

Minutes of the 21st Meeting
Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWG-F&E)
At the Forestry Administration's Meeting Room
9th April 2009

1. Welcome by Chairman

The meeting began with a warmest welcome from the Chairman, H.E. Ty Sokhun, to all distinguish members. Usually, the TWG-F&E meeting is organised four times per year. He briefed overview of the agenda, which was circulated. He asked the members whether they had any comments on the agenda before approving and proceeding.

Mr. Jacob/Danida welcome to all participants and he would like to suggest a presentation on the updated work plan for 2009 of the subcomponent forest and environment that is being supported by Danida-Dfid-NZAid, and ask Mr. Sok Srun to present.

2. Progress report to the 14th GDCC Meeting

Mr. Sok Srun briefly presented the progress report of TWG-F&E to the GDCC meeting. There are five parts in the report (is available in www.twgfe.org).

The first and second parts are about the progress of TWG-F&E Action Plan in 2008 and 2009 regarding enhancing aid effectiveness through strengthening ownership and leadership of the government institutions and coordination of the Development Partners (DPs) to support the government priorities and strategies. The action plan developed based on the Declaration by the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and DPs on Enhancing Aid Effectiveness and the five pillars of the Paris Declaration as well. The progress is on schedule and satisfied.

The third is about progress of the implementing of JMI 2009. Not so much progress on the forest demarcation due to difficult process in forest demarcation and late disbursement of budget.

The fourth is about the identification of aid effectiveness objectives and activities for 2009-2010, JMI number 2 regarding the commitment to implement the Accra Agenda for Action. TWG-F&E and MAFF have identified two priority actions:

1. Build up capacity for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluation, and strengthening M&E system within the Forestry Administration.
2. Develop and implement the National Forest Program (NFP).

The fifth is about the resource to implement the TWG-F&E Action Plan is sufficient, supported by Danida in framework of forest and environment subcomponent/NRMLP.

Mr. Jacob: It is very important to follow up the progress of implementing JMI and filling the information regarding the disclosure of granting Land Concessions under the jurisdiction of MoE and MIME. NFP completed 70% is estimated based on the roadmap, however new activities coming up.

Mr. Yos Mony Rath/MIME: Instead of publicized, MIME copied all the licenses granted to the concessionaires and sent to the concerned ministries, Council Ministers, MAFF, MoE, MOWRAM MLMUPC. So far, MIME issued about 100 licenses to 60 local and foreign companies to conduct explorations and only few companies are conducting feasibility studies, and we hope that in the next 4-5 years we can have production. The potential mineral in Cambodia is gold and iron. He submitted the report to H.E Ty Sokhun.

H.E. Ty Sokhun: we will look at this report and update the progress report.

Mr. Meng Monyrak will bring these issues due to the confusing meaning of land concessions in Khmer and English to his ministry and internally discuss and will send report to the secretariat later.

H.E Ty Sokhun would like to request the Logbook on the Land Concessions from the concerned ministries, and we may count the number of land concessions granted to the companies like MAFF. The detail information should be in your ministry's website.

Mr. Jacob: However, in his role as DP, we should have this information sharing for some planning, i.e. national forest program, agriculture...

Mr. Yos Mony Rath would like explain the mineral concession is different from agriculture concession. MIME issued the license to survey a large area of 5,000 or 10,000 ha it is difficult to skip forest area due to we do not exactly know where is the potential area of mineral locates. The survey methods are differently, use ground and satellite image.

H.E Ty Sokhun: MIME often conduct workshop to discuss about mining exploration impact assessment. He got invitations to send forestry expert to participate in the workshops.

Mr. James/RECOFTC: Regarding JMI 9.1, implement all the provision of the applicable laws... i.e. by publishing the logbook, the report did not address this part at all. Therefore, we should have evaluation to see these provisions are followed or not. Other concession information is very important for the forestry planning. Some mining companies and other just use the licenses to cut the forest.

Mr. Jacob: Regarding the ELC Danida has supported a study on forest cover change assessment on selected ELCs in the Kratie Province, and will be completed in May. It might be a tool to assist other sector for monitoring. He hoped that FAO could provide some resources to support the monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. Chuop Paris/FAO: In his opinion, the report on JMI 9.1 did not fully response to the target. He would like to see some results. Regarding the resources for the support, he will inform when FAO Representative back from Rome at the end of this month.

H.E Ty Sokhun informed the meeting that this morning the PM urges the relevant institutions/agencies to achieve the JMI of forest demarcation of 1,000 km, completion of NFP. It is highlighted the strong commitment of high level Government. However, for this time, we should have the logbook of Land Concession first and then we consider about the monitoring and evaluation. He repeatedly requested the relevant ministries to provide this information to the secretariat.

3. Updated Work Plan of subcomponent Forest and Environment

Mr. Sok Srun presented the work plan and budget for 2009 of the subcomponent, which supported by Danida-Dfid-NZAid. There are 14 main activities including Performance Management Incentive Program (PMIP) with a total budget of 1,885,092 USD. Most of activities are continuous from 2008.

Mr. Jacob asked the secretariat to disburse budget to implement these activities in time. He encouraged to do forest demarcation and community forestry including the management, to achieve the JMI.

4. Update on National Forest Program (NFP) Development

Dr. Sokh Heng presented the progress of NFP development during the last few months follow the roadmap, there are five main activities:

- Meeting with the relevant ministries cross sector in January was done
- Preparation of the outline content of NFP Framework Document, FLD is hiring one consultant to do this.

- Four regional consultations with all stakeholders conducted in Sihanoukville, Pursat, Kratie and Siem Reap.
- Harmonize the first five programs (1-5) and their sub-programs
- Development of a NFP Financing Program (program no. 6).

Next steps:

- Public awareness raising: Media and website
- incorporating comments and harmonizing all programs by FLD consultants
- More consultation in May? What kind is that?
- National consultation workshop in August
- Final revision in September
- Submitting for approval in September

H.E Ty Sokhun suggested the participants to focus and discuss on the next steps. It was suggested by Mr. Jacob, to have two more consultations, and he agreed if we have resources to do this, however he would like have the national consultation a little bit earlier in June or July because we need time to compile the comments from the public, and he also need time to read and understand before explain to his leaders.

Mr. Jacob: we should have two more consultations at the end of May. It based on the work done on the strategic overview and financial aspect. We need to finalize the six sub-programs in mid May. We also need to look at other parts of document, strategic and financing mechanism that is a key aspect need to be discussed to incorporate in the next consultations. The time constraint is about national consultation earlier in July and external review of the documents, therefore we need to find out.

Dr. Sokh Heng: He will consult with Mr. Arvid Sloth to find out the time the national consultation and the review by international team.

H.E Ty Sokhun: NFP Document must be in Khmer language to submit for approval, and the Prime Minister said that we have to complete this year, therefore we may have time within this year.

Dr. Sokh Heng: Regarding the translation if refer to the roadmap it should be started in July, however the recent NFP core group meeting suggested the translation should be started as soon as possible and be ready, at least temporary translation for the next two consultations.

Mr. Eang Savet suggested that for the next consultations fund must be available in time for disbursement because we experienced at the previous consultations we need to borrow money for expenditure.

Mr. Hour Limchhun asked for clarification that at the previous stage of NFP Development we had agreed to have six sub-programs including Forestry Climate Change and Innovative Financing, and the later it has been changed to sustainable forest financing.

Mr. Jacob: We do have six sub-programs. It has not been much changed, we still have such sub-program including financing mechanism and climate aspect. It is much bigger jobs that we need to look at as such, plantation, community forestry, private sector, revenue generation, etc.

Mr. Koen Everaert/EC: So far we have not been so active in this TWG due to we do not have many activities relevant in forestry and environment sector. Last year we have done supported national fuel policy to GERES and supported community forestry to OXFAM; it is mainly support to NGOs. European Commission has strong political commitment to work with the environmental issues and climate change so why now he joints this group and in the future depending on the work load. He has two questions and would like ask some advices and support from this working group. The first initiative is EU FLEGT, Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade. It is an initiative which is demand led, the countries themselves have to request for it. It is a kind of negotiation of bilateral agreement between

the EU and interested country to set up voluntary partnership agreements on forest protection, governance and trade. It is a commitment of EU to buy certified wood from countries entering in the agreement. He informed that if RGC is interested and would like to start negotiation with EU and inform him as soon as possible. The second initiative is in pipeline, GCCA (Global Climate Change Alliance) between EU and least developing countries to help them to be better preparing to the possible consequences of climate change and to make them better adaptation. He informed that Cambodia has been selected as one of the four pilot countries benefiting from this new alliance. The GCCA team will conduct a situation assessment from May 4-12 by meeting with several government institutions, UN organizations and NGOs to identify potential areas of support.

H.E Ty Sokhun also shared information that in the NFP includes FLEG and without T, and get support from ITTO, USA, Japan, Australia and Korea Republic. We are in the process of implementing these projects. Regarding the timber trade, this morning the Prime Minister suggested FA to study in detail on the international forestry issue in the world and to find out the opportunity for the forest carbon credit market that world communities highly consider the climate change and global warming issue. We need to protect our forest, stop logging forest for export and instead by selling forest carbon credit, and use this revenue for taking care of the forest to alleviate the poverty of local community. Therefore, we are looking forward to cooperation with EU and expect some supports from you. We have one program on sustainable forest financing in the NFP and it may relate to the GCCA.

5. Update on R-PIN and Regional Workshop on REDD

Mr. Stephane Brun presented the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility's (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism since Cambodia was accepted as a REDD Country Participant in the Readiness Fund (it is available in www.twgfe.org).

The next steps that have to be considered are:

- Now that the R-PIN has been selected, a Readiness Plan (R-Plan) should be submitted to the FCPF before the end of the year 2009
- FA will organize Regional Workshop on REDD in South-East Asia - with support from AFD (May 25-26)
- The Next PC meeting, June 15-17, Montreux, Switzerland - Cambodia is welcome to send a representative if it can cover the associated expense.
- For the preparation of the R-Plan, others source of funding outside of the FCPF will be needed (bilateral development assistance programs, UN-REDD Program, international conservation NGOs ...).

Ms. Audrey ROUSSON/AFD concerned about the arrangement of regional workshop coming very soon and Khmer New Year also coming soon too. She confirmed that AFD could support 20,000 USD.

H.E Ty Sokhun expressed sincerely thanks to ONFI and AFD for the support of formulation of R-PIN and got the support from FCPF, through the WB. We are arranging the workshop.

Mr. Jacob informed that Danida supports to the Secretariat of Climate Change/MoE. He recommended FA to discuss with MoE and it could be some share fund there.

H.E Ty Sokhun asked Mr. Keo Omalis and Stephane to talk with them/MoE. However we also have RECOFTC as a lead in the process in the region. We are in official view under the ASEAN protocol that can produce comments to the international forum, UNFF, COP.

6. Close of the Meeting

H.E. Ty Sokhun expressed his sincere appreciation to all members of TWG-F&E for their active participations and contributions in the successful meeting, and wished them all the best wishes and looked forward to continuing contributions and participations in the next forum.

Participants

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| 1. H.E. Ty Sokhun | TWG-F&E Chairman |
| 2. Mr. Jacob K. Jepsen | Counsellor, Danida |
| 3. Ms. Siv Cheang | Program Officer, JICA |
| 4. Mr. Sin Sokhon | Deputy Director of Department, MLMUPC |
| 5. Mr. Meng Monyrak | Deputy Director, GDANCP/MoE |
| 6. Mr. Yos Mony Rath | Deputy Director, MIME |
| 7. Mr. Seng Laing | Chief Metallic of Mineral, MIME |
| 8. Mr. Hem Van Yuth | Deputy Director, CDC |
| 9. Mr. Penh Phanit | Officer, CDC/CRDB |
| 10. Ms. Loeung Chansophea | Deputy Office of Bilateral Trade Dept. MoC |
| 11. Mr. Chuop Paris | AFAOR, FAO |
| 12. Mr. Koen Everaert | Attache, EC |
| 13. Ms. Audrey ROUSSON | Project Officer, AFD |
| 14. Mr. Stephane BRUN | GIS Technical Assistant, FA/ONFI |
| 15. Mr. Mark Gately | Country Program Director, WCS |
| 16. Mr. James Bampton | CTA, CBSFLMP/RECOFTC |
| 17. Dr. Sokh Heng | NFP Coordinator, FA |
| 18. Mr. Kim San | Legal Advisor, DAI-MSME |
| 19. Mr. Lic Vuthy | Program staff, Danida |
| 20. Ms. Mao Moniratana | Sr. Program Officer, Danida |
| 21. Mr. Hour Limchhun | National Coordinator, CCI-Forestry |
| 22. Mr. Chea Sokhon | Forest Officer, FA |

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