

## 1. Definition of REDD+:

REDD: Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation  
 REDD-Plus (+): Activities eligible under REDD+ are:

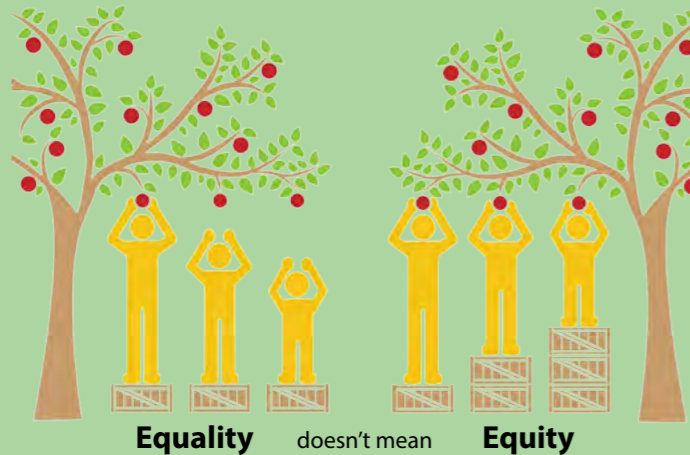
- a. Reducing emissions from deforestation; (RED)
- b. Reducing emissions from forest degradation; (the second 'D')
- c. Conservation of forest carbon stocks; (included in the '+')
- d. Sustainable management of forests; (included in the '+')
- e. Enhancement of forest carbon stocks; (included in the '+')

REDD+ is a forest financing mechanism designed to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions from land conversion, the depletion of forest resources, infrastructure development, and the transportation and energy sectors. REDD+ was first introduced at the 13th Conference of the Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Cambodia finalized its national REDD+ road map in 2011 and is currently drafting the National REDD+ Strategy and Implementation Framework. This Framework will guide implementation of REDD+ activities in the country to ensure the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders.

## 2. What is Equity?

“**Equity**” refers to principles of fairness and balanced opportunities to account for costs, benefits and responsibilities regardless of an individual’s status and position. The concept of equity is not the same as equality, “**Equality**” infers that all people are equal, regardless of context (RECOFTC, 2015).



[http://www.communityview.ca/infographic\\_SHR\\_health\\_equity\\_2014.html](http://www.communityview.ca/infographic_SHR_health_equity_2014.html)

## 3. Key components of equity:

**A. Distributive equity:** concerns allocations among stakeholders of costs, risks and benefits resulting from environmental policies or resource management decisions. Equitable distribution of benefits can be justified on the basis of several different principles: equality, social welfare, merit and need.

In the REDD+ pilot project in Oddor Meanchey, benefit sharing from the project was discussed and led to an agreement between parties that the maximum benefit (net income after project costs) from forest carbon credits of the project will flow to local communities.

**B. Procedural equity:** refers to fairness in political processes that allocate resources and resolve disputes. This involves representation, recognition/inclusion, the presence of stakeholder’s voices and participation in decision-making.

A self-selection process for the selection of the Consultation Group (CG) for the national REDD+ program has been led by Civil Society Organizations (CSO). Representatives from relevant stakeholders including NGOs, Academia, the Private Sector, CSOs, Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples have been selected as members of the REDD+ CG to provide comments to the REDD+ Taskforce. The views of stakeholders, in particular civil society and local communities, as well as women, are present in this forum.

**C. Contextual equity:** links together further dimensions by taking into account pre-existing political, economic and social conditions under which people engage in procedures and the distribution of benefits – and which limit or enable their capacity to be involved in both.

Conflict over land allocation and resource utilization, with customary rights for management and ownership not being legally recognized occurring in some cases in some community forestry in Cambodia. Boundaries over resource use and responsibilities remain unclear between stakeholders and this will lead to competing claim about the distribution of benefits. Some marginalize groups may have difficulty expressing their views and claims to the forest.

# Equity in REDD+ Process in Cambodia



“FAIRNESS OF TREATMENT FOR ALL STAKEHOLDERS”



មន្ទីរការងារសង្គមកម្ពុជា  
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 Working together for sustainable forest management and livelihoods and community empowerment.

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## 4. Equity in REDD+

In the context of REDD+, equity means "fairness of treatment for all stakeholders during the procedures to form and implement policies and in the distribution of resources and costs, according to an agreed set of principles" (RECOFTC, 2014).

Equity is a key element in the design and implementation of fair and just benefit-sharing mechanisms such as the REDD+ scheme. Equity in REDD+ internationally regards the responsibilities of industrialized countries to reduce carbon emissions and their obligations to provide financial support to assist developing countries achieve emissions reductions. Nationally and locally, the concerns of equity in REDD+ processes relate to livelihoods, tenure and carbon rights, fair participation, capacity to participate and support from relevant agencies.

An example of this in practice is that Collective Land Titling for indigenous people has been conducted to maintain traditional and customary rights to sustainably manage the forest in the Seima Protected Forest REDD+ Project. In addition, the project used the FPIC process in discussion with IP communities.



### Why REDD+ equity?

- ❖ **Key issues related to equity which may arise in REDD+ implementation are as follows:**
  - If natural resource increase in value, local communities who managed and depended on those natural resources for centuries might be forgotten or displaced. This could causes conflict and unsustainable management of resources;
  - Conflict and lack of clarification may occur in access to land and management such as rights in access to forest land and the continued use of forests to support livelihoods as well as decision making rights in the management of forests;
  - Benefit sharing mechanisms may not be discussed with relevant stakeholders and local communities. Benefits from REDD+ may be distributed to stakeholders who do not protect the forest adequately;



- A lack of information sharing and promotion of REDD+ activity may occur. Stakeholders may not receive information on REDD+ prior to decision making;
- Exclusion of local communities and key stakeholders may occur in the participation/involvement of REDD+ processes; there may be a lack proper consultation with communities before the start up of REDD+ projects especially regarding principles of free prior informed consent (FPIC);
- A lack of grievance mechanisms may exist due to limited law enforcement in forest and natural resource management;
- Capacity building not take into account vulnerable groups such as indigenous people, women and marginalized communities.

- ❖ **Benefits of Equity in REDD+:**
  - The REDD+ program has adopted rights-based approaches and democratic principles, including the promotion of land tenure for communities;
  - Equitable sharing of REDD+ project benefits was a major consideration in the project's design and development, and was endorsed in principle by all stakeholders;
  - Traditional forest livelihoods and customary resource management practices such as rotational farming and NTFP harvesting have been protected. These are part sustainable forest management activities in REDD+;
  - Relevant stakeholders, especially local communities have been afforded equitable participation in decision making processes;
  - Benefit sharing has taken into account the needs of marginalized, vulnerable social groups and emphasizes pro-poor policies;
  - Some funds will be allocated by the national REDD+ program in order to support community forestry management including, forest patrolling, monitoring activities and reforestation in degraded areas, as well as others.



## 5. Conclusion

Effective implementation of REDD+ activities, the integration of environmental, social, and economic needs must be considered to achieve sustainable forest management. The Royal Government of Cambodia and development partners should seek to build community knowledge regarding REDD+ concept, and laws relevant to REDD+. Representatives of local communities and CSOs in the national REDD+ structure must be selected democratically. When considering how to equitably share REDD+ benefits among forest stakeholders in REDD+ mechanisms, we should consider the degree to which REDD+ benefits are consistent with the needs and conservation efforts of forest stakeholders.

