

PUBLIC STATEMENT

THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT RAISES CONCERN ON RECENTLY REPORTED ILLEGAL LOGGING ACTIVITIES IN PROTECTED FOREST AND PROTECTED AREA

Based on recently reported illegal logging activities in the country, the Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment (TWG-F&E) raises its concern with regard to the implementation and enforcement of the Law on Forestry and the implications for sustainable management of national forestry resources and for Cambodia rural households and their livelihoods.

Although great efforts have been made by the Forestry Administration to manage the forest resources sustainably in recent years, especially in combating illegal logging activities in the country, it has been witnessed that illegal activities have been recently reported in the forest areas including in the protected forest and protected areas.

This information causes a great concern among the TWG-F&E members. Protection of forest resources is difficult, but it is very critical for Cambodia in order to maintain a sustainable forest resource aligned to the National Strategic Development Plan. The TWG-F&E requests all Government Ministries, Institutions, relevant agencies, communities and individuals to help enforcing the Law on Forestry and to take necessary interventions for the protection of this important national resource.

The TWG-F&E, Forestry Administration, and the Development Partners have put significant efforts into developing of the 20-year National Forest Programme (NFP). The National Forest Programme is playing a key role in guiding all forest management policies and development and will require continued support from all parts of government and the public to produce sustainable benefits for local communities and for the nation as a whole.

The TWG-F&E members reaffirm commitments to work with all relevant ministries and stakeholders to help the implementation of the National Forest Programme and continue to follow-up on all measures taken to ensure the protection of the forest resources.

TWG Forestry & Environment