

Minutes of the 24th Meeting
Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWG-F&E)
At the Forestry Administration
23rd December 2009

1. Welcome by Chairman

The meeting began with a warm welcome from the Chairman, H.E. Ty Sokhun, to all distinguish members. He briefed the overview of the agenda, which was circulated prior to the meeting. He asked the members whether they had any comments on the agenda before approving and proceeding.

Mr. Jacob asked to add AOB (any other business) in the agenda.

2. Review and Approval of the Minutes of 23rd Meeting

After circulation of the minutes for review and recommendation prior to the meeting, there was no new comment at the meeting. The minutes, therefore, adopted at the meeting. It is available at www.twgfe.org

3. RGC's Strategic Framework for development cooperation management for forestry sector

The strategic was presented by Mr. Sok Srun, TWG-F&E Coordinator. The objective of the RGC's Framework Cooperation Management Strategy is to improve aid effectiveness to maximize its benefits for the people of Cambodia through strengthened national systems and procedures, aid coordination and resource mobilization mechanisms that are based on principles of Cambodian leadership, ownership and mutual accountability to achieve RGC's Rectangular Strategy, and priorities of the National Strategic Development Plan to reduce poverty and to achieve the Cambodian's Millennium Development Goals. There are ten basic principles instructed in the strategic cooperation and can be used as guidance by the Forestry Administration, relevant ministries/agencies, their DPs, and NGOs. The document is available at www.twgfe.org

Mr. Jacob Jepsen requested the TWG-F&E Secretariat to share this draft strategic paper (what is this draft paper? point #3 talking about RGC's... then you talking about 'draft...') with representative of MoE for comment and agreement.

H.E Ty Sokhun requested if any members have comments after the meeting could send to the secretariat to add more value.

4. Finalization of Progress of NFP Development and its budget

Dr. Sokh Heng, NFP Coordinator reported that NFP development was finalized and under the reviews of MAFF. It will be soon sent to Cabinet of the Prime Minister for review and approval. The budget for five years of NFP implementation is USD **38,883,000**.

Mr. Jacob Jepsen/Danida stated that he was satisfied with the progress and underlined the importance to keep momentum of this development. The concern is on the financial aspect for the support of the NFP implementation. As NFP is a living document, he suggested maintaining the NFP Task Force to after December 2009 for updating NFP at any time. The NFP document is not approved by MAFF yet; and when it will be approved?

H.E Ty Sokhun said that the NFP document was submitted in October to Minister of MAFF and under ministerial internal review. In the beginning of this month (December) FA and FAO organized a workshop to integrate climate change issues into NFP. FA defended the NFP once at MAFF and he predicted that in January 2010 it will be approved by MAFF. He also suggested DPs could jointly push this process by writing reminding letter to MAFF requesting for endorsement and support the implementation.

Mr. Jacob Jepsen informed that the contracts with FLD, as a facilitator in NFP development, came to the end of this year.

5. NFP Work Plan 2010

Mr. Sok Srun presented the Draft NFP work plan 2010 that developed by Departments within FA. There are six programs of NFP with the proposed budget of USD 6.51 millions namely:

1. Forest Demarcation Classification and Registration = 571,000\$
2. Forest Resource Conservation and Development = 1,948,000\$
3. Forest Law Enforcement and Governance = 72,000\$
4. Community Forestry = 2,589,000\$
5. Capacity Building and Research Development = 1,017,000\$
6. Sustainable Forest Financing = 62,600 \$

and proposal support to the TWG-F&E Secretariat as focal point for coordination = 255,000\$

Separately, proposed Government budget for 2010 is 4,700 millions Riel for 4 sub-programs namely:

1. Tree planting = 3,800 millions riel = 950,000 USD
2. Forest Demarcation = 350 millions riel = 87,500 USD
3. Law Enforcement and Forest Crime Monitoring and Reporting = 450 millions riel = 112,500 USD
4. Extension and public awareness = 100 millions riel = 25,000 USD

An example of one subprogram work plan was presented. The final work plan for all sub-programmes will be presented at a later stage to DPs for considerations. Mr. Edwin was impressed with the NFP work plan, which seems implemented by the Departments in FA. He raised further the question how to integrate the work plans to sub national level.

H.E Ty Sokhun: Regarding the process of development of work plan, the relevant central departments always consult FA Cantonments for information and for target areas, especially the CF work plan. However, we are not sure that the cantonments integrate NGO projects into the work plan or not. That is why we need, NGO's cooperation to provide the projects information. Mr. Sok Srun will prepare a letter to request projects information from NGO and private sector.

Mr. Koen Everaert/EU: shared some projects information and highlighted that the EU is providing quite some money through NGOs (for example the EU supports community forestry in Cambodia since 2005 through Oxfam GB). The EU policy is to update the CDC database as good as possible and all EU support to NGOs could be found in the database. In the next few months EU could potentially fund several projects on REDD, FLEG and FLEGT, biodiversity, etc. through its Environmental and Natural Resources Thematic Programme.

Mr. Edwin asked for clarification regarding the role of the NFP taskforce involved in the development of the NFP work plan 2010.

Mr. Jacob Jepsen: in his point of view, the NFP Task Force should be maintained and met regularly to keep momentum of the NFP implementation.

H.E Ty Sokhun: As official definition of NFP, is a continuous process therefore he supported the idea to keep the Task Force for supporting NFP implementation. We still need participation from all forestry stakeholders.

Mr. Koen Everaert: Regarding FLEGT, the delegation received the FA letter requesting the support to Cambodia FLEG. The FA letter was sent to the EU Headquarters. For the moment, it is holiday time and it may take some time to get reply on that. This letter crossed another letter addressed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs verifying Cambodia's agreement to host an ASEM (Asia Europe Meeting) FLEGT Conference in Phnom Penh. It is a high-level meeting between ASIAN countries and Europe focussing on FLEGT program. If it is accepted by RGC then may be Cambodia is able to have this conference at the end of March 2010, however, it is depended on the reply from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. FA plays a key role among other ministries in this conference.

H.E Ty Sokhun: As Cambodia was the host country for the first international dialogue on FLEG among the Mekong River Countries region therefore we are keen to host any forum regarding FLEG or FLEGT. He requested for sharing background information with FA regarding consultation in ASEAN.

6. Development of NFP Five-Year Work Plan and Work Plan 2010

The overview of the development of NFP 5-year work plan and work plan 2010 presented by Mr. Jacob. The objective is to make a bottom-up planning, and to channel fund support to sub-national levels to align with investment plan of commune and district according to Decentralisation and De-concentration (D&D) process. We are pleased to continue our support to the Secretariat and to the support of the NFP implementation. The funds will be channelled directly through the Secretariat to national and sub-national level.. We will focus on development of five-year and annual work plans broken down further and we would like to support sub-national level with annual work plan. It is too ambitious, and we cannot do the whole country for the moment, therefore, we would suggest selecting five provinces as piloting together with the forestry for developing 5-year work plan and one-year work plan. It needs to be done in cooperation with the D&D process aligns to the support from the investment planning. This is a potential framework for the support to NFP in the future. Danida/DfiD in cooperation with FA will hire two local consultants and one international consultant to work closely with FA partners to discuss at sub-national level about their work plans, prioritised activities aligned with requirement from D&D process and to come up with a joint management work plan. We are also thinking about M&E aspect because it has not been covered yet in the NFP. It is very important when we are doing our implementation. It is an opportunity to strengthen or establish a national monitoring system. The activities should be implemented by FA, NGOs and other stakeholders to complement each other.

H.E Ty Sokhun supported this idea for the development of these work plans. However, for the implementation he would like to suggest for effectiveness and competitive advantage it should have proposal from stakeholders (FA, NGO, private) who are interested in applying for this work. Some works can be undertaken more effectively by FA others more effectively by NGOs or private sector.

Mr. Jacob: FA does the work plan. FA has the mandate and the responsibility. FA is the contract holder and FA should have dialogue with civil society, private sector or individual to assist FA in undertaking this specific job. This implementation will start in selected provinces and possible scaled up at a later stage.

Regarding fund flow mechanism, in fact the fund should go through the Department of planning and Finance, FA, however, for the moment we cannot do that and need the TWG-F&E Secretariat to assist as a mechanism for coordination among stakeholders.

H.E Ty Sokhun agreed with Jacob, and said that, TWG-F&E is cross-sector mechanism for coordination among forestry stakeholders and including particularly FA and MoE. This is the reason we need the Secretariat to play this role. If just only for FA then the fund should be channelled to Department of Planning and Finance, FA.

Mr. Jacob: As an example, the funds from MDLF (Danida/ Dfid) are channelled through the TWG F&E secretariat in support of the secretariat and forestry related issues. At the moment, we have not seen other DPs coming on board to support MoE through this mechanism. How do we make sure that all issues on conservation, wildlife protection in the protected area will be included.

H.E Ty Sokhun: we have to mention these. But first we suggest to have active participation of MoE representatives. Our concern is the forest resource under MoE jurisdiction. However, we have to identify the root causes of why they has not come to joint TWG-F&E and how to solve this problem. Therefore, we support the Secretariat to play this role. Even FA prefers to have direct fund to Department of Planning and Financing, but TWG-F&E Secretariat can play role

more transparency and effective coordination among cross-sector approach therefore need to keep this mechanism.

Mr. Jacob informed that the development of work plan will start in January 2010 and done by one international and 2 national consultants. We believe that by the end of February or first week of March 2010 the work plan for some provinces will be ready.

7. Results of the COP15 and opportunities for Cambodia

Dr. Keo Omaliss, Deputy Director of Wildlife and Biodiversity Department and a member of FA Climate Change Team, presented the results of COP15.

COP15 was organised in Copenhagen, Denmark and had approximately 40,000 participants. The results regarding REDD, policy on LCA (Long term Cooperation and Action) is not yet finalized. REDD in SBTA (Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technical Assistance) is adopted. REDD in Copenhagen accord.

REDD in LCA has 5 activities: (1) reduce emissions from deforestation; (2) reduce emissions from forest degradation; (3) conservation of forest carbon stock; (4) sustainable management of forest and (5) enhancement of forest carbon stock. There is a lot of discussion on the agreement of operational scale, at national or sub-national level, Cambodia has pilot some project at sub-national level. Financial source is not clear yet.

REDD in SBTA discussed on the methodologies: use most recent IPCC guidance and guideline; establish national forest monitoring system; use forest reference emission level.

REDD in Copenhagen Accord, there are commitments of developed countries to support 30 billion USD for climate change for 3 years to most vulnerable countries, less development countries, island states and Africa. The fund will go through Copenhagen Green Climate Fund. The presentation is available at www.twgfe.org

Mr. Jacob mentioned on the COP15 that the outcome of the meeting was disappointing because of the lack of clear results and further guidance on how we can take actions, towards the objective set in the COP15.

H.E Ty Sokhun satisfied with the results because he thought that the roles of forest are increasingly recognised in climate change issues. This is an opportunity for us to have more time to consider our strategy in NFP process.

Dr. Keo Omaliss informed that Cambodia REDD Task Force will be formed. In January 2010 we will produce REDD road map, in order to produce a REDD document for making sure that its policy and methodology are consistent. REDD Task Force will be leaded by FA in cooperation with MoE. Three people from MoE, one person from MLMUP, and other representatives from NGO and private sector.

Mr. Koen: In the near future, we will have Cambodia Climate Change Alliance, supported by EU, Danida, Sida, UNDP and UNEP has fund total about 9 million USD for 3 years, in which we can support activities like making REDD road map, and so on. This is a potential proposal for funding under this program. The CCCA will start early 2010.

8. AOB

Mr. Jacob recalled the sending out to all DPs the NSDP update that MEF would like to make comment before 11 Jan 2010. And he suggested all stakeholders to feed back comment by 5 Jan 2010 that we can consolidate and send to FA for consideration. He informed that Study on Community Forestry and Fisheries will be started mid January upto mid February 2010. Danida is working on ToR for studying the forest demarcation to find a better model. He requested to put the all forest relevant missions in Cambodia at the website www.twgfe.org

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. Mr. Hem Vanyuth | Deputy Director, CDC |
| 4. Mr. Som Chan | MND |
| 5. Mr. Sato Takayuki | CTA of CBFS-II/JICA |
| 6. Mr. Edwin V. Payuan | CTA, CBSFLMP/RECOFTC |
| 7. Dr. Sokh Heng | NFP Coordinator, FA |
| 8. Mr. Lic Vuthy | Program staff, Danida |
| 9. H.E. Than Sarath | Acting Director of DAP |
| 10. Mr. Keo Omaliss | Deputy Director of Dept. of Wildlife and Biodiversity, FA |
| 11. Mr. Hour Limchhun | National Coordinator, CCI-Forestry |
| 12. Mr. Hang Suntra | Acting Director of DFI |
| 13. Mr. Eang Savet | Director of MFAI |
| 14. Mr. Chea Sokhon | Officer, FA |
| 15. Ms. Suon Pinkanika | Deputy Officer MEF |
| 16. Mr. Lu Chu Chang | Chairman CTIA |
| 17. Mr. Mark Gately | Programme Director WCS |
| 18. Mr. Vanna Samreth | Deputy Director of F&FC |
| 19. Mr. Samram Tuy | Economic Growth & Environment Assistant USAID |
| 20. Mr. KOEN
EVERAERT | Attaché EU |
| 21. Ms. Amanda Bradley | PACT |

TWG-F&E Secretariat

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