



**ADAPTATION FUND**

AFB/PPRC.7/6  
2 December, 2011

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Project and Programme Review Committee  
Seventh Meeting  
Durban, 12 December, 2011

## **PROPOSAL FOR CAMBODIA**

## I. Background

1. The Operational Policies and Guidelines for Parties to Access Resources from the Adaptation Fund, adopted by the Adaptation Fund Board, state in paragraph 41 that regular adaptation project and programme proposals, i.e. those that request funding exceeding US\$ 1 million, would undergo either a one-step, or a two-step approval process. In case of the one-step process, the proponent would directly submit a fully-developed project proposal. In the two-step process, the proponent would first submit a brief project concept, which would be reviewed by the Project and Programme Review Committee (PPRC) and would have to receive the approval by the Board. In the second step, the fully-developed project/programme document would be reviewed by the PPRC, and would finally require Board's approval.

2. The Templates Approved by the Adaptation Fund Board (Operational Policies and Guidelines for Parties to Access Resources from the Adaptation Fund, Annex 3) do not include a separate template for project and programme concepts but provide that these are to be submitted using the project and programme proposal template. The section on Adaptation Fund Project Review Criteria states:

*For regular projects using the two-step approval process, only the first four criteria will be applied when reviewing the 1st step for regular project concept. In addition, the information provided in the 1st step approval process with respect to the review criteria for the regular project concept could be less detailed than the information in the request for approval template submitted at the 2nd step approval process. Furthermore, a final project document is required for regular projects for the 2nd step approval, in addition to the approval template.*

3. The first four criteria mentioned above are:

1. Country Eligibility,
2. Project Eligibility,
3. Resource Availability, and
4. Eligibility of NIE/MIE.

4. The fifth criterion, applied when reviewing a fully-developed project document, is:  
5. Implementation Arrangements.

5. Based on the Adaptation Fund Board Decision B.9/2, the first call for project and programme proposals was issued and an invitation letter to eligible Parties to submit project and programme proposals to the Adaptation Fund was sent out on April 8, 2010.

6. According to the paragraph 41 of the operational policies and guidelines, a project or programme proposal needs to be received by the secretariat not less than nine weeks before a Board meeting, in order to be considered by the Board in that meeting.

7. The following project concept titled "Enhancing Climate Resilience of Rural Communities Living in Protected Areas of Cambodia" was submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund. This is the first submission of the project.

8. The submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the 16th Adaptation Fund Board meeting. The secretariat carried out a technical review of the project proposal, assigned it the diary number KHM/MIE/Food/2011/1, and filled in a review sheet.

9. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Adaptation Fund Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared the review sheet with the UNEP, and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the Project and Programme Committee of the Adaptation Fund.

10. The secretariat is submitting to the Project and Programme Review Committee the summary of the project, prepared by the secretariat, in the following section. The secretariat is also submitting to the Committee the technical review sheet and the responses provided by the UNEP, in an addendum to this document.

## **II. Project Summary**

Cambodia – Enhancing Climate Resilience of Rural Communities Living in Protected Areas of Cambodia

Implementing Entity: UNEP

Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 360,288

Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 4,530,288

Implementing Fee: USD 385,074

Financing Requested: USD 4,915,362

### Project/Programme Background and Context:

The climate change-induced hazard of erratic rainfall, which leads to droughts and floods, is limiting agricultural productivity in Cambodia therefore increasing poverty levels. These events are predicted to increase under future climate change scenarios. Rural Cambodian communities living in Protected Areas (PAs) are some of the most vulnerable communities to these impacts. This is because of a high dependence on ecosystem services and lack of alternative, climate change-resilient livelihoods. As a result of decreased agricultural productivity, these communities are increasingly reliant on forest ecosystems primarily to provide food. In addition, forest ecosystems are a source of income for local communities who collect and sell non-timber forest products (NTFPs) and fuelwood. Widespread degradation of forest ecosystems is, however, preventing effective adaptation to erratic rainfall. To increase the resilience of these rural communities living in PAs, the proposed Adaptation Fund (AF) project would use the ecoagriculture concept i.e. “a landscape approach to natural resources management that seeks to sustain agricultural/food production, conserve biodiversity and ecosystems and support local livelihoods”. The ecoagriculture concept would be implemented using two approaches: i) an extensive approach in which degraded forests will be restored in Community Protected Areas (CPAs) at a landscape-level by planting predominantly indigenous tree species that provide food and are particularly effective at stabilizing soils; and ii) an intensive approach in which interventions will include enrichment planting of the boundary of rice paddies and other cultivated areas to enhance crop productivity, establishing trial plots of drought-tolerant hybrid rice cultivars, as well as intensifying and diversifying the cultivation of existing “homegarden” or “*chamcar*” plots.

The **overall goal** of the AF project is to increase food supply and reduce soil erosion in and surrounding at least four CPAs in Cambodia by restoring at least 2,500 ha of degraded forests with plant species that are particularly appropriate for this goal, as well as intensifying and diversifying the productivity of at least 2,500 family homegardens (ranging in size from 0.2 ha to 1 ha) in communities living around the CPA forest sites. In this way, a new type of natural capital will be produced that is specifically tailored, using ecological and soil science expertise, for adapting local communities to climate change. The increased agricultural productivity from the conservation agriculture interventions will provide communities with food and revenue and reduce the pressure on forests, making the forests and the services they provide more resilient in the face of climate change.

The **objective** of the AF project is consequently to increase the resilience of communities living around at least four CPA intervention sites under the climate change-induced hazard of erratic rainfall. The overall objective will be achieved through three components:

- planting protocols for ecoagriculture interventions;
- concrete ecoagriculture adaptation interventions; and
- institutional capacity, policy and upscaling of ecoagriculture interventions.

#### Component 1: Planting protocols for ecoagriculture interventions (USD 400,000)

This component would undertake bio-physical, ecological and socio-economic assessments of at least four CPA intervention sites to understand resource use, agricultural production, adaptive capacity, needs and vulnerability of local communities in terms of food supply in the face of climate change. Also cost-benefit analyses would be undertaken to identify the most appropriate tree and agricultural species to plant to enhance food supplies during droughts and stabilize topsoil during floods. Based on these assessments, forest restoration and conservation agriculture protocols would be developed for at least four CPA intervention sites.

#### Component 2: Concrete ecoagriculture adaptation interventions (USD 3,470,000)

This component would implement in at least four CPA intervention sites forest restoration and conservation agriculture protocols developed in Component 1, to build climate resilience. It would also train local communities on sustainable land management, including natural resources and technical conservation agriculture training, to maintain the climate resilience built through the forest restoration and agriculture interventions. Local communities' livelihoods are also planned to be enhanced and diversified through market assessment for the sustainable development of NTFPs and the promotion of sustainable alternative livelihoods strategies.

#### Component 3: Institutional capacity, policy and upscaling of ecoagriculture interventions (USD 300,000)

This component would increase stakeholder capacity for building climate resilience, including capacity to incorporate restoration and conservation agriculture interventions into CPA management plans, and implement livelihood business plans. Lessons learned on forest restoration interventions and conservation agriculture to build climate resilience would be captured, disseminated and used to develop a national replication strategy for upscaling of adaptation interventions in PAs. Participatory Rural Appraisals (PRAs) of local communities at all CPAs in Cambodia would be undertaken to inform upscaling of adaptation interventions in PAs. Finally, policies and strategies that promote budget allocation for adaptation interventions that build climate resilience of vulnerable local communities in PAs would be supported/revised.