

# PSIA SUMMARY SHEET

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**Country: Cambodia**

**Reform: Social Land Concessions**

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## 1 – What reform was chosen (major components) and why?

### ▪ **Reform objectives and actions:**

The Cambodia PRSP recommends that 'social land concessions' be used in order to distribute the state's vacant lands to poor households. Legislation concerning social land concessions was approved in March 2003. The reform is expected to be accompanied by the provision of basic social and economic infrastructure to beneficiary communities. This comprehensive package is intended to reduce poverty and promote sustainable economic and social development.

### ▪ **Why it was chosen:**

The lack of land tenure security and restricted access to common property resources has contributed to poverty. Social land concessions and legal entitlement of land would alleviate poverty and increase economic productivity by making idle land productive and by allowing rural households to use their land as collateral for capital investment.

### ▪ **How does this reform link to the PRSP?:**

The reform links to four PRSP priorities: by improving rural livelihoods, expanding job opportunities, reducing vulnerability and increasing social inclusion, and indirectly contributing to macro-economic growth and stability.

## 2 – Stakeholders:

### ▪ **Which stakeholders are likely to be affected by the reform and how?**

#### *Stakeholders affected positively:*

Social land concessions would stimulate the economy and alleviate poverty in rural areas where landless households do not have the capacity to provide for their families. Access to even small plots of land will decrease the vulnerability of these families.

#### *Stakeholders affected negatively:*

The military who expropriated land during the war, commercial landowners who have aggregated more than 10,000 hectares, and provincial authorities who have accumulated large amounts of land.

#### *Which stakeholders could influence the reform through support or opposition, and how?*

The military might impede any legislation that may strip it of land. MAFF may also encounter problems passing a sub-decree that would allow forest to be converted into agricultural land (which is necessary in order to distribute land for farming purposes).

## 3 – Describe the PSIA process/activities: What workshops, consultations, partners. Outline their timeframe. What effect has the analysis had on policy discussions so far?

- **PSIA Process:** 1) Preparation – stakeholder workshop, finalization of methodology and work plan; 2) Fieldwork – village level and district level surveys with significant input from third parties including government, private sector and civil society; 3) Analysis- stakeholder, institutional, impact, and risk analysis; 4) Dissemination.
- **Timeframe for activities:** 1) Preparation has been completed; 2) fieldwork to be conducted by Oct./Nov. 2003; 3) Analysis finalized by January 2004; 4) Dissemination – discussions in Jan. 2004 and final report in March 2004
- **Effect on policy:** Consultation process involving Royal Government of Cambodia, NGOs, and donors has been initiated. Fine-tuning/ shaping of social concessions, rules, and procedures is expected.

## 4 – What information basis and tools/techniques are used/planned to answer question 2?

Qualitative methods: focus groups, semi-structured interviews, organigrams, and institutional analysis.

Quantitative methods: village, district and national level surveys, rural household model.

## 5 – What are the key concerns regarding the reform?

Strong support from the government (Prime Minister) will be necessary in order to sustain reform efforts against opposing ministries (Forestry), the military, and holders of large economic concessions.

## 6 – Other comments:

A first round of stakeholder consultations was initiated in May 2003. The Concept Note was approved on Sept. 8, 2003.

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**Last updated:** Sep 2003

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