

Dr. Shyam T. Bajpai
ADB Resident Representative
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dear Sir,

Subject: ADB-NGO Conservation Initiatives in the Cardamoms and North Eastern Region

On behalf of the Technical Working Group for Forestry and Environment (TWG-F&E), we would like to express its concerns in relation to the development approach of two conservation initiatives that were recently brought to its attention.

As you will be aware, Technical Working Groups were established for each governmental thematic sector prior to the last Consultative Group meeting to provide a single framework for sectoral management and monitoring, planning and aim to optimise collaboration between government and donors. The TWG-F&E, therefore, includes representation from relevant government ministries, the donor community, the private sector and NGOs. It has prepared and agreed an Action Plan for the forestry and environment sector for 2005 that was presented to the Consultative Group meeting last December.

Given the endorsement to the Technical Working Groups by the Royal Government of Cambodia and the Consultative Group, it is therefore unanticipated that the two above conservation initiatives appear to have been developed outside the agreed framework, and not only excluding the TWG-F&E itself but to various degrees also governmental and other non NGO-stakeholders. It is detrimental to the role and responsibility of the TWG-F&E that such matters are dealt with in this forum.

The TWG-F&E wishes to convey its disappointment in this matter, but trusts that by bringing this matter to your attention, the ADB, as a donor, will align itself to the agreed process and give due consideration to the Action Plan for Forestry and Environment for these two proposals and in the development of coming supportative initiatives.

I assure you of my highest regards and of my hopes for future collaboration in forestry and environmental management.

Yours sincerely,

Mogens L Christensen
Coordinator of the TWG-F&E

Ty Sokhun
Chairman of the TWG-F&E