



Climate Change Adaptation through Small-Scale and Protective Infrastructure Interventions in Coastal Settlements of Cambodia (CCA4CS)

Report on Knowledge Products to Capture and Disseminate Project Experiences to Local and National Stakeholders



MAY 2025
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA

BRIEF SUMMARY

OUTPUT 2.4

As part of Component 2, the project aimed to document local climate adaptation practices, extract key lessons learned, and formulate actionable policy recommendations grounded in field experience. The intervention focused on building a robust knowledge base of good practices to foster learning and influence at national, sub-national, and community levels.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

To deliver on its objectives, the project implemented several activities aimed at generating and disseminating knowledge on climate adaptation. Consultants were engaged to support the design and delivery of knowledge products and policy outputs.

1. Knowledge Product Preparation

The project synthesized key implementation experiences into a variety of formats suitable for broad dissemination. It produced 14 output reports, four policy recommendations, eight case studies, six videos, and six guidance documents. Some materials were bilingual (Khmer and English), ensuring broad accessibility and practical relevance. Policy recommendations were grounded in both field-based insights and analysis of existing national frameworks.

2. Reflection Workshop

Held on 8–9 May 2025, the national reflection workshop brought together 83 participants, including 13 women (15.6 percent). It served to:

- Share updates on project implementation;
- Enable cross-stakeholder learning; and
- Co-develop a joint statement for Cambodia's NDC 3.0.

The joint statement was based on project lessons and presented during the sub-national consultations for NDC 3.0. The workshop proceedings were shared publicly on UN-Habitat's website.

3. Mangrove Planting Launch Event at Prey Nob

On 25 June 2025, the Ministry of Environment, in partnership with the Preah Sihanouk Provincial Administration and development actors, organised a mangrove planting event supported by the CCA4CS project. Led by H.E. Dr. Pheav Sovutthy, 1,000 mangrove seedlings were planted with over 600 attendees (50 per cent women), including UN-Habitat Cambodia, local authorities, youth, and students.

GOOD PRACTICES

1. Diverse Types of Knowledge Products to Disseminate the Project's Experiences

The project employed a variety of communication formats, including case studies, manuals, video clips, and reports, tailored to different audiences and content types. Some knowledge products were published in both Khmer and English to maximise inclusiveness.

2. Reflection Workshop to Reflect on the Project Experiences on the NDC 3.0

The reflection workshop proved instrumental in synthesizing insights from diverse implementation partners and aligning local experience with national policy priorities. The co-created joint statement for NDC 3.0 integration exemplifies effective knowledge-to-policy translation and has helped institutionalize local knowledge in Cambodia's climate commitments.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Production in the Latter Part of the Project

Most knowledge products were developed in the project's final phase. This compressed timeline limited opportunities for real-time dissemination during ongoing implementation. A more evenly distributed knowledge production schedule would enhance learning and operational efficiency.

2. Quality Photos to Capture the Interventions

The reliance on mobile phone photography limited the quality of visual documentation. High-resolution photos are essential for impactful storytelling, professional publication, and broader audience engagement. Improved photographic documentation could significantly enhance the visibility and credibility of adaptation efforts.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Integrate Knowledge Management Throughout the Project Cycle

To strengthen learning and adaptive management, knowledge management activities should be integrated across all stages of the project cycle. This includes developing a clear implementation plan, scheduling regular documentation and reflection milestones, and allocating adequate resources to ensure continuous learning, knowledge sharing, and dissemination of good practices.

2. Strengthen Visual Documentation Practices

To enhance the quality and impact of visual documentation, the project should invest in photography training, utilize high-resolution equipment, and establish a centralized, well-organized photo library. This will support professional communication, visibility, and advocacy efforts throughout project implementation.

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Since August 2021, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) have been implementing the Climate Change Adaptation through Protective Small-Scale Infrastructure Interventions in Coastal Settlements of Cambodia Project (CCA4CS), with financial support from the Adaptation Fund.

The project aims to strengthen climate resilience and adaptation in Cambodia's most vulnerable coastal settlements through targeted, on-the-ground interventions. By focusing on areas where ecotourism can support long-term sustainability, the initiative enhances communities' capacity to withstand climate-related challenges. The project is structured around three interconnected components to accomplish this in the highly vulnerable settlements in Kep Province and Prey Nob District of Preah Sihanouk Province:

Component 1: Community-scale knowledge and capacity enhanced to sustain the adaptation benefits of the project's investments.

Component 2: Government planning and technical capacity enhanced and knowledge captured and disseminated to sustain and enhance the project's adaptation benefits.

Component 3: Resilience built through investment in small-scale protective and basic service infrastructure and natural assets.

By integrating these components, the project addresses immediate climate risks and lays the foundation for long-term sustainability and resilience in Cambodia's coastal communities.

RATIONALE FOR THE INTERVENTION

Globally, a significant portion of climate adaptation knowledge remains undocumented or inaccessible—especially at the local level—limiting learning, replication, and innovation. This gap prevents institutions from building on proven practices across different contexts. Effective knowledge creation, systematic documentation, and widespread dissemination are therefore critical to scaling up successful approaches and influencing policy and practice.

To address this need, the Adaptation Fund's Five-Year Medium-Term Strategy identified "Learning and Sharing" as one of its three strategic pillars. Demonstrating, documenting, and sharing adaptation practices—exceptionally low-cost, replicable interventions—can empower national governments, sub-national authorities, and communities to accelerate adaptation planning and implementation. These efforts also support informed policy development and strategic planning aligned with long-term climate resilience goals.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE INTERVENTION

As part of Component 2, the project aimed to document local adaptation practices, extract key lessons, and formulate policy recommendations based on field experiences. The intervention focused on building a repository of good practices and promoting learning at national, sub-national, and community levels.

Specifically, the intervention aimed to produce 20 knowledge products and three policy recommendations, to reach at least 100,000 people through strategic dissemination. This report summarises the project's learning-oriented activities, highlighting the experiences, achievements, and contributions to knowledge generation and policy influence.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

To achieve the intervention objectives, the project implemented several activities aimed at generating and disseminating knowledge. Consultants were recruited to lead the development of knowledge products and policy-oriented outputs.

1. Knowledge Product Preparation

The project consolidated key implementation experiences and good practices into various knowledge formats for dissemination. A total of 14 output reports, four policy recommendations, one project report, nine case studies, six videos, and eight documents (booklet/handbook/leaflet/brochure/poster) were produced. These were bilingual (Khmer and English), ensuring accessibility and relevance to diverse audiences. Policy recommendations were based on both project-derived learning and an analysis of the existing policy framework.

2. Reflection Workshop

A national reflection workshop held in May 2025 gathered 83 participants, including 13 women (15.6 per cent). The workshop served to:

- Share updates on project implementation progress;
- Facilitate learning across stakeholder groups; and
- Co-develop a joint statement for inclusion in Cambodia's NDC 3.0.

The joint statement captured key good practices and lessons learned and was presented at sub-national NDC 3.0 consultations. The workshop proceedings were made publicly available via UN-Habitat's website and LinkedIn.

3. Mangrove Planting Launch Event at Prey Nob

On 25 June 2025, the Ministry of Environment, in collaboration with the Preah Sihanouk Provincial Administration and development partners, led a mangrove planting event in Prey Nob District. With leadership from H.E. Dr. Pheav Sovutthy and support from the CCA4CS project, 1,000 mangrove seedlings were planted.

Over 600 participants joined (50% women), including UN-Habitat Cambodia, local authorities, youth, and students. The activity promoted local adaptation, green growth, and national goals for carbon neutrality by 2050. The event received 62 likes and 11 shares on the Ministry of Environment's official Facebook page, reflecting strong public engagement.

4. Knowledge Products Dissemination

The manual on Resilient Housing construction serves as a practical reference for communities, builders, and planners to adapt and respond to natural disasters. The manual was posted on UN-Habitat Cambodia's Telegram channels, Facebook Page, and LinkedIn. Printed copies and other knowledge products were distributed to stakeholders during the workshop, training sessions, and awareness campaigns.

GOOD PRACTICES

1. Diverse Types of Knowledge Products to Disseminate the Project's Experiences

The project used multiple formats, case studies, videos, manuals, reports, and leaflets, tailored to the content type and target audiences. Some of the knowledge products are available in both English and Khmer to enhance reach and usability. Output summary reports offered an overview of results across components. Case studies highlighted local success stories, while manuals provided operational guidance for infrastructure maintenance. Video clips showcased participatory efforts in climate resilience and adaptation.

2. Reflection Workshop to Reflect on the Project Experiences on the NDC 3.0

The reflection workshop created a unique platform for knowledge exchange between national and sub-national stakeholders. Participants shared insights from their implementation experiences, helping to generate a collective learning narrative and a joint statement for integration into the NDC 3.0. This linkage between project learning and national policy was a significant step in institutionalising local knowledge.

LESSONS LEARNED

1. Production in the Latter Part of the Project

Most knowledge products were developed in the final stages of the project. This delayed timeline limited opportunities for real-time learning, dissemination, and integration of insights into the project's ongoing interventions. Spacing out knowledge production across the project cycle would improve its utility and resource allocation.

2. Quality Photos to Capture the Interventions

While mobile phone photography was convenient in the field, the lower image resolution reduced the quality of documentation. High-quality images are critical for professional storytelling, publication, and advocacy. Clear visuals help convey credibility, increase audience engagement, and strengthen the impact of knowledge dissemination.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Regular Knowledge Management Production

To enhance learning and adaptive management, knowledge products (e.g., case studies, reports, videos) should be produced promptly—ideally immediately following the completion of each output. This approach facilitates continuous dissemination, cross-learning, and internal reflection throughout the project lifecycle.

2. Quality Photographic Records for Diverse Knowledge Product Dissemination Platforms

Although mobile phones are useful for field documentation, projects should be equipped with digital cameras and ensure basic photography training for field staff. High-resolution visuals are vital for preparing high-quality case studies, manuals, and online content. Strengthening visual documentation enhances the reach, professionalism, and credibility of adaptation messaging across platforms.

DOCUMENTATION

Name	Type	Produced Date	Location
Communication and Visibility Plan	Report	Feb 2025	Link
Handover Ceremony of Resilient Houses at Kep Province	Social Media Post	Jun 2025	Link
Training on data management, analysis, system operation and maintenance for weather station and tide gauge	Social Media Post	Jul 2025	Link
Activities of installation of Tide gauge	Social Media Post	Jul 2025	Link
Knowledge Products (case studies/booklet/handbook/leaflet/brochure/videos)	Documents	Oct 2025	Link
Policy Recommendation	Report	May 2025	Link



This publication is part of the knowledge-sharing outputs under Component 2 (Output 2.4) of the Climate Change Adaptation project in Cambodia, supported by the Adaptation Fund and implemented by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) as the Implementing Entity and the National Council for Sustainable Development (NCSD) as the Executing Entity.



ADAPTATION FUND

Climate Change Adaptation through Small-Scale and
Protective Infrastructure Interventions in
Coastal Settlements of Cambodia (CCA4CS)