



Ministry of Environment

PRESENTS

CAMBODIA CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM



2024 REPORT



PREPARED BY

MEKONG
FUTURE INITIATIVE



MEKONG

FUTURE INITIATIVE

Published: November 2024

*By Mekong Future Initiative (MFI) cccs@mekongfutureinitiative.org
mekongfutureinitiative.org
ccc-summit.org
8 Eu Tong Sen Street #14-94, The Central, Singapore 059818*

*Prepared by Tom Starkey for Mekong Future Initiative
Edited by Lindsay Brown*

Official media partners: Cambodia Investment Review & Khmer Times

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contact: cccs@mekongfutureinitiative.org



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LETTER FROM MEKONG FUTURE INITIATIVE



LETTER FROM MEKONG FUTURE INITIATIVE

As we close the chapter on this year's Cambodia Climate Change Forum (CCCCF24), we would like to extend our deep gratitude to each of you for contributing to this event's success.

Hosted by the Ministry of Environment and organized by Mekong Future Initiative (MFI), CCCC24 was not only a powerful gathering of voices and ideas but also a testament to Cambodia's resolve to tackle climate change head-on. We are honored to have facilitated a platform where our shared commitment to climate action flourished, paving the way for sustainable progress.

This year's forum brought together almost 400 participants, including government officials, international diplomats, NGOs, youth leaders, and private sector representatives. Through your dedication and participation, we made strides in addressing Cambodia's most pressing environmental challenges and developing actionable steps to advance our nation's climate goals. The forum's outcomes will play a pivotal role in shaping Cambodia's contributions at COP29, reinforcing our country's commitment to sustainable development on the global stage.

We would like to take a moment to recognize the remarkable dedication of our MFI team. Special thanks go to H.E. Allen Dodgson Tan, former Director General of MFI, for his invaluable leadership and steadfast commitment to realizing MFI's vision. His efforts have been instrumental in building a strong foundation for collaboration and establishing a platform that has driven the success of the event over the past four years.

We would also like to recognize Lindsay Brown, who excelled as this year's CCCC24 Event Coordinator, and Shauna O Mahony, our Sponsorship Coordinator, whose work was instrumental in making this event possible. Their contributions ensured CCCC24 was a truly impactful and smoothly run event, and their efforts are deeply appreciated.

This year marks a pivotal transition for MFI. As our organization concludes its role as the implementation partner, responsibility now shifts to the Ministry of Environment to carry forward Cambodia's annual climate event and engage a new partner to continue this important work. We wish them every success as they build on this momentum and lead Cambodia toward a sustainable, resilient future.

Our thanks go as well to our generous sponsors, including USAID as the Founding Partner and Australia through CAPRED as the Platinum Partner, whose support underscores their commitment to advancing climate resilience in Cambodia. We are also grateful to our Silver Partners—UNICEF, the British Embassy, Oxfam, and Plan International—and to Aide et Action, our Bronze Partner. Their support made CCCC24 accessible to all participants and allowed us to provide this platform free of charge.

Together, we are building a future that holds promise not only for the people of Cambodia but for the broader global community. Thank you for your dedication, and may our shared efforts continue to inspire meaningful change.

Sincerely,
Mekong Future Initiative Team



1.1 INTRODUCTION





1.1 INTRODUCTION

The Cambodia Climate Change Summit (CCCS) held the Cambodia Climate Change Forum 2024 (CCCF24) at the Independence Hotel in Sihanoukville on 24-25 October, providing a critical platform for addressing Cambodia's pressing environmental challenges and advancing climate action ahead of the 29th Conference of the Parties (COP29).

Hosted by the Ministry of Environment and organized by the Mekong Future Initiative, CCCF24 gathered over 350 participants, including government officials, international diplomats, NGOs, and youth leaders, to explore the intersection of climate policy, innovation, and sustainable development.

Showcasing Collective Efforts for Climate Goals

The forum sought to showcase the collective efforts of the Cambodian government, cross-sector partners, and international collaborators in preparing Cambodia to meet its climate goals. It highlighted how different sectors are working together to address the nation's vulnerabilities to climate change.

Through 24 comprehensive plenary sessions and six youth-led roundtable discussions, CCCF24 emphasized the need for a coordinated approach that includes input from the public and private sectors, international donors, civil society organizations, and grassroots communities. The event also included focused sessions on Article 6 of the Paris Agreement and a special presentation on Accelerating Climate Action and Sustainability in the Mekong.

This collective effort is vital for Cambodia to achieve its ambitious targets, including reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 42% by 2030 and reaching carbon neutrality by 2050.

Minister of Environment's Keynote: Bold Action Needed

In his keynote speech, Cambodia's Minister of Environment, H.E. Dr. Eang Sophalleth, addressed the gravity of the climate crisis facing Cambodia.

"Our vulnerability to climate change is most apparent in sectors critical to our economy—agriculture, fisheries, and forests. This is why we must take bold and ambitious climate action," he said.

The Minister outlined key government initiatives already underway, such as the national reforestation campaign aiming to plant one million trees annually and the recent adoption of the Environment and Natural Resources Code. He also pointed to the success of grassroots campaigns such as "Today I Do Not Use Plastic Bags," illustrating how collective action can drive meaningful change.

Strengthening Partnerships for Climate Resilience

Dr. Sophalleth also highlighted the importance of leveraging the CCCF24 platform to strengthen partnerships, particularly with the private sector.

"The Cambodia Climate Change Forum 2024 is a crucial opportunity to bring together all actors—government, private sector, NGOs, and communities—to accelerate our progress in mitigating the effects of climate change and ensuring a sustainable future for our nation," he said.





1.1 INTRODUCTION



At CCCF24 (left to right) H.E Neak Okhna Daniel Sear, Ms Rebekah Bell, Mr. Jason Kalbfleisch, Amb Derek Yip, Amb Dominic Williams, Minister of Environment H.E Eang Sophalleth, and Ministry of Environment Representatives.

International Support for Cambodia's Climate Action

The forum's collaborative spirit extended to its international partners, particularly through the forum's lead and supporting partners – the U.S. Embassy and the Australian Government – whose representatives underscored their commitment to supporting Cambodia's climate resilience efforts.

Acting Deputy Chief of Mission from the U.S. Embassy, Mr. Jason Kalbfleisch, said, “The U.S. government, through USAID, is honored to serve as the lead sponsor for the Cambodian Climate Change Forum 2024, with a focus on supporting coastal communities in Cambodia to adapt to the impacts of climate change.”

He added, “We will showcase five USAID projects that emphasize locally developed solutions, innovative climate financing, and the crucial role of youth and Indigenous communities in long-term climate strategies.”

Australian Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E. Derek Yip, spoke about Australia's contributions to climate-smart innovations in Cambodia, adding, “Climate change is an existential threat to our region. Australia is strengthening our climate cooperation in Cambodia. We are increasing access to climate-resilient water and sanitation services for rural Cambodians, supporting climate-smart innovations in agriculture, and working with energy officials to support the clean energy transition.”

British Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E. Dominic Williams, highlighted the UK's commitment to supporting Cambodia's climate goals through various projects.

“The climate crisis demands far-reaching changes in our daily lives. Choosing to attend this summit is a great sign of commitment—but the choices and actions that flow from our discussions are what matter,” he said.

Representative of the United Nations in Cambodia, Ms. Rebekah Bell, emphasized, “Cambodia must adopt forward-looking policies to tackle climate change, as its impacts threaten to reverse development gains. With Cambodia's 2050 vision, there is a unique chance to shift to a sustainable economy, supported by development partners.”

She added, “Women and youth, often the most impacted, must be given tools and resources to have their voices heard. Together, we can ensure Cambodia meets its climate goals and becomes a leading example.”





1.2 OPERATIONALIZING ARTICLE 6: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMBODIA IN GLOBAL CARBON MARKETS

Following the opening remarks and keynote speech, the first major session of the Cambodia Climate Change Forum 2024 (CCCCF24) centered on Operationalizing Article 6: Challenges and Opportunities for Cambodia in Global Carbon Markets. Article 6 is a key component of the Paris Agreement, designed to facilitate cooperation through carbon markets—mechanisms that allow countries, companies, and individuals to trade greenhouse gas emissions credits. However, Article 6 remains one of the more complex elements of the agreement, requiring significant international coordination.

The rulebook for implementing Article 6 was finalized in 2021, but further negotiations are necessary to clarify its procedures, particularly in the lead-up to COP29 in Baku, Azerbaijan. Cambodia has already taken an important step by launching its Article 6 Operations Manual, which outlines the rules and procedures for engaging in global carbon markets. Nevertheless, questions remain about the status of international negotiations on Article 6.2 and 6.4, the sectors eligible to participate, and the role of voluntary markets in this evolving framework.

This panel discussion explored both the challenges and opportunities facing Cambodia within this context. Moderated by **H.E. Chuop Paris**, Secretary of State at the Ministry of Environment, the session included insights from **Dr. Jamil Mahmood**, an MRV expert on REDD+ from UNDP; **Anataa Pandey**, Senior Programme Officer at the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI); **Colin Moore**, Regional Carbon Advisor at the Wildlife Conservation Society; and **Anirudh Krishnan**, Senior Policy Manager at Conservation International.

Challenges of Climate Change and the Role of Carbon Credits

H.E. Chuop Paris set the stage for the discussion by emphasizing the immediate climate challenges Cambodia faces, including drought and rising sea levels. He expressed his strong support for leveraging carbon credits as a tool to generate revenue, improve livelihoods, and promote good governance.

Overview of Article 6 Mechanisms

Anirudh Krishnan then provided an overview of the three primary components of Article 6. He first discussed Voluntary Cooperation, explaining that this allows countries to transfer emission reductions between each other to meet their climate targets through "internationally transferred mitigation outcomes" (ITMOs). "This mechanism ensures environmental integrity and avoids double counting," he stated.

He also explained the Sustainable Development Mechanisms, which enable countries to generate emission reduction credits from climate-friendly projects, with oversight from a supervisory body to ensure transparency and accountability. Lastly, he highlighted Non-Market Approaches, which promote cooperation without emissions trading. Instead, they focus on knowledge-sharing, technology transfer, and capacity-building to reduce emissions and support sustainable development. "These mechanisms provide the flexibility and collaboration needed for countries to meet their climate commitments," Krishnan concluded.





1.2 OPERATIONALIZING ARTICLE 6: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR CAMBODIA IN GLOBAL CARBON MARKETS

Sector-Specific Challenges and Opportunities

Dr. Jamil Mahmood emphasized Cambodia's strong commitment to reducing emissions across various sectors.

"Cambodia is very dedicated to emission reductions, particularly in sectors like industry, waste, and energy," he said. "We're now moving toward a compliance market, and the forestry sector, in particular, has committed to halving its emissions."

He pointed out that carbon credits could be a significant tool in achieving these goals, particularly with cost-effective solutions such as energy efficiency and composting. "The UNDP has been working with the government to ensure that the financial mechanisms surrounding carbon credits are both effective and efficient.

We want to ensure that the funds generated are directed to the areas that need them most," Mahmood added. "Capacity-building is essential to ensuring that Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are actionable and achievable."

Operationalizing Article 6 in Cambodia

Anataa Pandey provided more detail on the recently launched Operations Manual developed in collaboration between GGGI and the Ministry of Environment. "The MoE has worked tirelessly to operationalize the framework that will allow Cambodia to participate in Article 6 mechanisms," Pandey explained. "This includes organizing the necessary institutions and setting the criteria for operating under Article 6, such as the formation of a national special technical group."

She highlighted Cambodia's leadership among GGGI member states in developing this framework: "Cambodia has signaled to the world that we are ready to engage in Article 6 cooperation." She also noted that Cambodia's MoUs with countries like Singapore and the Republic of Korea are laying the groundwork for projects that include forestry and electric mobility initiatives, further positioning Cambodia as a key player in the region.

"Cambodia is gaining a lot of momentum," she said. "For example, the Republic of Korea has already approved an electric mobility project, with a substantial investment committed over the next decade. This is just one example of the international collaboration that will drive Cambodia's climate efforts forward."

Carbon Markets as a Source of Income

Colin Moore turned the focus to the voluntary carbon market, which plays a critical role in Cambodia's forestry sector. "The global voluntary carbon market is valued at around \$2 billion annually, with nearly half of that coming from REDD+ projects," Moore explained. "Cambodia is currently the third-largest country in terms of REDD+ projects, which have brought tens of millions of dollars into the country."

He emphasized the importance of this market in achieving Cambodia's NDC targets, particularly through efforts to reduce deforestation and promote reforestation. "The voluntary carbon market is one pathway, but Article 6 offers other mechanisms we need to explore," He added. "These include government-to-government agreements and result-based programs, which could unlock even greater financial flows for Cambodia's climate initiatives."

The panel concluded with a shared understanding of the importance of securing financial resources and international cooperation through Article 6 to meet Cambodia's ambitious climate goals, particularly as the country prepares to present these strategies at COP29 in Baku.





2. DAY ONE





USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



2.1 CLIMATE LESSONS: CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS



BY USAID MORODOK BAITANG



Ms. Kimtheng SEN

Community Engagement
& Gender Manager
USAID Morodok Baitang



Mr. Thav SI

IBIS Rice Farmer
Stung Treng Province



Ms. Thornglav SIN

Cashew Farmer
Ratanakiri Province



Mr. Sarun PA

Assistant of Boeung
Kachhang CPA Chief
Koh Kong Province





2.1 USAID MORODOK BAITANG - CLIMATE LESSONS: CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

The opening session of the Cambodia Climate Change Forum 2024, hosted by USAID Morodok Baitang, focused on one of the country's most pressing issues: the need to foster climate-resilient livelihoods in rural communities. This session, titled "Climate Resilient Community Livelihoods," brought together speakers who are at the forefront of efforts to balance rural economic growth with environmental conservation. Representatives from the cashew and rice farming sectors, as well as community leaders, shared their experiences and the challenges they face as they adapt to the realities of climate change.

The session featured **Kimtheng Sen**, USAID Morodok Baitang's Community Engagement and Gender Manager, who facilitated the discussion. Joining him were **Thornglav Sin**, a cashew farmer from Ratanakiri Province, **Thav Si**, an IBIS rice farmer from Stung Treng Province; and **Pa Sarun**, a community leader from a coastal village, each offering unique insights into the challenges and opportunities for building climate-resilient livelihoods in rural Cambodia.

Kimtheng Sen introduced the session by emphasizing the importance of scaling up initiatives that support rural incomes, conserve biodiversity, and sequester carbon.

"Communities across Cambodia are actively engaging in climate-resilient livelihoods," he said. "We need to expand these efforts to ensure long-term sustainability and climate adaptation."

When asked how she ensures her farming practices are environmentally sustainable, **Thornglav Sin** explained that her community follows three essential rules: they do not cut down trees in the forest, they do not expand their farms onto nearby land, and they do not hunt wildlife.

"These guidelines were developed in partnership with USAID to make sure farming activities do not harm the local ecosystem. The land used for our cashew farms is community-owned, and we have agreed on strict policies to protect the forest and wildlife," Thornglav explained.

Despite these efforts, Thornglav faces significant challenges.

"Drought conditions have reduced her crop yield, and the lack of access to proper markets means that much of her produce goes unsold."

She also mentioned receiving farming equipment from USAID but expressed frustration that the community lacks the necessary training to make full use of the machinery. However, she noted that USAID's training programs are helping farmers improve their production processes. One of her primary concerns is market instability, which leaves her vulnerable to price fluctuations. "The cashew market is very fragile," she said. "If we can't sell our produce quickly, it will spoil."

Like Thornglav, **Thav Si** is dealing with the impact of drought, but he also raised concerns about external threats. He explained that people from across the border in Laos come into his region to forage for mushrooms, bringing dogs that disturb the local environment.





2.1 USAID MORODOK BAITANG - CLIMATE LESSONS: CLIMATE-RESILIENT COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

However, his biggest worry is the community's over-reliance on the IBIS rice market.

"If IBIS Rice stops buying, our community will lose a significant source of income," Thav said. "We need to diversify our market options to ensure sustainability."

The final speaker, **Pa Sarun**, a community leader, spoke about the challenges his coastal community faces due to climate change. He stressed the importance of providing jobs for local residents to prevent them from turning to illegal activities that harm the environment. Sarun outlined several barriers to progress, including a lack of technological equipment, insufficient knowledge, and inadequate patrol boats to monitor illegal fishing. "Climate change is making it harder for fishermen," he said. "The waves are getting bigger, and it's becoming more dangerous for them to work."

Sarun ended on an optimistic note about the solutions his community has received through USAID support. His community now has access to patrol boats and training on sustainable animal farming. Additionally, USAID provided a dehydration facility, which has allowed farmers to preserve their produce for longer periods and access broader markets. "With USAID's help, we've received the tools and education needed to protect our community and our livelihoods from climate-related challenges," Sarun explained.

While challenges like drought, market instability, and knowledge gaps persist, the speakers emphasized that with the right training, tools, and market access, rural communities can thrive while preserving the environment. The discussion underscored the importance of expanding these efforts to ensure that Cambodia's rural populations are equipped to face the future of a changing climate.

The session highlighted the critical role that community-led initiatives and external support play in building climate resilience in Cambodia's rural areas.





British Embassy
Phnom Penh

2.2 POWERING TOMORROW: THE FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

BY THE BRITISH EMBASSY



Ms. Daniella Chehade

Climate Change Policy
Officer
British Embassy



Mr. Dean Rizzetti

Energy Policy Director
EnergyLab



Mr. Bunly TY

Technical Manager
SOGE



Mr. Arjun Sabat

General Manager of Power
Infrastructure
Cominasia





2.2 BRITISH EMBASSY - POWERING TOMORROW: THE FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

The Powering Tomorrow: The Future of Renewable Energy session, hosted by the British Embassy, brought together experts to explore the path toward Cambodia's renewable energy targets. The session focused on identifying the technological advancements, financial mechanisms, policy gaps, and coordination tools necessary to achieve the country's energy mix goals—70% renewables by 2030 and 75% by 2040.

Moderated by **Daniella Chehade**, Climate Change Policy Officer and Environmental Engineer at the British Embassy, participants included **Dean Rizzetti**, Energy Policy Director at EnergyLab, **Bunly Ty**, Technical Manager at SOGE, and **Arjun Sabat**, General Manager of Power Infrastructure at Cominasia.

Daniella Chehade set the stage by highlighting the urgency of transitioning Cambodia's energy mix toward renewable sources. The speakers delved into the challenges and opportunities facing the country as it works towards this goal.

Dean Rizzetti from EnergyLab emphasized that the renewable energy sector in Cambodia is at a critical turning point.

"For a country like Cambodia, there are so many ways it can take advantage of renewable energy," he said. Rizzetti pointed out the dramatic cost reductions in renewable energy, noting that renewables are now 56% cheaper than fossil fuels.

"Ten years ago, the advice wouldn't have been to go with renewables, but today, building energy resources through renewables is the best way forward. Coal now creates economic risk and is expensive, and the world has saved money by switching from coal imports to renewables."

Rizzetti also addressed the need to unlock flexible, cost-effective power solutions for Cambodia's energy transition, asserting that "renewable energy is the way forward."

Bunly Ty, Technical Manager at SOGE, spoke about Cambodia's rich solar potential, which could play a crucial role in reducing energy consumption, particularly in sectors like agriculture. He acknowledged that while Cambodia has abundant sunlight, the adoption of solar technologies faces hurdles due to low awareness and technical capacity.

"Even though we produce solar systems and energy storage, the skilled technicians able to install these systems remain few, so it is hard to roll out and implement this technology."

Bunly noted that trust is another barrier, especially among farmers who previously experimented with solar-powered irrigation systems that didn't perform as well as traditional petrol-powered ones.

"It's about reintroducing solar solutions and regaining trust," he said. Moreover, Bunly pointed out the lack of quality control in Cambodia's solar sector, which complicates the adoption of new technologies. "This is changing as private companies are beginning to provide basic training on the technology," he added, suggesting that improved education and demonstration projects could accelerate solar adoption.





2.2 BRITISH EMBASSY - POWERING TOMORROW: THE FUTURE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY

Arjun Sabat, General Manager of Power Infrastructure at Cominasia, shifted the discussion to a macro level, focusing on the importance of hydro and solar as Cambodia's biggest power-generating sources. Sabat highlighted that while solar power offers great potential, challenges remain in ensuring adequate storage since solar energy can only supply power for 6-8 hours a day. "The grid will require significant studies to understand how to manage these new solar projects," he explained, emphasizing that each development will need to be approached on a per-project basis, with impact analysis on grid imbalances becoming a priority.

Sabat underscored the current stability of Cambodia's power grid, noting that over 90% of the country is now connected to it. However, he acknowledged the challenges ahead, especially for Electricité du Cambodge (EDC). "EDC has limited ability to predict daily demand, and they rely on manual systems to adjust power levels. They don't have the automated tools needed to manage a modern grid, which will become increasingly important as we introduce more renewable energy," Sabat said. He stressed the need for technological programs and weather prediction tools to help manage the grid efficiently as renewable energy sources expand.

Daniella then posed the question of what Cambodia might look like in 2035 if the country successfully adopts clean energy. "When we burn things to make electricity, it's the most wasteful way of creating energy," she explained. "Adopting clean energy will mean better efficiency, fewer pollutants, better air quality, and lower disease rates."

On the subject of investment, Daniella asked Sabat about the financial implications of scaling up renewable energy projects. Sabat acknowledged the challenge, particularly for developing countries like Cambodia, which face significant financial constraints. He pointed to Cambodia's existing build, own, and operate model, which provides incentives for private-sector investment by offering returns over a 15 to 25-year period. However, Sabat argued that more diversified incentives are necessary to attract investment, particularly in critical areas like battery storage, which remains cost-prohibitive at present. "We need to look at how to make projects like this more attractive to investors," he said.

Finally, Daniella asked Bunly how solar energy can directly benefit people at the community level, particularly farmers. Bunly responded that large-scale implementation of solar projects, supported by subsidies, can help shift public perception and increase trust in these technologies.

"Providing knowledge about the products and showing people the benefits will make a real difference to communities," he said, pointing to both personal and community-wide benefits, from improved health outcomes to broader climate change mitigation.

The session concluded with a clear message: Cambodia's future energy security lies in renewables, and while challenges exist, from technological gaps to financial constraints, the path forward requires collaboration between the private sector, government, and local communities. With the right tools and investment, Cambodia has the potential to lead the way in Southeast Asia's renewable energy transition.





2.3 FINANCING PRIVATE SECTOR- LED CLIMATE ACTIONS



BY CAPRED & MEKONG STRATEGIC CAPITAL



Ms. Kelly Wyett

Senior Public Sector Advisor
CAPRED



Mr. John McGinley

Founder and Managing Partner
Mekong Strategic Capital



Ms. Chuon Narita HANG

Chief Corporate Banking Officer
J Trust Royal Bank



Ms. Jyotsana Varma

Country Director
Asian Development Bank





2.3 CAPRED & MEKONG STRATEGIC CAPITAL – FINANCING PRIVATE SECTOR-LED CLIMATE ACTIONS

The “Financing Private Sector-Led Climate Actions” session focused on the critical role that private sector investment plays in driving climate action in Cambodia. The discussion highlighted the Cambodia Climate Finance Facility (CCFF) as an innovative mechanism designed to facilitate climate-friendly business initiatives and explored how the banking sector can support private investments in sustainable projects.

Through Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED), Australia is providing critical support to the CCFF in the establishment and capacity building of its implementation team, as well as the development of qualified project pipelines.

The session was hosted by **Kelly Wyett**, Senior Public Sector Advisor at CAPRED, and featured guest speakers **John McGinley**, Founder and Managing Partner at Mekong Strategic Capital (MSC), **Hang Chuon Narita**, Chief Corporate Banking Officer at J Trust Royal Bank, and **Jyotsana Varma**, Country Director at the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

John McGinley opened the session by emphasizing the importance of securing financing to bring Cambodia’s climate initiatives to life. He explained that the upcoming CCFF originated from the recognition of a private sector investment gap in the country, with the Cambodian government suggesting access to funds through the Green Climate Fund (GCF). MSC was tasked with designing a structure that ultimately resulted in the CCFF, which will offer dedicated green loans to support new and growing green projects, enabling Cambodian businesses to make positive climate impacts.

In addition, McGinley underscored the need to strengthen the Cambodian banking system so it can access a range of climate finance available globally and support small-scale projects working toward climate change mitigation. “It’s essential that the banking sector has the capacity to provide funding for these projects,” McGinley stated, explaining that private sector engagement in climate finance is key to achieving the country’s sustainability goals.

Hang Chuon Narita discussed the challenges and opportunities that banks face when selecting climate-focused projects to fund. She highlighted the need for collaboration between the banking sector, government, and development partners to ensure that climate finance is well-understood by all parties. “We are happy to support development partners, but it’s crucial that we understand what climate finance truly entails,” she said.

Narita also pointed out the challenges her bank encounters when hiring consultants to verify that their clients’ projects are environmentally responsible. “We hope the government will support banks in this process by providing clear guidelines and training to ensure that climate finance efforts are effective and fruitful,” she added.

In addition, Narita mentioned her bank’s commitment to helping Cambodia achieve its carbon neutrality goals, with a strong focus on renewable energy projects. She emphasized the importance of building a robust pipeline of sustainable projects that can be supported by commercial banks and acknowledged that this process requires careful selection and significant investment in technical expertise.





2.3 CAPRED & MEKONG STRATEGIC CAPITAL – FINANCING PRIVATE SECTOR-LED CLIMATE ACTIONS

The International Finance Corporation (IFC) is developing a green taxonomy that will encompass three sectors: renewable energy, transportation, and agriculture. Banks are encouraged to prepare a ready pipeline of projects in these areas to take advantage of upcoming opportunities.

Jyotsana Varma shared insights into ADB’s climate change reduction frameworks, which have already been implemented in multiple countries, including Cambodia.

She spoke of ADB’s ongoing negotiation with the Cambodian government in co-financing the \$100 million CCFF, which will support projects related to clean water supply, renewable energy, energy efficiency, sustainable agriculture, and sustainable transport. “We’ve created a market that goes beyond commercial interest by providing funding for sustainable energy projects,” she said. Varma stressed the importance of bringing technical assistance and community engagement into these initiatives to ensure they are sustainable and inclusive.

Varma also highlighted the role of ADB in collaborating with the Cambodian government to align banking practices with the country’s climate ambitions. “We’re working closely with the government to integrate banking into climate finance, ensuring that our shared goals are met,” she explained.

In closing, **John McGinley** spoke on the importance of clearly defining climate finance to ensure that all stakeholders have a shared understanding of its scope. “We need to present a clear guideline on what climate finance entails so we can build a strong pipeline of projects that meet environmental goals,” he said.

The session concluded with a call to action for increased cooperation between the private sector, government, and development organizations to foster climate finance opportunities in Cambodia.

The speakers emphasized that with the right financial mechanisms, technical assistance, and policy support, Cambodia can unlock the potential of private sector-led climate actions and work toward a sustainable future.



2.4 BUILDING IMPACT-DRIVEN ENTERPRISES TO TACKLE CAMBODIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

BY PLATFORM IMPACT



Mr. Emre Pinarci

Impact Venture Builder
Platform Impact



Mr. Joshua Jones

Owner and CEO
Three Corner Coffee



Mr. David KIM

Director
HESED Cambodia



Ms. Dinary TANN

Chief Operating Officer
Green Farmers





2.4 PLATFORM IMPACT - BUILDING IMPACT-DRIVEN ENTERPRISES TO TACKLE CAMBODIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

The **Building Impact-Driven Enterprises** session, hosted by Platform Impact, showcased the organization's innovative approach to supporting and empowering businesses in Cambodia that prioritize social and environmental impact. The discussion highlighted how ventures such as Fair Farms, Three Corner Coffee Roaster, and Wat Chocolate are using sustainable business models to tackle societal challenges while preserving Cambodia's natural capital and biodiversity.

The session featured key speakers: **Emre Pinarci**, Impact Venture Builder at Platform Impact; **Joshua Jones**, Owner and CEO of Three Corner Coffee; **David Kim**, Director of HESED Cambodia; and **Nary Tann**, Chief Operating Officer at Green Farmers.

Emre Pinarci began by asking the panelists about their company operations and how they address environmental challenges in Cambodia.

David Kim shared how his organization empowers communities through ethical business practices that contribute to climate change mitigation. "As the director of HESED, we believe our products not only empower communities through ethical business practices but also contribute significantly to climate change mitigation."

He said HESED focuses on creating sustainable business models that deliver long-term positive impacts, both financially and environmentally. Kim spoke of the need to continue training farmers to maximize production using new technologies. One example he mentioned is the use of solar driers for drying products and repurposing cashew shells as biofuel, thus reducing waste.

Nary Tann from Green Farmers added that her company uses organic fertilizer to improve soil quality, alongside installing solar units to assist with processing. She also mentioned their efforts to better manage water resources to enhance sustainability in farming practices.

When asked about the challenges of implementing these sustainable practices, **Joshua Jones**, CEO of Three Corner Coffee, highlighted a significant obstacle: changing the mindset of farmers.

"A big challenge is to change the thinking. Many farmers think about the next paycheck," he explained, pointing out that the long-term nature of sustainability projects often clashes with the immediate needs of farmers.

He further explained that many farmers grow multiple crops and may not have the capacity to focus on maximizing the potential of each one. To address this, Three Corner Coffee has introduced farmer managers who work with local communities to help them understand the long-term benefits of sustainable farming.

Nary Tann agreed, noting that her company has also faced resistance from farmers, particularly in the adoption of organic soil. "The positive results are not instant," she explained. To help change this perception, Green Farmers promotes organic agriculture through a weekly market in Siem Reap, where certified organic products can command a higher price. "People have the choice of a product that is better for the environment," she added.





2.4 PLATFORM IMPACT - BUILDING IMPACT-DRIVEN ENTERPRISES TO TACKLE CAMBODIA'S ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

He also touched on the importance of storytelling as a sales tool.

"Being able to tell a story around our coffee is a key sales point," he said. "Coffee drinkers want to know they are buying coffee from a producer that works with Indigenous farmers and actively mitigates climate change." He said that building a sustainable business requires continuing support for Indigenous farmers.

"If we are not able to continue supporting Indigenous farmers, then they are not going to want to sell to us. We can't continue to source from them if we don't positively support the process."

Emre Pinarci then steered the conversation toward finding a balance between social and environmental impact. **Joshua Jones** emphasized that for Three Corner Coffee, the focus begins with social impact. "Without social impact, there is no environmental impact," he said. "To be sustainable, we are people first, and then we can bring in the environmental elements."

Nary Tann agreed, describing how Green Farmers advises farmers on what crops to grow and how to grow them, while passing on knowledge about sustainable practices like using solar dryers. This, she noted, helps farmers increase their earnings while growing crops in an environmentally friendly way.

Finally, the discussion turned to what is needed from the government to support impact-driven enterprises. **David Kim** suggested that legislation or tax reforms for small companies could boost sales and help farmers. Such reforms, he added, would also incentivize more businesses to adopt impact-driven models.

Joshua Jones closed by stressing the importance of clarity when it comes to driving change. "You need to be clear about what you want to change. You need to have an understanding of the impact you will have, and then you will have a clear message and outcome to give to investors and consumers," he said.

The session concluded with a call for greater support for businesses that are working toward both social and environmental goals, and the speakers emphasized the importance of collaboration between the private sector, government, and local communities in driving impactful, sustainable change in Cambodia.





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

2.5 CAMBODIA'S FISHERIES - CHALLENGES AND FUTURE ADAPTATIONS

BY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS



Dr. Supin WONGBUSARAKUM

Fisheries Officer
UN FAO



Ms. Khim KAING

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



Mr. Somony THAY

Director of Department of
Aquaculture Development
Fisheries Administration
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries



Mr. Marcel KROESE

Expert of Monitoring, Control and
Surveillance
Freelance Consultant





2.5 UNFAO - CAMBODIA'S FISHERIES - CHALLENGES AND FUTURE ADAPTATIONS

The **Cambodia's Fisheries: Challenges and Future Adaptations** session, hosted by the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO), explored the current state of Cambodia's fisheries sector and the key strategies needed to address the impact of climate change.

The session highlighted the restoration of fisheries habitats, sustainable aquaculture practices, gender equality in the fisheries value chain, and the importance of fisheries Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance (MCS). The discussion also focused on increasing the value of the marine catch, a vital component of Cambodia's food security and economic resilience.

The session featured **Supin Wongbusarakum**, Fisheries Officer at the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO); **Kaing Khim**, Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries; **Thay Somony**, Director of the Department of Aquaculture Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries; and **Marcel Kroese**, an expert in Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance.

Supin Wongbusarakum, a Fisheries Officer at UNFAO, led the session and began by acknowledging the immense challenges climate change poses to Cambodia's fisheries. "The unpredictable climate has had a huge impact on the sector," she said.

Wongbusarakum added that Cambodia is working on nature-based solutions—such as restoring mangroves, trees, and swamps—to mitigate these effects. However, illegal fishing remains a significant threat to the country's aquatic resources, adding further strain to the fisheries ecosystem.

Kaing Khim, Deputy Director General at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, provided further insight into the challenges faced around Tonle Sap Lake, one of Cambodia's most critical fisheries areas.

"Dry areas surrounding the Tonle Sap Lake experience fires during the dry season, making it harder for people to farm and fish," she explained. Khim pointed out that Cambodia's weather patterns have become increasingly unpredictable, which exacerbates the problem.

"To overcome this crisis, we must prepare in advance," she added,, acknowledging that while it may not be possible to completely overcome the challenges, there is a need to monitor vast areas of fisheries habitats.

Khim also touched on the importance of addressing the root causes of climate change before implementing large-scale solutions. She highlighted the government's commitment to collaborating with partners by 2030 to initiate climate action activities.

Additionally, Khim emphasized the need for gender equality in the fisheries sector, advocating for the involvement of both men and women in making changes and enhancing the industry's resilience.





2.5 UNFAO - CAMBODIA'S FISHERIES - CHALLENGES AND FUTURE ADAPTATIONS

Thay Somony, Director of the Department of Aquaculture Development at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, focused on the critical issue of food security. “We are facing a shortage of fish for consumption in Cambodia,” Somony said, noting that droughts, like the one experienced last year, have significantly affected the fisheries sector.

He acknowledged that Cambodia traditionally focuses more on rice production than on fisheries but stressed the need to integrate and balance the two sectors. “There is a lot of room to address climate action problems, and we need to strike a balance between rice cultivation and fisheries,” Somony added.

Marcel Kroese, an expert in Monitoring, Control, and Surveillance, spoke about the technological advancements needed to combat illegal fishing in Cambodia.

“Improving technologies to track illegal fishing activities is essential,” Kroese said, pointing out that both inland and marine fisheries are vital contributors to Cambodia’s economy and ecosystem.

He praised Cambodia for its rapid progress in improving fisheries management plans but also emphasized the need for precise funding allocation in developing countries to ensure that resources are used effectively. “Cambodia is moving very fast,” he remarked, signaling optimism for the country’s future in fisheries management.

The session ended with a clear consensus: while Cambodia’s fisheries sector faces significant challenges from climate change, there is strong potential for improvement through better management, technological advancements, and gender-inclusive approaches.

With collaborative efforts and long-term planning, Cambodia can work toward a more sustainable future for its fisheries, ensuring both food security and environmental preservation.





2.6 PROMOTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY & CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

BY OXFAM



Ms. Sophoan PHEAN

National Director
Oxfam in Cambodia



Mrs. Thida KHEAV

Director
SOGE



Mrs. Rasmey LUY

Executive Director
Culture and Environmental
Preservation Association



Mr. Sopheak SOM

Executive Director
Action For Development





2.6 OXFAM - PROMOTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY & CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

The session on Promoting Community Resilience through Renewable Energy & Climate-Smart Agriculture, hosted by Oxfam, focused on how community-driven renewable energy and climate-smart agricultural practices can strengthen resilience to climate change across Cambodia. The discussion emphasized Oxfam's initiatives aimed at enhancing rural livelihoods and the critical importance of expanding Community Carbon Financing (CGF Fund) to offset the community-based renewable energy initiatives and incentivize the communities for their efforts in forests and the environment protection.

The session was moderated by Oxfam in Cambodia National Director. Key speakers included Mrs. **Kheav Thida**, Director at SOGE, **Mrs. Luy Rasmey**, Executive Director of the Culture and Environmental Preservation Association, and **Mr. Som Sopheak**, Executive Director at Action for Development.

Luy Rasmey, with over 20 years of experience in Cambodia, discussed how her organization has contributed to promoting eco-friendly practices in both ecotourism and agriculture.

"For instance, we helped set up solar power in isolated communities, such as those on remote islands with great potential for ecotourism but limited power sources."

"By equipping communities with the knowledge and tools to harness solar energy, these areas have experienced higher tourist numbers and longer stays, benefiting local economies and supporting ecotourism development," she added.

Rasmey also highlighted work in Ratanakiri Province, where Oxfam partnered with Live and Learn Cambodia to support nine communities to provide solar equipment for mini-grid and water supply system. Initially, the farmers were reluctant to adopt the system, citing issues with its maintenance and operation.

To address this, they trained maintenance teams within the communities to ensure the solar systems were properly maintained and optimized.

"Now, with solar-aided production, costs are lower, and farmers are seeing higher profits from their harvests," she said. Additionally, Rasmey emphasized the importance of training women in renewable energy adoption, creating women-led working groups that have pioneered sustainable energy practices in their communities.

Mr. Som Sopheak spoke about the key challenges faced by communities in forest protection while they have limited budgets for patrolling and forest resource management. Drawing from his experience with community forestry and community protected areas. Som explained that communities should receive incentive for their efforts in forest or natural resources protection. Community carbon financing should be one of the mechanisms to sustain natural resource, especially forest and community led renewable energy initiatives that would contribute to mitigate climate change impacts. "Communities need to know how to measure carbon stock in the forest they are protecting so they can show both the public and the government about their efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emission," Som said.





2.6 OXFAM - PROMOTING COMMUNITY RESILIENCE THROUGH RENEWABLE ENERGY & CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

He noted that this understanding also opens up opportunities for communities to sell carbon credits, access community carbon financing, and further their sustainable development efforts. His AFD in partnership with Oxfam and the Ministry of Environment developed an online system where communities can record their carbon emissions, which is helping them gain insights into their environmental impact and use that data to enhance forest and environmental protection.

In response to a question about how renewable energy reduces costs, **Kheav Thida** shared her experience working with 1,500 families who irrigate 3,000 hectares of farmland.

“Farmers were constantly spending money on fixing older petrol-powered generators,” she said. “Since switching to renewable energy, they’ve had far fewer issues with breakdowns, and running costs are drastically lower.”

Rasmeay also explained that once farmers see renewable energy working well, they are more inclined to adopt it themselves. Her organization supports this by offering a five-year warranty on solar products, ensuring ongoing technical support, and helping build trust. “This sustainable business model not only keeps farmers confident in our products but also ensures long-term benefits for their irrigation activities,” she added.

The panelists agreed that increased access to green finance and loans is essential to drive the adoption of renewable energy and climate-smart technologies. **Luy Rasmeay** noted that while her organization has the technical expertise and strong community ties, it requires more investment to scale their efforts.

Kheav Thida and Rasmeay called on signatories of the Paris Agreement to support community-led projects through increasing access of green climate fund to climate affected communities, while **Som Sopheak** urged the Cambodian government to introduce policies that encourage the community’s collection of carbon data within communities for carbon credit scheme. This, he argued, would help empower communities to make data-driven decisions and build climate resilience.

The session underscored the pivotal role renewable energy, forest carbon stock measurement and climate-smart agriculture can play in enhancing Cambodia’s resilience to climate change and demonstrated the need for continued support from both the private sector and government to enable sustainable transformation.





2.7 TRANSFORMATIONAL CLIMATE POSITIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA

BY USAID CONSERVE



Mr. Matthew Edwardsen

Chief of Party
USAID Conserve



H.E. Sereyrotha KEN

Director General of the General
Directorate of Local Community
Ministry of Environment



Mr. Colin Moore

Regional Carbon Advisor
Wildlife Conservation Society



Mr. Mark Selby

Director, Head of Climate Finance
Mekong Strategic Capital



Mr. Eugene Kraamwinkel

Chief Executive Officer
Phu Rieng Kratie Aphivath
Caoutchouc Co., Ltd





2.7 USAID CONSERVE - TRANSFORMATIONAL CLIMATE POSITIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA

The **Climate Positive Forestry Investments** session, hosted by USAID CONSERVE, brought together key stakeholders to discuss how Cambodia can leverage climate-positive investments to achieve carbon-neutral economic growth by 2050.

The session explored the potential for nature-based solutions to play a pivotal role in sustainable forestry development, carbon financing, deforestation-free value chains, and rural employment. Panelists from the government, development partners, and the private sector shared insights on how collaborative efforts can foster transformational climate action in the forestry sector.

The panel featured **Matthew Edwardson**, Chief of Party at USAID CONSERVE, **H.E. Ken Sereyrotha**, Director General of the General Directorate of Local Community at the Ministry of Environment, **Colin Moore**, Regional Carbon Advisor at Wildlife Conservation Society, **Mark Selby**, Director of Climate Finance at Mekong Strategic Capital, and **Eugene Kraamwinkel**, Chief Executive Officer of Phu Rieng Kratie Aphivath Caoutchouc Co., Ltd.

Matthew Edwardson opened the discussion by emphasizing the need for Cambodia to use its land more efficiently to achieve its net-zero economic goals.

“There is a need to attract more investors as climate-positive investments in Cambodia’s forestry sector as it holds immense potential for both economic growth and environmental sustainability.”

H.E. Ken Sereyrotha provided an in-depth look at the importance of local communities in driving sustainable forestry initiatives.

He said that the term “communities” encompasses a wide range of stakeholders working across Cambodia’s 193 protected areas, spread over 15 communes.

“Knowing the meaning behind the word community might help us find the best key to unlock forestry investment,” he said. H.E. Sereyrotha stressed that fostering a carbon-neutral mindset among communities is crucial, with a focus on transparency, job creation, and sustainability.

He also highlighted the government’s commitment to organizing climate-related events to attract investors and announced a new policy (2024-2028) aimed at enhancing community-based forestry programs. “The forestry sector is one of the most efficient measures in fighting against climate change,” he added, noting that planting tree events not only bring people together but also play a key role in monitoring forest growth and sustainability.





2.7 USAID CONSERVE - TRANSFORMATIONAL CLIMATE POSITIVE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN CAMBODIA

Colin Moore from the Wildlife Conservation Society reflected on the scale of investment projects in Cambodia's forestry sector, emphasizing the need for long-term pathways to ensure the sustainability of the market. He shared examples of previous projects and stressed the importance of aligning investment size with the scope of the project. "We've come across a lot of projects, ranging from smaller \$1-2 million investments to larger initiatives, but we need a long-term vision for Cambodia to ensure the forestry market remains strong," he said.

Mark Selby, Director of Climate Finance at Mekong Strategic Capital, further discussed the role of financing in driving climate-positive forestry investments, underscoring the importance of creating a supportive environment for private sector participation. He emphasized that for Cambodia to reach its net-zero goals, it must focus on innovative financing mechanisms and policies that encourage sustainable forestry practices.

Eugene Kraamwinkel, CEO of Phu Rieng Kratie Aphivath Caoutchouc Co., Ltd, highlighted the critical need for proper land registration and conservation to ensure the success of forestry investments.

He spoke about the importance of establishing buffer zones for wildlife and maintaining biodiversity. Kraamwinkel pointed to the objectives of REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation), which focuses on sustainable forest management, reducing deforestation, and enhancing carbon stocks. "Conservation and the enhancement of forests are essential for long-term sustainability," he said.

The session finished with the agreement among the panelists that collaboration between the government, development partners, and the private sector is key to scaling up climate-positive forestry investments in Cambodia.

They agreed that by securing land tenure, enhancing community participation, and promoting deforestation-free value chains, Cambodia can work towards achieving its carbon-neutral targets while fostering rural employment and sustainable economic growth.





2.8 TOWARDS A GREEN AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

BY UNITED NATIONS
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME



Mr. Shakeel Ahmad

Deputy Resident Representative
United Nations Development
Programme



Mr. Eang Taing MENG

Director of the Department of Green Economy
Ministry of Environment



Ms. Sokrina SAN

Manager of Product Development
and Cooperation
Credit Guarantee Corporation of
Cambodia (CGCC)



Mr. Dina CHHORN

Centre Director of Development
Economics and Trade
Cambodia Development Resource
Institute (CDRI)





2.8 UNDP - TOWARDS A GREEN AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

The Towards a Green and Inclusive Economy session, hosted by UNDP, focused on Cambodia's roadmap to achieving upper-middle-income status by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050. The panel discussed how decarbonization, clean energy transitions, and circular economy principles can contribute to sustainable development while promoting inclusive growth.

Moderated by **Shakeel Ahmad**, Deputy Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme, the session featured insights from **Meng Eang TAING**, Director of the Department of Green Economy at the Ministry of Environment, **Sokrina San**, Manager of Product Development and Cooperation at the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia, and **Chhorn Dina**, Centre Director of Development Economics and Trade at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI).

Shakeel Ahmad opened the session by asking how each organization has been involved in promoting Cambodia's green and inclusive economy.

Meng Eang TAING began by highlighting the Ministry of Environment's efforts to engage the public in environmental initiatives, including tree planting. "The ministry has provided the opportunity for the public to participate in tree plantations free of charge, allowing people to take ownership of environmental change," he explained. He also stressed the importance of cross-sector collaborations between the government, NGOs, and the private sector, including partnerships with UNDP, in making Cambodia more carbon-conscious. "We want to make Cambodia more aware of carbon and sustainability," Meng added, emphasizing the government's focus on job creation, transparency, and sustainable development.

Sokrina San spoke about the role of the Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia (CGCC) in providing green financing solutions.

"We provide credit guarantees to over 2,000 businesses, enabling more investments with a positive environmental impact," she said, explaining that CGCC is developing a green financing facility in partnership with institutions like UNDP, aimed at supporting businesses that invest in environmentally friendly projects.

She highlighted the growing trend of green investment globally, which Cambodia is embracing through various government-approved projects related to energy, worth over \$5 million just in the past month. "We also have capacity-building programs to help Cambodia compete, understand, and attract green finance," she added.

Chhorn Dina from CDRI focused on the importance of inclusive growth and the role of policy-relevant research in achieving sustainable development. "Inclusive growth is key," he said, explaining that CDRI's research spans agriculture, rural development, natural resources, and trade, all essential for Cambodia's sustainable future.





2.8 UNDP - TOWARDS A GREEN AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY

Chhorn noted that while energy investments are on the rise, sectors like the garment industry remain significant employers, highlighting the need for training and capacity-building in the energy sector to balance economic growth. "We see huge potential in solar and wind energy in Cambodia," he remarked, outlining energy as one of the four main focuses for Cambodia's future development.

Ahmad then turned the discussion to the challenges of building a green and inclusive economy.

Meng Eang TAING acknowledged the need for technical working groups and frameworks to address challenges such as circular economy implementation.

"We've had to do an in-depth analysis of how these systems work and identify opportunities," Meng explained. He also highlighted the need for further capacity building to drive greener growth, noting that policy development alone is not enough without continued investment in skills and resources.

Sokrina San praised the Cambodian government's role in developing policies that encourage green investment, such as the sustainable finance strategy, which has instilled confidence in private sector green initiatives.

She also emphasized the importance of greater collaboration between the public and private sectors to leverage each other's strengths. "We would like to see more discussions between the sectors to create even more opportunities for green investments," she said.

When asked whether Cambodia has sufficient investment to meet its green economy goals, **Chhorn Dina** responded that while there has been progress, more investment is needed across the board, particularly in infrastructure, green jobs, and capacity building. "Policymakers need to identify the gaps, like in solar energy. We're committed not to build more hydropower, so we need to explore other resources," Chhorn explained.

Ahmad concluded the session by calling for better coordination among stakeholders to address these challenges. "The private sector creates jobs, and how we leverage their potential is key to Cambodia's achievements in building a green and inclusive economy," he said.





2.9 ESG AS A NEW BUSINESS IMPERATIVE

BY CAPRED



Mr. Samuel Schleipman

Responsible Business Hub
Coordinator
EuroCham



Ms. Demi Tran

Sustainability Manager
Bureau Veritas Consumer Products
Services for Southeast Asia



Ms. Ratana PICH

Renewable Energy Manager
CAPRED



Mr. Kunthy KANN

Chief Operating Officer
Amru Rice (Cambodia) Co., Ltd





2.9 CAPRED – ESG AS A NEW BUSINESS IMPERATIVE

The “ESG as a New Business Imperative” session, hosted by CAPRED, spotlighted the rising importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles in Cambodia's business landscape, with a particular focus on the agri-food sector. Panelists explored how ESG concepts are transforming businesses and emphasized the collaborative efforts needed between stakeholders to drive sustainability across industries.

Moderated by **Samuel Schleipman**, Responsible Business Hub Coordinator at EuroCham, the session featured key insights from **Demi Tran**, Sustainability Manager at Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services for Southeast Asia, **Ratana Pich**, Renewable Energy Manager at CAPRED, and **Kunthy Kann**, Chief Operating Officer at Amru Rice (Cambodia) Co., Ltd.

Samuel Schleipman opened the session by asking the panelists what ESG means to them.

Understanding ESG

The panelists emphasized that ESG is not merely a compliance exercise but a strategic imperative. They defined ESG as a set of guiding principles that promote responsible business practices, encompassing environmental stewardship, social responsibility, and good governance.

While ESG is a global concept, its application in Cambodia is relatively new, offering opportunities for the country to leapfrog in sustainable development.

Navigating Challenges

Though ESG offers numerous benefits, its adoption in Cambodia faces several challenges. Financial constraints, a lack of awareness and understanding, and the complexity of implementing ESG practices, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, are significant hurdles.

Leveraging ESG for Competitive Advantage

Despite the challenges, the panelists emphasized the significant benefits of ESG for Cambodian businesses. The panelists underscored that strong ESG performance not only enhances a company's reputation but also attracts customers and builds trust with stakeholders. For example, ESG-focused investors are actively seeking companies with robust sustainability practices, opening new investment opportunities. By proactively addressing ESG risks, businesses can mitigate potential financial and reputational damage. As global markets increasingly demand suppliers to meet specific ESG standards, compliance with these requirements becomes crucial for Cambodian exporters. Additionally, implementing sustainable practices can lead to cost savings, increased productivity, and improved resource efficiency, ultimately driving operational excellence.

The session highlighted that while ESG adoption in Cambodia presents significant financial and infrastructural challenges, it also offers a valuable opportunity for businesses to improve their competitiveness, access global markets, and drive sustainable growth. The panelists stressed the importance of collaboration between the public and private sectors, as well as the need for targeted capacity-building initiatives and supportive policies. They agreed that, with the right investment and strategic effort, ESG can become a transformative tool for Cambodia's business landscape, enabling the country to meet international standards and contribute meaningfully to a greener, more inclusive economy.





2.10 BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

BY USAID CIVIL SOCIETY



Ms. Chhuonvuoch KOEM

Program Coordinator
Open Development Cambodia



Dr. Pichdara LONN

Executive Director
My Village Cambodia



Mr. Sokha THOT

Bunong representative
Andong Kralong village
Keo Seima Mondolkiri



Mr. Vansey SAO

Executive Director
Indigenous Community Support
Organization



Mr. Hoklek LOUN

Kui Indigenous
Indigenous Legal Team





2.10 USAID CIVIL SOCIETY - BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

The **Building Climate Resilience with Indigenous Communities** session, hosted by USAID Civil Society, explored how Indigenous communities in Cambodia can play a pivotal role in promoting sustainable land use, forest conservation, and climate resilience. The panelists discussed the importance of securing land tenure for Indigenous groups, the challenges they face in registering collective land ownership, and how their traditional agricultural practices contribute to environmental preservation and carbon neutrality by 2050.

Koem Chhuonvuoch, Program Coordinator at Open Development Cambodia, moderated the session, which featured contributions from **Dr. Lonn Pichdara**, Executive Director of My Village Cambodia, **Vansey Sao**, Executive Director of the Indigenous Community Support Organization, **Sokha Thot**, a Bunong representative from Andong Kralong village in Mondulkiri, and **Loun Hoklek**, a representative of the Kui Indigenous Legal Team.

Koem Chhuonvuoch opened the discussion by highlighting the vital role that Indigenous communities play in climate resilience through their agricultural lifestyle. She posed key questions about the challenges they face, particularly when it comes to obtaining legal recognition and land rights.

Dr. Lonn Pichdara emphasized the significance of collective land ownership for Indigenous people, stating that in areas where Indigenous groups have control over their land, deforestation rates are notably lower.

“Giving Indigenous people the authority to conserve their land is more effective than letting corporate entities manage it,” he said. He noted that Indigenous practices, such as rotational cropping, help preserve the land for future generations and avoid the use of harmful chemicals.

In reflection, he also acknowledged the complexities of securing collective land ownership, which requires Indigenous communities to identify and register their members, demarcate their land, and navigate a lengthy and bureaucratic approval process.

Vansey Sao discussed the cultural and linguistic differences between Indigenous groups and the broader Cambodian population, which often complicate communication and integration.

He said that Indigenous communities are deeply connected to their traditions and the natural environment. Cambodia, as a UN member state, has recognized 194 Indigenous groups, with 173 having registered for collective land ownership. “One community consumes approximately 1,000 hectares,” he noted, emphasizing the crucial role Indigenous people play in conserving biodiversity and natural resources.

Sokha Thot, representing the Bunong community, explained the challenges Indigenous groups face even after securing collective land ownership. “Having collective land ownership still cannot prevent interference from those in higher positions,” he said, highlighting the ongoing struggles Indigenous people face in protecting their land from external pressures.





2.10 USAID CIVIL SOCIETY - BUILDING CLIMATE RESILIENCE WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

Loun Hoklek added that Indigenous agricultural practices, often referred to as circle agriculture, are sometimes mistakenly accused of harming the ecosystem. In reality, these methods are designed to sustain the land by using what is already available and minimizing destruction.

“Indigenous people have a unique way of planting crops, and their practices are aligned with environmental preservation,” he said. Hoklek also addressed the significant challenges Indigenous groups face in registering their land, noting that the lengthy bureaucratic process often discourages communities from pursuing legal ownership.

He further pointed out that while there are many groups controlling lands near Indigenous territories, few Indigenous people are involved in those projects, creating a disconnect between land control and Indigenous participation.

The panelists agreed that securing land tenure for Indigenous communities is critical not only for their own livelihoods but also for Cambodia’s broader efforts to combat climate change and protect biodiversity. They called for greater collaboration from local authorities and more streamlined processes to ensure that Indigenous people can register and protect their lands efficiently.

The session underscored the importance of recognizing Indigenous knowledge and practices as key components of climate resilience.

Panelists agreed that by empowering Indigenous communities through legal land ownership and supporting their sustainable agricultural practices, Cambodia can advance its goals of achieving carbon neutrality and promoting inclusive, sustainable development.



2.11 WOMEN-LED NETWORK FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND THE APPROACH OF ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA)

BY ACTIONAID & CHURCH WORLD SERVICE



Mrs. Samposh OEUN

Senior Program Officer for Disaster risk Reduction and Climate Change
ActionAid International Cambodia



Mrs. Kanha CHAN

Women Champion Leader
Kampot Province



Ms. Kimcheng CHAN

Women Champion Leader
Koh Kong Province



Mr. Sareth HENG

CWS Program Manager
Church World Service





2.11 ACTIONAID & CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - WOMEN-LED NETWORK FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND THE APPROACH OF ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA)

The **Women-Led Network for Climate Resilience and EBA** session, hosted by ActionAid, spotlighted the critical role women play in leading climate change initiatives in Cambodia's coastal areas.

The session showcased best practices in women's leadership and the successful implementation of Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA) strategies, focusing on the tangible outcomes achieved in local communities, particularly in Stung Prey Prose, Kampong Thom Province.

The panel included **Oeun Samposh**, Senior Programme Officer at ActionAid International Cambodia, **Chan Kanha**, Women Champion Leader from Kampot Province, **Chan Kimcheng**, Women Champion Leader from Koh Kong Province, and **Heng Sareth**, CWS Program Manager at Church World Service. Together, they discussed the vital contributions of women to building climate resilience and how EBA strategies have been implemented within local communities.

Oeun Samposh opened the discussion by asking the panelists what motivated them to volunteer for climate change initiatives.

Chan Kanha shared her experience from 2016 when a project was initiated to build resilience against natural disasters in her area. She worked with development partners on capacity building and disaster response planning. During this time, she realized that women's perspectives were often overlooked, especially when it came to accessing critical services during floods.

"Women in my village couldn't reach hospitals because the roads were impassable, and they had children or were pregnant. This lack of access cost many lives," she explained. Her involvement in the project opened her eyes to the need for women to have a voice in disaster response and planning, both in addressing the causes of disasters and in improving community response.

Next, **Ms. Chan Kimcheng** elaborated on the unique perspectives women bring to climate resilience efforts. She highlighted that women's roles in their communities, especially widows or single mothers, require special attention.

"Women are some of the hardest hit by climate change and disasters. It's crucial to reach out personally, understand their specific situations, and develop action plans that address their unique needs," she said. Kimcheng emphasized that by having women speak directly with other women about the challenges they face, they can better relay this information to development partners, ensuring that no one is left behind in climate adaptation efforts.

Samposh agreed, noting that when women are involved in the planning process, development partners gain a more holistic understanding of community needs, ultimately leading to greater resilience for all.





2.11 ACTIONAID & CHURCH WORLD SERVICE - WOMEN-LED NETWORK FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE AND THE APPROACH OF ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EBA)

When asked about the concept of **Ecosystem-Based Adaptation (EBA)**, **Heng Sareth** explained that EBA is a holistic approach that involves sustainable management of ecosystems such as forests, grasslands, and wetlands to enhance resilience and reduce vulnerability to climate change.

He shared that his organization focuses on water management, specifically storage and flow assessments, to mitigate the risks of natural disasters.

“We gather local knowledge and assess areas that hold water—such as basins and rivers—working closely with communities to understand their vulnerabilities and how we can best help them reduce disaster risks,” Sareth explained. His work emphasizes collaboration with communities to identify their needs and help them adapt to and manage the impacts of climate change.

In closing, **Chan Kimcheng** reminded the audience that while women play a vital role in these efforts, success depends on collective approaches and support networks. “It doesn’t matter how strong we are as women, we need support networks and collective approaches in order to make our communities more resilient,” she said, underscoring the importance of solidarity in building climate resilience.

The session underscored the importance of women’s leadership in climate change adaptation, particularly in coastal and rural areas of Cambodia. It also emphasized the success of EBA strategies, which blend local knowledge with sustainable practices to protect ecosystems and enhance community resilience to climate change.



**2.12 REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: A VITAL
STRATEGY AND KEY SOLUTION FOR MITIGATING
CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENHANCING FARMERS'
RESILIENCE**

BY IDE CAMBODIA



Dr. Kim Hian SENG

Agriculture Director
iDE Cambodia



H.E. Dr. Saruth CHAN

Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and
Fisheries



Mr. Dilum Wijenayaka

General Manager
Control Union Cambodia



Dr. Proyuth LY

Assistant FAO Representative
UNFAO





2.12 IDE CAMBODIA - REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: A VITAL STRATEGY AND KEY SOLUTION FOR MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENHANCING FARMERS' RESILIENCE

The Regenerative Agriculture for Mitigating Climate Change session, hosted by iDE, explored how sustainable farming practices can enhance Cambodia's resilience to climate change. The panel delved into topics such as crop rotation, agroforestry, and the integration of livestock into regenerative agriculture systems.

Panelists discussed the challenges Cambodian farmers face in adopting these methods and the need for stronger support from policymakers and development partners to scale up regenerative agriculture solutions.

The session featured **Dr. Seng Kim Hian**, Agriculture Director at iDE Cambodia; **H.E. Dr. Saruth Chan**, Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries; **Dilum Wijenayaka**, General Manager of Control Union Cambodia; and **Dr. Ly Prayuth**, Assistant FAO Representative for the UN FAO.

Dr. Seng Kim Hian opened the session by providing an overview of the current state of regenerative agriculture in the country. She highlighted how the integration of livestock into regenerative practices could increase productivity and sustainability, but acknowledged that this approach is still in its early stages in Cambodia.

H.E. Dr. Saruth Chan addressed the socioeconomic difficulties Cambodian farmers have experienced in recent years, exacerbated by climate change. He shared that the Ministry has formed a platform to bring together NGOs, the private sector, researchers, and development organizations to drive the adoption of regenerative agriculture. "This platform is where the change starts," he said, underscoring the collaborative effort needed to transform agriculture in Cambodia.

Dr. Saruth pointed out the challenges that persist at the ground level, particularly for smallholder farmers who struggle to adopt these practices due to limited resources and knowledge.

As part of the Ministry's long-term recommendations, he noted that by 2026, there will be increased support for research in regenerative agriculture, including efforts to integrate animals into farming systems. He also announced a site visit to Battambang in December to evaluate the progress of animal integration in regenerative agriculture projects.

Dilum Wijenayaka, General Manager of Control Union Cambodia, highlighted the growing global demand for sustainably produced food.

He made the point that increased financial incentives would encourage Cambodian farmers to adopt regenerative practices, as they would be more motivated to increase their crop yields while maintaining environmental standards. **Wijenayaka** mentioned that educational programs and digital platforms can play a critical role in providing farmers with the knowledge they need to enhance their understanding and implementation of regenerative agriculture.





2.12 IDE CAMBODIA - REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE: A VITAL STRATEGY AND KEY SOLUTION FOR MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENHANCING FARMERS' RESILIENCE

Dr. Ly Prayuth discussed the importance of Cambodia's alignment with the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." He emphasized that FAO is committed to continuing its programs supporting regenerative agriculture and will provide certification for farmers who adopt these sustainable practices. He also acknowledged that initial investment remains a significant challenge, both for smallholder farmers and for the broader scaling of these programs.

The session ended with a call for greater collaboration between government bodies, international organizations, and the private sector to overcome these challenges and provide the necessary financial, technical, and educational support.

The panelists agreed that by scaling up regenerative agriculture, Cambodia can mitigate the impacts of climate change on its farming communities, improve food security, and contribute to global sustainability goals.





2.13 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

BY YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE ACTION & UNICEF



Mr. Pongsan HOUN

Partnership Lead
Youth Council for Climate Action



Ms. Petra Pontier

Policy Officer
(Environment and Climate Change) UNDP
Cambodia





2.13 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & UNICEF - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

The Youth Engagement in Climate Action session, hosted by the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA) in Partnership with UNICEF, focused on the critical role of youth in driving climate action in Cambodia. The session highlighted various initiatives aimed at raising climate awareness among young people, involving them in climate negotiations, and equipping them with skills to address climate challenges.

Moderated by **Pengsan Huon**, the session featured contributions from **Sohyun Kim**, Climate and Environment Specialist at UNICEF, and other key speakers who shared their experiences and insights on empowering youth for climate action.

Sohyun Kim opened the session by discussing UNICEF's climate strategy for 2024-2028, which integrates climate action into areas such as health, nutrition, education, WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene), and child protection. She highlighted UNICEF's flagship Local Life Skills Education (LLSE) initiative, where students learn critical life skills, including climate education. Kim also discussed the Youth Solar Initiative (YOSO), launched in March 2023 in Siem Reap.

The pilot program, involving 30 students—75% of them girls—focused on climate education, sustainability, and renewable energy, preparing students for future green jobs. The program included visits to a research center at Kulen Mountain, where students learned about solar panel installations.

"If you have a basic understanding of climate education, you can definitely train students to be part of the solution," Kim remarked, highlighting the importance of climate literacy.

"By November 2024, the project will scale up to 34 schools, reaching 500 students and equipping them with skills in solar panel installation. Additionally, UNICEF will support the Local Conference of Youth (LCOY) in Cambodia and send youth delegates to regional and global climate events, including COP."

Sovichea, a communication professional from USAID (Niron), emphasized the role of youth in behavioral change and climate awareness, focusing on actions such as reducing meat consumption and eliminating plastic use.

"It's important to instill actions in young people and guide them through research, funding opportunities, and dialogue," he said, noting that youth participation in climate discussions fosters long-term engagement.

Rotha Sophary, who works on an environmental project at Pour un Sourire d'Enfant (PSE), shared insights into raising eco-awareness and creating eco-friendly spaces in schools.

"With over 2,500 youth engaged annually, PSE focuses on environmental training, food quality, waste management, and hands-on experiences like gardening on Environment Day."

"We provide opportunities for students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it to real-world environmental activities," she explained.





2.13 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & UNICEF - YOUTH ENGAGEMENT IN CLIMATE ACTION

Pengsan Huon spoke about the importance of individual, collective, and systematic actions in climate efforts. "Individual commitment, like trash picking or tree planting, leads to larger collective actions when supported by the right guidance and infrastructure," he said.

Petra, a representative involved in organizing LCOY, emphasized that the conference is endorsed by YOUNGO, the official youth constituency at UNFCCC, and that it serves as a platform for youth voices to be heard by government and international representatives.

"UNDP has played a pivotal role in guiding these initiatives, ensuring that collective youth voices are part of Cambodia's climate agenda."

She explained how UNDP focuses on three pillars: civic engagement spaces, skill development, and gender equality.

UNDP also supports regional initiatives like **MOVERS**, a volunteer program that educates youth on climate awareness, offering self-paced learning modules that range from basic climate concepts to more advanced topics like climate negotiations. "The program is free and accessible to all youth, and we also offer innovative grants to support youth-driven climate projects," Petra added.

Lyhong, a researcher at the Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI), and **Somang Monineath**, a Youth Representative from Plan International Cambodia, shared their experiences working with youth groups in initiatives like tree planting and recycling campaigns. They highlighted the importance of grassroots efforts, with youth organizing campaigns and raising awareness among local communities, particularly in provinces like Battambang and Kampong Thom.

Chum Kesa Opeha, a Women Champion of the Community across four provinces (Kampot, Pursat, Koh Kong, and Kampong Thom), discussed her work as a volunteer, connecting communities to early warning systems like the 1294 hotline. Despite not being a paid position, she remains passionate about climate advocacy, emphasizing the role of women in community leadership and volunteerism.

In closing, all speakers encouraged youth to continue advocating for climate action, leveraging their unique perspectives, and making tangible contributions to climate resilience.

The session underscored the power of youth engagement in shaping a sustainable future for Cambodia, as they take on leadership roles in education, community action, and policy dialogue.





2.14 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YOUTH-LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE ACTION & PLAN INTERNATIONAL



Mr. Pongsan HOUN

Partnership Lead
Youth Council for Climate Action



Ms. Sreynich ROS

Youth Leader
Plan International





2.14 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & PLAN INTERNATIONAL - YOUTH-LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The **Youth-led Climate Solutions for Resilient Communities** session, hosted by the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA) in collaboration with Plan International, focused on youth engagement in climate action and disaster risk management.

The session highlighted innovative approaches to climate resilience, including youth-led research, safe school programs, waste management solutions, and local planning for climate adaptation. Moderated by **Pengsan Huon**, and co-moderator by Ros Sreynich, the panel featured youth leaders and experts who emphasized the role of young people in driving community-based climate initiatives.

The session began with Ms. Gwynneth Wong, Country Director of Plan International Cambodia, giving opening remarks. She emphasized the importance of collaborating with organizations such as Child Fund, Child Rights Foundation, WE Lab, and World Vision to host this discussion and empower youth to take climate action. .

The representative expressed enthusiasm for seeing young people actively involved in discussions and implementation of climate solutions. The focus of the session was outlined in four key areas: youth-led action research, safe school programs, waste management innovations, and local planning for disaster resilience.

Chhorn Narin, Research Lead for Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management at Banteay Meanchey and Kampong Thom Province, shared insights from their research on climate change challenges and solutions. Their study examined the impact of climate change on different populations, highlighting that 75% of women faced significant challenges due to climate change. Narin emphasized that climate change affects women differently, particularly in terms of physical and mental health, mobility, and access to resources like water and sanitation. The research called for increased investment in early warning systems to improve disaster preparedness and response.

The Safe School Program was another project discussed, which focusing on ensuring that schools are resilient to climate change and disasters. **Mrs Hem Sothea**, a School director, Experiences of Safe School Program Implementation, outlined the program's three pillars: safe learning facility, improve school disaster management, risk reduction and resilience education.

The initiative includes building clean water systems for students, waste separation and management, and creating school gardens that are adapted to local weather patterns. The program also establishes disaster risk management committees involving students, teachers, and school councils to enhance preparedness through early warning systems, search and rescue teams, and first aid training.





2.14 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & PLAN INTERNATIONAL - YOUTH-LED CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The program has successfully integrated disaster risk management and resilience lessons into the national curriculum for grades 3 to 6. For success, three key factors are essential: a) the active involvement of school teachers and committee members, b) the participation and support of the community, and c) the engagement of students. Together, these elements create a collaborative environment where all stakeholders contribute to achieving shared goals, ensuring a more sustainable and impactful outcome. Sothea discussed some of the challenges faced, particularly with involving kindergarten-aged children and securing consistent donor funding. Despite these hurdles, the Safe School Program has been implemented since 2021 with a focus on creating a safe and resilient learning environment for all students.

Chea Sothea, from the WeLab at ClimateGen, presented on waste management innovations. She shared her engineering background and how she translates technical knowledge into practical solutions for waste management.

Sothea highlighted the role of plastics in modern life, acknowledging their benefits, especially in the medical field, but also addressing the growing problem of plastic waste.

Her team's work focuses on creating waste traps to capture and contain plastic waste in waterways, preventing it from breaking down into microplastics. "1 m³ of water contains around 171 mg of microplastic," she explained, underlining the urgency of developing solutions to manage waste at the local level. Her work aims to scale up waste management solutions, though success often depends on the specific location of waste traps.

Neat Sreynich, a youth group leader from Child Fund, also explored local planning for climate adaptation and resilience, with discussions on risk mapping, village consultations, and group-based needs assessments, particularly for vulnerable populations such as the elderly, children, and people with disabilities.

The panelists agreed on the importance of involving local communities in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) planning to ensure that solutions are tailored to their specific needs.

Ultimately, the YCCA x Plan International session underscored the critical role of youth in leading climate initiatives and implementing practical, community-based solutions for disaster resilience. Through collaborative efforts in education, research, and innovation, young leaders are actively contributing to building a more climate-resilient Cambodia.

The speakers highlighted the need for continued support from policymakers, development partners, and local communities to scale up these efforts and create lasting change.

The roundtable discussion concluded with a powerful and united call to action, titled "Protecting Our Future from the Climate Crisis": "As Cambodia's youth, we urgently demand bold climate action to secure our future. The climate crisis threatens our lives, health, and education. We call for immediate emissions cuts, increased adaptation funding, and strong protections for vulnerable communities. Act now—our voices and futures cannot wait. The time is now!"





2.15 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - ADVOCATING FOR ENHANCED COMMUNITY FOREST PROTECTION AND CLIMATE FINANCE

BY YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE
ACTION & OXFAM



Mr. Pongsan HOUN

Partnership Lead
Youth Council for Climate Action



Mr. Ritthy OU

Policy Advisor
Oxfam in Cambodia





2.15 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & OXFAM - ADVOCATING FOR ENHANCED COMMUNITY FOREST PROTECTION AND CLIMATE FINANCE

The Advocating for Enhanced Community Forest Protection and Climate Finance session, hosted by the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA) in partnership with Oxfam, focused on the critical role of community forest management in mitigating climate change.

The session also explored the potential for communities to generate revenue through carbon sales and the importance of securing climate finance to support sustainable forest protection. This also further discussed the impacts of loss and damage on community education, healthcare, and livelihoods while exploring strategies for engaging youth in reforestation efforts. The session highlights how climate finance can support sustainable development in vulnerable communities.

Moderated by Ou Ritthy of Oxfam in Cambodia with support from **Pengsan Huon** of YCCA, the session provided a detailed overview of the different types of community forest management in Cambodia, including community-protected areas and community fisheries. Panelists discussed the challenges these communities face, particularly the lack of resources and technical skills needed to generate carbon credits.

Despite the vast number of communities managing forested areas, none have been able to generate carbon sales due to a lack of technical capacity, resources, and potential markets.

The discussion then shifted to the REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) initiative, which has been implemented in five provinces: Mondulkiri, Stung Treng, Pursat, Koh Kong, and Preah Vihear. From 2016 to 2020, these efforts generated \$11 million in carbon sales, covering only 17.6% of Cambodia's total forest area.

The contributors agreed this was a great start, but emphasized the need to expand carbon sales while ensuring forest protection.

The session identified several challenges facing community efforts to measure and sell carbon credits. Oxfam in Cambodia, in collaboration with the Ministry of Environment, has developed a carbon measurement app to calculate carbon emissions based on data collected from local communities in their community forests. However, based on the carbon measurement experience of youths and panelists, the communities face several challenges:

- Data entry inconsistency: ensuring the accuracy and consistency of the data entered can be difficult.
- Lack of technical equipment: communities often lack basic tools such as tablets and GPS devices needed to track carbon levels.
- Limited knowledge of tree types: knowledge of different tree species is typically limited to senior or elder members of the communities.





2.15 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & OXFAM - ADVOCATING FOR ENHANCED COMMUNITY FOREST PROTECTION AND CLIMATE FINANCE

To address these challenges, the panel suggested involving younger community members in identifying and labeling tree species. They also recommended sharing the workload among teams of four to improve data collection and accuracy. Additionally, budget management and the **beneficiary mechanism** (benefit-sharing systems) were identified as areas needing further development.

Despite these challenges, the panel praised the **high level of commitment** from local communities in learning to measure carbon and engaging in forest protection efforts. The motives behind this commitment include promoting community well-being and creating sustainable livelihoods. Panelists suggested holding regular meetings to foster continued learning and engagement. They also discussed the potential of connecting spiritual practices to forest protection, as seen in places like Thailand and Bali, where the integration of water, forests, and temples has helped sustain conservation efforts.

One of the key highlights of the session was the presentation of successful youth-led initiatives in Monduliri, where youth rangers (ក្រុមយុវជន) regularly attend meetings and receive support such as fuel for their activities and supplies for local schools. In some areas, youth have initiated **ecotourism projects**, which are providing an additional source of income while promoting environmental conservation.

Youth Recommendations and Future Collaboration

At the end of the session, youth participants in the roundtable discussions made several key recommendations to the government and development partners:

- **Promote Forest Management:** Advocate for the government to work closely with communities and experts to enhance forest management and carbon measurement.
- **Government Support for Carbon Calculation:** Youth requested the government to provide training on carbon calculation and measurement, particularly through a Training of Trainers (ToT) model to enhance local capacity.
- **Simplify Operational Manuals:** Collaborate with development partners to create simplified operational manuals for community-based carbon credit projects, making the process more accessible to local communities.

The session concluded with a call for stronger collaboration between local communities, the government, and development partners. Cambodia is endowed with significant natural resources, particularly forests. These include at least 339 community protected forests, 182 community protected areas, and 516 community fisheries. However, only about 17.6% of these protected natural resource areas are currently covered by the REDD+ projects. Therefore, the participants are strongly convinced that investing in community forest protections can yield multiple benefits:

- Mitigate climate change and disasters
- Support families' livelihoods
- Help Cambodia achieve the national objective of carbon neutrality by 2050
- Attract climate finance, especially carbon credits, for community development
-

The participants emphasized the need for practical solutions to support community forest management and expand carbon credit generation. By enhancing technical skills, providing necessary equipment, and fostering youth engagement, Cambodia can strengthen its forest protection efforts while accessing vital climate finance to ensure sustainable community development.





3. DAY TWO





3.1 DAY TWO OPENING REMARKS



Ms. Rebekah Bell

FAO's Representative, speaks on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator



Mr. Chamroeun NANG

Youth Representative, Sihanoukville



Ms. Socheata HORNG

Youth Council for Climate Action





3.1 DAY TWO OPENING REMARKS

Day Two of the Cambodia Climate Change Forum 2024 began with powerful and inspiring opening remarks from three key figures in Cambodia's climate action landscape: **Ms. Horng Socheata**, representing the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA), Rebekah Bell, Representative of the United Nations in Cambodia, and Chamroeun Nang, a youth representative from Sihanoukville. Their addresses highlighted the crucial roles of youth, international stakeholders, and community-based initiatives in combating climate change and emphasized the importance of collaboration and action for a sustainable future.

Rebekah Bell, representing the United Nations in Cambodia, opened by discussing the severe impact climate change is having on young people and how it threatens to reverse progress made in Cambodia. She described climate change as a crisis that directly affects children and youth, noting, "Children born today are six times more likely to be impacted by climate change than their grandparents."

Bell highlighted Cambodia's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) as a critical framework for achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, stressing the need for sustainable policies that ensure the nation's future remains resilient and environmentally conscious.

Bell also discussed the importance of sustainable financing through innovative tools like green bonds to meet the country's climate goals. She pointed out that empowering women and youth is key to addressing the climate crisis, noting that they are often the most affected by its impacts. "Together, we can ensure Cambodia not only meets its climate goals but also becomes a leading example in this field," Bell remarked, calling on development partners and stakeholders to provide the tools and support necessary to ensure long-term sustainability.

Chamroeun Nang shared his account of how climate change is visibly affecting his community. He described rising temperatures and increased pollution, particularly the overuse of plastics that are polluting streams and oceans. "Where we used to watch fish swim in clear streams, now the water is dirty and there are no fish," he said. Chamroeun also spoke about his community's efforts to combat climate change through reducing plastic use, planting trees, and advocating for mangrove restoration to protect marine ecosystems and prevent coastal erosion.

Chamroeun expressed his commitment to continuing these efforts and urged others to join him in advocating for climate action. "We are dedicated to working with the government to protect our environment, and I encourage everyone to be part of this climate action movement," he stated, encouraging youth to adopt eco-friendly practices, like using bicycles for short commutes and thanking those who are already contributing to environmental protection.

Horng Socheata, from YCCA, emphasized the pivotal role of Cambodian youth in driving climate action. She outlined YCCA's initiatives to empower young people through advocacy and education, including the Cambodian Youth Statement on Climate Action, which consolidates youth voices and will be presented at COP29. "We are the first generation to face the impacts of climate change, and we are the last generation that can do something about it," Socheata stated, urging her peers to take bold steps toward creating a greener future.

Socheata described YCCA's training programs, which cover key topics such as climate finance, green job transitions, youth empowerment, and sustainable agriculture and energy. She shared how youth-led initiatives across Cambodia are already making a tangible difference in their communities, and she called for continued support and collaboration to amplify these efforts.





3.2 ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION



Mr. Sona LONG

**Deputy Director
Department of Administration, Planning and Finance,
General Department for Policy and Strategy
Ministry of Environment**





3.2 ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION

The special session on Accelerating Climate Action and Sustainability in the Mekong, led by **Sona Long**, Deputy Director of the Department of Administration, Planning, and Finance at the Ministry of Environment, highlighted Cambodia's determination to address climate change through resilience, green energy, and sustainable development in the Mekong region. Long's speech offered a detailed insight into the country's ongoing and future initiatives aimed at achieving a greener, carbon-neutral future.

Long began by emphasizing Cambodia's dual approach to climate action: building resilience and actively reducing carbon emissions.

"We want to bolster climate action by being resilient and reducing the danger." He explained that the government is focused on gaining knowledge about climate change at all levels of society, stating, "This means we learn more about the effects in our country and how we can work with communities to prepare to address the danger." This focuses on education and preparedness. According to Long will allow Cambodia to protect its people from the growing risks of climate change.

In discussing Cambodia's shift away from coal energy, Long highlighted the country's commitment to clean energy.

"We no longer produce electricity by burning coal, as this has a critical effect on our climate," he stated, adding that the government is keen on transitioning to solar and wind power as part of its renewable energy goals. He reiterated that Cambodia is looking to "pivot to solar and wind power" to further reduce greenhouse gases and minimize pollution.

One of the key areas Long discussed was pollution reduction across multiple sectors, emphasizing the royal government's commitment to cutting pollution in the environment, oceans, and air. "The royal government is committed to reducing pollution in the environment, in the ground, ocean, and in the air," he affirmed.

In addition to focusing on environmental issues, Long stressed the importance of social inclusion, particularly involving youth and Indigenous communities in Cambodia's climate action efforts. "We are going to involve the youth and Indigenous people to be as socially inclusive as possible," he noted, recognizing that these groups play a crucial role in addressing climate challenges and should be empowered to contribute to solutions.

Long also elaborated on Cambodia's plans to adopt green technology, particularly in the construction and building sectors. "We understand the principles of green building," he said, explaining that it is important to consider sustainability from the procurement of materials to how buildings are constructed.





3.2 ACCELERATING CLIMATE ACTION

"When you build that building, you need to do many considerations, from green procurement for the materials to the way it is built. This is something we are trying to implement across other sectors," he explained. By integrating these green principles, Cambodia aims to create a sustainable infrastructure that supports its broader environmental goals.

Green financing was another key focus of Long's speech. He discussed the government's efforts to secure financing for climate initiatives, especially in smart agriculture.

"We want to pursue green financing, such as for smart agriculture," he said, adding that development partners are vital to supporting these initiatives. Long also called for the private sector to take an active role, encouraging them to engage in green business initiatives. "We want the private sector to be part of this change," he stressed, highlighting the need for collaboration across all sectors to achieve climate goals.

In his closing remarks, Long remained optimistic about Cambodia's ability to achieve a carbon-free future through its ongoing efforts in knowledge-building, technology adoption, and community engagement. "By building this knowledge and implementing these plans, we will achieve a green, carbon-free future," he concluded, underscoring the importance of collective action in the fight against climate change.



 **3.3 CATALYZING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE** 

BY USAID HARVEST III



Ms. Kallyan ITH

Deputy Chief of Party
Feed the Future Cambodia Harvest III



Mr. Eang THEAV

Chief Executive Officer
EC Refrigeration Co., Ltd



Ms. Chanraksmei VORN

Founder and Chief Executive Officer
EGE Cambodia Energy Solutions Co., Ltd



Ms. Sreyyat YANN

Chairwoman
Battambang Union of Agricultural
Cooperatives





3.3 USAID HARVEST III - CATALYZING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

The session on Private Sector Investment in Climate-Smart Agriculture, hosted by USAID HARVEST III, explored the crucial role the private sector plays in driving sustainable agricultural practices that enhance resilience to climate change. Panelists discussed the challenges and opportunities in scaling up climate-smart solutions, as well as the economic and environmental benefits for farmers and businesses. The session was moderated by **Ith Kallyan**, Deputy Chief of Party at Feed the Future Cambodia HARVEST III, and featured insights from **Theav Eang**, CEO of EC Refrigeration Co., Ltd, **Vorn Chanraksmeay**, Founder and CEO of EGE Cambodia Energy Solutions Co., Ltd, and **Yann Sreyyat**, Chairwoman of Battambang Union of Agricultural Cooperatives.

The session began with Ith Kallyan asking **Theav Eang** to share his experience in running a business using climate-smart practices. Eang highlighted that climate-smart technology is still a relatively new concept in Cambodia, particularly in the food sector.

"Not many people are aware of the benefits of climate-smart technology in Cambodia," Eang explained. "In the food sector, refrigeration has a lot of potential to harness climate-smart technology, not only to improve the quality of products but also to reduce waste and optimize electricity use."

He emphasized that proper refrigeration can significantly extend the lifespan of produce without the need for chemical preservatives. "Spoiled vegetables, for example, are not only wasteful but emit carbon as they rot, contributing to greenhouse gas emissions. Refrigeration can avoid this, creating both environmental and economic benefits," Eang said. However, he pointed out that one of the major challenges is the high cost of installing large-capacity refrigeration units, especially for wholesalers.

Vorn Chanraksmeay from EGE Cambodia Energy Solutions echoed Eang's views, sharing how her company has invested in solar-powered technology, including solar-powered refrigeration, irrigation systems, schools, and hotels.

"Solar-powered refrigeration is a breakthrough in sustainable agriculture, allowing farmers to keep their products fresh for longer," she said.

Chanraksmeay highlighted that for smallholder farmers who grow multiple crops, solar-powered fridges provide a low-cost solution that extends product longevity, reducing the risk of spoilage before the crops can be sold.

"We have abundant solar power in Cambodia, making it an ideal solution for the agriculture sector," she added. She acknowledged the challenge of working with farmers, many of whom are skeptical about solar technology due to previous bad experiences or fears of high costs. "Changing perceptions about solar technology is essential for widespread adoption," she noted.





3.3 USAID HARVEST III - CATALYZING PRIVATE SECTOR INVESTMENT IN CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE

Despite these challenges, Chanraksmeay emphasized the financial and environmental benefits of solar-powered solutions.

"Even though we are selling a product, there are clear positive outcomes for both finances and the climate," she said. Looking to the future, she explained how communities could potentially benefit from selling **carbon credits** if they switch to solar and reduce emissions, provided they collect the necessary data in collaboration with development partners.

Yann Sreyyat, Chairwoman of Battambang Union of Agricultural Cooperatives, focused on the importance of technical training in climate-smart agriculture. She discussed how sustainable rice farming can help reduce costs, improve efficiency, and increase productivity.

"Training farmers in water management, selecting the right seeds for the climate, and better soil management is key to boosting farm productivity and profitability," Sreyyat said. She pointed out that reducing the use of fertilizers not only improves soil quality but also results in a better product for the market.

Ith Kallyan added that farmers who adopt climate-smart techniques can receive an additional \$10 per crop as an incentive, thanks to support from development partners. This financial incentive encourages the adoption of sustainable practices while ensuring a positive impact on the environment.

When asked about EGE's investment sources, **Chanraksmeay** explained that her company is funded through a combination of personal savings and support from partners, including USAID, UNDP, AMK, and green finance initiatives.

"We are a company, and we earn profits, but we are also Cambodian, and we want to see this country grow and develop in the right way," she said. Chanraksmeay stressed the dual benefit of solar investments, which provide immediate savings for farmers while supporting her company's business.

She also noted that the cost of solar technology is becoming more affordable, which will help drive adoption. However, she highlighted a common challenge: in the past, solar equipment was expensive and difficult to repair, causing mistrust among consumers.

"Today, solar equipment is cheaper, and reputable companies like ours offer warranties and after-sales service to ensure that products are reliable and long-lasting," she explained. Chanraksmeay emphasized the need to educate consumers to choose registered companies with logos, as these businesses provide accountability and quality assurance.

The session underscored the importance of private sector investment in driving climate-smart agricultural solutions in Cambodia.

The panelists emphasized the need for greater awareness, training, and collaboration with farmers to scale up sustainable practices. By investing in solar-powered technologies, refrigeration, and technical training, the private sector can play a key role in boosting farm-level productivity, reducing waste, and enhancing climate resilience. The financial benefits, combined with positive environmental outcomes, create a pathway for sustainable agricultural development in Cambodia.



3.4 FROM WASTE TO RESOURCE: TRANSFORMING THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY THROUGH CIRCULAR INNOVATION

BY REMADE IN CAMBODIA



Ms. Tiffany Bophadavy Doche

Creative Director and Co-founder of
Revivre Studio / ReMade in
Cambodia



Mr. Hasso Anwer

Project Manager, FABRIC
GIZ



Ms. Emmanuelle Mace

General Manager and Fashion Industry
Advisor
Luxury Business Group



Ms. Somalay SO

Senior Program Officer for Equality and
Inclusion
Solidarity Center Cambodia





3.4 REMADE IN CAMBODIA - FROM WASTE TO RESOURCE: TRANSFORMING THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY THROUGH CIRCULAR INNOVATION

The Textile Industry Revolution through Circular Innovation session explored how Cambodia's textile sector, which generates approximately 140,000 tonnes of waste annually, can adopt circular economy principles to turn textile waste into valuable resources. The panel discussed innovations that promote sustainability, reduce environmental impact, and create economic opportunities across the supply chain, showcasing collaborative solutions to the waste crisis facing the industry.

The session featured key insights from **Tiffany Bophadavy Doche**, Creative Director and Co-founder of Revivre Studio and ReMade in Cambodia, **Hasso Anwer**, Project Manager at FABRIC GIZ, **Somalay So**, Senior Program Officer for Equality and Inclusion at Solidarity Center Cambodia, and **Emmanuelle Mace**, a fashion industry expert focused on sustainability and climate action. Together, the panelists provided a comprehensive view of the challenges and opportunities in transforming Cambodia's textile industry into a more sustainable and circular model.

Tiffany Bophadavy Doche began by highlighting the significant role the garment industry plays in Cambodia's economic development, while also noting its contribution to environmental degradation. "The garment industry is a key contributor to Cambodia's GDP, but it also generates a huge amount of textile waste," she said. Her work with ReMade in Cambodia focuses on transforming textile waste into valuable products, addressing the approximately **1.7 billion tons of carbon emissions** linked to textile waste annually.

Hasso Anwer elaborated on the complexity of managing textile waste in Cambodia, particularly given the country's role in the global garment supply chain.

"Cambodia mainly engages in cut, make, and trim operations, importing most of its fabric from countries like Vietnam and China," Anwer explained. He emphasized the importance of ensuring that textile waste does not end up in landfills or get burned, as the fumes from burning waste negatively impact both the environment and public health.

Anwer stressed that the responsibility for managing textile waste should lie with the fashion brands themselves, many of which source their products from Cambodia. "The future of textile waste cannot be linear—it needs to be part of a recycling and remaking process."

Somalay So shifted the focus to the labor side of the industry, discussing the critical role of garment workers and unions in driving positive change. She highlighted the challenges workers face, including poor working conditions, wage concerns, and limited freedom of association.





3.4 REMADE IN CAMBODIA - FROM WASTE TO RESOURCE: TRANSFORMING THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY THROUGH CIRCULAR INNOVATION

“Garment workers are integral to the industry, and they have the right to negotiate better working conditions,” she said. She also drew attention to the climate-related issues faced by workers, including high temperatures in factories, which lead to stress and discomfort. So called for better collaboration between unions and employers to improve the work environment, especially for women who often face harassment.

Emmanuelle Mace spoke about the global fashion industry's environmental impact, particularly the rise of fast fashion brands like Shein, which contribute to overproduction and massive waste.

“People buy fast fashion to use it once and throw it away, and unsold collections end up in landfills,” Mace explained. She highlighted the need for financial incentives and clear legislation to address overproduction and promote recycling.

Mace noted that the EU's 2030 strategy aims to curb the fast fashion trend by implementing recycling policies, and she encouraged Gen Z consumers to play a pivotal role in shifting fashion trends toward sustainability. “We need to foster a spirit of sustainability and a shared vision to reduce, reuse, and recycle,” Mace said, stressing the importance of modern machinery to transform textile waste into new products.

The panel finished by underscoring the need for collective action across the supply chain, involving both the private sector and policymakers, to ensure the textile industry embraces a circular, sustainable future.





British Embassy
Phnom Penh

3.5 NATURE FOR OUR FUTURE: REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & PROTECTION

BY BRITISH EMBASSY



Mr. Chey THEB

Lower Mekong Landscape
Coordinator
British Embassy



Mr. Sithan PHANN

Communities Technical Advisor
WCS



Mr. Soknak Por

Program Coordinator
OXFAM



Mr. Rik Overmars

Agri-Food Sector Lead
SNV





3.5 BRITISH EMBASSY - NATURE FOR OUR FUTURE: REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & PROTECTION

The session on Reducing Poverty through Biodiversity Conservation focused on the crucial link between biodiversity, ecosystem services, and the livelihoods of rural communities, where 70% of the world's poor rely on natural resources. The discussion highlighted how rapid economic growth in sectors like infrastructure, energy, and agriculture is accelerating biodiversity loss, which in turn threatens food, water, and energy security. These challenges are especially pronounced for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), who are particularly vulnerable to climate change and environmental degradation. The session featured key insights from **Theb Chey**, Lower Mekong Landscape Coordinator at the British Embassy, **Sithan Phann**, Communities Technical Adviser at WCS, **Rik Overmars**, Agri-food Sector Lead at SNV, and **Soknak Por**, Program Coordinator at OXFAM.

Theb Chey opened the session by addressing the delicate balance between economic development and environmental sustainability.

"We often reach our goals to make money in biodiversity but at the expense of the environment," he said. "We need biodiversity for sustainability." This statement framed the conversation, setting the tone for the panel's focus on finding sustainable solutions that benefit both the economy and the environment.

Turning to **Soknak Por**, Chey asked about the challenges Cambodia faces in preserving its biodiversity. Soknak outlined several pressing issues, noting that "there is a big reliance on natural resources, especially in rural areas," which creates significant pressure on the land. This pressure, he explained, can lead to unsustainable practices, including illegal activities. "On a macro level, this should be managed through joint-efforts and policy enforcement, but this requires more resources and collaboration," he said.

Soknak also emphasised the importance of inclusive development. He pointed out that large projects like hydropower dam construction, agri-industry or mining often fail to meaningfully consult with communities most affected by these developments.

Phann acknowledged that while there are positive developments—such as the increasing population of Ibis birds in some areas—there are also negatives, like deforestation and a decline in other species. "We must work with communities to help them make informed decisions about their actions to ensure we protect biodiversity and our environment," he concluded.

Phan Sithan from WCS added to the conversation by stressing the importance of capacity building in rural communities.





3.5 BRITISH EMBASSY - NATURE FOR OUR FUTURE: REDUCING POVERTY THROUGH BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION & PROTECTION

"We need to work directly with these communities to help them understand the importance of biodiversity, conservation, and protection," he said. Por noted that the issue often isn't a lack of concern, but rather a lack of awareness about how to protect the environment while still making a living from it. "People still rely on the environment and harvest resources but don't understand that it is finite," He explained. The solution, she suggested, lies in creating a plan that allows people to continue their livelihoods without depleting natural resources.

Phan also pointed out that building financial management skills within communities can help ensure their long-term stability.

"Better-managed finances mean sustainable farming practices and resilient communities," she said. This holistic approach—combining environmental education with economic resilience—was presented as a way to empower communities to balance conservation with their economic needs.

Rik Overmars brought an international perspective to the discussion, comparing Cambodia's situation to that of more developed nations.

"These countries damage their biodiversity and then want to reverse that action. Cambodia has the advantage of not making that mistake yet," he said.

He also acknowledged that protecting the environment while ensuring economic growth is a complex task. "Market-centered approaches sometimes don't guarantee environmental conservation," he said, though he pointed to examples like IBIS rice, which successfully combines profitability with environmental sustainability.

"That's a niche market, and it has taken an investment to create that type of product," Overmars said, adding that there is still a need for broader awareness of how biodiversity and profit can coexist. As the session concluded, the panelists offered their final thoughts:

Sithan Phann reiterated that communities must take ownership of conservation efforts and make decisions that are beneficial for both their livelihoods and the environment.

Soknak Por stressed the importance of balancing conservation and development through inclusive, well-planned strategies that include checks and balances.

Rik Overmars emphasized that profitability, investability, and multi-stakeholder agreements are essential to ensuring long-term success in biodiversity conservation.





3.6 ENSURING THAT CLEAN WATER SUPPLY IS CLIMATE RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE: A BLENDED FINANCING APPROACH



BY CAPRED



Mr. Ratanak HOEUN

Infrastructure Coordinator
CAPRED



Ms. Navy HORT

Investment Manager
CAPRED



Ms. Sovath NGIN

Climate Resilient WASH Officer
UNICEF



Ms. Botumsela PREAP

Private Water Operator
Somrong Yorng Water Supply





3.6 CAPRED – ENSURING THAT CLEAN WATER SUPPLY IS CLIMATE RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE: A BLENDED FINANCING APPROACH

The session, hosted by **Ratanak Hoeun**, Infrastructure Coordinator at CAPRED, emphasized the integration of climate resilience and social inclusion in clean water supply projects across Cambodia.

Panelists included **Navy Hort**, Investment Manager at CAPRED, **Sovath Ngin**, Climate Resilient WASH Lead at UNICEF, and **Botumsela Preap**, a private water operator from Somrong Yorng Water Supply. The panelists explored the role of blended finance as a powerful tool to address climate change challenges while promoting equitable access to clean water, particularly in rural areas.

Ratanak Hoeun opened the session by recognizing the efforts made in the water supply sector but stressed the need for greater resilience in the face of climate change. He asked the panel to discuss the challenges they have faced in expanding clean water access, particularly in rural areas.

Navy Hort responded by noting that climate resilience and social inclusion are the top priorities in water supply projects. Australia through CAPRED has collaborated with the Cambodian government and other relevant stakeholders to develop a clean water supply master plan and establish the Clean Water Development Fund to accelerate inclusive access to resilient clean water infrastructure. To leverage private investment in rural areas, CAPRED has implemented Viability Gap Financing to develop this infrastructure in rural and remote areas.

“The Clean Water Development Fund is a mechanism to mobilize funds from various sources. The implementation of the fund will be informed by a comprehensive and evidence-based master plan to ensure that climate resilience, water security, and social inclusion in clean water supply are met,” she said.

It is worth noting that climate resilience and social inclusion could add more financial burden to clean water supply investment, especially for private investment. It requires innovative financing support to leverage private investment while also achieving the goal of inclusive access to resilient clean water infrastructure.

As part of the master plan development, a dynamic database incorporating a clean water supply investment plan, gender equality, disability, and social inclusion (GEDSI), and climate change data will be produced. The database will serve as the key input between the Ministry of Industry, Science, Technology & Innovation (MISTI) and the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology to develop integrated water resource planning.

Sovath Ngin discussed UNICEF’s efforts to address the challenges posed by natural disasters, which frequently affect water access in Cambodia, by working with national and sub-national authorities and water operators to increase resilience in piped water service delivery. “UNICEF is committed to providing every child, especially those in the poorest and remote communities, equitable access to clean and safe water,” Sovath said.





3.6 CAPRED – ENSURING THAT CLEAN WATER SUPPLY IS CLIMATE RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE: A BLENDED FINANCING APPROACH

She noted that, based on the latest UNICEF and WHO Joint Monitoring Program 2022, only 34.4% of Cambodians are using improved piped water source. She mentioned that in order to achieve universal access to safe drinking water for every child, UNICEF works both at the upstream level through support in policy development and capacity strengthening and at the downstream level through direct service delivery through climate smart subsidies to private water operators and piped water connection subsidies for ID poor households.

Despite the large number of water suppliers in Cambodia, she expressed concern over their performance, especially during climate-related disaster events, citing the need for stronger policy enforcement and increased capacity of water operators to provide more resilient services. To address this issue of performance, UNICEF is supporting MISTI and the Phnom Penh Water Supply Authority to conduct the performance assessment of water operators in Cambodia to identify the gaps and improvement measures. In the absence of a sector-wide systematic water quality monitoring system, UNICEF is also working with National Institute of Statistics of the Ministry of Planning to include water quality indicators for the first time in the upcoming Cambodia Socio-Economic Survey 2025.

Sovath also pointed out the need to embrace climate resilience in the piped water supply sector, noting, “With the rapid changes in climate, we must ensure that the infrastructure of the water system is designed based on national minimum standards and resilience to climate-related disasters, not only in the present moment but looking into the next couple decades based on different possible climate scenarios; otherwise, the decades of hard-won development progress that we have achieved might be reversed back.”

Sovath highlighted the importance of the WASH sector understanding what the main climate risks are that impact WASH service delivery in Cambodia, to be able to provide more climate-resilient services. She mentioned the recent publication of the Climate Rationale for WASH services in Cambodia, a joint collaboration between UNICEF and the five ministries mandated for WASH service delivery, including the Ministry of Rural Development, MISTI, Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport. The purpose of the climate rationale is to understand the climate risks that are having effect on WASH service and identify prioritized solutions to address those risks, which will help the WASH sector shift to more climate-risk informed WASH programming and thus deliver more resilient services to the Cambodian population, especially those in the most vulnerable communities.

Sovath emphasised the significant investment challenges faced by private water operators (PWOs) in making clean water supply systems more resilient to climate change. To climate proof the piped water system, water operators needs to increase their investment (CAPEX) from 20% to 30%. This extra cost acts as a major deterrent, particularly for PWOs operating in rural areas where piped clean water systems often yield lower returns on investment. To encourage these essential investments, development partners and the government should provide crucial support such as increased investment in smart subsidies and climate-smart policies in climate resilient piped water supply sector to ensure equitable, reliable and sustainable water access throughout the country.





3.6 CAPRED – ENSURING THAT CLEAN WATER SUPPLY IS CLIMATE RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE: A BLENDED FINANCING APPROACH

Botumsela Preap discussed the logistical difficulties of expanding clean water access in rural areas. “Some villages are far from town centers, and many people can’t afford to pay their water bills by the end of the month,” she said.

Botumsela noted that water pipe infrastructure is closely linked to road infrastructure, which can pose challenges in reaching remote areas. She also highlighted the specific challenges in Takeo province, where water resources are particularly limited. “With the help of CAPRED, we’ve been able to expand our water stations to reach further and provide clean water to more people,” she added.

Botumsela emphasized the importance of collaboration with local authorities and the private sector to implement water supply projects in areas such as Takeo, where water resources are scarce. She pointed out the need for supportive policies, including tax incentives from the Ministry of Economic and Finance, water resource maintenance support from the Ministry of Water Resources and Meteorology, shared road development plans from the Ministry of Public Works and Transport in consultation with PWOs, and financial and technical assistance from development partners. She underscored that PWOs cannot achieve these goals independently.

The session concluded with a shared recognition of the importance of blended finance, collaboration, and community education in overcoming the challenges posed by climate change while ensuring affordable access to clean water.





3.7 CLIMATE FINANCE IN ACTION



BY CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS



Ms. Jane Wilding

Business Consultant
Freelance Consultant



Ms. Ingrid Van Ginkel

Chief Operating Officer
HUSK



Mr. Mark Selby

Director, Head of Climate Finance
Mekong Strategic Capital



Mr. Kunthy KANN

Chief Operating Officer
Amru Rice (Cambodia) Co., Ltd





3.7 CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS - CLIMATE FINANCE IN ACTION

The Climate Finance in Action session brought together industry executives and financial experts to explore innovative approaches to financing climate change mitigation and adaptation. The panel discussed how Cambodian businesses can access green finance for sustainable development, with a focus on leveraging financial tools to create resilient and profitable enterprises.

The conversation also touched on the effectiveness of existing climate finance frameworks, successful case studies, and strategies for overcoming barriers to scaling climate-friendly investments across various sectors.

Moderated by **Jane Wilding**, Business Consultant, the panel featured **Ingrid Van Ginkel**, CEO at HUSK, **Mark Selby** from Mekong Strategic Capital, and **Kunthy Kann**, CEO at Amru Rice Cambodia.

Ingrid Van Ginkel shared her experience as a small business owner seeking green finance, particularly through carbon removal credits and green loans.

"One way of having green finance for us was carbon removal credits and by applying for green loans," she said, "but this can be challenging when you are a small business—it's very time-consuming and complicated."

She explained that her company took out a \$250,000 loan at an 11% interest rate, with additional environmental, social, and governance (ESG) requirements.

"The bank also required them to have the same amount in their account, which is not always feasible for a small business. To me, that isn't green financing—that's normal financing," Van Ginkel noted, showing the need for more accessible financial options.

Mark Selby from Mekong Strategic Capital expanded on the challenges of accessing international impact funds, particularly those based in Singapore and Hong Kong.

"These funds are not always cheaper or more beneficial for businesses," he explained, citing that many have disbursement plans that don't align with Cambodian business needs. "They might have a 3-year disbursement plan and a 5-year repayment period, which doesn't always gel with the Cambodian market."

Selby's firm has worked to create green financing options that offer longer-term financing to better match the cash flows of local businesses. "When applying for green finance, it's important to demonstrate a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions or how your business model will build resilience," he said but added that proving these aspects can involve more hurdles than traditional financing.

Kunthy Kann of Amru Rice discussed the complexities of integrating green finance into a company's growth strategy. "Green finance depends on whether you're ready to take the money on in the initial phase or to grow," he said.





3.7 CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS - CLIMATE FINANCE IN ACTION

Amru Rice has worked with partners like CAPRED to assess their energy usage and determine what type of green financing would be available to them. "It's challenging because we're trying to piece together different elements of the supply chain," he noted, emphasizing the difficulties of involving smallholder farmers in long-term sustainability efforts. "Farmers often focus on short-term financial gains, making it harder to get them on board with sustainability initiatives."

When asked what solutions would work better for the Cambodian market, Kunthy called for more flexible financing options tailored to the size of the company and its specific goals.

"There should be subjective loans that are specific to the size of the company and what it wants to achieve. The goals have been set, but the implementation is difficult under certain policy frameworks, making it harder to access funds."

Mark Selby echoed the need for better-aligned green finance models, adding that environmentally friendly initiatives often make good business sense.

"Energy efficiency, for example, will provide a better financial return in the long run. Green financing isn't just about saving a tree—it's about financial sense," he remarked. He highlighted how demand for sustainable and ESG-compliant products is rising, particularly from supply chains and markets like Europe, allowing Cambodia to expand its market presence.

Ingrid Van Ginkel reminded us that sustainability needs to be at the core of business models, not just an add-on for accessing green finance. "Sustainability is not an option—it should be at the core of every model," she said. "You shouldn't make your business just to tick boxes for climate finance or green financing, but there also has to be a viable business underneath which is sustainable on its own."

The panel also discussed **carbon credits** and how they could play a role in financing green initiatives. **Kunthy Kann** acknowledged the potential of carbon credits but said that Cambodia is still in the early stages of developing the necessary frameworks. "We're a long way from completing the process of using carbon credits. We need to fully understand how it works in practice," he said.

Mark Selby noted the challenges of implementing low-emission agriculture, particularly in rice farming, which requires long-term investments. "Globally, low-emission rice is challenging. In Cambodia, it's hard to aggregate large areas of land and demonstrate over time that you can be more productive with sustainable practices," he said. However, he acknowledged that sustainable products represent a growing demand in the global market.





3.7 CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS - CLIMATE FINANCE IN ACTION

Ingrid added that small farmers will require more **climate resilience solutions**, especially in the form of **working capital** to adapt to climate-related challenges. "Without this capital, farmers could end up in a negative spiral with their harvests," she explained, emphasizing the need for **vertical integration** to ensure sustainability throughout the supply chain.

Mark Selby discussed the potential for innovative financial tools like **crop insurance** to support farmers. "There are pilot projects in Cambodia, but comparing crop insurance to loans, it could be a much-needed innovation," he said. He pointed out that insurance companies face barriers in providing these products because they lack reliable data, such as rainfall measurements, which would be necessary for structuring insurance policies.

Looking to the future, **Kunthy Kann** expressed his hope for more upstream action in Cambodia's green finance landscape. "When upstream levels are ready, the middle and downstream will need to be marketed with a story to educate consumers," he said, stressing the importance of branding and storytelling to convince consumers to pay more for sustainably produced goods.

The session concluded with **Ms. Jane Wilding** summarizing the key points: the need for flexibility in available funds, access to working capital, and the potential benefits of innovations like crop and health insurance. She emphasized the importance of training and capacity building to foster long-term thinking, which will ultimately benefit businesses and unlock new opportunities in green finance. "We need to build a culture of resilience and sustainability, not just for the environment but for the financial future of businesses in Cambodia," Jane concluded.



**3.8 MARKET AND NON-MARKET
MECHANISMS FOR CONSERVING
AND RESTORING COASTAL BLUE
CARBON ECOSYSTEMS**

BY FAUNA AND FLORA



Mr. Matthew Glue

Technical Specialist, Marine, Asia-
Pacific
Fauna & Flora



Dr. Pimchanok Buapet

Technical Director
International Blue Carbon
Institute



Mr. Kamal UY

Deputy General
Directorates and Vice Chair
of Carbon Creating
Secretariat





3.8 FAUNA AND FLORA - MARKET AND NON-MARKET MECHANISMS FOR CONSERVING AND RESTORING COASTAL BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS

This session focused on the critical role of coastal blue carbon ecosystems, such as mangroves and seagrasses, in mitigating climate change and enhancing the livelihoods of coastal communities.

Experts discussed both market and non-market mechanisms to conserve and restore these ecosystems, as well as the challenges Cambodia faces in implementing a robust blue carbon strategy. The session highlighted the importance of a sustainable blue economy and practical pathways for Cambodia to leverage blue carbon for climate action.

The panel included **Dr. Pimchanok Buapet**, Technical Director at the International Blue Carbon Institute, and **Uy Kamal**, Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Environment, Cambodia.

Dr. Pimchanok Buapet began the session by providing an overview of blue carbon ecosystems.

"Blue carbon refers to the carbon dioxide (CO₂) stored in coastal and marine ecosystems like mangroves, salt marshes, and seagrasses," she explained. "These ecosystems are essential for biodiversity, coastal protection, and climate regulation." Dr. Pimchanok said that blue carbon is stored predominantly in the soil and silt, sometimes up to six meters below the seabed, making these ecosystems key to long-term carbon sequestration.

She highlighted the global recognition of blue carbon and how various programs and research initiatives are helping to measure its impact.

"The first step in any blue carbon project is identifying the ecosystem, and the second is gathering data on carbon changes," she said. Dr. Pimchanok reiterated the need for resilience-building in climate action, noting that preserving these ecosystems is vital for healthy marine environments and the communities that depend on them.

Matthew Glue spoke about Cambodia's commitment to incorporating blue carbon into its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).

"It's great to see Cambodia including the planting of mangroves and aiming for carbon neutrality in their climate goals," he said, commending the country's recent efforts in blue carbon projects. Fauna & Flora has also been involved in blue carbon initiatives, focusing on the interconnection between mangroves and seagrasses.

"These plants work together to provide crucial climate services, so protecting both ecosystems is essential," he explained.





3.8 FAUNA AND FLORA - MARKET AND NON-MARKET MECHANISMS FOR CONSERVING AND RESTORING COASTAL BLUE CARBON ECOSYSTEMS

Uy Kamal, from the Ministry of Environment, discussed the policies Cambodia has implemented to preserve these fragile ecosystems.

"We have policies in place to protect areas at risk, and next year we plan to plant more mangroves along the coastal areas," he said. He emphasized the nature-based solutions that the Ministry of Environment is focusing on, such as restoring mangroves, swamps, and other vital ecosystems, to respond to the climate crisis.

Kamal noted the growing global attention to blue carbon, particularly at international forums like COP27 and COP28, where blue carbon has become a spotlight topic.

However, he acknowledged that Cambodia lacks the technical capacity to fully study and monitor its blue carbon ecosystems. "We have no solid foundation for research into mangroves and seagrasses in Cambodia due to the lack of high-level technical facilities," Kamal said, stressing that more investment in technical and scientific resources is needed to fully implement a blue carbon strategy.

The panelists discussed the barriers Cambodia faces in expanding its blue carbon projects. Kamal pointed out that the lack of accurate data on coastal zones complicates efforts to monitor and manage these ecosystems. "We don't have the precise data to identify where our coastal zones are, making it hard to monitor and aim for effective implementation," he said.

Additionally, the connection between mangroves and seagrasses is complex, and the success of blue carbon initiatives will require close collaboration between various stakeholders, from the government to development partners. "Every collaboration must be blended to meet the requirements for a successful blue carbon program," Kamal emphasized.

While the challenges are significant, both **Dr. Pimchanok** and **Kamal** agreed that Cambodia has great potential to benefit from blue carbon conservation. Dr. Pimchanok pointed out that there is a growing international market for carbon credits, which could help fund conservation efforts and make the projects financially viable. However, for Cambodia to take full advantage of these opportunities, it will need to improve its research capabilities and invest in monitoring technologies.

Kamal concluded by reiterating the need for better data collection and policy support to move forward. "Although it is difficult to monitor these ecosystems, it is crucial to build our capacity to understand and conserve them," he said. He added that Cambodia's focus on blue carbon could become a cornerstone of its climate change mitigation strategy in the future.

The session highlighted the need for multi-sector collaboration and a clear policy framework to protect and restore coastal blue carbon ecosystems. The discussion underscored the importance of investing in technical expertise, community engagement, and nature-based solutions to ensure long-term success in Cambodia's efforts to leverage blue carbon for climate action and sustainable development.





3.9 BUILDING RESILIENT MARKETS FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT



BY IDE CAMBODIA



Ms. Melanie Mossard

CEO
Impact Hub Phnom Penh



Ms. Sujata Bantawa

Technical Advisor
CRDT



Mr. Sopheak OM

Implementation Manager
iDE Cambodia



Mr. Georg Jahnsen

Head of Components, ISD
GIZ





3.9 IDE CAMBODIA - BUILDING RESILIENT MARKETS FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

The session on Solid Waste Management in Rural Cambodia focused on the urgent challenge of waste disposal and management in rural areas.

The panel brought together experts to discuss strategies for creating resilient waste management systems, strengthening public sector capacity, empowering local entrepreneurs, and driving behavior change within communities. Key panelists included **Melanie Mossard**, CEO of Impact Hub Phnom Penh, **Sujata Bantawa**, Technical Advisor at CRDT, **Om Sopheak**, Implementation Manager at iDE Cambodia, and **Georg Jahnsen**, Head of Components at GIZ.

Challenges in Rural Waste Management

The discussion began with Melanie Mossard asking Georg Jahnsen about GIZ's approach to tackling waste management in rural Cambodia. Jahnsen pointed out that addressing waste issues cannot be done solely from the capital.

"You cannot solve waste issues from the capital. It can only give the guidelines and laws. The decisions and actions have to be taken on the ground and in the communities," he said, stressing the importance of localized action.

Jahnsen explained that while the Ministry of Environment (MoE) requires district municipalities to have waste management plans, the actual implementation is challenging in rural areas, where resources are limited. "These districts are rural, and usually, one person is in charge of the environmental sector and other things. So, these people are overwhelmed when tasked with coming up with a strategy to tackle waste," he said.

GIZ's approach has been to support governance projects in the western provinces by helping these districts create waste management subcommittees. "These subcommittees, which include government officials and civil society members like monks, head teachers, and local leaders, have now formalized proper waste strategies after two years of work," Jahnsen noted.

Local Solutions and Empowerment

Sujata Bantawa shared her experience working on a waste management project in Kratie. She outlined two primary challenges: the lack of a waste collection service and the unsustainable nature of waste cleanup efforts. "The main challenges were identifying that there was no waste collection service in place or where it was, it was expensive," she said.

Bantawa and her team focused on creating a waste collection plan and shifting community practices away from burning plastic.

"The community was receptive and motivated by the outcome—the change in their environment. We also empowered locals to become waste ambassadors who championed the new waste approach," she said. This effort sparked local innovation, including upcycling projects that transformed waste materials into products like lamps.





3.9 IDE CAMBODIA - BUILDING RESILIENT MARKETS FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Private Sector Involvement

Om Sopheak from iDE Cambodia emphasized the role of the private sector in waste management. "We approach communities, and there's this idea that people don't want to pay for waste management, but we have strong experience in waste management, and we can show and demonstrate the impact," he said.

Sopheak explained that his team goes door-to-door, treating households as customers, educating them on the impact of waste and pollution, and offering practical solutions.

"People often don't know where to throw their trash or burn it, but this pollution causes sickness and ruins the aesthetics of their homes. When we explain the cost and offer a solution, we find that people want to be on board," he said.

Georg Jahnsen added that around 20-30% of people pay for waste collection, but the rest either use the services without paying or dispose of the waste themselves. He explained that in some areas, fees are paid directly to private companies, making accountability difficult. "What's being rolled out is that people will pay the government, and the government will then pay the private company. This means more accountability," he said.

Motivating Communities Through Aesthetics and Awards

The panel also discussed non-traditional methods of encouraging better waste management, focusing on aesthetics and community pride. **Melanie Mossard** shared an example of encouraging people to grow flowers, which led to residents taking pride in their gardens and being less inclined to litter. "People didn't want to throw trash on the flowers, and it became a point of pride," she said.

Sujata Bantawa agreed, sharing that aesthetic appeal was a powerful motivator in her project in Kratie. "People were motivated by the chance to win a 'clean city award,' which not only made the environment more pleasant to live in but also opened up opportunities for tourism, especially domestic tourism," she explained.

The session highlighted the complexity of managing solid waste in rural Cambodia, emphasizing the need for local involvement, public-private collaboration, and creative incentives to change behavior. The panelists agreed that a combination of governance, education, private sector engagement, and community pride can help build resilient markets for sustainable waste management across Cambodia's rural areas.





3.10 CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ITS IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

BY CARE CAMBODIA



Ms. Sotheavy SREY

Executive Director
Alliance for Conflict Transformation



Ms. Samphors VON

Deputy Secretary General
Independent Democracy of Informal
Economy Association



Mr. Sothy IM

Executive Director
Youth Council of Cambodia



Mr. Sokchan PHOEURN

Program Director
CARE Cambodia





3.10 CARE CAMBODIA - CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ITS IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

The session on **Circular Economy and Its Impact on Climate Change** focused on raising awareness of the importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) concepts, particularly within Cambodia's business landscape and the agri-food sector.

The panelists highlighted strategies for integrating ESG practices that foster sustainable growth, promote responsible business operations, and emphasized collaborative efforts with organizations like EuroCham and CAPRED to drive these initiatives forward.

The panel included **Ms. Srey Sotheavy**, Executive Director of the Alliance for Conflict Transformation, **Ms. Von Somphors**, Deputy Secretary General of the Independent Democracy of Informal Economy Association (IDEA), **Sothy Im**, Executive Director of the Youth Council of Cambodia, and **Sokchan Phoeun**, Program Director of CARE Cambodia.

The Role of the Circular Economy in Climate Action

Ms. Sotheavy Srey opened the session by discussing the concept of the circular economy and its integration within community initiatives. "Does your organization have the knowledge of circular economy embedded in the community?" she asked. Her emphasis was on the importance of educating local communities about sustainable practices and encouraging climate action, especially among youth. She shared that numerous activities are still needed to tackle the climate crisis and stressed the significance of working with eco-friendly projects, such as supporting eco-friendly factories.

Ms. Samphors Von followed by highlighting the work of IDEA in supporting low-wage workers and vulnerable groups. "Our focus is on empowering the most vulnerable members of society," she said. She explained that IDEA has created hubs to collect and disseminate important information to workers, helping them transition to more **eco-friendly practices**.

"When workers are used to relying on plastic, it's hard to make them switch to alternatives," she admitted. However, she stressed the need to raise awareness of the negative effects of plastic use and the importance of working at the grassroots level to shift behavior. "We must follow up and dig into the root of the problem to create long-lasting change," she added.

Youth as Key Players in the Circular Economy

Im Sothy emphasized the role of youth in driving the circular economy forward.

"Youth are the main factor that contributes to the growth of the circular economy. They are the solid foundation of our economy," he said. I discussed the importance of training and empowering young people to take action on waste management and climate change, such as through initiatives to recycle and repurpose waste. "We can turn organic waste into soil or agricultural supplements," he explained.





3.10 CARE CAMBODIA - CIRCULAR ECONOMY AND ITS IMPACT ON CLIMATE CHANGE

He further stressed the need for **policy enforcement** as a way to advocate for broader public awareness of the circular economy and its role in tackling climate action. "We need policies that encourage people to understand the significance of using alternatives to single-use plastic," he noted, calling for government support to create a more circular and sustainable economy.

Women's Empowerment and Sustainable Practices

Sokchan Phoeun from CARE Cambodia spoke about the organization's focus on **women's empowerment** within the context of the circular economy and social justice.

"We support women to lead in promoting social justice and sustainability," he said. Phoeun noted that both women and youth are key to shaping Cambodia's future, and their involvement is critical in transforming the economy into a more sustainable model. "More than 80,000 people are working in the clothing industry, and many of them rely heavily on single-use plastic," he pointed out, underscoring the need for reducing plastic use in high-consumption sectors.

Phoeun shared examples of practical steps being taken, such as waste management initiatives in factories. "In Poi Pet, there's a factory currently practicing waste management and separation," he said, noting that CARE Cambodia has been working with 3-5 factories to create more eco-friendly environments, including offering sustainable practices in factory canteens.

The session ended with a shared agreement on the importance of **collaborative efforts** to promote a circular economy in Cambodia. The panelists all said that awareness, education, and policy enforcement are key components in driving behavior change and creating sustainable business models that benefit both the environment and the economy.

From youth engagement to women's empowerment, the panel also underscored that a circular economy is essential for reducing waste, minimizing plastic use, and ultimately mitigating the effects of climate change in Cambodia.





3.11 THE 4PS OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION FOR MODERN AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVES

BY SEVEA



Mrs. Ratna Devi Nadarajan

Head of Department Agriculture,
Climate Change and WASH
SEVEA



Ms. Cristina Ciranda

Agriculture & Climate Change
Consultant
SEVEA



Mr. Sotha SOK

Lead Founder and Chief Executive
CFAP





3.11 SEVEA - THE 4PS OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION FOR MODERN AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVES

This session focused on regenerative agriculture and the opportunities presented by the Public-Private-Producer-Partnerships (4Ps) model to promote sustainable agricultural practices and strengthen Cambodia's rural economy. The panelists discussed the challenges of certification, investment strategies, and best practices for increasing agricultural productivity while enhancing community well-being.

The panel included **Ratna Devi Nadarajan** and **Cristina Ciranda** from SEVEA, as well as **Sotha Sok**, representing the Cambodian Farmers Association Federation of Agricultural Producers (CFAP).

Addressing Certification and Scaling Up Regenerative Practices

Ratna Devi Nadarajan opened the discussion by asking panelists to share their experiences with regenerative agriculture. She highlighted that the cost of certification for sustainable agricultural practices can be prohibitive, especially for smallholder farmers. "The cost of certification is high, and this often becomes a barrier for many farmers to fully embrace regenerative agriculture," she noted.

However, she also pointed out the opportunities that exist for collaboration with development partners to help scale up regenerative practices, suggesting that such partnerships could alleviate some of the financial burden on farmers.

Cristina Ciranda elaborated on the technical challenges and solutions SEVEA has implemented to support farmers. "We have applied fruitful techniques to farmers who lack technical support, building their capacity to be more resilient to natural disasters," she said. Ciranda also emphasized the importance of preparing farmers for certification processes, helping them become more flexible and resilient.

Ciranda urged the audience to advocate for regenerative agriculture, noting that awareness and education are key. "As youth, farmers, and community members, we need to uplift this sector to make it more sustainable and widely adopted," she said.

Farmers' Associations and Sustainable Solutions

Sotha Sok from CFAP shared his extensive experience working with farmers in Cambodia. He highlighted the newness of farmer associations in Cambodia, explaining how they have been providing urgent solutions to problems like crop production. "Farmers always seek urgent solutions when faced with problems, and we are helping them by introducing modern farming techniques, such as using sophisticated facilities for crop production compared to a decade ago," he said.

Sok emphasized the importance of capacity building for youth, who are the future of Cambodia's agricultural sector. "We set up events to sharpen their awareness and ensure a sustainable future," he said. His organization has also conducted meetings with farmers and the private sector to explore sustainable development strategies.





3.11 SEVEA - THE 4PS OF REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION FOR MODERN AGRICULTURE COOPERATIVES

Sok also discussed the challenges faced by farmers, particularly the impact of climate change. "In Cambodia, heavy rain often causes flooding, which affects crop production and delivery to companies," he explained. He stressed the importance of supporting farmers with modern machinery and infrastructure. "We offer services such as tractors and other machines, which remove the need for farmers to spend thousands of dollars on equipment," he said, adding that mindset change is crucial for the success of regenerative agriculture.

The Importance of Mindset and Public-Private-Producer Partnerships

Sok also focused on the importance of fostering the right mindset within the farming community. "Mindset plays a vital role in leading to success in agriculture. We need to choose individuals who are passionate about agriculture, as research and assessments are crucial for driving innovation in the field," he said.

The conversation then shifted to the concept of Public-Private-Producer-Partnerships (4Ps), which is a key strategy for linking smallholder farmers with investors and development partners. This approach, supported by the Cambodian government, aims to catalyze agribusiness growth and contribute to improved livelihoods in rural areas. Sok emphasized the potential of the 4Ps to transform agriculture in Cambodia by bringing together public institutions, private investors, producers, and farmers.

Ultimately, the session highlighted the challenges and opportunities of implementing regenerative agriculture in Cambodia. While certification costs and the impact of climate change pose significant hurdles, collaboration between farmers, private investors, and development partners—through models like the 4Ps—can drive sustainable agricultural practices forward. Capacity building, particularly for youth, and fostering the right mindset within communities were identified as key components for achieving long-term success in the sector.





Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

3.12 EXPLORING CLIMATE-SMART RICE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING IN CAMBODIA

BY FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF
THE UNITED NATIONS



Ms. Rebekah Bell

Representative
UN FAO



H.E Dr Saing Koma YANG

Secretary of State
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries



Dr. Rica Flor

Scientist
International Rice Research
Institute



Mr. Reathmana LEANG

Economist
UN FAO



Mr. Kunthy KANN

Chief Operating Officer
Amru Rice (Cambodia) Co.,
Ltd





3.12 UNFAO - EXPLORING CLIMATE-SMART RICE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING IN CAMBODIA

The Climate-Smart Rice Production and Processing session, organized by the **UNFAO**, brought together government officials, research experts, and private sector representatives to discuss Cambodia's transition toward climate-smart rice production and marketing. The session explored strategies to adapt rice farming to climate change, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and seize market opportunities for low-emission rice. Featured speakers included **Rebekah Bell** from UNFAO, **H.E. Dr. Yang Saing Koma** from the Ministry of Agriculture, **Leang Reathmana** from UNFAO, **Kunthy Kann**, CEO of Amru Rice Cambodia, and **Dr. Rica Flor**, Scientist from the International Rice Research Institute.

Challenges and Opportunities in Rice Production

Rebekah Bell began the session by inviting an open discussion on the transformation of rice production in Cambodia and the challenges that need to be addressed.

Leang Reathmana then provided an overview of the current rice market, stating, "Asia is the only continent growing rice in large quantities. Rice is critical because it is a staple food, employs over two million people, and generates foreign cash from exports."

"However, it is also a contributor to climate change and a victim of its effects, making climate-smart solutions essential for the sustainability of this industry."

H.E. Dr. Yang Saing Koma echoed these sentiments, pointing out that while rice farming has significant environmental impacts, it also offers opportunities for optimization through good practices.

"The challenge is reaching the thousands of farmers out there. We are working closely with rice millers and banks to ensure farmers who adopt sustainable practices can develop high-quality products and access the right markets," he said. He said that building a value chain is beneficial not only for farmers but also for the environment.

Enhancing Rice Production through Technology

Dr. Rica Flor discussed strategies for improving rice production, starting with landscape redesign and the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices. "We are working on techniques like soil quality management, water management, and reducing fertilizer use to make farming more sustainable," she said. She stressed the importance of looking beyond the harvest to post-crop treatment and circular economy solutions that improve the overall efficiency of rice production.

Kunthy Kann noted that Cambodia is at a crossroads regarding rice farming, especially with generational changes in agriculture.

"The older generation is traditionally involved in agriculture, but the youth find it hard to engage in the same way. We need to apply technology and technical approaches to reduce input costs and increase yield," he said, adding that the shift will be crucial for making rice farming economically viable for future generations.

Best Practices and the Role of Farmer-to-Farmer Learning

H.E. Dr. Yang Saing Koma highlighted the importance of farmer-to-farmer learning to spread best practices. He explained that the ministry prioritizes supporting farmers who adopt climate-smart techniques, which incentivizes better production.





3.12 UNFAO - EXPLORING CLIMATE-SMART RICE PRODUCTION AND PROCESSING IN CAMBODIA

"The ability to make changes depends on the capacity of local communities. We encourage feedback between farmers and between producers and sellers to ensure everyone benefits," he said.

Dr. Rice Flor also pointed out that establishing a baseline for good practices is a key issue. She mentioned Alternate Wetting and Drying (AWD), a water-saving technology that helps reduce water use in irrigated rice fields.

"AWD is a valuable tool, but it's not a fix-all process—it can only be implemented in certain areas. This means it can't be universally adopted as a baseline practice," she explained.

Setting Goals and Targets for Sustainable Rice Production

The discussion turned to setting goals for Cambodia's rice sector. Rebekah Bell talked about the importance of aligning Cambodia's rice strategy with its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

"Countries are focusing on their top five sectors for carbon emissions, and two of those sectors in Cambodia are agriculture and forestry. We know the methane reduction targets, but we need a clear plan to support farmers during their transformation to climate-smart practices," she said.

H.E. Dr. Yang Saing Koma agreed, adding that the government is working on building value chains and reducing emissions.

"We need a goal and a benchmark to start. Right now, our priority is assessing agriculture, and we will use this research to develop a long-term strategy," he said, acknowledging the need for an intensive consultation process with experts, farmers, and other stakeholders.

Financing the Transition to Climate-Smart Rice

In closing, **Rebekah Bell** raised the critical question of how to finance the transition to climate-smart rice production.

"It takes about 3-4 years for a smallholder farmer to transform and make it economically viable. We need to know how this transformation will be supported and what tools will be available," she said.

Kunthy Kann agreed, stating that while the private sector is working to make rice production both profitable and environmentally friendly, it will require significant support and investment to scale these efforts. "We are testing new technologies under Cambodian conditions, and the private sector is finding what works, but we need financing to expand these practices," he said.

The session concluded with a clear call for collaboration between the government, farmers, and the private sector to transition Cambodia's rice sector to climate-smart practices. With the right technology, financing, and policy frameworks,

Panelists agreed that Cambodia has the potential to lead in low-emission rice production. However, as emphasized by the panel, this will require a concerted effort to support farmers during the transition and ensure the long-term sustainability of the rice sector.





3.13 ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF REDD+ PROJECTS

BY MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT



Mr. Kamal UY

Deputy Director General
General Directorate of Environment
Knowledge and Information, MoE



Mrs. Chan CHREUK

Secretary of Pu Trom ICC, Mondolkiri
Keo SEIMA REDD+ Project



Ms. Vanna SAVOEU

Chief of the Chong Indigenous people in
Chumnoab Village, Koh Kong Southern
Cardamoms REDD+ project



Mrs. Mao DOEURN

Por from Mongri, Promouy
Commune, Pursat
Central Cardamoms REDD+ project





3.13 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT - ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF REDD+ PROJECTS

The session, hosted by the Ministry of Environment (MoE), explored the crucial role Indigenous Peoples play in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management, with a focus on their involvement in REDD+ projects. Panelists discussed how integrating Indigenous communities into REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation) initiatives promotes sustainable forest management, enhances forest resilience, and aligns conservation efforts with the cultural values and needs of Indigenous Peoples. The session highlighted the successes of existing REDD+ projects and discussed pathways for future implementation.

The session featured **Uy Kamal**, Deputy Director General of the General Directorate of Environment Knowledge and Information at the Ministry of Environment (MoE); **Chereuk Chan**, Secretary of the Pu Trom Indigenous Community Committee (ICC) in Monduliri's Keo Seima REDD+ Project; **Vanna Sovoeun**, Chief of the Chornng Indigenous People in Chumnoab Village, Koh Kong; and **Mao Doeurn** from Mongri, Promouy Commune in Pursat.

Kamal UY opened the session by emphasizing the Cambodian government's commitment to ensuring that no one is left behind in the country's development efforts. He stressed the importance of aligning development with carbon-neutral goals, ensuring minimal negative impact on the environment.

He highlighted the success of previous REDD+ projects, such as Krovanh Khang Tboung in Pursat in 2017 and Monduliri in 2016, where carbon credits have been deposited. Kamal urged the audience to report deforestation and other harmful activities, reinforcing the critical role that communities play in protecting forests. He added, "If any of the REDD+ projects are reported to have negative impacts on the surrounding environment, they will be prohibited."

Kamal also asked the panelists about their experiences and the long-term vision for REDD+ in their communities. He noted, "To build a stable and sustainable financial model within REDD+ families, we must prioritize long-term planning and ensure that the benefits reach all community members."

Chan Chereuk shared her personal experience as an Indigenous person involved in REDD+. She discussed the various forms of support her community received, including improvements in healthcare, infrastructure, and education.

"We prioritize the most important tasks in the first month of the project," she said, highlighting the community-driven approach to REDD+ implementation. Chereuk emphasized the dual benefits of REDD+, including the preservation of their inherited forests and the protection from illegal land raiders. She also mentioned the creation of a Cultural Home for tourists to learn about their culture, while emphasizing the importance of circular agriculture—ensuring that no trees or soil are damaged in the crop production process.

Chereuk concluded by calling for more support from the government and organizations to offer scholarships for Indigenous youth pursuing education in cities. "We want our younger generations to continue their education and contribute to the future of our community," she added.





3.13 MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT - ENGAGEMENT OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN CONSERVATION & IMPLEMENTATION OF REDD+ PROJECTS

Vanna SAVOEUN spoke about the impact of the Southern Cardamoms REDD+ Project on her community. “REDD+ allows us to protect our traditional forest and be a part of the climate action movement,” she said. She noted that the conserved lands are now secured, and the project has provided substantial support in the form of new infrastructure, including bathrooms, roads, and schools.

She expressed her desire for the REDD+ project to continue for future generations, stating, “We hope this project will last long into the future.” She also highlighted the ongoing needs of her community, including improved roads for transportation, English teachers, and better water security through the construction of wells.

Doeurn Mao, from Mongri, Promouy Commune in Pursat, discussed the Central Cardamoms REDD+ Project and its positive effects on her community. She spoke about the rising temperatures and environmental challenges facing her village, which led her to support the initiation of REDD+.

“The carbon credits have supported our community with development projects, such as building schools, hospitals, and roads,” she said, emphasizing the financial and environmental benefits of REDD+. She also praised the government's role in providing financial support, education, and climate awareness programs. However, she stressed the need for more secure land-use rights, saying, “We wish to have an official solid land-use plan in our community to ensure the security of our land.”

The session on Indigenous engagement in REDD+ projects successfully covered the importance of incorporating traditional ecological knowledge into conservation efforts.

Panelists highlighted the tangible benefits of REDD+ projects in their communities, including infrastructure development, environmental preservation, and financial stability through carbon credit schemes. They also outlined the ongoing challenges, such as the need for educational support, secure land tenure, and increased government collaboration.

The session ended with a call for sustained investment in Indigenous communities to ensure the long-term success of REDD+ projects and the preservation of Cambodia's rich biodiversity.





3.14 ENHANCING AGROECOLOGY THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY AND CERTIFICATION: STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE



BY SWISS CONTACT



Mrs. Sreymom SIENG

Research and Experiment Coordinator
Cambodian Conservation Agriculture Research
for Development Center / DALRM, MAFF



H.E. Dr. Saruth CHAN

Under Secretary of State
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries



Mr. Vira LENG

Vice Chief of Office
Department of Agricultural Land Resources
Management (DALRM)
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry
and Fisheries



Mr. Dilum Wijenayaka

General Manager
Control Union Cambodia





3.14 SWISS CONTACT - ENHANCING AGROECOLOGY THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY AND CERTIFICATION: STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

The session on Public Policies and Certification Programs for Agroecology offered key insights into how public policies and certification programs can drive the adoption of agroecological practices and innovations in response to climate change. The discussion focused on effective policy frameworks, certification processes, and collaborative strategies to promote sustainable agriculture and enhance climate resilience.

Key speakers included **Sieng Sreymom** from the Cambodian Conservation Agriculture Research for Development Center, **H.E. Chan Saruth** from the Ministry of Agriculture, **Leng Vira** from the Department of Agricultural Land Resources Management, and **Dilum Wijenayaka** from Control Union Cambodia.

Sieng Sreymom began by inviting Leng Vira to provide an overview of the role of agroecology in addressing climate change.

Leng Vira explained that agroecology is a sustainable farming practice that works in harmony with nature. "Agroecology is the application of ecological principles in farming. It's about the balance between plants, animals, people, and their environment." He emphasized that soil health is crucial to food production, noting that 95% of food comes from soil. "Taking care of soil on both small and large scales leads to a more sustainable food system. Healthy soil supports biodiversity, improves water retention, and ultimately creates a resilient food system, contributing to both a healthier planet and food security."

Sieng Sreymom then moved the discussion to certifications in agroecology, asking about their importance and processes.

Dilum Wijenayaka addressed the role of certification as a third-party assurance that producers are adhering to certain standards, which could be local or international. "In Cambodia, there are local certifications relevant to the domestic market and international certifications for export," he explained.

He stressed that certification goes beyond financial incentives. "It improves farm management, reduces land degradation, and ensures environmental sustainability. Certification builds trust with buyers and consumers and provides access to lucrative markets, ensuring long-term business sustainability."

He further elaborated on obtaining certification, which involves internal assessments, data collection, and training producers to meet the required standards. "In some cases, producers may need to provide product samples to ensure they are free from chemical contamination."

Returning to the discussion of successful outcomes in Cambodia, **Leng Vira** emphasized the importance of innovation in contributing to soil health and profitability.

"We focus on conservation agriculture, where we actively manage resources. Healthier soils have a greater capacity to store carbon, which is directly beneficial in mitigating climate change."





3.14 SWISS CONTACT - ENHANCING AGROECOLOGY THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY AND CERTIFICATION: STRATEGIES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

H.E. Chan Saruth concluded the session by highlighting the Cambodian government's commitment to combating soil erosion and supporting agroecology.

"We want our efforts to serve all stakeholders. We've gathered partners from across the private sector and development organizations like UNFAO to create a comprehensive roadmap for 2022-2026. We are focused on what our research tells us and how that can shape agroecology moving forward. We aim to take meaningful steps to mitigate climate change and secure a sustainable future for all."

The session provided a clear message: integrating agroecology into policy frameworks and securing certification for sustainable farming practices are essential for building a resilient agricultural sector in Cambodia that can meet the challenges posed by climate change.





3.15 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - ENGAGING YOUTH IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

BY YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE
ACTION & UNDP



Mr. Pongsan HOUN

Partnership Lead
Youth Council for Climate Action



Ms. Petra Pontier

Policy Officer
(Environment and Climate Change) UNDP
Cambodia





3.15 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & UNDP - ENGAGING YOUTH IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

The Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA) in collaboration with UNDP hosted an insightful session focused on the role of youth in shaping the next Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) for Cambodia. The session, titled Youth Roadmap for NDC Consultation, was moderated by **Pengsan Huon** and **Petra Pointier**, and brought together key youth representatives to discuss their involvement, specifically the youth participation in the NDC process.

The conversation started with an overview of Cambodia's NDC development, which is due for an update next year. The NDC has made a concerted effort to include youth, mentioning them 109 times, and has a dedicated section for gender, children, and youth. However, despite this focus, only 10% of youth surveyed have heard of the NDC.

The discussion revealed several common challenges that hinder youth participation in the NDC process.

First, the complexity of the language—full of jargon and abbreviations—makes it difficult for young people to understand the technicalities of the document. Second, while space for participation exists, communication challenges often prevent effective engagement. Third, there is fragmentation in the youth participation landscape, where many youth organizations are active but often lack sustainability beyond one or two years. Finally, the lack of funding is a significant barrier to youth engagement in climate action.

Petra Pointier highlighted the urgency of updating the NDC, noting that the timeline for finalization is short, with a target for early next year. She posed several key questions: How can youth ensure that their voices are integrated into the NDC update? What safety guidelines need to be developed to engage youth in this process? How can communication be improved to ensure national-level participation, including reaching rural and indigenous communities?

One of the key points raised was the need for inclusive consultation. Most consultation workshops are held in urban areas, leaving rural youth and marginalized groups, such as Indigenous youth and those with limited English skills, underrepresented. Additionally, youth participants called for more accessible platforms, questioning how existing youth organizations and networks could be leveraged to enhance communication and engagement across the country.

Pengsan Huon further noted that youth are often unaware of what the NDC entails or how they can contribute to its implementation. The Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) process for the NDC was also flagged as a concern, with youth expressing the need for transparency and accountability in budget tracking and action plans. The updated NDC 3.0 should include these elements in future consultation workshops to ensure youth engagement is not just tokenistic but meaningful and impactful.

Petra Pointier pointed out that although Cambodia's NDC 2.0 received a perfect score of 4/4 on youth engagement from the UNICEF toolkit, there is still much room for improvement. The current process, she noted, is lengthy and may not align with the deadline of COP 2025.





3.15 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA & UNDP - ENGAGING YOUTH IN CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Some small countries, like Singapore, have already submitted their updated NDCs, but Cambodia is likely to finalize its submission in June 2025.

When asked how youth could get involved, several participants expressed frustration at not knowing where or how to contribute. There was also reluctance from some to identify as "activists," preferring other forms of engagement.

A key solution proposed during the session was the creation of a joint platform—potentially led by YCCA—to share opportunities and bridge the communication gap. This platform would also help address knowledge gaps by building youth capacity, particularly around technical terms like DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction).

Another important proposal was the development of a "climate dictionary" to simplify the language used in the NDC and related climate documents. Participants stressed the importance of making the NDC process more accessible and inclusive, ensuring that it is not rushed and that there is sufficient time for feedback and dissemination of research.

In closing, the session underscored the need for a collaborative and transparent approach to youth engagement in the NDC process.

Petra Pointier called on organizations like Oxfam, which has been conducting feasibility studies on stakeholder involvement in NDCs, to continue sharing reports and findings to support youth participation. She concluded that the process must not only include youth but also empower them to take meaningful action in Cambodia's climate future.





3.16 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - SHAPING CAMBODIA'S NATIONAL YOUTH STATEMENT

BY YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE
ACTION



Mr. Pongsan HOUN

Partnership Lead
Youth Council for Climate Action



Ms. Socheata HORNG

Youth Council for Climate Action





3.16 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA - SHAPING CAMBODIA'S NATIONAL YOUTH STATEMENT

The session, hosted by the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA), focused on shaping Cambodia's National Youth Statement, a critical document representing the collective voices of the nation's youth on climate change and sustainability issues. Moderated by **Hornng Socheata**, the discussion brought together youth leaders, participants, and speakers to consolidate ideas on six key themes.

These themes—Sustainable Energy Transition, Climate Finance, Youth Empowerment and Climate Action, Urban Sustainability, Green Job Transition, and Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems—were identified as priorities through consultations with 300 youth participants during the Local Conference of Youth. The final statement, to be delivered at COY19 and COP29, will serve as Cambodia's youth contribution to global climate discussions.

Opening the session, Sina Yun from Plan International initiated the conversation on Sustainable Energy Transition, stressing the importance of maintaining tax incentives to reduce the initial cost of electric vehicles (EVs) and encourage consumer adoption.

He called for increased investment in public charging infrastructure, particularly in urban areas and along key highways, to support EV growth. Sina Yun also emphasized the need for technical training to equip young Cambodians with the skills required to maintain and repair these vehicles, creating opportunities for green jobs related to EV manufacturing and charging infrastructure.

He suggested that short-term training programs be implemented to quickly upskill the workforce, enabling the country to meet the growing demand for EV-related expertise. His passionate appeal concluded with a call for affordable charging stations to ensure a just energy transition, stating, "Charging stations should increase and prices should be reduced for a Just Energy Transition."

Shifting to Youth Empowerment and Climate Action, the conversation highlighted the necessity of engaging young people in more local and community planning efforts. One female participant called for opportunities to increase qualifications through training programs, while a male participant emphasized that youth should be involved in grassroots planning to help address climate challenges in their communities.

The discussion on Urban Sustainability brought attention to the disparity in employment opportunities between urban and rural areas.

Sina Yun pointed out that many young people are forced to move to cities for work, as there are limited opportunities in their home provinces. He argued that national strategies aimed at promoting urban sustainability should also include provisions for rural development, particularly in education and infrastructure.





3.16 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA - SHAPING CAMBODIA'S NATIONAL YOUTH STATEMENT

He added that public-private partnerships were essential to reducing carbon emissions, which primarily originate from private companies. He also stressed the importance of technology transfer to youth, suggesting that older generations might struggle to keep pace with rapid technological advancements.

Though the theme of Green Job Transition did not receive specific attention during this session, its importance in linking youth employment opportunities with sustainable development goals was recognized as a vital area for further exploration.

The conversation turned towards Sustainable Agriculture and Food Systems, with a participant raising concerns about the need for infrastructure improvements to help farmers adapt to climate change. The room then emphasized the importance of integrating climate-smart practices into the agricultural value chain, ensuring that farmers can continue to thrive despite increasing environmental challenges.

The final theme of Climate Finance underscored the need for greater financial resources to support adaptation efforts. Sina Yun advocated for increased adaptation funding at COP29, urging the Cambodian government to seek funds to support community adaptation to climate disasters and risks. Highlighted was the importance of making climate finance accessible to communities, emphasizing that these resources could help build resilience against climate change impacts at the grassroots level.

As the session drew to a close, the participants collectively agreed on the urgency of greater youth engagement in climate policy and action.

The Cambodia National Youth Statement, developed through these discussions, represents a significant opportunity for young Cambodians to influence national and global climate policies. The youth delegates expressed pride in their contributions and looked forward to seeing their ideas reflected on the world stage, with hopes of catalyzing meaningful change for Cambodia's future.





3.17 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - CAMBODIA 2030: IMAGINING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE (CREATIVE SESSION)

BY YOUTH COUNCIL FOR CLIMATE
ACTION



Mr. Pongsan HOUN

Partnership Lead
Youth Council for Climate Action



Ms. Socheata HORNG

Youth Council for Climate Action





3.16 YOUTH-LED ROUNDTABLES - YCCA - CAMBODIA 2030: IMAGINING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The Cambodia 2030: Imagining a Sustainable Future session, hosted by the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA) was an interactive, creative session that invited participants to envision Cambodia's future as a sustainable and thriving country by 2030.

This session aimed to stimulate a collective imagination, exploring ideas through drawing, illustrations, quotes, and innovative concepts that could shape Cambodia's sustainable future.

Hornng Socheata opened the session by encouraging participants to share their bold and creative visions of Cambodia in 2030. She emphasized the importance of youth involvement in reimagining the country's development path, and integrating urban sustainability, environmental conservation, and sustainable energy into the discussion.

The session saw participants share their ideas about how Cambodia can prioritize sustainability across different sectors.

They highlighted urban sustainability, focusing on making cities more livable, green, and accessible. Suggestions included increasing energy charging stations, developing walkways and biking paths, and creating eco-friendly cafes. There were calls for more public transportation options, such as sky trains and subways, along with accessible schools and hospitals to improve the overall infrastructure and reduce the reliance on private cars.

One participant remarked, "We need to create spaces where walking, biking, and using public transport become an easy choice for everyone, especially when it's supported by good security for females."

Natural Conservation and Eco-Tourism

A significant portion of the conversation centered around natural conservation and eco-tourism. Participants called for the need to plant more trees and create eco-tourist spots, which could intern be leveraged in the carbon market.

They imagined a future where humans and animals live in harmony, where nature is sustained, and the climate improves as a result. One idea that resonated with the group was the economic benefit of developing and conserving nature, as it could lead to green job creation and provide organic fruits and vegetables. As one participant passionately noted, "When we develop and conserve nature, we will reap its fruits not just for the environment but for driving our economy as well."

The discussion also touched on reducing water pollution and preserving aquatic ecosystems. Participants advocated for creating a "green world" that feels distinct from urban centers, suggesting the promotion of clean energy like wind turbines to generate power. There was a clear push for the reduction of chemical and processed foods in favor of organic options that benefit both human health and the environment.

Lastly, the importance of Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles was highlighted as an essential framework for guiding Cambodia's development. The session underscored how integrating ESG into the country's development strategy would ensure that economic growth is balanced with environmental protection and social responsibility, creating a more resilient and equitable future for all.

The Cambodia 2030: Imagining a Sustainable Future session concluded with a shared sense of optimism. The ideas generated during this creative session offered a glimpse of what Cambodia could look like by 2030—an inclusive, environmentally conscious, and forward-thinking society driven by youth-led innovation and collective action.





4. SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS EXPO





4. SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS EXPO

The Sustainable Solutions EXPO at CCCF24 showcased a variety of climate-focused initiatives and products, attracting participants from both the private and development sectors. The EXPO featured a diverse array of booths, ranging from upcycled fashion to sustainable agricultural products, each promoting innovative solutions for a more sustainable future. Here's a summary of the key participants and their contributions:



USAID carries out U.S. foreign policy by promoting broad-scale human progress at the same time it expands stable, free societies, creates markets and trade partners for the United States, and fosters good will abroad.

The various USAID booths highlighted the work USAID projects in Cambodia on supporting communities to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. Visitors were engaged with local snacks and handicrafts, such as items made from talipot palm trees, while hosting interactive activities like quizzes and wheel games to raise awareness about sustainability.



Australia had a booth that featured different climate-related initiatives under various programs and organizations funded by Australia, such as the Cambodia Australia Partnership for Resilient Economic Development (CAPRED), Oxfam, the Australian Center for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR), and WaterAid. Visitors were able to learn how Australia's interventions are helping Cambodia to adapt to and mitigate climate change issues.

Australia also supported private companies to showcase climate-smart agricultural technologies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. These technologies included agricultural drones and laser land levelers that help farmers use inputs efficiently and better adapt to climate change.



Oxfam's purpose is to help create lasting solutions to the injustice of poverty. Oxfam is part of a global movement for change, empowering people to create a future that is secure, just, and free from poverty.

The Oxfam booth shared information on their global projects aimed at promoting social justice, gender equality, and climate resilience, particularly among marginalized communities.



Plan International Cambodia is a girl-focused, children's rights organisation working with communities to alleviate poverty so children can realise their full potential.

The Plan International booth showcased their initiatives supporting youth and community resilience in the face of climate change, with a focus on gender equality and empowerment.



The Ministry of Environment is a government ministry of Cambodia charged with environmental protection.

Their booth presented their climate change actions in collaboration with UNDP, emphasizing the government's role in driving environmental policy and conservation efforts.





4. SUSTAINABILITY EXPO



UNDP works in more than 170 countries and territories, helping to achieve the eradication of poverty and the reduction of inequalities and exclusion. We help countries develop policies, leadership skills, partnering abilities, and institutional capabilities and build resilience in order to sustain development results.

The CCCA programme is contributing to a scaled-up response to climate change, with a focus on coordinating institutions (National Council for Sustainable Development, Ministry of Economy and Finance), and five strategic sector ministries (environment, public works and transport, rural development, mines and energy, and education, youth and sports).

The UNDP & CCCA booth shared information about their projects focused on sustainable development and climate resilience, underscoring their global commitment to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a specialized agency of the United Nations that leads international efforts to defeat hunger.

The UNFAO booth presented their work on promoting sustainable agriculture and food security in response to climate change, sharing insights into how agricultural practices can be made more resilient.



Since 1987, Conservation International has worked to spotlight and secure the critical benefits that nature provides to humanity.

The Conversation International booth highlighted their projects aimed at conserving biodiversity and promoting sustainable land and water management to combat climate change.



Three Corner Coffee focuses on sustainable coffee farming, through initiatives like conservation agriculture and climate-smart techniques and has a plastic-free supply chain. It is the first international standard coffee roaster to be established in the Kingdom of Cambodia,

Their booth offered free tastings of their eco-friendly coffee products, drawing attention to the environmental and ethical benefits of sustainable coffee farming.



Control Union specializes in sustainability across various supply chains, including food, feed, forestry, bioenergy, and textiles,

Their booth presented their certification and compliance services aimed at fostering sustainability in agriculture and industry.





4. SUSTAINABILITY EXPO

act:onaid

ActionAid are a global justice federation working to achieve social justice, gender equality and poverty eradication. They work with the poorest and most excluded men, women and children in Cambodia, making long-term commitments to advance their human rights and transform the world in which their children grow up.

The ActionAid booth focused on climate adaptation and resilience projects, ActionAid showcased their work with vulnerable communities, particularly in promoting sustainable development and addressing climate-related challenges.



AGRO AGAPE is a women-led agriculture business providing low-income farmers with a gateway to the Cambodian agricultural market. They offer farm-to-table and back-to-farm services by creating support systems for farmers for post-harvest management.

This innovative organization displayed their biofertilizer made from coffee husks, offering a sustainable, organic solution to improving soil fertility while reducing agricultural waste.



ReMade in Cambodia transforms textile waste into wearable products, empowering young local artists while fostering a circular fashion economy that integrates Khmer culture and environmental sustainability. Their vision is to create a world where young Cambodian artists turn textile waste into opportunity.

Their booth showcased their upcycled fashion items, including clothes and jewelry made from recycled materials, providing a stylish and eco-friendly approach to reducing textile waste.

iDE

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

The iDE booth showcased their market-based approach to supporting farmers, demonstrating solutions that increase agricultural productivity while improving resilience to climate change.



Changing the world through Education

Aide et Action's mission is to ensure access to quality education for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, especially children, so they can take charge of their own development and contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable world.

Their booth displayed a selection of natural products, emphasizing their role in supporting sustainable livelihoods through environmentally conscious approaches.



TONTOTON is pioneering sustainable solution for reducing ocean-bound plastic

The TonTonTon booth featured products made from recycled plastic, collected from coastal areas in collaboration with local women's groups. Their range of items, including chairs, benches, and flower pots, highlighted the value of repurposing waste before it enters the ocean.





4. SUSTAINABILITY EXPO



Youth Council on Climate Action (YCCA), established in 2023, empowers Cambodian youth to take bold climate action. We provide tools, resources, and platforms for impactful change.

The YCCA booth provided information on their environmental awareness projects targeted at youth, demonstrating the importance of engaging the next generation in climate action.



Solidarity Center works with Cambodian unions and other allies to protect and advance worker rights through training and support, including legal advocacy, to help workers stand up for their rights and demand living wages and decent working conditions.

Their booth distributed reports on the effects of heat and global warming on workers, highlighting the human impact of climate change and advocating for fair labor conditions.



IBIS Rice is an ethically driven conservation enterprise working with Cambodian farmers to protect a precious and vulnerable ecosystem while growing premium organic jasmine rice.

IBIS displayed their range of organic and biodiversity-friendly rice products, including cereals, snacks, and even craft beer, demonstrating how sustainable agriculture can produce high-quality, eco-friendly goods.



Aide et Action's mission is to ensure access to quality education for the most vulnerable and marginalized populations, especially children, so they can take charge of their own development and contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable world.

Their booth displayed a selection of natural products, emphasizing their role in supporting sustainable livelihoods through environmentally conscious approaches.





4.1 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

The Cambodia Climate Change Forum 2024 (CCCF24) placed youth engagement at the forefront, offering young people a unique platform to shape Cambodia's climate dialogue. Thanks to support from UNICEF, the forum brought together a vibrant coalition of young climate advocates, university students, and experts, who shared their perspectives, learned from each other, and engaged in climate action planning. Organized in collaboration with the Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA), the event's youth-focused sessions highlighted the potential of Cambodia's next generation to drive transformative change.

Amplifying Youth Voices in Climate Action

YCCA, a leading Cambodian youth group dedicated to climate advocacy, organized activities that equipped youth with tools, resources, and a supportive platform to make a real impact. With an engaging social media campaign led by ZEROW, a young climate advocate and influencer, YCCA brought environmental awareness to the digital space, reaching thousands of young Cambodians with content that emphasized practical steps to reduce carbon footprints. Alongside this, ZEROW collaborated with YCCA to design interactive workshops and create social media content that inspired Cambodian youth to take action.

Campus Workshops on Climate Impact

To build climate literacy, YCCA organized outreach workshops at three major universities in Sihanoukville, engaging a total of 203 students. Held at the University of Management and Economics (36 students), Build Bright University (97 students), and the Polytechnic Institute (70 students), these workshops educated students on the impact of climate change and involved them in brainstorming ways to reduce their personal and community-wide carbon footprints.

Through interactive discussions, students explored how lifestyle choices affect the environment, shared their concerns, and developed personal climate action plans. Nine students who attended these workshops were later invited to CCCF24, where they participated in Q&A sessions, roundtable discussions, and panel dialogues, contributing insights from their academic and personal experiences.

Youth-Led Roundtables and Opening Remarks

A highlight of the event was the youth-led roundtables, six of which were moderated by YCCA members, offering students and young professionals a space to discuss climate issues and share their ideas for change. Four sessions were co-moderated by partners such as UNICEF, UNDP, Plan International, and OXFAM, bringing together diverse perspectives and reinforcing the collaborative nature of CCCF24. These discussions emphasized sustainable practices and underscored the importance of community-led efforts in achieving Cambodia's climate goals.





4.1 YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ACTIVITIES

Opening day two of CCCF24, young speakers Socheata, from YCCA, and Chamroeum, a local young person from Sihanoukville working with M'lop Tapang, addressed the forum alongside UN representative Ms. Rebekah Bell. Their speeches set a hopeful, ambitious tone for the day, highlighting the energy and determination of Cambodian youth to be actively involved in building a sustainable future.

Expanding Climate Education Beyond CCCF24

In addition to the university outreach, YCCA announced plans to extend climate education efforts to local high schools and youth groups, with a goal to reach 300 more young people before the end of the year (2024). Upcoming workshops are set to engage students at Sihanoukville High School, Hun Sen Mittapheap High School, Antaraktvib General Knowledge Center, Sovannaphumi School's Preah Sihanouk Campus, and M'lop Tapang's youth programs.

At CCCF24, YCCA also hosted an EXPO booth where they showcased their ongoing initiatives, including plans to engage Cambodian youth in international climate events like COP, as well as projects that foster environmental awareness among their peers.

Engaging Cambodia's Future Leaders

With thanks to UNICEF for sponsoring the youth-focused activities, CCCF24 collectively engaged over 500 young people, inspiring them to join the fight against climate change and equipping them with the tools to make a difference in their communities. By supporting these initiatives, CCCF24 and its partners have laid a foundation for long-term youth involvement in Cambodia's climate strategy—ensuring that the country's future leaders are ready, informed, and empowered to advocate for a sustainable future.





5. CARBON OFFSET

For the past two years the Cambodian Climate Change Summit has offset the carbon footprint of the Summit. This year's CCCF is no different.

After **CCCS22**, the Summit's carbon emissions were offset by working with the Apsara Authority in Siem Reap to plant 2000 trees within the Angkor Wat UNESCO World Heritage Site.

After **CCCS23**, the Summit's carbon emissions were offset by purchasing 42 tons of verified carbon units from the Keo Siema REDD+ project.

For **CCCF24**, Mekong Future Initiative purchased 55 tons of verified carbon units associated with the Keo Siema REDD+ project. The increase in the number of tons of verified carbon units required to offset the Forum's carbon emissions is due to the increase in attendance between 2023 and 2024 (approx 30%).

Metrics

The estimated carbon emissions for the CCCF24 were calculated using Conservation International's Carbon Footprint Calculator.

Find more information here: footprint.conservation.org/en-us

The verified carbon units from the Keo Siema REDD+ project were purchased from Beyond Neutral.

Find more information here: beyondneutral.com/carbon-shop

Plastic Waste Reduction

This year CCCF24 also partnered with TonToTon, a Sihanoukville-based company processing mismanaged plastics to protect coastlines.

A total contribution of 1650kg of plastic waste reduction was purchased through event activities, including a site visit to their recycling centre and recycled plastic keychains offered as gifts for all event attendees. The certificate and trophy, highlighting the contribution, was presented to the Minister of Environment on Day One of the event.



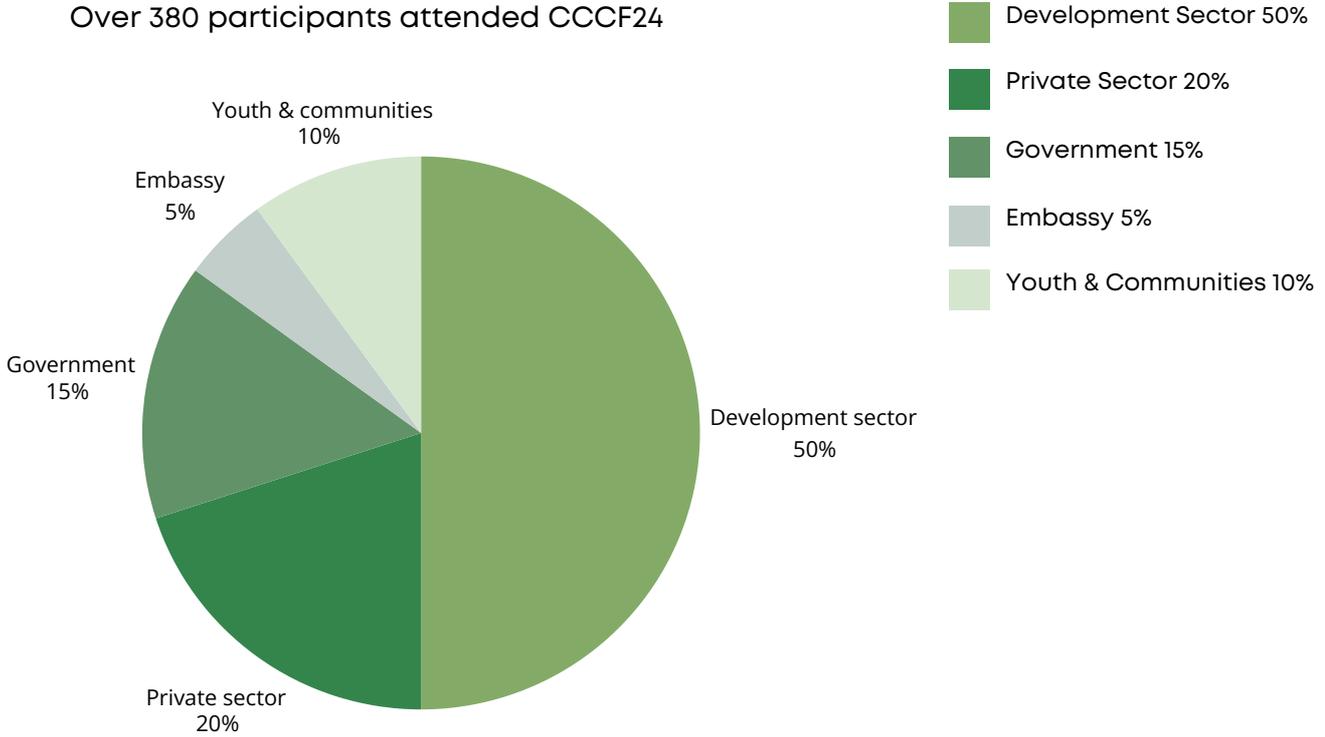
H.E Neak Okhna Daniel Sear presents the trophy to Minister of Environment, H.E Eang Sophalleth





6. ATTENDEE DEMOGRAPHICS

Over 380 participants attended CCCF24



CCCF24 Sponsors



Action For Development
 ActionAid Cambodia
 AGRO AGAPE
 Aide et Action International
 Alliance for Conflict Transformation
 American Chambers of Commerce
 Amru Rice (Cambodia) Co., Ltd
 AQ Corporate Services LLP
 Asia Foundation
 Asian Development Bank
 Australian Embassy in Cambodia
 Battambang Union of Agricultural Cooperatives
 Beats And Pulses Pte Ltd
 Bophana Audiovisual Resource Center
 British Embassy
 Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services for
 Southeast Asia
 Business Consultant
 Cambodia Development Resource Institute (CDRI)
 Cambodia Indigenous Peoples Alliance (CIPA)
 Cambodia International Film Festival
 Cambodia Rice Federation
 Cambodian Conservation Agriculture Research for
 Development Center
 Cambodian Farmer Federation Association of
 Agricultural Producers
 Cambodian Rural Development Team (CRDT)
 Camchin lawfirm
 CAPRED
 CARE Cambodia
 CDRI
 Centre for Policy Studies (CPS)
 Chan Independent Consulting
 Child Rights Foundation Organization
 ChildFund Cambodia
 Children and Women Development Center in
 Cambodia organisation
 Chip Mong Insee Cement Corporation
 Chipmong INSEE Corporation - Chipmong Ecocycle
 Chornng Indigenous People in Chumnoab Village, Koh
 Kong Province
 Church World Service
 CLH Agriculture
 Climate Gen
 Comin Khmere Co., Ltd
 Community Leader
 Conservation International
 Control Union (Cambodia) Co. Ltd.
 Cooperation Committee for Cambodia
 Credit Guarantee Corporation of Cambodia
 Culture and Environmental Preservation Association
 Danmission
 Davies SM Attorneys-at-Law
 Dept. of Agricultural Land Resources Management
 Development and Partnership in Action
 EC Refrigeration Co., Ltd
 EGE (Cambodia) Energy Solutions Co., Ltd.
 Embassy of Ireland
 EnergyLab Cambodia
 European Chambers of Commerce
 FAEC Cambodia
 Fauna & Flora
 Feed the Future Cambodia Harvest III
 FHI 360
 Fisheries Administration
 Food and Agriculture Organization of the United
 Nations (FAO)
 Freelance
 Freelance Consultant
 General Directorate of Agriculture, MAFF
 GGGI
 GIZ
 Global Evergreening Alliance
 Global Green Growth Institute
 Green Farmers
 Habitat for Humanity International
 Heifer International Cambodia
 HEKS-EPER/ Nurture Project
 Helpcode Cambodia
 HESED Cambodia
 HUSK VENTURES (CAMBODIA)
 iDE Cambodia
 Impact Hub Phnom Penh
 Improved Service Delivery for Citizens in Cambodia
 (ISD), GIZ
 Incofin Investment Management
 Independent Democracy of Informal Economy
 Association
 Indigenous Community Support Organization
 Indigenous Legal Team
 Indigenous Peoples Representative from Keo Seima
 INSUCO
 International Blue Carbon Institute
 International Rice Research Institute
 J Trust Royal Bank
 Japan International Cooperation Agency/Royal
 University of Agriculture
 Liechtenstein Development Service
 Live & Learn Cambodia
 Luxury Business Group
 Mekong Capital
 Mekong Regional Land Governance
 Mekong Strategic Capital
 Melon Association of Siem Reap Mean Chey (MASC)
 Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
 Ministry of Environment
 Ministry of Foreign Affairs
 Mongri, Promouy Commune, Pursat Province

My Village Cambodia
National Biodigester Programme
NCDM
Youth Representative
New Generation School of Prek Leap High School
Northeastern Rural Development - NRD
Nurture Project / HEKS - Caritas Switzerland
Open Development Cambodia
Oxfam in Cambodia
Oxley Worldbridge
Phillip Bank
Phu Rieng Kratie Aphivath Caoutchouc Co., Ltd
Plan International Cambodia
Platform Impact
Preah Sihanouk Province
Preah Sihanouk Provincial Health Department
Pu Trom ICC, Mondolkiri Province
PUC
ReMade in Cambodia
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Sahmakum Teang Tanut Organisation
Save the Children
Save the Earth
Sevea Co. Ltd
SHETHINKS NETWORK
SNV
SOGE
Solar Green Energy (Cambodia) Co., Ltd
Not attending
Solidarity Center
Soma Group
Somrong Yorng Water Supply
Stung Treng province
Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
Swisscontact Cambodia
Synergies publiques Agency
Tekdeysovanphum Organization (TDSP)
Tetra Tech ARD (USAID Morodok Baitang)
The Asia Foundation
The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
THREE CORNER COFFEE ROASTER
UK FCDO
UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office
UNICEF Cambodia
UNIDO
United Nations Development Programme
United Nations Development Programme / CCCA3
US Embassy in Cambodia
USAID Conserve
USAID Morodok Baitang

Youth Ambassadors for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
WaterAid Cambodia
WCS
Wild Earth Allies
Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust
Wildlife Conservation Society
Women Champion Network
World Bank
World Vision International Cambodia
Youth Council of Cambodia
Youth Council for Climate Action (YCCA)
ក្រុមយុវជនបៃតងខេត្តមណ្ឌលគីរី
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អង្គការទិន្នន័យអំពីការអភិវឌ្ឍ
អង្គការមជ្ឈមណ្ឌលម្តប់ព្រហ្មវិហារធម៌
អង្គការសហគមន៍អភិវឌ្ឍន៍មិត្តជនបទ(RFCD)

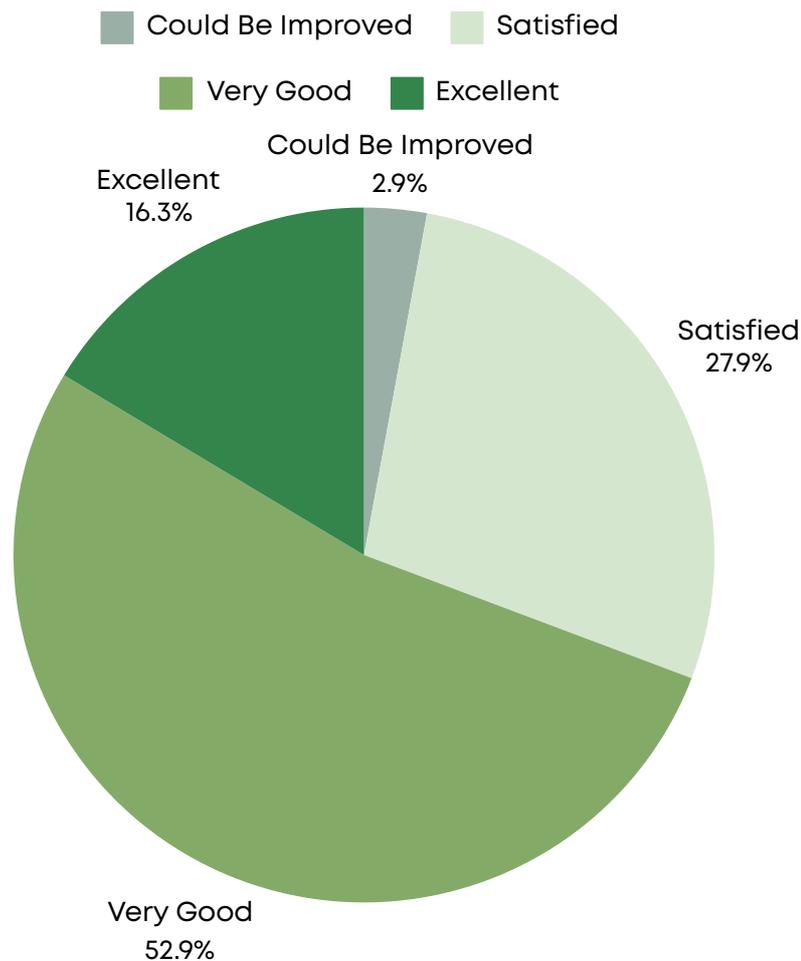


7. POST EVENT SURVEY

Here's what attendees had to say about this year's conference:

- **Session Timing:** Over 65% of attendees found 45 minutes ideal for panel discussions, keeping the sessions engaging and impactful.
- **Youth Engagement:** 53.8% participated in youth-led roundtable discussions, underscoring the importance of empowering young voices in climate conversations.
- **Attendance and Frequency:** 85.6% felt the number of attendees was "just right," and 83.7% support hosting CCCF annually, with 13.5% suggesting a biennial format.
- **Event Duration:** 69.2% recommended keeping CCCF at 2 days, while 25% suggested extending to 3 days.
- **Future Attendance:** 86.5% said they would attend again, and 82.7% would recommend CCCF to a colleague.

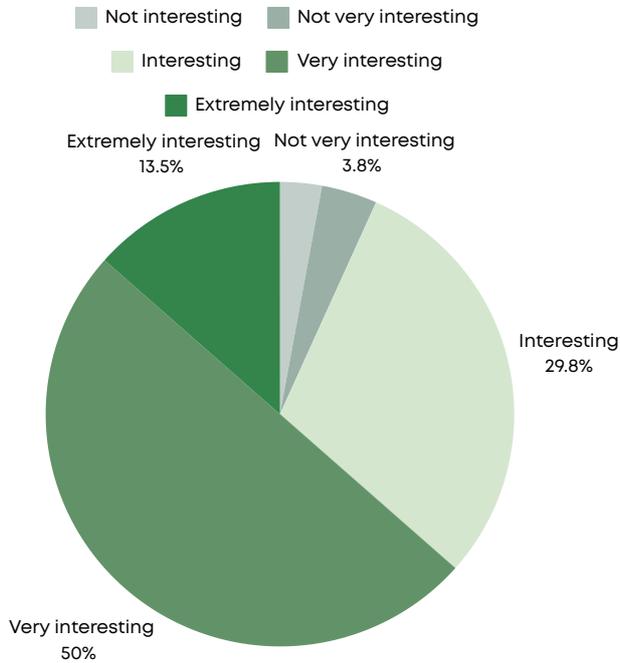
Overall rating of CCCF24



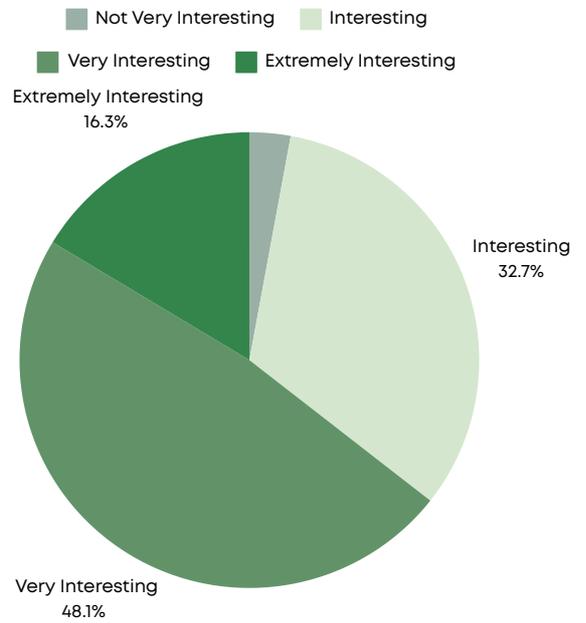


7. POST EVENT SURVEY

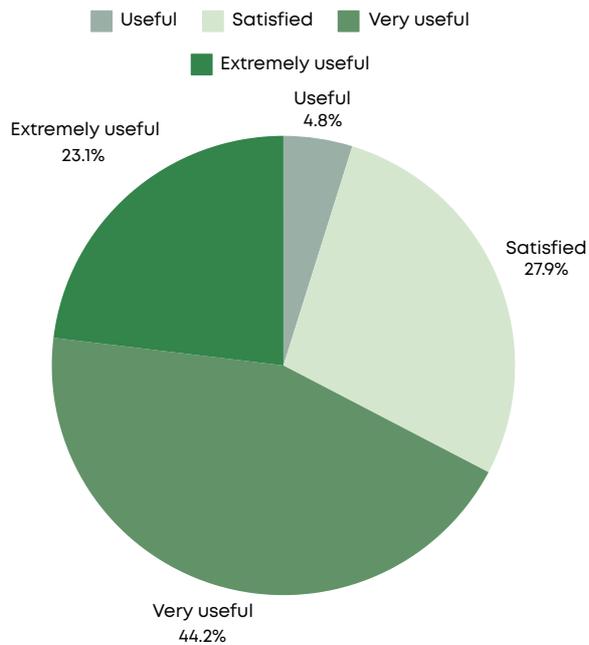
How interesting were the opening morning session?



How interesting were the afternoon panel session?



How useful were the networking opportunities at CCCF24?





8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Total sponsorship:

	USAID	Founding Partner		\$30,027.40
	Australia / CAPRED	Platinum Partner		\$20,000.00
	UNICEF	Silver Sponsor	In kind/direct payment for youth participation and outreach activities	\$7,000
	Oxfam	Silver Sponsor		\$5,000.00
	FDCO	Silver Sponsor		\$5,650.00
	Plan International	Silver Sponsor		\$5,000.00
	Aide et Action	Bronze Sponsor		\$2,995.00
Total (not inc UNICEF)				\$68,672.40

Total income:

Sponsorship: \$68,672.40
EXPO booth rental: \$500

Total: \$69,172.40





8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenses:

Core staff salaries	Fundraiser Event Coordinator Writer Event Intern	\$13,100.00
Contractor salaries	Event Logistics Lead EXPO Lead Event MC Graphic Designer Camera/video crew Live Illustrator	\$5,450.00
Event management	Total cost inc equipment (printing, tokens, lanyards, certificates), walkie talkies, staff tshirts, TonToTon site visit (plastic reduction contribution), one payment to Havas event management	\$4,499.60
Venue	Total cost inc catering, hotel rooms (30 MoE, 2 MFI staff, 2 contractors, 3 Worldbridge staff), translation team, equipment (TV signage, laptop rental), site visit transport	\$37,381.00
Marketing/Other	Total inc site visit, Google account, additional translation, MFI Chairman refund for CCCS23 overspend	\$3,121.42
Staff expenses (CCCF24 implementation team)	Total inc transport and food for Event Coordinator, Event Intern, contractors and volunteers	\$442.52
Staff expenses (Upper Management team)	Total inc transport, food and additional hotel rooms for 3 team members	\$1,091.51



8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Expenses:

Carbon offset	Carbon credits purchased to offset event	\$871.05
Climate youth group donation *	Event underspend donated to youth climate group	\$1,430.14
Total expenses		\$69,172.40

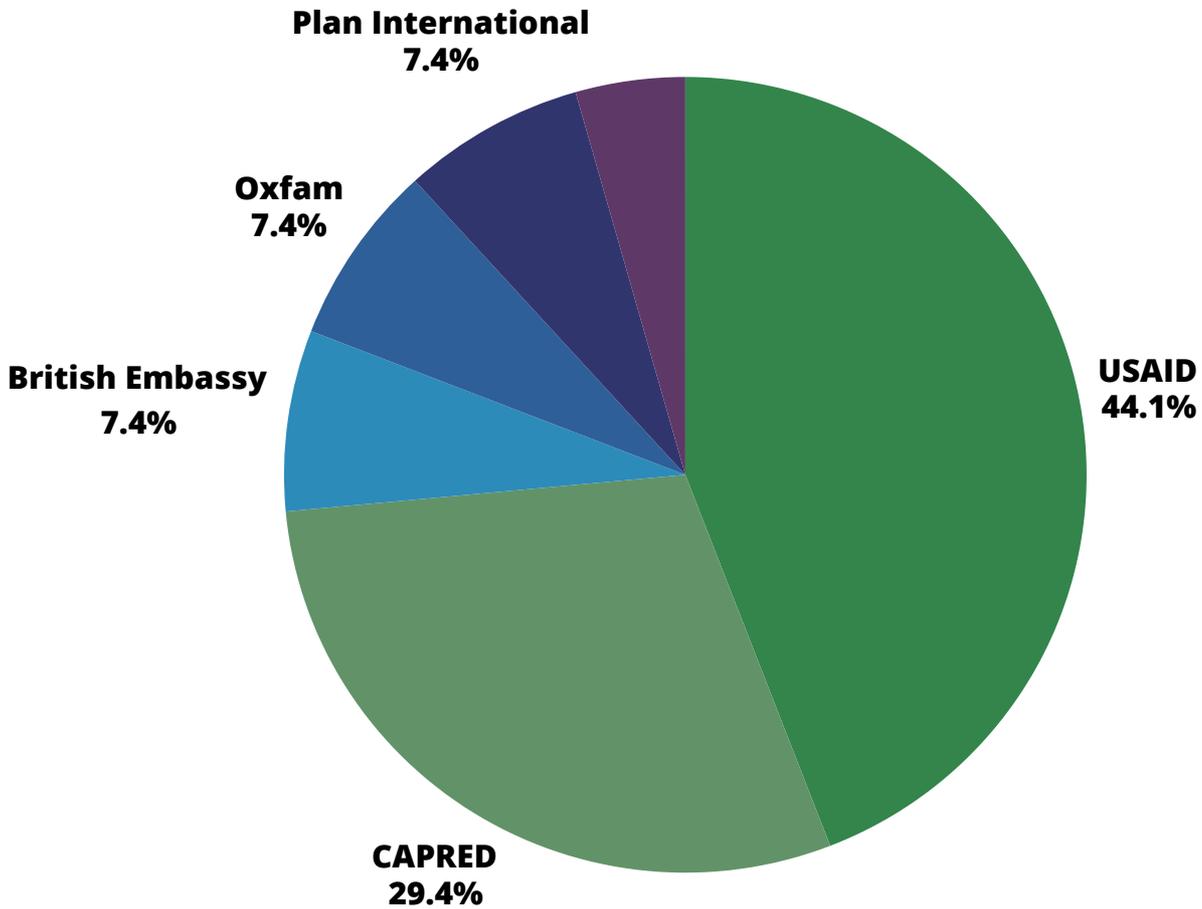
* The CCCF24 event underspend of \$1,430.14 was donated to the Kui Indigenous Peoples project which supports young indigenous people in Kampong Thom province to protect their culture and local environment, develop knowledge in environment and climate change awareness and build other valuable life skills.





8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CCCF24 Sponsorship



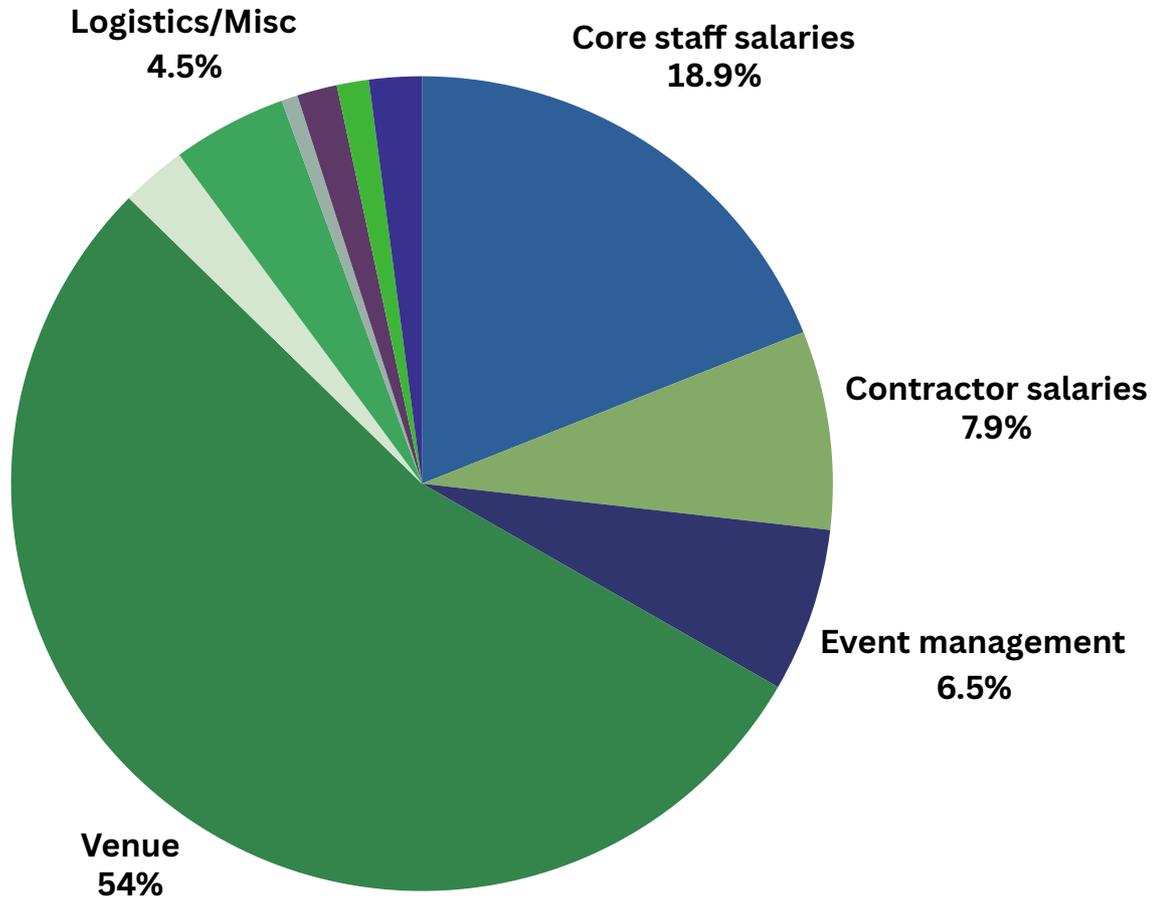
- USAID 44.1%
- CAPRED 29.4%
- British Embassy 7.4%
- Oxfam 7.4%
- Plan International 7.4%
- Aide et Action 4.4%





8. FINANCIAL SUMMARY

CCCF24 Expenses



- Core Staff Salaries 18.9%
- Contractor Salaries 7.9%
- Event Management 6.5%
- Venue 54%
- Climate Youth Group Donation 2.1%
- Carbon Offset 1.3%
- Staff Expenses (Upper Management Team) 1.6%
- Staff Expenses (CCCF24 Implementation Team) 0.6%
- Marketing/Other 2.6%



APPENDIX A: MEDIA COVERAGE

Pre-event PR:

English:

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501578306/cambodia-climate-change-summit-2024-returns-with-ambitious-agenda/>

<https://b2b-cambodia.com/news/key-actors-unite-for-climate-action-in-cambodia/>

<https://cambodiainvestmentreview.com/2024/10/21/key-actors-unite-for-climate-action-at-the-cambodia-climate-change-summit-2024-in-sihanoukville/>

<https://www.cambodialogstyle.com/cambodia-takes-bold-steps-towards-climate-action-at-2024-summit/>

During event PR:

Print media:





APPENDIX A: MEDIA COVERAGE

English:

<https://cambodiainvestmentreview.com/2024/10/24/cambodia-climate-change-2024-forum-convenes-for-climate-action-coordination/>

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501579923/climate-summit-calls-for-global-cooperation-commitment-to-finance/>

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501581162/raising-target-cambodia-to-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-to-around-42-by-2030>

<https://phnompenhpost.com/national/minister-mankind-worsening-climate-change-action-needed->

<https://www.khmertimeskh.com/501581162/raising-target-cambodia-to-cut-greenhouse-gas-emissions-to-around-42-by-2030/>

<https://www.cambodialifestyle.com/cambodia-takes-the-lead-in-climate-action-at-ccc24/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/VafKVnRMu9KVjW6u/?mibextid=QwDbRl>

Ministry of Environment:

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/VafKVnRMu9KVjW6u/?mibextid=QwDbRl>

Khmer:

<https://cnc.com.kh/detail/news/58968>

<https://www.postkhmer.com/national/2024-10-24-191-260537>

<https://www.freshnewsasia.com/index.php/en/localnews/362532-2024-10-25-01-12-23.html>

<https://fna.asia/a69588c>

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APPENDIX B: AGENDA

CCCF24 Agenda: Thursday 24th October



Hibiscus Hall

08:00

Guest Arrival

08:30

National Anthem

08:35 - 09:30

Opening Session

- Welcome remarks - Neak Okhna SEAR Daniel, serving as the Representative for the Chairman of Mekong Future Initiative
- Mr Jason Kalbfleisch, Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, US Embassy
- HE Mr Derek Yip, Australian Ambassador
- HE Mr Dominic Williams, UK Ambassador to Cambodia
- Key note speech - H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Minister of Environment

09:30 - 10:00

Coffee Break

(inc. photo opp & EXPO walk through for VIPs)

SUSTAINABILITY EXPO OPENS

10:00 - 10:45

Operationalizing Article 6: Challenges and Opportunities for Cambodia in Global Carbon Markets

- (moderator) HE CHUOP Paris, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment
- Dr. Jamil Mahmood, MRV expert on REDD+, UNDP
- Ms Anantaa Pandey, Senior Program Officer, Global Green Growth Institute
- Mr Colin Moore, Regional Carbon Advisor, Wildlife Conservation Society Representative
- Mr Anirudh Krishnan, Senior Policy Manager, Conservation International Representative

TIMES UPDATED



Hibiscus Hall



Camilia Hall



Champa Room

11:45 - 12:30

USAID MORODOK BAITANG - Climate Resilient Community Livelihoods

BRITISH EMBASSY - Powering Tomorrow: The Future of Renewable Energy

ROUNDTABLE 1 [ENG] - UNICEF - Youth Engagement in Climate Action

12:30 - 13:30

Lunch - GREEN TOKEN

13:30 - 14:15

CAPRED & MSC - Financing Private Sector-led Climate Actions

PLATFORM IMPACT - Building Impact-Driven Enterprises

ROUNDTABLE 2 [KH] - Plan Int - Youth-Led Climate Solutions for Resilient Communities

14:30 - 15:15

UNFAO - Cambodia's Fisheries: Challenges and Future Adaptations

OXFAM - Community Resilience with Renewable Energy and Smart Agriculture

15:30 - 16:15

USAID CONSERVE - Climate Positive Forestry Investments

UNDP - Towards a Green and Inclusive Economy

16:15 - 16:30

Coffee Break

16:30 - 17:15

CAPRED - ESG as a New Business Imperative

USAID CIVIL SOCIETY - Building Climate Resilience with Indigenous Communities

ROUNDTABLE 3 [KH] - OXFAM - Advocating for Enhanced Community Forest Protection and Climate Finance

17:30 - 18:15

ACTIONAID - Women-Led Network for Climate Resilience and EBA

IDE - Regenerative Agriculture for mitigating climate change

19:00 - 21:00

CCCF24 Networking Reception (drinks and canapes provided) *by invitation only YELLOW TOKEN



APPENDIX B: AGENDA

CCCF24 Agenda: *Friday 25th October*

Independence Hotel, Sihanoukville

CAMBODIA CLIMATE CHANGE FORUM 2024

SUSTAINABILITY EXPO OPENS

Hibiscus Hall

08:00 **Guest Arrival**

08:15 - 08:30 **Day Two Opening Remarks**

- Ms Rebekah Bell, FAO's Representative, speaks on behalf of the UN Resident Coordinator
- Mr NANG Chamroeun, Youth Representative, Sihanoukville
- Ms HORNG Socheata, Youth Council for Climate Action

08:30 - 08:55 **Accelerating Climate Action and Sustainability in the Mekong**

- Mr. LONG Sona, Deputy Director Department of Administration, Planning and Finance, General Department for Policy and Strategy Ministry of Environment

Hibiscus Hall

Camilia Hall

Champa Room

09:30 - 10:15	USAID HARVEST III - Private Sector Investment in Climate-Smart Agriculture	REMADE IN CAMBODIA - Textile Industry Revolution through Circular Innovation	ROUNDTABLE 4 [ENG] - UNDP - Engaging Youth in Climate Governance
10:30 - 11:15	BRITISH EMBASSY - Reducing Poverty through Biodiversity Conservation	CAPRED - Climate Resilient and Inclusive Clean Water Supply	
11:15 - 11:30	Coffee Break		
11:30 - 12:15	CORPORATE THOUGHT LEADERS - Climate Finance in Action	FAUNA AND FLORA - Blue Carbon	ROUNDTABLE 5 [KH] - YCCA - Shaping Cambodia's National Youth Statement
12:15 - 13:00	IDE - Building Resilient Markets for Solid Waste Management	CARE CAMBODIA - Circular Economy and Its Impact on Climate Change	
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch - GREEN TOKEN		
14:00 - 14:45	SEVEA - The 4Ps of Regenerative Agriculture	UNFAO - Climate-Smart Rice Production and Processing	ROUNDTABLE 6 [KH/ENG] - Cambodia 2030: Imagining a Sustainable Future - Creative Session
15:00 - 15:45	MOE- Engagement of Indigenous Peoples in conservation & implementation of REDD+ Projects	SWISSCONTACT - Enhancing Agroecology through Public Policy and Certification	
15:45 - 16:00	Coffee Break		

Hibiscus Hall

16:00 - 16:15 **Closing Remarks TBC**

- HE CHUOP Paris, Secretary of State, Ministry of Environment

CCCS24 Agenda: *Saturday 26th October*

Morning Site Visit (OPTIONAL)

- Group tour of TonToTon recycling warehouse

End of Programme



APPENDIX C: VIP GUEST LIST

CCCF24 Guest of Honor: **H.E. Eang Sophalleth, Minister of Environment**

CCCF24 VIP Guest List:

Mr. Jason Kalbfleisch
the Acting Deputy Chief of Mission from the U.S. Embassy

H.E. Mr Derek Yip
Australian Ambassador to Cambodia

H.E. Dominic Williams
British Ambassador to Cambodia

Mrs. Rebekah Bell
UN Representative

HE Chheng Kimsrun
Secretary of State

HE Chuob Paris
Secretary of State

HE Ath Seila
Secretary of State

HE Pheav Sovuthy
Under Secretary of State

HE Meas Sophal
Under Secretary of State

HE Kob Roly
Under Secretary of State

HE Chea Sinath
Undersecretary of State and Chief of Cabinet

HE Park Sokha Ravuth,
Under Secretary of State

HE Sum Thy
Director General of the General Department of Policy and Strategy

HE Ken Serey Ratha
Director of General Department of Local Community

HE Srey Sunleang
Director General of the General Department of Protected Areas

HE Danh Serey
Director General of the General Department of Environmental Protection

HE Sok Tha
General Director of the General Department of Administration and Finance

HE Leng Chivin Director
General of the General Department of Environmental Knowledge and Information

HE Thai Chantha
Deputy Director General of the General Department of Protected Areas



APPENDIX D: SELECTED PHOTOS





APPENDIX E: CCCF24 SPONSORS

Founding Partner:
USAID



Platinum Partner:
Australia, through CAPRED



Silver Partners:
Unicef



British Embassy



Oxfam



Plan International



Bronze Partner:
Aide et Action

