

Latest Guidelines for Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

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Cambodia is among the countries that contribute very little to global greenhouse gas emissions. However, it is one of the nations vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. In order to reduce such impacts, Cambodia should promote a low-carbon economy, which is dependent on the common but differentiated responsibilities of the government, relevant stakeholders and the general public. Pursuant to the research by the Asian Development Bank, some key actions could be taken by the government and considered by various sectors in the country in order to help Cambodia to move toward this destination. These may include reducing deforestation, undertaking reforestation, promoting integrated resource management and cleaner fuels, and legislative development.



In order to contribute to the country's going clean and green, the government has adopted different policies including, but not limited to, National Strategic Plan on Green Growth 2013-2030, Green Growth Roadmap 2009, and other legislation. Furthermore, the Ministry of Environment recently has issued Prakas No. 229 on Procedures and Implementation Guidelines for Conducting Initial Environmental and Social Impact Assessment for Fuel Stations and Fuel-gas Stations (“Prakas No. 229”).

Prakas No. 229 requires that the project proponent consults with the potentially impacted people and the relevant authorities in the village and commune/Sangkat of the project location. Where necessary, there shall be consultations with the competent authorities of district/Khan, municipality and province; relevant provincial departments; and concerned ministries.

The timeframe for approval of the environmental and social impact assessment report is 30 (thirty) days from the date on which the Ministry of Environment receives the report from the project proponent.

The recent trend that the government increasingly supports and encourages green investment projects can be found in the field of sustainable energy projects. A successful example of this is the 60-megawatt solar power project which was approved by the Cambodian government in 2019, resulting in a highly competitive supply price of \$0.038 per kilowatt hour (kWh), which shows that business and going clean and green can go hand in hand.

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