

November 16, 2012

Comments from Nexus on the Approval by Mail: Cambodia: GMS Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project (ADB)

**Partnership Program for Climate Resilience
Cambodia - Greater Mekong Sub-region Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project**

Comments from Civil Society Organisations

Dear Patricia, dear Andrea,

I'm writing on behalf of Marion Verles.

Please find attached:

- The feedback we gathered on the Greater Mekong Sub-region Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development project

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Best regards,
Marion

Marion Santini, Communications Manager | Nexus-Carbon for Development -
Cambodian office |
www.nexus-c4d.org

November 12th 2012

Comments gathered and summarized by Nexus-Carbon for Development

Feedback from civil society on the Cambodia Southern Economic Corridor Towns Project

Civil society organizations expressed their general agreement with the comments made by the UK, namely:

- **Resettlements plans** are a delicate issue right now in Cambodia, and civil society is concerned that affected persons don't have the capacity to have their rights respected
- **Corruption:** It is not clear how corruption risks will be addressed
- **Investment choice:** Infrastructure improvement is not a priority sector according to the National Adaptation Programme of Action to climate change and to the draft Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan. Priority sectors are:
 - Reduced agricultural production
 - Water shortage and/or groundwater depletion
 - Increased disease and/or other health problems

Civil society expressed two additional concerns.

- **Topping up existing projects:** this relates to ADB's role and the CIF objective to foster state ownership. It is understood that the ADB drove the decisions to use CIF funds to top-up projects in the current portfolio and thus

the true spirit of state ownership and mainstreaming CC into development processes does not seem to be followed.

- **Focusing on vulnerable populations:** PPCR focus is clearly on vulnerable populations. However, this particular project seems relatively far removed from the core adaptation needs of the most vulnerable people in Cambodia.

Finally civil society organizations reemphasized the fact that they do not welcome loans for climate adaptation funding.

Recommendations from civil society

On the Cambodia southern corridor towns project:

- Civil society organizations propose the inclusion of appropriate indicators in the Cambodia monitoring and evaluation framework to monitor the capacity of government and local authorities to actively participate in the design and implement PPCR projects
- Civil society organizations propose a third party assessment of:
 - the effectiveness of the relocation plan
 - anticorruption safeguards in place
- Civil society organizations request clarifications on how Cambodian civil society organizations were consulted by the Asian Development Bank as mentioned in the comments posted on the website

On the PPCR process:

- Civil society organizations recommend to involve relevant stakeholders (official PPCR observers as well as other appointed civil society representatives) at all stages of the process (plan, design, implantation, evaluation), and consider these as active participants. This engagement process can be fostered by the CIF through financial support, capacity building and appropriate monitoring and evaluation frameworks.