

Resilient Urban Centres and Surrounds (RUCaS)

MISSION SUMMARY REPORT – CAMBODIA (10–17 MARCH 2024)

Background

RUCaS aims to improve the value generated by investment in urban infrastructure by better integrating conventional large ‘grey’ infrastructure (e.g. levee banks, pipelines, treatment plants, roads, railways) with nature-based solutions (e.g. wetlands, mangroves, catchment protection, green walls, multifunctional parks and transport corridors). RUCaS program outputs include case studies demonstrating application in different urban contexts and scales, as well as training in the tools and principles applied, and strategies to upscale nature-based solutions (NbS).

Purpose

- Deliver training on benefit–cost analysis (BCA) for urban planning with the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning, and Construction (MLMUPC)
- Progress case studies in Akreiy Ksatr (AK) and Battambang (BTB) by:
 - conducting site visits with local authorities to better understand the current situation, climate impacts as well as future plans for the area and opportunities to apply NbS concepts
 - working with the national team to refine NbS concepts and BCA calculations.

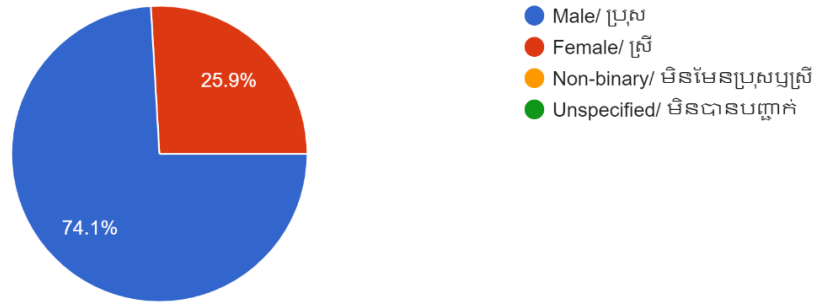
Activities

- **Training workshop on the application and economic evaluation of nature-based solutions as part of master planning processes** – 261 people explored how to incorporate NbS in urban context in Cambodia, the challenges of comparing NbS and conventional grey infrastructure, and how to apply the principles of BCA to different stages of master planning. The training provided practical advice for users of BCA information and the questions that should be asked when engaging professional economists and reviewing BCA results. More technical training for economists will be provided later in 2024.
 - The 261 participants were a mix of government representatives and students.

Organisation	Number
MLMUPC	104
Provincial	77
Student	80
Total	261

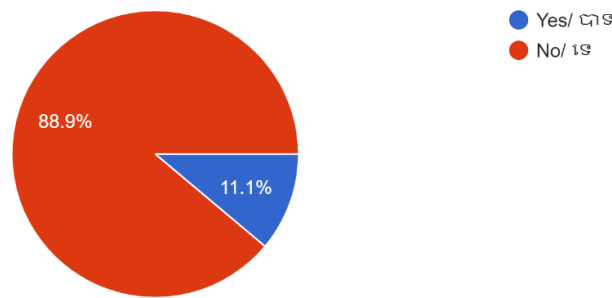
2. What is your gender?/ តើភេទរបស់អ្នកជាអ្វី?

81 responses



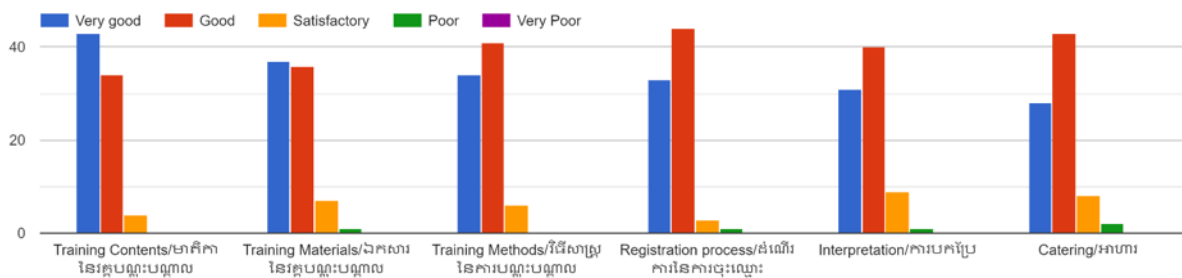
3. Do you have access needs or identify as having a disability?/ តើអ្នកមានតម្រូវការចូលប្រើប្រាស់ ឬក៏ណត់អត្តសញ្ញាណថាមានពិការភាពដែរឬទេ?

81 responses



- Feedback on the training was positive, with most participants rating elements of the training (e.g. training content, materials, registration, interpretation and catering) either 'good' or 'very good'.

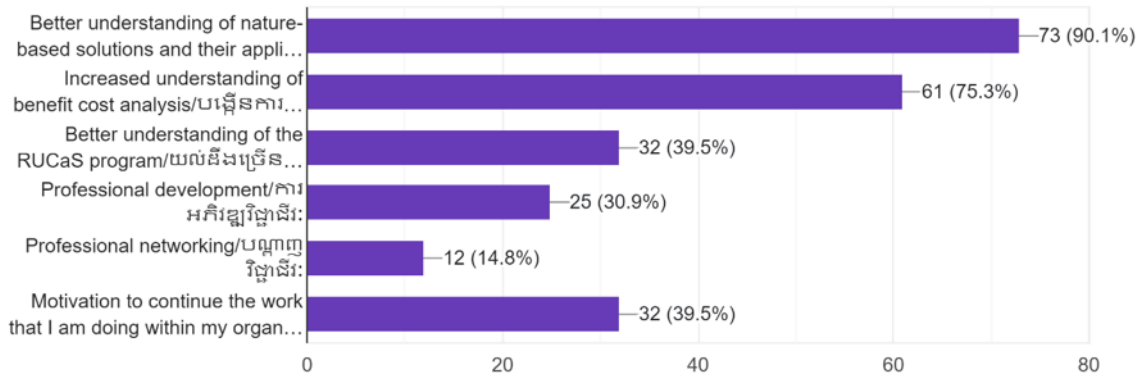
5. How do you rate/តើអ្នកអោយតម្លៃយ៉ាងណាសម្រាប់វគ្គបណ្តុះបណ្តាលថ្ងៃនេះ (អ្នកអាចជ្រើសរើសបានច្រើន)



- Participants also identified their top 3 benefits of attending the training:

8. What are the most relevant benefits from participating in this training? (please choose up to 3 options)/ តើអ្វីដែលជាអត្ថប្រយោជន៍ពាក់ព័ន្ធបំផុតពីការអ្នកចូលរួមនៃវគ្គបណ្តុះបណ្តាលនេះ:

81 responses



- **Site visit to Akreiy Ksatr with Municipal and MLMUPC staff** – During these visits, we looked at private and public lands, developments underway, natural wetlands and forest areas, and agricultural lands. Specific sites included 2 pagoda areas, road sections to be upgraded and expanded, functioning floodplain habitats, rice fields and orchards, and a high school on the banks of the Mekong. These sites will be incorporated into the case study, detailing how NbS could be applied in these contexts.
- **Meeting with Australian Embassy officials** – We met with DFAT’s Climate Investment Design Team, which is conducting research and analysis to inform its climate programming in Cambodia.
- **Disability, Water and Climate Conference with AWP/WaterAid** – We joined AWP and WaterAid at their findings workshop on water access issues in 2 provinces, focusing on climate change, water security and disability inclusion. This is a related project to that led by [Water Sensitive Cities Australia in Vietnam](#), which aims to build local capacity to collect and use data to influence policies and initiatives that benefit persons with disabilities.
- **Meeting with the BTB Deputy Governor and Battambang’s Smart City Team** – We presented the draft renders for the Battambang city centre and visited potential road sections to demonstrate NbS concepts, including in and around the new Japanese Park, riverfront and new Night Market district. We also collected and consulted on data to be used in the BCA.
- **Meetings with Oxfam and CSO colleagues** – We shared updates on the RUCaS program, including considering possible alignment of activities, and engagements with GEDSI, water and climate partners, and alignment opportunities in Cambodia and regionally.

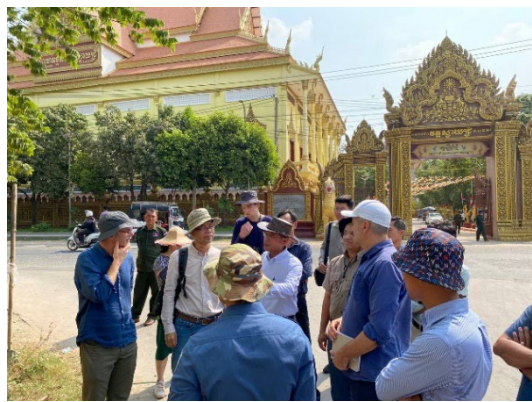
We would particularly like to thank HE Tak Reth Sam Rach (Secretary of State for the Council of Ministers, Cambodia) and HE Dr Pen Sophal (Secretary of State for the MLMUPC) and their team. Our thanks also to Mr Andreas Zurbrugg (Deputy Head of Mission), Mr Kang Sin (Senior Program Manager) and staff at the Australian Embassy, Cambodia for their support.



*MLMUPC economic evaluation workshop,
Phnom Penh*



*MLMUPC economic evaluation workshop,
Phnom Penh*



Akriey Ksatr



Battambang site visit



Hosing water to cool the street, Battambang

Next steps in Cambodia

The immediate next steps are summarised below:

Action	Timing
RUCaS to prepare and deliver Knowledge Exchange and technical training workshop	July 2024
RUCaS team to complete Battambang and progress Akreiy Ksatr case studies	July 2024

