Comments from Nexus Carbon for Development on the Approval by Mail: Cambodia: Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning (ADB) - Project Number XPCRKH016A

Dear Patricia,

Please find attached the feedback gathered by Nexus, as a CSO observer about the project document entitled Mainstreaming Climate Resilience into Development Planning, submitted by the Government of Cambodia and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Best regards,
Marion Santini

Feedback on ADB/Cambodia TA (45283)
Draft submitted for PPCR Sub-Committee review

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Context
- Cambodia Strategic Program for Climate Resilience comprises 7 investment projects and the proposed Technical Assistance.
- The proposed, submitted for PPCR Sub-Committee review, aims to:
  (i)   strengthen capacity to coordinate all SPCR investments and to mainstream adaptation concerns into national and sub-national planning, budgeting and development;
  (ii)   conduct feasibility studies for priority projects of NAPA with a view to secure additional funds from sources such as Adaptation Fund and Green Climate Fund;
  (iii) establish a civil society support mechanism to fund community-based adaptation activities and strengthen capacity of civil society organizations (CSOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) to mainstream climate resilience into their operations; and
  (iv)   generate and disseminate knowledge for CCA in various sectors. The TA will promote synergies between CCA and DRR, sets up a common framework for monitoring and evaluation of all SPCR projects, and develops a knowledge and communications plan for each component that will be critical to sustaining the impact and effectiveness of current and future climate resilience investments.

General feedback

- Given Cambodia's high vulnerability to climate change, it is encouraging to see the commitment of the Royal Government of Cambodia and the ADB to integrating climate resilience into Cambodia's development planning.
- Civil society appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft TA document.

Feedback from Nexus-Carbon for Development

(CSO observer, PPCR)

- <u>Staff turnover in government institutions:</u> A key risk for the long-term capacity building of government institutions is the high staff turnover. No mitigation measures are currently in place in the plan to encourage staff retention. PPCR should consider this issue.

Feedback from Asia Foundation

(feedback sent by email to Nexus)

Civil Society Support Mechanism

- <u>Clarification around the desired output of the Civil Society Support Mechanism:</u> The Civil Society Support Mechanism is geared towards strengthening civil society organizations' ability to "mainstream adaptation and disaster risk reduction into their operations." With regard to the focus of this grant making facility, we would suggest that there be greater clarification around the desired output (page 4, item 13 in the draft CDTA) and whether it is focused on study and research, as articulated in one section, or implementation of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction activities, or both. It is unclear whether the ADB intends a two-pronged approach where some grants would be allocated for research/survey work to understand the impacts and adaptations of communities to climate change and another set of grants focused on project implementation based on these findings. If so, there remains the question of sequencing of the grants i.e., would CSOs only be eligible to apply for project implementation grants once research studies are completed?
- <u>Overlap between output 3 and 4:</u> Given the emphasis on research and knowledge generation under the CSO Support Mechanism as currently stated under Output 3, there seems to be significant overlap with Output 4: Climate change adaptation knowledge products developed and disseminated. It would be useful to more clearly differentiate the emphasis between Outputs 3 and 4 and/or, as noted above, further clarify the emphasis of Output 3 with regard to research/knowledge generation versus implementation of CCA and DRR activities.
- <u>CSO Support organization included in the technical backstopping unit:</u> To ensure a streamlined process for learning and coordination among civil society, local, national government, the ADB and the broader development community, through web portals such as the Asia Pacific Adaptation Network, as well as other means of dissemination, we suggest the inclusion of the organization that manages the CSO Support Mechanism on the PPCR coordinating and technical backstopping unit in MOE (outlined in Output 1).
- <u>Avoid spreading the funding:</u> Finally, while we understand the need for consistency in the timeframe with the rest of the outputs under the SPCR, in our experience, in order for the project to achieve measurable impact from grants made under the CSO Support Mechanism, it would be more realistic to expend the allocated $2 million dollars over 2 years, rather than 5 years, and reduce the number of grants. Spreading the relatively limited funding for the CSO Support Mechanism over 30-50 grants would result in funding small-scale, short-term activities rather than substantive projects and would be less likely to show meaningful results or impact.

Feedback from NGO Forum
(feedback sent by email to Nexus)

More risks were highlighted by the NGO Forum:
- Staff turnover in government institutions: There is a risk of a high staff turnover in the government
- Limited capacity of civil society: Another risk is the limited capacity of civil society. More training workshops should be organized.

About the SPCR coordination
- A result-based management and monitoring for SPCR investments should be developed with a wider consultation, and once completed, organize the trainings for both the government and NGOs/CSOs (by 2013).
- Monitoring and evaluation: The assessment of policy makers and civil society capacity should also cover the area of monitoring and evaluation.
- Public participation: The reporting and monitoring format and schedule for SPCR investments and other adaptation programs should be developed with public participation, particularly from NGOs/CSOs who would be granted funds at a later stage.
- Planning: The data support infrastructure should support the implementation, but also the planning of climate change risk management. Climate Change risk management should be integrated into sector guidelines, but also into plans and programs.

Civil society support mechanism
- Replicating lessons learnt in national policy: Lessons learnt and good practices should also be integrated in national climate change policy and practice.
- A high number of project should be supported: A diverse portfolio of at least 50 (and not 30) community-based adaptation and DRR projects in at least 3 sectors (with at least 50% - and not 30 - projects directly improving climate resilience of women) identified, financed and implemented by 2017
- Trainings / sharing: The plan should also include:
    - Organize training events, workshops and other capacity-building activities targeted at NGOs/CSOs members including women and senior practitioners and advocates and provide technical backstopping to various NGOs/CSOs focal points on adaptation (completion by 2017)
    - Organize the annual meeting(s) between the government and NGOs/CSOs on climate change and DRR with special focus on achievements, lessons learned, and strategic directions (Annually)

Climate change adaptation knowledge products developed and disseminated
- Bilingual: The website should be bilingual

Knowledge products
- Gender: 100 key national government staff including 50 women (instead of 30) should be trained in adaptation by 2017
- Number of workshops: At least 20 (instead of 10) awareness building, and multi-stakeholder (gender-inclusive) workshops should be conducted by 2017
- Primary and public education: New curriculum for adaptation and DRR should also be developed for primary education, and be implemented in the public educational system

- Simple articles: 50 (instead of 25) new articles on adaptation and DRR published and posted in Cambodian. These articles should use a simple language.
- Knowledge strategies and mechanisms: Products, but also knowledge strategy/mechanisms should be developed for effective dissemination of project results (completion by Dec 2017)