



SEPTEMBER 2025

ARDB ACE-GFA MONTHLY BULLETIN

PREPARE BY:
ARDB ACE GFA RESEARCH
WORKING GROUP

INTRODUCTION

APRACA Center of Excellence – Green Finance to Agriculture of the Agricultural and Rural Development Bank (ARDB ACE-GFA), established on August 8, 2024, plays a vital role in advancing sustainable growth in the agri-food sector under the framework of APRACA. Its mandate focuses on promoting green and climate finance solutions for agriculture, strengthening capacity through research, training, and exposure visits, and facilitating policy dialogues and evidence-based knowledge sharing. In addition, ARDB ACE-GFA provides technical support on climate-smart financial practices and fosters collaboration among national and international partners. These efforts are contribute to achieving the goals of **Cambodia’s NDC 3.0**, which prioritizes sustainable agriculture, resilience, and low-carbon development as central pathways toward a greener and more inclusive future.



PURPOSE

This bulletin introduces Cambodia’s Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC. It provides an overview of Cambodia’s enhanced climate commitments, including targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, priority measures across key sectors, and alignment with national development strategies. The bulletin aims to inform stakeholders, partners, and the public about Cambodia’s climate ambition for 2025–2035, while highlighting the country’s vision for a greener, more resilient, and inclusive future.



Overview of Cambodia's Climate Commitment: The NDC 3.0

Highlights

On 8 August 2025, Cambodia submitted its Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) to the Paris Agreement under the UNFCCC, presenting its most ambitious climate roadmap to date. The plan commits to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 16% unconditionally and up to 55% with international support by 2035, outlining 163 endorsed measures across energy, agriculture, forestry, waste, and industrial sectors. With agriculture (Cambodia's economic backbone) playing a central role in both adaptation and mitigation, the NDC 3.0 underscores the country's focus on building resilience while driving sustainable growth. Crucially, it is closely aligned with national frameworks such as the Long-Term Strategy for Carbon Neutrality, the Pentagonal Strategy Phase I, the Circular Strategy on Environment 2023–2028, and the newly adopted Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP) 2024–2033, ensuring consistency and integration across Cambodia's climate and development agendas.

Key Themes of Cambodia's NDC 3.0

- **Mitigation sectors:** Energy, Industry/IPPU, Agriculture, FOLU, and Waste management.
- **Adaptation Sector:** Energy, Industry/IPPU, Agriculture, FOLU, Human health, and Wash (Water sanitation and Hygiene), Infrastructure, Livelihood and ecosystems, Disaster and climate risk management, social protection,

social services and child protection, Food systems, and Air quality.

- **Enabling Actions:** Education, information and awareness raising, Governance, and Policy, planning and capacity building.
- **Cross-Cutting Topics:** Cambodia's NDC 3.0 applies a Just Transition approach by integrating cross-cutting themes for inclusive and equitable climate action. It was developed through consultations with **women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and people with disabilities**, and it includes specific measures to strengthen **Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI)**.

Agriculture at the Center of Action

The accelerating pace of climate change and Agriculture employs the majority of Cambodians and sustains rural livelihoods. But it is also highly vulnerable to droughts, floods, pests, and land degradation. In NDC 3.0, the agriculture and land-use sectors are recognized as priority areas for climate action.

Key Agricultural Commitments include:

- Promoting climate-smart farming practices, such as resilient rice varieties and sustainable livestock systems.
- Expanding water-smart irrigation, rainwater harvesting, and sustainable water management.

- Enhancing agroforestry and soil carbon practices to protect land and increase yields.
- Turning waste into value through biogas, composting, and renewable energy solutions.

Financing Challenges

Achieving these goals will require significant investment. The overall financial need for Cambodia’s NDC 3.0 is estimated at **USD 32.2 billion** for **2026-2035** with **USD 22.68 billion** for mitigation, **USD 9.37 billion** for adaptation and **USD 172 million** for enabling. Agriculture is expected to absorb a large share of this funding, particularly for adaptation and resilience.

Table 1: Estimated Cost- Mitigation Sectors

Mitigation sectors	Estimated cost by sector (million USD)
Energy	20,368
Industry/ IPPU	260
Agriculture	321
FOLU	944
Waste	796
Total mitigation	22,688

Note: Table reproduced from NDC 3.0

Table 2: Estimated Cost - Adaptation Sectors

Adaptation Sectors	Estimated cost by sector (million USD)
Energy	79
Industry/ IPPU	30
Agriculture	960
FOLU	123
Human health and WASH	1,222

Adaptation Sectors	Estimated cost by sector (million USD)
Infrastructure	5,860
Livelihood and ecosystems	32
Disaster and climate risk management	66
Social protection, social services and child protection	899
Food systems	45
Air quality	53
Total adaptation	9,368

Note: Table reproduced from NDC 3.0

Table 3: Estimated Cost - Enabling Sectors

Enabling Sectors	Estimated cost by sector (million USD)
Education, information, awareness raising	96
Governance	26
Policy, planning and capacity building	50
Total enabling	172

Note: Table reproduced from NDC 3.0

Table 4: Key Addition and Updates from the NDC 2.0 to NDC 3.0

Cambodia's Updated NDC (NDC 2, submitted in 2020) was an important step, but the new NDC 3.0 (2025–2030) goes further in ambition, detail, and inclusivity.

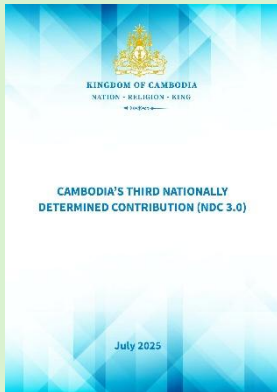
Key Additions	NDC 2.0	NDC 3.0
Stronger Targets	Cambodia aimed for 42% reduction (conditional) by 2030, largely through forestry and energy sector measures.	Raises ambition to 55% conditional reduction by 2035, expanding scope and timeframe.

Key Additions	NDC 2.0	NDC 3.0
Sector Expansion	Focused heavily on energy, forestry, and waste.	Broadens coverage to include agriculture, industrial processes (IPPU), and manufacturing & transport, integrating all major sources of emissions.
Detailed Measures	Outlined 64 mitigation and adaptation actions.	Expands to 163 endorsed measures, with 49 mitigation, 75 adaptation, and 39 enabling measures.
Finance & Investment Needs	Estimated cost around USD 7.8 billion (2021–2030).	Updated financing need at USD 32.2 billion (2026–2035), reflecting expanded scope, stronger ambition, and higher adaptation needs.
Stronger Agriculture Focus	Agriculture is mentioned but not deeply integrated.	Elevates agriculture as a core adaptation and mitigation sector, with concrete measures like climate-smart rice, livestock, agroforestry, and agricultural waste-to-energy.
Social Inclusion & Youth Engagement	Gender and youth are mentioned as cross-cutting themes.	Much stronger emphasis on gender equality, child protection, youth leadership (via LCOY 2025), and inclusive climate action.
Alignment with National Strategies	Linked to Cambodia Climate Change Strategic Plan (CCCSP 2014-2023).	Fully aligned with CCCSP 2024-2033, the Pentagonal Strategy Phase I, and the Circular Strategy on Environment (2023-2028).

Note: Information compiled and analyzed from *NDC 2.0* and *NDC 3.0*.

REFERENCES

- Department of Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Royal Government of Cambodia. (2025, August 8). *Cambodia's Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)* [Report]. Ministry of Environment. <https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh/resources/document/cambodia%E2%80%99s-third-nationally-determined-contribution-ndc>
- Influence News. (2025, August 8). *Cambodia submits ambitious climate plan (NDC 3.0) to UN*. <https://influence-news.com/cambodia-submits-ambitious-climate-plan-ndc-3-0-to-un/#:~:text=The%20submission%2C%20made%20on%20August%208%2C%202025%2C%20underscores,gas%20emissions%20by%20up%20to%2055%25%20by%202035>
- National Council for Sustainable Development & Ministry of Environment. (2020, December 31). *Cambodia's updated nationally determined contribution (NDC)* [Report]. https://ncsd.moe.gov.kh/resources/document/Cambodia_NDC_Updated



Scan the QR code to access the document

CONTACT US

ARDB Bank
023 220 810/811
info@ardb.com.kh
www.ardb.com.kh
admin@ardb.com.kh
Building 168, St 7, Phum Prek Leap, Sangkat Prek Leap, Khan Chroy Changvar, Phnom Penh.

