



Korea Forest
Service

Progress Report

Annual Quarter Report

January-December 2023

Cambodia-Korea Joint REDD+ Project

(The Tumring REDD+ Project)

Implementing Agency:

Forestry Administration

Phnom Penh, Cambodia

January 2024

Highlights of Key Results

- The PMU contracted the local construction firm, and the construction of the NTFPs Center is complete.
- The tree nursery (50 m x 50 m) is about 50% complete and is being used to produce seedlings.
- Four community forests are being registered for land titles, which will be finalized and received in the next quarter.
- The PMU is preparing to dig the community forest boundaries using the excavators. For now, the local FA officers and community members have identified the boundaries and where to dig along the community forest boundaries. The dug boundary is 3,620 meters in total. This work will continue through the next quarter so that the boundary of the target two community forests will be completely dug.
- 60 community forest patrolling teams patrolled 426 times, consisting of 2,710 patrollers (366 women), and confiscated 177 snares, 20 chainsaws, 7.5 cubic meters of logs, 2 walking tractors, and 31 motorbikes in the community forests.
- The Field Implementation Unit patrolled and confiscated 87 chainsaws, 19 walking tractors, and 59 motorbikes and took back 353 ha of illegal forestland. The FIU also confiscated 21.47 illegal logged timbers and removed 505 illegal plants in the project area.
- The PMU contracted with the Agronomy Office of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to assist 04 target community forests, including Okranhong, Odasco and Obosleav community forests in providing agricultural land improvement techniques, composting houses, rice varieties, cassava species that persisted in climate and pests, and agricultural materials.
- The PMU contracted with the national biodigester program, supporting biogas kilns to target community forest members. 30 biogas kilns have been installed; 16 of them are in the Okranhak community forest, and 14 are in the Tatey community forest.
- The Community Forest-Based Resin Enterprise bought 8,235 kilograms of resin from the community forest members, which is equivalent to 390 containers (each container contains 21 kilograms). The enterprise did sell 5,805 kilograms of resin. Therefore, the resin balance is 2,430 kilograms.
- The Kbal Dountey community forest-based saving group had USD 1,191.25 (cash in hand), USD 460 (in the bank), USD 1,000 (loan), and USD 1,050 (interest). In total, the savings group has USD 4,128.25.
- The PMU contracted with the Apsara Media Service to film key project activities to disseminate information about the project activities to the public. The short video will be finished and ready to disseminate in the next quarter.

- The PMU met with 1,011 members of the community forest management committees, including 230 women, to collect patrol reports and coordinate solutions to challenges..

I. Introduction

1.1 Background

The Tumring REDD+ Project is a joint REDD+ project between the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Cambodia. It was initiated by signing the Memorandum of Understanding of the two parties (Forestry Administration and Korea Forest Service) on 10 December 2014. Tumring REDD+ Project covers 67, 791 hectares of semi-evergreen forest and evergreen, where 14 community forestry are dwelling in. This project has provided benefits to communities, where more than 2,500 households are settled down in 03 communes and 19 villages. In terms of biodiversity conservation, at least 64 small and big mammal species, 103 bird species, 49 herpetofauna species, and 283 insect species are being well protected.

This project generated a net emission reduction of 645,410 tons CO₂e over the monitoring period from January 2015 to December 2019. Up to now, more than 80 % of this forest carbon credits have been sold in voluntary carbon market as the project management unit (PMU) has been working with international partners, allowing the credits to be sold out quickly. The funds received from this sale have been safely stored in the Trust Fund bank account, which is under the management of the Trust Fund Management Committee.

1.2 The Establishment of the Trust Fund Management Committee (TFMC)

The TFMC was established in January 2023, with nominated members from both sides after the 7th Project Board Committee Meeting last December. The TFMC plays very important roles because it ensures proper management of fund and project management, enabling the project to generate more carbon credits in the future. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to reduce deforestation and forest degradation, improve better livelihoods, and enhance biodiversity conservation toward generating mitigation outcomes and forest carbon credits, and build capacity of relevant stakeholders. At the same time, Trust Fund Standard Operational Procedures (TF-SOP) was also prepared to help guide the project management to be more effective and transparent.

The purpose of TF-SOP is to provide a mechanism to mobilize and manage financial resources for sustainable financial resources management to implement the K-CRJP and to oversee and manage the use of the Trust Fund in a transparent and effective manner to achieve its purpose. The TFMC has several roles, including calling for a meeting, reviewing work plan and budget plan, reviewing audit reports, reviewing, and amending TF-SOP and reviewing performances of the project management unit.

II. The Results of the Project Implementation

2.1 Maintenance and construction

2.1.1 Coordination of the Construction of the NTFPs Center

The PMU has worked closely with the local construction firm to make sure that the NTFPs Center is properly constructed. Consequently, the NTFP Center is now completely constructed. The center has been used as a meeting place for local community forest members, villages, and local authorities. The PMU has been preparing for the resin enterprise operation as it needs to relocate to this new site, allowing community forest members to sell more resin to the resin enterprise. A new resin enterprise committee will be established soon to effectively run and properly use this NTFPs Center (see photos).

2.1.2 The Tree Nursery Construction

The PMU contracted with the Northern Forestry Administration Inspectorate to construct the Tree Nursery at O'Dai Chrey Forest Extension and Restoration Station, which is part of the project area. This tree nursery, with a size of 50m x 50 m, is being built on degraded land, which is about 2,500 square meters. When completed, this nursery could produce up to 1 million seedlings per year, which could be used to restore degraded land in the project area and beyond. Currently, this tree nursery is 50% complete; however, seedlings have already been produced and are ready for the next tree planting season, which starts in June 2024 (see photo).

2.2 Strategy #1: Strengthening Forestland Tenure Security

2.2.1 The Community Forest Land Registration

The PMU has been working with the Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Land Management, Urban Planning, Construction, and Cadaster (P-

LMUPC) to officially assess and identify four community forest boundaries (Okranhoung, Odasco, Lbas Sral, and Hongchamtit) by coordinating with local communities and authorities. The four-community forests have been measured and got approval from the head of Kampong Thom governor for public dissemination. This dissemination is a chance that relevant stakeholders or people could claim or file complaints to remeasure the land in case there were mistakes. Currently, this dissemination is successfully completed, and complaints have already been peacefully resolved (see photo). The PMU and P-LMUPC are currently cooperating with local authorities to identify more community forests to be registered in the future.

In December, the Director of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries led a team to verify the locations of the four community forests and observe the situation on the ground. As a result, all the four community forests boundaries are verified to be correct. The Director will shortly report to the Kampong Thom provincial governor about this trip's result, allowing the governor to approve to issue the land titles for the four community forests early in the next quarter (see photos).

2.2.2 Digging Community Forest Boundary

The PMU has worked closely with the local authorities and the Northern Forestry Administration Inspectorate to prepare for the community forest boundary digging. To dig the community boundaries, the PMU makes sure that the process of digging is smooth and has no interruptions or conflicts. The PMU identified the local digging firm and consulted with local communities and authorities. Currently, the PMU has already submitted permission letters to Kampong Thom Provincial Governor through the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries and has been waiting for the response. At the same time, the PMU has worked with local FA officers and local community members to identify community forest boundaries, making the digging process easier later.

Up to now, the dug boundary is 3,620 meters in total. This work will continue through the next quarter so that the boundary of the target two community forests will be completely dug (see photos).

2.3 Strategy # 2: Forest and Wildlife Law Enforcement

2.3.1 The Community Forest Patrols

The PMU has been working closely with the 16 community forests across the project area to protect the remaining forests and biodiversity resources. The PMU helps the community forests form 60 patrol teams and provides technical and financial support to those patrol teams. In 2023 (see table 01), there were 426 patrols in the 16 community forests, involving 2,710 participants, 366 of whom were female.

Table 01: Community forests patrol information

No.	Month	Patrol	Patroller	F
1	January	0	0	0
2	February	0	0	0
3	March	0	0	0
4	April	31	197	21
5	May	28	163	12
6	June	25	167	11
7	July	53	329	38
8	August	64	420	52
9	September	61	448	52
10	October	58	360	67
11	November	53	330	61
12	December	53	296	52
Total		426	2,710	366

In 2023 (see table 02), patrollers confiscated 177 snares, 20 chainsaws, and 7.5 cubic meters of logs, 2 walking tractors, and 31 motorbikes in the community forests.

Table 02: Results of community forest patrols

No.	Month	Chainsaw	Snare	Walking tractor	Motorbike	Log (m3)
1	January	0	0	0	0	0
2	February	0	0	0	0	0
3	March	0	0	0	0	0
4	April	0	21	0	0	0
5	May	2	0	0	0	1.5
6	June	1	0	1	0	1
7	July	4	46	0	0	1.5
8	August	5	47	0	23	1
9	September	1	17	0	3	1
10	October	4	5	0	0	0.5
11	November	1	25	1	4	0
12	December	2	16	0	1	1

Total	20	177	2	31	7.5
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2.3.2 The Field Implementation Unit Patrols

The PMU has been working closely with the Field Implementation Unit, consisting of four main patrol teams, to protect the remaining forests and biodiversity resources. The PMU assists these patrolling teams, providing technical training and financial support. Table 3 provides information and data in each month of 2023 regarding patrolling results conducted by the Field Implementation Unit.

Table 03: Field Implementation Unit patrols results

Month	Patrolling results of the forest law enforcement
January-May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10.385 cubic meters of logged timber • 09 motorbike • 09 chainsaws • 01 hand-tractor • Note: (Government budget during the project suspension)
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 Chainsaws • 05 hand-tractors • 10 motors • Revoked 258 hectare of forest land clearance. • 6.090 of cubic meters of logged timber • Removed 505 rubber seedlings from illegal land encroachment
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 19 Chainsaws • 10 motorbikes • 3 hand-tractors • 55 poles • 70 hectare of forest land clearance taken back
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 15 chainsaws • 11 motorbikes • 6 hand-tractors • Removed 3 snares. • 03 ox-charts • 2. cubic meters of log • 11 pols
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07 chainsaws • 1 home-made gun • 13 motorbikes • 157 poles • 4 hand-tractors • 2 fertilizer sprayers
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 Chainsaws • 04 motorbikes • 201 pols • 24 hectare of forest land clearance taken back

November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 11 chainsaws • 02 motorbikes • Removed 3 snares. • 03 ox-charts • 140 pols • Forest clearance 3 hectare
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FIU team have been deployed to guard the excavators operating canal digging around Kompob Ambel and Trapang Phdav CFs.

In total, in 2023, the FIU confiscated 87 chainsaws, 19 walking tractors, 59 motorbikes, and took back 353 ha of illegal forestland. The FIU also confiscated 21.47 illegal logged timbers and removed 505 illegal plants in the project site.

Table 04: Total results of the law enforcement units

No.	Month	Chainsaw	Walking tractor	Log (cubic m)	Motorbike	Retaken forestland (ha)	Removed illegal plants
1	January	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	February	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	March	0	0	0	0	0	0
4	April	0	0	0	0	0	0
5	May	9	1	10.38	9	0	0
6	June	16	5	6.09	10	258	505
7	July	19	3	1.5	10	70	0
8	August	15	6	2	11	0	0
9	September	7	4	0	13	0	0
10	October	10	0	1	4	25	0
11	November	11	0	0.5	2	0	0
12	December	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	87	19	21.47	59	353	505

2.4 Strategy #3: Enhancing Livelihoods and Generating Income

2.4.1 Supporting the Community Forests Through Agriculture Techniques

The PMU has collaborated with the Kampong Thom Provincial Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries in supporting agricultural techniques to the community forest members. The PMU contracted with the Agronomy Office of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries to assist 04 target community forests, including Okranhong, Odasco and Obosleav community forests in providing agricultural land improvement techniques, composting

houses, rice varieties and cassava species persisted to climate and pests, and agricultural materials.

Up to now, the Agronomy Office has been preparing the work and budget plans for the 03 target community forests. At the same time, the Agronomy Office has also been conducting an assessment on target beneficiaries in the target community forests, looking for those who are eligible to receive this assistance.

2.4.2 Supporting the Community Forests Through Biogas Program

The PMU has collaborated with the National Biodigester Program of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries in supporting biogas kilns for community forest members. The PMU contracted with the National Biodigester Program to assist two target community forests, including Tatey and Okranhak community forests, in providing technical support for biogas kilns. These biogas kilns will provide lots of benefits to the local community members as they provide low-cost energy, allowing them to save costs for their daily livelihoods. To be eligible for this program, the community members from the target community forests must have cattle and other animals, which allow them to produce enough manure to run the biogas kilns.

Currently, as of the end of December, 30 biogas kilns have been installed, 16 of them are in Okranhak community forest and 14 are in Tatey community forest (see photos).

2.4.3 Odasco Community Forest-based Resin Enterprise

The PMU has assisted Odasco Community Forest to form a community forest-based resin enterprise. Since then, this resin enterprise has worked well, generating income for community forest members. From January to December 2023 (see table 05), this resin enterprise bought 8,235 kilograms of resin from the community forest members, which is equivalent to 392 containers (each container contains 21 kilograms). The enterprise did sell 5,805 kilograms of resin. Therefore, the resin balance is 2,430 kilograms.

Table 05: Information about the resin enterprise status

No.	Date	Purchase (Kg)	Selling (Kg)	Resin in Stock (Kg)
1	13-June-2023	675	0	675
2	20/June/2023	270	0	945

3	27/June,2023	0	675	270
4	19/Sep/2023	1,350	0	1,620
5	15/Oct/2023	5,940	0	7,560
6	25/Nov/2023	0	5,130	2,430

III. 1 USD = 4000 Riels (Price ranging from 1300 to 1500 riels per Kg)

3.1.1 Kbal Dountey Community Forest-based Saving Group

The PMU has assisted the Kbal Dountey community forest in forming a community forest-based savings group, allowing the community forest members to borrow some budgets to support their farming work. This saving group has been playing a crucial role in providing funds to farmers who are also members of the community forest. They could use the funds to buy organic fertilizer, agricultural materials, and so on. As of 30 December 2023, the community forest-based saving group had USD 1,191.25 (cash in hand), USD 460 (in the bank), USD 1,000 (loan), and USD 1,050 (interest). In total, the saving group has USD 4,128.25 (see table 06).

Table 06: Status of community forest-based saving group

No.	Saving Group	Date	A. Cash In hand	B. Cash in Bank	C. Loan	D. Interest Earned	Total (A+B+C+D)
1	Kbal Dauntey	30-Jun-23	1,191.25	460	1,000	970	3,621.25
2	Kbal Dauntey	30-Oct-23	1,191.25	460	1,000	1022.5	4023.25
3	Kbal Dauntey	29-Dec-23	1,191.25	460	1,000	1,050	4,128.25

3.2 Strategy # 4: Increasing Stakeholder Participation and Environmental Education

3.2.1 Filming Key Project Activities to disseminate to the public

The PMU has coordinated and contacted Apsara Media Service (AMS) to film key project activities to disseminate them to the public. This short video will play a very important role in explaining to the public the role of the Tumring REDD+ Project in reducing greenhouse gases from the atmosphere while supporting local communities' livelihoods. The key activities to be filmed are the biogas kiln program, community forest and local FA patrolling activities, resin tapping activities, community forest land registration, and tree nursery activities. As of 29 December 2023, the AMS is finalizing the videos. It is confirmed that the videos will be ready to be released by early next year (see photos).

3.2.2 The Community Forest Monthly Meeting

The PMU has worked closely with all community forest management committees across the project area, coordinating, facilitating, and advising community forests on what to do to solve forest management issues in their respective communities. In 2023, the PMU met in 16 community forests with 1,011 participants (230 women). The PMU collected patrol reports from the community forests, discussed challenges, and advised on how to solve issues in community forest management (see table 07).

Table 07: Information about the monthly meeting with the community forests

No.	Month	# of Meeting	# of CFMC	Women
1	January	0	0	0
2	February	0	0	0
3	March	0	0	0
4	April	0	0	0
5	May	0	0	0
6	June	14	160	14
7	July	16	282	87
8	August	16	16	0
9	September	16	116	18
10	October	16	103	23
11	November	16	163	28
12	December	16	171	60
Total		110	1,011	230

3.2.3 3.2.2 Producing a Case Study About Land Registration Process

The title of the case study is “The Tumring REDD+ Project’s Forest Land Tenure Security Activity: Lessons Learned on Community Forest Land Registration Processes in the Obosleav Community Forest”.

The project already registered one community forest—Obosleav Community Forest – and has been preparing to register another four community forests in the end of 2023 and in early of 2024. The purpose of this information brief is to show the project’s experience in community forest land registration and the sporadic land registration processes.

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