



KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA
NATION RELIGION KING

CAMBODIA'S Environmental DIPLOMACY Strategy



Ministry of Environment
2026-2030



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**Cambodia's
Environmental Diplomacy
Strategy (CEDS)**

2026-2030

PREFACE

In a context where the world is facing climate change and a global environmental crisis, environmental diplomacy has emerged as a vital pillar of Cambodia's foreign policy. On behalf of the Royal Government of Cambodia, 7th mandate of the National Assembly, I am honored to officially launch the “**Cambodia Environmental Diplomacy Strategy**”. This strategy will serve as a guiding framework for Cambodia to strengthen its role as an active, responsible, and forward-looking partner in global environmental protection and sustainable development.

Initiated from the Pentagon Strategy-Phase 1, the Royal Government has linked the environmental diplomacy strategy as an important pillar that not only focuses on protecting natural resources, but also as an economic and political tool abroad to promote sustainable development and for Cambodia to become an upper middle-income country by 2030 and a high-income country by 2050.

The five pillars of the Pentagon Strategy Phase 1 focus on environmental diplomacy and national development: 1. Human capital development in the context of Cambodia's environmental diplomacy, focusing on training human resources, “green diplomats” and technical experts with knowledge of climate science, capable of negotiating on the international stage and contributing to solving global environmental problems. 2. Economic diversification and increased competitiveness are the core of economic independence. Environmental diplomacy attracts green industries by using its strengths in renewable energy to attract investment in technology and environmentally friendly production. In addition, it opens the door for Cambodia's green agricultural products to international markets that offer high value based on environmental standards. 3. Private sector development and employment. This strategy will use green production to create job opportunities for public-private partnerships by encouraging international companies to collaborate with local enterprises on waste recycling or ecotourism projects that help raise Cambodia's profile as a responsible investment destination. 4. Resilient, sustainable and environmentally friendly development is a priority goal and enhances national prestige on the international stage. 5. Digital Economic and Social Development Digital technologies are being applied in the environmental sector, such as digital resource management, using satellite systems to monitor forest cover changes

and climate forecasting. This modernisation will promote Cambodia as a country with smart environmental governance.

Strengthen international cooperation by continuing to build strategic partnerships with countries and international organizations to mobilize resources and technology for sustainable development. Cambodia is committed to the global level by continuing to implement the Paris Agreement and achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. Turn challenges into economic opportunities, promote investment in clean energy, sustainable natural resource management, and carbon credits that benefit local communities.

I would like to thank the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and all relevant ministries and institutions for their efforts in preparing this important strategy. I firmly believe that by implementing this strategy in a proactive spirit, Cambodia will continue to move firmly on the path of green and resilient development.

8-3
Phnom Penh, 27 April 2026

PRIME MINISTER



Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet

FOREWORD

Building on the peace and political stability established under the leadership of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo HUN Sen, the President of the Senate**, and guided by the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 led by **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei HUN Manet, the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia**, Cambodia, a country rich in natural resources, is standing at a pivotal point in its journey toward sustainable development. We note that the challenges posed by the destruction of natural resources and climate change have reached a red line that requires joint action and strategic collaboration. With this in mind, we present **Cambodia's Environmental Diplomacy Strategy (CEDS) 2026-2030**.

The CEDS is not merely a document; it is a testament to our unwavering commitment to safeguarding our environment for present and future generations. It reflects our determination to proactively engage with the international community, forging partnerships and advocating for policies that promote environmental sustainability and resilience.

Cambodia's unique vulnerabilities, particularly to the impacts of climate change, necessitate a robust and forward-thinking approach that balances international cooperation with national ownership and sovereignty. We are committed to leveraging our voice on the global stage to champion the needs of developing nations and to advocate for equitable solutions that address the root causes of environmental challenges while ensuring our sovereign right to determine our own development path.

The CEDS outlines our key priorities, including:

- **Addressing Climate Change through Mitigation, Adaptation, and Governance:** This focuses on reducing greenhouse gas emissions through forest protection, transitioning to clean energy, promoting climate-smart agriculture, and attracting green investments. Simultaneously, it emphasizes building resilience through infrastructure development, community preparedness, strengthening institutional frameworks and public-private partnerships, and climate finance mobilization.
- **Enhancing Ecological Preservation by Conserving Biodiversity, Restoring Forests, and Supporting Community Livelihoods:** This aims to protect Cambodia's natural ecosystems by enforcing laws

- in protected areas, collaborating with key stakeholders, and providing resources for conservation. It also focuses on active forest restoration through establishing nurseries and conducting tree planting and promoting sustainable community livelihoods through ecotourism and natural resource management.
- **Protecting the Environment through Air, Water, and Waste Management:** This addresses pollution control by strengthening regulations and enforcement, raising public awareness, and promoting clean energy and clean transportation. It also focuses on improving wastewater treatment, regulating agricultural runoff, and enhancing public education for water pollution. Furthermore, it aims to improve waste management by enhancing waste collection and disposal systems, promoting recycling, and developing waste-to-energy solutions.

The CEDS underscores our belief that environmental diplomacy is an essential tool for the realization of national development priorities, namely Cambodia's Sustainable Development Goals, the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1, the Long-term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, and the Circular Strategy on Environment. We are committed to working closely with our partners, both within and outside the region, to build a more sustainable and resilient future for Cambodia and the world.

We invite all stakeholders to join us in this critical endeavor. Together, we can build a world where environmental sustainability and human well-being go hand in hand. *la*



Phnom Penh, *April* 2026

MINISTER

[Signature]
Dr. EANG Sophalleth

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1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Overview

Cambodia, located in Southeast Asia, is bordered by Thailand to the west and northwest, Laos to the north, and Vietnam to the east and south. Its capital, Phnom Penh, is a vibrant city that serves as the political, economic, and cultural center of the country. Cambodia has a rich history, famously known for the Khmer Empire, which flourished from the 9th to the 15th centuries. The ruins of Angkor, including the iconic Angkor Wat temple, are UNESCO World Heritage sites and major tourist attractions. Cambodia's economy is diverse, with agriculture, tourism, and garment manufacturing as key sectors. In recent years, tourism has grown significantly, thanks to the country's historical sites and natural beauty. The landscape includes plains, mountains, and the Mekong River, which is vital for agriculture and transportation. The Tonle Sap Lake is another important geographical feature, known for its biodiversity.

Cambodia is one of the most climate-vulnerable countries in the region and faces significant challenges due to climate change. Despite its impressive economic growth, Cambodia is experiencing rising emissions from rapid development. It is projected that even if the global temperature rise is contained below 2 degrees Celsius, and the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) maintains current levels of investment in climate adaptation, Cambodia will experience a 9.8 per cent loss in its GDP by 2050 (MEF, 2019). Despite climate adaptation measures and programs, vulnerable communities and areas in Cambodia are at risk of experiencing climate change impacts beyond what people can adapt to, such as the loss of property and homes during extreme floods. The RGC has implemented various adaptation and mitigation measures through major climate change policies and strategies. Cambodia has been actively involved in international climate change agreements and has been fulfilling its Paris Agreement commitments.

Cambodia is characterised by rich biodiversity, diverse ecosystems, and significant natural resources. It has a tropical monsoon climate with distinct wet and dry seasons. The country consists of low plains, the Mekong River, and mountainous regions, particularly in the northwest. It is home to a variety of ecosystems, including forests, wetlands, and

marine environments, providing crucial habitat for wildlife and resources for local communities. The RGC has implemented various measures through biodiversity policies and strategies and has actively engaged in international efforts to conserve biological diversity.

1.2 Achievement

Cambodia is a constitutional monarchy with a parliamentary system. The King is the head of state, while the Prime Minister is the head of government.

The Win-Win policy of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the President of the Senate**, has brought peace, national unity, and territorial integrity to Cambodia over the past 25 years. This has enabled the RGC to successfully implement the Triangle Strategy and the Rectangular Strategy in four stages, resulting in significant achievements across political, economic, social, and environmental fields.

In the 7th Legislature of the National Assembly, the Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1 for 2023-2028 is Cambodia's comprehensive development plan, introduced by **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, the Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia**. It builds on the previous Rectangular Strategy and serves as the government's roadmap for achieving sustainable development, economic growth, and social progress. The strategy is centred around five key pillars: economic diversification and resilience, infrastructure connectivity and modernisation, environmental sustainability and climate resilience, and institutional reform and good governance, addressing critical areas of national development.

Over the past two decades, long before the COVID-19 pandemic, Cambodia has not only achieved average economic growth of around 7% but has also maintained economic stability through the transformation and diversification of the national economy. In addition to high economic growth under the shadow of peace, the correct policies of the Royal Government have provided the Ministry of Environment with the opportunity to fulfil its roles and responsibilities with notable progress in the environmental sector, including:

- The Environmental Sector Cycle Strategy (2023-2028), the Cambodia Climate Change Response Strategic Plan (2024-2033), the Environmental Protection Strategic Plan (2024-2028), the Third National Climate Change Response Contribution Plan, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, and the Long-term Plan for Carbon Neutrality in Cambodia have been prepared and are being implemented.
- Environmental outreach efforts have been strengthened and expanded.
- Digital administration has been developed and is being implemented.
- Campaigns, equipment, transportation, and infrastructure related to solid/liquid/hazardous waste management are being implemented.
- 70 natural protected areas, covering 7 million hectares of forest land, have been established and are being strictly protected.
- 193 Protected Area Communities (CPAs), involving 302,737 citizens, have been established and are currently operational.
- Green infrastructure is currently under construction at 7 key locations, including Koh Sralao, Srae Ambel District, Phnom Knong Phsar, Te Teuk Pus (Hot Springs), Phnom Kirirom, Phnom Kulen, and Tasal to provide services for tourists under direct community management.

1.3 Challenges

Despite the significant progress made in the environmental sector, Cambodia continues to face several key challenges:

- The negative effects of climate change, including storms, floods, and droughts, continue to increase steadily year after year.
- There is a significant and concerning loss of biodiversity, including the depletion of forest cover and wildlife populations.
- The volume of solid, liquid, and hazardous waste is on the rise.

1.4 Opportunity

The current global and domestic contexts have provided Cambodia with several key opportunities:

- Green Climate Fund (GCF): Established within the framework of the Paris Agreement ; this fund is committed to mobilising \$300 billion per year to support climate-related projects in developing countries. This funding focuses on greenhouse gas emissions reduction, climate change adaptation, and good governance.
- Other Climate Funds: These include the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Adaptation Fund (AF), Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), and the Loss and Damage Fund (LDF), among others.
- Kunming Biodiversity Fund (KBF): Established by the Government of China and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), this fund supports the implementation of biodiversity conservation projects in developing countries.
- International Convention Funds: Funding mechanisms under international treaties—such as the Basel, Rotterdam, and Stockholm Conventions—have been established to support environmental protection projects in developing countries.
- The Pentagonal Strategy (Phase 1): Specifically, Angle 5: "Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and Readiness to Respond to Climate Change," as well as the promotion of a Green Economy within Pentagon 4: "Resilient, Sustainable, and Inclusive Development." The ultimate goal is to transform Cambodia into a carbon-neutral country by 2050.
- The Circular Strategy on Environment was established to transform environmental potential into tangible opportunities and benefits for the nation and the Cambodian people across all generations. It is designed as a circle, with a "Core" strategy at the center surrounded by three supporting strategies. The "Core Strategy" focuses on three essential elements: Strengthening Policy, Building Digital Administration, and Expanding Outreach. "Core" serves as the driving force behind the other three strategies. Strategy 1: "Clean" comprises three angles: pollution management, modernizing pollution diagnostic systems, and enhancing environmental impact assessments (EIA). Strategy 2: "Green" comprises three angles: Expanding tree planting movements, boosting protected area management, and improving

local community livelihoods. Strategy 3: "Sustainable": Comprises three angles: compliance, expanding cooperation, and strengthening coordination.

- Strategic plans and action plans related to climate Change, biodiversity conservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development.

1.5 The Necessity of Cambodia's Environmental Diplomacy Strategy

Based on past achievements, remaining challenges, and emerging opportunities within Cambodia's environmental sector, the Cambodia Environmental Diplomacy Strategy has been developed out of the following necessities:

- The necessity of establishing a unified strategic position for Cambodia's environmental sector for all relevant national ministries and institutions—particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation—in their missions to participate in international conferences, meetings, discussions, and negotiations related to the environment.
- The necessity of providing clear strategic direction to Ministry of Environment officials at both national and sub-national levels. This ensures a unified stance in environmental operations by utilizing work priorities and indicators that are consistent with the strategic plans and action plans of their respective units.
- The necessity of strengthening and expanding international cooperation to maximize the mobilization of resources from various international funds. These resources are essential for implementing the strategic and action plans of the Ministry of Environment, relevant national ministries/institutions, and sub-national administrations.

The Environmental Diplomacy Strategy of Cambodia (2026–2030) has been prepared in accordance with the Pentagonal Strategy (Phase 1), specifically Angle 5: Ensuring Environmental Sustainability and Readiness to Respond to Climate Change, as well as the promotion of a Green Economy within Pentagon 4: Resilient, Sustainable, and Inclusive Development, and in line with the Circular Strategy on Environment (2023–2028), the Long-term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, the Climate Change Strategic Plan (2024–2033), Cambodia's Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), and the National Biodiversity

Strategy and Action Plan (2016–2030), as well as in accordance with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, especially the Paris Agreement, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity, especially the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and other international conventions related to environmental protection, such as the Basel Convention, Rotterdam Convention, and Stockholm Convention.

Cambodia's international cooperation involves supporting environmental protection and sustainable development through multilateral, ASEAN, regional, and bilateral cooperation, while balancing environmental needs with Cambodia's development priorities. Key aspects of Cambodia's international cooperation include: (1) Climate Change Response: Cambodia has actively participated in global efforts to address climate change, focusing on both mitigation and adaptation across five sectors: energy, industry, agriculture, forestry, and waste. The goal is to reduce emissions by up to 55% compared to the Business-as-Usual (BAU) level by 2035 and to become a carbon-neutral country by 2050. (2) Biodiversity Conservation: Cambodia is committed to the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF), which aims to halt and reverse biodiversity loss by 2030 and to create a world living in harmony with nature by 2050; and (3) Environmental Protection: Cambodia has actively participated in international forums and negotiations on environmental issues, while working closely with the international community to address global challenges and promote environmental protection, focusing primarily on the management of solid, liquid, and hazardous waste, contributing to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Cambodia is currently strengthening its environmental governance framework, including the modernization of the Ministry of Environment and the strengthening of the National Council for Sustainable Development, to maximize the mobilization of resources from the international community to serve the environmental protection sector. Cambodia has also been working to ensure that environmental programs and projects provide direct benefits to local communities, promote sustainable livelihoods, and empower them to participate actively in the national environmental sector.

2. VISION

Cambodia's Environmental Diplomacy Strategy (CEDS) aims to advance ecosystem preservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development toward a carbon-neutral country by 2050.

3. MISSION

The Ministry of Environment has the mission to take action in response to climate change, conserve biodiversity, protect the environment, and participate in sustainable development for the long-term benefit of the nation and the Cambodian people across all generations, by collaborating closely with relevant ministries and institutions, sub-national administrations, and the international community within multilateral, ASEAN, regional, and bilateral frameworks.

4. GOAL AND OBJECTIVE

To enhance Cambodia's image and responsibility on the international stage in addressing environmental challenges through the strengthening of international cooperation to attract technical assistance and green financing, aimed at protecting and strengthening the resilience of ecosystems and biodiversity through law enforcement, reforestation, and the promotion of sustainable community livelihoods to achieve sustainable development and carbon neutrality by 2050.

The Ministry of Environment ensures ownership, independence, sovereignty, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness, and sustainable financial resources, including environmental and social funds, to promote national and international cooperation.

5. STRATEGIC FRAMEWORKS

5.1 Strategic Analysis

This strategy is not only about protecting the environment and natural resources, but also a proactive diplomacy that transforms environmental challenges and climate change into economic opportunities. It strengthens Cambodia's role on the international stage by demonstrating a high level of responsibility for global issues.

5.2 Strategic Goals

To strengthen climate change resilience, promote the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity, and encourage sustainable environmental management through the implementation of greenhouse gas mitigation measures, reforestation, pollution management, and active community and stakeholder participation to prevent negative impacts and ensure carbon neutrality by 2050.

5.3.1 Strategies

5.3.1 Strategy 1: Building Environmental Diplomacy Capacity to Address Transboundary Pollution

- **Human resource development:** Human resources remain a key factor among the priorities of the Royal Government, focusing on human capital, roads, water, and electricity. Planning for human resource development through participation in meetings, training courses, study visits, and exchange of experiences with the international community, as well as at the national level, to further enhance the capabilities of officials.
- **Promote communication mechanisms:** International relations work is a mechanism that creates diplomatic networks, bilateral and multilateral communication is promoted and encouraged by each ministry and institution to implement it in order to enhance national prestige and mobilise resources for the development of our nation.
- **Promote partnerships (national and international):** Partnership strategies for each sector must strengthen and expand partnerships within multilateral and bilateral frameworks.

5.3.2 Strategy 2: Climate Change Response Measures

A. Climate Change Mitigation

- **Protect and expand forest cover:** Strengthen law enforcement against illegal logging and land grabbing, promote sustainable forest management, support community involvement, and implement reforestation and afforestation projects to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and

enhance carbon stock, while also addressing the root causes of deforestation.

- **Reduce GHGs from energy, industry, agriculture, solvents, and waste:** Shift away from fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas to cleaner energy sources such as solar, wind, hydropower, and other sources of clean energy suitable for Cambodia. Implement measures to reduce energy consumption across transportation, industry, and residential buildings. Promote climate-smart agricultural practices to protect crops from changing rainfall patterns, droughts, and flooding. This can include adopting drought-resistant crop varieties, improving soil health, and diversifying livelihoods. Apply green technologies in industries such as cement, steel, and chemicals, which are major GHG emitters, primarily due to energy consumption and chemical processes. Reduce the use of solvents, especially in industries such as paints, coatings, and cleaning products, which contribute significantly to GHG emissions, often as volatile organic compounds (VOCs) that can lead to indirect CO₂ formation. Improve waste management, particularly by reducing methane emissions from landfills and improving waste handling and recycling systems.
- **Attract green investment:** Create an environment conducive to sustainable business practices by (1) providing incentives for green investment or low-emission investment, such as tax exemptions, import duty reductions for green technology, and carbon credit incentives; (2) increasing renewable energy sources like solar, wind, and hydro, which have great potential, and develop large-scale projects, such as solar parks and wind farms; (3) encouraging international organizations, development banks, and private investors to fund green projects.

B. Climate Change Adaptation

- **Develop personal preparedness and community action:** Adjust both personal behaviors and community practices to mitigate the effects of changing environmental conditions. This involves being proactive in minimizing risks, reducing vulnerabilities, and

making communities, businesses, and individuals more resilient to environmental shifts.

- **Build resilient infrastructure:** Enhance the management of water resources, particularly in the Mekong River Basin and Tonle Sap Lake, through better flood control systems and water storage solutions. Focus on the climate-resilient design of infrastructure projects by integrating climate resilience and nature-based solutions.
- **Implement climate-resilient agriculture:** Promote climate-smart agricultural practices to protect crops from changing rainfall patterns, droughts, and flooding. This can include adopting drought-resistant crop varieties, improving soil health, and diversifying livelihoods.

C. Good Governance

- **Strengthen institutional and policy frameworks:** Establish a clear leadership structure for climate change, integrate climate change goals into national development plans and sector policies, ensure the involvement of local governments and communities in climate decision-making processes, and align policies with international climate agreements.
- **Enhance Public-Private Partnership:** Engage stakeholders, including line institutions, local communities, civil society, and the private sector, in climate policy development and implementation. Ensure regular progress reporting to build public trust and accountability. Enhance Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to mitigate risks and increase investors' confidence in Cambodia's emerging green sectors.
- **Mobilize climate finance and resilient infrastructure:** Mobilize domestic and international climate finance to support adaptation and mitigation projects. Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure, including sustainable agriculture, renewable energy, and disaster risk management systems, to reduce vulnerability and enhance Cambodia's resilience to climate impacts. Build the capacity of the National Council for

Sustainable Development Secretariat to become an Accredited Entity that can directly access climate finance from international funds, especially the Green Climate Fund (GCF), and to play a key role in channelling climate finance to sub-national levels, such as provinces, districts, and communes.

5.3.3 Strategy 3: Ecological Preservation

A. Biodiversity Conservation

- **Enforce laws in protected areas:** Implement conservation measures by executing 100% law enforcement in the protected areas, especially the Code of Environment and Natural Resources, apply law enforcement measures strictly, and eliminate the culture of releasing illegal activities.
- **Cooperate with key actors:** Collaborate with the Ministry of Justice and lawyers, relevant national institutions, including the National Committee to Prevent and Suppress National Resources Illegality, as well as the Anti-Corruption Unit.
- **Support materials, equipment, and means:** Provide maps of protected areas, satellite imagery, and drones, as well as patrolling materials and equipment to key actors implementing law enforcement in protected areas.

B. Forest Restoration

- **Establish regional and provincial nurseries:** Establish five regional nurseries and provincial nurseries in all municipalities and provinces to distribute saplings of fruit trees and native trees to the public free of charge, allowing people to plant them wherever they want and need.
- **Distribute saplings free of charge:** Distribute saplings free of charge to the public from national and provincial sapling exhibitions to plant both fruit trees and native trees at their homes, communities, and in degraded forests.
- **Conduct tree planting:** Focus on planting native tree species that are adapted to the local environment, ensuring better survival rates and ecological compatibility. Prioritize trees that restore

biodiversity, improve soil quality, and enhance ecosystem services such as water retention and carbon sequestration.

C. Community Livelihood

- **Promote eco-tourism:** Develop eco-tourism initiatives within protected areas to provide communities with alternative livelihoods. This includes training locals to become guides, managing eco-friendly accommodation, and selling locally made handicrafts to tourists, ensuring that the benefits of tourism are shared with the community.
- **Support resource management:** Encourage sustainable farming, fishing, animal husbandry, and forestry practices for non-timber products that comply with laws and regulations as well as conservation goals. Provide training and resources to local communities on sustainable livelihoods that protect biodiversity, such as non-timber forest products (e.g., honey, mushrooms, fruit, nuts, seeds, forage, bamboo, rattan, edible plants, medicinal plants) or sustainable aquaculture.
- **Strengthen community involvement:** Involve local communities in the management and decision-making processes of protected areas. Empowering communities in the planning, implementation, and monitor of their conservation activities fosters a sense of ownership and ensures that conservation strategies support both ecological health and community well-being in the local economy.

5.3.4 Strategy 4: Environmental Protection

A. Air Pollution

- **Strengthen air quality regulations and enforcement:** Implement and enforce air quality standards and regulations strictly for industries, vehicles, and construction activities. Enhance monitoring systems to track pollution levels and hold polluters accountable.
- **Raise awareness and action:** Raise public awareness about the health impacts of air pollution and promote behaviours that

reduce pollution, such as reducing vehicle use, avoiding waste burning, rice field burning, and adopting clean cooking practices. Encourage community involvement in air quality improvement efforts.

- **Promote clean energy and transportation:** Shift towards renewable energy sources (such as solar and wind) and encourage the use of electric vehicles, public transportation, and cleaner fuels to reduce emissions from power generation and transportation.

B. Water Pollution

- **Strengthen wastewater treatment and management:** Improve and expand wastewater treatment facilities to prevent untreated sewage and industrial waste from contaminating water sources. Enforce regulations on proper waste disposal and treatment in urban and rural areas.
- **Regulate agricultural runoff and pesticides:** Implement sustainable farming practices to reduce the use of harmful chemicals, pesticides, and fertilizers. Promote organic farming and better water management techniques to prevent runoff from polluting rivers, waterways, and lakes.
- **Enhance public education and community engagement:** Raise awareness about the importance of clean water and proper waste disposal. Encourage community participation in clean-up activities, proper sanitation practices, and responsible water use to reduce local pollution.

C. Waste Management

- **Improve waste collection and disposal systems:** Expand and modernize waste collection infrastructure, ensuring regular and widespread access to waste management services, particularly in urban areas. Promote composting and raise public awareness about responsible waste disposal.
- **Promote waste segregation and recycling:** Encourage waste segregation at the source in households, businesses, and

industries, and implement recycling programs to reduce the amount of waste going to landfills or incineration to keep the country clean.

- **Develop waste-to-energy and composting solutions:** Invest in waste-to-energy technology and infrastructure by utilizing green technologies, such as Anaerobic Digestion or high-temperature incineration. Encourage the production of compost from organic waste to reduce landfill volume and generate Biogas or other useful products.

D. Transboundary Air Pollution

- **Transboundary Air Pollution:** In case of receiving notifications, reports, or study results regarding transboundary air pollution, the Ministry in charge of Environment and Natural Resources shall cooperate with relevant ministries and mandate institutions to seek means to mitigate its impacts through bilateral, multilateral, and regional mechanisms.
- **Transboundary Air Pollution from Domestic Sources:** In the case of domestic air pollution where the pollution status may cross borders and affect neighboring countries or the region, the Ministry in charge of Environment and Natural Resources, in cooperation with relevant ministries and mandate institutions, shall take all possible measures to reduce the pollution and must notify the affected countries and regions.

6. ACTION PLAN

6.1 Capacity Building for Environmental Diplomacy (2026-2027)

- Strengthen the capacity of diplomats and relevant stakeholders to implement environmental diplomacy.
- Collaborate with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to establish a functional framework for environmental diplomacy.
- Provide updates on transboundary pollution issues at both regional and international levels.
- Collaborate with relevant national institutions, the private sector, and international partners to enhance cooperation on

environmental management and strengthen climate change resilience.

- Officially launch and implement the Cambodia Environmental Diplomacy Strategy 2026-2030.
- Execute monitoring, evaluation, and progress reporting to provide strategic direction for the following years

6.2 Taking Action to Respond to Climate Change (2027-2028)

A. Climate Change Mitigation

- Activity 6.2.1: Negotiate with development partners and partner countries to secure technical assistance.
- Activity 6.2.2: Strengthen regional and international cooperation on forest management and community engagement through the sharing of experiences and best practices.
- Activity 6.2.3: Establish collaboration mechanisms with partner countries and international organizations to implement tree planting and reforestation projects aimed at increasing carbon stocks and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- Activity 6.2.4: Engage with international initiatives such as the Paris Agreement and the mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) to obtain support and financing.
- Activity 6.2.5: Negotiate with development partners and international financial institutions to secure financing for renewable energy development projects.
- Activity 6.2.6: Foster regional cooperation on the transition from fossil fuels to clean energy through technology sharing and cross-border investment.
- Activity 6.2.7: Organize international meetings and workshops to promote and enhance the implementation of green technology in the industrial sector and waste management.
- Activity 6.2.8: Participate in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and international conventions related to the reduction of greenhouse gases and the management of pollutants.

- Activity 6.2.9: Establish collaboration mechanisms with the international private sector to attract green investment through tax incentives and regulatory facilitation.
- Activity 6.2.10: Negotiate and participate in international carbon markets to obtain carbon credits and financing for climate change mitigation projects.

B. Climate Change Adaptation

- Activity 6.2.11: Collaborate with international organizations and development partners to develop educational programs and raise public awareness regarding climate change adaptation.
- Activity 6.2.12: Share experiences and best practices with ASEAN member states and dialogue partners on disaster risk reduction and building community resilience.
- Activity 6.2.13: Participate in the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and other regional cooperation mechanisms to strengthen transboundary water resource management, flood control systems, and water storage.
- Activity 6.2.14: Promote the integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) into infrastructure development cooperation projects with international partners.
- Activity 6.2.15: Request technical assistance and financing from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other international funds for climate-resilient agriculture and crop diversification projects.
- Activity 6.2.16: Work with the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries to organize regional and international forums to promote drought- and flood-resistant crop varieties and attract investment from partner countries.

C. Good Governance

- Activity 6.2.17: Strengthen the alignment of national climate change policies with international agreements, such as the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- Activity 6.2.18: Actively participate in international and regional negotiations on climate change and the environment to promote national interests and strengthen cooperation.

- Activity 6.2.19: Establish consultation mechanisms and partnerships with international civil society organizations (CSOs) and the private sector for the development and implementation of climate policies.
- Activity 6.2.20: Prepare national progress reports on climate change and the environment with transparency and accountability to present to the international community.
- Activity 6.2.21: Strengthen Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with international partners to attract investment and technology transfer for the green sector.
- Activity 6.2.22: Build national institutional capacity through international cooperation to secure direct climate financing from international funds, particularly the Green Climate Fund (GCF).
- Activity 6.2.23: Engage with international and regional environmental diplomacy networks to exchange information and experiences, and to strengthen Cambodia's position on the global stage.

6.3 Ecosystem Conservation (2028-2029)

A. Biodiversity Conservation

- Activity 6.3.1: Negotiate with development partners and international organizations to secure technical assistance and financing to strengthen 100% law enforcement within natural protected areas, in accordance with the Code on Environment and Natural Resources.
- Activity 6.3.2: Organize bilateral and multilateral meetings with the Ministry of Justice, relevant institutions, and international partners to strengthen cooperation on the prevention and suppression of natural resource crimes and corruption.
- Activity 6.3.3: Request support from international organizations and partner countries for the provision of protected area mapping, satellite imagery, Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (Drones), and modern patrolling equipment to enhance conservation efficiency.

- Activity 6.3.4: Engage with the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and related mechanisms to exchange experiences and secure technical and financial support.

B. Reforestation

- Activity 6.3.5: Collaborate with international organizations and partner countries to establish five regional nurseries and provincial nurseries nationwide, supported by technical expertise and high-quality sapling varieties.
- Activity 6.3.6: Organize free sapling distribution campaigns within the framework of international cooperation to promote the participation of the public and communities in planting trees at households and in degraded forest areas.
- Activity 6.3.7: Request technical assistance from international experts on selecting tree species suitable for local ecosystems to ensure high survival rates and enhance ecosystem services, such as water conservation and carbon sequestration.
- Activity 6.3.8: Participate in regional and international reforestation initiatives, such as the Paris Agreement and the Bonn Challenge 2030, to secure support and recognition from the international community.

C. Community Livelihoods

- Activity 6.3.9: Collaborate with international tourism organizations and development partners to develop sustainable ecotourism projects in protected areas by providing training to local communities on tour guiding skills, hospitality management, and handicraft production.
- Activity 6.3.10: Organize international promotional events and exhibitions to showcase Cambodian ecotourism and community products to the global market.
- Activity 6.3.11: Request technical assistance and financing from international organizations to train local communities in sustainable agriculture, fisheries, animal husbandry, and the harvesting of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs)—such as honey, mushrooms, bamboo, and medicinal plants—in compliance with conservation goals.

- Activity 6.3.12: Establish collaboration mechanisms with international civil society organizations and development partners to strengthen local community participation in managing natural protected areas and to ensure that conservation benefits are shared equitably.
- Activity 6.3.13: Participate in regional and international forums on community involvement in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development to exchange experiences and strengthen partnership networks.

6.4. Environmental Protection (2029-2030)

A. Air Pollution

- Activity 6.4.1: Negotiate with development partners and international organizations to secure technical assistance and financing to strengthen air quality regulations and pollution monitoring systems in accordance with international standards.
- Activity 6.4.2: Collaborate with the World Health Organization (WHO) and international environmental agencies to organize awareness campaigns regarding the health impacts of atmospheric pollution and to promote public understanding.
- Activity 6.4.3: Participate in regional and international forums on air quality management and atmospheric pollution reduction to exchange experiences and best practices.
- Activity 6.4.4: Request support from international partners for the transition toward renewable energy sources (solar, wind) and the promotion of electric vehicle (EV) usage through technology transfer and concessional financing.
- Activity 6.4.5: Negotiate with development partners to secure assistance for the development of public transportation systems and the use of clean fuels aimed at reducing emissions from the transport sector.

B. Water Pollution

- Activity 6.4.6: Request technical assistance and financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank, and other

development partners for the improvement and expansion of wastewater treatment plants in urban and rural areas.

- Activity 6.4.7: Collaborate with the Mekong River Commission (MRC) and member countries to strengthen water quality management and prevent pollution in the Mekong River Basin and the Tonle Sap Lake.
- Activity 6.4.8: Participate in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) and international conventions related to the management of hazardous chemicals and the protection of water sources.
- Activity 6.4.9: Request technical assistance from the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and other international partners to promote organic agriculture and sustainable water management techniques.
- Activity 6.4.10: Organize educational and public awareness programs, with support from international organizations, regarding the importance of clean water and proper waste disposal, while encouraging community participation.

C. Waste Management

- Activity 6.4.11: Negotiate with development partners and international organizations to secure financial and technical assistance for the expansion and modernization of waste collection and disposal infrastructure, particularly in urban areas.
- Activity 6.4.12: Collaborate with international organisations and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to organise awareness campaigns and promote public understanding of responsible waste disposal and composting.
- Activity 6.4.13: Study the experiences of developed nations and international partners regarding the implementation of waste sorting at source and recycling programs to adapt and apply within the Cambodian context.
- Activity 6.4.14: Request investment and technology transfer from partner countries for the development of Waste-to-Energy (WtE) projects utilizing green technologies, such as Anaerobic Digestion or high-temperature incineration.

- Activity 6.4.15: Participate in regional and international initiatives on plastic waste and hazardous waste management to secure technical and financial support.
- Activity 6.4.16: Promote Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) with the international private sector to invest in waste-to-energy infrastructure and organic waste composting.

7. FINANCIAL RESOURCES

7.1 Source of Fundings

To ensure the successful implementation of the Environmental Diplomacy Strategy, a total budget of **23,000 million Riels** is required. Within this framework, the strategy will mobilise funding from Cambodia's existing partners, particularly the Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Global Environment Facility, the Adaptation Fund, and the Loss and Damage Fund.

7.2. Mechanism

Since the environment is one of the three pillars—alongside the economy and society—that must be balanced to ensure Cambodia's sustainable development, existing mechanisms must strengthen their capacity to coordinate work effectively and efficiently. Coordination among stakeholders at both national and sub-national levels, as well as cooperation with the international community, is essential for each mechanism to fulfill its roles and duties toward achieving national environmental milestones. These mechanisms include inter-ministerial, working group, and sub-national mechanisms.

7.2.1 Inter-Ministerial Mechanism

The National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) was established by Royal Decree No. NS/RKT/0515/403, dated May 09, 2015. The **NCSD** is a policy-making institution established to promote sustainable development, aiming to ensure a balance between economy, environment, society, and culture within the Kingdom of Cambodia. The NCSD comprises the Prime Minister as Honorary Chairman, the Minister of Environment as Chairman, and the Secretary

of State/Secretary-General from 37 related institutions as Vice-Chairman, along with other members.

The ministry in charge of the environment and natural resources shall cooperate with competent ministries and institutions, particularly the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and sub-national authorities, to implement emergency response plans regarding marine pollution from land-based sources, vessel transport, subsea mining or exploration, and the resolution of transboundary marine environmental pollution.

As an inter-ministerial mechanism, the NCSD's mission includes formulating and evaluating policies, strategies, resource mobilization, capacity building, and strengthening cooperation related to sustainable development, particularly in natural resource management. The NCSD has these core roles and responsibilities:

- **Policy and Program Lifecycle Management:** Developing, implementing, coordinating, and evaluating policies, legal documents, strategic plans, and projects related to sustainable development.
- **Leadership in Key Sustainability Areas:** Leading, managing, and coordinating green economy initiatives, climate actions, biodiversity conservation, and sustainable livelihood enhancement.
- **Stakeholder Engagement and Partnerships:** Building and expanding cooperation with development partners, civil society, the private sector, and educational institutions.
- **Knowledge and Capacity Development:** Promoting research, education, training, technology transfer, and outreach to enhance sustainable development practices.
- **Resource Mobilization:** Securing support and resources for the implementation of sustainable development initiatives.

The Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) in Cambodia plays a crucial role in supporting the council's functions as follow:

- **Policy and Planning Support:** Assisting in the development and preparation of policies, legal documents, strategic plans, and projects related to sustainable development.
- **Operational Management:** Handling the daily operations of the NCSD, ensuring smooth functioning and administrative efficiency.
- **Implementation and Monitoring:** Coordinating and supporting the implementation of sustainable development initiatives, including monitoring and evaluating their progress.
- **Knowledge and Communication:** Facilitating research, education, training, and information dissemination, and participating in international meetings and other related events to promote sustainable development.
- **Resource and Partnership Management:** Mobilising and managing financial resources, and coordinating collaboration with diverse stakeholders, including development partners, civil society, and the private sector.

7.2.2 Working Group Mechanism

A. Technical Working Group on Climate Change (TWG-CC)

TWG-CC in Cambodia has a set of duties aimed at strengthening the nation's climate change response as follows:

- **Policy and Planning Integration:** Contributing to developing and implementing climate change policies and integrate climate considerations into broader development plans.
- **Expert Technical Guidance:** Providing specialized technical support to the NCSD on all climate change matters.
- **Cross-Sector Coordination:** Facilitating collaboration among government bodies, development partners, NGOs, and the private sector to ensure unified climate action.
- **Monitoring and Reporting:** Monitoring progress, evaluating strategies, and contributing to national reporting under the UNFCCC.
- **Capacity Building and Resource Mobilization:** Enhancing climate change response capabilities through knowledge sharing, technology transfer, and participation in climate finance efforts.

B. Technical Working Group on Biodiversity (TWG-BD)

TWG-BD in Cambodia plays a crucial role in coordinating and implementing efforts to protect the country's rich natural heritage and a set of duties as follows:

- **Supporting Policy Development and Implementation:** The group advises policymakers on biodiversity matters, contributes to the development and review of relevant laws and regulations, and assists in the implementation of international biodiversity agreements.
- **Facilitating Stakeholder Coordination:** The group acts as a central platform for collaboration among diverse stakeholders, ensuring efficient resource allocation and harmonizing conservation policies and actions.
- **Providing Technical Expertise and Guidance:** The group offers technical advice, facilitates knowledge sharing of scientific information and best practices, and aids in the development and implementation of conservation strategies and action plans.
- **Overseeing Project Implementation and Monitoring:** The group supports the execution of biodiversity conservation projects and monitors the effectiveness of conservation efforts, identifying areas for improvement.
- **Addressing Key Conservation Focus Areas:** The group focuses on specific conservation areas, including protected area management, species conservation, ecosystem management, community involvement, climate change impacts on biodiversity, and biodiversity research and monitoring.

C. ASEAN Working Group

In the ASEAN environmental cooperation framework, Cambodia sets up various working groups to aligning its national environmental policies with regional initiatives as follows:

- **ASEAN Working Group on Climate Change (AWGCC):** Given Cambodia's vulnerability to climate change, this group is vital for addressing mitigation and adaptation strategies.

- **ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB):** Crucial for Cambodia, with its rich biodiversity, this group focuses on protecting and conserving natural resources.
- **ASEAN Working Group on Water Resources Management (AWGWRM):** Essential for Cambodia, heavily reliant on the Mekong River system, this group promotes sustainable water management.
- **ASEAN Working Group on Environmentally Sustainable Cities (AWGESC):** As Cambodia's urban centers grow, this group's work in promoting sustainable urban development becomes increasingly important.
- **ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME):** While Cambodia's coast line is not extensive as some other ASEAN nations, it is still very important, and this group handles the important issues of marine protection.
- **ASEAN Working Group on Chemicals and Waste (AWGCW):** This group is important for helping to manage and reduce pollution, which is a growing concern in developing nations.
- **ASEAN Working Group on Environmental Education (AWGEE):** This group helps to build the capacity of the ASEAN community in regard to environmental concerns.

D. Ministerial Mechanism

Pursuant to Sub-Decree No. 241, dated December 4, 2025, the Ministry of Environment is tasked with leading and managing environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, the appropriate and sustainable use of natural resources, and promoting sustainable living for the long-term benefit of every person and every generation. The Ministry has one General Secretariat and six General Directorates are Policy and Strategy, Environmental Protection, Natural Protected Areas, Local Communities, Environmental Knowledge and Information, and Internal Audit. The Ministry of Environment has roles and responsibilities related to inter-ministerial mechanisms, including:

- **Strategic Policy Development:** Creating environmental and sustainable development policies, plans, and priorities in collaboration with stakeholders.

- **Legal Framework Implementation:** Developing and enforcing laws related to environmental protection, biodiversity, resource management, and livelihoods.
- **Cross-Ministerial Coordination:** Working with other ministries and institutions to implement environmental policies and strategies.
- **Comprehensive Environmental Management:** Overseeing and coordinating all activities related to environmental protection, biodiversity, natural resources, and sustainable livelihoods.
- **Stakeholder Engagement:** Actively managing and coordinating with ministries, institutions, development partners, and the private sector.

7.2.3 Sub-National Mechanism

In accordance with the roles and responsibilities of the sub-national administration, the provincial administration supports the implementation of policies, strategies, programs, and projects related to the province's natural resources. The provincial Department of Environment manages and oversees technical matters in coordination with the Ministry of Environment's administration and staff.

The district-khan and commune-sangkat administrations collaborate with the provincial environment department to effectively implement policies, legal documents, strategic plans, action plans, guidelines, programs, and related projects. Based on the Prakas on the organization and functioning of the Department of Environment, the department has these roles and responsibilities related to sub-national mechanisms:

- **Policy and Legal Implementation:** Leading the execution of environmental policies, strategic plans, and legal documents.
- **Natural Resource and Biodiversity Protection:** Managing and preventing crimes against natural resources, conserving biodiversity, and fostering local community development.
- **Community Empowerment:** Supporting local communities through economic infrastructure development, environmental education, and joint forest patrols to create green jobs and income.

- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Strengthening and expanding partnerships with local authorities, development partners, civil society, the private sector, and local communities.
- **Proactive Environmental Action:** Taking a leadership role in managing and protecting the environment through diverse and collaborative efforts.

8. MONITORING AND EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

8.1 Objectives of the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework

To ensure the effectiveness, accountability, and sustainability of the Environmental Diplomacy Strategy through annual progress monitoring and systematic evaluation of results.

8.2 Monitoring Mechanisms

- **Annual Progress Reports:** The Ministry of Environment working group shall prepare progress reports on the implementation of the action plan.
- **Inter-ministerial Coordination Meetings:** Conducted quarterly and annually to review progress and address challenges.
- **Data Management System:** For the collection and analysis of data related to performance indicators.
- **Sub-national Monitoring:** Provincial Departments of Environment shall report progress to the national level.

8.3 Evaluation Mechanisms

- **Annual Evaluation:** Measures progress based on Relevance, Efficiency, Effectiveness, Sustainability, and Impact (OECD-DAC standards).
- **Mid-term Review:** To be conducted in 2028.
- **Final Evaluation:** To be conducted in 2030.
- **Independent Evaluation:** Utilizes a mixed-methods approach (quantitative and qualitative), including interviews, data analysis, and case studies.

9. CONCLUSION

The Win-Win policy of **Samdech Akka Moha Sena Padei Techo Hun Sen, the President of the Senate**, has brought peace, national unity, and territorial integrity to Cambodia over the past 25 years. This has enabled the Royal Government of Cambodia to successfully implement the Triangle Strategy and the Rectangular Strategy in four stages, resulting in significant achievements across political, economic, social, and environmental fields. These successes have earned Cambodia honour, prestige, and international recognition.

Building on these achievements, the environmental sector remains a priority in the Royal Government's political program. The 7th Legislature of the National Assembly for the construction and defence of the motherland (2023-2028) and the first phase of the Pentagonal Strategy aim to ensure growth, equity, efficiency, and sustainability. This will lay the foundation to achieve Cambodia's vision for 2050 under the leadership of **Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei Hun Manet, the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia**.

In this context, the Ministry of Environment, as a government institution of the Royal Government of Cambodia, has developed the Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028 as a roadmap for the environmental sector over the next five years. Furthermore, the Cambodia Environmental Diplomacy Strategy (2026-2030) was formulated to address climate change, promote biodiversity conservation, and strengthen international cooperation on environmental issues. This involves working with other nations to tackle global challenges and promote the sustainable use of natural resources—including forests, water, and land—through policies and practices that ensure long-term environmental integrity.

By implementing the Cambodia Environmental Diplomacy Strategy, Cambodia hopes to foster ecosystem preservation, environmental protection, and sustainable development. The goal is to move toward becoming a carbon-neutral country by 2050 while maintaining national ownership, independence, and sovereignty.