries of the project, is attributable to two improvements in conditions brought about through the project. The first of those was the enhanced incomes of local people as the result of the provision of increased opportunities for establishing pilot small-scale private forest plantations. There was the expanded availability and accessibility of the forest resources, especially non-timber forest products, resulting from the establishment of those plantations and the improved environmental conditions associated with the reduced degradation of natural forests.

There was also be a significant gender-related impact of the project, through which women were encouraged to participate in the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations. That participation was facilitated by the extended partnerships that were established through the project in engaging with recognized microfinance organizations with considerable experience lending to women to enhance livelihoods.

2.2. Project objectives

The project's contributions to achieving its Goal, which is 'To enhance forest cover, increase sustainable livelihood opportunities, reduce degradation of natural forests, and support local development by establishing small-scale private forest plantations,' its Development Objective, which is 'To initiate the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations and prepare for a succeeding phase of the project in which the rate of establishment of those plantations is increased' and its Specific Objective, which is 'To institutionalize the means to encourage the establishment of sustainable small-scale private forest plantations,' unleashed a process designed to ameliorate the effects of the primary problem addressed through the project, which is the insufficient development of small-scale private forest plantations, and ultimately result in more forest cover, improved local livelihoods, reduced degradation of natural forests, and increased investment in local development.

2.3. Assumption and risks

No.	Potential risks/Assumptions	Mitigation strategy
1.	Difficulties in obtaining government endorsement of the enabling environment developed to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	The risk associated with the difficulties in obtaining government endorsement of the enabling environment developed through the project was mitigated by achieving a broad consensus on the structure and content of the guidelines and incentives that included in the enabling environment. This was done through extensive consultations with stakeholders, especially with regard to ensuring sufficient representation of different levels of government throughout the consultation process.
2.	Unanticipated delays experienced in developing practical procedures for registering the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations.	The risk associated with unanticipated delays experienced in developing practical procedures for registering the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations was mitigated by the organization of a special round of stakeholder consultations. Those consultations included sufficient government representation to achieve consensus on the most effective procedures for registering the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations.
3.	There is a lack of interest among private sector and small-scale farmers in registering for the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations since, in their assessment, the long-term benefits of establishing and maintaining those plantations would not be considered sufficient	The risk associated with the lack of interest among private sector and small-scale farmers in registering for the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations was mitigated by redoubling efforts to raise awareness among private sector and small-scale farmers of both the short- and long-term benefits of registering for the piloting of those plantations. Those benefits included the mutually beneficial partnerships that were developed through the

No.	Potential risks/Assumptions	Mitigation strategy
	compensation, especially in the short run, for the costs and effort required to establish and maintain those plantations.	project in engaging with recognized microfinance organizations in the process of establishing the plantations.
4.	The life of the project of two years may be too short to ensure that the small-scale farmers who participate in the program was able to develop effective linkages to facilitate, as well as sustain, market operations, especially if unforeseen events occur, such as severe storms that reduce seedling survival during the course of the project.	The risk associated with the uncertainty of developing effective linkages to facilitate, as well as sustain, market operations due to the relatively short life of the was mitigated by consolidating considerations of the most effective manner of spreading out income and risks to increase the resilience of the program with those of the patterns of growth and markets in the determination, in consultation with local communities, of suitable tree species to be established in plantations.

3. Project Management

3.1. Management structure

Organizational structure

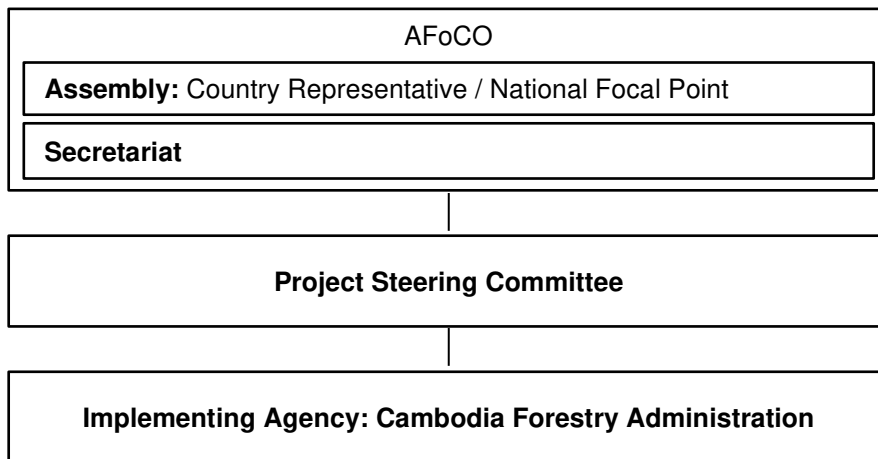
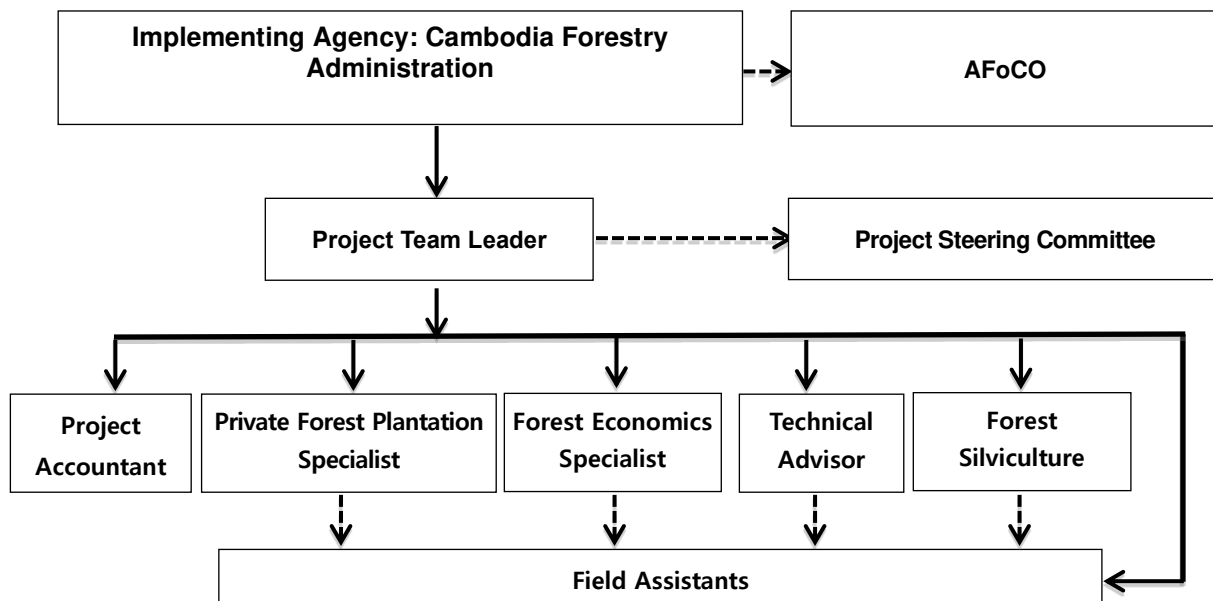


Figure 1. Organizational Structure of the Project.



The project was led by the Department of Forest Plantation Development and Private Forests. Project team leader executed and coordinated activities with other partners and stakeholders. The following organogram explains the organizational structure and the interactions between the implementing agency, project steering committee, project Advisory Committee and the activity management team.

In order to optimize the effectiveness of the project workforce, the Forestry Administration as Implementing Agency appointed project teams at Project Office in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. It is noted that some of the project staffs were actually working in normal positions and was assigned to assist with the project as additional work.

The project management team designated the Project Team Leader to coordinate interactions with the Project Executing Agencies and relevant government ministries and agencies in Cambodia, especially the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, to ensure that the project is implemented with appropriate institutional mechanisms. The Project Accountant assisted in coordinating day-to-day project activities, especially those involving provincial stakeholders, to ensure that coordination occurs in a meaningful manner on a regular schedule.

3.2. Work plan and schedule

The table below is the final revision which was approved by AFoCO Secretariat during the Special PSC Meeting virtually organized on 21 October 2021.

Table 1: Final Work Plan (approved project document)

Outputs	Performance Indicator	Responsible Person/Body	Annual Timeline								Remarks
			Year 1				Year 2				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
Objective 1											
<i>(Output 1)</i> Guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are developed and endorsed.											
A. 1.1 Establish a coordination committee to ensure effective implementation of the project in accordance with project-related requirements and regulations.	There is a TOR developed and the coordination committee is established with broad-based representation of primary, secondary, and tertiary stakeholders.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist									
A.1.2 Conduct a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and organize extensive consultations with stakeholders to develop appropriate guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	The guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are developed.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									
A.1.3 Organize national consultative workshops to review and endorse the guidelines and incentives.	The organization of several national workshops with representation from other AFoCO member states in the region with experience in developing and applying guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	Project Team Lead Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									

Outputs	Performance Indicator	Responsible Person/Body	Annual Timeline								Remarks
			Year 1				Year 2				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<i>(Output 2)</i> Comparative assessments of the patterns of growth and market demand to use in the selection of species to provide in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are prepared.											
A. 2.1 Evaluate the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment of a preliminary selection of indigenous and introduced fast-growing trees from which the species that will be selected to establish small-scale private forest plantations will be determined.	The completed evaluation of the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									
A. 2.2 Review the current consumption patterns in local, national, and regional markets of the preliminary selection of tree species.	The completed review of current consumption patterns.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									
A. 2.3 Evaluate the competitive advantages associated with the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment, as well as on market demand, of the preliminary selection of tree species.	The completed evaluation of the competitive advantages of the preliminary selection of tree species.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									

Outputs	Performance Indicator	Responsible Person/Body	Annual Timeline								Remarks
			Year 1				Year 2				
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	
<i>(Output 3)</i> Capacity building and outreach activities to initiate pilot plantations and prepare plans to support the continued establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are provided.											
A. 3.1 Incorporate measures to ensure that processes and procedures for confirming tenure through the registration of small-scale private forest plantations are consistent with the objectives of national reforestation and forest restoration programs.	The confirmation of tenure and compliance of processes and procedures with national reforestation and forest restoration programs.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									
A. 3.2 Organize and deliver multiple levels of training to prepare private sector entities and small-scale farmers to participate in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	Several training modules, including training to assist small-scale farmers to develop linkages to markets, delivered to 200-300 private sector entities and small-scale farmer participants, including those registering for the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations in a succeeding phase of the project.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									
A. 3.3 Procure and distribute 100,000 seedlings of suitable tree species, determined in consultation with local communities. to small-scale farmers for the initial piloting of the program to establish small-scale private forest plantations.	The distribution of 100,000 seedlings of suitable tree species to small-scale farmers.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist Project Field Team									

Outputs	Performance Indicator	Responsible Person/Body	Annual Timeline								Remarks		
			Year 1				Year 2						
			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
A. 3.4 Prepare proposals to secure sufficient funding from other sources to implement a succeeding phase of the project to establish small-scale private forest plantations.	There will be several proposals submitted to donors for funding a succeeding phase of the project.	Project Team Leader Technical Advisor Forest Economics Specialist Forest Silviculture Specialist Private Forest Plantation Specialist											

Table 1a: Final Work Plan (as approved for project no cost extension)

Outputs	Performance Indicator	Responsible Person/Body	Approved Annual Workplan				Monthly Plan-modified												Monthly Plan-extended Y3					
			Year 2 (1 Jan. - 31 Dec. 2021)				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6
Objective 1			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4																		
<i>(Output 1)</i> Guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are developed and endorsed.																								
A. 1.1 Establish a coordination committee to ensure effective implementation of the project in accordance with project-related requirements and regulations.	There is a TOR developed and the coordination committee is established with broad-based representation of primary, secondary, and tertiary stakeholders.	Project Team Leader																						
		Technical Advisor																						
		Forest Economics Specialist																						
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																						
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																						
A. 1.2 Conduct a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and organize extensive consultations with stakeholders to develop appropriate guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	The guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are developed.	Project Team																						
		Leader																						
		Technical Advisor																						
		Forest Economics Specialist																						
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																						
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																						
A. 1.3 Organize national consultative workshops to review and endorse the guidelines and incentives.	The organization of several national workshops with representation from other AFoCO member states in the region with experience in developing and applying guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	Project Team Lead																						
		Technical Advisor																						
		Forest Economics Specialist																						
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																						
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																						
		Project Field Team																						
<i>(Output 2)</i> Comparative assessments of the patterns of growth and market demand to use in the selection of species to provide in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are prepared.																								
A. 2.1 Evaluate the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment of a preliminary selection of indigenous and introduced fast-growing trees from which the species that will be selected to establish small-scale private forest plantations will be determined.	The completed evaluation of the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment.	Project Team Leader																						
		Technical Advisor																						
		Forest Economics Specialist																						
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																						
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																						
		Project Field Team																						

Outputs	Performance Indicator	Responsible Person/Body	Approved Annual Workplan Year 2 (1 Jan. - 31 Dec. 2021)				Monthly Plan-modified												Monthly Plan-extended Y3						
							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6	
A. 2.2 Review the current consumption patterns in local, national, and regional markets of the preliminary selection of tree species.	The completed review of current consumption patterns.	Project Team Leader																							
		Technical Advisor																							
		Forest Economics Specialist																							
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																							
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																							
		Project Field Team																							
A. 2.3 Evaluate the competitive advantages associated with the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment, as well as on market demand, of the preliminary selection of tree species.	The completed evaluation of the competitive advantages of the preliminary selection of tree species.	Project Team Leader																							
		Technical Advisor																							
		Forest Economics Specialist																							
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																							
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																							
		Project Field Team																							
<i>(Output 3)</i> Capacity building and outreach activities to initiate pilot plantations and prepare plans to support the continued establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are provided.																									
A. 3.1 Incorporate measures to ensure that processes and procedures for confirming tenure through the registration of small-scale private forest plantations are consistent with the objectives of national reforestation and forest restoration programs.	The confirmation of tenure and compliance of processes and procedures with national reforestation and forest restoration programs.	Project Team Leader																							
		Technical Advisor																							
		Forest Economics Specialist																							
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																							
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																							
		Project Field Team																							
A. 3.2 Organize and deliver multiple levels of training to prepare private sector entities and small-scale farmers to participate in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	Several training modules, including training to assist small-scale farmers to develop linkages to markets, delivered to 200-300 private sector entities and small-scale farmer participants, including those registering for the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations in a succeeding phase of the project.	Project Team Leader																							
		Technical Advisor																							
		Forest Economics Specialist																							
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																							
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																							
		Project Field Team																							

Outputs	Performance Indicator	Responsible Person/Body	Approved Annual Workplan Year 2 (1 Jan. - 31 Dec. 2021)				Monthly Plan-modified												Monthly Plan-extended Y3					
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	1	2	3	4	5	6				
A. 3.3 Procure and distribute 100,000 seedlings of suitable tree species, determined in consultation with local communities, to small-scale farmers for the initial piloting of the program to establish small-scale private forest plantations.	The distribution of 100,000 seedlings of suitable tree species to small-scale farmers.	Project Team Leader																						
		Technical Advisor																						
		Forest Economics Specialist																						
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																						
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																						
		Project Field Team																						
A. 3.4 Prepare proposals to secure sufficient funding from other sources to implement a succeeding phase of the project to establish small-scale private forest plantations.	There will be several proposals submitted to donors for funding a succeeding phase of the project.	Project Team Leader																						
		Technical Advisor																						
		Forest Economics Specialist																						
		Forest Silviculture Specialist																						
		Private Forest Plantation Specialist																						

Note:

	Approved Annual Workplan
	Monthly Plan-modified
	Monthly Plan-extended Y3

4. Performance

4.1 Planned vs. actual implementation

Output/Activity	Planned Target	Accomplishment	Remarks/ Explanation
<p>A.1.1 Establish a coordination committee to ensure effective implementation of the project in accordance with project-related requirements and regulations.</p>	<p>There is a TOR developed and the coordination committee is established with broad-based representation of primary, secondary, and tertiary stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An operational project office has been set as renting the office space for 2 years with office supplies. • 4 sets of office device/equipment have been procured. • 6 project staff and experts have been hired to facilitate project implementation and PCC affairs. • A TOR for PCC has been developed by 6 project staff and experts. • Following the TOR, a set of project information and research findings publications has been prepared every year by the PCC. • An annual training for the project staff has been conducted at the RETC. • Project audit has been conducted every year by the end of the financial year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project office was established at the Department of Forest Plantation Development and Private Forest. • Four computers (two laptops and two desktops) were procured for the implementation of the project. • Six project staff were recruited which include project team leader, accountant, forest economics specialist, private forest plantation specialist and silver-culture specialist and project assistants. • A TOR for PCC was prepared. • Publication of guidelines and incentives on private forest registration. • Distribution of seedlings in 16 communes, Consultation Workshop on Guidelines for the Registration of Private Forest Plantations were posted on FA's Facebook and progress of Registration of Small Scale Private Plantations (Draft article submitted for publication in FA's Forestry and Wildlife Magazine). • Story 1: "Supporting the registration of small-scale private forest plantations in Cambodia" • Story 2: "Toward afforestation and adaptation to climate change and non-formal economic development in Cambodia: Customized forest models through tree plantations and agroforestry practices of local communities." • The project team attended the Annual Technical Workshop for Project Management and Performance Review, held on 29 April 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. • Story 4: " National Tree Plantation Day" (Arbor Day). • The Project team did not attend physical training course at RETC due to the Covid-19. • The project audit has been conducted in August 2022. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All of planned targets were achieved except the attendance of training as part of capacity building for project staff at RETC because of Covid-19 pandemic. In this case the budget allocated for participating in the training was reallocated to implementation of Activity 1.2 and 3.3. • Although the project staff did not attend physically training at RECTC, four project staff participated in capacity trainings organized virtually by RECTC. Additionally, the project staff presented the project progress of the AFoCO project 012/2019 during the Annual Technical Workshop for Project Management and Performance Review, held on 29 April 2022 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. • Auditing of the project was revised from annual audit to project completion which was adopted at the First PSC Meeting organized virtually in January 2021.

Output/Activity	Planned Target	Accomplishment	Remarks/ Explanation
<p>A.1.2 Conduct a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and organize extensive consultations with stakeholders to develop appropriate guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.</p>	<p>The guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are developed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 sets of information and research findings about the guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations] are published every year based on outputs from consultation meetings and the conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formal and informal consultations were organized with relevant stakeholders which include commune authorities in the target areas, provincial cantonments of the Forestry Administration and private sectors in 2020 and 2021 to collect data and inputs to prepare guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small scale private forest plantations. • The guidelines on private forest registration in Cambodia that included practical procedure for forest registration and incentives was developed, consulted and approved by the Forestry Administration in June 2021. • The guidelines were published and distributed to central departments of FA and provincial cantonments of FA. • Story 3: "Toward Reforestation in Cambodia: The Development of Guidelines for Establishing and Registering Private Forests in Cambodia" was uploaded to the AFoCO website. • Report on Extension and Consultation Workshop on Rules and Guidelines for the Registration of Private Forest Plantations in Cambodia was uploaded to AFoCO Website. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of this activity was completed in accordance with the schedule. However, the adoption of guidelines and incentives were delayed due to the need for additional review and consultations at national level and experiencing global and national Covid-19 pandemic.
<p>A.1.3 Organize national consultative workshops to review and endorse the guidelines and incentives.</p>	<p>The organization of several national workshops with representation from other AFoCO member states in the region with experience in developing and applying guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A national consultative workshop on guideline and Incentive is organized each year as inviting approximately 50 participants from Cambodia (the AFoCO Member Countries). • A set of information and research findings about Workshop proceeding are published every year based on outputs from consultation meetings and the conference. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three national workshops were organized to consult and extend guidelines on registration of private forest plantation on 26-27 October 2020, 10 September 2021 and 4-5 August 2022 with 369 participants in attendance from FA officials at national and provincial levels, provincial departments of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, NGOs, donor countries, private sector and politicians, education institutions and local communities. • Preparation of reports of consultation and extension workshop was completed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Activity was completed in accordance with workplan although implementation of the Activity was extended due to Covid-19 restriction issued by the Government to ban the gathering of people. • One workshop was virtually organized as a way to avoid the spread of Covid-19 and follow the ban on physical gathering of people.

Output/Activity	Planned Target	Accomplishment	Remarks/ Explanation
<p>A.2.1 Evaluate the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment of a preliminary selection of indigenous and introduced fast-growing trees from which the species that will be selected to establish small-scale private forest plantations will be determined.</p>	<p>The completed evaluation of the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of information and research findings about assessment report on the patterns of growth and potential impacts of selected indigenous and introduced fast-growing is published. 	<p>The Review and Evaluation Report on Growth Trends of the Potential Impacts on the Environment of Preliminarily Selected Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province was completed.</p>	<p>The execution the Activity was completed in accordance with workplan.</p>
<p>A.2.2 Review the current consumption patterns in local, national, and regional markets of the preliminary selection of tree species.</p>	<p>The completed review of current consumption patterns.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 sets of information and research findings about the current consumption patterns of the preliminary selection of tree species have been published. 	<p>The Report entitled “Review and Evaluation Report On Consumption Pattern and Prospect Potentials of Preliminarily Selected Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province” was completed.</p>	<p>The implementation of this Activity was successfully completed although the execution of the Activity was extended to the first semester of 2022 due to Covid-19 and requirements for continuing to collect information and data to prepare this report.</p>
<p>A.2.3 Evaluate the competitive advantages associated with the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment, as well as on market demand, of the preliminary selection of tree species.</p>	<p>The completed evaluation of the competitive advantages of the preliminary selection of tree species.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of information and research finding about the competitive advantages associated with the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment, as well as on market demand, of the preliminary selection of tree species has been published. 	<p>The Report entitled Evaluation of the Competitive Advantages of the Preliminarily Selected Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province was completed including the survival rate of distributed seedlings to local communities, private individuals and public institutions.</p>	<p>The implementation of this Activity was successfully completed although the execution of the Activity was extended to the first semester of 2022 due to Covid-19 and requirements for continuing to collect information and data to prepare technical report.</p>

Output/Activity	Planned Target	Accomplishment	Remarks/ Explanation
<p>A.3.1 Incorporate measures to ensure that processes and procedures for confirming tenure through the registration of small-scale private forest plantations are consistent with the objectives of national reforestation and forest restoration programs.</p>	<p>The confirmation of tenure and compliance of processes and procedures with national reforestation and forest restoration programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A set of information and research finding about training reports has been published in 2021. 	<p>Report entitled review of measures to ensure that process and procedures for confirming tenure through the registration of small-scale private forest plantations was completed.</p>	<p>The execution of the Activity was completed in accordance with workplan.</p>
<p>A.3.2 Organize and deliver multiple levels of training to prepare private sector entities and small-scale farmers to participate in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.</p>	<p>Several training modules, including training to assist small-scale farmers to develop linkages to markets, delivered to 200-300 private sector entities and small-scale farmer participants, including those registering for the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations in a succeeding phase of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 trainings for approximately 150 private sector entities, and small-scale farmers have been conducted every year • A set of information and research finding about training reports has been published in 2021. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four training-two physical and two online trainings were organized in parallel with national extension workshops on guidelines on registration of private forest plantations on 26-27 October 2020, 6 August 2021, 10 September 2021 and 4-5 August 2022 with 390 participants in attendance from FA officials at national and provincial levels, provincial departments of agriculture, forestry and fisheries, NGOs, donor countries, private sector and politicians, education institutions and local communities. • Informal training were provided to some 300 famers and public institutions how to plant and maintain seedlings distributed in parallel with distribution of seedlings, participation of planting of seedlings by project team and monitoring of survival rate of seedlings. • Reports on Extension and Consultation Workshops on Guidelines on Private Forest Registration and Private Forest rule were prepared and published. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The implementation of The Activity was extended to 2022 and successfully completed in August 2022. The extension of the Activity was undertaken due to Covid-19 restriction issued by the Government to ban the gathering of people. • Four trainings were organized compared with three in the project document. • 390 participants attended training workshops compared to 200-300 farmers in the project documents.

Output/Activity	Planned Target	Accomplishment	Remarks/ Explanation
<p>A.3.3 Procure and distribute 100,000 seedlings of suitable tree species, determined in consultation with local communities. to small-scale farmers for the initial piloting of the program to establish small-scale private forest plantations.</p>	<p>Distribution of 100,000 seedlings of suitable tree species to small scale farmers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 species have been selected by 8th April 2020. • 100,000 seedlings have been procured by 9th April 2020. • 100,000 seedlings have been distributed to 300 small-scale farmers and institutions. • A set of information and research findings about the demand of seedlings has been published 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 species of seedlings (16 timber species and 3 fruit tree species) were distributed to local communities and public institutions • A total of 116,500 seedlings were distributed to 2340 families in 64 villages, in 16 communes and three districts. • The species demand for seedlings was included in the Review and Evaluation Report Growth Trends and Potential Impacts on the Environment of Preliminarily Selected Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province. • The survival rates of the distributed seedlings were included in the Evaluation of the Competitive Advantages of the Preliminarily Selected Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Activity was successfully completed in 2021. • 19 species of seedlings including fruit trees were distributed compared to 15 species in the project document due to demand for other species by local communities and public institutions. • Additional 16,500 seedlings were distributed as part of reallocation of savings/ carry-over of the project budget, compared to original 100,000 seedlings from the project document. • 2,340 families were distributed with seedlings compared to 300 farmers in the project document. The increase of families/farmers because they need small numbers of trees to be planted on their residential and agricultural land not as forest plantations.
<p>A.3.4 Prepare proposals to secure sufficient funding from other sources to implement a succeeding phase of the project to establish small-scale private forest plantations.</p>	<p>There will be several proposals submitted to donors for funding a succeeding phase of the project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A project proposal has been developed 	<p>Four concept notes of a project proposal were prepared and submitted to AFoCO Secretariat, UNCCD and Mekong Lancang Cooperation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of Benefits through the Development of Ecotourism to Improve Livelihood of Local Communities and Forest Conservation in Phnom Chang Kran Roy Community Forestry, Siem Reap Province. • Enhancing the establishment of agroforestry practices and bamboo plantations to support local economies and sustainable landscape management and restoration in the upper Mekong River region (Kampong Cham and Kratie provinces) of Cambodia. • Integrating Forest Landscape Restoration to enhance climate change mitigation and adaptation capabilities, and Sustainable Livelihood Development, in the northern provinces of Cambodia. • The Registration of Small-Scale Private Forest Plantations (Phase II). 	<p>The Activity was completed in accordance with workplan.</p>

4.2 Planned vs. actual budget

Output/ activity		Planned (USD)	Revised	Expenditure	Remarks/Explanation
TOTAL OPERATIONAL BUDGET (AFoCO and National)		75,110.00	75,110.00	275,110.00	
Output 1: Guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are developed and endorsed.		108,190.00	94,435.00	94,435.00	
A1.1	Establish a coordination structure to ensure effective implementation of the project in accordance with project-related requirements and regulations.	42,000.00	38,876.25	38,876.25	The budget for capacity building of the project staff at RETC was not possible due to Covid-19 and some savings of USD 3,123.75 from the implementation of this Activity. The savings were reallocated to Activity 1.2 (USD 1,530) and Activity 3.3 (USD1,593) when a proposal was developed for Covid-19 coping measures.
A1.2	Conduct a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) and organize extensive consultations with stakeholders to develop appropriate guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	32,560.00	34,090.00	34,090.00	USD 1,530 was reallocated from Activity 1.1 due to the need for additional review and consultations before the guideline was approved by FA.
A1.3	Organize national consultative workshops to review and endorse the guidelines and incentives.	33,630.00	21,468.75	21,468.75	There was a carry-over of USD 17,161 due to Covid-19 and only one consultation workshop was physically organized on 26-27 November 2021 and some of fund was contributed by CITES for the organizing of the workshop. One workshop was maintained with the budget of USD5,000 while 12,161 was reallocated to Activity 3.3.
Output 2: Field assessment of wood-based demand to use in the selection of species to provide in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are undertaken.		48,205.00	48,205.00	48,205.00	
A2.1	Evaluate the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment of a preliminary selection of indigenous and introduced fast-growing trees from which the species that will be selected to establish small-scale private forest plantations will be determined.	10,615.00	10,280.00	10,280.00	The expenditure was in accordance with budget plan
A2.2	Review the current consumption patterns in local, national, and regional markets of the preliminary selection of tree species.	25,085.00	25,420.00	25,420.00	The expenditure was in accordance with budget plan
A2.3	Evaluate the competitive advantages associated with the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment, as well as on market demand, of the preliminary selection of tree species.	12,505.00	12,505.00	12,505.00	The expenditure was in accordance with budget plan

Output 3: Capacity building and outreach activities to initiate pilot plantations and prepare plans to support the continued establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are provided.		118,715.00	132,470.00	132,470.00	
A3.1	Incorporate measures to ensure that processes and procedures for confirming tenure through the registration of small-scale private forest plantations are consistent with the objectives of national reforestation and forest restoration programs.	16,030.00	14,485.00	14,485.00	There was savings of USD1,545 due to the implementation of this Activity was completed in accordance with workplan. The savings were reallocated to Activity 3.3
Output/ activity		Planned (USD)	Revised	Expenditure	Remarks/Explanation
A3.2	Organize and deliver multiple levels of training to prepare private sector entities and small-scale farmers to participate in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations.	17,730.00	15,785.00	15,785.00	The expenditure of this Activity is less than budget plan with carry-over of USD 1,945. The savings was reallocated to Activity 3.3.
A3.3	Procure and distribute 100,000 seedlings of suitable tree species, determined in consultation with local communities, to small-scale farmers for the initial piloting of the program to establish small-scale private forest plantations.	81,880.00	99,600.00	99,600.00	The expenditure of this Activity was higher than budget plan. The implementation of this Activity was extended beyond original workplan. Considering the importance of environment impacts and achievement of project objective and additional demand for seedlings, reallocation of budget of USD17,720 from Activity 1.1 (USD1,593; Activity 1.3 (USD 12,161.25); Activity 3.1 (USD 1,545); Activity 3.2 (USD 1,945) and A3.4 (USD475).
A3.4	Prepare proposals to secure sufficient funding from other sources to implement a succeeding phase of the project to establish small-scale private forest plantations.	3,075.00	2,600.00	2,600.00	The expenditure was less that budget plan. There was savings of USD475. The savings was reallocated to Activity 3.3.

Note: The reallocation of budget and project extension developed to cope with Covid-19 measures was approved by AFoCO Secretariat during the Special PSC Meeting organized on 21 October 2021. The budget of both the revised and the actual expenditure is included in-kind contribution from the government.

4.3. Implementation issues and constraints

The limited availability of data associated with primary selected species especially the growth patterns and current consumption patterns of selected individual species in Cambodia precluded the predictive use of the Chapman-Richards growth model and slowed down the preparation of reports on the evaluation of the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment, consumption patterns in local, national, and regional markets and the evaluation of the competitive advantages associated with the patterns of growth and potential impacts on the environment, as well as on market demand, of the preliminary selection of tree species. It is noted that there is a limited research on growth patterns of indigenous tree species, especially the species selected to distribute to local communities and public institutions to meet their demand. In addition to the growth patterns, data associated with current consumption patterns was lacking with specific individual tree species and there are limited researches on consumption patterns of each tree species in each province of Cambodia.

The guidelines to register private forest are limited to the registration of private forest plantations in Cambodia. However, the workshop has suggested that the guidelines should also cover and expand the registration to not only private forest plantations but also to forest plantations planted on economic land concession, public-private partnership plantations on forest state land and forest plantations under leasing contract of forest state land. In this context, the Private Forest Rules issued in 2017 should be amended to cover the registration of forest plantations on forest state land and economic land concession.

Covid-19 outbreak hindered physical meetings with stakeholders and local communities, trainings, consultations and workshops, as well as general travel to Kampong Cham province and the project area, which slows down the implementation of some activities.

The Project area (Han Chey commune) is not large enough to accommodate the distribution of 100,000 seedlings to local communities, public institutions and private landowners, which is required to be expanded. Some of local communities prefer fruit trees to plant on their residential and agricultural land rather than indigenous trees due to short term harvest compared with tree plantations and the majority of households hold small piece of land which usually used for agriculture production not for tree planting.

5. Impact Analysis

In accordance with their respective Work and Budget Plan, the implementation of various activities under this project yielded outputs/deliverables which are considered success indicators for the achievement of its goals and objectives:

5.1. Outputs and outcomes

5.1.1 Guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are developed and endorsed.

Guidelines and incentives to encourage the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations were adopted by the Forestry Administration in June 2021 as the results of several consultations from which inputs have been collected such as “The inputs gained from this workshop following intensive discussion and consultations among participants especially inputs from the private sector will be used to improve the drafted guidelines especially the process and procedures ranging from submission of application to the issuance of registration certificate. The process is simplified to accommodate the local context.”

The adoption and extension of the guidelines enable private sector to submit their applications to register their private forest plantations in Cambodia. The positive impact of the endorsement by the Forestry Administration of the “Guidelines on Private Forest Registration in Cambodia” has resulted in approximately 360 ha of private forest plantations registered. This tendency will continue to grow, when farmers or owners of private plantations realize that only through the registration of private forest plantations, their harvesting and processing of wood from their forest plantations are legal. In addition, the registration of private forest plantations will provide incentives and benefits to farmers and private sector in the form of capacity building and technical assistance if requested, reduction of export tax of wood products from forest plantations, transportation of harvested wood without hindrance or payment of public service. The guidelines serve as policy support to promote the establishment of private forest plantations in other parts of Cambodia to meet domestic demand and reduce pressures on natural forests.

5.1.2 Comparative assessments of the patterns of growth and market demand to use in the selection of species to provide in the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are prepared.

The report on the comparative assessments of the patterns of growth and market demand to use in the selection of species for the establishment of small-scale private forest plantations is published and disseminated as widely as possible to the public, farmers and individuals to promote the establishment of small scale private forest plantations of primary selected species. It is expected that farmers, private sector and individuals use the publication of documents as a model to select suitable indigenous tree species to plant on their private land, generate revenues, and meet domestic demand for wood supplies. The 16 selected tree species in the areas where they were planted, with both general and specific benefits to the environment. Those include soil improvement, nitrogen fixation, soil erosion control, provision of shade, enhanced food productivity, forage production, medicinal plants, forest restoration, and multiple uses such as fuel wood and intercropping in agroforestry systems.

5.1.3 Capacity building and outreach activities to initiate pilot plantations and prepare plans to support the continued establishment of small-scale private forest plantations are provided.

The capacity building and outreach activities provided by the project through organizing trainings, workshops both formal and informal consultations and meetings, together with the procurement and distribution of 116,500 seedlings among local communities, carry a take-home message with awareness raising on importance of planting trees for long-term benefits which enable local communities and individuals and public institutions to plant more trees on their residential and agricultural land in the form of plantations or agro-forestry that will expand the cover of forest areas and meet partially domestic wood demand in the future.

116,500 seedlings were distributed to 2,340 families in 64 villages, in 16 communes and three districts, which is as part of incentives of the project (Seedling distribution was planned only in one commune and one district). The seedlings distributed grows well with approximately 92-93% of survival rate and average height of 1.15 - 2.50 m. It is anticipated that large plantations of private individuals receiving seedlings from the project will increase green cover and fruit trees provided by the project will be harvested in years to come that local communities can generate incomes.

At first, there was very little expectation that there would be a request for private forest registration immediately after the consultative workshop in November 2020, while the guidelines itself were in the process of editing and requesting for the final endorsement for publication and official use on the ground. Notwithstanding and interestingly, there were two companies, the first private sector in Cambodia, that have applied to register their private forest plantations in just six months since the consultative workshop in the late 2020. Totally, there are four locations of 360 hectares of private forest plantations that have just been registered in the first semester 2021. Such a positive immediate impact becomes obvious that the private sector has been very interested in investing in forest plantations in Cambodia, which plays a key role and contributes significantly to forest plantation development and forest rehabilitation in Cambodia.

5.2. Internal & external impacts

The implementation of capacity building under the Project primarily resulted to the increase in the capacity of community members and government officials & personnel directly involved in the implementation of the project with regard to guidelines and incentives on registration of forest plantations, selection of tree species and consumption patterns, planting technique and maintenance of planted seedlings. To optimize opportunity, lessons learned in the course of project implementation and training activities are expected to be promoted to external stakeholders such as other members of the community, other relevant agencies, and academic institutions in other parts of Cambodia. In the instant case, the plantation sites may serve as a good model for other farmers and institutions in other provinces of Cambodia to promote tree plantations which provide environmental, social and economic benefits. In terms of impacts to the project, the distribution of seedlings and planting of indigenous and fruit tree species and the registration of private forest plantations initiated by the project were expected to facilitate the improvement of green cover, economic benefits and environmental aspect, carbon storage, provision of wood and non-timber forest products. Provided that the project plantation sites will be sustainably managed, these changes/impacts are likewise expected to naturally scale up to other areas and provinces of Cambodia. The distribution of more than 116,500 seedlings of the 16 species to the local communities will contribute, as well, to the genetic conservation of native high-value commercial tree species.

5.3. Local applicability

The design of the project took into account of local conditions, especially in the project target area where seedlings were distributed to local communities and public institutions to be planted in the form

of tree plantations or agro-forestry. The demand for species of seedlings and numbers of seedlings required by local communities, public institutions and an individual were assessed to collect data and information as details as possible, combined with selection of preference species suitable for geographical conditions. As such, approaches used by the project to distribute seedlings for planting on residential and agricultural land are expected to be likewise applicable to neighboring/adjacent areas or other parts of the provinces of Cambodia. Moreover, best practices, lessons and experiences gained by the implementation of the project may be used as reference of farmers and other private owners of plantations to promote, encourage and scale up the planting of trees of indigenous species. There are still contentious issues related to private land, especially private land used to plant trees. However, currently many land plots in Cambodia have not been registered or have no land titles that may not be encouraged by the process of the registration of private forest plantations. Although the consultation workshop set clear criteria and conditions for the registration of private forest plantations, high-level decision on the land issues is necessary to ensure that the process and procedures for the registration of private forest plantations will go smoothly.

5.4. Sustainability

There are several factors that will contribute to the sustainability of project activities and the continued involvement of Cambodia Forest Administration officials in the completed activities of the project after its close. Those factors will include:

- The recent promulgation of the country's first Declaration on Private Forests, with the purpose of promoting public-private-farmer partnerships for establishing small- and medium-scale forest plantations and increasing forest cover. This action executed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries signals government recognition of the deforestation and forest degradation that has occurred in the country. It also underscores recognition of the importance of encouraging public-private-farmer partnerships in promoting the establishment of small- and medium-scale forest plantations throughout the country;
- The subsequent development and institutionalization of an effective enabling environment during the project to facilitate the widespread application of the Declaration on Private Forests. This will include the establishment of practical guidelines for the registration of small-scale private forest plantations accompanied by awareness raising campaigns and extensive stakeholder consultations;
- The preparations completed during this phase of the project, especially with regard to the establishment of practical procedures for registering the piloting of small-scale private forest plantations and the provision of multiple levels of training to prepare private sector entities and small-scale farmers to participate in piloting small-scale private forest plantations. The preparations will extend to the distribution of 100,000 seedlings of suitable trees species to 65-105 small-scale farmers to initiate the piloting of 375-425 ha of small-scale private forest plantations.
- The incorporation of various policies, strategies, and programs to support and complement the implementation of broader development plans in the design of the project that reflect long-term national priorities, including those policies, strategies, and programs that are embedded in the following documents:
 - National Forest Program, 2010-2029.
 - Forestry Strategic Deployment Plan 2017-2030.
 - Rectangular Strategy Phase IV, 2018-2023.
 - Cambodia Sustainable Development Goals 2017-2030.
 - Cambodia's Initial and Draft Second National Communication under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).
- The project aims to register private forest plantations in Cambodia in collaboration with the Department of Forest Plantations and Private Forest Development to promote the process of

registration and development of private forests in Cambodia, especially to expand interest and promote. Involve the private sector in investing in a wide range of plantations across Cambodia, to contribute to maintaining a balanced natural forest ecosystem is fundamental to supporting Cambodia's sustainable economic development. Forests contribute significantly to all 17 goals of the UN Sustainable Development Goals, ensure food security and safety nets, improve livelihoods, provide employment and reduce poverty, promote nutrition and health, sustain production, economic growth, water resources and energy. Forests protect fisheries resources, equality of the environment, build partnership policies and education, preserve biodiversity and terrestrial ecosystems, promote gender equality, support urban sustainability, and develop infrastructure to adapt to climate change.

6. Challenges and Lesson Learned

The project encountered different challenges in the aspects of project formulation, operational, administrative, and external factors in the project implementation. Likewise, executing agency documented lessons learned in the implementation of project activities.

6.1. Project formulation aspect

The formulation of the project is in line with AFoCO guidelines. However, data and information used for the preparation of the project were not sufficient and sometimes did not reflect on the ground. Solid data and information were limited which may require to be collected in during the implementation of the project. One of the challenges in the formulation of the project is the project target area. The target area is selected in one commune namely Han Chey located in the Kampong Siem district. However, the target area is too small to accommodate the distribution of 100,000 seedlings.

The formulation of the project is focused on the promotion and encouragement of the establishment of small scale private forest plantations in the hope that farmers will plant trees as a plantation with native species and fast growing trees but less concentrated on planting of trees as agro-forestry as some families want 10-15 trees to be planted in the compound of their residential areas and on agricultural land.

The formulation of the project did not take into account of the global pandemic (Covid-19) while the risk of the project is oriented to internal aspects which may have hindered the implementation of the project.

6.2. Operational aspect

The implementation of the project encountered operational and administrative concerns, respective project activities. The adoption of the guidelines on the registration of small private forest plantations was delayed due to the requirement for the internal review and discussion among the Forestry Administration relevant departments and Covid-19 pandemic.

The project target area was too small to distribute 100,000 seedlings in one commune. In this regard, the project areas were expanded to the whole district of Kampong Siem and some parts of other two Stung Trang and Chamka Leu districts. The distribution of seedlings was conducted not only by the project team but in cooperation with FA Cantonment of Kampong Cham and FA Divisions under the Cantonment. Farmers usually own small piece of land, so the demand for seedlings involves few trees rather large scale of seedlings to be planted as plantations while public institutions occupy relatively large areas which require more seedlings. In this case, the number of farmers or families received

seedlings increase dramatically compared with the plan.

During the implementation phase, we recognized that large numbers of farmers prefer fruit trees than indigenous trees because fruit trees are able to provide incomes in short and medium terms while indigenous trees is likely to provide revenue in the long term and need upfront investment before earning return. Similarly public institutions such pagodas and government agencies prefer to plant native tree species than fruit trees because the purpose of tree planting is not meant for commercial purpose or sale but rather for environment and public benefits and interest.

6.3. External factors

The global pandemic (Covid-19) was one of the main challenges for the implementation of the project. The spread of Covid-19 hindered the implementation of the project activities, especially the activities related to meetings with stakeholders, consultations and trainings. The project resorted to online platform to conduct a number of training and consultations to reduce the infection of Covid-19. In this regard, the project was extended with no additional cost through AFoCO coping measures to address implementation of delayed project activities. A proposal for the reallocation of project budget was prepared to reflect current aspect of the project when a number of activities were virtually conducted with some of the activity budget left as carry over or savings which was needed to be reallocated to other activities.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The implementation of the Project resulted in a number of positive domestic impacts. The conclusion of project activities and its accompanying results underscore the practicality of the encouragement of the establishment of small scale private forest plantations. Moreover, the project resulted in outcomes and outputs which are valuable references in enhancing policy for registration of private forest plantations, guidelines developed for the registration of private forest plantations is promoting the registration of forest plantations for commercial purposes in Cambodia and for exports of forest products originating from private forest plantations and increase green covers.

It is anticipated that wider circulation and promotion of the guidelines will further encourage owners of forest plantations to register their trees planted and farmers and private sector in other provinces of Cambodia to invest in forest plantations, which will increase wood supply domestically.

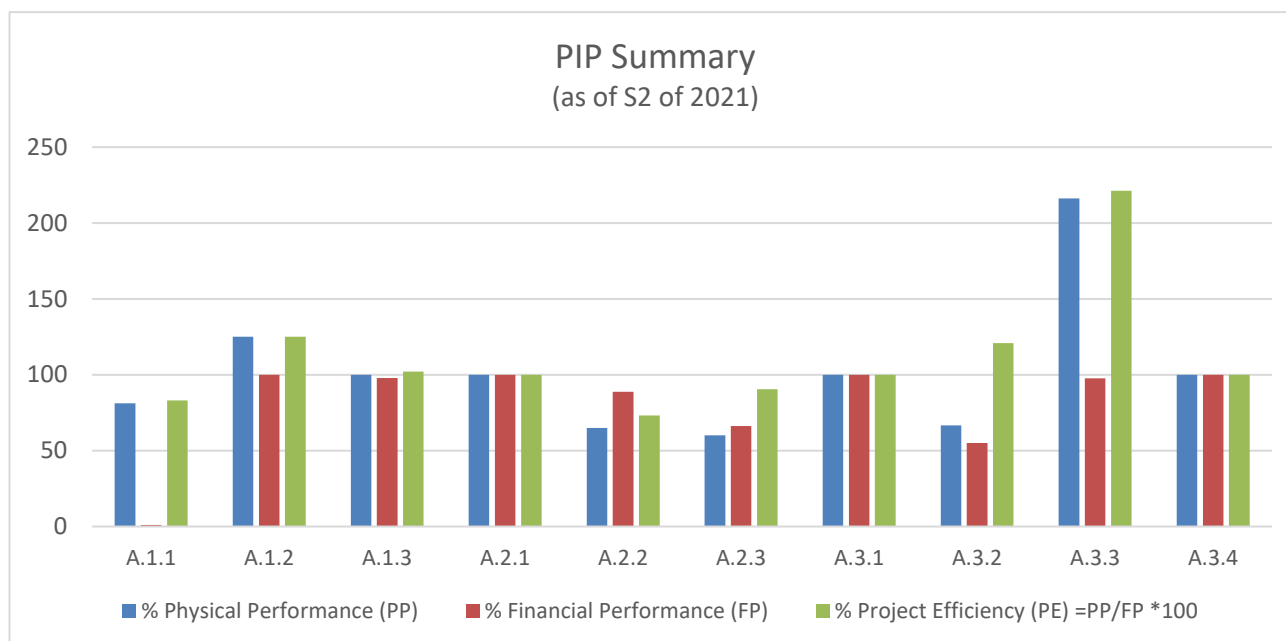
Through capacity building, sharing of lessons learned and circulation of documentation and technical reports of the project, the application of selection of tree species for planting and market demand and consumption will be enhanced. Taking off from such initiatives, it is imperative that documentations of lessons gained, including knowledge products be shared to the other AFoCO Member Countries, through the AFoCO Secretariat.

The project is just a piloting phase, and its impact on registered private forests demonstrate far-reaching movement towards success with the increased extent of expanding private forest plantation that the project has been contributing to reforestation and forest rehabilitation in Cambodia as well as sustainable development. As the necessity for amendment of forestry legislation and related regulations to customize to the current situation arises, the potentials for further reaching up of extensive private forests and registration to various categories of land occupation would be taken up with high priority. As such, the need to scale up to a full project with financial support from AFoCO Secretariat for the next phase will absolutely facilitate the implementation of the new amended forestry legislation and regulations, and create enabling conditions that contribute to extensive afforestation and forest restoration in Cambodia at national level.

In total, 36% (USD 99,600.00) of the total projects fund of USD 275,110.00 was allocated directly for tree planting with 116,500 seedlings distributed and planted by the project. This demonstrates as model for project related landscape forest restoration, climate change adaptation and mitigation, and local livelihood improvement and income generation. The success of this pilot project is considered as a model for the scaling-up and expanding to full project implementation, which is necessarily important for Cambodia at this time.

Summary of Project Implementation Performance (PIP)

Activity	% Physical Performance (PP)	% Financial Performance (FP)	% Project Efficiency (PE) =PP/FP *100
A.1.1	100.00	100.00	100.00
A.1.2	125.00	100.00	125.00
A.1.3	100.00	100.00	100.00
A.2.1	100.00	100.00	100.00
A.2.2	100.00	100.00	100.00
A.2.3	100.00	100.00	100.00
A.3.1	100.00	100.00	100.00
A.3.2	100.00	100.00	100.00
A.3.3	235.66	100.00	235.66
A.3.4	100.00	100.00	100.00



Recommendations

The recommendations for considering the revision clauses in AFoCO Project Manual as the following:

- The submission of final project completion report shall be allowed to one month after the official completion date (or project no cost extension-end date).
- The submission of project audit report shall be allowed for six weeks after the official completion date (or project no cost extension-end date).
- The final coordination and evaluation meeting should be allowed after two months after the official completion date (or project no cost extension-end date).

We would like to request to AFoCO Secretariat and donors for considering in providing financial support for next phase of project implementation in order to scale up and expand the project in Cambodia.

8. Photo records



Photos of the distribution of seedlings to local communities and public institutions in Kampong Siem, Stung Trang and Cham Karleu districts, Kampong Cham provinces.





Photos of meetings, workshops and training and other events organized by the project.



Photos of participation in tree planting by the project team



Photos of planted trees, seedlings provided by the Project

Link for project photos

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1U0j2GQ3o7sOi00qJ3RzPv1t6y3uSyT8n?usp=sharing>

9. References

- Project Document
- Submitted Project mid-year and annual reports
- Approved PSC meeting reports
- Approved Financial reports
- Approved modified annual budget plan and workplan
- Up-to-date PIP Matrix

- Forestry Administration 2021. Guidelines on Private Forest Registration in Cambodia.
- Guidelines, Technical and consultation workshop reports:
 - Forestry Administration (2022). Guidelines on Private Forest Registration in Cambodia. Available at: <https://afocosec.org/newsroom/news/stories/towards-reforestation-in-cambodia-the-development-of-guidelines-for-establishing-and-registering-private-forests/>
 - Chheang Dany, Say Sinly, Hort Sothea, Pang Phanit and Lim Sopheap (2022). Review and Evaluation Report on Growth Trends and Potential Impacts on the Environment of a Preliminary Selection of Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia.
 - Say Sinly, Chheang Dany, Hort Sothea, Pang Phanit and Lim Sopheap (2022). Review and Evaluation Report on Consumption Pattern and Prospect Potentials of a Preliminary Selection of Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia.
 - Say Sinly, Chheang Dany, Hort Sothea, Pang Phanit and Lim Sopheap (2022). Review and Evaluation Report on Competitive Advantages of the Preliminarily Selected Indigenous and Introduced Fast-growing Trees Species for Establishing Small-scale Private Forest Plantations in the Project Area in Kampong Cham Province, Cambodia.
 - Hort Sothea, Chheang Dany, Pang Phanit, Say Sinly, and Lim Sopheap (2020). Report on National Extension and Consultation Workshop on Rules and Guidelines for Private Forest Plantation Registration in Cambodia.
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- AFoCO project Stories:
 - AFoCO-FA, 2022. National Tree Plantation Day (Arbor Day). Available at: <https://afocosec.org/newsroom/news/forestry-news/cambodia-celebrates-national-tree-planting-day-arbor-day/>
 - AFoCO-FA, 2021a. Toward afforestation and adaptation to climate change and non-formal economic development in Cambodia: Customized forest models through tree plantations and agroforestry practices of local communities. Available at: <https://afocosec.org/newsroom/news/stories/towards-afforestation-adaptation-to-climate-change-and-non-formal-economic-development-in-cambodia-customized-forestation-models-through-tree-plantations-and-agroforestry-practices-of-local-communi/>
 - AFoCO-FA, 2021b. Toward Reforestation in Cambodia: The Development of Guidelines for Establishing and Registering Private Forests in Cambodia. Available at: <https://afocosec.org/newsroom/news/stories/towards-reforestation-in-cambodia-the-development-of-guidelines-for-establishing-and-registering-private-forests/>
 - AFoCO-FA, 2020. Supporting the registration of small-scale private forest plantations in Cambodia. Available at: <https://afocosec.org/newsroom/news/feature-supporting-the-registration-of-small-scale-private-forest-plantations-in-cambodia/>
- Audit report

10. Appendices

- [AFoCO 12/2019 Annex 2&3 Financial Report](#)
- [AFoCO 12/2019 Annex 4 & 5 PIP Matrix Logical Framework](#)

Forestry Administration's Facebook:

- Posting 1: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1812908378851088/>)
- Posting 2: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1818450098296916/>)
- Posting 3: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1819680104840582/>)
- Posting 4: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1827257160749543/>)
- Posting 5: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1839562989518960/>)
- Posting 6: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1840137856128140/>)
- Posting 7: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1840215606120365/>)
- Posting 8: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1840274256114500/>)
- Posting 9: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1841981885943737/>)
- Posting 10: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1846112375530688/>)
- Posting 11: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1847062745435651/>)
- Posting 12: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1850852155056710/>)
- Posting 13: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1861010814040844/>)
- Posting 14: (Facebook link: <https://www.facebook.com/518053771669895/posts/1865807866894472/>)
- Posting 15: (Facebook link: <https://web.facebook.com/fa.maff.gov.kh/posts/1889326964542562>)
- Posting 16: (Facebook link: <https://web.facebook.com/fa.maff.gov.kh/posts/2151158961692693>)
- Posting 17: (Facebook link: <https://web.facebook.com/fa.maff.gov.kh/posts/2182901215185134>)
- Posting 18: (Facebook link: <https://web.facebook.com/fa.maff.gov.kh/posts/2202970116511577>)

Google Drive

- Posting 1: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1B--9JMzSHk5CYEPIiTXZToWSkVFbCZwi?usp=sharing>
- Posting 2: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jM0COW_gTyst6im2T9AeWi9-Ospn43eq?usp=sharing
- Posting 3: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bnmFfEUeGfY2JOvtXWT42CrrvE7Udn7_?usp=sharing
- Posting 4: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xi2sK-htwHej-WP-MDcMh-Xeij9AWleu?usp=sharing>
- Posting 5: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10uCx3mZjo0xV1OkVCg6BMSjABIIIGXE-2?usp=sharing>
- Posting 6: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1nQy50qwCox1SEP3EmWLgyybJauvWYhz_?usp=sharing
- Posting 7: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TLjoMMpgwx7ySqXIKtrbFwHvbmsqFjpy?usp=sharing>
- Posting 8: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1_Xqd4AWRq4IBemKIHMxKucqjK8TYjQ5?usp=sharing
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- Posting 11: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YqEchixXewKmQD9V6Vrq8SnOhVYXX5pq?usp=sharing>
- Posting 12: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jG9xa7aZGbIYDTHrWaA2pR7_d4Ax31y5?usp=sharing
- Posting 13: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1AwYn5beq_qiab4Z3DEFEGPR5RjlxikhV?usp=sharing
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- Posting 15: https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1GDKTOxw4R62lqs1S3NYsZ_HqZd2gKanX?usp=sharing