



LEADING STORIES

Consultative Workshop On Environmental, Social, and Governance Compliance of Banking and Financial Sectors in Cambodia



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) as a member of Fair Finance Cambodia coalition (FFC) had worked with its members to organize a consultative workshop to share and discuss about Environmental, Social, and Governance compliance (ESG) in banking and financial sectors in Cambodia. The workshop was held during half-day on the 23rd September 2022 in Sunway Hotel, Phnom Penh.

The objectives of the workshop are:

- To identify finance and bank challenges and good points of using EIA legal tools such as EIA, EIA sub-decree from MoE to hold their business clients to be accountable for sustainable ESG practices in Cambodia.
- To identify policy gaps of both selected banks and MoE in promoting best practices of ESG compliance and propose alternative policies and practices to MoE and banks to ensure sustainable ESG compliance in Cambodia focusing on policy gaps of

Financial Institution (FI) comparing with the requirements of Environmental Impact Assessment (Sub-Decree No. 72).

On behalf of **Dr. Tek Vannara**, Executive Director of the NGOF, he thanked and welcomed all the participants for their efforts and time to attend the workshop. **Mr. MAR Sophal**, said that as members of the group of the Fair Finance Cambodia coalition (FFC), created in 2019, consisting of 8 countries, 6 NGOs (e.g. NGOF, Oxfam, TIC, CCC, SYLAKA, etc.) in Cambodia led by Oxfam, the FFC Mission is working on Financing with National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) for inclusive, transparent, and accountable developments. He informed the participants that the team had done good job with good results in the past years and will continue to perform better achievements. He announced that the participants will see details of discussion results summarized by fellow speaker

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following his key note remarks. He further informed the meeting that the discussion results were made during last meeting in Tonle Bassac II. In brief, there are 15 Bank representatives, 19 people participated in the meeting, he stressed. He further informed the participants that there is a case study on ESC in 2020 and one more study will be conducted in the end of this year or at the beginning of 2023. He further noted that inputs from the group discussions and individual comments of the today will be incorporated to the report and submitted to relevant responsible ministries for further actions. Therefore, he encouraged all the participants to



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active participate and pro-actively provide comments and suggestions.

Mr. Sok Khim, Operation Manager of Oxfam in Cambodia, underlined that SDG and FFC are among the most important sectors in economic developments. We have been discussed on financial policies with NBC, and banks on Policies and Guidelines on how to make financial sector works inclusively and transparently. He noted that the Sustainable Finance Guideline is available on Page of FFC. In addition, he added, the ASEAN Guidelines on FFC, being as Taxonomy of FFC for member states to take it into consideration in each country. He emphasized that for society, financing is to provide capital to investors, who produce commodities for consumers. More and more consumers have realized on environment and food security. For instance, European markets. At the same time Cambodian consumers are willing to pay more on commodities for their food security, he stated. Government policies have, also, taken firm enforcement of the commodities aspects. In addition, banks of the ASEAN regions take consideration of transparent and environment friendly financing in recent time, he added. In Cambodia, as the subject background mentions that the Ministry of Environment (MoE) has been implementing Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Most Banks have Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the MoE on their loans considering ESIA into their investment loans. Then, he raised the inquiry whether what challenges, suggestions, and recommendations from the participants of the workshop. Last, he stressed that the challenges are to be with the NBC, who is responsible for enforcement of the guidelines, to improve the policies.



The ESG is inclusive, he stated. **Mr. Tong Soprach** urged that the Banks should have their internal ESG guidelines for borrowers to apply the ESG policies for Sustainable Development. He was detailing on Environmental, Social, and Governance Disclosure for the benefits and sustainable developments, specifically to the bank sector, which provides loans. The important text of the ESG is quoted as: ESG Disclosure is the practice of measuring, disclosing and being accountable to internal and external stakeholders for organizational performance against specific WSG goals and metrics that support sustainable development, incorporating sustainability into the company's overall strategy and policies.



Having taken the floor, **Mr. Sovanneath Independent Consultant**, briefly raised the main subjects for discussion. They are:

- Banks & Financial Investment (FIs)
- FFC representative
- Other CSOs, academia, and researchers

Questionnaires sheets were distributed for quick written answers. He briefly went through the Questionnaires sheets for explanation and any clarifications. The list of the Questionnaires is attached to the Agenda (Annex 1)

Mr. Chansen Sovanneath was responsible for all facilitation, collection of inputs from the meeting, and consolidation the inputs for the workshop report.





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Workshop on the Research Study “Impact of Climate Change to Tonle Sap Tributary Functions, Biodiversity, and Livelihood of People in the Tonle Sap Lake”



The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) facilitated to implement a project financing by Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung for Southeast Asia, Hanoi Office, to conduct a research on the “Impacts of Climate Change to Tonle Sap Tributary Function, Biodiversity, and Livelihood of People in the Tonle Sap Lake”. The study was conducted by KFP Trading Co. LTD during July – September 2022. The objectives of the workshop were:

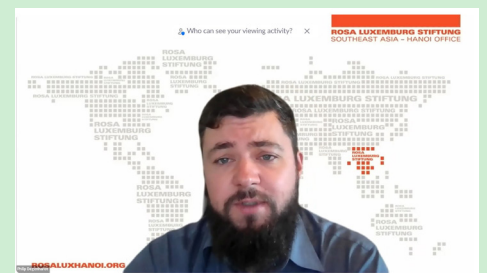
- To update participants about the draft of research study report on Impact of Climate Change to Tonle Sap Tributary Function, Biodiversity, and Livelihood of People in the Tonle Sap Lake.
- To collect inputs from relevant stakeholders and incorporate into the final report of research study report on Impact of Climate Change to Tonle Sap Tributary Function, Biodiversity, and Livelihood of People in the Tonle Sap Lake.

With in-person attendees of 34 participants (5 females) and 19/ 03 females were attending by online actively participating in the event, Ms. Rumduol, NGOF, was the meeting master ceremony. At the beginning of the day, she invited delegates to chair the event. They are:

- Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director, NGOF
- Dr. Phin Sopheap, Deputy Rector, Prek Leap National Institute of Agriculture
- Mr. Philip Degenhardt, Regional Director of Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung for Southeast Asia, Hanoi Office,
- Mrs. Prum Bopha, ED of RAO and Representative of NECA’s Steering Committee
- Representative of Tonle Sap Authority

There were lots of questions and comments made by the participants. All the comments and questions were responded and referred to look for details on the report by the Independent Consultant. In summary, the following comments are needed to further taken into consolidation with the report:

- The study team should clarify Desk review on Climate Change
- Six provinces around the Lake (with new provincial establishment)
- Six provinces under Mekong Flows (with new provincial establishment)
- Please add Conceptual Framework into the study



- Please provide at least TWO villages/ communities for the changes of livelihoods, as model of changes
- Add explanation: Tonle Sap Basin, Tonle Sap River, and the Tonle Sap Lake (Zones) and the tributaries of each site
- Provide maps of the changes of flood forests in each zones for possible future restorations
- Any points that the study cannot work on, please suggest for the next studies.

The point of Conceptual Framework of the



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report was repeatedly mentioned to add on before the final report distributed.



H.E. Khut Chandara, Representative of Third Commission of the National Assembly, was providing closing speech. He underlined the main points as following: He admitted that the study shows some issues, but gradually the issues would be solved because Samdech Hun Sen, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of

Cambodia has measured to crack down the issues. He also, stated that Climate Change, including human-induced Climate Change, has happened in the study sites and on the world. He further stressed that Cambodia ratified UNFCCC, Kyoto Protocol, and other conventions in order to collaborate with the world talking the Climate Change issues.

His Excellency claimed that according to the National Report on Climate Change, 64.6M Ton of carbon reduced annually in Cambodia. Cambodia commits to have zero carbon emission by 2050.

In each COP on Climate Change, members claim to have Green Climate Funds to manage biodiversity and rivers of the countries, he stressed. He encouraged NGO and Development Partners to

support many more studies and projects to help solve issues on Climate Change in Cambodia.

He admitted that the study findings are important to contribute to the Royal Government of Cambodia policies for sustainable developments in the Cambodia Peace and Security periods. However, Climate Change is complicated and multifaceted fields that require all stakeholders to commit with the Royal Government of Cambodia to take concerns into consideration.

He believed that the meeting implied that stakeholders are open and transparent to provide their concerns and inputs. He thanked and wished all the participants, in-person and online, for the best wishes and declared the workshop closed.

2nd Training for Community on Advocacy

In collaboration with the Community Legal Education Center (CLEC), the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) successfully organized the 2nd Training for Community on Advocacy which held from 21-22 September 2022 at Regency Angkor Hotel, Siem Reap province.

There were 27 participants (5 women) as community representatives of land dispute, indigenous people and community protected area from various 23 communities, located in 12 provinces.

As a result, they were better understanding the issues, root causes of land and resource disputes, information and collection methodology, and report writing for using as evident-based dialogue.



Moreover, communities committed to disseminate their knowledges to their community members, to improve their participatory dispute reports, and to develop a strategic plan for resolution through dialogue with local, provincial and national authorities, private sector and other stakeholders.





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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

The Celebration of International and National Day of Indigenous People in Cambodia



This year 28th of International Day of Indigenous People and 18th National in Cambodia were organized on September 29, 2022 at Provincial Theater of Kratie under the theme: The Role of Indigenous Women in Conservation and traditional knowledge transfer.

This event was presided over by H.E Dr. Sous Kong, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Rural Development, Kratie Provincial Board of Governors, Provincial Councils, Department of Rural Development, National and International Indigenous Communities and more than 15 provinces representative, students, youths and journalist with total of 292(103 women).

The objective of this event is aim to:

1. To participate in promoting cultural values, traditions, customs and languages and increase the participation of indigenous peoples in the planning and evaluation of development planning processes in their communities and national development plans.
2. To encourage the full and effective participation of indigenous peoples

in decision-making and improve the implementation of the legal framework.

3. To congratulations to the World Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 12 December 1993 and officially declared the 9th World Indigenous Peoples Day. August every year.

On behalf of the NGO Forum on Cambodia and the Secretariat of 72 member organizations working on forest and land governance, **Dr. Tek Vannara**, Executive Director of NGOF, had great honored participate in this important day. Today celebration, the civil society organizations and indigenous communities would like to extend our requests to the Royal Government, relevant ministries, especial Ministry of Rural Development as of the



present of **H.E Dr. Sous Kong**, develop partners and all stakeholders. We seeking to support and address on the following issues:

- Should allocate national budget and provide additional funds or resources for the education of indigenous people from the basic level to the postgraduate level, especially the study, research, compilation and preservation of the culture of indigenous people in Cambodia.
- Provide additional support in terms of technical, financial and human resources for the collective land registration of indigenous communities in Cambodia.
- Should provide more training for livelihoods, vocational skills or proper career or jobs for indigenous peoples in their personal development in terms of socio-economic development and environmental protection in the context of the current development of Cambodia.





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Regional Conference on Land and Natural Resources Governance in Ratanakiri Province

On Thursday, October 3, 2022, the NGO Forum on Cambodia, together with its member and partner organizations, facilitated the National Conference on Land Governance and Natural Resources” at Ethnic Cultural Center of Ratanakiri Province.

The conference aims to provide opportunities for relevant civil society organizations, national, sub-national authorities, the private sector, researchers and community representatives from six provinces: Preah Vihear, Stung Treng, Kampong Thom, Ratanakiri, Mondulakiri and Kratie, and a total of 55 Organizations with 215 participants (54 women).



organized multilateral consultations on the responsible development of corporations; and the technical work responsible for corporate social and environmental groups of the provinces is agreed to meet twice a year.

He said that the efforts of national and sub-national institutions have coordinated to carry out development work in each sector of Cambodia in accordance with the legal aspect, policy and strategic plan of the nation and the target framework of Cambodia 2016-2030, in which there are 5 main tasks related to: 1) Land-Natural Resources, Public Financial Reform 2) Capacity building and the knowledge of natural resources to partner organizations in transferring knowledge and skills to local communities 3) Communication and information management knowledge of civil society organizations facilitated by the NGOF Secretariat. 4) Collaborate on research, debate and discuss with the community on important policies related to land governance and natural resources management, which in the past have collaborated with the Ministry of Interior in research related to indigenous collective land in Ratanakiri province. The organized regional workshops on gather the inputs on forestry and protected area laws that are important for community in supporting and sustainable development. 5) Provide political dialogue and dialogue between civil society organizations,



In welcome remark, H.E. Khan Chamnan said that the province has organized a group of “technical work responsible for corporate social and environmental groups” with the cooperation of provincial authorities, investment companies, agricultural companies, agro-industry companies, mining companies, NGOs, relevant professional departments and district authorities to deal with the results affected on social and environmental issues and the draft framework for technical teams. In fact, in June 2022, the provincial administration cooperated with the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), DPA, the Community Legal Education Center, 14 investment companies, and



Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF), expressed his gratitude and appreciation all His Excellencies for good cooperation in participating in disaster management activities in 2009-2012 in Kratie province and appreciate the sub-national authorities at all levels for their good cooperation in contributing to the past which related to the land issues. And appreciated the works of community protected area(CPA), community forestry(CF), the indigenous communities for your efforts to protect the forest, land, public land and promoting traditions.etc.



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government agencies, legislatures, parliamentary and senate institutions related to sustainable development within the legal framework. Congratulations to Ratanakiri Province governor on the progress of the provincial organizing the process, registration, meeting, good cooperation on the protection of natural resources, land, plantations, traditional camps. Another point, appreciated on the establishment of a mechanism of technical working groups responsible for corporate, social and environmental groups with the participation of four parties for sustainable development.



Mrs. Ya Yany, representative of indigenous peoples (Punong). she was very happy that community representatives from all six provinces came together today to attend a conference on land and natural resource governance. She pointed out that in the past, communities, especially local community or indigenous communities living in and near natural resources; were inextricably dependent on natural resources, such as forests, by-products, plantations, and crops. Used traditionally to earn a living and improve living standards.

She said that in the past, communities have had a lot of impact on land and natural resources used included: There has been encroachment on land in forests and protected areas,

1. affecting the forest land, the forest, the forest, the demonic forest and the burial ground of Indigenous communities
2. have land disputes with private companies related to ELCs and projects that remain unresolved.
3. the benefits that local communities receive from the company's development projects are still low;
4. there is a risk of land use rights;

I would like to thank you for helping to register land, improve the livelihoods and rights of indigenous peoples, and request to expedite the registration of land for indigenous communities by issuing collective land titles faster.



environment and society and gender needs, and the participation of young people in the possession of these lands and natural resources. The use of resources and being able to know what is forbidden and what is allowed. In fact, the settlement of communities near natural resources, especially forests, is very difficult to prohibit the use of natural resources, forestry, agriculture, land clearing, plantation, use of non-timber forest products or wildlife. Sometimes it is not forbidden if the people have a community organization to manage natural resources, land, forest and so on.





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Regional Workshop on CSOs' Forum on Climate Change Linked to People Migration

On 15 September 2022, Siem Reap Province, The NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) organized the Regional Workshop CSO's Forum on Climate Change Linked to People Migration with the supported by the Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung-Hanoi Office.

Welcome Remark and Key note Address by **Ms. Nhean Phoungmaly**, Executive Director of Rachna Saterej, She welcomed all the participants from variety of institutions including academic, civil society, and development partners. She acknowledged the efforts of all stakeholders on coping Climate Change (CC) and migration in Cambodia, in terms of adaptation and migration linked to CC. There are 322 CSOs and 06 CSOs have been implementing the projects on climate change resilience in Siem Reap Province. As recently, National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM) has alert every disaster event provides new knowledge and information by phone. She ended his keynote by applauding the NGOF for its efforts on mobilizing stakeholders to work together for coping CC. We still need more discussions on how to cope with adaptation and migration of people linked to CC.

Mr. Mak Bunthoeurn, PASGRO Program Manager of NGOF, on behalf of Dr. Tek Vannara, ED of NGOF and organizing committees, he has paid respects to Mr. Philip Mrs. Nhean Phoungmaly and all participants who attending as physical and online. This regional workshop was supported by RLS aims to: share information and experiences of NGOs working on climate change, from Vietnam, Laos PDR, and Cambodia on people migration linked to climate change. He expected that the results of this workshop



all participants understood the impact of climate change linked to people migration and how to work together to coping with all those impacts.

Opening Remark by **Mr. Philip Degenhardt**, Regional Director of Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung

He thanks to all organizing committees to make this workshop happened, even thought Cambodia still has Covid-19. He has raised on the impact of climate change in Tonle Sap on livelihood of people. In short, overused of natural resources always impact on the environment resulting as they do in soil degradation, water

shortages, biodiversity loss, damage to ecosystem functions and global warming exacerbation. Finally, he encouraged the participants to provide and sharing the experiences for addressing to people migration. He thanked the workshop organizer for the active event and declared the workshop opened.

Recap and Closing Remark by **Dr. Tek Vannara**, the regional workshop was closed by Dr. Tek Vannara, ED of NGOF and representative of organizing committees. Having paid respects to the chairmen, ladies and gentlemen, and the participants, Dr. Tek Vannara noted to



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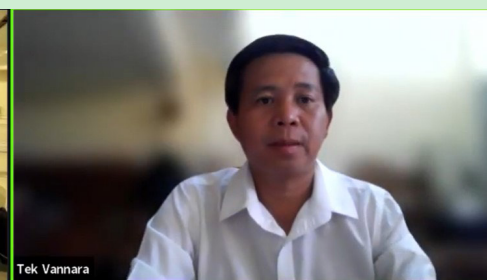
the workshop key important points as following. He was honored to participate in the closing sessions today meeting: Regional Workshop on CSOs' Forum on Climate Change Linked to People Migration which organized by NGOF under budget supported by RLS, he said. He highly evaluated all the representatives of the participants from the Vietnam, Lao PDR and NECA members and NGOF's partners to actively participate in this workshop.

The result of our workshop on 06 topics as following:

1. Climate Change loss and Damage Assessment
2. People Migration link with Climate Change



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Tek Vannara

3. Climate Justice in Lao PDR and How the Lao Minor Ethnic Group Treated
4. Major root case of migration in Cambodia and how Central address the issues
5. Climate change, impacts and our responses: C&E experiences in building capacity on climate resilience
6. Climate Change and People Migration in ASEAN

He thanked the RLS and the workshop organizing partners, and guest speakers for active participation and discussions in the context of CC link to people migration. In the end, on his behalf, he acknowledged, once again, for the hard works of the participants in the regional workshop and wished all the participants with the four Buddhism Wishes and declared the event closed.

Civil Society Capacity Building Workshop on “Collaboration for transparent budgets and accountability”

Phnom Penh, 19 – 21 September – Budget Working Group (BWG) under the coordination of the NGO Forum on Cambodia in cooperation with International Budget Partnership (IBP) have been organizing a Civil Society Capacity Building Workshop on “Collaboration for transparent budgets and accountability”, which seeks to develop the capacities of civil society to incorporate budget analysis into their work and generate advocacy opportunities around relevant issues in their context. By the end of the program, we hope that civil society will:

- have the knowledge and skills to think strategically about budgets and relate them to public policy issues relevant to their work
- begin to use available budget information and engagement opportunities to address your own institutional agenda and influence



expectations for change

- be strengthened in their capacity to actively participate in budget processes and be able to relate their interests to



the broader demands for transparent budgets and accountability

There're totally 30 participants (17 females) from BWG (20 organizations), Parliamentary Centre of Asia (PCAsia) and Senate.



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UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2022

01 November

11th National Farmer Forum

02 November

Conference on Land and Natural Resources Governance

21 November

Annual General Meeting in 2022

01 -02 December

Sharing and Dialogue on Research Study Findings on ESG
Implementation of Banks and Gold Mining in Cambodia

19 December

18th Donors and Partners Meeting

19-23 December

the Annual Program Reflection in 2022

26-28 December 2022

Annual Reflection and Learning Workshop of NGO Coalition
on EI Governance in Kep province



THANK YOU!

The NGO Forum on Cambodia would like to thank to our local and international donors that always support our good causes missions to support Cambodians in need.

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