

TWG Forestry and Environment

Donor coordinator point of view for the GDCC Meeting on 15 September 2005

Background

The logging and transportation monitorium continues to be in place. TWG F+E notes that all other NRM benchmarks fall outside the mandate of the TWG. It is expecting that TWG Lands and TWG Agriculture/ Water will report on these issues. TWG-F&E have requested Ministry of Defence and Ministry of Mines to provide Forest Administration (FA) with information on their concessions within the domain of FA.

A Sub decree on Forest Demarcation was approved by CoM, June 2005. FA is initiating work plans to demarcate 1 million Ha per year. However, lack of funds is expected to delay this process. Other elements of the 2005 work plan are progressing but funding for RGC forest crime monitoring end 2005. Few donors are now supporting the Forest Sector (DANIDA/JICA and WB on forest crime) and additional donor funds are required to plan and implement a National Forest Development Plan on the basis of the Independent Forest Review. The formulation of a National Forest Development Plan is expected to be initiated in 2005/06 based on ongoing studies.

Support to Protected Parks in Ministry of Environment (MoE) is hampered by a project approach and lack of coordination and common use of donor resources in MoE.

FA is in the process of initiating an "annual coupe" approach on forest land outside private concessions areas to meet domestic timber demand. Very slow progress on the approvals of SFMP.

It can be foreseen that donor or other funding for the Forest Sector will dry up at the end of 2006. An action and finance plan for forest crime monitoring is needed for 2006 and onward. A decision on a way forward on SFMP (private concessions) is urgently needed. FA's plans for annual coupes system could, in effect, lift the monitorium of logging and transportation in 2006.

In conclusion the forest sector continue be in an uncertain situation where the social and economic potential will not be achieved.

Donor coordinator's view in the GDCC Meeting

We urge the RGC to:

- On the basis of key recommendations of the Independent Forest Review, prepare a rapid (Strategic) Forest Action Plan on how the forest sector could move forward specifically with a focus on how the SFMP, annual coupes (including full EIA and SIA undertaken in consultation with communities and public disclosure of the consultation process, the assessment and the plans themselves) and other forest management systems could be initiated from 2006.
- On the basis of this and a solid RGC commitment to implement these plans a lifting of the logging and transportation monitorium may be achievable.

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