

Minutes of the 26th Meeting
Technical Working Group on Forestry & Environment (TWG-F&E)
At the Forestry Administration
20 May 2010

1. Welcome by Chairman

Mr. Eang Savet informed the meeting that H.E Chheng Kimsun had an appointment with Deputy Prime Minister, Bin Chhin, Chairman of National Authority for Resolution of Land Dispute therefore he asked him to chair the meeting with Mr. Jacob. 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 would like to suggest putting minutes of the previous meeting into the agenda for the next TWG-F&E Meeting and the members can go through the minutes and agree on this.

2. Update on the NFP

Dr. Sokh Heng informed the meeting that NFP was approved by MAFF and sent to Council of Ministers (CoM) on 4th March 2010. Two inter-ministry meetings were in early April held to discuss on the NFP Document. On 7th May a full session of CoM meeting conducted and the Prime Minister had some recommendations on NFP:

- More emphasis on the forest demarcation program, it is an urgent issue.
- Provide a clear forest definition in the NFP document.
- Add more activities to ensure a smooth updating of the forest cover map 2002.

Mr. Jacob asked the way forward to finalise the above recommendation, what is the timeframe, how we go forward, what about the NFP Task Force.

Dr. Heng: CoM commented mostly on the strategic framework and program number one. Now the group one is working on that for a few weeks and will send to CoM again and maybe not bring to the full session again for discussion about this and will be approved by the Prime Minister.

NFP Task Force would play an important role in the implementation of NFP. As soon as approval of NFP done by RGC there will be a call for a meeting of the NFP Task Force to identify its role for implementation phase, fund raising, monitor the progress...

Mr. Huor Limchhun asked for clarification of recommendation about updating the forest cover map 2002, but now we have forest cover map 2005-06 already.

Mr. Eang Savet: we use forest cover map 2002 as basic map for forest demarcation because of the Forestry Law was approved in 2002. However the demarcation process is facing conflicts with local communities, agriculture development, new settlement etc, therefore CoM recommended to solve these problems.

Mr. Jacob would like to suggest that NFP document should be kept as much as possible of the agreed document and Khmer and English version could be followed.

Dr. Sokh Heng: As soon as the approval the secretariat will manage to check the Khmer version correctly and to update the English version with layout for printing. We need to hire some people to do this job to check sentence by sentence to ensure Khmer version and English are same meaning.

3. Progress on Development of NFP Work Plan 2011 and Five-Year.

H.E Than Sarath updated the progress of the development of NFP annual and 5-year work plan for central and local FA level. The facilitate team received the second draft of the work plan from the Forestry Cantonments, Kratie, Ratanakiri and Mondulakiri. The team also are working with the FAC Kampot and Kandal for development the plans too. The FA cantonment plans will be included NGO plans and Commune Investment Plan if there are available at their areas.

Mr. Jacob emphasized that Danida would like to channel the fund to piloting FA cantonment level directly and to see how to align with the whole D&D process. He asked for comments on this imitative.

Mr. Edwin: How the planning process for the FA Cantonment Kampot because it has 3 provinces, it is planning one at provincial or cantonment level.

H.E Than Sarath: Planning at Cantonment level by integration of three FA divisions, namely Kampot, Kep and Takeo province.

Mr. Huor Limchhun concerned about capacity of the FA local level that could implement this planning.

Mr. Eang Savet emphasized that the NFP has six programs including capacity building program therefore he suggest the formulation team to consider this concern. It is an important planning for building capacity at local level because most forestry activities are implemented at filed level.

Mr. Jacob would like to suggest having NFP Task Force Meeting very soon for NFP planning and coordination among stakeholders initiatives.

4. Update on the REDD plus Road Map

Dr. Keo Omaliss reported the progress of REDD Road Map. The Development Partners are supporting the Road Map, UNDP, FAO and ADB. REDD Task Force is established and chaired by H.E Chheng Kimsun, and members from FA, MoE, MLMUPC, the observers: RECOFTC and Clinton Initiatives. The outline of national REDD+ Road Map:

- Management of national REDD readiness
 - REDD coordination
 - Responsibility of each forest relevant ministries
- Development of REDD strategy
 - What activities fit to REDD+ and how to implement based on national legislation
- Implementation framework
 - Including benefit sharing
- Social and environmental safeguard
 - How to get involve with local community
 - How to improve co-benefit, including biodiversity conservation
- Consultation and awareness raising
- Forest reference emission level
 - Predict forest trend (GIS, inventory)
- National Forest Monitoring system

Mr. Edwin asked for clarification on the national forest monitoring system. Is it somehow linked to the NFP?

Mr. Omaliss: International forestry program also include some of the components here the national forest monitoring system already exists in NFP. During the mission for one and 5-year of NFP planning he suggested inclusion of REDD activities.

Mr. Jacob: there is fund available for this year for doing forest inventory, including the REDD program and carbon stock, carbon verification... We had some discussions with other DPs, and especially Japan, FAO to see how we can put our entire fund in a pot together for the support.

Mr. Yukihiro Shibuya shared the progress of Japanese support to REDD and climate change issues. There was a Japanese mission comes for a review the current situation of the REDD issue in Cambodia. Consultants will discuss with FA about forest inventory development.

Mr. Jacob: Department of international cooperation (MAFF) would like to have overall monitoring system in place for MAFF, including FA and FiA. We can look our NFP could be aligned with MAFF's guideline on M&E system and how to monitor the natural resources.

5. Update from the ASEM FLEGT Conference

Mr. Hang Suntra informed about the ASEM FLEGT Conference that was organized recently on 4-5 May 2010 in Phnom Penh. 150 Participants from 19 ASEM countries attended the event. The objectives of the conference:

- To bring together policy makers, academics, and representative of civil society and the private sector.

- To create venue for deliberation on forest governance, forest product trade, information gap, and policy area related to both supply and demand.

Detail information is in the presentation and available in www.twgfe.org

Mr. Koen Everaert informed that this week or next week a delegation come to Cambodia and will send a letter to invite FA for their interest in a possible future negotiation for VPA (Voluntary Partnership Agreement). Development of Regulation on Due Diligence will be finalized end of this year and implementation will be started during 2011-2013.

6. Inform about FA crack down on illegal logging

H.E Tim Sipa informed about cracking down on illegal forest activities recently that order by the Prime Minister. The results so far (detail information is available in www.twgfe.org):

- 270 cases of forestry offences was cracked down in which including 6,188m³ of timber, 2,249 poles, 33 loading cars, 1 loading boat etc.
- Forestry Administration filed 270 cases to the courts in which 113 people were accused and 14 people arrested.
- 507,106 ha (2004-2009) of forestland clearance and encroachment were eliminated and in which 246,672 ha were taken back for state property.
- FA investigated that there are 11,010 chainsaws and 4,116 were confiscated and destroyed.

During the crack down FA is facing some challenges:

- Difficulties to search the evidences due to the timber were hided underground and under the water.
- Lack of budget and means for transporting the evidence to security place, etc

He also emphasized that the crack down campaign is non-stopped

Mr. Jacob: the information on crack down illegal forest activities is very important; He asked for clarification on the crack down whether the campaign is stopped or still continued for a few months, and what the perspective of this campaign is. Could you give more information about number of cases that bring to court?

H.E Tim Sipa: The crack down is non-stop; this is the strict order of the Prime Minister. 270 cases filed to court and take action on confiscated wood for selling to avoid spoil quality of wood, and searching for offenders later. Referring to forestry law, illegal timber stock must be fined from the offender.

Mr. Silang Vong/USAID asked how many cases are prosecuted among 270 cases. There are some arguments during the crack down about legal and illegal wood, and how to identify those woods.

H.E Tim Sipa: the 270 cases is the figure by 30 April, and now is 20 May there are more cases because the crack down is still continued. There are five sources of legal wood (from bidding coup; ELC; bidding wood (confiscated), wood for raising boat; and from hydropower catchments dam) and they have letter of permit of harvesting, transportation.

7. Vision of FA to implementation of NFP

Mr. Eang Savet presented vision of FA to implementation of NFP that prepared by H.E Chheng Kimsun. FA strongly commits to implement the 6 six programs of the National Forest Program that including (detail is in the presentation and available in the www.twgfe.org):

1. National Forest Demarcation, Classification and registration:

- Improve Forest Boundary based on Forest Cover map 2002 in accordance with the actual situation
- Conduct forest demarcation in order to avoid with forest land clearing and encroachment
- Classify and registration of forest land

2. Forest Resource Management and Conservation:

- Revise the forest management plan at Division level in accordance with the NFP.

- Develop one and 5 years plans for all FA Cantonments to implement NFP rather than only 5 FA Cantonments.
- Promote commercial plantations.
- Promote enrichment planting tree and gene conservation for seed source.
- Promote planting non-timber forest product for commercial.
- Encourage establishment breeding farm.
- Promote eco-tourism by community.

3. Forest Law Enforcement and Governance:

- Continue collaborate with all stakeholders to crackdown illegal logging and associated trade.
- Strengthening capacity of Forest law enforcement to local FA.
- Revise the structure of Seam Reap FA Cantonment into 3 Cantonments.
- Extension forestry law and regulations to stakeholders.
- Testing of 5 levels of FA to 3 levels.

4. National Community Forestry:

- Determine and prepare potential community forestry map.
- Legalize community forestry.
- Improve livelihood of local community through harvesting, processing and marketing non-timber forest product.
- Encourage community forestry to manage the forest in order to implement REDD.

5. Capacity Building and Research Development:

- Conduct training to the local FA at the province on technique, administration and communication skills.
- Continue collaborate with development partners, universities to study and research on biodiversity and wildlife.

6. Sustainable Forest Financing:

- Improve forest management system through SFM as enterprising for maximum benefit to social, economic and environment with include biodiversity conservation.
- Encourage the process of REED and sale carbon credit from forest.

H.E Than Sarath asked about other FA Cantonments that has two to three provinces plan to split into each Cantonment?

Mr. Eang Savet: The FA Siem Reap Cantonment to be splitted, this is recommended by the MAFF Minister, resulting from the crack down campaign. Others are remained the same.

8. Mapping on Community Forestry sites and CF Database

Mr. Long Ratanakoma presented the strategy for mapping the community area of two millions ha for implementing NFP for 20 years.

- Currently there are 424 CF sites (396,710 ha) in 20 provinces in which 145 sites (149,929 ha) were approved by MAFF.
- Community Forestry Program plans to establish 1,000 CF Sites (2 millions ha) by 2029.

His methodology for mapping CF areas:

- Screening CF map to identify potential areas in the office
- Organize the FA Cantonment meeting to identify suitable potential areas for CF
- Compile CF mapping digit with GIS system
- Organize the internal FA to present the suitable potential areas for CF
- Organize public hearing meeting and the sharing of methodology with the CF group
- Revise report and propose result finding to MAFF

CF Database Management System was initiated by GTZ/MRC in 2001. In 2005 its development was supported by Concern worldwide, CFI, CBNRM LI and WWF. In 2008, it was revised and upgraded by the supported of CBSFLMP/RECOFTC. It is available in FA website www.forestry.gov.kh The hosting has some technical problems. Now is under repairing by the IT expert. Data collection is done by CF Office through FA cantonments and NGOs. Next month he plans to pilot establishment of CF Database system at 3 FA Cantonments, Kampot, Kampong Thom and Kratie.

Mr. Edwin: how to harmonize CF Mapping with the demarcation of production forest. CBSFLMP's support to the CF Database will be ended next month. How we deal with for overall CF Database whether at national level or at cantonment level? As he knows FA has two websites, if it is a possibility to harmonize into one.

Mr. Jacob: CF mapping may be a sensitive issue; however our intention is to get a rapid zoning of CF areas at provincial level as planned in NFP. CF mapping is about land tenure, it is not about production areas. ELC is a huge concern to the maintaining of forest cover of 60% if we have not mapped CF area on time for MAFF to take into consideration.

Mr. Sok Srun informed that at the moment FA has 4 websites: forestry.gov.kh; treeseedfa.org; twgfe.org and cambodiaatlas.com. It is difficult to merge them into one. One solution is to add link to each other.

Ms. Siv Cheang: regarding the CF Mapping process, does the local community participate in identification of potential CF areas? or just only FA to manage this.

Mr. Ratanakoma: Due to limited time and budget support, the consultations could be done at FA cantonment level with NGOs partners, commune councils and provincial authorities.

9. Forest Inventory

Mr. Khorn Saret was absent due to mission abroad. This presentation will be at the next meeting.

10. AOB

Mr. Eang Savet informed that forest day or Arbor Day Ceremony will be organized on 9 July 2010 at Kampong Speu Province, the ceremony presided by the King. FA will invite some of you to participate in this ceremony.

Mr. Jacob informed that Danida has a mission team to come for 2 weeks (17-28 May) to evaluate the formulation of NRMP Phase II.

He called for the agenda for the next meeting from the members if they would like to suggest and can send to the Secretariat.

Mr. Edwin asked for agenda of Prakas on Community Protected Areas for the next meeting.

11. Close of the Meeting

Mr. Eang Savet and Mr. Jacob expressed their 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. Mr. Eang Savet | Director, MFAI |
| 2. Mr. Jacob K. Jepsen | Counsellor, Danida |
| 3. Mr. Hem Van Yuth | Deputy Director, CDC |
| 4. Mr. Edwin V. Payuan | CTA, CBSFLMP/RECOFTC |
| 5. H.E. Than Sarath | Acting Director of DAP |
| 6. Mr. Hour Limchhun | National Coordinator, CCI-Forestry |
| 7. Mr. Mark Gately | Country Programme Director, WCS |
| 8. Mr. Silang Vong | Development Assistant, USAID |
| 9. Ms. Amanda Bradley | Programme Director, PACT |
| 10. Ms. Loeung Chansophea | Deputy office of Bilateral Trade Department MoC |
| 11. Mr. Olivin Meslin | Research Officer, AFD |
| 12. Mr. Koen Everaert | Attaché, EU |
| 13. Mr. Tom Clemenly | Consultant, UNDP |
| 14. Mr. Sato Takayuki | CTA of CBFS-II/JICA |
| 15. Mrs. Siv Cheang | Programme Officer, JICA |
| 16. Mr. Yukihiko Shibuya | Representative, JICA |
| 17. H.E. Tim Sipa | Director, DLE |

18. Dr. Sokh Heng Deputy Director of IRD
19. Dr. Omaliss Keo Deputy Director, DWB
20. Mr. Long Ratanakoma Deputy Director of DFC
21. Mr. Hang Sun Tra Deputy Director of DFI

TWG-F&E Secretariat

22. Mr. Sok Srun Coordinator of TWG- F&E Sec. Tel: 012 940 936 E-mail: twgfe@wicam.com.kh

Recorded by

Mr. SOK SRUN
Coordinator, TWG-F&E Secretariat

Endorsed by

Mr. Jacob Jepsen
Lead Facilitator, TWG-F&E

H.E Chheng Kimsun
Chairman, TWG-F&E