

PROJECT IDEA NOTE 13

Sector	COASTAL ZONE
Subsector	Mangrove protection
Technology name	Mangrove forest management
Project name	Strengthening research capacity (related to coastal resources, especially mangrove management) of the Research Institute and Marine Fisheries Development of MAFF
Background	Climate stresses – flood, drought, and windstorms add considerable impacts on marine resources and mangrove forests due to increasing oceanic acidity, increasing frequency and intensity of climatic catastrophes and rising sea level. To date, there is limited understanding of the impacts of climate change on the Cambodian coastline and marine resources. Gaps in research activities on marine resources poses significant difficulty to sound informed planning and decisions, challenging effective management of the resources. MAFF has recently established a Research Institute and Marine Fisheries Development, however the capacity of the institute remains weak.
Purpose and objectives	<p>The proposed project aims to strengthen research capacities of the Research Institute and Marine Fisheries Development of the Fisheries Administration in undertaking relevant research to inform policies, strategies and plans. The specific objectives of the project include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Review existing gaps in capacities and develop appropriate management mechanisms, 2. Provide capacity building to relevant staff according to the gaps identified, 3. Support at least 5 coastal resources management related research projects in the context of climate change with priority on planning and strategies development, 4. Review and develop institutional policy, and funding mechanism for sustaining the functioning of the institute, and 5. Disseminate research findings to relevant stakeholders through climate change forums, research development forums and others.
Relationship to national sustainable development objectives	The lack of scientific information on marine ecosystems and management is a significant barrier in developing sound knowledge planning and decisions and thus prevents effective management of the resources.
Project deliverables	The successful completion of this project will enable the research institute to conduct scientific research including modeling and impact assessment, especially in the context of climate change.

Annexes

Kingdom of Cambodia

Project scope	Strengthening research capacities of the institute should be built upon its existing current capacities in terms of human resources, facilities, and institutional mechanism and policies, aligning with the Cambodian human development roadmap.
Timeline	4 years
Budget/resource requirements	The project would require US \$0.5 million to cover the period of four years and fund at least 5 research projects (with individual funding of up to US \$50,000 for each project). This budget also covers consumables and minimum laboratory equipment if required.
Measurement/Evaluation	The success of the project can be measured against the following indicators: number of professionals trained, number of research proposals submitted and selected for implementation, laboratory equipment purchased, application of research findings, and institutional and financial mechanisms developed.
Challenges	The key challenge of this project consists of assigning additional responsibilities to individual researchers and officials of the institute given the fact that existing government incentives are limited. In addition, low research capacities and limited research partnerships of the institute would demand more time, resources and commitment in order to successfully capacitate them.
Responsibilities and Coordination	The research institute is the only target organization in this project; therefore the project should be implemented by the institute itself with management support from FiA. Local expertise from RUA, RUPP (biology, chemistry, environment, and biodiversity conservation programs) and CCD should be mobilized. The project should be designed in two stages. Stage 1 consists of the development of institutional policies, mechanisms and capacities. In Stage 2, research coaching, and dissemination of findings will be carried out.