



Ministry of Environment

PRESENTS

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# CAMBODIA CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT



## 2023 REPORT



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PREPARED BY

**MEKONG**  
FUTURE INITIATIVE



# MEKONG

## FUTURE INITIATIVE

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

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Letter from the director general of MFI .....	5
<b>1. Introduction .....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2. Day One</b>	
• 2.1 <i>CAPRED</i> : Building a Ready Financial System for Climate Finance .....	11
• 2.2 <i>UK</i> : Biodiversity and climate change challenges in the Lower Mekong.....	14
• 2.3 <i>USAID</i> : Cambodian Climate Financing Facility.....	17
• 2.4 <i>Oxfam</i> : Community’s Perspectives and Government Commitment to Address Climate Change Impacts in the Mekong river and Tonle Sap Lake.....	20
• 2.5 <i>Kosher Climate</i> : Carbon Markets: Potential and Prospects for Cambodia.....	22
• 2.6 <i>iDE</i> : Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture & Horticulture.....	25
• 2.7 <i>SDC</i> : Sustainable Solutions for local SMEs .....	28
• 2.8 <i>People in Need</i> : The role of solar energy in achieving climate resiliency for Cambodia’s small holder farmers.....	31
• 2.9 <i>USAID</i> Nature-based Solutions: Financing options from carbon sequestered/ CO2 avoided.....	33
• 2.10 <i>Energy Lab</i> : Addressing Climate Change with Clean Energy: From Entrepreneurs to Economic Transformation.....	36
• 2.11 <i>UNFAO</i> : Sustainable, Resilient and Low Emission Rice .....	39
• 2.12 <i>Sevea Energy Efficiency</i> : NEEP Compliance for the Industry.....	42
<b>3. Day Two</b>	
• 3.1 Key Note Speech / Plenary Session.....	45
• 3.2 International Policy Panel.....	46
• 3.3 <i>MFI</i> : Corporate Thought Leaders.....	48
• 3.4 <i>UK</i> : Sustainability & Climate Resilience: Paving the Path for Climate Ready Infrastructure in Cambodia.....	51
• 3.5 <i>Youth Panel</i> : Cambodian Young People’s Representation.....	54
• 3.6 <i>CAPRED</i> : Pathway to carbon-competitive agri-food value chain.....	57
• 3.7 <i>iDE</i> : Exploring the Nexus of Climate Change and WASH: A Panel Discussion on Strategies and Priorities for Cambodia.....	60
• 3.8 <i>USAID</i> : Beyond REDD+ (REDD+ Plus): Benefits of REDD+ beyond avoided deforestation.....	63
• 3.9 <i>CAPRED</i> : Policy Responses to Increasing Impacts of Climate Change on Clean Water Supply.....	66
• 3.10 <i>UNPAGE</i> : New sources of sustainable economic growth.....	69
• 3.11 <i>SDC</i> : Inclusive water governance and agro-ecology for climate resilience.....	72
• 3.12 <i>BritCham</i> : Green Business Panel.....	76
• 3.13 <i>GIZ</i> : Sustainable Tourism.....	79
• 3.14 <i>ADB</i> : ‘In Hot Water’ - Rethinking Marine Adaptation.....	81





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

---

4. Sustainability Expo .....	84
5. Carbon Offset .....	92
6. Attendee Demographics .....	93
7. Post-Event Survey .....	94
8. Financial Summary .....	97
Appendix A: Media Coverage .....	98
Appendix B: Agenda .....	99
Appendix C: VIP Guest List .....	101
Appendix D: Selected Photos .....	102
Appendix E: CCCS23 Sponsors .....	104







**LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL,  
MEKONG FUTURE INITIATIVE**

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## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR GENERAL MEKONG FUTURE INITIATIVE

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*We are thrilled to have hosted the Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023 (CCCS23) and are deeply appreciative of the incredible efforts of our partners and participants who made this event a resounding success. The summit provided a vibrant platform for an open exchange of ideas and fostered a spirit of positive action to address our shared climate challenges.*

*This year's CCCS23 witnessed a remarkable growth in scope and ambition, with over 300 registered participants, 27 sessions, and 125 esteemed speakers. Through our diverse range of climate-related sessions, we explored critical issues and sought innovative solutions to mitigate climate change.*

*Our primary goal in hosting CCCS is to provide a unique and valuable platform for national dialogue on climate change issues, bringing together a diverse array of individuals and organizations from across the country. Your feedback from our post-event survey overwhelmingly confirms the success of this endeavor:*

- 97% of respondents made new connections at the summit.*
- 92% believe that CCCS should be held annually.*
- 88% would attend CCCS24 and 95% would recommend the summit to their colleagues.*

*These resounding numbers speak volumes about the vital role CCCS continues to play in fostering collaboration and advancing climate action in Cambodia.*

*Your feedback on the format of the event was also invaluable. We heard a strong preference for shorter breakout sessions and ample networking opportunities. Additionally, there was an overwhelming desire to extend the summit to a three-day format. We will certainly consider this feedback as we begin planning for CCCS24.*

*The heart and soul of CCCS lies in its participants, who generously contribute their time and expertise to the exchange of ideas. Thanks to the unwavering support of the Ministry of Environment and our generous sponsors, CAPRED [Official Partner], USAID [Founding Partner], Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation [Gold Partner], UN FAO, Oxfam in Cambodia, Koshor Climate [Silver Partners], Forte Insurance and Heineken [Bronze Partners] we were able to keep CCCS23 free of charge for all participants. We are committed to continuing this funding model to ensure that CCCS remains an accessible and inclusive platform for all.*

*We look forward to seeing you at CCCS24!*



Sincerely,

Allen Dodgson Tan  
Director General  
Mekong Future Initiative



# 1.1 INTRODUCTION





## 1.1 INTRODUCTION

November 2023 saw the launch of the third Cambodia Climate Change Summit (CCCS23), a free-to-attend two-day event organized by the Mekong Future Initiative, and presented by The Ministry of Environment.

Held in Siem Reap at the Borei Angkor Hotel, CCCS23 held the broadest range of high-level climate discussions in the summit's history. Twenty-seven sessions were hosted by some 19 distinguished public, private and third-sector actors, bringing together more than 90 esteemed experts, stakeholders, representatives and dignitaries to talk on the most important climate-related topics affecting the Kingdom.

This year's summit also saw over double the attendance from its previous year, with 330 local and international climate change dedicated attendees present.

The summit was also completely carbon offset – for a second year running – this year via carbon credits, demonstrating the CCCS commitment to climate change mitigation through innovation.

### ***A joint effort for climate change mitigation***

CCCS23's official partner was Australia – through its flagship economic development program, the Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED) – with further sponsorship by its founding partner, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Gold sponsors, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), also hosted a summit-first Sustainable Solutions Expo, the free-to-attend Expo allowed attendees the chance to meet the visionary businesses and organizations that are at the forefront of innovative projects and products providing solutions for climate change.

Oxfam supported this year's event as a Silver sponsor, running their session and Expo stall, with Heineken and Forte Insurance joining as Bronze Sponsors, both speaking at the Corporate Thought Leaders session.

### ***Support For Sustainability***

The Welcome Remarks, Plenary sessions, and the International Policy Panel at this year's CCCS23 – led by the Minister of Environment, Australian Ambassador and U.S. Ambassador – collectively set the tone for this important event, emphasizing the gravity of climate change and the necessity for global cooperation to combat it effectively.

**H.E Eang Sophalleth**, Minister of Environment, commended the event, stressing the gravity of climate change and the impending consequences, noting the potential for catastrophic effects if global temperatures continue to rise.

*“We need to focus not only on the formulation of policy and strategy, but we also need real action to support the needs of people who are affected by climate change. We need to work together to protect our environment and ensure a sustainable future for all Cambodians,” he added.*

In his remarks, **US Ambassador W. Patrick Murphy** emphasized the importance of the 2023 climate change event as Cambodia and the world prepare for the 28th Conference of the Parties (COP28) in Dubai.

*“Dialogues like this are key to improving our coordination and cooperation in support of Cambodia's strategy to achieve carbon neutrality. Achieving our climate goals can and needs to be consistent with building a strong, stable, and inclusive economy for all,” he said.*





## 1.1 INTRODUCTION



At CCS23 (left to right) H.E Neak Okhna Sear Rithy, Amb. W. Patrick Murphy, Minister of Environment H.E Eang Sophalleth, Amb Justin Whyatt, H.E Allen Dodgson Tan,

*“This summit comes before COP28. It’s very encouraging to see this summit address key themes in Cambodia. This event provides an opportunity to improve stakeholder cooperation for long-term carbon neutrality, improving waste management transforming sectors and ending deforestation,” he added.*

**Australian Ambassador Justin Whyatt** underscored Cambodia’s vulnerability to climate change economically, environmentally, and socially.

*“In Australia, we are working hard to transform our energy sector - we want 82% of our grid to be renewable energy powered by 2030. That is a really big transition as historically we have been fossil fuel dependent.”*

*“We are sharing our experiences with Cambodia – including integrating variable renewable energy into the grid. And we’re stepping up climate action cooperation. Through CAPRED we are supporting Cambodia to connect off-grid villages to clean electricity, improve access to clean water, and develop zero-waste business models in agriculture, for example,” he added.*

### **A Global Movement**

Chairman of MFI, **H.E Neak Okhna Sear Rithy**, said the summit underscored the shared understanding that addressing the challenge of climate change is inseparable from the future of the children, the nation, and the world.

*“At the Mekong Future Initiative, we have examined these issues and have found Climate Change to be one of the most critical, particularly for those who are most vulnerable.”*

MFI Director General, **H.E Allen Dodgson Tan** added that this year’s summit had been a resounding success, with a record-breaking number of attendees and contributors, encompassing climate experts and stakeholders from governments, the private sector and development agencies – as well as prominent youth representation.





## 2. DAY ONE







## 2.1 BUILDING A READY FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

BY CAPRED



**Dr. Katherine Warner**

Climate Resilience Advisor  
CAPRED



**Mr. Seng Youraden**

Director of Banking Supervision  
Department II  
National Bank of Cambodia



**Mr. Phon Yut Sakara**

Fair Finance Cambodia (FFC)  
Coordinator  
Oxfam



**Mr. John McGinley**

Managing Partner  
Mekong Strategic Capital



**Mr. Dith Sochal**

CEO Foreign Trade Bank







## 2.1 CAPRED BUILDING A READY FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

Cambodia's vulnerability to climate change, its economic risks, and the need for substantial climate finance were the central topics of discussion during the session on "Building a Ready Financial System for Climate Finance" organized by CAPRED.

The panelists established that Cambodia is highly vulnerable to the physical and economic impacts of climate change and its economy is at risk of the loss of its major export markets to countries that are tightening emissions regulations on imports.

The panel discussed how the private banking sector could have the potential to help fill the gap but to be able to do so, it will need to improve its green lending and ESG capabilities to access foreign capital.

Moderated by **Katherine Warner**, Climate Resilience Advisor at CAPRED, panelists included John McGinley, Managing Partner at Mekong Strategic Capital (MSC), Seng Youraden, Director of Banking Supervision Department II at the National Bank of Cambodia, Dith Sochal, CEO at Foreign Trade Bank and Phon Yut Sakara, Fair Finance Cambodia (FFC) Coordinator at Oxfam.

### Funding climate commitment

**John McGinley** emphasized the critical question of where the funding for climate finance in Cambodia will come from. He pointed out that approximately \$8 billion is required to meet the country's climate mitigation and adaptation goals by 2030, primarily stemming from Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC). To address this challenge, MSC initiated the Cambodia Climate Financing Facility (CCFF).

McGinley underscored the importance of involving domestic banks in providing green loans, as they are ideally positioned to play a pivotal role in lending to green projects because they better understand local risks and are better placed to lend in small amounts. He also highlighted the efforts undertaken since 2016 to prepare Cambodian banks for this role, focusing on sustainable financing initiatives and principles that align with international best practices.

*"Domestic banks can provide the type of financing that borrowers need. That's why we created a \$100 million vehicle to structure the supply of finance to the system which will allow wholesale lending to commercial banks and direct lending to climate projects."*

*"This will be deemed a success by its environmental outcomes not just economic. CCFF has government involvement and funding from the highest level, which will have a systemic impact on the financial model, by tackling the cause through mitigation and building resilience through adaptation," he added.*

**Dith Sochal** highlighted the challenges and opportunities for commercial operators in the context of sustainable finance.

*"I agree that there is a significant amount of money needed to address climate change in Cambodia, which will need to come from a range of sources, with the main challenge being the lack of affordable and long-term funding."*

He discussed the need for affordable green funding, skill development, and a better understanding of green practices and standards. Sochal emphasized the importance of raising awareness about sustainability and the necessity of building capacity within banks to ensure the right policies and procedures are in place.





## 2.1 CAPRED: BUILDING A READY FINANCIAL SYSTEM FOR CLIMATE FINANCE

### Collaboration and coordination

He also acknowledged numerous opportunities in green financing, particularly in sectors such as agriculture, energy, infrastructure, and tourism. Sochal stressed the importance of collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to collectively address climate risks.

**Phon Yut Sakara**, Coordinator at Oxfam's Fair Finance Cambodia (FFC), raised concerns about the absence of mandatory ESG disclosure requirements and sustainability report guidelines in Cambodia, which address both environmental and social issues. He mentioned limited awareness of climate change and the voluntary nature of climate change-related initiatives in the banking sector. Sakara advocated for establishing mandatory guidelines and requirements, calling for a more structured and regulated approach to sustainable finance.

However, Sakara also identified opportunities, including the commitment of ASEAN nations towards the global agenda 2030, national legal frameworks, banking practice codes, and sustainable finance principles. By integrating ESG principles into policies and procedures and collecting data on financing, Cambodia can better develop policies for inclusive climate financing in the future.

**Seng Youraden**, Director of Banking Supervision Department II at the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC), emphasized the significant role of financial institutions in addressing climate change and sustainability.

He acknowledged the fiscal risks associated with climate change impacts and recognized the importance of greener policies within the financial sector. Youraden expressed NBC's commitment to sustainability and its intention to transition from voluntary to mandatory regulation in the future.

He mentioned ongoing work on taxonomy to distinguish green projects from non-green ones, ensuring transparency and preventing greenwashing. Youraden also pointed out the increasing incentives for green lending within the financial sector.

In summary, the session highlighted the urgent need for substantial climate finance in Cambodia, primarily to meet NDC targets. Domestic banks were recognized as critical players in providing green loans. The discussions also revolved around challenges and opportunities, the necessity of capacity building, and the gradual transition from voluntary to mandatory regulations for sustainability and climate finance in the country. The financial sector's role in addressing climate change was underscored, with a focus on achieving greener policies and ensuring transparency in green finance.





British Embassy  
Phnom Penh

## 2.2 BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES IN THE LOWER MEKONG

BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY



**Ms. Alex Jones**

Climate Change Policy Officer  
FCDO



**Ms. Clémence Bourlet**

Protected and Conserved Areas officer  
/ International adviser  
IUCN



**Dr. Alexandra Mandelbaum**

Country Director  
SNV Impact That Matters



**Mr. Jeremy Parker**

Director of Operations, Asia-Pacific  
Fauna & Flora



**Mr. Theb Chey**

Biodiverse Landscape Fund Lower  
Mekong Landscape Coordinator  
DEFRA





## 2.2 BRITISH EMBASSY: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES IN THE LOWER MEKONG

The session on biodiversity and climate change challenges in the Lower Mekong explored the current state of biodiversity, conservation and livelihoods in Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos, through the lens of the UK's Biodiverse Landscape Fund (BLF).

Also discussed was the BLF program's role in assisting six landscapes, including the Lower Mekong region, in safeguarding biodiversity from climate change while also creating sustainable communities.

The session included a presentation by DEFRA, as well as a panel discussion, which explored the state of conservation and biodiversity in Cambodia, how to continue developing sustainable livelihoods with indigenous communities and the role that we all need to play in protecting biodiversity.

The session was moderated by **Alex Jones**, Climate Change Policy Officer, FCDO, and included panelists Alexandra Mandelbaum, Country Director at SNV Impact That Matters, Jeremy Parker, Director of Operations at Asia-Pacific at Fauna & Flora, Theb Chey, Biodiverse Landscape Fund Lower Mekong Landscape Coordinator at DEFRA, and Ms Clémence Bourlet, Protected and Conserved Areas Officer and International Adviser at IUCN.

**Theb Chey** said that the BLF program has three main objectives, namely the development of economic opportunities that can support biodiversity and climate objectives, the reuse or reverse of the biodiversity loss in six global landscapes and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions towards carbon-zero.

### ***Biodiversity loss and climate change***

He also addressed the key drivers of biodiversity loss and climate change in the Lower Mekong region, emphasizing the complexity of political, economic, and social issues, as well as identifying three main issues from the previous study.

*“Currently, large-scale infrastructure projects threaten natural resources and lead to resource degradation. Meanwhile, conflicting interests stagger the implementation of needed policies that can ensure the balance of economic growth with biodiversity protection. Without these policies, there is a direct threat to wildlife stocks and deforestation. We believe that only through a balanced approach can we find a better future for all.”*

**Jeremy Parker** discussed how his team – as well as other consortium partners – plan to contribute to the BLF program.

*“Our focus is on how BLF is going to benefit the climate in the long run for Cambodia and other lower Mekong countries.”*

*“For this project, our team has organised five major implementation components, which focus on livelihoods and illegal wildlife trade, marginalized communities, such as indigenous peoples and local communities, mitigating unsustainable infrastructure, protected area management, agriculture and ecotourism.”*





## 2.2 BRITISH EMBASSY: BIODIVERSITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGES IN THE LOWER MEKONG

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**Alexandra Mandelbaum** said that while in the preliminary phase, IUCN is initiating investments and engaging in consultations with stakeholders, government partners, and indigenous communities to ensure a judicious balance of costs and strategic navigation of trade-offs.”

*“In our project, we will be working closely with SNV to promote conservation-friendly value chains and provide livelihood opportunities for communities that will not only protect biodiversity but also bring business development, sustainability and ultimately climate resilience to the region.”*

She said they will be focusing on infrastructure development to prevent any harm to biodiversity in the protected areas of the landscape.

*“We will also be focusing on ecotourism, aiming to support and guide various stakeholders, including the private sector, in developing sustainable business opportunities.”*

*“Our project is a good opportunity to engage not only at the national level but at the regional level and create tourism routes that flow from one country to another, in a way that is beneficial for communities and not detrimental to the environment,” she added.*





## 2.3 CAMBODIAN CLIMATE FINANCING FACILITY

BY USAID



**Mr. Mark Selby**

Director, Climate Finance  
Mekong Strategic Capital



**Mr. Kunthy Kann**

Vice President  
Amru Rice & Cambodian Rice  
Federation



**Mr. Nicholas Boerema**

Founder & CEO  
Tap Effect



**Mr. Samea Vin**

Senior Program and Stakeholder Manager  
HUSK Ventures







## 2.3 USAID: CAMBODIAN CLIMATE FINANCING FACILITY

The "Cambodia Climate Financing Facility (CCFF)" session, organized by USAID, provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by different sectors related to financing the green economy in Cambodia.

Private sector partners shared their experiences and discussed how the CCFF is set to address these challenges. The session was moderated by Mark Selby, Director of Climate Finance at Mekong Strategic Capital, and featured panelists Kuthy Kann, Vice President of Amru Rice & Cambodian Rice Federation, Nicholas Boerema, Founder & CEO of Tap Effect and Samea Vin, Senior Program and Stakeholder Manager at Husk Ventures.

### **Cambodia Climate Financing Facility**

**Mark Selby** set the stage by highlighting Cambodia's 14th position in the world in terms of vulnerability to climate change. He emphasized the role of the Cambodia Climate Financing Facility (CCFF) in accessing climate funding for Cambodia and addressing the challenges faced by green businesses. The session aimed to bring together companies from three industries that the CCFF will target for financing.

### **Tap Effect**

**Nicholas Boerema**, representing Tap Effect, described his company's mission, which involves purifying water from natural sources and delivering it to households, with consumers paying for the water they use. Boerema acknowledged the difficulties faced by water suppliers in providing clean water due to limited access to finance, technical capabilities, small project sizes, and rural locations.

He discussed how investors were willing to invest but found it challenging to access such projects.

*"Tap Effect aims to bridge this gap by offering a holistic approach to developing a standardized system for deploying water purification systems to new areas. Boerema emphasized the adaptability of piped water systems, as they can continue to provide clean water even during flooding and droughts."*

However, he stressed the ongoing need for financing, particularly for infrastructure and concessional rates to ensure affordable access to tap water for more communities.

**Kunthy Kann**, representing the Amru Rice & Cambodian Rice Federation, discussed their work with 22,000 households.

Their approach involves exploring various aspects of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) considerations, such as the benefits of organic farming versus conventional rice production and the use of organic fertilizer.

Kann highlighted how these practices not only benefit farmers economically but also align with broader environmental goals while highlighting the important role that CCFF could play in financing the smallholder farming sector.

**Samea Vin**, from Husk Ventures, explained their transformation of rice husks and low-value biomass into fertilizer. This process yields both economic and environmental benefits.







## 2.3 USAID: CAMBODIAN CLIMATE FINANCING FACILITY

Their approach reduces input costs, decreases the use of chemicals, and enhances crop yields by up to 15 to 50%. Moreover, it regenerates the soil, making it climate-resilient due to its high water-holding capacity. Additionally, it reduces emissions and sequesters carbon from the atmosphere, contributing to soil health and reducing the environmental impact.

The CCFF has the potential to address the research costs that present challenges for the development of these types of climate-smart innovations.

### ***Challenges and Funding Needs***

The speakers collectively discussed their common challenges and those faced in general by green businesses, including access to ongoing working capital, especially in the rural sector, and financing gaps for small companies ranging from 1 to 5 million USD.

The capital-intensive nature of production, particularly the high cost of machinery, was also highlighted.

### ***Key Takeaways***

When asked for advice to businesses in this sector, the panelists collectively agreed that companies need to demonstrate a scalable approach and showcase the impact they are making on their communities. Presenting solutions for climate change adaptation was considered crucial.

In summary, the CCFF session provided a platform to discuss the challenges and solutions in financing the green economy in Cambodia. Private sector partners shared their experiences and highlighted the need for access to long-term concessional capital, scalability, and tangible impacts on communities as key factors for success in the climate finance sector.

The CCFF aims to address these challenges and support green businesses in Cambodia in their quest for sustainability and resilience.





## 2.4 COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVES AND GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE MEKONG RIVER AND TONLE SAP LAKE

BY OXFAM



**Ms. Luy Rasmey**

Executive Director  
Culture and Environment  
Preservation Association (CEPA)



**Ms. Chhoun Lann**

Chair of the Women Leadership  
Network on Fisheries  
Women Leadership Network  
Leader



**Dr. Hak Mao**

Director  
Department of Climate Change,  
Ministry of Environment



**Ms. Srey Rath Ream**

Mekong Youth Leader  
Mekong Youth Network



**H.E Kol Vathana**

Deputy Secretary General/ PNP  
Sustainable Hydropower  
Development & Climate Change  
CNMC





## 2.4 OXFAM: COMMUNITY'S PERSPECTIVES AND GOVERNMENT COMMITMENT TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS IN THE MEKONG RIVER AND TONLE SAP LAKE

Oxfam, a Silver sponsor of the 3rd Cambodia Climate Change Summit (CCCS23), led a session emphasizing the necessity for adaptive approaches to tackle the repercussions of climate change on the ecosystems of the Mekong River and Tonle Sap Lake.

It also explored the need to synergise how local communities, government agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders engage in the development and implementation of mitigation strategies for climate change impacts.

Moderated by **Luy Rasmey**, Executive Director of the Culture and Environment Preservation Association (CEPA), the panel comprised key figures such as Chhoun Lann, Women Leadership Network Leader at Women Leadership Network; Hak Mao, Director of the Department of Climate Change at the Ministry of Environment; Srey Rath Ream, Mekong Youth Leader at the Mekong Youth Network; and H.E Kol Vathana, Deputy Secretary General/PNPCA, Sustainable Hydropower Development & Climate Change, Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC).

**Chhoun Lann** initiated the conversation, highlighting the adverse effects of climate change in the Tonle Sap area, including diminished water flow, unpredictable rainfall, and alterations in seasonal patterns.

*"These challenges are adversely affecting the community's livelihoods and well-being. The community seeks assistance from the government to adapt to climate change and safeguard their environment," she stated.*

Lann pointed out the prolonged dry seasons and severe impacts on fish reproduction as consequences of climate change, emphasizing the crucial link between the Mekong and Tonle Sap for fish reproduction.

*"To address these issues, the community requires government support, particularly in agriculture and fisheries. Additionally, they advocate for halting the construction of hydro dams on the Mekong River, aggravating problems for the Tonle Sap community," she asserted.*

**Srey Rath Ream** concurred, underscoring the economic downturn in the community due to massive fish losses caused by climate change. She highlighted the resulting migration of Cambodians seeking employment abroad, significantly affecting children's education.

Discussing Cambodia's climate change strategy, **H.E. Dr. Hak Mao** emphasized the importance of private sector involvement, acknowledging the country's two-decade effort in climate change solutions. He stressed the need for external support, especially from the private sector, due to limited national resources.

**H.E Kol Vathana** affirmed the government's commitment to combating climate change through the CNMC's comprehensive climate action plan. He underscored the significance of community education to enhance their involvement in climate change solutions.

*"The community is on the frontline of climate change impacts, and they must be involved in developing and implementing solutions," Vathana emphasized, acknowledging the challenge of insufficient community information on the matter.*





## 2.5 CARBON MARKETS: POTENTIAL AND PROSPECTS FOR CAMBODIA

BY KOSHER CLIMATE



**Mr. Vamsi Krishna**

Founder Director  
Kosher Climate



**Mr. Asad Yaqub**

Resident Representative  
IFC Cambodia



**Mr. Pierre VERNET**

Dei Meas Project manager  
Swisscontact





## 2.5 KOSHER CLIMATE: CARBON MARKETS: POTENTIAL AND PROSPECTS FOR CAMBODIA

The session on "Kosher Climate Carbon Markets" explored the potential and prospects of carbon markets in Cambodia, a country with high climate ambitions despite its minimal contribution to global greenhouse gas emissions.

The discussion revolved around the importance of carbon markets as a climate solution and how they could play a pivotal role in meeting Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) targets under the Paris Agreement.

Moderated by **Mr. Vamsi Krishna**, Founder Director of Kosher Climate, the panel featured Pierre Vernet, Dei Meas Project Manager of Swisscontact, Asad Yaqub, Resident Representative of the International Finance Corporation (IFC), and representatives from GIZ.

### **Vamsi Krishna's Opening Remarks:**

Vamsi Krishna highlighted Cambodia's active involvement in the carbon market space, particularly in earning revenue from carbon credits associated with forestry. He set the stage for the session by acknowledging the growing interest in carbon markets as a means to address climate change effectively.

### **Pierre Vernet's Insights:**

Pierre Vernet discussed the Dei Meas project, which focuses on improving soil quality in Cambodia through agricultural stakeholders. He emphasized the need for speeding up the transition to sustainability for smallholder farmers, as the typical timeline in comparison to other farmers can be 3-5 years, which for many can be too long. Vernet also emphasized the various aspects of this transition, including understanding the financial gap and transition costs.

One significant challenge highlighted by Vernet is the complexity of dealing with a large number of individual farmers in Cambodia, making research and coordination efforts more challenging.

*"One issue is, in Cambodia if you are dealing with 5,000 hectares, you are dealing with 5,000 farmers, which makes organising research and coordinating efforts in our project much more difficult."*

*"The current model in agriculture is an extracting model. It is not a sustainable model, which is why we are trying to find alternative ways which benefit the farmer, the state and the long-term benefits of being sustainable while also being profitable."*

He added that finding alternative approaches that benefit both smallholder farmers and the state while ensuring long-term sustainability is crucial.





## 2.5 KOSHER CLIMATE: CARBON MARKETS: POTENTIAL AND PROSPECTS FOR CAMBODIA

### Asad Yaqub's Perspective:

Asad Yaqub, representing the International Finance Corporation (IFC), discussed the organization's role in developing the private sector and its focus on climate finance. He explained that the definition of climate finance is evolving, and it requires government policies and incentives to ensure benefits for both the private sector and the country as a whole.

Yaqub highlighted a regulatory gap in Cambodia, emphasizing the need for the government to define risk allocation.

*"As a financier, it's a case of risk mitigation. Carbon credits are an interesting option but it is about reducing risks. In the agriculture sector, it's small and unmechanised, but it is an important part of Cambodia's economy. It is a trading economy."*

As a financier, he stressed the importance of risk mitigation, particularly in carbon markets. Yaqub mentioned the unique challenges in Cambodia's unmechanized and small-scale agriculture sector, despite its significance in the country's economy.

In summary, the session on "Kosher Climate Carbon Markets" underscored the importance of carbon markets as a climate action tool. Cambodia's active participation in carbon credit generation from forestry was acknowledged. The session also discussed the complexities of transitioning to sustainability for smallholder farmers and the need for innovative approaches in the agricultural sector. Additionally, it emphasized the evolving nature of climate finance and the essential role of government policies and incentives in defining and shaping this finance. Carbon markets were recognized as a potential solution to advance Cambodia's climate goals and socio-economic development cost-effectively.





## 2.6 INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

### BY IDE



**Ms. Kevin Robbins**

Country Director  
iDE Cambodia



**Mr. Tuot Senghorng**

Climate-resilient Horticulture  
Manager  
iDE Cambodia



**Mr. Lee Peng Yeow**

Agro-Tech Consultant and  
Business Development  
Shelter of Love Center, Cambodia



**Mr. Soeng Vay**

Country Director  
Agros Cambodia



**Mr. Leng Thorngun**

Technician Staff  
PDAFF-BMC







## 2.6 IDE: INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

In a dedicated session titled "Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture & Horticulture," iDE Cambodia, in collaboration with the provincial department of agriculture addressed the profound impact of climate change and adverse weather events on horticulture farmers in Cambodia.

The session aimed to raise awareness, showcase ongoing efforts and advocate for increased support towards the promotion of long-term climate-smart agriculture. Key objectives included sharing best practices, exchanging experiences, and calling for sustained assistance for small-scale farmers within a supportive framework.

Moderated by **Kevin Robbins**, Country Director of iDE Cambodia, the panel included Tuot Senghorn, Climate-resilient Horticulture Manager at iDE Cambodia, Lee Peng Yeow, Agro-Tech Consultant and Business Development at Shelter of Love Center, Cambodia, Sandra Bos, Head of Product at Agros Cambodia, Ieng Thorngun, Technician Staff at PDAFF-BMC and VAY SOENG, Country Director at Agros Cambodia.

**Tuot Senghorn** opened the session by highlighting challenges faced by farmers, including issues with rain and heat.

### *innovative solutions*

*"iDE Cambodia has developed innovative solutions such as "agrosolars," a solar water pump providing education and financial assistance to farmers. We have also introduced a new soil test offering fertilizer recommendations in 50 minutes, seeking partnerships to educate farmers about these technologies," he said.*

**Lee Peng Yeow** discussed the Capsule Farm project, emphasizing controlled environment agriculture (CEA) as a response to climate change challenges.

*"CEA creates conducive growing environments, allowing smallholders to cultivate crops year-round, ultimately increasing yields. The project focuses on high-value crops with an emphasis on taste."*

**Sandra Bos** shared her insights on the C-Smart project, employing technologies like irrigation systems and controlled environment agriculture to empower farmers to adapt to changing weather conditions.





## 2.6 IDE: INNOVATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE & HORTICULTURE

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### **Sustainable revenue streams**

*“The project aims to ensure sustainable revenue streams for farmers while promoting organic farming practices and environmentally friendly waste disposal.”*

**Ieng Thorngun** addressed the impact of climate change on smallholder farmers in Battambang province, introducing the Yasa Yasa Greenhouse technology as a solution. Greenhouses enable year-round cultivation of high-value crops, and plug-in irrigation systems in open fields ensure crops receive necessary water.

**Vay Soeng** discussed the challenges faced by farmers in Cambodia, focusing on climate change and limited access to water and fertilizer. iGrow has developed products like agro solars and soil tests to address these challenges, aiming to increase yields by up to 30%.

The session by iDE Cambodia, in collaboration with key partners, shed light on the climate change challenges confronting Cambodian farmers and underscores the need for innovative solutions.

Insights from various stakeholders, including Shelter of Love Center, Agros Cambodia, and PEDAF-BMC, contribute to a collective call for sustained efforts and support in achieving sustainable agriculture practices in Cambodia.





Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## 2.7 SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL SMES

BY SDC



**Mr. Markus Buerli**

Director of Cooperation in Cambodia  
Swiss Agency for Development and



**Mr. Mason Jun**

Researcher  
Verywords



**Ms. Sandy Kotan**

MD  
Only One Planet



**Mr. Sang Mony**

Lead Bird Guide & CEO  
Sam Veasna Conservation Tours  
Co., Ltd



**Mr. Rik Overmars**

Agri Food Sector Lead Organization  
SNV Netherlands Development  
Organization





## 2.7 SDC: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL SMES

The session on "Sustainable Solutions for Local SMEs" offered a diverse range of perspectives on sustainability in small to medium enterprises (SMEs) operating in the fields of mobility, tourism, and waste management.

The session "Sustainable Solutions for Local SMEs" explored various sustainable approaches within small to medium enterprises. The panelists discussed strategies ranging from reducing plastic usage to benefiting local communities and tackling greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector.

The panelists represented various businesses and social enterprises participating in the Sustainable Solutions Expo. Moderated by **Markus Bürl**i, of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the panel included the CEO of Sam Veasna Tours, Sang Mony, Researcher at VeryWords, Mason Jun, Founder of Only One Planet Cambodia, Sally Kotan and Agrifood sector lead at SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, Rik Overmars.

### **Markus Bürl**i's Opening Remarks:

Markus Bürl, SDC's Director of Cooperation in Cambodia, set the stage by emphasizing that SMEs can be both sustainable and profitable, as evidenced by the businesses and social enterprises featured on the panel. The session aimed to explore different approaches to sustainability within these enterprises.

**Sally Kotan** described her organization as a registered business with an NGO heart.

She emphasized their commitment to using profits to raise awareness and identify gaps in the market where people struggle to reduce plastic usage. Their distinctive approach lies in not selling any plastic, unlike other vendors who offer plastic as part of their product range. Kotan expressed strong opposition to greenwashing and underlined the importance of a 100% transition to biodegradable products. She emphasized the need to build a community of individuals committed to using these products as part of their effort to reduce the use of climate-harming products.

### **Opposition to greenwashing**

**Sang Mony**, CEO of Sam Veasna Tours, discussed their engagement with local communities and how they use their expertise to benefit those communities. Their ethos as a company goes beyond providing tours; they leverage the tourism sector to benefit rural communities. Mony emphasized that they invest in these communities through projects related to water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) and capacity building, as part of their commitment to giving back.





## 2.7 SDC: SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS FOR LOCAL SMES

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**Mason Jun**, a researcher at VeryWords, drew attention to the environmental impact of the transport sector, which is a significant greenhouse gas emitter. They have launched e-transport products as an eco-friendly alternative for people who seek transportation while reducing their carbon emissions and environmental impact.

**Rik Overmars**, Agrifood sector lead at SNV Netherlands Development Organisation, emphasized the importance of providing SMEs with access to grant finance and capacity building to develop sustainable solutions.

He noted that businesses need technical assistance and grant funding to develop their business plans, which should incorporate climate mitigation strategies. Overmars also stressed the significance of working with smallholder farmers to enhance their capacity, particularly in marketing, to improve their competitiveness and strengthen their businesses.

### ***Mobilizing private sector financing***

He acknowledged the crucial role of profit for businesses and emphasized the potential for mobilizing private sector financing to address climate change issues, provided that incentives are in place. Overmars highlighted that government incentives can play a crucial role in motivating businesses to make a profit while addressing climate change concerns.

### ***Key takeaways***

Overall, the session provided valuable insights into how local businesses and social enterprises are taking concrete steps to promote sustainability while maintaining economic viability, but all panelists also agreed that capacity building, grant finance, and government incentives were essential components in driving sustainability and profitability for SMEs.





## 2.8 THE ROLE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ACHIEVING CLIMATE RESILIENCY FOR CAMBODIA'S SMALL HOLDER FARMERS

BY PEOPLE IN NEED



**Mr. Bun Penhpheak**

Market Development Advisor  
People in Need



**Mr. Hong Soth**

Owner  
Kasekor Chhalt



**Mr. Sareth Nhem**

Country Director  
Heifer International



**Ms. Thida Kheav**

Owner  
SOGE



**Ms. Rith Chantha**

Chair Woman  
SEUAC







## 2.8 PEOPLE IN NEED: THE ROLE OF SOLAR ENERGY IN ACHIEVING CLIMATE RESILIENCY FOR CAMBODIA'S SMALL HOLDER FARMERS

The next CCCS23 session, organised by People In Need, delved into the profound impacts of climate change on Cambodia's agricultural sector and outlined innovative solutions, particularly in the realm of solar technology. The discussion highlighted the dire consequences anticipated for smallholder farmers if effective mitigation strategies are not implemented promptly.

The session underlined the expected surge in intense and unpredictable rainfall events, a higher frequency of heat waves, and prolonged droughts. Panelists emphasized that without intervention, smallholder farmers would face increasing challenges in generating revenue from their agricultural practices.

Moderated by **Penhpeak Bun**, Market Development Advisor at People In Need, the session featured panelists Hong Soth, Owner of Kasekor Chhlat, Sareth Nhem, Country Director of Heifer International, Thida Kheav, Owner of SOGE and Rith Chantha, Chairwoman of SEUAC.

**Rith Chantha** shed light on the significant impact of climate change on farmers, particularly those relying on traditional pump-based irrigation methods. The introduction of innovative solutions like the water bag has shown substantial reductions in water shortages and savings, mitigating risks during usage.

**Hong Soth**, representing Kasekor Chhlat, outlined the company's inception in 2018 as an agricultural technology enterprise. The focus on integrating solar dryers, solar water pumps, and complementary tools aims to support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the agricultural sector. He highlighted the advantages of the solar dryer technology, including 24/7 drying capabilities, pest protection, and clean energy utilization.

**Thida Kheav**, from SOGE with a decade-long presence in renewable energy, shared insights into the Solar Water Irrigation Station, a large-scale project powering a 1,000-hectare irrigation system. SOGE's commitment to climate change mitigation aligns with the promotion of clean energy solutions and environmental sustainability.

### ***Support farmers through impactful projects***

**Sareth Nhem** detailed Heifer International's efforts to support farmers through impactful projects, allocating over 9 million USD to solar energy solutions. The investment aims to empower farmers in enhancing poultry, fruit, vegetable, and fish production, collaborating with private sector entities such as the SOGE Company.

Panelists acknowledged challenges in the adoption of new technologies in Cambodia. Hong Soth expressed concerns about limited adoption and the subsequent export of raw materials for processing in Thailand due to a shortage of processors. Ms. Thida Kheav stressed the need to communicate the long-term benefits of these technologies to Cambodian farmers, who may prioritize upfront costs over long-term advantages.

While the session successfully addressed the impact of climate change on agriculture and introduced innovative solar technologies, challenges such as a shortage of human resources, financial constraints, and the perception of high costs among Cambodian farmers pose hurdles to the widespread adoption of these solar solutions. The collective efforts of organizations like People In Need and Heifer International aim to strengthen Cambodia's agricultural resilience through sustainable and innovative practices.







## 2.9 NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: FINANCING OPTIONS FROM CARBON SEQUESTERED / CO<sub>2</sub> AVOIDED

BY USAID



**Dr. Mark Doyle**

Director, Sustainable Economic  
Growth Office  
USAID



**Mr. Moran Hadad**

Founder  
Floresta International



**Mr. Colin Moore**

Regional Carbon Advisor  
WCS



**Mr. Donal Yeang**

NCS & Safeguards Senior  
Technical Manager  
Conservation International (CI)





## 2.9 USAID: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: FINANCING OPTIONS FROM CARBON SEQUESTERED/ CO2 AVOIDED

During the USAID session, the speakers all agreed that nature-based solutions (NBS) will be needed to achieve carbon neutrality and that there is a growing need for financing to support NBS projects. They also highlighted the potential of the voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) as a source of financing for NBS and discussed the importance of ensuring the integrity of emission reductions and project quality. Additionally, they discussed the need for regulations to support the growth of the VCM and the potential of bilateral offset projects under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JM) to provide additional financing for NBS.

Moderated by **Mark Doyle**, Director, Sustainable Economic Growth Office at USAID. Panelists included Moran Hadad, Founder of Floresta International, Colin Moore, Regional Carbon Advisor at WCS and Donal Yeang, NCS & Safeguards Senior Technical Manager at Conservation International (CI).

**Mark Doyle** opened the session by stating that nature-based solutions are crucial for achieving Cambodia's carbon neutrality goals while also noting the critical need to develop sustainable mechanisms to finance this important work.

### **Promising financing avenue**

*“Voluntary carbon markets and other innovative investment tools offer promising financing avenues, with organizations like Wildlife Conservation Society, Floresta, and Conservation International playing key roles in implementation,” leaving the floor open to the panelists to discuss their angle on the topic.*

Speaking on founding Floresta, **Moran Hadad** said that he aims to utilize a new financial model to fund the restoration of forests and the development of sustainable livelihoods for communities.

*“Floresta's is based on the idea that impact can be an opportunity for growth rather than a liability. The company's model is based on the use of tree notes, which are financial instruments that allow people and companies to invest in commercial plantations of teak trees. The profits from the sale of these trees are then used to fund environmental and social impact projects.”*

A tree note can be purchased by an investor for \$100, of which \$46 goes into an impact budget that finances environmental and social impact projects. The model builds on the value of lumber produced which provides investors with up to 11% in annual profits.

*“Floresta expects to generate \$2.3 million per year in impact funding through this model,” he added.*

He said that Floresta's model is still in its early stages, it has the potential to revolutionize the way that actors finance environmental and social impact projects and the company is currently working to expand its operations to other countries in Southeast Asia.

**Colin Moore**, Regional Carbon Advisor for WCS, discussed the voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) as a promising source of financing for nature-based solutions (NBS).

He highlights the Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary REDD project as a successful example of an NBS project that has generated carbon credits and delivered biodiversity and conservation benefits to Cambodia's forests and people.





## 2.9 USAID: NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS: FINANCING OPTIONS FROM CARBON SEQUESTERED/ CO2 AVOIDED

### Key Points

*“Voluntary carbon markets (VCMs) are expanding and can fund nature-based solutions (NBS) projects like REDD+. REDD+ projects are appealing to VCM buyers because they offer additional benefits beyond environmental protection, such as increased biodiversity and positive impacts on local communities.”*

*“The credibility of emission reductions, the quality of projects, and the shift towards jurisdictional and nested greenhouse gas accounting will be crucial for the future of the VCM. Emerging regulations may impact the type and source of demand for VCM credits,” he added.*

### Bilateral carbon crediting scheme

**Donal Yeang** spoke on the Joint Crediting Mechanism for Forest Carbon in Developing Countries (JCCM), a bilateral carbon crediting scheme between Japan and other countries.

*“This scheme allows Japanese companies and governments to purchase carbon credits from projects implemented in developing countries, which can be used to meet their emission reduction goals.”*

He highlights the RAP-PLUS project in Cambodia as an example of a JCM project.

*“This project aims to reduce deforestation and promote sustainable livelihoods in nine communities in Steung Treng province. The Ministry of Environment in Cambodia is the project participant, and Conservation International (CI) is the technical partner. Mitsui, a Japanese company, is the buyer of the carbon credits.”*

He also openly discussed the challenges and lessons learned from implementing the REDD+ project.

*“One challenge is the lengthy process of bilateral approval, which can take several years. Another challenge is the need for additional funding to support community development and address deforestation drivers.”*

He concluded by expressing excitement about the progress of the REDD+ project and the potential of the JCM to support carbon reduction efforts in developing countries.

*“The JCCM is a valuable tool for reducing deforestation and promoting sustainable development in developing countries. However, the lengthy process and the need for additional funding can be challenges for project implementation,”*

Overall, the speakers presented a compelling case for the importance of NBS while providing an overview of three of these potential models. They also provided valuable insights into the current state of the VCM and the potential for new financing mechanisms to support NBS projects along with some of the current market challenges.



# (Energy)<sup>Lab</sup>

## 2.10 ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH CLEAN ENERGY: FROM ENTREPRENEURS TO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

BY ENERGY LAB



**Ms. Chin Sonita**

Startup Program Manager  
Energy Lab



**Ms. Vorn Chanraksme**

Founder  
EGE Cambodia



**Ms. Kheav Thida**

CEO SOGE



**Ms. Im Soukhim**

Co-Founder  
Harvest the Sun





## 2.10 ENERGY LAB: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH CLEAN ENERGY: FROM ENTREPRENEURS TO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The session on "Energy Lab Addressing Climate Change with Clean Energy" delved into the critical connection between clean energy and climate change, with a particular focus on a pioneering program aimed at supporting solar technology startups for climate-resilient agriculture.

This initiative, known as the "Switch to Solar Startup Program," is part of the broader "Switch to Solar Project," funded by the European Union and the Czech Republic. The program aims to assist entrepreneurs in using solar solutions to enhance the agri-fishery market.

The session, moderated by **Chin Sonita**, Startup Program Manager at Energy Lab who also introduced the Switch to Solar Startup Program, featured insights from Dean Rizzetti, Energy Policy Director of Energy Lab, Vorn Chanraksmeay, Founder at EGE Cambodia, Im Soukhim, Co-founder at Harvest the Sun, and Kheav Thida, CEO at SOGE.

Opening the session, **Dean Rizzetti**, said that as it gets hotter the energy system has to work harder.

*"There is a nexus between energy use and climate change. Our plan is a renewable first energy system in Cambodia. Companies need to know that there is a pipeline of opportunity, and continued development will continue to drive down prices."*

### **Vulnerability of energy sources**

Highlighting the interplay between energy usage and climate change, he stressed the vulnerability of energy sources, such as hydropower, which may come under increased stress as temperatures rise.

Rizzetti emphasized the need for a renewable-first energy system in Cambodia and called for the cessation of coal power station construction. He noted that developing the capacity of the grid and supporting renewable energy technologies, such as electric vehicles, is crucial for Cambodia's sustainable energy future, stating that innovative businesses and models will play a significant role in this transition.

*"If you build a new power station that takes up room. The grid also needs more support. Building up the capacity of the grid, building on the capacity of the grid operators who achieve the supply and demand, and bringing them the option of renewable energy from solar and wind."*

*"We need to make sure Cambodia is ready to take on the new innovative technologies. We need to rapidly adopt this technology, support as e-vehicles which put money back into the grid and make energy flexible. Integrating them is important and the key to this is being able to produce new innovative models."*

**Chin Sonita** underscored the benefits of clean technology, including emissions reduction, improved air quality, public health, and cost savings.

She talked of the Solar Tech Startup Program as a solution to provide reliable and cost-effective electricity through solar technology. However, she highlighted several challenges, including limited access to technology, the absence of a cold chain system, and the scarcity of solar startups focused on addressing these issues. Solar technology is a niche market held back by a lack of technical expertise, market uncertainty, and limited financial support.







## 2.10 ENERGY LAB: ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE WITH CLEAN ENERGY: FROM ENTREPRENEURS TO ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

### **Investment in market research**

For recommendations, Sonita called for increased investment in market research to provide investors with a better understanding of the opportunities. Flexible funding approaches with a broader scope and enhanced multi-stakeholder collaborations were also deemed necessary, particularly in the agriculture sector. Effective cooperation between the government, technical experts, and smallholders is vital for success.

**Im Soukhim** emphasized the need for sustainable business practices that align with climate change. Farmers and food processors face challenges in adapting their practices, often due to financial constraints exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.

*"A sustainable approach is crucial to overcome these challenges."*

*"There needs to be a sustainable approach. The challenges are that farmers and food processors are reluctant or don't have the cash, because of COVID-19, to invest in adaption techniques."*

### **Need for investment to scale up and expand the impact of their technology**

**Kheav Thida** shared the successful model of supplying water for paddy rice fields and farming. The technology they employ reduces costs for households and ensures year-round water availability for farms. However, Thida emphasized the need for investment to scale up and expand the impact of their technology. They are actively seeking impact investors to explore opportunities in Cambodia.

*"We are trying to continue promoting our technology because it reduces the cost for households and guarantees year-round water for the farms. However, we need investment to continue to scale, that is why we are looking for impact investors to find opportunities in Cambodia."*

**Vorn Chanraksmeay** highlighted Cambodia's abundant sunlight, positioning the country as a potential leader in solar energy utilization. However, he cautioned against low-quality products and stressed the importance of investing in high-quality solutions and raising awareness to foster the transition to clean energy.

*"Cambodia has one of the highest sunlight shares in the world, which shouldn't go to waste. Taking advantage of these opportunities is key, but we must be wary of low-quality products. Investment in good quality products and awareness raising are key to growing the market and helping people make the transition."*

In summary, the "Energy Lab Addressing Climate Change with Clean Energy" session underscored the critical role of clean energy in addressing climate change. It introduced the Switch to Solar Startup Program and provided insights into the opportunities and challenges within the clean energy sector. The panelists emphasized the need for sustainable business practices, access to technology, and financial support to drive clean energy adoption, especially in the agriculture sector. Collaboration and investment were highlighted as essential components to promote the use of clean energy solutions and advance Cambodia's path towards a climate-resilient future.







Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations

## 2.11 SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND LOW EMISSION RICE

BY UNFAO



**Mr. Beau Damen**

Natural Resources Officer, FAO  
Regional Office for Asia and the  
Pacific (FAO RAP)



**Dr. Mak Soeun**

Deputy Director General  
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry  
and Fisheries



**Dr. Nurmi Pangesti**

Country Representative Cambodia  
International Rice Research  
Institute (IRRI)



**Mr. Kunthy Kann**

Vice President  
Amru Rice





## 2.11 UNFAO: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND LOW EMISSION RICE

The session on Sustainable, Resilient, and Low-Emission Rice by UNFAO brought together government representatives, experts, and partners to share experiences and perspectives on the country's priorities for rice and resilient and low-emission rice, the potential to market sustainable, low-emission rice products, and perspectives on how to support farmers in promoting sustainable rice, how to support farmers in engaging in low-emission rice production, and research on low-emission rice.

This discussion was moderated by **Beau Damen**, Natural Resources Officer, Climate Change and Climate Finance, UN FAO, with panelists including Mak Soeun, Deputy Director General of the General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF), Nurmi Pangesti, the Country Representative for the International Rice Research Institute, and Kunthy Kann, the Vice President of Amru Rice Cambodia Co., Ltd.

Speaking from the government sector, **Mak Soeun**, Deputy Director General of the General Directorate of Agriculture, Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF), discussed how the government has implemented various strategies within the agricultural sector, with five out of seven priority actions specifically targeting rice production.

**Kunthy Kann**, the Vice President of Amru Rice Cambodia Co., Ltd., emphasized the importance of sustainability. He stressed that it is essential not only in the short term but also over the next 10 to 20 years, highlighting the necessity for the community to maintain sustainability across generations due to the integral role of farming in Cambodian culture.

He said that the future rice market is going to grow, which will allow Cambodia to export and explore the market to the European Union and other countries.

*"We are working now with organizations like IRRI to identify new varieties with export potential and develop resilient varieties for different agroecosystems, promoting the diversification of crops, including corn, and working on water management practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from rice cultivation."*

### **The significance of rice and its central role in Cambodian life**

*"Collaboration in promoting sustainable rice production is very important," he said, acknowledging that, as a private company, he cannot single-handedly drive this initiative and needs without the government, various partners, and the Ministry of Agriculture.*

**Nurmi Pangesti** shared with her toward the significance of rice and its central role in Cambodian life. However, she also emphasized the dual impact of rice on climate change.

She particularly highlighted how rice is both affected by and contributes to climate change, primarily through the emission of methane during production.

*"There is also an urgent need that we need to keep producing a good amount of rice, but we also need to protect the environment, and that's our challenge," she added.*





## 2.11 UNFAO: SUSTAINABLE, RESILIENT AND LOW EMISSION RICE

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Dr. Nurmi Pangesti also highlighted the need for a clear government strategy to provide direction for the research institute. This clarity would enable her team to understand the specific research requirements that align with the government's goals and objectives.

**Beau Damen**, Natural Resources Officer, Climate Change and Climate Finance, UN FAO has addressed the important role of innovative technology in helping farmers in Cambodia measure CO2 emissions in the atmosphere, a process known as regenerative agriculture and carbon farming, as well as financial sustainability.

*“There are a number of interesting new companies, technologies, and products to improve monitoring systems to try and verify and quantify the types of benefits that could come from these types of rice products now and in the future”*

### **Key Takeaways**

This session fostered an extensive discourse among governmental, organizations, and the private sector, with a shared objective of enhancing sustainable, resilient, and low-emission rice production in the coming years. Furthermore, the session highlighted the optimistic prospects for Cambodia's future rice market, including the potential for exporting rice to international markets such as the European Union.





## 2.12 ENERGY EFFICIENCY: NEED COMPLIANCE FOR THE INDUSTRY

BY SEVEA



**Miss Tessa Wong Ting**

Senior Consultant  
Sevea



**Mr Dean Rizzetti**

Energy Policy Director  
Energy Lab



**Dr. Sothearath Jonathan Seang**

Project Manager  
Sevea





## 2.12 SEVEA: ENERGY EFFICIENCY: NEEP COMPLIANCE FOR THE INDUSTRY

This session aimed at providing insights into various industries, with a special spotlight on the garment sector, on how to comply with Cambodia's New Energy Efficiency Policy (NEEP). The panel, moderated by Tessa Wong Ting, Senior Consultant at Sevea, featured Dean Rizzetti, Energy Policy Director of Energy Lab, and Sothearath Jonathan Seang, Project Manager at Sevea.

**Tessa Wong Ting** provided an overview of NEEP, Cambodia's first dedicated policy on energy efficiency, initiated by the Ministry of Mines and Energy. The policy's objective is to unlock Cambodia's energy efficiency potential and support overarching goals, including the national target to reduce total energy consumption by at least 19% by 2030. NEEP outlines sector-specific targets for the industrial, residential, commercial, public services, and transport sectors. For example, in commercial buildings, lighting and cooling systems are significant contributors to energy consumption.

"The framework created by NEEP aims to bolster the country's economy, fostering sustainable development through a regulatory and legal framework that enhances governance, coordination mechanisms, and institutional arrangements."

Also discussing NEEP, **Dean Rizzetti** emphasized that energy efficiency has often been overlooked when addressing climate change issues, despite its significant potential.

"NEEP has brought energy efficiency back into the spotlight and signals Cambodia's commitment to cross-sector action on energy efficiency. It outlines a strategy to enhance energy efficiency. While there may be enforcement challenges, the policy represents a low-hanging fruit for the industry."

**Sothearath Jonathan Seang** introduced Sevea's Cambodia Clean Energy Competition (CEE Comp), an innovative campaign designed to promote energy efficiency through a combination of education, games, and challenges. The first edition of the competition involved 22 buildings and 14 companies with over 2,300 employees participating across various locations.

This initiative resulted in conserving 194,236 kWh of energy, equivalent to preventing approximately 200 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions. Participating companies, including well-known firms like Smart Axiata, Comin Khmer, Heineken, and Decathlon, collectively saved \$35,000 in operational costs.

Seang announced that the second edition of the CEE Comp is expected to see increased participation and, consequently, larger energy savings and a broader environmental impact. He highlighted that this initiative focuses on behavioral changes and awareness raising about energy efficiency among staff rather than major workplace refurbishments.

**Dean Rizzetti** expressed his full support for the CEE Comp, explaining that energy efficiency does not require reducing productivity or the standard of living. He said that instead, it creates a society that benefits everyone and shares the advantages of reduced energy consumption.

### Key Takeaways

In summary, the session emphasized the importance of Cambodia's New Energy Efficiency Policy (NEEP) and how it can drive energy efficiency in various industries. The discussion also highlighted the success of the Cambodia Clean Energy Competition (CEE Comp) in promoting energy efficiency through behavioral changes and awareness. The session demonstrated that energy efficiency is a vital element in addressing climate change while benefiting society and the economy.





## 3. DAY TWO







## 3.1 KEY NOTE SPEECH & PLENARY SESSION



**H.E. Eang Sophalleth**

**Minister  
Ministry of Environment**



**H.E. W. Patrick Murphy**

**Ambassador  
US Embassy**



**H.E. Justin Whyatt**

**Ambassador  
Australian Embassy**



**H.E. Neak Okhna Sear Rithy**

**Chairman  
Mekong Future Initiative**





## 3.2 INTERNATIONAL POLICY PANEL



**H.E. Sum Thy**

Acting Director General,  
General Directorate of Policy and Strategy  
Ministry of Environment



**Mr. Markus Buerli**

Director of Cooperation  
Swiss Cooperation Office and  
Consular Agency in Cambodia



**Ms. Rebekah Bell**

FAO Representative Cambodia  
UN FAO



**Mr. Chris Williamson**

First Secretary  
British Embassy



**Dr. Tran Thi Anh-Dao**

Attaché for scientific and higher  
education cooperation  
French Embassy



**Mr. Natharoun Ngo**

Director  
EnergyLab



**H.E. Allen Dodgson Tan**

Director General  
Mekong Future Initiative





## 3.2 INTERNATIONAL POLICY PANEL

Moderated by **H.E Allen Dodgson Tan**, Director General of the Mekong Future Initiative, a diverse panel of experts shed light on Cambodia's ongoing efforts to combat climate change. The panelists included H.E Pheav Sovuthy from the Ministry of Environment, Rebekah Bell representing the UN FAO in Cambodia, Markus Burli, Director of Cooperation at the Swiss Cooperation Office, Chris Williamson from the British Embassy, Tran Thi Anh-Dao from the French Embassy, and Natharoun Ngo, Country Director of EnergyLab.

**H.E. Pheav Sovuthy** underscored the imperative for tangible action alongside verbal commitments. He emphasized Cambodia's establishment of comprehensive policies and ambitious carbon neutrality goals. However, Sovuthy stressed the necessity for commitment across all sectors to effectively realize these objectives. Furthermore, he highlighted the crucial need for financial support, given Cambodia's status as an emerging economy with limited capacities compared to developed nations. The Ministry of Mines and Energy's ongoing development of a national energy plan, aligning with the global transition to renewable energy, was also discussed.

**Markus Burli**, in his inaugural participation in the summit, expressed pride in the SDC's sponsorship of both the event and the sustainable solutions exhibition. He reiterated Switzerland's commitment to collaborate with the Cambodian government on critical areas, including waste management, good governance, water management, forestry, and livelihood improvement. Burli emphasized the interconnectedness of climate issues across these diverse sectors.

**Rebekah Bell** underscored the centrality of climate change in the upcoming UN-Cambodia partnership. She outlined the multifaceted approach taken by the UN FAO, addressing climate change across healthcare, education, disaster response, agrifood systems, and social transformation. Bell emphasized specific initiatives related to rice production, a major staple for the population, and the development of a strategic action plan aligned with Cambodia's carbon sequestering goals.

**Chris Williamson** positioned climate change as the foremost existential threat, recognizing its potential to derail Cambodia's economic development. He stressed the UK's commitment to supporting vulnerable and marginalized communities, addressing gender issues, and prioritizing education through scholarship and STEM projects. Williamson concluded by highlighting Cambodia's status as a key investment partner, combining development finance, private sector development, technical assistance, and knowledge sharing.

**Tran Thi Anh-Dao** reinforced France and the EU's commitment to multilateral, regional, and national support for Cambodia. She emphasized the importance of collaboration in tackling climate change, echoing the sentiment that no country should have to choose between fighting poverty and addressing environmental concerns.

**Natharoun Ngo** delved into the critical role of clean energy investment in Cambodia's sustainable development. He emphasized the often-overlooked connection between climate change and the energy sector, noting its significant contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Ngo highlighted Cambodia's progress in diversifying its energy mix, particularly in solar, and its ambitious energy efficiency policy. He stressed the importance of collaboration between the government and private sector stakeholders to unlock the true potential of electric mobility.





## 3.3 CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS



BY MEKONG FUTURE INITIATIVE



**Mr. Vamsi Krishna**

**Founder Director  
Kosher Climate**



**Mr. Ny Lyhoung**

**Head of Micro and  
Agriculture Insurance  
Forte Insurance**



**Ms. Helen Heng**

**Sustainability Manager  
Heineken Cambodia**



**Ms. Chem Srey Oeun**

**Head of Corporate Affairs  
Smart Axiata**





### 3.3 MFI: CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS

This panel discussion highlighted the growing importance of environmental sustainability for corporate companies and how, at a time when environmental sustainability is taking centre stage for the majority of corporate companies across the globe, Cambodian companies and corporate companies can be no exception.

Panelists from both Forte Insurance and Heineken explained how they have implemented comprehensive sustainability agendas that align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These implemented agendas, they agreed, encompass environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues and demonstrate their commitment to responsible business practices.

Forte Insurance focused on climate change adaptation through innovative insurance products and partnerships, while Heineken talked about prioritizing circularity, water stewardship, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).

Moderated by Vamsi Krishna, Founder Director of Koshor Climate, panellists included Ny Lyhoung, Head of Micro and Agriculture Insurance at Forte Insurance, Helen Heng, Sustainability Manager at Heineken Cambodia and Chem Srey Oeun, Head of Corporate Affairs at Smart Axiata

Speaking on how products are made, **Ny Lyhoung** said, you have to know understand how you procure your materials and respect all the policies that are being put in place.

*“Everything is falling in line with sustainability targets and we need to give credit to those corporate companies which are doing a lot in Cambodia, irrespective of what current policy and regulation dictates. Even before policies surrounding sustainability come, companies are taking up voluntary targets and starting to work towards what is the greater good.”*

Lyhoung added that Forte Insurance is a company that is committed to sustainability and is taking action to address climate change. The company is focused on environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues and believes that its sustainability agenda is also good for business.”

*“Forte Insurance is adapting to climate change by offering new insurance products, such as weather index insurance, and by working with governments, donor agencies, and development partners to promote climate resilience. The company is also working to reduce its environmental impact by implementing several initiatives, such as turning off lights during lunchtime, increasing AC temperature by one or two degrees, eliminating plastic water bottles, tracking electricity usage, tracking motorbike and car usage, and tracking paper usage,” he added.*

Talking about their sustainability agenda and how it aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, **Helen Heng** said they are basing their approach on four key pillars,

*“The first for us is the Environment. Heineken is committed to achieving net zero emissions across its scope one, scope two, and scope three emissions. The company is also promoting circularity and water stewardship.”*







### 3.3 MFI: CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS

*“Secondly, Social. Heineken is focused on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). The company is also committed to paying fair wages and providing responsible consumption choices for its employees and consumers.”*

She said the third pillar is governance, where Heineken has put a strong framework in place to ensure that its sustainability commitments are met, and works with transparent information, providing choices for consumers.

*“The fourth pillar is economic. Heineken believes that sustainability is good for business. That’s why the company is committed to promoting responsible consumption and providing choices for consumers.”*

*“Heineken is a sustainability-driven company that has implemented various initiatives to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The company’s focus encompasses environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues, demonstrating its belief that sustainability is not just about environmental protection but also about social responsibility and good governance.”*

#### **Holistic approach**

She said Heineken’s biomass plant serves as a prime example of its holistic approach to tackling environmental and social issues simultaneously.

*“This innovative plant utilizes agricultural waste as a fuel source, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating greenhouse gas emissions while also providing a sustainable income stream for local farmers.”*

She added that Heineken’s commitment to sustainability extends beyond its operations, and she encourages other industries to explore similar solutions that address environmental and social challenges concurrently.

**Chem Srey Oeun** discussed her company’s sustainability initiatives and how they also aim to align with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

*“Smart contributes to the Cambodian economy by investing in infrastructure, building capacity, and paying taxes. We also believe in nurturing people. Smart provides training and development opportunities for its employees, promotes diversity and inclusion, and is a major employer in Cambodia.”*

She said process excellence is also a pillar, explaining that Smart is committed to digitalization and has implemented ISO standards for cybersecurity.”

*“When it comes to the planet and society, Smart is also committed to achieving net zero emissions by 2050 and has implemented several initiatives to reduce its environmental impact. The company works on technology, innovation, and entrepreneurship programs to benefit Cambodian society.”*

She added that Smart has implemented various initiatives aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and that the company prioritizes contributing to the Cambodian economy, fostering employee growth, enhancing operational efficiency, and safeguarding the environment and society. Demonstrating transparency, Smart publishes an annual sustainability report.







British Embassy  
Phnom Penh

## 3.4 SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE: PAVING THE PATH FOR CLIMATE READY INFRASTRUCTURE IN CAMBODIA

BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY



Mr. Colin Teo

Partner  
Boston Consulting Group



H.E. Meas Soksean

Secretary of State  
Ministry of Economy &  
Finance



Ms. Anis Mohd Nor

Principal  
Boston Consulting Group



Mr. Srinagarajan

Managing Director and Head of Asia  
British International Investment





### 3.4 BRITISH EMBASSY: SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE: PAVING THE PATH FOR CLIMATE READY INFRASTRUCTURE IN CAMBODIA

The session on sustainability and climate resilience: paving the path for climate-ready infrastructure in Cambodia explored future strategies to help Cambodia develop sustainable infrastructure and policies that will mitigate the impacts of climate change and build resilience to the future under the collaboration between RCG, the UK and Cambodian government.

The session highlighted how governments and development finance institutes can support and mobilize the private sector in raising financing for climate infrastructure projects in Cambodia.

Moderated by **Colin Teo**, Partner, Boston Consulting Group, panelists included, H.E. Meas SokSensan, Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy & Finance, Anis Mohd Nor, Principal, Boston Consulting Group and Srinu Nagarajan, Managing Director and Head of Asia at British International Investment.

Opening the talks, **Chris Williamson** cited the World Meteorological Organization's warning that we are likely to pass the 1.5-degree threshold within five years and that climate threats are worsening every day.

*"This severely tightens the risk of climate disasters, and without urgent change, will likely become permanent by 2034".*

He added that the UN's Infrastructure for Climate Action report found that infrastructure alone is responsible for nearly 80% of greenhouse gas emissions and 90% of adaptation costs.

He also emphasized the UK's strong commitment to deepening its partnership with Cambodia through the British Investment Partnerships, citing a recent meeting with the new Prime Minister to discuss a collaborative effort in providing sustainable infrastructure, leveraging the expertise and long-term investments from UK private sector partners while working closely with the Royal Government of Cambodia.

**Josiah Liang** discussed Cambodia's climate change challenges and the collaboration strategy between the BCG and the UK government to help Cambodia adapt to climate change and achieve its long-term ambitions for a more prosperous, resilient, and inclusive future.

Liang highlighted Cambodia's tremendous growth and potential, as well as the government's ambition for the younger generation of Cambodians. He emphasized that climate change is a central challenge and reality that Cambodia must address to achieve a brighter future.

*"The BCG and the UK government are committed to working together to help Cambodia develop sustainable infrastructure and policies that will mitigate the impacts of climate change and build resilience to future shocks."*

**H.E. Meas SokSensan** stated that the new Pentagon Strategy, which is the Cambodian government's roadmap for the future, recognizes the importance of climate change and resilience for the Cambodian economy. The government is taking steps to make more green but also needs to balance with the need to develop the country.





### 3.4 BRITISH EMBASSY: SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE: PAVING THE PATH FOR CLIMATE READY INFRASTRUCTURE IN CAMBODIA

*“We are in an emerging market, so balancing between green and development would be a very crucial and very dilemma question on that.”*

He said the government is aware of the challenges posed by climate change, but it is also focused on economic development and the Secretary of State for PPPs is committed to working to find a balance between these two priorities.

**Srini Nagaragan**, the representative from the British International Investment (BII) discussed the organization's mission and approach to investing in emerging markets. He highlighted the importance of climate change, gender, and technology, and explained how BII uses a development impact framework to assess and prioritize investments.

Srini Nagaragan also mentioned the need for patient capital and equity investment in countries like Cambodia, facing climate change and energy transition challenges. He urged the Cambodian government to develop a more sustainable and predictable energy policy and to provide a more stable network and policy for the distributed generation market which he believes would attract more institutions like BII.

**Anis Mohd Nor** highlighted the significant momentum seen in recent years in terms of mitigation efforts, particularly emphasizing the correlation between investments and the concept of green growth. However, she underscored the complexity of adaptation, noting that many necessary investments are perceived as public goods.

*“For resource-constrained countries like Cambodia, prioritizing between immediate economic concerns such as poverty alleviation and the long-term challenges posed by climate change adaptation presents a substantial dilemma.”*





## 3.5 THE YOUTH PANEL: CAMBODIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATION

BY OXFAM



**Mr. Ritthy Ou**

Policy Advisor of  
Oxfam in Cambodia



**Mr. Chanbora Sek**

Sustainable Operations and Program  
Manager  
Impact Hub Phnom Penh



**Ms. Pechpheary Nann**

Communication and Outreach  
Intern  
USAID Green Futures Activity



**Mr. Lee Chingkuoy**

Youth from Oxfam in Cambodia  
Oxfam In Cambodia



**Ms. Mealea Mang**

Cambodia Youth  
Climate Change (CYCC)





### 3.5 THE YOUTH PANEL: CAMBODIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATION

Representing Cambodia's next generation, a Youth Panel was organised as part of the Clean, Green & Sustainable Ministry of Environment (MOE) initiative. The panelists shared their insights on the importance of climate action and sustainable development. They emphasized the need for youth involvement in the policy-making process, the need for solutions to be people-centric, and the importance of communication and education.

The panelists also discussed the challenges of changing people's mindsets and behaviors, as well as the lack of awareness and resources in many communities. However, they remained hopeful and committed to making a difference. The panelists' work is an inspiration to us all. They are true leaders in the fight for a more sustainable future.

Moderated by **Ritthy Ou** of Oxfam Cambodia, panelists included Chanbora Sek, Sustainable Operations and Program Manager at Impact Hub Phnom Penh. Panelist, Pechpheary Nann, Communication and Outreach Intern for the USAID Cambodia Green Future Activity, Lee Chingkuoy, Youth Representative from Oxfam Cambodia and Mealea Mang of Cambodia Youth Climate Change (CYCC).

**Chanbora Sek** shared his personal experiences and insights on climate change and sustainable development at a recent panel discussion. He emphasized the importance of youth involvement in the policy-making process and the need for solutions to be people-centric.

He then described his initiatives to reduce his environmental impact, such as riding a bicycle to work, using a recycled water bottle, and cooking at home. He also shared his experiences working with the Ministry of Environment and organizing climate education programs for youth.

*"One of my most impactful experiences was working with 15 youths from different parts of Cambodia to teach them about climate change, green jobs, and clean energy. I was impressed by how quickly the youth learned and understood the concepts."*

He also helped the youth write a youth statement that will be submitted to the COI 1870 company.

Chanbora Sek also runs a plastic pollution reduction program that works with eight innovative entrepreneurs. He also successfully pitched a climate card game in Rome, Italy, which is designed to make climate education more engaging and interactive for school children.

*"I believe that youth involvement in the policy-making process is essential to accelerating the transition to a net-zero country by 2040 and I encourage governments to seek more youth involvement in designing national strategies and policies."*

*"One of the main challenges is implementation. There are many policies and initiatives in motion, but they are not being correctly implemented," he added.*

He concluded his remarks by emphasizing the importance of green space and that he believes that we need to take action to protect our environment so that we can all enjoy a healthy and sustainable future.

**Pechpheary Nann** explained that the USAID Cambodia Green Future Activity is aimed at conserving forests and wildlife by reducing the use of luxury wood for furniture, reducing demand for bushmeat, better management of plastic and other solid waste, and changing youth behaviour on environmental issues in their communities.







### 3.5 THE YOUTH PANEL: CAMBODIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S REPRESENTATION

*"I am passionate about promoting these projects through social and behavior change community (SBCC) campaigns, as well as by celebrating world days like Environmental Day, Cleaning Day and joining the CCCS23 summit."*

*"This is because communication is key to changing people's mindsets and behaviors. We need to raise awareness of climate change and other environmental issues and to motivate youth to take action to protect our planet. The challenges of changing people's mindsets, especially among youth," she said.*

She noted the current lack of awareness and encouragement amongst Cambodians, as well as the need for a clear profile for the promotion of environmental issues.

Despite these challenges, Peachpheary said she is committed to making a difference.

*"Small actions can make a big difference, and I encourage the youth to ride bikes to work, use sustainable water bottles, and take other small steps to create a more sustainable future for all," she added.*

**Lee Chingkuoy** shared his thoughts on the importance of sustainable living and his experience of joining the Oxfam-supported activity of visiting the natural resource-dependent community in Preah Vihea province, and the opportunity to join and share his experiences in the panel discussion.

Chingkuoy said he was impressed by the sustainable practices of the natural resource-dependent community and the clean environment they have created.

*"This is a good example of how small actions can make a big difference. There are challenges when working with communities to address climate change, as many people lack the experience, knowledge, and resources to manage waste pollution and other environmental issues. However, the solution is to encourage eco-friendly social behavior and raise awareness."*

**Mealea Mang** shared her insights on the importance of youth engagement in climate action at a recent panel discussion.

Mealea described the CYCC program as a youth-led, for-led climate change program that focuses on spurring interest in youth and getting them into climate change talk and discussion. She emphasized the importance of starting with the youth mindset and helping them to believe that they are capable of change and can do something about climate change, big or small.

*"Our program is important as it creates a space where the youth feel comfortable sharing their thoughts and ideas."*

She shared an example of a group of ninth-grade students who participated in a three-month project to explore and find solutions to climate change problems.

*"The students created a futuristic trash bin that can recognize and accept only plastic waste. The project was so successful that the students were able to propose it to their high school and create a school club to further explore and develop the solution!"*

Mealea concluded her remarks by emphasizing the importance of social connection in climate action.

*"It is important to find people who share our interests and passions and to build relationships with them so that we can support and motivate each other in our work to address climate change," she added.*





## 3.6 PATHWAY TO CARBON-COMPETITIVE AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

BY CAPRED



**Ms. Ponleu Cheu**

**Trade, Trade, Investment and  
Agri-food Innovation Lead  
CAPRED**



**Mr. Sophoan Sourn**

**Agriculture and SMEs Lead  
CAPRED**



**Mr. Meas Holy**

**Deputy Managing Director  
Kirirom Food Production**



**Ms. Soukhim Im**

**Food Processing Expert and  
Chief of Operation  
Harvest the Sun**



**Mr. Hym Piseth**

**Deputy Managing Director  
Confirel**



**Mr. Dilum Wijenayaka**

**General Manager  
Control Union (Cambodia)**





### 3.6 CAPRED: PATHWAY TO CARBON-COMPETITIVE AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

This discussion, hosted by CCCS23's official partner CAPRED, covered the pressing issue of agriculture and land use being the third-largest contributors to global emissions.

According to a report by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the food supply chain is on course to overtake farming and land use as the largest contributor to greenhouse gases from the agri-food sector.

With agriculture, both one of Cambodia's most vulnerable sectors and its second-largest source of emissions, panelists agreed that looking to improve the resilience of agriculture and value-added processing was key to lowering its emissions.

Moderated by **Ponleu Cheu**, Trade, Investment and Agri-food Innovation Lead at CAPRED, the session included panelists Sophoan Sourn, Agriculture and SMEs Lead at CAPRED, Meas Holy, Deputy Managing Director at Kirirom Food Production, Soukhim Im, Food Processing Expert and Chief of Operation at Harvest the Sun, Hym Piseth, Deputy Managing Director at Confirel, and Dilum Wijenayaka, General Manager at Control Union (Cambodia)

**Sophoan Sourn** opened the session, by talking about the vulnerability of the agricultural sector to climate change, noting that over 20% of the country's total emissions come from agriculture.

*"The region, especially Southeast Asia, is highly susceptible to climate change. Value chain emissions from developing countries are as follows, 60% from production, 20% from processing and packaging, 10% from transportation and 10% from retail and distribution."*

*"We need to look at reducing water usage, minimizing chemical fertilizer, carbon cropping, waste reduction, and improving transportation efficiency."*

*"Moreover, inclusivity must be stressed, particularly when addressing the negative impacts on vulnerable populations. The role of technology, especially digital technology, in supporting traceability, building trust, empowering consumers, and creating efficient smallholder value chains is key," he added.*

**Meas Holy** followed by explaining the challenges involved in achieving the high-end market goals, facing competitive prices set by neighboring countries and the high requirements of high-end customers while still committing to sustainable and ethical practices. He also added that cost competition may be tough, but sustainability could offer a niche opportunity for Cambodian companies

*"I believe that it is important to raise awareness among farmers about climate change adaptation and mitigation. We should also raise awareness to our farmers as well, to understand about the climate change adaptation and mitigation."*

**Soukhim Im** said that Harvest the Sun aims to improve the carbon competitiveness of the fish value chain by using solar dryers to reduce food loss, improve product safety and quality, and lower production costs and GHG emissions.

This allows farmers to improve their market opportunities and increase their competitiveness in the market.

She mentioned that her company has planned to scale up this service by creating a drying facility that farmers and processors can use without having to invest in their solar dryers, which will allow them to dry their produce year-round, regardless of the weather.





### 3.6 CAPRED: PATHWAY TO CARBON-COMPETITIVE AGRI-FOOD VALUE CHAIN

**Hym Piseth** observed that consumer behavior is changing and that people are now more interested in environmentally conscious food production and in carbon-neutral products.

He gave the example of Confirel's product, organic palm sugar, which is often rejected by consumers because they confuse it with palm oil. He also explained that palm sugar is entirely distinct from palm oil and contributes to reforestation and lower gas emissions. However, he said that Confirel has experienced resistance from EU buyers who misunderstood that palm sugar was derived from palm oil, which is linked to deforestation.

**Hym Piseth** said he believes that the global trend of consumer behavior is an opportunity for Cambodian companies, as it means that there is a growing demand for sustainable products.

He also stated he is confident that Cambodia can achieve its goal of zero-emission by 2050.

**Dilum Wijenayaka** stated that the global agri-food sector is moving towards carbon neutrality, driven by government policies, international buyers, brands, and consumer behavior.

*“Governments, brands, and consumers are demanding more sustainable and transparent food production practices. This presents an opportunity for Cambodia to explore new markets and increase its export potential,” he said.*

He added that even though there are opportunities, there are also some challenges to Cambodia's transition to a carbon-neutral agri-food sector, such as a lack of access to technology and sustainable farming practices, a lack of awareness of carbon sequestration practices, and a need for significant financial investment.

*“However, with good collaboration with international partners and other international government agencies, Cambodia can overcome these challenges and work towards a more carbon-neutral agri-food sector,” he said.*

The session on the pathway to a carbon-competitive agri-food value chain by CAPRED highlighted the importance of sustainability and climate change adaptation for the Cambodian agri-food sector. It demonstrated that digital technology can play a key role in supporting this transition and that there are opportunities for Cambodian companies to explore new markets and increase their export potential.



## 3.7 EXPLORING THE NEXUS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WASH: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES FOR CAMBODIA

BY IDE



**Ms. Neou Sovattha**

Country Director  
CARE Cambodia



**Mr. Sokkung Sou**

Head of Programmes  
WaterAid



**Ms. Pechpheary Nann**

Communication and Outreach  
Intern  
USAID Green Futures Activity



**Mr. Tyler Kozole**

Water, Sanitation & Hygiene  
Program Director  
iDE



**Mr. Michele Paba**

Chief of WASH, Climate and  
Environment  
UNICEF





### 3.7 IDE: EXPLORING THE NEXUS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WASH: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES FOR CAMBODIA

In this session, iDE orchestrated a dynamic panel discussion exploring the intricate nexus between climate change and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) in Cambodia.

The session addressed the critical issue of sanitation, often deemed the "forgotten sister" within the WASH framework, which the UN has highlighted as being severely neglected by international organizations. As climate change intensifies and communities grapple with water extremes, the vulnerability of sanitation systems becomes increasingly pronounced, exposing people to pathogens and diseases. The imperative to safeguard water resources and public health through resilient and well-managed WASH systems has never been more pressing.

The primary aim of the panel discussion was to delve into the interlinkages between climate change and WASH in Cambodia. Adopting a systems thinking approach, the session sought to spotlight key challenges and strategies for addressing this critical topic.

Moderated by Sokkung Sou, Head of Programmes at WaterAid, Representatives from various stakeholders, panelists included Mr Michele Paba, Chief of WASH, Climate and Environment, UNICEF. Panelist, Tyler Kozole, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Program Director, iDE.

Opening the discussion, **Michele Paba** shared experiences and underscored the alignment between climate change, WASH, and the SDGs. He also discussed WASH in national climate priorities and emphasized the importance of multilateral collaboration.

*"To address these challenges, Cambodia, with support from DFAT and UNICEF, has developed the Climate Rationale for Wash services as a tool to influence policies, streamline climate-resilient approaches among sector partners, and leverage climate financing," he added.*

#### **Diverse Perspectives from Stakeholders**

**Sokkung Sou** shed light on the importance of systems strengthening in the context of WASH and climate change. Mr. Sokkung Sou, the moderator and Head of Programmes at WaterAid, emphasized the need for comprehensive approaches and underscored WaterAid's commitment to recognizing water and sanitation as human rights.

In this session, Sovatha Neou has discussed the climate-resilient walls linked to the new Cambodia's Pentagonal Strategy 1 in the following ways.

*"Human capital development, economic diversification and competitiveness enhancement, development of private sector and employment, resilient, sustainable and inclusive development and digital economy and society."*







### 3.7 IDE: EXPLORING THE NEXUS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND WASH: A PANEL DISCUSSION ON STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES FOR CAMBODIA

**Tyler Kozole** said that iDE has brought attention to the pivotal role of market-based approaches in promoting climate-resilient WASH practices, particularly in the domain of sanitation. Tyler Kozole, Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Program Director of iDE, unveiled innovative products tailored to withstand climate-related challenges.

*“Two of iDE’s climate-resilient sanitation products are the Sky Latrine and the All Seasons Upgrade. The Sky Latrine is an elevated latrine that can contain waste even during a flood and flush during floods, while the All Seasons Upgrade is a product that converts a standard Cambodian toilet into a septic tank, which is suitable for high groundwater and high-density soil conditions.”*

He mentioned that IDE also works through markets by designing products using human-centric design, having feedback loops and iterative mechanisms to improve products, having a sales team that sells products door-to-door and offers discounts to ID-poor households, sending orders to latrine business owners who build and deliver the products, and working with local authorities to pinpoint climate hazards and ensure that the products offered are a right fit to the challenges in those communities.

John Dore provided insights into the crucial role of governments and funders in advancing climate-resilient WASH initiatives. John Dore, representing DFAT, highlighted the organization’s strategies and priorities in Cambodia.

He also discussed Australia’s revised international development policy released in August 2023, focusing on building genuine and respectful partnerships, supporting local initiatives, and utilizing innovative development financing.

*“Australia has set two critical conditions related to climate change in its international development policy. Firstly, in the next five years, more than 80% of their funded projects must have a specific climate-related objective. Currently, only around 20% of the projects they support meet this criterion.”*

*“Secondly, the policy emphasizes commitment on gender equality, which the policy mandates that at least 80% of programs or portfolios, encompassing various activities and projects within a specific area, must integrate gender equality considerations.”*

#### **Key Takeaways**

The session, enriched by the diverse perspectives of the esteemed panelists, provided a comprehensive exploration of the collaborative efforts and partnerships needed to address the challenges posed by climate change and WASH in Cambodia.

The speakers presented a spectrum of innovative approaches and solutions, emphasizing the importance of a systems-thinking approach. Governments, funders, international organizations, and the private sector were underscored as pivotal players in supporting climate-resilient WASH initiatives. The session served as a forum for learning about successful initiatives, identifying gaps, and contributing to discussions on future priorities and actions.







**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## 3.8 BEYOND REDD+ (REDD+ PLUS): BENEFITS OF REDD+ BEYOND AVOIDED DEFORESTATION

BY USAID



**H.E. Ken SereyRotha**

**Director General  
Ministry of Economy and  
Finance**



**Mr. Nicholas Spencer**

**CEO  
IBIS RICE CONSERVATION CO., LTD**



**Ms. Kimheak Chhay**

**Community and REDD+ Manager  
Wildlife Conservation Society**



**Mr. Bou Vorsak**

**Chief Executive Officer (CEO)  
NatureLife Cambodia**





### 3.8 USAID: BEYOND REDD+ (REDD+ PLUS): BENEFITS OF REDD+ BEYOND AVOIDED DEFORESTATION

The session on “Beyond REDD+: Benefits of REDD+ beyond Avoided Deforestation” highlighted the multifaceted benefits of REDD+ projects in Cambodia, showcasing their positive impact on both environmental conservation and local communities. These initiatives go beyond merely avoiding deforestation and contribute to sustainable development, improved livelihoods, and biodiversity protection. Cambodia's leadership in this field reflects its dedication to achieving environmental and social goals through REDD+ projects.

The session was moderated by H.E. Ken Serey Rotha, Director General of the Ministry of Environment, and featured a panel of experts which included Nicholas Spencer, CEO of IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd, Kimheak Chhay, Community and REDD+ Manager at the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), and Bou Vorsak, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of NatureLife Cambodia.

**H.E. Ken Serey Rotha** emphasized Cambodia's commitment to REDD+ implementation, highlighting its significance in combating deforestation and noting the support provided by USAID for its development. Cambodia has emerged as a leader in this field, ranking in the top 5 globally. Currently, there are three active REDD+ projects in Cambodia, with five more proposed across the country.

*“A lot of the projects not only comply with the standard approach but go beyond by ensuring community-centric approaches which have more benefit for communities.”*

He added that the Ministry of Environment is collaborating with various partners, to create a national dataset and risk mapping as part of the country's roadmap. This initiative represents an excellent opportunity for win-win projects in Cambodia.

#### **Community Benefits of REDD+ Projects:**

**Kimheak Chhay**, representing the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Keo Seima REDD+ Project, highlighted the broader impact of REDD+ projects, emphasizing their role in safeguarding communities, improving livelihoods, and maximizing profits.

*“Our revenue from carbon credit was over \$1,000,000 in direct payments to community bank accounts, to 20 villages across 6 communes within 3 districts”*

She said that these funds are used for priority community development activities, health and education, infrastructure improvement, and livelihood enhancement, especially in isolated communities. The projects provide training for vocational skills, capacity building, and the establishment of community savings groups to enhance food and financial security.





### 3.8 USAID: BEYOND REDD+ (REDD+ PLUS): BENEFITS OF REDD+ BEYOND AVOIDED DEFORESTATION

**Nicholas Spencer** highlighted how their business closely linked REDD+ monitoring and related outcomes, creating a symbiotic relationship.

Many of our farming communities are located within REDD+ project zones where communities monitor deforestation and support management of the protected area management. IBIS Rice is committed to zero poaching and zero deforestation while paying premium prices to improve the livelihoods of their farmers so the conditions in REDD+ areas are a natural fit for IBIS Rice production.

*“We share our compliance data with REDD+ project managers, so we can look from the bottom up and the top down, making a symbiotic relationship. As higher quality credits are increased, communities benefit and we create value for the forest and biodiversity.”*

#### **Long-term Conservation and Biodiversity Protection:**

**Bou Vorsak** discussed the critical role of REDD+ in protecting biodiversity and communities in the long term.

He emphasized two key aspects. First, their work involves close collaboration with rangers to combat illegal logging through patrols, capacity-building, and community involvement. This includes supporting eco-tourism, education, awareness raising, providing small grants, and cattle vaccinations.

Second, they are committed to ensuring the protection of biodiversity and endangered species. This is achieved through long-term nest programs for key species, contribution to the national consensus on species, habitat restoration, site development, camera trapping, and more.

*“This is a 30-year project, ensuring we are committed to long-term conservation, which is key to making projects like ours successful,” he added.*





## 3.9 POLICY RESPONSES TO INCREASING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CLEAN WATER SUPPLY

BY CAPRED



**Ms. Tin Mola**

Infrastructure Lead  
CAPRED



**Mr. Lun Sambo**

Water Technical Advisor  
CAPRED



**Mr. Chan Virak**

Senior Water Resource  
Management Specialist,  
World Bank Group



**H.E. TAN Sokchea**

Director General of Potable  
Water Supply  
Ministry of Industry, Science,  
Technology and Innovation



**Mr. Thach Sovanna**

Director of Water Resources  
Management and Conservation  
Department  
Ministry of Water Resources and  
Meteorology





### 3.9 CAPRED: POLICY RESPONSES TO INCREASING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CLEAN WATER SUPPLY

This session covered Cambodia's pressing issue of the reliance by a large portion of the population on the Mekong and Tonle Sap basins, which are being impacted by climate change.

The panlists explained that less than 50% of Cambodians have access to a reliable piped clean water supply, and that water scarcity and water quality problems in Cambodia are increasing with growing climate change impacts.

CAPRED analysis shows around 43% of greenfield service areas across the country lack access to year-round water sources.

Moderated by **Tin Mola**, Infrastructure Lead at CAPRED, the session included panelists Lun Sambo, Water Technical Advisor at CAPRED, Chan Virak, Senior Water Resource Management Specialist, World Bank, H.E. TAN Sokchea, Director General of Potable Water Supply at the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology and Innovation (MISTI) and Thach Sovanna, Director of Water Resources Management and Conservation Department, Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology.

Opening the discussions, **Lun Sambo** shared that only 47% of villages in Cambodia have access to piped water, while the remaining 53% are still uncovered. He added that most suppliers are from the private sector, which accounts for 77% of the market.

*"Climate change significantly impacts water supply in Cambodia through changes in rainfall volume, patterns, and temperature increases. These factors contribute to both lower and delayed water availability, while simultaneously increasing consumption demand."*

*"These factors have led to increased investment in pond digging, which has in turn driven up the price of drinking water, in turn, reduced investment viability that will need to be compensated by the higher price of drinking water," he said.*

Speaking on recent World Bank research, **Chan Virak** said that out of 13 water suppliers in Cambodia, 12 have reported experiencing water shortages during the drought season.

*"Only one company has been able to provide water without any problems or challenges. In the context of water scarcity, we do not talk about water coverage, but rather about water sources. This is because the amount of water supplied is sufficient, but the water service and demand are not balanced."*

He added that the World Bank exists only to assist and support climate change adaptation, but it is the government that must assist in further action.

**Chan Virak** also shared the development of two transformational projects in the water supply and sanitation sector: the Water Supply, Sanitation and Acceleration Project and the Cambodian Water Security Improvement Project. However, he said that they are still waiting to see the final proposals for these projects.







### 3.9 CAPRED: POLICY RESPONSES TO INCREASING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON CLEAN WATER SUPPLY

**H.E. TAN Sokchea** discussed that climate change has created many challenges for Cambodia, particularly with water supply.

He categorized climate change challenges for water supply within two seasons.

*“Climate change intensifies during the wet season, resulting in severe flooding that not only affects residential areas but also poses a threat to critical infrastructure. The increased volume and strong currents during heavy rainfall events impact pumping stations, disrupting their normal functioning.”*

He said that equally the dry season can cause damage when extreme heat – leading to drought conditions – compounds what is a dual challenge in water-related issues.

*“First, it contributes to water scarcity, posing a direct challenge to the availability of water resources. Second, the increased demand for water to serve the local populace intensifies the strain on already limited water sources.”*

**Thach Sovanna** stated that the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology has allocated water distribution and management into different sectors, including supplier, agriculture, safety, and so on, with water divided into two types.

These types are existing water, which refers to the water in ponds, lakes, and rivers, and groundwater.

*“Before digging for groundwater, experts must study the area to ensure that there is sufficient water and to assess the potential impact on the environment, especially given the factors of climate change and our impact upon it.”*

He also called for close collaboration between ministries and the private sector as essential for sustainable clean water access.

#### Key Takeaways

MISTI and MOWRAM need to increase coordination in water resource allocation for clean water supply. Retrofitting water management infrastructure to serve multiple purposes, including clean water supply. Some immediate actions include providing robust data on water supply demand and joint action planning between the two ministries.







**PAGE**

## 3.10 NEW SOURCES OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

**BY UNPAGE**



**Dr. Phanith Chou**

Associate Professor  
Royal University of Phnom Penh



**Ms. Sara Monti**

Responsible Business Hub Coordinator,  
Adjunct Professor  
Eurocham



**Mr. Taing Meng Eang**

Director of Green Economy  
Department  
Ministry of Environment



**Mr. Pengty Ngor**

Official of General  
Department of Policy  
Ministry of Economy &  
Finance



**Mr. Paolo Dalla Stella**

Environment Policy Specialist  
UNDP Cambodia





### 3.10 UNPAGE: NEW SOURCES OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

The UNPAGE session titled "New Sources of Sustainable Economic Growth" at the Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023 focused on the country's efforts to integrate climate action and green economy considerations into its economic, fiscal, and development planning. The session aimed to discuss the opportunities that climate action offers for economic growth and diversification, particularly as Cambodia prepares for its Least Developed Country (LDC) graduation. The panel included experts from various sectors to share insights and strategies.

#### **Government Perspective on Sustainable Economic Growth**

**Taing Meng Eang**, Director of the Green Economy Department at the Ministry of Environment, emphasized the importance of continuous efforts to integrate climate action and green economy considerations into economic, fiscal, and development policies.

*"For the Royal Government of Cambodia, this entails continuously exploring new sources of economic growth that ensure adequate quantity and quality of employment, equitable distribution of income and wealth, and protection of the environment. It also requires systematic assessments of the economic, social and environmental consequences of fiscal decision-making to inform future allocations of funds," he said.*

Eang highlighted the potential of the green economy to attract investments in renewable energy, green infrastructure, and other sustainable sectors, ultimately leading to enhanced productivity, job creation, sustainable agriculture, eco-tourism, increased competitiveness, resilience, and improved public health and livelihood. He called for sustainability to be the foundation of Cambodia's growth strategy, moving away from resource-intensive industries through the utilization of clean technology.

#### **Aligning Economic Growth with Carbon Neutrality:**

**Paolo Dalla Stella**, an Environmental Specialist at UNDP Cambodia, highlighted the challenge of aligning the government's plans for economic growth with its commitments to carbon neutrality.

*"Economic Modelling is very important as it will allow you to see what policy measures will have a high multiplier affect on economic growth. Some have higher potential. They also need to include the social dimensions, which account for community benefits also."*

*"Cambodia is not new to modeling and foresight, and we have the estimates of climate change impact on Cambodia. What we need to do now is make sure these are not ad hoc, but they are the foundation of policies, to ensure policy coherence."*

Dalla Stella emphasized the need for a systematic and coherent approach to integrate climate change impact assessments into policymaking, ensuring that policies are based on solid foundations. Budgeting is another key aspect, he added, ensuring that the national budget aligns with sustainable development goals and strategies.

*"UNPAGE will provide support at the budget decision-making level to help the government understand the required investments and attract necessary funds to achieve climate goals," he added.*





## 3.10 UNPAGE: NEW SOURCES OF SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

### **The Pentagonal Strategy for Sustainable Development:**

**Pengty Ngor**, an official of the General Department of Policy at the Ministry of Economy & Finance, discussed Cambodia's transition to a new era of development. He highlighted the Pentagonal Strategy, which maps out the country's development for the next 25 years. In phase one of this plan.

*“Cambodia places a strong emphasis on the digital economy and the green economy as key pillars for sustainable growth. Renewable energy is a significant opportunity, and the government aims to increase its share in the energy mix significantly.”*

*“However, this transition requires substantial investments, estimated at around \$7.8 billion by 2030. Cambodia must incorporate these financial requirements into its planning to achieve its green economy and sustainability goals,” he added.*

### **Private Sector's Role in Sustainable Economic Growth**

**Sara Monti**, the Responsible Business Hub Coordinator at EuroCham and Adjunct Professor, discussed EuroCham's role in improving the dialogue between the private sector and the government.

She highlighted policy discussions related to green businesses and the environment, including provisions such as environmental assessments. The issue of waste management in Cambodia was also discussed, with a significant year-on-year growth rate.

Monti emphasized the need for national policies and strategies that align with global legal frameworks, such as mandatory due diligence, focusing on the social and environmental impacts of businesses. She underscored the importance of complying with these frameworks at a national policy level, particularly for a developing and export-oriented country like Cambodia.

*“Waste is an issue in Cambodia, with a 10% year-on-year growth rate in the country. Cambodia lacks a formal system and heavily relies on informal collectors. EuroCham members discussed the lifetime of products, to reduce the use of single-use plastic products. Even though policies don't exist on these, the feedback from the private sector is to speed up policy surrounding these issues. We need to work together to address these issues moving forward,” she added.*

In summary, the session emphasized Cambodia's commitment to achieving both economic growth and sustainability. By integrating climate action and green economy considerations into its policies and planning, the country aims to secure sustainable economic growth, attract investments, and transition to a green and resilient economy, while moving toward carbon neutrality by 2050. The involvement of government, the private sector, and the United Nations is seen as crucial in realizing these goals.





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Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC

## 3.11 INCLUSIVE WATER GOVERNANCE AND AGRO-ECOLOGY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

BY SDC



**Mr. Francesco Melara**

Climate Resilient Agriculture and  
Market Systems Development  
Adviser HEKS/ Nurture



**Mr. Winfried Suess**

Team Leader  
Nurture Project  
(Co-financed by SDC, HEKS and CARITAS  
Switzerland)



**Ms. Melanie Mossard**

CEO  
Impact Hub



**Dr. Ho Puthea**

Deputy Director of the  
General Directorate of  
Agriculture of MAFF and Vice  
Chair of CASIC  
MAFF-GDA-CASIC



**Ms. Caroline Turner**

Program Manager  
Water Team – FAORAP





### 3.11 SDC: INCLUSIVE WATER GOVERNANCE AND AGRO-ECOLOGY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The SDC panel discussion covered several key topics, including the importance of raising awareness of agroecology and inclusive water governance for strengthening climate resilience in Cambodia, sharing knowledge and experience on agroecological practices and approaches to inclusive water governance that are being used in Cambodia, and discussing the role and potential that the private sector holds.

Panelists also discussed the challenges and opportunities for scaling up agroecology and inclusive water governance in Cambodia and the role that donors, implementers, the private sector, and policy-makers can play in supporting this process.

Moderated by **Francesco Melara**, Climate Resilient Agriculture and Market Systems Development Adviser HEKS/ Nurture, panellists included Winfried Suess, Team Leader of the Nurture Project (Co-financed by SDC, HEKS and CARITAS Switzerland), Melanie Mossard, CEO, Impact Hub, Ho Puthea, Deputy Director of the General Directorate of Agriculture of MAFF and Vice Chair of Conservation Agriculture and Sustainable Intensification Consortium (CASIC), MAFF-GDA-CASIC and Caroline Turner, Program Manager, Water Team – FAORAP

Speaking about the Nature Project in Cambodia, **Winfried Suess**, said that it is a comprehensive initiative that aims to improve the livelihoods of smallholder farmers through a combination of agroecology, water governance, and market systems development.

*“The project is working with all stakeholders, including the government, water departments, agricultural departments, local communities, and private partners, to implement sustainable and climate-resilient water management plans, help women farmers become more entrepreneurial, and diversify their livelihoods.”*

*“The project is committed to leaving no one behind and is working with disadvantaged groups such as women, youth, and people with disabilities.”*

He added that the Nature project is a holistic approach to improving the lives of smallholder farmers in Cambodia by addressing their needs sustainably and inclusively.

*“One key aspect of the project is its work with CASIC to upscale and extend pilots of community-based water management models. This will help to ensure that more farmers have access to reliable and sustainable water resources, which is essential for climate resilience and agricultural productivity.”*

*“Another important aspect of the project is its partnership with GIZ to establish climate-resilient water management plans at the district level. This will help to ensure that water resources are managed in a sustainable and coordinated way, taking into account the impacts of climate change,” he added.*

**Ms. Melanie Mossard**, CEO, of Impact Hub, also gave her opinion on the the role of entrepreneurs in solving social issues in Cambodia:

*“There is an important role that entrepreneurs play in solving social issues in Cambodia, such as improving access to education, sanitation, and livelihood opportunities for marginalized communities. These entrepreneurs are often close to the problems they are trying to solve, and have a deep understanding of the needs of the people they are serving.”*







### 3.11 SDC: INCLUSIVE WATER GOVERNANCE AND AGRO-ECOLOGY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

#### *The importance of collaboration*

Melanie emphasized the importance of collaboration between entrepreneurs and other stakeholders, such as government agencies, NGOs, and research institutions. She noted that by working together, these stakeholders can pool their resources and expertise to achieve a greater impact.

*“Young people are increasingly aware of the climate crisis and are motivated to take action. Look at the examples of youth-led initiatives in Cambodia, such as climate negotiation training programs and social media campaigns to raise awareness about agroecological practices.”*

Melanie also highlighted the importance of digital skills in agricultural development.

*“The youth in Cambodia have a strong foundation in digital skills, which can be used to develop innovative solutions to agricultural challenges.”*

She cited several projects that have trained youth to use their digital skills to support several initiatives, including:

- Khmer Agriculture for future incubator: This incubator supports agriculture cooperatives and ventures to develop climate-resilient solutions for smallholder farmers.
- Soil for Life Association: This organization is doing well with climate-smart agricultural practices in the Battambang community.
- Local conference for young people: This conference hosted by Impact of Phnom Penh trained young people on climate negotiation and policy recommendations.
- Project with Ministry of Economic Development, Finance, and Enterprise and CPSA: This project trained youth to support agricultural cooperatives in strengthening their market access.
- Program with Centre for Sustainable Water: This program placed youth in communities for 100 days to be drivers for change in behavior and infrastructure.

Melanie's speech is hopeful for the future, as she sees more and more youth engaged in climate action and agricultural development. She believes that youth have the skills and energy to make a difference.

In his speech contribution, **Ho Putha**, highlighted the central role of agroecology in the Ministry's agenda, aligning with national policy frameworks and essential for agricultural development and beyond.

He also acknowledged the key role of CASIC in supporting the agroecological approach, coordinating activities, and seeking financial support from development partners.

*“There is a growing demand for agroecology from various development partners and other regional programs, emphasizing the need for effective coordination to achieve systemic change.”*







### 3.11 SDC: INCLUSIVE WATER GOVERNANCE AND AGRO-ECOLOGY FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

He praised CASIC's important role in gathering and coordinating stakeholders, networking among all stakeholders, seeking financial support, and facilitating collaboration between implementers. He also mentioned CASIC's collaboration with other institutions, such as the LIME technical department in MAG and the technical departments in the Ministry of Environment.

The Minister's speech ultimately emphasized the importance of agroecology and the need for effective coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders to achieve systemic change.

**Caroline Turner**, emphasized the importance of agroecology in water management, particularly in Asia, where water scarcity is increasing. She noted that agroecology is a holistic approach to agriculture that emphasizes sustainability, equity, and diversity and that it can help to improve soil health, reduce water pollution, and increase water retention.

She also highlighted the importance of inclusive governance in water management, ensuring that marginalized smallholder farmers are not left behind.

The speaker outlined some of the FAO's work on agroecology in water management, including:

- Institutionalizing government units that look at cross-sectoral water issues
- Institutionalizing water accounting
- Working with farmers to adapt to water scarcity
- Enabling environments where smallholders can effectively manage water resources

She also provided some practical examples of agroecology in water management, such as rainwater harvesting, agroforestry, crop rotation, and integrated pest management.

She finished by highlighting the importance of agroecology and inclusive water governance for strengthening climate resilience in Cambodia.





## 3.12 GREEN BUSINESS PANEL

BY BRITCHAM



**Ms. Jane Wilding**

Executive Director  
British Chamber of Commerce  
Cambodia



**Mr. Nicholas Spencer**

CEO  
IBIS RICE CONSERVATION CO., LTD



**Dr. Sopheak REY**

National Project  
Coordinator/Coordination and  
Technical Assistance  
UNIDO



**Mr. Rithy Chhor**

CEO  
Kirisu Farms



**Mr. Arjen Laan**

CEO  
Pactics





## 3.12 BRITCHAM: GREEN BUSINESS PANEL

### **Key Points Highlighted during the "BritCham Green Business Panel" Session**

The "BritCham Green Business Panel" discussion shed light on the multifaceted challenges and opportunities related to adopting green business strategies in Cambodia. The insights and suggestions presented by the panelists highlighted the importance of a balanced approach that combines economic viability with sustainability and calls for clearer regulations and upskilling initiatives to drive green business growth in the country.

The session also touched upon the skills needed within businesses to support green policies and innovations, as well as the necessary government policies to encourage businesses to expand their green initiatives.

Moderated by BritCham's **Jane Wilding**, panelists included Sopheak Rey, National Project Coordinator at UNIDO, Arjen Laan, CEO of Pactics and Rithy Chhor, CEO at Kirisu Farms.

### **SMEs and the Importance of Financial Motivation**

**Sopheak Rey** highlighted the support available for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to save energy and water. He noted that financial gain is the primary motivation for many businesses, with environmental and social benefits often following. However, there is currently an issue where only a fraction of SMEs and factories in Cambodia sign up for green business initiatives and take advantage of the associated benefits. With around 60,000 SMEs and 2,000 factories in the country, the potential for greener practices and economic benefits is substantial.

### **Industry Diversification and Policy Regulation**

**Arjen Laan** emphasized the need for Cambodia to diversify its industries. He highlighted challenges within the garment sector, which primarily focuses on the cut-and-sew aspect. This specialization limits Cambodia's ability to make the most of available fabrics and handle waste efficiently. Laan pointed out the difficulty in dealing with factory waste due to the lack of infrastructure and clear policy regulations. Factories like Pactics are expected to maintain a balance between importing and exporting, which can be challenging due to the waste generated as a by-product. He called for clearer regulations, the upskilling of the workforce, and a national-level approach to upskilling as essential steps for development and diversification, particularly in terms of green practices.

### **Balancing Commercial Viability and Green Goals**

**Rithy Chhor** addressed the need to strike a balance when transitioning to green business practices. For instance, he explained that using glass bottles for products could make them uneconomical due to increased costs and limited demand. It would also result in additional waste that might be challenging to recycle. Chhor highlighted the importance of balancing commercial viability with green goals and stressed that sustainability is crucial for the future.

In summary, Jane Wilding identified several key challenges raised during the seminar, namely the importance of building infrastructure for green initiatives, addressing the scale and cost of green implementation, particularly for SMEs and "Loosening up" legal regulations to better accommodate green business practices.

She also highlighted the need for workforce development and upskilling, access to green manufacturing finance and incentives and a general overcoming of the current limits on innovation in Cambodia.



## 3.13 SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

BY GIZ



**Ms. Marie Hoffmann**

Senior Technical Advisor  
GIZ ICONE



**Mr. Savath Mao**

Managing Director  
Global DMC Travel



**Ms. Sarah Rhodes**

Founder  
Plastic Free Southeast  
Asia





### 3.13 GIZ: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

The "GIZ Sustainable Tourism" session centred on the concept of sustainable tourism, a practice aimed at minimizing the negative impacts of tourism on the environment, economy, and culture of a destination.

The aim was to explore the mutually beneficial relationships between tourists and local communities, which can offer various advantages for both parties. The session also highlighted the benefits of sustainable tourism for tourists and featured insights from panelists about the practices and innovations in Cambodia's tourism industry.

Panelists included Savath Mao, Managing Director of Global DMC Travel, Hong Ho, Founder and Corporate Manager of Lotus Farm and Sarah Rhoes, Founder of Plastic Free Southeast Asia.

**Savath Mao** shared how sustainability is embedded throughout their business operations, affecting their finances, water usage, and energy efficiency. He emphasized the importance of educating suppliers and partners, not only reducing costs but also contributing to reducing plastic waste through practices like providing refillable water bottles.

**Hong Ho** stressed the significance of teaching the next generation and raising awareness about how sustainability is connected to the environment. He highlighted the need to inform people about the role of sustainable tourism in reducing or mitigating the negative impact on the environment.

**Sarah Rhoes** mentioned their work with companies in the tourism sector. She underscored the multifaceted nature of sustainability, encompassing not only plastic reduction but also fair wages and capacity building for long-term value. She highlighted the importance of collaborations between companies and the exchange of knowledge regarding different models and markets. Moreover, Rhoes promoted innovation through collaboration as a way for Cambodia to lead in sustainable tourism.

The "GIZ Sustainable Tourism" session showcased the growing commitment to sustainability in Cambodia's tourism industry, providing valuable insights into the positive impacts of sustainable practices and the importance of educating and collaborating within the sector.





### 3.13 GIZ: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

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#### **Key Takeaways**

All panelists agreed that the benefits of sustainable tourism were:

- **Authentic and Rewarding Experiences:** Sustainable tourism endeavors to provide tourists with more authentic and rewarding travel experiences. This involves connecting with local people and cultures, delving into a destination's history and traditions, and sustainably experiencing the natural world. Such interactions can lead to more meaningful and enriching travel experiences compared to traditional tourism.
- **Minimized Impact on Environment and Communities:** Sustainable tourism practices are designed to mitigate the negative impacts of tourism on the environment and local communities. Tourists can feel good about their choices, knowing that they are not contributing to pollution, overconsumption, or the displacement of residents.
- **Support for Local Businesses and Communities:** Sustainable tourism often entails supporting local businesses such as eco-lodges, restaurants, and tour operators. This not only helps create jobs but also bolsters the local economy. Collaborative efforts with local communities ensure that tourism benefits everyone involved.
- **Opportunities for Learning and Growth:** Sustainable tourism provides tourists with opportunities to learn about environmental issues, cultural diversity, and responsible travel practices. These experiences can lead to personal growth and a more compassionate worldview.

In summary, sustainable tourism offers a win-win scenario for both tourists and the destinations they visit. By choosing sustainable travel, tourists can enjoy more enriching and impactful experiences while reducing their negative impact and supporting local communities.







## 3.14 'IN HOT WATER' RETHINKING MARINE ADAPTATION



BY ADB



**Mr. Alvin Lopez**

Sector Lead, Coastal and  
Marine Fisheries  
Asian Development Bank



**Mr. Lindsay Saunders**

Consultant - to value add for  
developing countries as a client  
LINDIS NZ LTD



**Dr. Khov Kuong**

Deputy Director General  
Fisheries Administration, Ministry  
of Agriculture, Forestry and  
Fisheries



**Mr. Marcel Kroese**

Int. MCS Expert  
FAO





### 3.14 ADB: 'IN HOT WATER' RETHINKING MARINE ADAPTATION

This session discussed how Cambodia's coastal and marine fisheries industry is especially sensitive to climate change, and the current national assessments include relatively little information on the ocean. According to the research, Cambodia should engage in adaptation measures and consider its economic zone while assessing its climate. This session aimed to emphasize how critical it is for Cambodia to quickly adjust to changing maritime conditions.

Moderated by **Alvin Lopez**, Sector Lead, Coastal and Marine Fisheries, Asian Development Bank. Panelist Khov Kuong, Deputy Director General, Fisheries Administration, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Panelist, Marcel Kroese, Int. MCS Expert, FAO. Panelist, Lindsay Saunders, Consultant to Value add for Developing Countries as a client, LINDIS NZ LTD.

Opening the discussions, Alvin Lopez used the analogy of boiling a frog

*"If you put a frog in a bowl of warm water, and you slowly warm it, and slowly heat it, it doesn't jump up. But it tries to cope. Eventually, it is too late, because it cannot adapt to the conditions, and it's no longer strong enough to escape. Then you know what happens."*

He said that this is a metaphor for the situation we are in with climate change.

*"We are slowly warming the planet, and we are not taking action to stop it. We are slowly cooking ourselves, and we need to jump up and do something about it."*

Speaking on Cambodia's response **Khov Kuong** said the Kingdom is developing a project to help its marine fishery sector adapt to climate change.

*"The project will focus on three key areas, namely ecosystem restoration and regeneration, transition to open-water non-infected maricultures, and sustainable fishery management."*

*"The project will deploy passive protection and productivity structures in critical habitats such as seagrass, mangrove, and mudflats to protect them from destruction and rebuild their resilience. It will also support fishermen to transition from wild-caught fishing to open-water mariculture, which is the farming of aquatic organisms in seawater."*

He said that this would help to reduce the pressure on wild fish stocks and provide a more sustainable source of income for fishermen.

*"In addition, the project will strengthen the information base and decision-making capacity of the fishery administration, and develop important measures and regulations to manage the fishery sustainably."*

He added that the project is expected to benefit the Cambodian marine fishery sector in several ways, including protecting and restoring marine ecosystems, reducing pressure on wild fish stocks, and providing more sustainable livelihoods for fishermen

**Marcel Kroese** said that in Thailand the biomass of fish has declined by 90% since the 1960s, due to a combination of factors, including overfishing and climate change.

*"The average catch per unit effort (CPUE) of fish in the Gulf of Thailand has also declined significantly. Given these findings, Cambodia needs to move to a more rules-based approach to fisheries management to protect its fish stocks in the face of climate change."*





### 3.14 ADB: 'IN HOT WATER' RETHINKING MARINE ADAPTATION

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He also said that at the same time, the country needs to consider reducing its consumption of fish to minimize the ongoing impacts.

Talking about the risks that climate change poses to Cambodia and the Gulf of Thailand, **Lindsay Saunder** noted that Cambodia currently has very little data on the ocean, with most focusing primarily on shoreline dynamics and sea level rise.

*“Oceanic climate risks are more substantial, and they are accelerating and becoming more imminent.”*

He said this includes:

- Acidification: The ocean is absorbing more and more CO<sub>2</sub>, which is making it more acidic. This is harming marine life and reducing biodiversity.
- Sea surface temperature rise: Sea surface temperatures are rising rapidly, which is leading to more marine heatwaves. These heatwaves are killing coral reefs and other marine life.
- Deoxygenation: Oxygen levels in the ocean are declining, which is creating dead zones where marine life cannot survive.
- Fish migration: Fish are moving to cooler waters in response to climate change. This is making it harder for fishermen to find fish.

The speaker concluded that Cambodia needs to adapt to oceanic climate change as soon as possible, as part of its wider environmental action.





## 4. SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS EXPO





## 4. SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS EXPO

The Sustainable Solutions Expo, a pivotal component of the Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023 (CCCS23), successfully brought together over 20 local and international businesses, organizations, and partners. The exhibition, organized in collaboration with Gold Sponsor, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), provided a platform for showcasing innovative climate-focused projects, technologies, and approaches.

Markus Bürli, the Director of Cooperation in Cambodia for SDC, emphasized the importance of translating existing climate change mitigation and adaptation technologies into practical applications. He stressed the need for real-world implementation to address the challenges posed by climate change.

SDC Director of Cooperation in Cambodia, Markus Bürli, said, "We need to make sure that the many already existing technologies and services to mitigate and adapt to climate change are put into practice."

One notable participant was the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), supported by the Climate Resilient and Human-Nature Coexistence in the Mekong (CRHN) project. The CRHN project focuses on improving livelihoods in the Mekong River Basin by developing climate-resilient practices, safeguarding biodiversity, and promoting sustainable use of natural resources.

Ms. Horn Thida from Community Koh 30 shared her success story, highlighting the positive impact of the CRHN project. She has transitioned to a livelihood based on tourism and is keen on promoting her community to a global audience, aiming to reduce outside immigration and enhance the lives of her fellow community members.

### *Innovative Projects*

Meng Heak from FishTech presented the "Chun Der Trey Tumnub Sleng" project, designed to create a conducive environment for fish to move swiftly and safely while searching for food and reproducing. The project exemplifies FishTech's commitment to providing innovative solutions for mitigating climate change and reducing environmental impact.

Also in attendance was Nhev Daro, from GAEA Waste Management highlighted the company's mission to clean Krong Siem Reap City, emphasizing the importance of environmental education to encourage responsible trash management.

According to Daro, a significant issue in Siem Reap is the lack of environmental awareness, leading to the indiscriminate disposal of garbage. GAEA aims to address this by educating the public and fostering a sense of responsibility towards environmental protection.

Overall, the Sustainable Solutions Expo at CCCS23 served as a dynamic platform for businesses and organizations to showcase their commitment to sustainable practices.

The diverse range of projects presented, from community-focused initiatives to innovative technological solutions, demonstrated a collective effort towards addressing climate change and fostering environmental sustainability.

The event not only facilitated knowledge exchange but also encouraged collaboration among different groups and businesses working towards a common goal.





## 4.1 EXHIBITOR PROFILES




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Switzerland is aiding Cambodia's transition process and economic development. Although economic exchanges between the two countries are limited, they have been growing, particularly in the private sector. Switzerland mainly exports pharmaceuticals and machinery to Cambodia, while importing precious stones, textiles, shoes, and agricultural products.

 [www.eda.admin.ch](http://www.eda.admin.ch)




Oxfam has been committed to supporting the development of Cambodia, particularly marginalized groups such as women, youth, people with disabilities, LGBTQI people, indigenous groups, ethnic minorities, and vulnerable groups. The organization aims to empower these groups to hold the government accountable and build a resilient society through three program pillars: Inclusive Green Economy and Finance, Voices for Change, and Natural Resource Governance.

 <https://cambodia.oxfam.org/>




The Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED) is Australia's flagship economic development program in Cambodia. CAPRED collaborates with the government and private stakeholders to facilitate sustainable, resilient, and inclusive economic growth. The program aims to enhance enabling policies and financial incentives for investing in water and energy infrastructure, empower women-led enterprises and marginalised groups through targeted support, promote high-value agriculture and agro-processing, establish a sustainable clean energy sector, and facilitate green trade and investment. CAPRED is funded by the Australian Government and implemented by Cowater International.

 <https://www.capred.org>



WWF's mission in Cambodia is to ensure that there will be strong participation and support from all people to conserve the country's rich biological diversity. Through the encouragement of sustainable use of natural resources, WWF-Cambodia promotes new opportunities for the benefit of all people, enhancing local livelihoods and contributing to poverty reduction in the Kingdom of Cambodia.

 <https://wwf.panda.org/>







## 4.1 EXHIBITOR PROFILES



Nurture project, co-financed by SDC, HEKS and CARITAS Switzerland, focuses on enhancing the resilience of 15,000 households to climate change by promoting climate-resilient and agroecological practices, products, and services. The project involves private and public sector actors, and aims to increase farmers' income sustainably and improve their access to water for irrigation.



<https://beamexchange.org/>



The Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) provides support to Cambodia focuses on increasing agricultural productivity in line with Australia's aid investments, including brokering and investing in research partnerships for sustainable intensification and diversification of agriculture.



<https://www.aciar.gov.au>



At Only One Planet, we know that it will take much more than products to make a lasting impact. That's why we work to raise awareness about the effects of pollution on our one and only planet, and offer effective, green alternatives.



<https://onlyoneplanetkh.com>



To promote family farming and strengthen disease control, Cambodia needs to preserve soil and be resilient to climate and economic variability. CIRAD's research focuses on field studies, experimental trials, collaboration with universities, and policy dialogue.



<https://www.cirad.fr/en/worldwide/>



## (Energy)Lab

EnergyLab Cambodia is an innovative and efficient not-for-profit organisation working to support the growth of Clean Energy markets. Since our establishment, we have been recognised by our partners as independent, insightful and resourceful, with a transparent agenda to support Clean Energy.



<https://energylab.asia/>





## 4.1 EXHIBITOR PROFILES



The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is the world's premier international development agency and a catalytic actor driving development results. USAID works with local and international partners to make the country a more open, prosperous, resilient, and inclusive partner in the Indo-Pacific region. The expo featured two USAID-supported environment projects.

USAID Cambodia Green Future works with government, women, youth, indigenous groups, and private sector entities to promote social and behavior change communication (SBCC) focused on three themes of behavior change: reduce demand for luxury wood furniture; reduce buying and eating bushmeat; and stop littering.

USAID Morodok Baitang supports strategic partnerships between rural indigenous communities, private sector actors, and development partners to increase revenue and employment opportunities while also supporting biodiversity protection, low emissions development, and inclusive decision-making for improved natural resources management and governance.



<https://www.facebook.com/USAIDCambodiaGreenFuture/>



Sam Veasna Conservation Tours (SVC) is an officially registered tour company in Cambodia. We give visitors unique access to birding and wildlife sites across Cambodia. Our mission is to sustain Cambodia's wildlife and communities through ecotourism.



<https://samveasna.com/>



A uniquely diverse forest ecosystem in Cambodia is being safeguarded from destruction, and a number of endangered species are being saved from extinction including the Giant Ibis, Cambodia's national bird.



<http://www.ibisrice.com/>



The Wildlife Conservation Society saves wildlife and wild places worldwide. We do so through science, global conservation, education and the management of the world's largest system of urban wildlife parks, led by the flagship Bronx Zoo. Together these activities change attitudes towards nature and help people imagine wildlife and humans living in harmony. WCS is committed to this mission because it is essential to the integrity of life on Earth.



<https://cambodia.wcs.org>





## 4.1 EXHIBITOR PROFILES




The FAO Representation in Cambodia provided emergency and technical assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia in various areas, such as agricultural productivity, animal production and health, food security, and climate change. Their contributions include irrigation, fisheries, technical information management, consumer protection, promotion of access to new markets, forestry, IPC, and small-scale agro-industry.

 <https://www.fao.org/home/>



Shelter of Love began in 2003, on 24 acres, three homes house 50+ children. An administrative building, cafeteria/worship center, hydroponic farm buildings and a workshop building complete the campus. Clean solar energy powers the majority of the campus.

 <https://shelteroflove.org/>



SOG offers solar products and services to promote green energy in rural Cambodia, including solar ON & OFF Grid systems, solar water pumps, solar hybrid backup systems, and smart farm systems for greenhouses.

 <http://www.solarcambodia.com/>



Kosher was started by a team of young professionals in 2012 with the aim of providing end to end services in Carbon markets. Kosher's Vision of becoming a global leader is aided by its Central team of Multi Sectoral and empanelled experts for providing Principal and allied services to its clients.

 <https://kosherclimate.com/>



Control Union offers global independent inspection services with a focus on customers. They prioritize quality, integrity, safety, and respect for their longevity in business.

 <https://www.controlunion.com/>







## 4.1 EXHIBITOR PROFILES

### Forte

Forte is the largest general insurer and fast-growing life insurer in Cambodia and offers general insurance in Laos. We are a preferred partner of multinational insurers and an employer of choice with a collaborative workplace that rewards achievement and provides opportunities for people to grow.

 <https://www.forteinsurance.com/>



Our business project in Siem Reap, we want to promote Electric vehicles for eco tourism in Siem Reap for tourists by providing rental services with a battery system from Solar energy that has no Carbon emission to the environment with Zero Carbon goals.

 <https://www.facebook.com/verywords.kh/>

### act:onaid


We're a global justice federation working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. Our approach to securing change puts human rights front and center, prioritizing empowerment, solidarity and campaigning.

 <https://actonaid.org/>



CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL


Conservation International collaborates with governments and communities across the Mekong basin to protect forests, wetlands, and fisheries. They aim to minimize the impact of forest degradation and loss, water diversions, and improve fisheries management to ensure sustainable food production.

 <https://conservation.org/cambodia>



RECOFTC

RECOFTC aims to help communities thrive in sustainable, equitable forest landscapes by supporting their land and resource rights, promoting alternative livelihoods, and fostering gender equality through a long-term, inclusive approach.

 <https://www.recoftc.org/>





## 4.1 EXHIBITOR PROFILES



HUSK is based on the strong conviction that the private sector has the power to combat social inequality and tackle climate change. To date we have improved revenues for rural communities across Cambodia, due to better soils, higher yields and lower input costs as well as regenerating soil and removing carbon from the atmosphere.

 <http://www.huskventures.com/>



Cambodia's economic growth is driven by its working population. However, most of the workforce lacks technical and functional skills, making upskilling critical in major sectors like industry, services, and agriculture. Swiss Contact plays a crucial role in modernizing these competencies.

 <https://www.swisscontact.org/>




Kasekor Chhlat is a technology team focused on modernizing food drying processes for post-harvest processing in Cambodia. They aim to increase efficiency and hygiene in the production of dried fruits, vegetables, and meat products.

 <http://www.kasekorchhlat.com/>



iDE has been growing prosperity in Cambodia since 1994 by building value chains and business models in agriculture, clean water, and sanitation that promote beneficial, affordable products and services.

 <https://www.ideglobal.org/>





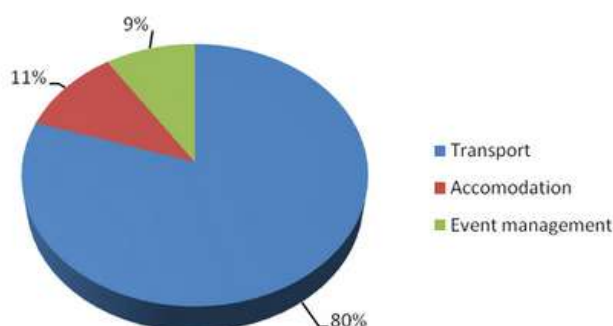
## 5. CARBON OFFSET

# EMISSION REPORT - CAMBODIA CLIMATE CHANGE SUMMIT 2023

Transport	53,3300 TCO <sub>2</sub> e
Accommodation	7,1100 TCO <sub>2</sub> e
Event management	6,1773 TCO <sub>2</sub> e
<b>Total event emissions</b>	<b>66,6173 TCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>
<b>Emissions per capita</b>	<b>0,370 TCO<sub>2</sub>e</b>

<b>N° of FTN needed</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>3.400,00 USD</b>

CCS 23 - CO<sub>2</sub>e Emissions



One of the biggest challenges facing this year's Cambodia Climate Change Summit (CCCS23) organizers was how to maximize collaboration while minimizing the impact on the environment. Last year, CCCS22 went the extra mile by calculating the total estimated carbon emissions caused by hosting our event and teamed up with the Apsara Authority to organize the planting of some 2,000 trees.

Carbon offsetting is a process in which people compensate for their emissions by funding projects that support environmental sustainability. These activities offer an equivalent reduction in emissions to those created, either counteracting or absorbing carbon dioxide and bringing balance to the environment.

Carbon credits are a key mechanism in global efforts to combat climate change. They represent a quantifiable amount of greenhouse gas emissions reduction, typically measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e). These credits are generated through various activities that either reduce, avoid, or capture emissions, such as reforestation, renewable energy projects, or improvements in energy efficiency. Once generated, these credits can be bought and sold on carbon markets. Organizations or individuals purchase carbon credits to offset their emissions, effectively balancing out their carbon footprint.

This system incentivizes emission reduction projects by providing financial rewards for those who successfully reduce or capture greenhouse gas emissions. The credibility of carbon credits depends on strict verification and certification processes, ensuring that each credit represents a real, measurable, and permanent reduction in emissions. This market-based approach encourages sustainable practices and supports the global transition towards a low-carbon economy.

This year CCCS23 will be the first Cambodian conference to offset their carbon footprint through the process of purchasing carbon credits. CCCS23 would like to thank Floresta for calculating the carbon emissions generated from hosting the conference as well as USAID Morodok Baitang for facilitating the purchasing process.

Calculation courtesy of Floresta



[www.florestainternational.com](http://www.florestainternational.com)







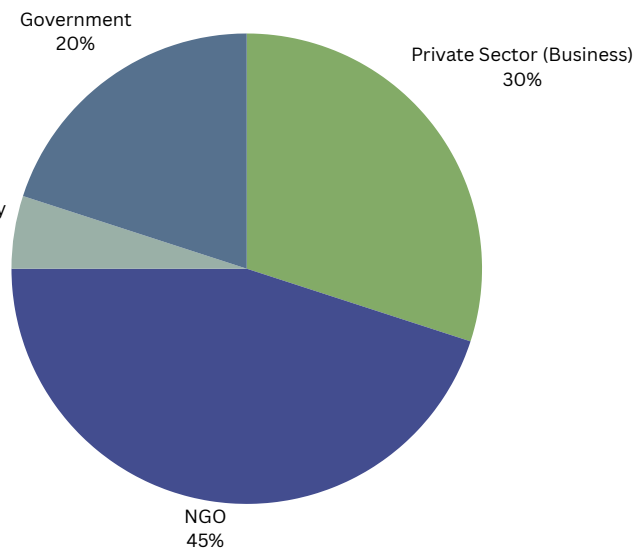
## 6. ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHICS

### Organizations list

1. ActionAid Cambodia
2. ACTIVA+
3. ADB
4. AFPS
5. Agros Cambodia
6. American Chamber of Commerce
7. Asian Development Bank
8. Asian Gateway Corporation
9. Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research
10. Australian Embassy, Phnom Penh
11. Boston Consulting Group
12. BritCham
13. British Embassy, Phnom Penh
14. British International Investment
15. Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilience Economic Development
16. Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)
17. Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)
18. Cambodia Youth Climate Change Program (CYCC Program)
19. Cambodian Energy Efficiency Competition
20. CAPRED
21. CARE International Cambodia
22. Caritas Switzerland
23. CBS
24. CCCS23
25. CCFC-Cambodia
26. CEPA
27. Charles Sturt University
28. Confirel
29. Conservation International
30. Control Union (Cambodia) Co. Ltd
31. Cooperation Committee for Cambodia (CCC)
32. DanChurchAid (DCA)
33. DFAT
34. E&A Consultant
35. EarthRights International
36. Energy Lab
37. EuroCham
38. Fauna & Flora
39. FHI360
40. Floresta
41. Remade Cambodia
42. Food for The Hungry in Cambodia
43. Foreign Trade Bank
44. Forte Insurance
45. French Embassy in Cambodia
46. GGEAR Group
47. GIZ
48. Golden Temple Group
49. GreenCollar
50. Harvest the Sun
51. Heinrich Boell Stiftung
52. HEKS/EPER Cambodia
53. Hugh Milner Consulting P/L

54. Husk Ventures
55. IBIS Rice Conservation Co., Ltd
56. iDE-Cambodia
57. iDE/CADF
58. Impact Hub Phnom Penh
59. Institute for International Studies and Public Policy
60. IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature)
61. Kasekor Chhlat
62. Khmeng Prey
63. Kosher Climate
64. Krassna Management
65. LINDIS NZ LTD
66. Little Green Spark
67. Live & Learn Cambodia
68. MAFF-GDA-CASIC
69. Mekong Future Initiative
70. Mekong Youth Network
71. Ministry of Agriculture (MAFF)
72. Ministry of Economy & Finance
73. Ministry of Environment
74. Ministry of Industry, Science, Innovation and Technology (MISTI)
75. Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology
76. MOWRAM
77. NatureLife Cambodia
78. NGO Forum on Cambodia
79. Nurture Project / Caritas Switzerland
80. Oxfam in Cambodia
81. PDAFF-BMC
82. People in Need
83. Pernod Ricard Cambodge
84. Plastic Free Southeast Asia
85. Politikoffee
86. Preah Sihanouk Provincial Health Department
87. RECOFTC Cambodia Samaritan's Purse

88. Samaritan's Purse
89. SERC
90. SEUAC
91. Sevea
92. Shelter of Love Center, Cambodia
93. Smart Axiata
94. SNV Impact That Matters
95. SOGE Cambodi
96. Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC
97. Swisscontact
98. Synergies publiques
99. TapEffect
100. Tetra Tech
101. THAT ENVIRONMENT
102. The World Bank Group
103. This Life Inc
104. UK FCDO
105. UN FAO
106. UNDP
107. UNICEF
108. UNIDO
109. US Embassy
110. USAID
111. USAID Cambodia Green Futures
112. USAID Morodok Baitang
113. Verywords
114. WaterAid
115. Wild Conservation Society
116. Wild Earth Allies
117. Women Leadership Network Leader
118. WWF Cambodia
119. ZEROW
120. ភសិករឆ្នោត
121. ក្រសួងបរិស្ថាន
122. និយ័តកម្មសហគ្រឹះកម្ពុជា
123. សម្ព័ន្ធសហគមន៍កសិកម្មកម្ពុជា
124. អង្គការ រចនាស្ត្រី





## 7. POST EVENT SURVEY

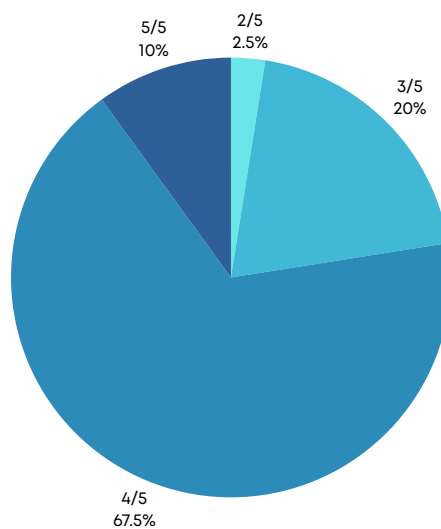
Attendance at Each Panel Discussion -



### 1. OVERALL RATING OF CCCS23



3.85/5.00



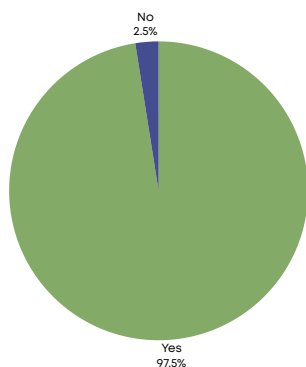


## 7. POST EVENT SURVEY

### 1. Overall Rating of CCCS23

★★★★☆  
3.85/5.00

### 2. Did you make new connections at CCCS23?



### 3. How useful were the networking opportunities?

★★★★☆  
3.92/5.00

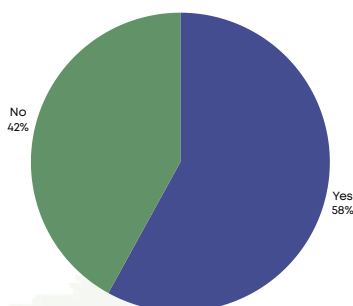
### 4. How interesting were the opening morning sessions?

★★★★☆  
3.75/5.00

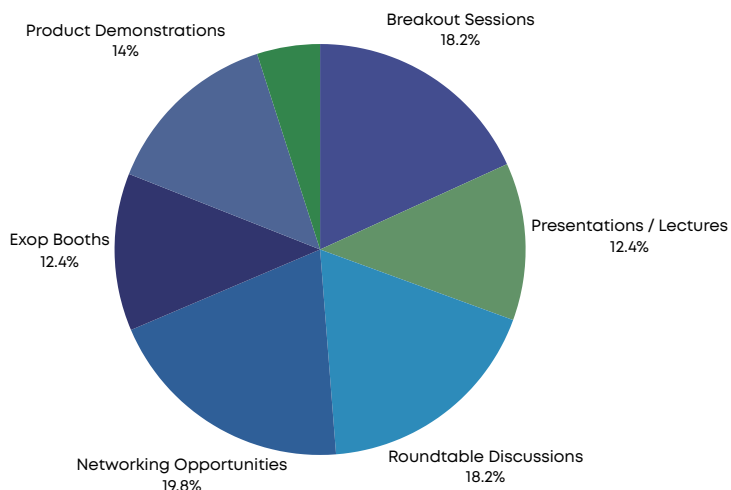
### 5. How interesting were the afternoon breakout sessions?

★★★★☆  
3.76/5.00

### 6. Were the breakout sessions long enough?



### 7. What would you like to see more of?



### 8. Conference Facilities rating at Borei Angkor

★★★★☆  
3.81/5.00

### 8. Pre-Event communication rating

★★★★☆  
3.53/5.00

### 9. Communication rating during event

★★★★☆  
3.89/5.00

### 10. Event organization rating

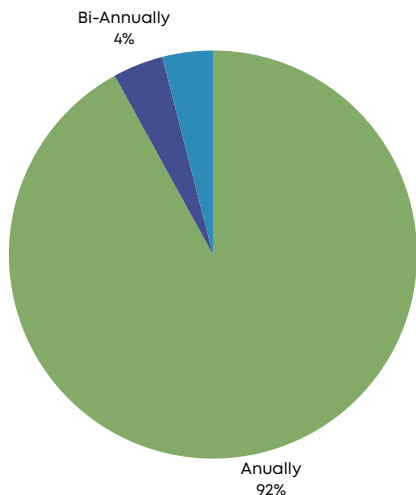
★★★★☆  
3.71/5.00



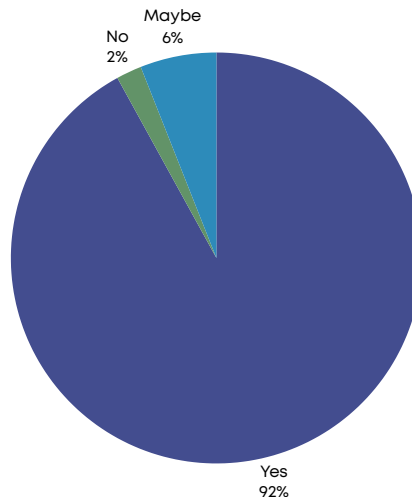


## 7. POST EVENT SURVEY

11. How often should CCCS be held?



14. Would you join CCCS again?

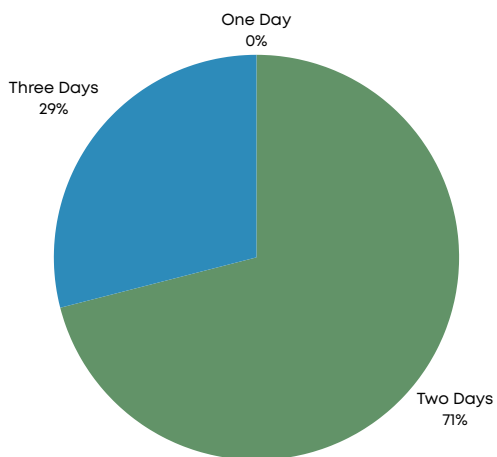


12. How important is it for CCCS to have a carbon offset?

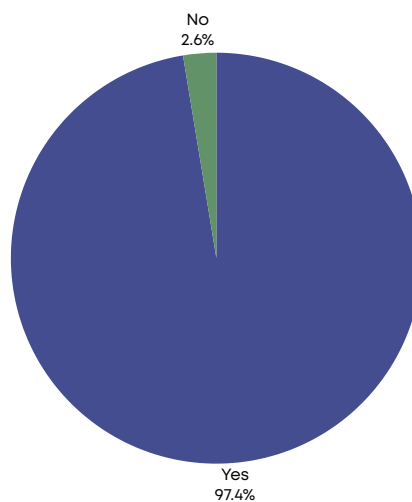


4.30/5.00

13. How many days should CCCS be held for?



14. Would you recommend CCCS to a colleague?

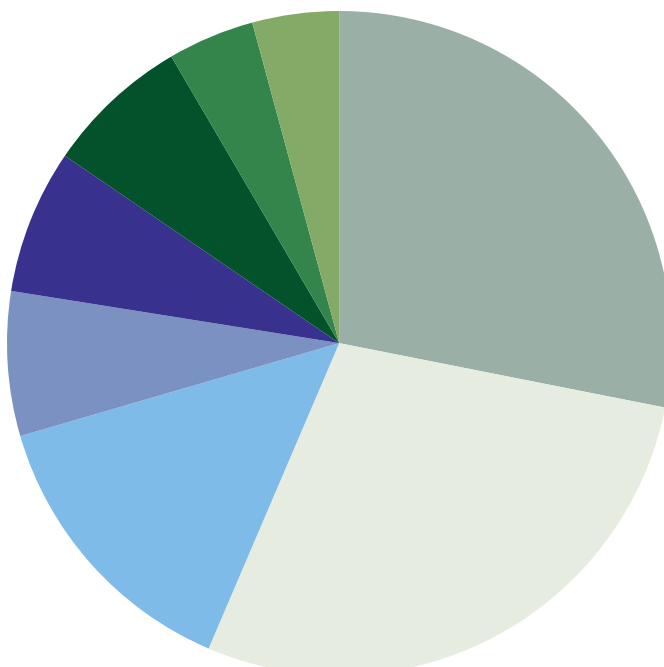




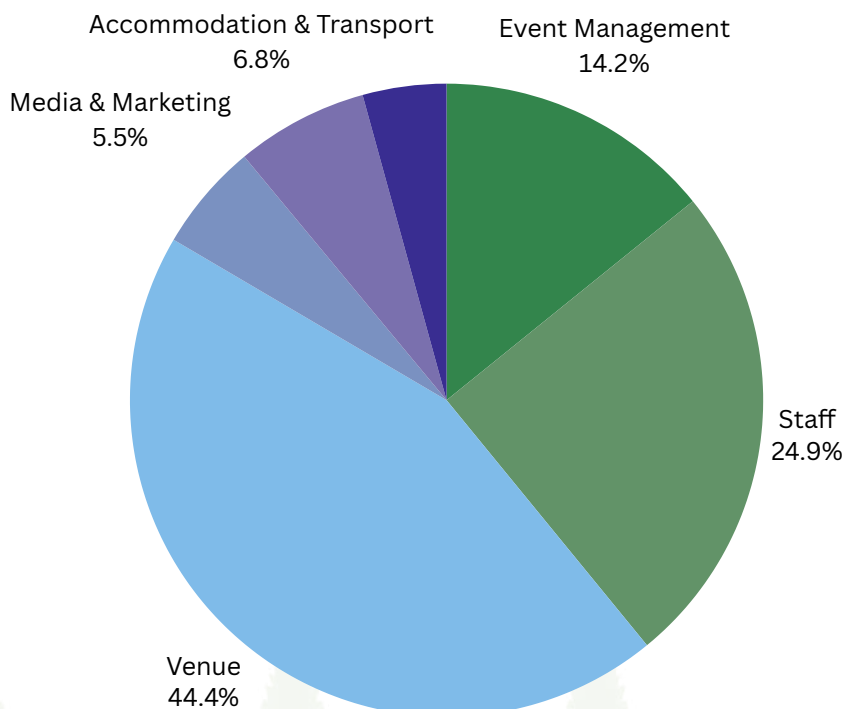
## 8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

### CCCS23 Sponsorship

- CAPRED
- USAID
- SDC
- UN FAO
- Oxfam
- Kosher Climate
- Forte Insurance
- Heineken



### CCCS23 Expenses







# APPENDIX A: MEDIA COVERAGE



**B2B Cambodia**  
 October 17, 2023:  
[Annual Cambodia Climate Change Summit to Return in November](#)



**Cambodian Investment Review**  
 October 18, 2023:  
[Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023 to Set a New Benchmark with Unprecedented Scope and International Partnerships](#)



**Cambonist**  
 November 3, 2023:  
[Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023 Hosts Minister of Environment, Australian Ambassador, and U.S. Ambassador to Address Pressing Climate Issues](#)



**Dap News**  
 November 3, 2023:  
[ព័ត៌មានជាតិកម្ពុជា ប្រើជាសម្រេច គោលដៅកាត់បន្ថយ ការបំភាយឧស្ម័នផ្ទះកញ្ចក់ ចំនួន៤១.៧% ត្រឹមឆ្នាំ២០៣០](#)



**EAC**  
 October 18, 2023:  
[Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023 Hosts Minister of Environment, Australian Ambassador and U.S. Ambassador to Address Pressing Climate Issues](#)



**Fresh News**  
 November 3, 2023:  
[Cambodia Pledges to Achieve Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Targets of 41.7% by 2030](#)



**Khmer Times**  
 October 18, 2023:  
[Cambodia Climate Change Summit to Return Next Month](#)  
  
 November 4, 2023:  
[Cambodia Launches Strategic Plans to Combat Climate Crisis](#)



**Kiri Post**  
 October 17, 2023:  
[Cambodia Climate Change Summit Returns](#)  
  
 November 3, 2023:  
[Summit Tackles Climate Change Related Issues](#)



**Morning Post**  
 November 3, 2023:  
[កម្ពុជានិងទូតប្រទេសធំពីរផ្សេងទៀតសហការជាមួយ អង្គការ MFI រួមគ្នាដោះស្រាយបញ្ហាប្រឈមបម្រែបម្រួលអាកាសធាតុ](#)



**National Council for Sustainable Development**  
 November 7, 2023:  
[Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023](#)



**Phnom Penh Post**  
 October 16, 2023: [CCC23: Cambodia Partners Gear Up for Climate Summit](#)  
  
 November 6, 2023: [Circular Environmental Strategy Set to Launch](#)



**SwissContact**  
 November 20, 2023:  
[SwissContact's Active Participation in Cambodia Climate Change Summit CCCS23 Demonstrates Commitment to Cambodia's Sustainable Future](#)



**UN PAGE**  
 November 4, 2023:  
[PAGE at the Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023](#)





Thursday 2nd November 2023

### Main Ballroom

8:30 - 9:00	<b>Welcome Remarks</b>	Mekong Future Initiative, The Australian Embassy & The Ministry of Environment
9:00 - 10:00	<b>Scene Setting</b>	The Australian Embassy, UNDP, WorldBank & Asian Development Bank
10:00 - 10:20	Coffee Break	



### Ballroom 1

### Ballroom 2



10:20 - 11:05	<b>CAPRED</b>	Building a Ready Financial System for Climate Finance	<b>British Embassy</b>	Biodiversity and climate change challenges in the Lower Mekong
11:05 - 12:00	<b>USAID</b>	Cambodia Climate Financing Facility	<b>Oxfam</b>	Climate Change Impacts in the Mekong river and Tonle Sap Lake
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch			
13:00 - 13:45	<b>Kosher Climate</b>	Carbon Markets: Potential and Prospects for Cambodia	<b>iDE</b>	Innovations for Sustainable Agriculture & Horticulture
14:00 - 14:45	<b>SDC</b>	Sustainable Solutions from Local SMEs	<b>People in Need</b>	The role of solar energy in achieving climate resiliency for Cambodia's small holder farmers
14:45 - 15:15	Coffee Break			
15:15 - 16:00	<b>USAID</b>	Nature-based Solutions: Financing options from carbon sequestered/ CO2 avoided.	<b>Energy Lab</b>	Addressing Climate Change with Clean Energy: From Entrepreneurs to Economic Transformation
16:15 - 17:00	<b>UN FAO</b>	Sustainable, Resilient and Low Emission Rice	<b>Sevea</b>	Energy Efficiency : NEEP Compliance for the Industry
19:00 - 21:00	Speaker Appreciation Gala Dinner			



Friday 3rd November 2023

Main Ballroom

8:30  
-  
9:10 **Keynote Remarks** Ministry of Environment, Australian Embassy, US Embassy & Mekong Future Initiative

9:10  
-  
10:00 **International Policy** Mekong Future Initiative, UN FAO, Swiss Development Cooperation, British Embassy, French Embassy & Ministry of Environment

10:00  
-  
10:30 Coffee Break & EXPO Tour for VIPS



Ballroom 1

Ballroom 2



10:30 - 11:15	<b>MFI</b> Corporate Thought Leaders	<b>British Embassy</b> Sustainability & Climate Resilience: Paving the Path for Climate Ready Infrastructure in Cambodia
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11:30 - 12:15	<b>Oxfam</b> Youth Panel: Clean, Green & Sustainable	<b>CAPRED</b> Pathway to Carbon-Competitive Agri-Food Value Chain
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12:15  
-  
13:15 Lunch

13:15 - 14:00	<b>iDE</b> Exploring the Nexus of Climate Change and WASH	<b>USAID</b> Beyond REDD+ (REDD+ Plus): Benefits of REDD+ beyond avoided deforestation
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14:15 - 15:00	<b>CAPRED</b> Policy Responses to Increasing Impacts of Climate Change on Clean Water Supply	<b>UNPAGE</b> New Sources of Green and Inclusive Growth
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15:00  
-  
15:20 Coffee Break

15:20 - 16:05	<b>SDC</b> Inclusive Water Governance and Agro-Ecology for Climate Resilience	<b>BritCham</b> Green Business Forum for SMEs
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16:20 - 17:05	<b>GIZ</b> Sustainable Tourism	<b>ADB</b> 'In Hot Water' - Rethinking Marine Adaptation
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End of Program



## APPENDIX C: VIP GUEST LIST

### CCCS23 Guest of Honor: H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Minister of Environment

#### CCCS23 VIP Guest List (A-Z):

**Ms Alissar Chaker**

*Resident Representative, UNDP Cambodia*

**H.E. Allen Tan**

*Director General, Mekong Future Initiative*

**Mr Anil Kumar V**

*Head - ESG & Sustainability, Kosher Climate*

**Dr. Hak Mao**

*Director, Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment*

**Ambassador Justin Whyatt**

*Australian Embassy Phnom Penh*

**Ms Jyotsana Varma**

*Country Director, Asia Development Bank (ADB)*

**Dr. Mark Dolye**

*Director, Sustainable Economic Growth Office, USAID*

**Mr. Markus Buerli**

*Director of Cooperation, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation - SDC*

**H.E. Meas Soksensan**

*Secretary of State, Ministry of Economy and Finance*

**Ms. Rebekkah Bell**

*Representative, UN FAO*

**H.E. Neak Okhna Sear Rithy**

*Chairman, Mekong Future Initiative*

**H.E. Ken Rotha**

*Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment*

**H.E Tan Sochea**

*Director General of Portable Water Supply, Ministry of Industry, Science, Innovation and Technology (MISTI)*

**H.E. Dr. Pheav Sovuthy**

*Under Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment*

**Ms. Vaneska Litz**

*Chief of Party, USAID Morodok Baitang*

**H.E. Kol Vathana**

*Deputy Secretary General, Cambodia National Mekong Committee (CNMC)*

**Ambassador W. Patrick Murphy**

*US Embassy Phnom Penh*







# APPENDIX D: SELECTED PHOTOS







# APPENDIX D: SELECTED PHOTOS



# CCCS23 SPONSORS

## CLIMATE CHANGE

## INITIATIVES IN CAMBODIA

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## Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED)



CAPRED is Australia’s AUD87 million, 5-year, flagship economic development program in Cambodia. It was designed in consultation with the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the private sector on the best way to help Cambodia’s economy recover after COVID-19.

**Our primary goal is to help Cambodia achieve sustainable, resilient and inclusive economic growth.**

### Our Partners



Royal Government of Cambodia



Private sector



Development partners



We focus on developing policies and building capabilities to direct investment where it's most needed. Our three technical domains:

## Agriculture & Agro-Processing

CAPRED assists diverse Cambodian farmers and agribusinesses to sell higher value agri-foods that meet market requirements and are climate resilient and sustainable. We also work closely with the RGC, research organisations and the private sector to increase competitiveness and productivity through innovative technologies and varieties.



## Trade, Investment & Enterprise Development

CAPRED supports policies to create a more diversified, inclusive and competitive investment market. We develop proactive campaigns, linkages and exchanges between Cambodian agri-food exporters and Australian investors. We also support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), especially those with potential to create positive opportunities and outcomes for women and marginalised people to contribute to and benefit from a resilient, inclusive and sustainable economy.



## Infrastructure Services

CAPRED continues Australia's decade-long work with the RGC and private sector suppliers to expand clean water, electricity services, and renewable energy into rural and remote Cambodia. We support the development of innovative financing, policy support and regulatory approach to encourage public and private investment.



Our cross-cutting themes inform the technical domains and all activities:



**Gender Equality, Disability, and Social Inclusion (GEDSI)** – CAPRED supports inclusion for all, especially women, marginalised groups and people with disabilities. We promote women's economic empowerment, both in gender integration and targeting of businesses that benefit women and marginalised people.



**Policy support** – CAPRED supports the RGC's economic policy agenda through the Policy Sub-Facility (PSF) and GEDSI integration in policy and budgeting.



**Climate resilience** – CAPRED facilitates inclusive climate and environmental resilience across the Program, promoting green investments in energy, agri-food chain, SMEs, and enabling sustainable transitions through finance and policy.

### CAPRED

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YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@CAPREDProgram>

Telegram: <https://t.me/capredprogram>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianEmbassyPhnomPenh>

Telegram QR Code







**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



AUGUST 2023

# USAID/Cambodia

## Sustainable Economic Growth

### OVERVIEW

Cambodia maintains roughly 46 percent forest cover and is home to the third-largest lowland dry evergreen forest in Southeast Asia, with 2,300 plant species, 14 endangered animals, and one of seven elephant corridors left in the world. Deforestation and wildlife crimes continue to threaten Cambodia's forests and biodiversity. USAID activities support communities to sustainably manage non-timber forest products, promote ecotourism, and expand climate-sensitive agriculture for improved livelihoods. These activities benefit local communities who receive revenue from carbon sequestration, build resilience to the impacts of climate change, and provide support to engage in sustainable forest management. Cambodia is widely recognized as both a major source and transit country for illegal wildlife trade; USAID supports the fight against wildlife trafficking in coordination with other U.S. government agencies.

USAID is transforming Cambodia's agriculture sector into an engine for economic growth and food security through a market-based approach that partners with the private sector, by strengthening market-based agribusiness, promoting climate-smart, sustainable agricultural practices, and improving the well-being of the rural poor. Nearly 61 percent of Cambodians live in rural areas, and 77 percent of rural households rely on agriculture, fisheries, and forestry for their livelihoods. Cambodian farmers are





extremely vulnerable to climate change-induced increases in temperatures, changes in rainfall patterns, and extreme weather events. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, 45 percent of Cambodians live in moderate or severe food insecurity. In response, USAID strives to broaden inclusive and sustainable economic growth through partnerships with the private sector that modernize the agriculture sector, increase incomes, and improve nutritional outcomes.

## RESULTS

Over the past five years, USAID has:

- Helped more than 318,000 people reap economic benefits of sustainable natural management and conservation.
- Reduced over 25 million metric tons of Greenhouse Gas Emissions from deforestation and land use change.
- Improved the management of natural resources of more than 3 million hectares of land.
- Leveraged more than \$20 million in private sector investments to increase effective and sustainable outcomes and address barriers to inclusive economic growth and accountable governance.
- Assisted farmers to increase their sales by more than \$68 million, enabling Cambodian farmers to reinvest in equipment, farming inputs, and to extend their markets.
- Trained over 230,000 people (70 percent female) to improve their nutrition practices.
- Helped more than 14,000 farmers and other small and medium enterprises receive access to credit.
- Generated \$109 million in sales by horticultural producers and private firms through strengthened commercial relationships with buyers and improved access to supporting services.

## ACTIVITIES

**Feed the Future Cambodia Harvest III (\$24.5 million)** This five-year activity (April 2022 - March 2027) promotes sustainable, broad-based economic growth through increased diversification and competitiveness in Cambodia's agriculture sector. The activity provides targeted demand-driven support to agricultural cooperatives, farmer associations, market actors, financial institutions, and/or micro-, small- and medium-enterprises investing to take advantage of domestic, regional, and international market opportunities. Furthermore, it focuses on integrating climate-smart agriculture approaches and solar green energy to increase food security and reduce the vulnerability of production loss from climate stress.

**USAID Cambodia Green Future (\$4.9 million)** This five-year activity (October 2019 - September (2024) empowers Cambodian citizens and civil society with the knowledge and skills to use evidence-based communication systems to influence positive actions to support biodiversity conservation, forest protection, and broad sustainable natural resource management. This activity has a national audience, and builds on successful models of communication throughout Cambodia that engage audiences to protect natural resources.



**USAID Conserve (\$24 million)** This five-year activity (November 2023 - November 2027) promotes the preservation and protection of biodiversity and natural resources in Cambodia’s coastal areas of Koh Kong and Kampong Som Provinces, the Prey Lang Extended Landscape, and around Tonle Sap’s flooded forest communities. USAID Conserve works on improving livelihoods at the community level, conducting Social Behavior Communication Change campaigns nationwide to counter wildlife trafficking and reduce bushmeat consumption, especially by foreign tourists in urban areas, and exploring options for bankable blue carbon as an additional source of emissions reduction credits along the coast and in flooded forests.

**USAID Morodok Baitang (\$23.9 million)** This five-year activity (November 2021 - November (2026) promotes biodiversity conservation, economic growth, natural resource governance, and low-emissions development. The activity supports strategic partnerships between rural indigenous communities, private sector actors, and development partners to increase revenue and employment opportunities while also supporting improved natural resources management, biodiversity protection, low emissions development, and inclusive decision-making for natural resource use and governance. The activity focuses on developing and expanding value chains that are conservation-friendly, climate smart and socially equitable, forest-based, agricultural-based, and use payment for ecosystem services.

USAID/Cambodia also funds complementary activities through USAID global and regional projects, including:

- Center of Excellence on Sustainable Agricultural Intensification and Nutrition.
- Labor Market Assessment and Job Skill Training.
- Market Systems and Partnerships.
- SEVIR Southeast Asia (SERVIRSEA) Cambodia Buy-In.
- U.S.Forest Service Interagency Agreement 2021.
- Green Invest Asia.
- Wonders of the Mekong.
- Cambodia Multi-Party Loan Portfolio Guarantee.

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Swiss Agency for Development  
and Cooperation SDC**

## SWITZERLAND`S CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION THROUGH THE SWISS COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN THE MEKONG REGION

### COMPLETED PROJECTS

**CHAIN - Cambodian Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition**

Duration (Dec 2014 - Dec 2022)

CHF 10,000,000 million



The mandated Cambodian Horticulture Advancing Income and Nutrition Project focused on sustainability and scalability of horticulture business models for farmers and businesses, supported quality extension services under the leadership of National and Provincial Agriculture Offices. Strengthened local market systems and improved water access for year-round safe vegetable production increased income for 12,000 farmers and young migrants in four north-eastern provinces, Stung Treng, Kratie, Oddor Meanchey and Preah Vihear.

**PaFF - Partners for Forestry and Fisheries**

Duration (Nov 2014 - Jun 2022)

CHF 8,000,000

The Partnership for Forestry and Fisheries was implemented by the Center for Forests and People (RECOFTC), World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), Non-Timber Forest Product Exchange Programme (NTFP-EP), and the Cultural and Environment Protection Association (CEPA). PaFF supported the capacity development related to the natural resource management, climate change adaptation and mitigation and livelihood improvement which reached out and benefit to over 94,000 people from 35,174 house holds (including 50% women, and 22% IP)

Kratie, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear and Kampong Thom

### ONGOING PROJECTS

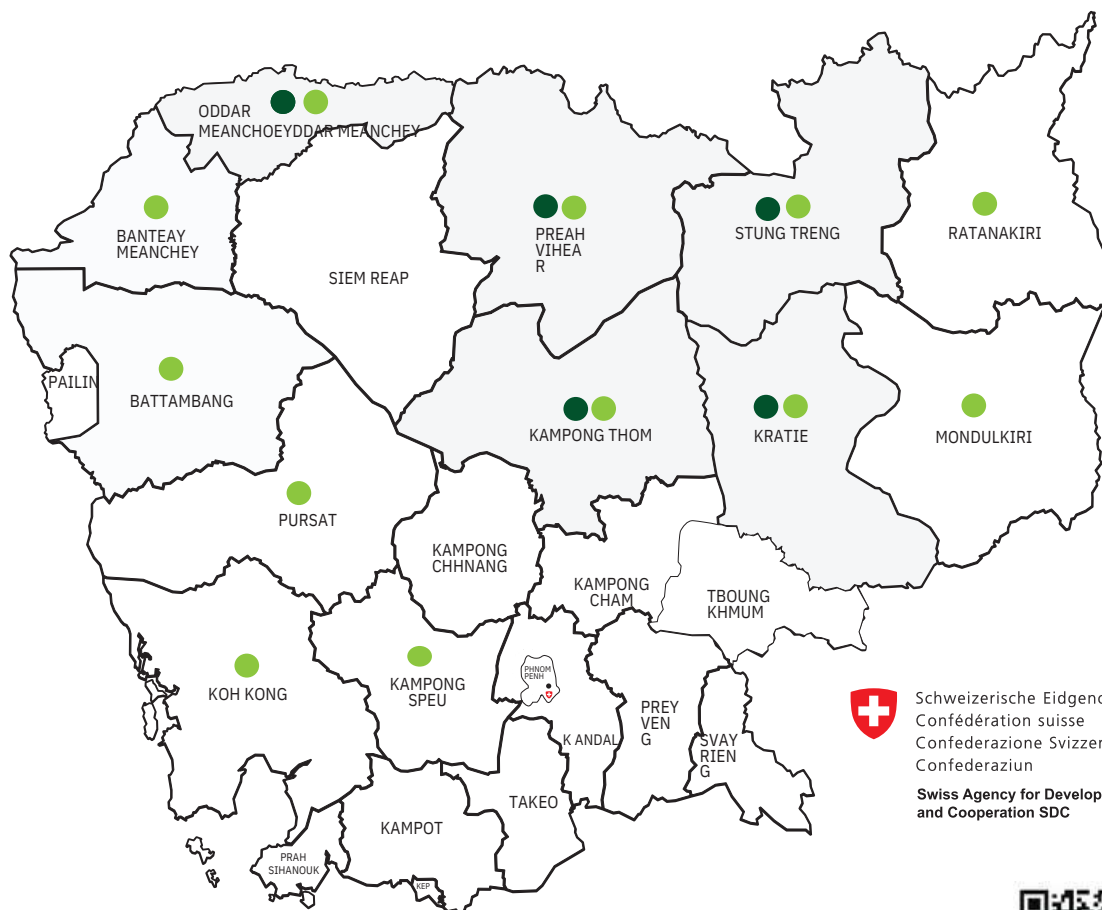
**RECOFTC - Centre for People and Forests: Resilient landscapes for secured rights and prosperous communities:**

Duration: Jan 2019 - Dec 2023 CHF 4,325,000



Switzerland contributes to RECOFTC's Strategic Plan 2018-2023 in Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Its five-year mission is to enhance capacities for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forest landscapes. Through RECOFTC, Switzerland seeks to ensure that smallholder women and men farmers living in or near forests have secure and equitable access to and control over agricultural land and forest resources.





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### NURTURE - Nurturing climate resilience in Cambodia

Phase I (Dec 2022 - Dec 2026)  
CHF 4,200,000 million

Switzerland contributes to a project of the Swiss NGOs HEKS and Caritas, supporting smallholder farmers in four provinces for enhanced resilience to climate change and disasters with Swiss expertise on sustainable water resources and irrigation management. Some 150,000 people will benefit and get context specific knowledge to apply agroecological approaches and better access to technologies and services supplied by the public and private sector.

Banteay Meanchey, Battambang, Preah Vihear and Oddor Meanchey.

### CASFor - Community Action For Sustainable Forests

Phase I (Oct 2023 - Dec 2027)  
CHF 5,630,000

Together with FAO, UNDP, WCS, RECOFTC, DCA Switzerland strengthens forest sector governance and improves community forest group members' livelihoods. 86,600 people of 146 community forest user groups (CFUGs) benefit from resilience-building and climate change adaptation measures including disaster risk reduction strategies within a forest area of approximately 181,100 ha.

Kratie, Stung Treng, Preah Vihear Kampong Thom, Kampong Speu, Ratanakiri, Mondul Kiri, Pursat, Battambang and Koh Kong

### MRC - Mekong River Commission Implementation of the MRC Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Switzerland supports the MRC Secretariat to implement the new Basin Development Strategy (BDS) 2021-2030, the MRC Strategic Plan 2021- 2025 and to coordinate with and provide technical support to CLTV member countries and stakeholders. The new BDS is an ambitious strategic shift beyond water resource planning to encompass operational management through a more proactive regional planning approach and more effective transboundary cooperation and integration





# Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

## FAO's Impact at Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) showcased its efforts towards Sustainable Development Goals at the Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023. The FAO exhibition, featuring vibrant posters, leaflets, and a video show, emphasized projects on climate change.

Key initiatives included the One Health interventions (USAID-funded), Sustainable Forests project (Swiss Agency-funded), and Fisheries Sector support (EU-funded).

FAO Representative Rebekah Bell, along with international experts, engaged in panel discussions on diverse topics like low emission rice, water governance, and climate resilience. These discussions emphasized FAO's role in policy support, especially towards Cambodia's Long Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality 2050.

- **FAO's contributions at the Summit included:**
- Promoting natural resource management and foreign investment in reforestation.
- Strengthening subnational institutions for forest legislation and resource management.
- Assisting in accessing green financing for natural resource management.
- Developing standards for forest-positive commodities.
- Leveraging digital technologies for climate data management.

A highlight was the signing of a Plastic Free Partnership between the Ministry of Environment and FAO on November 3, 2023. This agreement, also involving the United Nations Development Programme, focuses on cleanliness, sustainability, and carbon neutrality.

For more details and visuals from the FAO exhibition:



- [FAO Exhibition Tweet 1](#)
- [FAO Exhibition Tweet 2](#)
- [FAO Exhibition Tweet 3](#)
- [FAO Exhibition Tweet 4](#)



- [FAO Facebook Post 1](#)
- [FAO Facebook Post 2](#)
- [FAO Facebook Post 3](#)



[www.fao.org](http://www.fao.org)







## Climate Change Vulnerability in the Mekong River Basin

The Mekong River Basin, home to over 60 million people, is one of the world's most vulnerable regions to climate change. The majority of its residents live in poverty and depend on agriculture for their livelihoods. The region faces increasing challenges due to more frequent and severe extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and storms, exacerbating the pressures on impoverished households. This scenario is detailed in the [World Bank Report 2023](#). The report highlights that the Mekong, Tonle Sap Valley, and the Northwest regions are particularly vulnerable, with poor households experiencing the greatest impact. Women and persons with disabilities, especially in northeastern and southwestern rural areas, are identified as the most vulnerable groups. Further insights can be found in [Action Aid Cambodia's 2021 research](#).



During the Cambodia Climate Change Summit 2023 held in Siem Reap on November 2, 2023, Oxfam hosted a panel discussion titled “Community Perspective and Government Commitment to Address Climate Change in the Mekong and Tonle Sap.” This event spotlighted the experiences of female community representatives from these regions, who called for government intervention to bolster their community's resilience.



The government's commitment to climate action is evident in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) 2020, wherein Cambodia aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by up to 27% by 2030. To support this goal, the Cambodian government launched the Cambodia Climate Change Financing Framework in 2020 and is developing a climate change investment plan to identify specific investment opportunities.



Community youth leader Ream Srey Rath from the Mekong and prominent women leader Ms. Chhuon Lann from Tonle Sap shared their insights on the impact of climate change on local ecosystems and livelihoods. They highlighted issues like altered water flow patterns, reduced fishery resources, and disrupted natural balances in Tonle Sap Lake.



In her concluding remarks, Ms. Lann commended the government's efforts but emphasized the need for continued and scaled-up efforts and international support. She highlighted the importance of inclusive water governance in the Mekong and Tonle Sap regions to enhance community resilience against climate vulnerabilities.



### About Kosher Climate

Kosher Climate is a leading carbon and sustainability service provider with projects and teams in India, South-East Asia and Brazil. With a team of industry experts, Kosher has completed over 300+ projects under various standards like CDM, Gold Standard, Verra, and GCC in 9 countries and has issued over 15 million credits till date. Kosher Climate actively works with communities, corporates, governments and industries in the areas of Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) and community development projects to monetize their environmental attributes in the form of carbon credits and I-RECs. Some examples include: Solar, Wind & Small Hydro power projects, Mangrove restoration and revegetation, Community Development projects such as Improved Cookstove distribution and WASH.

### Kosher's Current Work in Cambodia

#### *Solar Power Project*

Kosher Climate was the first to register a solar power project under Verra in Cambodia. The project is located in rural Cambodia generating clean electricity which is supplied to the national grid thereby resulting in quantifiable emission reductions.

The project also supports Sustainable Development goals 7,8 and 13 as it provides affordable and clean energy access through solar power, employment and skill development opportunities to locals and targets to reduce 127,825 tCO<sub>2</sub> emission during the project lifetime.

#### *Sustainable Agriculture: Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD)*

Sustainable agricultural practices are intended to mitigate climate change, expand the planet's natural resource base, and maintain and improve soil fertility. Rice production is responsible for ~ 10 % of methane emissions globally. It is also one of the major crops of Cambodia. This project aims at reducing methane emissions in paddy cultivation through water management methods.

Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD) is a water-saving technique that farmers can apply to reduce their irrigation water consumption in rice fields without decreasing the yield. This method is also known to reduce pest & disease attacks and improve soil health.

Kosher is working with farmers from the Northern and Northwestern provinces of Cambodia to implement AWD on a double cropped rice area of about 10,000Ha. This project not only contributes to climate change mitigation but also ensures benefit sharing with the resource challenged small holder farmers.

IRECs:

An I-REC (International Renewable Energy Certificate) is a type of Energy Attribute Certificate (EAC), which represents one megawatt hour (MWh) of electricity produced by renewable sources. Like all EACs, I-RECs enable companies to credibly demonstrate renewable energy consumption and report lower Scope 2 emissions.

Kosher is taking up I-REC registration of small hydro and solar power projects in Cambodia catering to the demand from domestic industries to offset their emissions.



<https://kosherclimate.com/>





## FORTE AWARDED CAMBODIA'S BEST INCLUSIVE BUSINESS COMPANY 2023 AT THE SIXTH ASEAN INCLUSIVE BUSINESS SUMMIT

Bali, Indonesia: Forte, the leading insurance company in Cambodia, has been awarded as Cambodia's Best Inclusive Business Company 2023 at the Sixth ASEAN Inclusive Business Summit, representing Cambodia on the ASEAN Stage along with the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI). This prestigious event was held from recently in Bali, Indonesia and organized by the Ministry of Cooperatives and SMEs, Indonesia.

Forte's recognition as an inclusive business is attributed to its impact in driving the growth of agriculture and health insurance in Cambodia. Inclusive businesses are defined as profitable enterprises that also support communities with limited financial means, creating positive social impact in an innovative way. Forte's Weather Index Crop insurance (WICI) has played a crucial role in supporting Cambodia's agriculture industry by ensuring financial security for farmers. As the country's main provider of agriculture insurance since 2014, Forte provides coverage for losses resulting from natural disasters such as droughts or heavy rainfall.

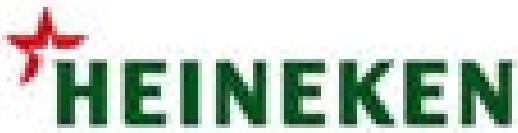
Through strong partnerships with the Cambodian government, microfinance institutions, and various organizations, Forte is paving the way towards inclusivity by supporting sustainable agricultural practices and financial protection for vulnerable local communities. Forte actively collaborates with the farming community to enhance their expertise in aquaculture insurance and supports the growth of vital crops such as rice, mangoes, maize cashews, and rubber. Forte also aims to empower these communities by providing them with access to financial protection in the event of unforeseen circumstances.

Mr Youk Chamroeunrith, Group CEO of Forte Group, graciously accepted the award on behalf of Forte at the ASEAN Inclusive Business Awards 2023 ceremony. "We are incredibly honored to have been awarded Cambodia's Best Inclusive Business Company this year and sincerely grateful to the ASEAN Inclusive Business Awards for acknowledging our endeavors. This accolade serves as a testament to Forte's commitment to ensuring financial security for people at all levels of society and empowering everyone for a better future. We are privileged to represent Cambodia on the ASEAN platform and wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude towards our employees, partners and customers for their continuous support," he said

"This recognition has further fueled our determination to continue working towards enhancing the accessibility and affordability of insurance services in Cambodia and Laos. We firmly believe that everyone deserves a safety net, and we remain steadfast in transforming that belief into reality," Mr Youk Chamroeunrith added.

 <https://www.forteinsurance.com/>





## CAMBODIA'S BUSINESS COMMUNITY CELEBRATES RETURNABILITY HEROES BEHIND LOCAL GLASS BOTTLE RETURN PROGRAM



Phnom Penh, 9 June 2023 – Recognizing that the path to net zero can only stand a chance when private and public sector institutions work together, the annual Green Business Forum by the Green Business Committee of EuroCham Cambodia brought together industry leaders, businesses, initiators, and policymakers on 9 June to discuss how to accelerate the Kingdom's progress towards meeting its green economy goals.

The forum also marked the roll-out of a new glass bottle return program in Cambodia, piloted by local F&B and hospitality businesses in Phnom Penh since February 2023. With the presence and support of the Royal Government of Cambodia's high representatives, and in partnership with HEINEKEN Cambodia, the forum wrapped up with a celebration to recognize 14 Cambodian businesses and entrepreneurs for their role in championing the bottle return program.

His Excellency Tin Ponlok, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment, who officiated the opening ceremony of the Green Business Forum, said: "We are celebrating today the pioneers of a program that has the potential to make returnability and circularity bigger in Cambodia. Our natural resources are not infinite. If we want to continue to grow and make Cambodia an attractive place to live, we need to transition towards business models which are more resource efficient. The circular economy is a big part of the solution. It is encouraging to see businesses taking the lead in this endeavor, and I hope this will inspire others to follow, so that circularity and returnability can become mainstream practices in the years to come."

Presiding over the official celebration of Cambodian heroes, His Excellency Chuop Paris, Undersecretary of State, and His Excellency Ken Sereirotha, Director General of Knowledge and Environmental Information from the Ministry of Environment, together with HEINEKEN Cambodia Managing Director, Mr. Samson Wong, presented awards to: V-Friend, Prel Leap, Traino-Pabu, Royal 214, Gold Pub, KC Restaurant & Sky Bar, Kiri Pub, Color Cup, Le Moon Rooftop, Prime Distributors Asia, Leng Channa, Ly Huy, Ly Kiet, and KCV.

Mr. Tassilo Brinzer, Chairman of EuroCham Cambodia, remarked, "The annual forum underscores the urgent need to embrace a future where sustainable practices become the norm. It's a vision that requires stronger collective action. Getting it right will open a whole new world of green investments to deliver sustainable economic value for the Kingdom."

Initiated by HEINEKEN Cambodia, the glass bottle return program strongly supports the brewer's "Brew A Better Cambodia" ambition, which sets clear and ambitious targets for boosting circularity and decarbonizing not only its production by 2030, but also its entire value chain by 2040. With packaging an important contributor to the brewer's full value chain's footprint, accelerating returnable packaging is therefore key to realizing these longer-term commitments. Working with the F&B and hospitality industry is also an intentional step, as it holds most of the brewer's glass bottle volume in the market.

"Returning glass bottles is only the first chapter of our returnability journey. We won't stop there," shares Samson Wong, Managing Director of HEINEKEN Cambodia. "We also recognize that the path to circularity will be a long one, perhaps challenging at times, and we can't do it alone. We've long invested in building a system that could support a larger scale bottle-return program one day. All our bottles are already returnable. Now we need more to join the returnability movement and make it bigger. We welcome all, including other beverage players, to work together towards a circular value chain."

Shereen Teh, Head of On Trade at HEINEKEN Cambodia added, "As the returnability movement starts to gain momentum, consumers will soon see more of their favorite bars and restaurants returning glass bottles in the industry's efforts to cut waste. Bringing people together while also making the world a little better, it's what drives our purpose at HEINEKEN Cambodia and what we hope will inspire many more in the industry."



<https://www.heineken.com/>





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