

The Environment Sector's role in One Health and sustainable development in Cambodia

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1- Good morning, ladies and Gentlemen

2- Thank you for organizing this important meeting and also thank the organizing committee of ADB GMS for inviting the Ministry of Environment to share practical examples of One Health actions in Cambodia. The role of environmental sector in One Health and sustainable development is indeed crucial.

3- Environmental and social impact assessment is mandatory for all development projects this is because to safeguard the environment and human community including indigenous people's community. For example, a private mining company needs to conduct SEIA before mining is carried out. This is a mandatory.

4- Climate change is a main cause of natural disasters such as droughts, floods, and outbreak of diseases. Serious floods destroy human lives and animals, both domestic livestock and wildlife, and also disturb sustainable development. Deforestation and forest degradation causes floods and droughts because environmental degradation changes rainfall intensity and delay in rainfall. Disaster risk reduction and management helps to improve health of human and animals. Climate has already changed therefore it's important for local communities to build their resilient and adaptive capacity.

5- Protected areas or known as in-situ conservation is a dominant strategy to conserve biodiversity including wildlife and ecosystem. PAs are home to wildlife including endangered species, rare species, vulnerable species or extinction. PAs are also home to local people community including indigenous people community who have been living inside the areas for generations. PAs are places where cultural heritage sites locate and natural beauty can be observed. Management of PAs are therefore crucial for benefits of human being for all generations. There are different categories of PAs such as wildlife sanctuary, national park, Ramsar site, marine park, natural heritage sites.

6- Environment protection Air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, solid waste including plastic waste, and toxic substances are all harmful to the environment, human and animal health and wellness. Management is therefore crucial.

7- Improvement of local livelihoods living inside the protected areas is another important factor because when livelihoods of local people communities are better (enough foods, water, sanitation and hygiene and they live healthy communities they will go away from hunting wildlife for foods, will not cut trees but they will participate in protection and conservation of natural resources and biodiversity.

8- Ecotourism development is a green financing mechanism that should be invested because it can be a joint partnership between the public and private sectors in protection of natural resources and biodiversity and ecotourism services development.

9- Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) The Ministry of Environment collaborates with the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and they have developed multi-sectoral action plan on antimicrobial resistance in Cambodia 2019-2023.

10- Thank you for your listening