

# Cambodia: The national climate change monitoring & evaluation framework

## 1. Context

### ► Policy context

Recognizing Cambodia's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change and how it can derail the nation's development efforts, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has set out its overall strategy for climate change response in the **Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP 2014 – 2023)**. The CCCSP identifies key priority adaptation and mitigation measures to be implemented and mechanisms to be put in place in the short and medium term. In alignment with CCCSP, key line ministries have developed **sectoral Climate Change Action Plans (CCAP)** and have started implementing priority actions. CCCSP underlines the importance of establishing mechanisms to assess the progress being made in the implementation of the country's response, setting out the vision of a climate change M&E framework fully integrated into national and sub-national development planning processes. Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) submitted to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) makes an explicit reference to the importance of developing this M&E framework.

### ► Purpose of the M&E system

The CCCSP outlines the main purposes of the national M&E framework for Cambodia:

- measure how effective adaptation efforts maintain development on track in a changing climate,
- monitor climate change mitigation actions and low carbon development policies,
- generate evidence and lessons to inform future policy making,
- facilitate the coherent integration of climate change M&E into national planning and key sectors and
- provide information required to fulfill the reporting obligations of Cambodia to the UNFCCC and development partners.

The target users of the system include decision-makers and planners on national and sub-national levels, technical staff within key sectors, other organisations working on climate change as well as development partners.

### ► Scale: level of application and aggregation

The Cambodian M&E framework operates at national as well as sub-national levels with all key climate sensitive sectors taken into account. Some of its indicators, including indicators on institutional readiness and vulnerability, are now being used to plan for climate change (CC) related interventions at national and sub-national levels.



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### M&E Guidebook: Building blocks for the development of a national adaptation M&E system

In response to demand from partner countries, GIZ in collaboration with the Adaptation Committee, the Least Developed Countries Expert Group and IISD developed an M&E guidebook which outlines key considerations for the development of country-specific adaptation M&E systems. It is structured along four building blocks:

- **Context:** what is the policy context and purpose of undertaking M&E?
- **Content:** what information is required to address the purpose?
- **Operationalization:** how will the information be gathered and what are the institutional arrangements?
- **Communication:** how is the generated information used and disseminated?

GIZ & IISD (2015). [Developing national adaptation monitoring and evaluation systems: A guidebook](#)

## 2. Content

### ► Establishment process

The National Council for Sustainable Development (NCS) and its Secretariat's department of Climate Change (DCC) have coordinated the development of the M&E framework since 2013. Together with multiple stakeholders and in close collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) they were testing indicators and building baselines. The framework was presented to stakeholders and the public in April 2016.

### ► Focus and approach

The M&E framework of Cambodia is indicator-based. It adopts a twin-track approach measuring, on the one hand, how well the national institutions are in managing climate risks – through **institutional readiness indicators** – and, on the other hand, how successful climate interventions are in reducing vulnerability or lowering carbon emissions – through **impact indicators**. The baseline results reflect the position of Cambodia in 2014.

### ► Indicators

The framework also uses scorecards to assess five **institutional readiness indicators** at regular intervals to understand how Cambodia is increasing its institutional capacity to respond effectively to climate change. They show for example that while there have been

significant investments in strengthening coordination mechanisms, the production, access and use of climate related information is lagging behind.

A core set of eight national level **impact indicators** has also been defined to which two to three indicators per sector will be added. Two of the three core **indicators** show the percentage of communes that are vulnerable to climate change as well as the number of families affected by climate hazards, such as floods, drought and storms. The impact indicator on GHG emissions is expected to be measured before 2020. Baselines for additional sector indicators that are to be part of the national framework will be established as part of the ongoing effort to develop sectoral CC M&E frameworks.

Figure 1 M&E indicators

Institutional readiness indicators	Impact indicators
1 <b>Status of climate policy and strategies:</b> Status of development of national policies, strategies and action plans for climate change response	1 <b>Percentage of communes vulnerable to climate change:</b> Percentage of communes with vulnerability index (VI) values classified as 'highly vulnerable' and 'quite vulnerable'. The indicator can be disaggregated by hazard type (flood, drought and storm)
2 <b>Status of climate integration into development planning:</b> Status of inclusion of climate change in long, medium (NSDP) and short term (PIP) national and sub-national planning	2 <b>Families affected due to floods, storms and droughts:</b> Proportion of families affected by these extreme weather events (measured in number of affected families per 1,000 families)
3 <b>Status of coordination:</b> Status and functionality of a national coordination mechanism for climate change response and implementation of the CCCSP of climate change response	3 <b>GHG emissions:</b> GHG emissions by sectors and per capita
4 <b>Status of climate information:</b> Status of production, access and use of climate change information	
5 <b>Status of climate integration into financing:</b> Status, availability and effectiveness of a financial framework for climate change response	+ 2 to 3 indicators per sector

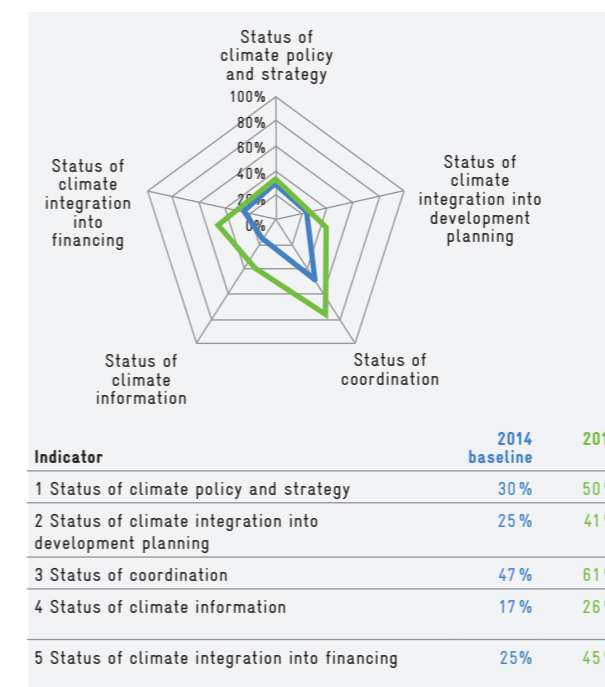
## 3. Operationalization

### ► Data collection and analysis

On national level, NCS/DCC is in charge of annually producing and analyzing the core set of indicators of the national framework. The commune database is the main channel for accessing data from the local level and is being used for the impact indicators related to adaptation.

The institutional readiness indicators are measured through scorecards. The scorecards are applied by the key climate change sensitive sectors/ministries which are part of the Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG). CCTWG analyses scorecard results and discusses ways forward. In addition, the NCS/DCC is also supporting the sectors in the development of their respective climate change M&E frameworks.

Figure 2 National-level institutional readiness in Cambodia, 2014 and 2017



### ► Institutional arrangements

The NCS/DCC has been leading the efforts to strengthen the country's capacity for M&E of the climate change response, and has played a critical role in the development of the present framework and establishment of its M&E information system. In 2016, the department established a dedicated M&E team led by its Policy and Coordination Office (PCO) to ensure that technical support is available to the NCS board, CCTWG and sectors on climate change related M&E matters.

In turn, the CCTWG, consisting of 19 key ministries/agencies, assesses and mobilizes support for sectors to develop and mainstream their climate change M&E frameworks. Alignment has also been sought in the localization process of SDG 13.

### ► Resources needed

NCS/DCC has coordinated the development of the M&E framework together with multiple stakeholders and in close collaboration with IIED. GIZ has been supporting the development of sectoral M&E frameworks for the Ministry of Agriculture, Forest and Fisheries as well as for the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Public Works and Transport. While the NCS/DCC is taking the lead in the implementation of the framework, ongoing support is being provided by the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance and other donors.

## 4. Reporting and outlook

### ► Outputs and reporting

Reporting and information on the framework will be regularly shared through the different platforms, including the NCS/DCC website and in the CCTWG meetings. CCTWG members are expected to disseminate reporting to their respective sectors. The results of the monitoring will also feed into the RGC reporting to the UNFCCC, as well as into other national planning frameworks.

### ► Lessons to date

Collection and development of baselines for climate change indicators has been a challenging task. But despite the difficulties in collecting data, the development of the national M&E framework has already helped key sectors in their planning and in defining climate change investments on the national and local levels. The advancement of sectoral M&E frameworks could further assist in this process.

The national M&E framework is dependent on concerted participation of a large amount of stakeholders. Robust coordination mechanisms therefore become crucial. A harmonisation of the timeframes for sectoral vs national, and national vs international, reporting on climate change could be a way forward to streamline coordination and reduce the burden on key stakeholders.



## ► What's next?

Next steps in the development and implementation of the M&E process include a harmonisation of national and sub-national M&E frameworks. Moreover, improving data sharing among the stakeholders and to further strengthen the established coordination mechanism is seen as a priority. There is also ongoing work in connecting the localization exercise of the SDGs to the M&E framework, as well as a continued emphasis on mainstreaming CC M&E in the sectoral budget and planning processes.

## For further information

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