



វេទិកាសម្រាប់ក្រុមហ៊ុនស៊ីវិលសង្គម កម្ពុជា
The NGO Forum on Cambodia

NGO Forum on Cambodia

CSO Preliminary inputs on Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contribution NDC 3.0

**Prepared by NGOF in consultations with civil society organizations
across Cambodia**

2025

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Cambodia's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) represents a critical opportunity to strengthen the nation's climate commitments ahead of the 1.5°C global goal. Building on its previous pledge to reduce emissions by 41.7% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, Cambodia is developing a more ambitious, accelerated, and inclusive climate action framework.

The NGO Forum on Cambodia, in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, has conducted extensive stakeholder consultations with 261 participants from diverse backgrounds, including civil society organizations, community groups, and marginalized populations. These consultations identified key challenges and solutions across four pillars: mitigation, adaptation, enabling environments, and cross-cutting themes.

In mitigation, Cambodia has made progress in renewable energy expansion and climate-smart agriculture but faces challenges in infrastructure limitations, waste management, and deforestation. Adaptation efforts are hampered by climate threats to health, water systems, infrastructure, and livelihoods, with vulnerable groups facing heightened risks. Enabling environments require stronger governance, public awareness, and technical capacity, while cross-cutting issues include inadequate private sector engagement, limited climate finance access, and persistent gender and social inequalities.

The position paper recommends accelerating renewable energy investments, strengthening community-based resource management, enhancing climate-resilient infrastructure, improving inter-ministerial coordination, developing inclusive climate finance mechanisms, and ensuring meaningful participation of marginalized groups in climate governance. A robust monitoring framework and diversified funding sources are essential for effective implementation of Cambodia's climate commitments. The next step, NGOF, in collaboration with CSOs, will build upon the outcomes validated during the workshop hosted by the Ministry of Environment. Moving forward, they will continue to actively engage and contribute to the ongoing technical working groups led by the respective line ministries.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 Context of NDC 3.0:

The year 2025 marks the 10th anniversary of the Paris Agreement and the beginning of the third generation of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), providing a critical test for countries' climate commitments ahead of the 1.5°C goal (UNDP Climate Promise, 2025). Cambodia has demonstrated strong leadership in climate action by submitting its updated NDC to the UNFCCC in 2020, committing to an ambitious emissions reduction target of 41.7% from the business-as-usual scenario by 2030 (Ministry of Environment, 2020). This commitment is further reinforced by Cambodia's Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality (LTS4CN), which outlines a comprehensive roadmap for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 through continued efforts in sustainable forest management, decarbonization of the power sector, and low-carbon development across agriculture,

industrial processes, and waste management sectors (General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development, 2021).

In 2025, as countries prepare to submit their new national pledges aligned with the 1.5°C goal, the Cambodian government, UN agencies, and development partners are joining forces to develop a more ambitious, accelerated, and inclusive NDC (UNFCCC, 2025). This collaborative effort is guided by key national priorities articulated in several strategic frameworks: the Pentagonal Strategy - Phase 1, which focuses on economic growth, employment, equity, efficiency, and sustainability (Ministry of Environment, 2023); the Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality by 2050, which aims to transform Cambodia into a carbon-neutral economy with significant carbon sinks provided by the forestry sector (General Secretariat of the National Council for Sustainable Development, 2021); and the Circular Strategy on Environment 2023-2028, which serves as a roadmap for environmental sustainability, climate resilience, and green economy promotion with the ultimate goal of achieving 60% forest cover by 2050 (Ministry of Environment, 2023).

Cambodia is strengthening its climate leadership by developing a more ambitious and inclusive NDC, building on its commitment to reduce emissions by 41.7% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Guided by national strategies focused on sustainable growth, carbon neutrality, and environmental resilience, Cambodia is collaborating with UN agencies and partners to align its climate actions with the 1.5°C global goal.

2.2 Methodology:

The NGO Forum on Cambodia, in strategic partnership with the **Ministry of Environment (MoE)**, in **March 2025** was coordinating a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process to gather valuable inputs from diverse civil society organizations. This inclusive initiative encompasses representatives from NGOs, Community Protected Areas (CPA), Community Fisheries (CFis), Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs), Agricultural Cooperative Unions (ACU), disability groups, elderly associations, Indigenous peoples, and LGBTIQ communities from coastal regions, provinces surrounding the Tonle Sap basin, and northeastern provinces of Cambodia.

Implementation Framework

- **Sectoral Working Groups:** Specialized working groups will be established by sector to facilitate thorough analyses. Significant emphasis will be placed on harmonizing and coordinating the experience, competencies, and commitments across different ministries to ensure comprehensive coverage and expertise.
- **Strategic Sector Organization:** The streamlined sectors will be presented in subsequent materials, categorized into mitigation, adaptation, and enabling components. Each sector will have clearly indicated technical support requirements to ensure appropriate resource allocation.
- **Leadership Structure:** A dedicated core team at the Ministry of Environment, comprising both high-level officials and technical specialists, will lead this initiative with support from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Line Ministries will serve as co-leads for relevant sectors, with additional support provided by other UN agencies and Development Partners.
- **Desk Reviews and Validation Workshop:** As part of the process, desk reviews on each sector's measures and the engagement of civil society organizations (CSOs) are being

conducted. These findings will be discussed and validated during a **validation workshop scheduled for 29th–30th April 2025**, where some items of the workshop are financed by Caritas Australia.

- **Process Timeline:** This launching event marks the official commencement of the initiative and serves to inform all participating ministries. Moving forward, the Climate Change Technical Working Group (CCTWG) will oversee the entire process throughout its inception, consultation, and validation phases.
- **Submission Timeline:** In recognition of the requirement to submit the updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) 9–12 months prior to **COP30**, and considering both the complexity of the process and lessons learned from the previous update cycle, the **target submission date has been set for July 2025**.
- **Next Step:** NGOF, in collaboration with CSOs, will build upon the outcomes validated during the workshop hosted by the Ministry of Environment. Moving forward, they will continue to actively engage and contribute to the ongoing technical working groups led by the respective line ministries.

3. CURRENT STATUS OF NDC 3.0 SECTORS

The NDC 3.0 (Nationally Determined Contribution) framework you’ve outlined is structured around a four-pillar approach – mitigation, adaptation, enabling environment, and cross-cutting themes, aligning with key climate action priorities.

Below is a structured breakdown of the pillars and their focus areas:

3.1 Mitigation

Cambodia is advancing its climate mitigation efforts across key sectors, with the government committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 41.7% by 2030 under its updated Nationally Determined Contribution. As of 2024, renewable energy—mainly solar and hydropower—accounts for about 24% of electricity generation, with new incentives aiming to raise this to 35% by 2030, though challenges such as limited grid infrastructure and underdeveloped public transport persist. In waste management, methane capture projects have reduced landfill emissions, but recycling rates remain low. The industrial sector is adopting circular economy principles and piloting low-carbon technologies, particularly in garment manufacturing. In agriculture, over 50,000 farmers have been trained in climate-smart practices and provided with climate-resilient rice varieties, yet rural adoption is hindered by limited access to resources and services. Forestry initiatives, including REDD+ and afforestation, have expanded protected areas, but illegal logging and land-use conflicts continue to pose significant challenges.

Energy & Transport: Cambodia’s energy sector continues its transition toward renewable energy and energy efficiency, with the government reaffirming its commitment to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 41.7% by 2030 under its updated Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) (NDC Partnership, 2023; UNDP Cambodia, 2025). As of 2024, renewable energy accounted for approximately 24% of Cambodia’s total electricity generation, with solar and hydropower leading the way (International Energy Agency [IEA], 2024). The government has also launched new incentives

for private investment in solar and wind projects, aiming to increase renewable energy's share to 35% by 2030 (Asian Development Bank [ADB], 2024). However, challenges persist, including limited grid infrastructure for renewables and insufficient investment in public transport systems, which hampers the shift to low-carbon transport (UNDP Cambodia, 2025; World Bank, 2024).

Waste Management: in the waste sector, Cambodia has piloted methane capture projects at major landfills in Phnom Penh, reducing methane emissions by an estimated 12% since 2022 (UNFCCC, 2025). However, waste segregation and recycling rates remain low, with only 10% of urban waste being recycled as of 2024 (Ministry of Environment Cambodia, 2024).

Industry: Industrial emissions reduction is being addressed through the adoption of circular economy principles, with new regulations encouraging resource efficiency and waste minimization in manufacturing (NDC Partnership, 2023). The government has also partnered with international organizations to pilot low-carbon technologies in garment factories, a key sector for Cambodia's economy (ADB, 2024).

Agriculture: Sustainable farming practices, including the System of Rice Intensification (SRI), integrated pest management, and reduced fertilizer emissions, remain key priorities for Cambodia's agriculture sector. Since 2023, over 50,000 farmers have been trained in climate-smart agriculture, and more than 30,000 have received climate-resilient rice varieties through government initiatives in partnership with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, 2024). Training programs on sustainable land management have also been expanded (FAO, 2024). However, challenges persist—particularly in rural areas—due to limited access to climate-resilient seeds, finance, and agricultural extension services, which continue to hinder the broader adoption of these practices (FAO, 2024).

Forestry and Other Land Use (FOLU): These initiatives, including REDD+ and afforestation, remain central to Cambodia's mitigation strategy. The country has expanded its protected forest area to over 2.1 million hectares by early 2025, but illegal logging and land-use conflicts continue to threaten progress (World Bank, 2022; UNDP Cambodia, 2025).

3.2 Adaptation

Since 2023, Cambodia has advanced climate adaptation by expanding climate-resilient healthcare and safe water access, strengthening disease surveillance, and upgrading over 150 kilometers of rural roads and urban drainage to withstand extreme weather. Efforts also include protecting livelihoods and ecosystems through ecotourism, new conservation areas, and coastal resilience projects like mangrove restoration. Disaster and climate risk management has improved with early warning systems in 12 provinces, integration of risk assessments into local planning, and expanded social protection for vulnerable groups during climate shocks.

Human Health / WASH: In the area of human health and WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), the Ministry of Health has introduced climate-resilient healthcare facilities in provinces vulnerable to flooding. Since 2023, access to safe water has been expanded to benefit more than 200,000 people (UNICEF Cambodia, 2024). Additionally, disease surveillance systems have been strengthened to better detect and respond to climate-sensitive illnesses such as dengue and malaria.

Infrastructure: Adaptation efforts in infrastructure include the construction of climate-resilient roads and the development of urban drainage systems designed to withstand flooding, with support from the World Bank and ADB. Since 2022, over 150 kilometers of rural roads have been upgraded to endure extreme weather conditions (World Bank, 2024).

Livelihoods & Ecosystems: To safeguard livelihoods and ecosystems, community-based ecotourism initiatives have been expanded and new protected areas established to conserve biodiversity. Coastal resilience has been enhanced through projects like mangrove restoration in Kampot and Koh Kong, which have stabilized shorelines and bolstered local fisheries (UNDP Cambodia, 2025).

Disaster & Climate Risk Management: Progress in disaster and climate risk management includes the deployment of early warning systems across 12 provinces and the integration of climate risk assessments into local development planning (UNDRR, 2024). Social protection initiatives, such as cash transfers and child protection programs, have also been scaled up to support vulnerable populations during climate-related emergencies (UNICEF Cambodia, 2024).

3.3 Enabling Environments

Cambodia is building a strong foundation for industrial decarbonization by integrating climate education, inclusive policies, and social safeguards. National campaigns and curriculum reforms have raised climate awareness, while new policies introduce emission caps, green incentives, and human-rights-based assessments. Targeted training and gender-responsive measures support industry and marginalized groups, and human rights are embedded in environmental governance. Together, these efforts are shifting Cambodia from isolated projects to a systemic approach that links industrial decarbonization with social equity and circular economy principles.

Education, Awareness, and Capacity Building:

Education and public awareness are central to Cambodia’s enabling environment for industrial decarbonization. Nationwide climate literacy campaigns—such as “Today I Do Not Use Plastic Bags” and the annual Cambodia Climate Change Forum—have helped normalize discussions about waste, energy use, and climate risk (CAPRED, 2024). The Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport has integrated climate change into the national school curriculum, and in 2024, over 5,000 teachers received specialized training in climate education (Ministry of Education Cambodia, 2024). For industry, the UNIDO Programme for Country Partnership delivers ISO 14001, resource-efficiency, and cleaner-production training to factory engineers and vocational centers, while the SME Finance Hub offers online courses on life-cycle costing and green-loan applications (UNIDO, 2023).

Governance, Policy, and Planning: Cambodia’s policy frameworks have become increasingly inclusive and robust. The 2023 Environment and Natural Resources Code guarantees the right to a clean and healthy environment and requires human-rights-based environmental assessments for new industrial projects (Royal Government of Cambodia [RGC], 2023). The draft Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2024–2033 introduces sectoral emission caps for industry and establishes a “green tax-and-rebate” mechanism to encourage circular economy investments (NCSD, 2024). Climate action plans now routinely incorporate gender-responsive and youth-focused policies, while new stakeholder engagement guidelines are further strengthening the integration of human rights into climate projects (UNDP Cambodia, 2025).

Cambodia’s industrial sector is increasingly embracing circular economy principles, spurred by new government policies and international partnerships (Ministry of Environment & UNDP, 2021; UNDP Cambodia, 2025). These initiatives are designed to reduce emissions and promote sustainable resource use. Nevertheless, significant challenges persist, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), which often lack the technological capacity and financial resources to implement low-carbon technologies at scale (NDC Partnership, 2023; Asian Development Bank

[ADB], 2024). Only 28% of surveyed enterprises report having the in-house technical expertise to identify or finance such technologies, and access to concessional green finance remains limited to a few pilot credit lines managed by state-owned banks and development partners (NDC Partnership, 2023).

Gender-Responsive Policies and Social Inclusion: A stand-alone Gender and Climate Change Action Plan (2023–2028) requires all industrial-energy projects over 10 MW to conduct a gender analysis and allocate at least 10% of project budgets to women-centered skills development, occupational health, and leadership opportunities (Ministry of Women’s Affairs & MoE, 2023). Early implementation in solar rooftop programs has increased female participation in technical roles from 7% to 22% within eighteen months (Ministry of Women’s Affairs & MoE, 2024). Youth and marginalized groups are also being included: youth climate roundtables at CCCF 2024 produced recommendations now annexed to the draft Industrial Decarbonisation Roadmap, including proposals for paid green apprenticeships targeting rural graduates (CAPRED, 2024). Indigenous community representatives have successfully advocated for recognition of customary tenure and Free, Prior and Informed Consent procedures in REDD+-linked carbon-credit projects (Open Development Cambodia, 2024).

Public participation: It is a key element in Cambodia’s NDC3.0 “Enabling Environments,” recognized for its role in making climate policies more legitimate, effective, and sustainable. The NDC3.0 highlights the importance of involving civil society, local communities, and the private sector in climate action planning and implementation, with a particular emphasis on gender equality and the inclusion of marginalized groups. This participatory approach is intended to integrate local knowledge, raise public awareness, and foster a sense of ownership over climate initiatives (RGC, 2023; Reed, 2008).

Despite these policy commitments, Cambodia faces challenges such as limited public awareness, institutional capacity constraints, and socio-economic barriers that restrict the involvement of vulnerable groups (Neth & Sovacool, 2021). However, opportunities exist to improve participation through digital technologies, stronger local governance, and partnerships with NGOs. Continued efforts are needed to ensure that all stakeholders, especially marginalized communities, are meaningfully engaged in the country’s climate actions (UNDP, 2022).

3.4 Cross-Cutting Themes

Cambodia’s third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), under development for submission in 2025, is designed to be more ambitious, inclusive, and implementable than previous iterations. The cross-cutting themes—gender equality, climate finance, youth engagement, human rights, and private sector engagement—are central to ensuring that climate action is effective, equitable, and sustainable.

Gender Equality: Gender is a prominent cross-cutting theme in Cambodia’s NDC 3.0. Women in Cambodia are disproportionately affected by climate change due to their roles in agriculture, water management, and household care, and because of persistent gender inequalities in access to resources, education, and decision-making (Nong et al., 2021; UN Women, 2023). Recent studies highlight that climate-induced disasters, such as floods and droughts, increase women’s workload, reduce their income opportunities, and heighten risks of gender-based violence (CDRI, 2025; World Bank, 2024).

Cambodia's climate policy framework increasingly recognizes the need for gender-responsive action. The NDC 3.0 inception workshop emphasized the promotion of gender equality and a human rights-based approach, aiming to empower women and marginalized groups in climate decision-making (NCSD, 2025). Recommendations include integrating gender analysis into all climate projects, increasing women's participation in climate governance, and targeting green skills training for women and girls (CDRI, 2025).

Climate Finance: Cambodia faces a significant climate finance gap. According to the World Bank-IFC Cambodia Country Climate and Development Report, the country will require an additional \$36 billion in investments from both public and private sectors between 2023 and 2050 to achieve carbon neutrality (IFC, 2024). Without adequate adaptation and mitigation measures, climate change could cost Cambodia up to 9% of its GDP by 2050 (IFC, 2024).

Efforts to mobilize climate finance include capacity-building for local financial institutions, the development of a sustainable finance taxonomy, and the creation of green financial products. However, challenges remain, such as limited guidance on what qualifies as green finance and a lack of enabling policies among local banks (IFC, 2024). The NDC 3.0 process is expected to further mainstream climate finance, with a focus on unlocking capital for climate-friendly projects and ensuring that finance flows reach vulnerable communities, including women and youth (UNDP, 2025).

Private Sector Engagement: Private sector engagement is increasingly recognized as essential for achieving Cambodia's climate goals. The private sector is expected to play a pivotal role in mobilizing the necessary investments for mitigation and adaptation, particularly in sectors such as renewable energy, green infrastructure, and sustainable agriculture (IFC, 2024). The International Finance Corporation (IFC) and the Association of Banks in Cambodia have launched initiatives to build the capacity of local financial institutions, promote green finance, and develop Cambodia's Sustainable Finance Taxonomy (IFC, 2024).

Despite these efforts, several barriers persist, including a lack of clear definitions and standards for green finance, limited awareness among businesses, and insufficient incentives for private investment in climate-related projects. Addressing these challenges is a priority under NDC 3.0, with strategies including public-private partnerships, regulatory reforms, and targeted support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) to adopt sustainable practices (IFC, 2024; UNDP, 2025).

Youth and Inclusive Participation: Youth engagement is another cross-cutting priority. Cambodia's NDC 3.0 development process has included consultations with youth, indigenous peoples, and local communities, recognizing their critical role in climate action (UNDP, 2025). The NDC Tracking Tool and Climate Change Portal, supported by UNDP, facilitate youth and stakeholder engagement in monitoring and reporting climate actions (UNDP, 2025).

Human Rights and Social Inclusion: A human rights-based framework underpins Cambodia's NDC 3.0, aiming to "leave no one behind." This approach addresses the needs of marginalized groups, including indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, and rural communities, who are often most vulnerable to climate impacts (NCSD, 2025). The NDC 3.0 process is designed to be participatory, with national and sub-national consultations to ensure that diverse voices inform policy and implementation.

Policy Coherence and SDG Alignment: Cambodia’s NDC 3.0 is closely aligned with the Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan 2024–2033 and the Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality. The integration of NDCs with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is seen as essential for achieving both climate resilience and sustainable growth (UNDP, 2024). Policy coherence is promoted through inter-ministerial coordination and the mainstreaming of climate considerations into sectoral policies, including agriculture, health, education, and infrastructure (NCSD, 2025).

The following are the key inputs collected by 4 Reginal workshop:

4. INPUTS TO THE NDC3.0

To collect input in an inclusive manner, there were series of workshops, organized in partnership with Cambodia’s Ministry of Environment and the NGO Forum on Cambodia, were supported by international donors including the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via Oxfam), HEKS, and the French Embassy. These events, held from March 17 to April 9, 2025, aimed to gather input for Cambodia’s NDC 3.0 (Nationally Determined Contributions) by engaging 261 participants from diverse backgrounds—such as agricultural cooperatives, civil society, government, development partners, and marginalized groups (including women, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ individuals)—representatives from NGOs, Community Protected Areas (CPA), Community Fisheries (CFis), Agricultural Cooperatives (ACs), Agricultural Cooperative Unions (ACU), disability groups, elderly associations, Indigenous peoples, and LGBTIQ communities from coastal regions, provinces surrounding the Tonle Sap basin, and northeastern provinces of Cambodia.

 Highlights of Recent Engagements & Consultation Workshops:

 9th April 2025

 *NGOF Office, Phnom Penh*

 **26 dynamic participants** (5 women), joining both in person and virtually.

 *Focused dialogue with Phnom Penh-based NGO representatives, setting the stage for collaborative advocacy and action.*

 28th March 2025

 *Himawari Hotel, Phnom Penh*

 **90 diverse voices** (29 women) convened both in-person and online.

 *A multi-sectoral gathering of:*

- Agricultural cooperative units
- Natural Resource Management (NRM) regional networks
- Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)
- Government ministries

- Development partners

... *The session buzzed with energy and ideas, fostering stronger alignment for inclusive rural development.*

Nationwide Consultation Workshops

21st March 2025

 *Cambodiana Hotel, Phnom Penh*

 **60 participants** (including 20 women) engaged in lively hybrid discussions.

 Representing:

- Indigenous communities and vulnerable groups
- Persons with disabilities & LGBTIQ+ individuals

 Covering voices from **11 provinces**: Kampong Speu, Svay Rieng, Prey Veng, Kandal, Kampong Chhnang, Tboung Khmom, Kampong Cham, Kratie, Mondulhiri, Ratanakiri, and Stung Treng

 *A celebration of diversity and inclusion, amplifying the unheard voices from across Cambodia.*

19th March 2025

 *Angkor Paradise Hotel, Siem Reap*

 **42 changemakers** (25 men, 14 women, and 3 LGBTIQ+ individuals)

 Engaging stakeholders from:

- Agricultural cooperatives (ACs)
- Civil society organizations (CSOs)

 Representing the heartland of Cambodia: Pursat, Battambang, Siem Reap, Banteay Meanchey, and Kampong Thom

 *The spirit of collaboration and grassroots innovation was palpable.*

17th March 2025

 *Seabreeze Hotel, Sihanoukville*

 **43 passionate attendees** (including 6 women)

 Participants included:

- Civil society organizations (CSOs)
- Agricultural cooperatives (ACs)
- Community fisheries (CFIs) & community forests (CFs)
- Marginalized groups from the coastal regions

 Representing Takeo, Preah Sihanouk, Kampot, Kep, and Koh Kong

 *The coastal voices rang clear—demanding sustainability, equity, and inclusion.*

4.1 Mitigation

Cambodia faces significant challenges in reducing emissions across sectors. In energy and transport, limited renewable energy infrastructure and reliance on fossil fuels hinder progress (UNDP, 2023).

Waste management struggles with inadequate collection systems and low recycling rates (MoE, 2023).

The industrial sector is constrained by outdated technology and lack of incentives for cleaner production (ADB, 2022).

Agriculture and forestry are challenged by deforestation, unsustainable land use, and limited adoption of climate-smart practices (FAO, 2023).

Sub-Sector	Challenges	Solutions	Stakeholders
Energy & Transport	- Increase in vehicles using fuel, leading to environmental pollution and greenhouse gas emissions, which contribute to global warming. - High reliance on fossil fuels for transportation. - Limited adoption of renewable energy (high cost and policy support). - Inefficient energy use in households and industries. - Use and import of fossil fuel vehicles. - Rising energy consumption in transport (land, water, air) - High demand for electronic materials (e.g., air conditioners)	- Promote reduction of fuel-based vehicles including the use of Evs. Expand and modernize bus and train systems powered by electricity or clean fuels - Encourage and implement policies to promote the use of solar energy and renewable energy - Educate and raise public awareness about the impacts of greenhouse gas emissions - Promote tree planting in public areas - Encourage the use of eco-friendly stove - Promote just energy transition including the use of renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, and hydropower. - No plastic campaign - Encourage financial incentives or subsidies for small-scale or household hydropower systems to promote access to clean energy and reduce reliance on fossil fuels, thereby contributing to greenhouse gas emission reductions - Improve Energy Efficiency - Promote energy-efficient appliances (LEDs, fans, ACs, refrigerators).	- Ministry of Environment - Ministry of Public Works and Transport - Ministry of Mines and Energy - Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports - Provincial, municipal, and district authorities - Citizens - Youth, women, indigenous people - Religious groups - Development partners (civil society) - Private sector

		- Establish energy efficiency standards for buildings, equipment, and industries. - Introduce energy audits and incentives for retrofitting homes or businesses.	
Waste Management	- Discharge of wastewater into water sources, canals, and seas from factories, enterprises, and processing industries (leather, woodcraft) - Management of garbage and plastic bags is still limited in urban and public areas - Management of garbage and plastic bags is still limited in urban and public areas. - generation, especially plastic waste. - Lack of awareness and education on waste management. - Limited recycling infrastructure. - Poor enforcement of waste management regulations.	- Share information and create feedback mechanism for reports from commune level to provincial related to biodiversity - Apply waste management to medium enterprises - Apply water filter at public areas and especially in schools - Promote free or discounted prices using water filter - Restrict waste management at office - Apply cost of plastic at medium enterprises• Increase tax on import plastic - Disseminate Sub-decree No. 113 - Strengthen law enforcement - Increase quality control of waste collection companies (agreements) - Encourage companies to invest in waste management - Promote the use of natural leaf packaging and eco-friendly bottles - Implement green campaigns quarterly in all communities and urban areas - Reduce single-use plastics through bans or incentives. - Promote community-based waste management programs. - Strengthen recycling systems and encourage waste-to-energy initiatives. - Conduct public awareness campaigns on waste reduction and recycling. - Improve enforcement of waste management laws - Promote waste to energy initiative - Promote eco-school and youth-led initiative	- Ministry of Environment - Ministry of Tourism - Ministry of Public Works, Transport - Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport should also include here. - Sub-national authorities - Waste collection companies - Civil society organizations - NGOs working on energy and climate change
Industry	- Discharge of wastewater into water sources, canals, and seas from factories, enterprises, and	- Enforce legal measures - Require wastewater treatment ponds to meet legal standards	- Ministry of Environment

	- processing industries (leather, woodcraft) affects the environment, human health, and biodiversity. - Factories (footwear, textiles, beverages, fisheries, etc.) generating increasing waste - Investment in natural resource exploitation (mining, oil, logging) - Deforestation	- Conduct environmental and social impact assessments (EIA) - Ensure participation from all relevant stakeholders - Strengthening oversight and evaluation of natural resource investments - Demand good governance	- Sub-national authorities - Water resources - Ministry of Agriculture - Chamber of Commerce - Business associations - Ministry of Mines and Energy - Ministry of Commerce - Ministry of Industry, Handicrafts, and Innovation - Cambodia Development Council
Agriculture	- Forest land sales, market speculation, debt, water shortages, lack of seed preservation, chemical overuse - Lack of incentive for organic products/agroecological products. - Limited support in climate change action, eg. Climate information and irrigation - Water shortage or no-irrigation system for irrigating, especially in dry season. - Limited option for selling agricultural products because only few companies/buyers who buy the product. - Limited access to finance/investment capital.	- Promote natural/ organic farming (organic fertilizers) or agroecology - Stabilize market prices (Facilitate Access to Market Information) - Provide real-time market price data via SMS, radio, or mobile apps, so farmers and traders can make informed decisions.) - Encourage seed preservation for climate adaptation - Look for carbon credit/ financing from agriculture, eg. Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), for farmers.	- Inter-ministerial agencies (Agriculture, Environment and water resources) - National Agriculture and Rural Development Council (CARD) - National and sub-national authorities - Cross-sectoral partners - Private sector - Academia and research institutions, eg. CARDI
Forestry and Land Use	- Deforestation - Land encroachment - Law and regulations exist but not strongly enforce - Economic land concession, which are not really implementation as in the contract	- Strengthen and expand community protected areas - Promote reforestation and agroforestry - Support community-based eco-tourism projects and its contribution to protect the environment and ecosystems in all protected areas including wildlife sanctuaries and national parks. - Strengthening of existing laws and regulations on forest and land management - Continue carbon credit from the forestry sector, eg. REDD+. (Promote/strengthen community-based carbon credit especially for CF and	- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries - Ministry of Land Management, Urbanization and Construction - Ministry of Environment - Forestry Administration - PDoE, Rangers and Communities

		CPA. One of suggestions, RGC should have clear guideline, and policy to maximize benefit from the community-based carbon credit to CF and CPA because current ARTICLE_6 mechanism is harder for CF/CPA get the benefits from the carbon credit. - Monitor on land economic concession, termination and taken to ACU and reallocation - Propose to the COP30 and develop policy and enabling guideline and support Community Protected Area (CPAs) and Community Forestry (CFs) to access Green Climate Fund. - Support to MOE's campaign on tree planting in the urban and public spaces and maintenance. - Tree planting is good; however, protecting and taking care of existing forests, especially CF and CPA, is even better for forest growth. - MAFF and relevant ministries should make clear land use mapping/classification example: Forestland, replanting plan, watershed/wetland, agricultural land, protected area), and implement seriously	
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4.2 Adaptation

Health and hygiene, especially access to clean water, are threatened by climate-induced droughts and floods (WHO, 2023).

Infrastructure is vulnerable due to poor climate resilience in rural and urban areas (World Bank, 2023).

Livelihoods and ecosystems are at risk from changing weather patterns affecting agriculture and fisheries (UNDP, 2023).

Disaster management is hampered by limited early warning systems and response capacity, while social and child protection systems lack resources to address climate impacts on vulnerable groups (UNICEF, 2023).

Sector	Challenges	Solutions	Stakeholders
Health & Hygiene – Clean Water	- Lack of awareness on personal hygiene, diet, and living conditions in the community. - Insufficient water supply for consumption and use during the dry season. - Litter scattered along roads. - Lack of clean water in rural areas - Communicable diseases- Mental health issues - Lack of sanitation	- Conduct awareness meetings for community members. - Train local representatives. - Produce short educational videos on hygiene for social media. - Dig ponds or wells for households and communities. - Store water at household or community levels (tanks, jars, cisterns, etc.). - Educate on waste disposal and plastic pollution impacts via public events. - Enforce waste disposal conditions for vendors at events. - Promote reduction of plastic use. - Impose fines for public littering - Expand clean water supply networks - Promote public hygiene awareness (WASH) - Raise awareness about vaccination- Strengthen health services - Implement and set clear target to reach ODF plus country.	- Ministry of Education, - Ministry of Environment, - Ministry of Rural Development - Provinces, Districts, Commune Councils, Villages, Communities, students. - Religious institutions. - Civil society, private sector, donors. - Ministry of Health (MOH) - Local authorities - NGOs/INGOs - Health centers - Citizens
Infrastructure	- Lack of green spaces in urban area. - Poor or no roads in remote areas - Flooded houses and damaged roads - Electrical hazards - Lack of water system and irrigations (some place have canal but not water)	- Allocate funds to sub-national levels for construction of urban spaces and garden in commune/Sangkat, district, municipal, Khan territories. Integrated climate-proof design in rural roads construction for example having proper drainage bridges with high clearance and strong foundations to resist floods	- MoI/NCDDS - Ministry of Public Works and Transport - Ministry of Land Management - Local authorities

		- Strengthen construction with environmental impact studies - Promote climate-resilient housing - Develop water system and smart irrigations - Raised houses or flood-resilient housing designs, - Multipurpose community centers used as evacuation shelters, - Heat-resistant and well-ventilated school buildings - Green schools or safe schools with solar panels, gardens, and water storage	
Livelihoods & Ecosystems	- Poverty and debt- Low crop yields - Lack of technical knowledge - Migration impacts - not marching for production though certain increase and market issues, plantation growth but scattering - High cost of production and inputs - Lack of diversified income in agriculture sector (on-farm and off-farm) - Ack of access to capital/finance. - Lack of entrepreneurship skill and initiatives - Lack of vocational skills and job opportunities	- Strengthen eco-agriculture - Promote local markets - Provide life skills training - Establish early warning systems - Promote biodiversity - Promote 4P (People, Private, Public and Partnership) and Multi-stakeholder lead initiatives, eg. Contract farming and responsible business conduct - Improve processing, investment with contribution from the state - Improve the rights of AC for better competition with private sectors (adjust AC law) - Improve post harvesting and smart technology and promote opportunity for small and medium enterprise - Increase support in climate resilience, especially irrigation and climate insurance in agriculture - Increase support in agri-business/ entrepreneurship including food processing and reduction of input cost.	- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries (MAFF) - Ministry of Commerce - NGOs/CBOs - NCDM - CSOs

		- Promote research and science-based food production and value chain that is resilient to climate change and other shocks. - Support communities and local authorities to define and implement livelihood improvement and ecosystem protection using nature-based solution to climate resilience. - Post-Harvest Interventions with Climate Adaptation Benefits Climate-Resilient Storage Facilities - Metal or hermetic storage silos (airtight) to prevent mold, pests, and moisture damage. - Elevated or flood-proof granaries to protect against flooding. - Solar-powered cold storage units for perishable crops like fruits and vegetables. - Insulated community warehouses that maintain stable temperatures. Improved Drying Technologies - Solar dryers with UV protection to speed up drying during wet seasons. - Raised drying platforms to avoid contamination and ensure hygiene. - Hybrid dryers (solar + biomass backup) for off-grid areas with unreliable sun. Moisture Meters & Monitoring Tools - Use portable moisture meters to determine safe storage levels and prevent spoilage. - Introduce climate apps or sensors to track humidity,	
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		rainfall, and temperature for harvest planning. Efficient Processing Equipment - Small-scale processing machines (e.g., rice millers, cassava graters) that reduce post-harvest time and labor. - Energy-efficient models (solar or low-emission fuel) to reduce GHG emissions. Climate-Adaptive Packaging - Use recyclable and breathable packaging that prevents mold during transport. - Promote vacuum packing or heat-sealing for longer shelf life under hot or humid conditions. Transport and Market Linkage - Invest in climate-resilient rural roads and cooled transport vehicles to reduce spoilage. - Set up digital platforms (mobile apps, SMS alerts) to connect farmers with buyers during peak harvest. Capacity Building & Climate Training - Train farmers and cooperatives on post-harvest handling under changing climate conditions. - Promote good agricultural practices (GAP) for harvesting, sorting, and grading.	
Disaster Management	- Increased disasters (floods, droughts, storms)	- Raise awareness on disaster risk reduction (DRR)	- National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM)

	- Lack of expertise for training vulnerable groups, including children and people with disabilities (PwDs) - Limited information and data sharing among relevant stakeholders - Lack of prepositioned resources - Limited inclusive early warning system and other preparedness capacity	- Support sub-national administration and affected communities to develop and implement disaster risk management plan and integrate and invest in CDP/CIP. - Establish safe shelters/evacuation center with standard facilities - Increase prepositioning including cash transfer program for emergency response - Expand EWS to ensure inclusivity of diverse groups. Early Warning for All. - Enforce existing policy framework effectively, eg. NAP-DRR 2024-2028 - Develop practical guideline in Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Disaster Risks and Climate Resilience. - Ensure M&E system and information management system to track progress and other historical data. - Increase coordination mechanism horizontally and vertically for more timely and effective disaster risk management, especially emergency response. - Improve evidence & science-based disaster risk management, eg. Vulnerability mapping and other digital real-time disaster & situation information	- Cambodian Red Cross - Civil society organization - Private sector
Social and Child Protection	- Insufficient attention to persons with disabilities, children, and workers. – - Lack of wheelchair-accessible sidewalks and suitable restrooms. - Inadequate school meal support for children. - Limited resources for the support of social protection	- Request authorities and relevant institutions to improve support for persons with disabilities and children. - Enhance functioning of National Social Assistance Fund (NSAF) for humanitarian emergency action.	- Government agencies (Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterinarian and Youth Rehabilitation, Ministry of Economics and Finance) - Civil society organizations. - Private sector. - Donors. - National Social Protection council

4.3 Enabling Environments

Awareness-raising and information dissemination are limited by low public understanding of climate issues (MoE, 2023).

Capacity building is constrained by insufficient technical expertise and institutional resources (UNDP, 2023).

Policy, governance, and planning face coordination gaps among ministries and weak enforcement (ADB, 2022).

Education and public participation are challenged by limited integration of climate topics in curricula and low community engagement (UNESCO, 2023).

Sector	Challenges	Solutions	Stakeholders
Awareness-raising, Information & Capacity Building	- Insufficient budget, lack of monitoring mechanisms, and weak knowledge sharing. - Lack of Awareness of key stakeholders including communities on NDC, CCCSP 2024-2033, Energy Efficiency Strategy, long term strategy on carbon-neutrality - Limited update of CSOs' climate action achievements/ progress into NDC.	- Increase budget allocation, organize forums, and integrate environmental topics into education. - Training or wider dissemination workshops on key policies for key stakeholders: NDC, CCCSP 2024-2033, Energy Efficiency Strategy, long term strategy on carbon-neutrality - NDC M&E system that includes CSOs' climate interventions.	Ministry of Environment/ NCSD, line Ministries and NGOs/DPs
Policy	- Lack of awareness, limited participation, and inclusion in policy-making. - Lack of cooperation and commitment from implementing ministries including budget allocation	- Simplify dissemination, establish community consultations, and strengthen policy implementation. - Guidance from national level to national and sub-national level line agencies for implementation	MoE, and implementing Ministries, private sector, Sub-national administration, development partners, and CSOs
Governance & Planning	Weak governance in environmental impact assessments and lack of inclusivity.	- Improve governance, ensure inclusivity, and align plans with national strategies. - MoE shall ensure the enforcement of SEIA and	Ministry of Environment, local authorities, and development partners.

		EIA guideline before granting license for any development projects, especially in the rich biodiversity areas	
Education	- Absence of environmental topics in formal education and limited public awareness. - Lack of curriculum on environmental studies into public schools	Integrate environmental studies into curriculums and conduct community outreach programs.	Ministry of Education, universities, public and private schools, and communities.
Public Participation	- Limited engagement of women, vendors, and communities in environmental issues. - Lack of meaningful consultation with affected communities of development projects in the rich biodiversity areas	- Educate stakeholders on pollution prevention and climate change mitigation. - Ensure multi-stakeholders dialogues and meaningful participation of communities in EIA process	MoE and EIA companies, private sector, ministries, and local authorities.

4.4 Cross-Cutting Themes

Private sector engagement is low due to unclear incentives and regulatory frameworks (World Bank, 2023).

Financial mechanisms are underdeveloped, with limited access to climate finance (UNDP, 2023).

Gender, youth, and children face barriers to participation and benefit-sharing, while social inclusion and human rights are challenged by marginalization of vulnerable groups (UNICEF, 2023).

Sector	Challenges	Solutions	Stakeholders
Private Sector Engagement	- Insufficient involvement in climate initiatives. - Lack of enabling policies and incentives for and engagement of private sector in implementing NDC 3. and climate related policies	- Offer incentives like green certifications and tax breaks. - Develop policies and provide incentive for private sectors to invest in green business and green jobs - Improve engagement of private sectors in climate related policies discussion.	MOE and relevant ministries. Private sector, government, and civil society organizations.
Financial			

Mechanisms	- Limited access of communities and CSOs to Green climate funds and carbon market challenges. - Lack of access to information on climate financing (sources of funds, revenue and expenditure on climate action)	- Strengthen carbon finance mechanisms and develop benefit-sharing policies. - MoE to develop enabling policies for CSOs and communities who dedicate to protect the natural resources to access the green climate fund for community development - Enabling for Community based carbon credits - Track and share the climate revenue, expenditure (private and public) and financial services on climate action.	- Ministry of Environment, private companies, and local communities. - Ministry of Economics and Finance
Gender	- Limited opportunities for women in social and economic activities. - GEDSI (women) low or limit Knowledge and capacity of Environment & climate change - limit engagement or representative in Envi & climate change plan & policies	- Encourage job opportunities for women, provide training, and ensure equal representation. - Ensure implementation plan awareness and capacity on Envi & climate change. Integrate into the Gov education system. - Ensure women and equal representatives in environment & climate change plan & policies development. - Target women, people with disability, indigenous peoples to support for implementing climate resilient livelihoods for economic empowerment.	- Ministry of Women's Affairs, NGOs, civil society, development partners (e.g., UN Women, USAID). - Ministry of education, Ministry of Work, TVET
Youth & Children	- Lack of participation/involvement in climate change and development initiatives. - The views and opinions of Youth and children are not considered. (lack of knowledge, no space, sensitive issues)	- Strengthen youth capacity, encourage participation in events, and provide scholarships. - Ensure a government mechanism to disseminate information and mobilize engagement in the issues. - Recommend state have a clear in policy/law of youth/children engage in the process and strengthen enforcement.	- Ministry of Education, NGOs, universities, private sector, local authorities.

		Strengthening Youth Network on climate change and networking within region and international network	
Social Inclusion	- Discrimination against persons with disabilities and LGBTIQ+ SOGIESC individuals, IP, marginalized, and vulnerable groups. - Lack of special guidelines and policy for response to social inclusion when implementing action plan and disaster	- Strengthen anti-discrimination laws, provide vocational training, and improve accessibility. - Need to have special guidelines and policies for response to social inclusion when implementing action plan and disaster and disseminate to relevance authorities. - Develop practical guideline in Gender Equality Disability and Social Inclusion (GEDSI) in Disaster Risks and Climate Resilience.	Ministry of Social Affairs, NGOs, advocacy groups, development partners. NCDM, Local authorities
Human Rights	- Marginalization of indigenous peoples and loss of traditional lands. - Human Rights seemed were not reflected in the NDC2.0 while during the NDC3.0 design, it has been brought up and considered human rights principles, Land right, ... to citizen and vulnerable group – to see the NDC3.0 version and its real implementation	- Promote the preservation of cultures, ensure participation in decision-making, and protect land rights. - Ensure to have a plan to respond in NDC3.0 on the effects with financing. - Strengthen enforcement law or policies to protect human rights principles - Ensure NHRI plays an independent role in monitoring on implementing NDC 3.0. - The government need to consider the feedback or inputs from CSOs and right holders. - Ensure meaningful consultation with relevant stakeholders to minimize social and environmental impacts of development projects before granting license.	Ministry of Rural Development, NGOs, local authorities, development partners. MOE

4.5 NDC Implementation

Implementation is slowed by limited inter-ministerial coordination, insufficient technical capacity, and lack of clear roadmaps for sectoral actions (MoE, 2023).

1. **Sectoral Integration:** Align NDC 3.0 goals with national sectoral strategies. This requires coordination across ministries, agencies, and stakeholders to mainstream climate action into economic and development planning. By embedding climate goals into national policies, budgets, and sectoral plans, countries can ensure **coherent, actionable, and measurable progress** toward their climate commitments
2. **Authority Collaboration:** fostering collaborative with governance agency, shared accountability, and equitable resource distribution, countries can ensure effective, inclusive, and measurable climate progress.
3. **Awareness:** Educate communities (CF, Cfi, CPA and AC) and integrate climate topics into schools.
4. **Policy Updates:** Develop policy to supporting NDC goals.
5. **Private Sector:** Engage businesses in green initiatives and partnerships.
6. **Build Partnership:** CSOs, Government and Private Sector,

4.6 NDC Monitoring and Evaluation

Monitoring and evaluation systems are weak, with fragmented data collection and limited capacity for tracking progress and reporting (UNDP, 2023).

1. **Monitoring:** Set up systems to track and report progress.
2. **Stakeholder Meetings:** Regularly engage with key stakeholders.
3. **MRV System:** Track emissions and adaptation progress.
4. **Community Feedback:** Collect input from grassroots groups.
5. **Finance Monitoring:** Ensure transparency in fund allocation.
6. **Capacity Building:** Train local authorities and CSOs.
7. **Technology:** Use satellite data and digital tools for tracking.

4.7 NDC Funds Raising

Fundraising is constrained by limited domestic resources, low private sector investment, and challenges in accessing international climate finance (ADB, 2022). Lack of synergy and coordination involving relevant stakeholders to ensure effective use of funds addressing the same purpose example projects of hundreds worth of million USD around Tonle Sap basin (CSO consultations 2025)

1. Donor-supported projects – Funds from international climate programs (e.g., GCF, GEF) and NGO climate budgets.
2. Government allocations – National budget support for climate ministries and dedicated domestic climate funds.
3. UN agencies – Financial and technical assistance from UNDP, UNEP, FAO, etc.
4. Development partners – Bilateral/multilateral aid (EU, USAID, JICA) via grants and concessional loans.
5. Private sector – Green investments and public-private partnerships in climate-aligned sectors.
6. Microfinance institutions (MFIs) – Climate-smart loans for agriculture, energy, and eco-businesses.
7. Civil society organizations (CSOs) – NGO-funded community training and climate advocacy.
8. Healthcare institutions – Health donor support to address climate-related health risks.
9. Research institutions – Grants for climate research and innovation.
10. Investors – Green bonds and impact investments in low-carbon projects.
11. Businesses – CSR efforts in renewable energy, waste management, and reforestation.
12. Climate-specific funds – Access to global climate finance like the Adaptation Fund and CIFs.
13. Awareness & collaboration – Workshops and platforms for better climate governance and coordination.

5. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Sector	Conclusion	Recommendations
Mitigation	Cambodia has made notable progress in climate mitigation, particularly in expanding renewable energy, piloting methane capture in waste management, and promoting climate-smart agriculture. However, persistent challenges include limited renewable energy infrastructure, low recycling rates, outdated industrial technology, and ongoing deforestation and land-use conflicts.	• Accelerate investment in renewable energy and modernize grid infrastructure. • Expand incentives for electric vehicles and public transport • Strengthening enforcement of waste management regulations and promoting recycling and waste-to-energy initiatives; supporting industry in adopting low-carbon technologies • Enhance community-based forestry management and reforestation, with clear guidelines for carbon credit schemes.

Adaptation	Cambodia's adaptation efforts are hampered by climate-induced threats to health, water, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Vulnerable groups, including women and children, face heightened risks due to limited access to clean water, inadequate disaster management, and fragile social protection systems.	• Invest in climate-resilient infrastructure and water supply systems; integrate climate adaptation into health and education services • Strengthen early warning and disaster response mechanisms; and • Ensure social protection programs are inclusive and responsive to climate risks, especially for marginalized communities.
Enabling Environments	Weak governance, limited public awareness, and insufficient technical capacity hinder effective climate action. Policy coordination among ministries and integration of climate topics in education remain limited.	• Enhance inter-ministerial coordination and policy enforcement. • Integrate environmental and climate change education into school curricula. • Conduct widespread public awareness campaigns; and • Build technical capacity at all levels of government and civil society.
Cross-cutting Themes	Private sector engagement, climate finance, gender equality, and social inclusion are underdeveloped. Barriers include unclear incentives for private investment, limited access to climate finance, and persistent gender and social inequalities.	• Develop enabling policies and incentives for private sector investment in green businesses. • Strengthen access to climate finance for communities and CSOs; Mainstream gender and social inclusion in all climate actions; • Ensure meaningful participation of women, youth, and marginalized groups in climate governance.
NDC Implementation	Implementation is slowed by fragmented coordination, insufficient technical capacity, and lack of clear sectoral roadmaps.	• Establish sectoral working groups with clear mandates. • Develop detailed implementation of road maps; and • Ensure regular coordination among ministries, UN agencies, CSOs and development partners.
NDC Monitoring and Evaluation	Monitoring and evaluation systems are weak, with fragmented data and limited capacity for tracking progress.	• Develop a robust, transparent M&E framework. • Build capacity for data collection and analysis; and • Ensure regular public reporting on NDC progress.

NDC Funds Raising	Fundraising is constrained by limited domestic resources, low private sector investment, and challenges in accessing international climate finance. • Strengthening enabling policies for climate finance. • Build capacity of local financial institutions. • develop green financial products. • Ensure climate finance reaches vulnerable communities and supports both mitigation and adaptation priorities.
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