

**Meeting of PPCR Pilot Countries and Regions
October 30, 2012 - Istanbul, Turkey**

Progress Updates from PPCR Pilots

Country/regional pilot: Cambodia

Strategic Program for Climate Resilience (SPCR):

- X Endorsed
- Endorsement date: 29 June 2011

Briefly outline major advances, challenges and lessons learned arising from your SPCR programming or implementation process since the last meeting of PPCR pilots.

Advances:

1. Significant progress in implementation of PPCR phase 1 activities as evidenced by in-depth studies on mainstreaming climate resilience into development planning at national and sub-national levels, options for engaging the civil society and the private sector in adaptation, and in mainstreaming gender considerations, besides reports on science-based adaptation planning and monitoring and evaluation.
2. Approval by the PPCR subcommittee of three SPCR investment projects focusing on infrastructure and water resources, and technical assistance for phase II of PPCR:
 - a. *Climate Proofing of Roads in Prey Veng, Svay Rieng, Kampong Chhnang and Kampong Speu Provinces* as part of ADB-funded Provincial Roads Improvement Project (\$17 million from PPCR, with co-financing of \$62 million).
 - b. *Climate proofing infrastructure in the Southern Economic Corridor towns* as part of the ADB-funded Greater Mekong Subregion Southern Economic Corridor Towns Development Project (\$10 million from PPCR, with co-financing of \$45 million).
 - c. *Flood and Drought Management in Pursat Province* as part of the ADB-funded GMS Flood and Drought Management Project (\$10 million from PPCR, with co-financing of \$38 million).
 - d. *Mainstreaming climate resilience into development planning* – Stand-alone capacity building technical assistance (\$7 million from PPCR).
3. Improved awareness and understanding of climate change impacts, adaptation and disaster risk reduction (DRR) among key stakeholders, and enhanced capacity to plan for adaptation and DRR projects.
4. Improved stakeholder engagement and empowerment in adaptation and DRR.
5. Creation of a 10-member inter-ministerial monitoring and evaluation (M&E) working group for PPCR, and organization of a workshop to develop a roadmap for M&E for adaptation in Cambodia.

Challenges:

1. Maintaining momentum for mainstreaming of climate resilience into development planning at national and sub-national levels, including systematic cooperation and information dissemination with other climate change initiatives in the country.
2. Cross-sectoral coordination has improved but still remains a challenge not only because of lack of adequate human, institutional and technical resources but also due to multiple donor initiatives on adaptation requiring the attention of same staff from various ministries.
3. Involvement of the private sector in adaptation and disaster risk reduction remains a challenge and will require additional technical, institutional and financial support, especially in rural areas.
4. Inadequate number of counterpart staff to participate in and benefit from various capacity building initiatives at both national and sub-national levels.
5. Limited funding for strengthening institutions, especially at the sub-national levels and limited capacity to effectively coordinate, monitor and evaluate adaptation interventions, and lack of appropriate data for setting baselines.

Lessons learned:

1. Adaptation is a process that requires sustained commitment by all stakeholders. However, managing multiple and often unrealistic expectations of different stakeholders about the PPCR is crucial. The best way is engage the civil society as early as possible during both design and implementation of projects.
2. Identification of nationally-appropriate and time-critical entry points for mainstreaming and enhancing the national ownership of the program and projects through stakeholder empowerment and engagement at both national and sub-national levels is critical to move forward. Climate risk prediction must be coupled with adequate response capabilities.
3. Climate resilience must be considered as part of the larger challenge of sustainable development. The added value of inter-sector and inter-agency dialogues on climate resilience, DRR, climate change mitigation and their synergies must be recognized, rewarded and strengthened. Multidisciplinary approaches are required to do so.
4. Efforts to strengthen hydro-meteorological data collection and analysis, monitoring and evaluation are crucial to facilitate informed decision making on adaptation interventions. Monitoring can identify where solutions have worked and where further interventions are needed. Evaluation can determine why particular solutions did and did not work. Opportunities for “learning by doing” in the most vulnerable areas in collaboration with local communities and local policy makers must be encouraged.
5. Public-private partnerships (PPP) in adaptation are a relatively new area for Cambodia and must be promoted via genuine participatory processes and provision of both financial and technical support. Phase 1 of PPCR has provided some examples of enhancing resilience through PPP but it may be prudent to intervene on a small scale to test the effectiveness of solutions before large-scale deployment.

What is the most striking value added or benefit from the PPCR process in your country?

Swift increase in interest and attention of senior policy makers to consider climate resilience from a holistic perspective: Key stakeholders now recognise that (i) climate change is a global issue affecting both developed and developing countries but impacts are felt disproportionately in countries and communities with low adaptive capacity; (ii) climate change

is not only an environmental and economic development issue but also a social issue in that women are more likely to suffer than men and gender-conscious adaptation strategies are crucial; and (iii) engaging and empowering stakeholders through effective coordination, harmonization, networking and knowledge management is crucial to move forward. Discussions on inter-agency and inter-sector collaboration on climate resilience are now given a high profile in each ministry. Some ministries, which have not considered climate change as recently as five years ago, have begun to prepare master plans to address climate change. For example, the Ministry of Women Affairs has recently drafted a master plan on gender and climate change.

Briefly outline the institutional arrangements for the coordination and oversight of the implementation of the SPCR as a program. What works and what needs improvement?

Institutional arrangements:

1. The government of Cambodia established the National Committee on Climate Change (NCCC), comprising high-level representatives from 20 ministries, in 2006 to oversee and coordinate all climate change operations in Cambodia. The Prime Minister is the honorary chair of the NCCC.
2. The Department of Climate Change of the Ministry of Environment (MOE) serves as the Secretariat of NCCC. NCCC is supported by Climate Change Technical Team (CCTT), comprising officials of various ministries.
3. SPCR is coordinated by a team of representatives of CCTT from all key ministries. The team guides SPCR implementation and oversees the PPCR technical backstopping unit, which will include consultants to be recruited under the SPCR technical assistance project. The SPCR coordination team will hold meetings at regular intervals to monitor progress, prepare reports on semi-annual basis and report progress annually to the PPCR sub-committee.
4. In addition, each SPCR investment project has a dedicated project implementation unit headed by a project director. Project director is usually a senior official of the respective line ministry, which implements the investment project. The project directors of all SPCR investment projects, with support from respective consulting teams, will share related data and information on progress with the SPCR coordination team. They will also evaluate respective project's performance, document lessons learned and facilitate coordination through promoting synergies and avoiding overlaps or duplication in activities.
5. Coordination, oversight, monitoring and evaluation of SPCR as a program is also facilitated by maintaining close dialogue with other development partners active in Cambodia's adaptation efforts. For example, close coordination of PPCR with Cambodia Climate Change Alliance (a multi-donor initiative supported by EU, UNDP, SIDA and DANIDA) is also maintained by organizing joint workshops and sharing information on lessons learned.

What works?

1. Good working relationships and strong commitment of senior representatives at the national level, especially from Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), and Ministry of Environment (MOE), to integrate climate change into development planning. MEF provides administrative oversight while MOE helps in SPCR coordination.
2. Good support from members of the climate change technical team and sound environment for civil society to proactively participate in adaptation efforts
3. Active cooperation of development partners in strengthening climate change related

institutions and operations

What needs improvement?

1. Additional studies on vulnerability and local impacts of climate change, including approaches to build on traditional knowledge of strategies to cope with impacts
2. More effective communication between CCTT hosted at MOE and SPCR project teams in sector ministries, especially Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, Ministry of Public Works and Transport and Ministry of Rural Development.
3. High quality institutional, technical and financial support to implement adaptation projects especially at sub-national levels, including investing in human resources
4. More effective involvement of women, local communities and the private sector in design and implementation of adaptation projects
5. Promotion of synergies among activities aimed at greenhouse gas mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk reduction

If you have an endorsed SPCR, which of your projects have progressed the most in terms of preparation/implementation and what are the 3 main factors that have contributed to this progress?

1. Investment project entitled Provincial Roads Improvement Project is the most advanced as it was first approved by PPCR subcommittee in November 2011. The main factor for its progress was availability of ADB resources in time to integrate climate resilience concerns into the main investment project, rather than waiting for preparation grant from PPCR. Proactive support from Ministry of Public Works and Transport and comparative advantage of ADB in transport operations in Cambodia also contributed to its progress.
2. Timely mobilization of qualified consultants with expertise in adaptation and Cambodia has contributed to rapid preparation of projects such as Enhanced flood management in Pursat province, and the southern economic corridor towns' development projects. Delays in recruitment of qualified consultants led to slow progress of other projects.
3. The progress of the technical assistance project "Mainstreaming climate Resilience into Development Planning" was largely due to proactive cooperation and strong support from MEF, MOE and other line ministries. Support from civil society has also been a major factor in quick approval of the project.

What are the 3 major tasks ahead for your SPCR during the next 6-12 months?

1. Getting timely approval of the remaining 4 SPCR investment projects by the PPCR subcommittee.
2. Strengthening coordination, monitoring and evaluation of SPCR through (i) enhancing capacity of 10-member working group on M&E; (ii) reconciling the endorsed SPCR results framework with revised PPCR results framework; (iii) collecting baseline information on core set of indicators relevant to the program and other approved investment projects; and (iv) integrating indicators of adaptation M&E into the framework of NSDP 2014-2018.
3. Designing and implementing the civil society support mechanism to disburse funds to promote community-based adaptation to grassroots NGOs and CSOs, and to enhance capacity of

NGOs to mainstream climate resilience into their operations