

Effectiveness of Multilateral Funding for Climate Change Adaptation in Cambodia

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1. Background of Study

D'Agostino and Sovacool (2011) studied on GEF-UNDP project namely "Promoting Climate Resilient Water Management and Agricultural Practices in Rural Cambodia" mainly focusing on outputs and challenges of the project intervention in promoting institutional, infrastructural, and community resilience to climate change, but their study did not reveal project's real outcomes or impacts on community vulnerability. GEF-UNDP is criticized as donor's driven, complex institutional arrangement and management structure, and used multisectoral approach; in contrast, AF-UNEP is country priority, less complex institutional and management structure, and used ecosystem based approach. GEF-UNDP and AF-UNEP is different in term of its initiative and approach; therefore, it provides different impact and effect on vulnerability reduction of its intervention sites. This paper aims to explore effectiveness of GEF-UNDP and AF-UNEP projects by showing the change of vulnerability before and after adaptation intervention in the community level, and then find out the key factor that is restricted the vulnerability reduction performances.

2. Methodology

Questionnaire survey namely pairwise comparisons for AHP had been handed and explained to four experts who are working related to climate change adaptation fields at national and local levels. Interviews had been conducted to 127 beneficiaries in which 47 villagers in GEF-UNDP sites and 80 communities' members in AF-UNEP sites.

3. Result

GEF-UNDP and AF-UNEP project sites showed an increased vulnerability after intervention because sensitivity had offset the adaptive capacity. AF-UNEP with country priority and using an ecosystem based approach didn't increased adaptive capacity compared with GEF-UNDP. In contrast, in spite of its initial confusion, GEF-UNDP had significantly improved its adaptive capacity. Because the increase in sensitivity offset adaptive capacity, the vulnerability was also increased but not so significantly.

4. Conclusion

First, both projects showed higher vulnerability because sensitivity is significantly increased. Second, despite of the confusion in the management structure, GEF project significantly increased the adaptive capacity. Third, despite of project with country priority, AF didn't show significant increase adaptive capacity. Last, the limitation addressing underlying cause of increasing sensitivity due to external factor.