



LEADING STORIES

In this issue: Leading Stories

Workshop on Research Study of People Migration Link to Climate Change



Due to the increasing Cambodian people migrating to abroad for jobs, especially better jobs, a study commissioned by The NGOF and conducted by a consultant team in two sites: Kampong Svay district, Kampong Thom province; and Chetr Borei district, Kratie province. The study report was drafted in September 2021 and circulated for comments. The written comments were incorporated into the draft report and presented to the online meeting held on the 25th October 2021 for further clarifications and comments. The validation workshop was organized with two objectives which are: 1)-to share draft report of assessment on the research study of people migration link to climate change, and 2)- to collect inputs from

relevant stakeholders and incorporate into the final report.

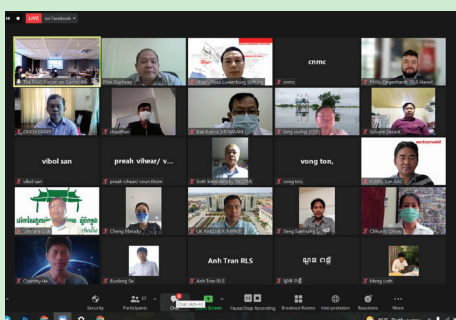
There were 52 participants (21 women) from key relevant stakeholders attended the workshop, some of those were online individually, and others in persons, which was held in Hyatt Regency Hotel. In addition, some other participants were joined online from abroad such as Hanoi, Vietnam. The workshop was held during Half a day (Annex 1: Workshop Agenda). Before starting the validation workshop, several key notes were addressed by key delegates. Those include:

Dr. Tek Vannara, NGOF's Executive Director: He emphasized that Cambodia,

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especially farmers of the study areas, have faced with floods, lightning, draughts, which have badly affected the people livelihoods. He emphasized that damage of agriculture due to Climate Change (CC) caused to out-migration of the villagers. Dr. Vannara underlined that ability to cope with CC would keep the rural people to work in their home villages instead of migration, especially unsafe migration. Therefore, Dr. Vannara suggested, Cambodia needed green development and technology transfer in order to improve livelihoods of the local communities. The third aspect is to reduce emission of Green House Gas (GHG) from development, reduce forest degradation, and more conservation, he said. Finding the ways to better CC adaptation and mitigation should be more active in the country and for debate today, he stressed.

Ms. Ngin Navirak, UNDP: Being as one of the responsible people on Small Grand, UNDP, she stated that more than 125 countries worldwide engaged in the program. The grand is to let NGO to closely work with communities to develop the





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community livelihoods. In Cambodia, the Small Grand started in 2004; and by now, there are more than 240 projects have been implemented including CC, forest and biodiversity. Through implementation of these projects, Ms. Navirak emphasized that there are changes in attitude of the Cambodians from very restricted to more open, e.g. more and more villagers let their daughters to go to schools and find suitable opportunities like migration for jobs. Before ending her welcome remarks, Ms. Navirak encouraged the participants to actively provide inputs on the result of the CC study, which would be presented shortly. For information to the participants, she mentioned that the Small Grand, UNDP Cambodia allocated some budget for NGOF to help further build capacity of target communities.

Mr. Philip, Regional Director of South-East Asia of Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung: He provided his short welcome remarks from Hanoi office, Vietnam (through Zoom), with greeting Ladies and Gentlemen, and highlighting several points include: significant change of Cambodia for last decade, while emphasizing that Rosa Luxemburg stiftung worked on the concept of ecological and social aspects to CC, and happy to collaborate with NGOF, and other, on the CC issues in the future. He ended his speech by hopping to closely work with the participants in the future.

H.E. Dr. Phin Sopheap, Deputy Director of the Prek Leap National Agriculture Institute: He underlined CC as 1) the changes of atmosphere within 30 years that cause biosphere, lithosphere, hydrosphere, and 2) CC impacts on communities (property and capitals like human resources and natural resources). The changes in impacts on human resources are strongly links to migration of the farmers. The study should closely look at this correlation. To him, migration for better jobs in abroad could be good and bad. Dr. Sopheap provided

his example of the Philippines people, who live on migration working in abroad, so migration should not be only bad. The most important is high skill workers of the migrants in order to obtain higher incomes. Because of not enough time during the workshop to comment on each point of the study, he encouraged the study to re-think on data scale and its conclusion and recommendations.

For the validation session which was moderated by Mr. Ouk Vannara, NGOF's deputy executive director, it has been smoothly proceeded after the presentation of the key finding and recommendations of the research study report which was made by the consultant. While the study report was circulated for comments among the participants, there were comments provided by speakers prior to Mr. Bansok's presentation (Annex 2). Having heard all the previous comments during earlier time of the workshop, Bansok accepted all of them. However, he had short time to present his presentation as following:

Literature reviews: While studying literature of the existing policies and previous studies related to the research topic, the documents conclude that Cambodia is risky to CC for the last three decades such as floods and draughts. The previous studies further show that CC impacts led to migration of the farmers. Findings of the study: His study found important points as:

- CC definitely caused to migration, because of lack of water for agriculture,
- Chemical fertilizers have been used without control that cause to damages of agricultural lands,
- Government intervention capacity responding to CC have been limited to keep farmers in place,
- Agricultural seeds were not good enough for the current context of CC.
- Knowledge of CC adaptation of the farmers was limited.

Additional comments, made during discussion session, to the existing ones include:

- Provide "definition of migration" either in the country or in abroad.
- Impacts of CC and how (causes of) migration to farmers should be provided in the study sites.
- Provide pre-migration measures to cope with the migration.
- Should divide the study by scope in short period of study time;
- For now, the study should provide only short-term findings, but not to claim for the country representation.
- Migration and Institutional supports: Your recommendations should be classified for government, NGO, communities, and private sector.
- What are the different impacts by CC between the study regions (mostly water areas) and other non-water regions? Maybe the scope areas and time frame were limited.

Finally, **Mr. Sam Sovann, Chairperson of NECA Steering Committee**, Kratie province, provided key points during his closing remark. He stated that for the meeting day, the meeting was actively discussed on CC and Migration. All comments are accepted for the study team to incorporate them into the document. We would like to see the document will be useful for future uses. He recommended that all stakeholders, e.g. from Prime Minister to Village Heads, to take CC into more consideration, as Covid-19 concerns. Migration and agriculture: nowadays agriculture no more use cattle for labor, benefits from agriculture have been lower than migration jobs. But migration should be safe. So, the study team should include this aspect to the study. He closed the meeting by saying to this human generation to leave the good planet for the next generations! And he wished all the participants healthy before declaring the workshop closed.



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National Public Forum on Citizen Engagement in Budget Formulation and Monitoring on Public Budget Expenditure Process in the Covid 19 Context



On Thursday 28 October 2021, Budget Working Group (BWG) which consists of local and international NGOs working on budget-related policies coordinated by the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGO Forum) organized a National Public Forum on Citizen Engagement in Budget Formulation and Monitoring on Public Budget Expenditure Process in the Covid 19 Context both national and sub-national levels. The event was attended by key stakeholders including the representatives from dozen government institutions/ministries including the Anti-Corruption Unit (ACU), Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF)/General Department of Taxation, Ministry of Interior (MoI)/ National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development (NCDDs), Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA), Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY), Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training (MLVT)/ National Social Security Fund (NSSF), Ministry of Information (MoInfo), Ministry of Planning (MoP), Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), Development Partners

(DPs) in particularly European Union Delegation to Cambodia and The Embassy of Sweden, national and international NGOs, universities, students, community youths and citizen totally 60 in-person participants (10 females) and 300 joined via zoom, 6K viewers from 5 institutions Facebook pages cross-post lives and 300 comments. Sofitel Phnom Penh Phokeethra, and through Virtual

The purposes of the forum are to:

1. Increase the understanding and promote public participation on budget transparency and accountabilities including the budgetary process both national and sub-national.
2. Provide opportunities for taxpayers including youths, CSOs/NGOs to meet



and discuss with relevant stakeholders and policymakers toward the public participation in the budget cycle at the national and sub-national level.

3. Provide opportunities for taxpayers including youths, CSOs/NGOs to provide inputs for relevant stakeholders and policymakers toward the improvement of national budget transparency and accountability, gender mainstreaming, inclusive principal, and other alternatives to improve the effectiveness of the sub-national budget formulation.

The event went through 5 key short discussion sessions as follows:

1. The importance and responsibilities of the oversight body
2. Synergies between Public Finance Management (PFM) and Social Protection
3. Gender Responsive Budget (GRB)
4. Public Investment on Education and Children
5. Public Participation in the Processes of Budget Formulation and Implementation Monitoring at the Sub-National Level

Each topic has been discussed on the three main points such as:

1. Positive existing mechanism and the real practices
2. Number of challenges that hinder the practices
3. Proposed solutions, recommendations, and priority actions that will be implemented by concerned stakeholders.

As a result, we, together congratulate on the positive existing mechanisms and practices related to citizen participation



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in Budget Formulation and Monitoring on Public Budget Expenditure which there are 35 positive points and progresses. The number of challenges that have been hindered to the quality of the monitoring and remarkable budget evaluation, raised during the discussion in the forum including 36 key challenges and 45 Proposed recommendations.

Finally, we, the participants in this public forum, pledge to continue working together in a professional relationship and in a supportive climate to promote transparency and accountability in budgeting oversight at both the national and sub-national levels.



**Summary of National Public Forum on
“Citizen Engagement in Budget Formulation and Monitoring on
Public Budget Expenditure Process in the Covid 19 Context”**

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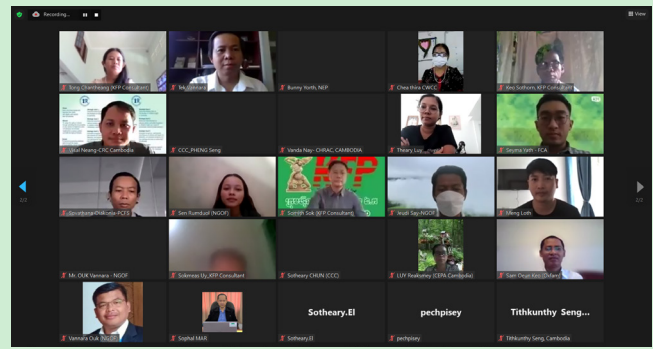
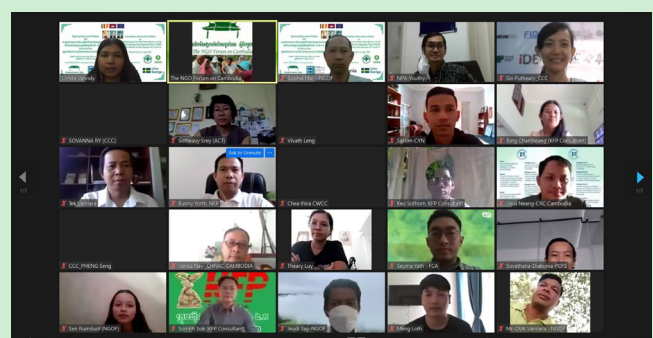
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HIGHLIGHT STORIES

Consultative Workshop on Collecting Inputs of CSOs on the Monitoring of Mid-term Review of the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023 implementation based on the Impact of Covid-19

On 21 September 2021, the NGO Forum on Cambodia (NGOF) in collaboration with the Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC) organized a consultative workshop on collecting inputs of civil society organizations on the Monitoring of Mid-term Review of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2019-2023 implementation based on the Impact of Covid-19. The purpose of this meeting aim to:

1. Update on the implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) and share the roadmap of the process of monitoring the implementation of the semi-implementation of the National Strategic Development Plan 2019-2023 of the Royal Government of Cambodia based on the impact of Covid-19.
2. Provide consensus on the templates of input, resource contribution (both human, budget and material resources) to support the participatory and participation of multi-sectoral civil society organizations in the input process for the implementation of NSDP 2019-2023.
3. Preparation of a joint action plan with CSOs in their respective fields to participate in the roles and responsibilities to provide input to the implementation of Midterm review of NSDP 2019 – 2023.



3rd Quarterly Meeting of the NGO on Environment and Climate Change Alliance

In the morning, on 02nd September 2021, The NGO Forum on Cambodia organized Virtual meeting on 3rd Quarterly Meeting of the NGO on Environment and Climate Change Alliance (NECA) which total 34 participants.

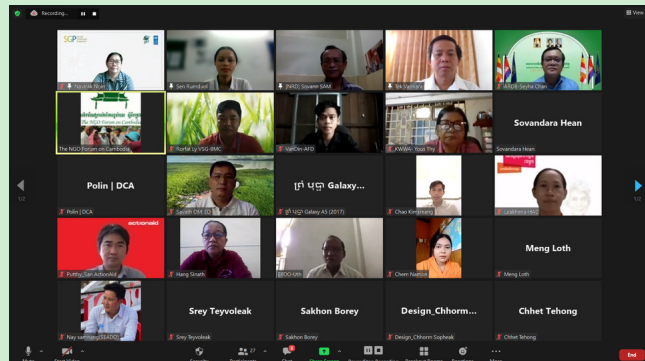
In opening remark, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of NGOF would like to extend a warm welcome to all participants. He emphasized that the role of CSOs in the participation in policies level and implementation in the ground level to contribute in climate change, green finance and climate investment funds are very important. Climate change has been a hot topic in Asian and Global to focus on. In the recently, he was attended a meeting on ASEAN's role in climate change, and way forward to the global event in COP 26th that will scheduled to take place in the UK in November of this year.

There were three guest speakers:

- 1) Climate Change Science: Impact, Vulnerability and Adaptation by Mr. Se Bunleng, Lecture of Royal University of Phnom Penh ,
- 2) Perception of ARDB for Green Financing Institute by Mr. Chan

- 3) CANSEA &NGOF: ASEAN Climate Change and way forward to COP26 by Mr. Nithi Nesadurai, Director and Regional Coordinator of CANSEA.

Lastly, we updated key achievements, challenges, lesson learnt and review next three months action plans of NECA. The Meeting ended 12:00 PM.





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Launch of Citizen Budget: Cambodia National Budget 2021

On the morning of September 27, 2021, the Budget Working Group (BGW) consists of 18 civil society organizations co-organized The Launch of Citizen Budget: Cambodia National Budget 2021 through a Virtual meeting. There were 80 participants from CSOs, Ministry of Economy and Finance, representative of Sweden Embassy and development partners.

Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, as Mr. Pich Pisey and Ms. Camilla mentioned that the disclosure of budget information is very important for the people, the government and stakeholders which to ensure in sustainable development. He said that the national and sub-national budgets are linked to the global level to ensure sustainable development, so today's dissemination of budget information for the people is really important to the public to learn more.

Mr. Mar Sophal, Program Manager of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, participated in the discussion of the program to disseminate the budget information for the people. He said that the simplicity and ease of understanding of the citizen budget that it requires for the technical experts in considering how to make all the documents and data to be summarized in figures can be pictures and graphics in a simple and



easy to understand format that it helps the people easy for understanding. He suggested that all stakeholders should consider and prepare well before disseminating to the public, especially the monitoring the implementation of sub-national expenditures of citizens.

Launching and Dissemination Workshop on “Feasibility of NTFP Commercialization and Supply Chain Management”

The NGO Forum on Cambodia will organize Launching and Dissemination Workshop on “Feasibility of NTFP Commercialization and Supply Chain Management” which will be held on 01st October 2021. The objective of this workshop is organized to disseminate research reports on “FEASIBILITY OF NTFP COMMERCIALIZATION AND SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT “. The launching and dissemination workshop is supported by MRLG, HEKS / EPER, Bfdw, Diakonia and the Forest for Mekong Forest (V4MF). The meeting was held through a zoom meeting and organized at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Phnom Penh. There were 80 participants which are the representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, Forestry Administration, Department of Environment and Forestry Administration in Stung Treng Province, Kampong Thom, Mondulhiri, Preah Vihear, Kratie, Kampong Speu, Koh Kong and Kampot, Representative of the Royal Academy, Young Eco Ambassador, professors, communities representative (community forestry, indigenous peoples community and community in protected area) in above provinces mentioned and NGOs. This study has three main objectives: 1) To examine the opportunities of community forestry and protected area communities to promote healthy livelihoods and forests through the supply chain of non-timber forest products and



environmental benefits; 2) To examine the challenges that communities are facing in the NTFP trade process and the impact on sustainable community management; 3) To make recommendations on what laws and policies related to non-timber forest products, including tax exemptions, should be improved the business environment and sustainable used of non-timber forest products.



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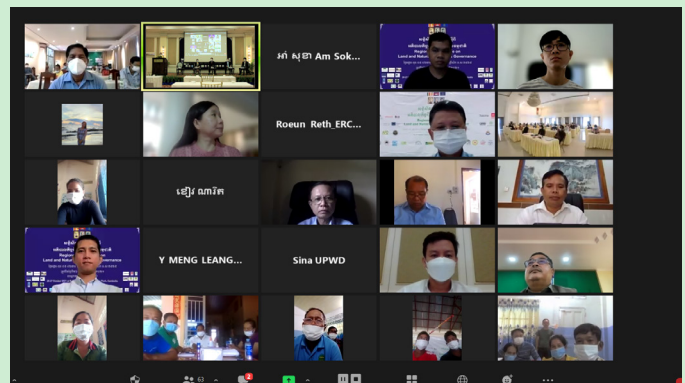
Regional Conference on Land and Natural Resource Governance

The NGO Forum on Cambodia co-organized with international and national NGOs which hosted Regional Conference on Land and Natural Resource Governance. This event was organized at Raffle Le Royal Hotel in Phnom Penh and via virtual meeting (Zoom meeting) from 26-27 October, 2021. There were 150 participants from Phnom Penh, Preah Sihanouk Province, Kampot Province and Koh Kong Province. This meeting, there were honor guests who presented by HE Dr. Ek Buntha, Deputy Director General of the General Department of Cultural Technology of the Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts. Mr. Sok Sothy, Deputy Governor of Koh Kong Province, represented Lok Chumteav Mithona Phuthong, Governor of Koh Kong Provincial Board of Governors. His Excellency Bel Kosal, Deputy Governor of Kampot Province, Representative of Kampot Provincial Governor. HE Ngin Chenda, Deputy Governor of Kep Province, Representative of Kep Provincial Governor. Mr. Ung Try, Deputy Director of the National Fisheries Administration and President of the Cambodian Fisheries Network of the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Mr. Hong Raksme, Country Director of ActionA. Mr. Roeun Reth, Director of Kampot Provincial Network of Civil Society Organizations, as well as representatives of relevant departments, units, NGOs, private sector researchers and communities in the provinces and cities as mentioned above.

The objective of this meeting are:

1. To provide opportunities for local community representatives, civil society, government officials at both national and sub-national levels, the National Assembly, the Senate, the private sector, research institutions and development partners to have frankly discussions on land, housing and natural resource management to achieve sustainable development
2. Jointly develop input reports to contribute to the Royal Government of Cambodia, the National Assembly, the Senate and other relevant partners to improve laws, policies and practices and the effectiveness of land and natural resource governance to achieve the plan and poverty reduction strategy according to the 2030 strategic goals.

In welcoming speech, Dr. Tek Vannara, Executive Director of the NGO Forum on Cambodia, said that today's regional conference is to join the Cambodian government in strengthening laws and policies related to land, housing and natural resources. By improving and strengthening the implementation of policies, laws and regulations aimed at promoting land and natural resource governance, with a focus on addressing social impacts and protecting the environment and sustainable livelihoods of local communities.





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On The Media



Topic: Civil society calls-on govnt to show transparency in national budget management

Source: VOD

Date: 28 October 2021

For more detail <https://bit.ly/3zlgTpz>



Topic: national and international partners hold public forums on citizen participation in the budget planning process

Source: Phnom Penh Post

Date: 28 October 2021

For more detail <https://bit.ly/3f8aEBM>



Topic: Stakeholders say that citizen participation in budget planning and monitoring of budget implementation is still limited

Source: PNN TV

Date: 28 October 2021

For more detail <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1bYtDy8FuVM>

UPCOMING EVENTS/HOLIDAYS 2021

11-12 November

Annual General Meeting and Network Reflection 2021

16 November

Consultation-Validation Workshop on draft findings and recommendations on Green Financing Policies Implementation in Cambodia

17 November

14th National Conference on Land and Natural Resources Governance

23 November

10th National Farmer Forum

26 November

Dialogue on The Mid-term Review on the Implementation of NSDP 2019-2023 based on the Impact of Covid-19

15 December

17th NGOF's Donors and Partners Meeting

17 December

Reception Meeting with researchers

20-24 December

Annual Reflection Meeting 2021

27 December

Dissemination Workshop on Land and Natural Resources Dispute Information

28 December

Consultative Workshop on Community and Network for Forest Governance (N4F) Planning Integration



THANK YOU!

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Working Together for Positive Change



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