

Performance and Effectiveness of Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment (TWG-F&E) Secretariat

The TWG-F&E was established in 2004 by the Royal Government of Cambodia, its Secretariat was structured later and fully functional in July 2006. The secretariat is currently supported by Danida through the Multi-Donor Livelihoods Facility (Danida-Dfid-NZAID). Members of the TWG-F&E include representatives from:

- RGC institutions: Forestry Administration; Ministry of Environment; Council for Development of Cambodia; Ministry of Economy and Finance; Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy; Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction; Ministry of National Defense; Ministry of Commerce; Ministry of Interior.
- DPs: Danida; JICA; EC; AFD; WB; USAID; UNDP, FAO and DFID,
- NGOs: WCS; RECOFTC and the private sector, CTIA

The TWG-F&E Chairman is H.E TY SOKHUN, Head of the Forestry Administration and the Lead Development Partner Facilitator, until 31 July 2008, was a representative of Danida. Terms of Reference exist for both the TWG-F&E and its Secretariat.

The TWG-F&E Secretariat staff, consisting of one coordinator, one accountant and one clerk cum driver, play a significant role in supporting the daily work of the TWG-F&E by assisting the chairman, the lead facilitator and the members as a whole, to achieve the objectives of TWG-F&E. Two senior staff, one from the Forestry Administration and one from the Ministry of Environment, are designated to support the secretariat.

The main activities carried out by the secretariat as follows:

- 17 TWG-F&E Meetings, a number of workshops and signing ceremonies have been organized, the minutes of meetings produced, and presentations from all TWG-F&E meetings collected.
- Preparing the Progress Reports requested by GDCC/CDC,
- Attending meetings (GDCC, CDCF) and trainings, which are organized by CRDB/CDC, relating to TWG matters
- TWG-F&E website has been functioning since 2006 (www.twgfe.org). All information produced is uploaded to the website.
- Preparing annual work plan and budget for implementing of the forest and environment sub-component of NRMLP supported by Danida/Dfid/NZ-aid.
- Coordinating the development of project proposals, arranging agreements for the project implementation, managing accounts, disbursing funds to contractors, and preparing progress and financial reports of the sub-component to Danida.
- Participating in NRMLP components/sub-components coordination meeting to facilitate the implementation of NRMLP.
- Prepared Action Plan 2007-2010 for Forestry and Environment.
- Preparing TWG-F&E annual work plan and budget for the forest sector. (The annual work plan 2008 has 58 main activities and total budget of 25,700,000 USD.
- Facilitating communication and sharing information among the TWG-F&E members and other NGOs.

RECOMMENDATION

- Information sharing among forestry stakeholders to TWG-F&E Secretariat needs attention and improvement, especially with reference to NGOs (national and international) support to the forest and environment sector.
- Additional financing-commitments from Development Partners through TWG-F&E window are required to strengthen the leadership and ownership, and capacity development of the government institution as well.