

Minutes of Meeting

Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWG-F&E)

**FA's Meeting Room
28th November 2005**

1. Welcome by Chairman

The meeting began with a welcome from the Chairman, H.E. Ty Sokhun, and briefing on the agenda.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of Meeting

The minutes from the last meeting held on 26th October 2005 were adopted without comments. For the next minutes of meeting, the Chairman suggested to make it shorter by highlighting only the important points.

It was here confirmed that no reply has been received on the written request send by MAFF for disclosure of Military and mining zones within the forest areas.

3. Comments on the National Community Forestry Program

H.E. Ty Sokhun, the Chairman of TWG-F&E reminded the participants about the distribution of NCFP paper during the last meeting and he expected to hear the comments from them. In feedback to this issue, Mr. Arvid Sloth, DANIDA Advisor expressed his and Sarah Burgess' comments that the NCFP was good for the linkage to National Forest Programme as a sub-program and this must be highlighted as justification.

Further Mr. Arvid recommended a better match between objective and contents should be obtained. And also the recommendations are reflected in the implementation plan of the Community Forestry Programme.

In response to Ms. Hoonae Kim and Mr. Steven Schonberger of World Bank, H.E. Chairman expressed his appreciation for WB approval on Community Forestry Program in Cambodia through Japanese grant fund. However, there are some central issues that have to be discussed between RGC and WB as well as an appropriate implementing modality needs to be found. The WB stated that they supported fully the implementation through an NGO. In closing of this topic it was decided to develop and promote a better framework for government-donor cooperation that as a minimum urges anyone who involve in forestry and environment to share information.

As a contribution to this issue, Ms. Anna Beloff, an NRM Officer from FAO promised to make presentation on CF the North-West during next meeting.

In conclusion, H.E. Chairman fully supported the above comments and also stated reservation through the issue of which body should be the main implementing body and suggested community forestry (CF) to discuss with WB before making any agreement with NGOs on this topic. Regarding the comments form WB, the Chairman confirmed that the CF has encouraged the local people to participate more active and effective in forest sustainable management. We would not strengthen or empower the NGOs or stakeholders but would help them for global cooperation to fight against the poverty which stated in the global millennium development goals as well as in the Cambodian millennium development goals. Therefore, we need to discuss on the programmes that do not provide the benefit to the local community and SFM in Cambodia and which do not help the Government and the FA to fulfil its role. A real National Forest Programme is not only a document, but also process that defines by UNFF, and which could be the tool to facilitate a better framework.

4. Annual Progress Report of the Joint TWGs

In connection with the Annual Progress Report of the Joint TWGs for the period from December 2004 to November 2005, the Chairman briefly introduced the background of the report that all TWGs are required to complete and send it to the Chairman of GDCC by 28 November 2005 (today). He

also took the opportunity to express his sincere appreciation to TWG-F&E Secretariat who has worked hard on the issues and produce this report. However, the Secretariat still needs some more comments and information in order to make this report be more complete particularly in the part of financial aspect and budget issue. Further the TWG meeting were requested to endorse the report.

The Chairman raised the concern that since the work plan 2005 has been developed and approved by TWG-F&E, no additional funds has been received from the donors.

Subsequently, Mr. Arvid explained the meeting on how the progress report was developed. Regarding the item 2.2 which indicated that “Behind schedule”, Mr. Sy Ramony clarified that the project for protected areas (such as Virak Chey) that joint supported by WB and other organizations are on-going and probably not behind schedule. However, MoE still meets some difficulties.

Mr. Mogens remarked that protected areas are very important, but also that is now has taken several years just to propose a methodology for park management. So that he urged the MoE and WB to start working on how to develop the management plans for protected areas.

In item # 4, bullet 1: “The long to medium term effect of a logging..... forest management.” The Chairman indicated that the deforestation rate in Cambodia is increased (according to the survey of FRA 2005). So that he suggested a forest cover assessment for 2005.

Regarding the item # 5, point C: “Application of sustainable management planning...” the Chairman disclosed the letter dated 24 November 2005 from WB to RGC stating that the WB could not recommend the government to continue forestry concessions in the present context and with the present capacity level. However, various opinions were raised and it was also informed by the Chairman that the GFA is apparently of a different opinion since they are now engaging with some of the concession for improvement of their management plans.

In response to this letter, Mr. Guo Ge, Assistant GM of Everbright Concession addressed his concerns about the efforts of his company which had suspended all logging operation and has been trying its best to develop SFMP complying with government’s and other’s requirements. Therefore, Everbright strongly appealed to the government that re-negotiation of the concession agreement should be started as soon as possible. So that they can be assured that their future work and investment will be legally protected by the government.

Mr. Arvid Sloth, Danida Advisor expressed the caution on ruling out any forest management models as there are not many potential viable to choose from and mentioned that this view is directly supported by the recently GFA and ITTO reviews. Further he believed that a combination for management models designed to the actual situation on the ground would provide the best results. Finally, he gave the hypothetical idea that in case a forest concession comes up with a real comprehensive proposal, not only on specific improvement of the SFMP, but also more broadly on how they in reality will implement sustainable forestry – perhaps a “state of the art” action plan including international certification programmes etc it would be very difficult not to support such a scheme and much more difficult to reject it. The final decision on this matter lays solely at the RGC.

Mr. Peter Jipp, Senior Forester of WB clarified that WB just shared its concerns of frustration with RGC that it is important to identify the route for development outlined in the letter and that WB expected the RGC carefully considers the general issues highlighted in regard to the lack of forest community consultation and the lack of identification of the best sites for biodiversity conservation within in the concession areas.

As FA staff may lack of capacity in ESIA, Mr. Chheng Kim Sun, deputy head of FA asked WB to clarify on how to improve this capacity. He added that before FA had a WB project on ESIA with budget of \$5 million, but FA staff learnt nothing from that project. To clarify this question, Mr. Peter Jipp said that he was not aware of the details. However, concern of lack capacity of FA staff to control concession and operate the annual coupe was expressed. Some discussion followed without a

clear direction. Mr. Chheng Kim Sun seemed not to agree. No conclusion or consensus was reached on this topic of capacity of the FA.

For item # 7, the Chairman suggested the secretariat to take everything we have in this item into the benchmark table.

In conclusion, the Chairman had fully agreed to modify some of the items in the progress report according to the comments from this meeting.

5. Work Plan for 2006

The work plan for 2006 was introduced by the Chairman and he asked the comments from the meeting. The participant expressed concern in regard to the annual bidding coupe, the Chairman briefed that FA is strong enough to carry out this job. After receiving several comments from the donors and others the Chairman proposed the meeting for allowing him to ask his colleague, Mr. Khorn Sareth, to make a presentation on the Annual Bidding Coupe Procedure which was once presented in the last TWG-F&E meeting. He also informed the meeting that he had prepared another presentation on the Structure, Function and Organization of FA which presented by himself.

6. Presentation on Annual Bidding Coupe Procedure (annual bidding coupe is not included in the joint Annual work plan)

Mr. Khorn Sareth, Chief of Forest Management Office of the Forestry Administration performed his 10 minutes presentation on Management of the Annual Bidding Coupe outside existing Forest concessions. He has indicated briefly the relevant laws and Prakas that associated with the annual bidding coupe procedure. He emphasized that the main process in the management of bidding coupe procedure is divided in 2 stages (forest inventory, tree marking, preparation of forest management plan and public bidding procedure) and there are three main sources of timber supply to domestic use: forest concession, annual bidding coupe and confiscated timber by legal action. To ensure the sustainable of forestry, the division chief of FA has the duty to prepare a forest management plan for his division area and submit it to the head of FA for comment and approval.

Besides the regular bidding, Mr. Khorn Sareth informed that FA will manage the case of special coupe in Ratanakiri province. The special coupe means that there is no bidding process and the bidder will be selected by the National Assembly itself. This special coupe management is carried out in according to the letter # 488 of the Council of Ministers and the letter # 1213 of MAFF on the arrangement of special coupe to supply timber for the construction of National Assembly building. 1,350 ha of operational areas are reserved for harvesting and 7,874.226 m³ (7,874.27 m³) of timber will be cut. However, this amount of timber is less than the required amount of timber needed for the construction.

The Coordinator expressed thanks for the presentation but again requested for specific information to be provided regarding the proposals for annual bidding coupes. This include exact geographical area and size, number of m³, species and other selection criteria and place and time schedules for bidding and execution.

7. Presentation/Explanation of the Structure of FA's Monitoring and Evaluation System

As promised in the above item, H.E. Chairman made presentation about the structure and function of FA (How the FA work). Based on the national forestry policy statement of June 2002 and the good governance policy, we have to establish a Forestry Administration in which the necessary step of decentralization that the decision making power can take play in the local level.

The Forestry Administration is the government authority under MAFF, with a streamlined organizational structure, for forestry and forest resource management consistent with the National Forestry Sector Policy and Forestry Law. Forestry Administration has 1 headquarter, 4 inspectorates, 15 cantonments, 55 divisions, and 170 triages (ref. Chapter 2: Articles 6 and 7).

FA Headquarter has 13 offices:

1. Administration and International Cooperation Office

2. Planning, Accounting and Finance Office
3. Forestry Extension Office
4. Forest Management Office
5. Watershed Management and Forestland Office
6. Forest Industry Development and Trade Office
7. Forestation Office
8. Community Forestry Office
9. Legislation and Litigation Office
10. Wildlife Protection Office
11. Forest and Wildlife Training Center
12. Wildlife Rescue Center and Zoo “Phnom Tamao”
13. Forest and Wildlife Science Research Institute

The Chairman went on with a brief description on the duties of each office and regarding the monitoring and evaluation, there are 4 mechanisms: follow-up meetings, monitoring & strengthening teams, discipline councils and reward committee.

Answering Ms. Hoonae Kim’s question on how to implement the structure of FA such as FA needs to establish plan or strategy, H.E. Chairman brief that FA is now already implementing its structure. It’s not a plan, it’s our actual implementation. We have a monitoring system in place, inspection and also auditing on the performance from MAFF and MEF, National Audit Authority, Ministry of National Assembly Relation and Inspection. After conducting an audit, we have a report on that. We have a regular meeting every 3 months to evaluate the performance by SWOT method. For the annual meeting, we evaluate the last year’s performance and set up the work plan for next year.

We have our own monitoring and control system, so we have no reason to request for an independent monitor or external monitor who comes to please some donors’ agenda. Actually, they can access all information, but no significant contributions to our efforts. We need to strengthen the existing systems. This we see as sustainability.

Mr. Arvid Sloth and Peter Jipp also briefly mentioned and discussed the FLECT forest law and enforcement programme as relevant in this connection. The WB promised to bring more information and give a briefing on this at the next meeting.

Further Mr. Arvid questioned the cost-efficiency and the value of monitoring and enforcement as long as the juridical system is not handling the few cases put forward to them and requested ideas on this problem. He concluded that in this discussion the entire “crime – line”, including the strengthening of the judicial system must be addressed.

In conclusion, H.E. Chairman stated monitoring is of course necessary but need to be sustainable. Some ideas on participatory supplementary monitoring by NGOs and projects were also addressed. He suggested that the topic of monitoring could be taken up in one of the forthcoming meetings and that relevant stakeholders should be invited for that.

8. OAB

The Chairman of TWG-F&E informed the meeting that RGC has cancelled the land concession license for 10 private companies as they failed to comply with the government policy. The cancellation was officially announced by the letter # 1780 of the Council of Ministers in response to MAFF request.

1. Un Borin Trading
2. China Evergreat Cambodia Agriculture Development
3. Shing Yue Commercial
4. Sour Kea Co., Ltd
5. Sin Thai Kampot Agriculture Co., Ltd
6. Cambodia Tapioca

7. Chung Shing Cambodia
8. Lim Kry Aphiwat Kasekam
9. Naco Rice
10. Ford Thai

To follow-up the outstanding matters from the previous meeting, Mr. Mogens asked the meeting to report the progress of the information on land concession which associated with MIME and Ministry of National Defence. In response, H.E. Ty Sokhun said that there is no comment from them because there is no real mine concession in Cambodia yet. There is just only a preliminary survey. For the concession in military development zone is quite confused because some areas are occupied by local people and private investment companies. Only one company, CJ Agricultural Development, in Kampong Speu operating with the coverage areas of less than 2,000 ha. He assumes that the Ministry of National Defence might not know where the military development zone is.

The agenda point on presentation of the TWG F+E homepage was postponed until next time. The address is : www.twgfe.org

9. Closing of the Meeting

On behalf of TWG-F&E, H.E. Ty Sokhun expressed his sincerely appreciation to all members for their participation, contributions and efforts to the technical working group meeting and look forward to have your contribution and continue the participation the next forum.

The meeting was finished at 13:20 on the same day with the good achievements and results more than expected. At the end, the participants were invited to have buffet lunch on the top floor of FA building.

Participants		Secretariat	
1. H.E. Ty Sokhun	TWG-F&E Chairman	1. Mr. Eang Savet	Director, STLFAI
2. Dr. Mogens L. Christensen	TWG-F&E Coordinator	Tel: 012-915 372	
3. Mr. Chea Sam Ang	Deputy Head, FA	Email: savet2003@yahoo.com	
4. Mr. Chheng Kim Sun	Deputy Head, FA		
5. Mr. Chip Bunthavin	Chief of AICO, FA	2. MoE Representative. Yet to be nominated	
6. Mr. Seng Sun Narun	Deputy Chief of PAO, FA		
7. Mr. Khorn Sareth	Chief of FMO, FA		
8. Mr. Sokh Heng	Acting Chief of CFO, FA	3. Mr. Arvid Sloth	
9. Mr. Sy Ramony	Chief Office, DNCP, MoE	Tel: 012-969 301	DANIDA
10. Ms. Suon Pinkanika	Deputy Officer, MEF	Email: arvid@online.com.kh	Advisor
11. Mr. Bin Da	Officer, MoI		
12. Mr. Sin Sokhon	Deputy Director, MLMUPC	4. Mr. Yuzuru Kimura	JICA
13. Mr. Ian Porter	Country Director, WB	Tel: 012-700 115	Advisor
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15. Ms. Hoonae Kim	Sector Manager, WB		
16. Mr. Steven Schonberger	Rural Sector Coord., WB	5. Mr. Men Marina	Secretary, TWG-F&E
17. Mr. Peter Jipp	Sr. Forester, WB	Tel: 012-991 999	Secretariat
18. Mr. Larc C. Lund	Social Scientist, WB	E-mail: twg.fe@citylink.com.kh	
19. Ms. Chamroeun Mudita	Rural Develop. Officer, WB		
20. Ms. Anna Beloff	NRM Officer, FAO		
21. Mr. Joe Waltson	Director, WCS		
22. Mr. Chris Price	Advisor, DFID/DANIDA		
23. Mr. Paul Mason	Economic Officer, USAID		
24. Mr. Jean Marc Bouvard	Advisor, MAFF/ French Coo		
25. Ms. Kazumi ITO	Program Assistant, JICA		
26. Mr. Goseki Kazuhiro	Chief Advisor, CBFS/JICA		
27. Mr. Lu Chu Chang	Chairman, CTIA		
28. Mr. Thai Hang Meng	Secretary, CTIA		
29. Mr. Guo Ge	Assistant GM, Everbright		

The minutes of meeting was adopted by the TWG-F&E Meeting on 28th February 2006

Recorded by

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Endorsed by

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