

Minutes of the 13th Meeting

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

At the Forestry Administration's Meeting Room

2nd May 2007

1. Welcome by Chairman

The meeting began with a welcome from the Chairman, H.E. Ty Sokhun, and a briefing of the agenda. He introduced two new members, Mr. Hori Masahiko, Chief Adviser to the CBFS II, and Mr. James Bampton, Chief Technical Advisor to Capacity Building for Sustainable Forest and Land Management Project.

2. Discussion on a report on progress towards targets of JMIs 2006

All members actively discussed the draft progress report of JMIs 2006, in particularly the part relating to the forest sector and added some more information on the report. The results are the following:

Target: Ensure sustainable use of the natural resources taking into consideration the issues of livelihood and needs of the rural communities

Actions needed:

- Develop and implement National Forest Program, by initial focus on: (met)
 - a. Strengthening the enforcement of the Forestry Law, especially combating forest land clearing and encroachment.
 - b. Rationalizing and reclassify national forest lands to ensure sustainable use of these resources by further forest demarcation/demarcation of protected areas.
 - c. Completing Forest Cover Assessment 2005/2006.
 - d. Implementing Community Forestry program and develop Community Forestry
 - e. Implementing capacity building for forestry sector program/tree planting for socio-economic purposes.
 - f. Independent Monitoring in the forestry sector (Subject to donor grant funding).
- Strengthen transparency by disseminating all relevant sector information on the activities of government agencies, including information on mining concession and military development zones, as well as donors and NGOs by periodically postings on TWG-F&E website. (met).

Progress has been made in achieving targets of the JMI in forestry sector except the independent monitoring in the forestry sector due to the lack of fund. Progress so far includes:

- *Enforcement of Forestry Law.* As a result, 207,960 hectares of forest land has been taken back from offenders, including 9,324 hectares that are flood forest. 899 cases reported by the Forestry Administration's forest crime monitoring unit in 2006.
- *Forest demarcation.* Forest demarcation is ongoing in 15 Forestry Administration cantonments. Maps of 16 Protected Areas (National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary) are being produced and work on-the-ground boundary demarcation by putting landmark is being carried out. Cambodia's forest estate to be demarcated in pilot provinces (320,000 ha and 600 km of boundary demarcated) and the Forestry Administration Guidelines on Forest Demarcation developed and tested in 2007.
- *Forest cover assessment 2005/06.* Work on the interpretation and classification of forest types has been completed. GRAS A/S Company is verifying the above data assessment, and this will be completed in May 2007.
- *Community Forestry Program.* The National Community Forestry Guidelines approved, a National Coordination Committee established and support for upscaling community forestry agreed. Some small project proposals have been developed and are looking for funding.

- *Capacity building and tree planting.* Capacity building is going on, and tree planting has been conducted on 3,500 hectares of land.
- Task Force on National Forest Program established and a National Coordinator to be recruited (position advertised).
- TWG-F&E website functional and regularly updated.

Measures have been taken to obtain and disseminate *information on mining concessions and military development zones*. These have included:

- The Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy has disclosed information of mining areas.
- The Ministry of National Defense has sent a representative to be member of the Forestry and Environment TWG and will disclose the military development zones in the TWG meeting.
- The Ministry of Environment has been requested to share GIS data with stakeholders.
- The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries has disclosed information on economic land concessions.

3. Develop New JMIs for 2007 and select topic for discussion in the CDCF Meeting

After a long discussion, the meeting adopted the following JMI for TWG F & E in 2007 and the topic for discussion in the CDCF meeting will be proposed to CDC:

Target:

With the aim of stopping the loss of Cambodia's forest resources, the legal frameworks established by the Forestry Law and in particular the Sub-Decree on Economic Land Concessions must be fully implemented at all levels of Government agencies.

Actions:

1. Make public disclosure on decisions taken by the Provincial/municipal Investment Sub-Committees regarding ELCs of less than 1,000 ha within the provisions of the Council of Ministers Announcement No. 1169. The information should be sent to CDC/CIB, MAFF and TWG-F&E for uploading on their homepages within 30 days. Undertake periodic reviews of the function and performance of the Provincial/municipal Investment Sub-Committees.
2. Make public disclosure on ELC decisions made through the Technical Secretariat of ELC/MAFF in accordance with the sub-decree on ELCs. The information should be sent to TWG-L and TWG-F&E for uploading on their homepages within 30 days. Undertake periodic reviews of the function and performance Technical Secretariat of ELC/MAFF and its Assistance Team.
3. Rapid implementation across Cambodia of forest demarcation in accordance with the sub-decree No. 53, dated 1 April 2005.

Topic for discussion in the CDCF Meeting:

Progress on demarcating Cambodia's forest estate.

This topic is linked to the lands, state land management, social land concessions and communal land claims, and the clear commitment from RGC (MEF) to co-finance this initiative.

5. Close of the Meeting

H.E. Ty Sokhun expressed his sincere appreciation to all members of TWG-F&E for their active participation and contributions in the successful meeting, and wishes them with the best and success and looks forward to continued contributions and participation in the next forum.

Participants

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| 1. H.E. Ty Sokhun | TWG-F&E Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Mogens L. Christensen | Lead Donor Coordinator, Danida |
| 3. Dr. Andrew Wardell | Counsellor-Development, Danida |

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| 4. Mr. Joe Walston | Director, WCS |
| 5. Ms. Anna Beloff | NRM Officer, FAO |
| 6. Mr. Cullen Hughes | Economic Growth and Environment Officer, USAID |
| 7. Mr. Mary Melnyk | Natural Resources Adviser, USAID |
| 8. Ms. Suon Pinkanika | Deputy Office, MEF |
| 9. Mr. Sin Sokhon | Deputy Director of Dept., MLMUPC |
| 10. Mr. Hem Van Yuth | Deputy Director of Department, CDC/CRDB |
| 11. Mr. Masahiko HORI | Chief Adviser, CBFS II, JICA |
| 12. Mr. James Bampton | CTA, RECOFTC |
| 13. Ms. Sokkheng Novin | Deputy Chief of NPWSO/DNCP/MoE |
| 14. Mr. Lay Khim | ARR + Team Leader, UNDP |

TWG-F&E Secretariat

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| 16. Mr. Eang Savet | Inspector, STLFAI | Tel: 012 915372 | Email: savet2003@yahoo.com |
| 17. Mr. Sok Srun | Secretary of TWG-F&E | Tel: 012 940 936 | E-mail: twg.fe@citylink.com.kh |

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