

Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWG-F&E) Meeting
The Forest Administration
FA's Meeting Room
4th February 2005

1. Opening

The meeting began at 2:30 pm

2. Welcome speech

Mr. Ty Sokhun, Director of the Forest Administration and Chair man of TWG-F&E, welcomed the participants to the second Technical Working Group meeting on Forestry and Environment, and expressed a special welcome to the new participants Mr. Kimoto Tsukasa, FAO, Mr. Joe Waltson, WCS, and Mr. Jean-March Bouvard, MAFF.

The Meeting Agenda

- Adoption of the minutes of last meeting (19th November 2004)
- Briefing on CG 7 Meeting
- TOR and mechanism for TWG-F&E Secretariat for approval
- Donors and Government's Pledge to the Work Plan for 2005
- Domestic timber supply and demand

3. Adoption of Minutes from the last meeting

The Minutes of 19th November 2004 were adopted.

4. Briefing on the CG 7 Meeting held in December 2004

The Coordinator stated that the briefing would be short as many of the participants attended the CG meeting. Mr. Mogens L. Christensen expressed that the Work Plan for Forestry and Environment was very ambitious. Then it was emphasised that each TWG should have their own specific benchmarks for 2005 but that some groups, including the TWG-F&E also had to adhere to the "Priority Monitoring Indicators" where forest and environment issues are directly addressed (all benchmarks are attached). Several members requested a copy of these benchmarks (please find them attached).

The subject ended with some discussion on the present log transports and good practices in this regard.

5. TOR and Mechanisms for TWG Secretariat

The TWGs and their Secretariats are new development and the Chairman asked whether there was a need for a TOR for the Secretariat. Mr. Bouvard stated that based on his experience from the agricultural sector and the proposed TOR for the Secretariat for TWG he saw a considerable risk in overburdening the Secretariat, especially when the members, Advisors and Senior Officers are assigned to other duties/projects and not specifically to TWG Secretariat functions. He suggested that subgroups could be established for specific tasks.

The TWG was also asked for an external secretary to be attached to the Secretariat to handle the logistics. The Forestry trust fund was suggested for this until another and better solution could be found.

The TOR for the TWG-F&E Secretariat was adopted.

6. Donors and Government's Pledge to the Work Plan for 2005

Funding for Work Plan

The JICA and DANIDA delegations agreed to continue their activities to specific areas in 2005. The World Bank informed the meeting that they were engaged in three proposals for support to the sector (email detailing information was sent the same morning to the individual members of the TWG-F&E). Briefly, it consists of A: Policy support, B: Community Forestry Project support and C: Second evaluation of the remaining four forestry concessions. A short discussion considered how these proposals could be integrated into and assist the Work Plan. No conclusion was reached but it was stated that the policy support could easily be linked with the TWG-F&E Secretariat.

Mr. Bouvard, Adviser, MAFF explained that in his project a component had provision for limited forestry support but was stalled pending the completion and acceptance of the Forestry Sector review.

The remaining present donors were not, for the moment, in a position to make pledges for 2005.

The Secretariat offered its assistance to anyone if opportunities for funding should arise.

Discussion on Work Plan

It was concluded that the Work Plan was ambitious. The TWG-F&E also foresaw at the last meeting that it was likely that activities would have to be reduced. In view of present support to the Work Plan this is likely to become the reality and the TWG-F&E will have to take a position to it at the next TWG-F&E meeting.

After some discussion it was concluded that the TWG-F&E members could not alone be responsible for funding the Work Plan, as other donors and NGOs not present in the meeting, also contributed to its fulfillment. The TWG-F&E members could only contribute financially to a certain extent but could provide other support and in particular monitor the Work Plan and the different levels of benchmarks.

It was suggested that the Secretariat should produce an outline for the Work Plan and its activities and their funding for the next TWG-F&E meeting.

7. Domestic Timber Supply and Demand

The Chairman presented a situation illustrating a need for timber for domestic purposes which was further elaborated by Mr. Chheng Khim Sun, Director of Forest Management Office. According to a study four sites have been identified within cancelled concessions in Stung Treng, Kratie and Rattanakiri Province and also one site in Siem Reap.

The Chairman for CTIA made an intense appeal for cancellation of the logging moratorium stating that the ban has lasted too long and the concessionaires were honest investors who were losing their profits due to the prolonged moratorium. The speech was given in writing to the Chairman and Coordinator.

The TWG-F&E members expressed uncertainty of the extent to which they could endorse further logging. Nonetheless, before a discussion can be made, many more facts and transparent detailed information were needed in writing. The Coordinator proposed that at the next TWG-F&E

meeting detailed plans in writing would be presented including verification of old logs transport, status of SFMP and potential plans for coup bidding.

8. Next meeting

The next TWG-F & E will be confirmed by the Chairman through the Secretariat.

9. Closing of the meeting

On behalf of TWG-F& E, Mr. Ty Sokhun expressed his great thanks to all committee members.

Persons present:

1. Ty Sokhun, FA, GoC
2. Mogens L.Christensen, Donor Rep./DANIDA
3. Net Neak, MoE/DNCP, GoC
4. Ho Sivyong, MoC, GoC
5. Bin Da, MoI, GoC
6. Net Mony, MEF, GoC
7. Huy Phap, MLAPUPC, GoC
8. Lu Chu Chang, CTIA
9. Tha Hang Meng, CTIA
10. Jiro Takeichi, JICA, Donor
11. Costa, Daniel, EC, Donor
12. Steven Schoenberger, WB, Donor
13. Paul Masson, USAID, Donor
14. Mr. Chheng Kim Sun, FA, Donor
15. Kimoto Tsukasa, FAO, Donor
16. Joe Waltson, WCS, NGO Rep.

Secretariat:

1. Eang Savet, Inspector, FA. 012915372. Email: savet2003@yahoo.com
2. MoE Representative. Yet to be nominated
3. Toshihiro Shima, Advisor, JICA, 012909269. Email: shima@online.com.kh
4. Arvid Sloth, Advisor FA/Cambodia Tree Seed Project/Danida : 012969301, Email: arvid@online.com.kh

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17. Jean-Marc Bouvard, Adviser MAFF

Attachments:

Benchmarks concerning forestry: Priority Benchmarks with annex and TWG-F&E benchmarks.
Speech by CTIA