

## Self-assessment of the Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment

The TWG-F&E was established in 2004 by the Royal Government of Cambodia and became fully functional in July 2006. The TWG-F&E Secretariat is currently supported by Danida through the Multi-Donor Livelihoods Facility (Danida-Dfid-NZAID). Members of the TWG-F&E include representatives from government institutions: Forestry Administration; Ministry of Environment; CDC; 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; and Development Partners (DP) including Danida; JICA; EC; AFD; WB; USAID; UNDP; FAO and DFID; NGOs, WCS and RECOFTC; and the private sector, CTIA (Cambodia Timber Industry Association). The TWG-F&E Chairman is H.E TY SOKHUN, Head of the Forestry Administration and the Lead DP Facilitator until 31 July 2008 was Dr. D. Andrew Wardell, representing Danida. The Terms of Reference exist for both the TWG-F&E and its Secretariat. To date, 17 TWG-F&E Meetings and a number of workshops and signing ceremonies have been organized. Agendas, minutes of meetings and presentations from all TWG-F&E meetings and Progress Reports prepared for GDCC meetings are available at the Secretariat. A TWG-F&E website has been functioning for the past two years, [www.twgfe.org](http://www.twgfe.org)

### 1. Internal Reflection

Concerning implementation of the “Declaration by Royal Government of Cambodia and Development Partners for Enhancing Aid Effectiveness” the TWG-F&E has achieved the following:

- **Ownership:** TWG-F&E meetings are chaired by the FA and facilitated by an elected representative of DPs. Since the inception of the TWG-F&E until the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting held on 11 June 2008, Denmark has been the Lead DP Facilitator. The TWG-F&E Action Plan 2007-2010 and Annual Work Plans with indicative budgets were prepared in consultation with government institutions, DPs and NGOs and approved by the TWG-F&E. The definition and monitoring of the Joint Monitoring Indicators for the sector was also agreed by the members of the TWG-F&E and Progress on implementation has been reported to the GDCC.
- **Alignment:** The TWG-F&E Action Plan 2007-2010 has provided an interim document for stakeholders to align their assistance pending the completion in 2009 of a new comprehensive sector programme, the National Forest Programme. A programme-based approach is being progressively introduced by Danida through the Natural Resource Management and Livelihoods Programme (NRMLP 2006-2010), which includes a Forestry and Environment subcomponent. Support for implementation at national and sub-national levels includes the introduction of Performance Management Incentives aligned to Sub Decree 29.
- **Harmonization:** Three DPs (Danida-DFID-NZAid) are pooling funds to support a Programme-Based Approach. A Joint Annual Program Review for the NRMLP Inception Phase was conducted in May 2007. A follow-up JAPR will be conducted in September 2008. Several DPs and NGOs supporting the forest sector reforms have initiated a process of harmonizing their activities around six prioritized sub-programmes of the NFP.
- **Managing for Results:** The TWG-F&E Action Plan 2007-2010 and NFP are aligned to the NSDP, 2006-2010, CMDG and the Rectangular Strategy. The aims of the Royal Government of Cambodia are to maintain 60% forest cover by 2015 and to increase the contribution of the forestry sector in reducing poverty. The six sub-programmes of the

NFP (forest demarcation; forest management, community forestry; forest law enforcement and governance; capacity building and research; and forestry, climate change and innovative financing) are all being designed to encourage investments and to improve results-based management in the sector.

- **Mutual Accountability:** TWG-F&E encourages stakeholders to develop project and programme proposals aligned with both NSDP and NFP priorities. Fund flows have usually been on time to support implementation of annual work plans. The progress of activities are reported and shared among the members.

## **2. External Stocktaking**

The introduction of institutional reforms, decentralization and deconcentration of the Forestry Administration and launching of the NRMLP 2006-2010 have been based on mutual trust between the Lead DP Facilitator and the FA to organize and manage funds to implement prioritized activities in agreed AWPBs. This has strengthened ownership and local leadership by the lead government institution, the FA. Although support for the forest sector has grown, the human and financial resources of the FA are still limited. In 2008, unprecedented price increases have affected field based operations and service delivery as the Sub-Decree 10 defining DSA is out of date.

## **3. Looking Forward**

The TWG-F&E to date has experienced good coordination and some challenges from both government institutions and DPs. We call for and hope that:

- Representatives should be empowered to make decisions and actively participate in TWG-F&E meetings and working groups to discuss outstanding thematic issues as well as to contribute to the preparation of AWPBs and NFP sub-programmes.
- The GDCC could provide more updates about the Declaration on Enhancing Aid Effectiveness - commitment, ownership, alignment, harmonization, managing for result and mutual accountability. Achievements within these pillars should be shared with the TWG/TWG Secretariat.
- All DPs and international NGOs should align with government priorities and systems and support the NFP, if possible, by pooling their funds within the six prioritized sub-programmes. Reporting of NGO funding commitments to the forestry sector need to be reported more systematically to the TWG-F&E Secretariat.
- CRDB/CDC's National Operational Guidelines should be clearly explained and an accounting manual including DSA should be prepared for all governmental institutions and NGOs to implement projects and programmes.
- Revise and update Sub-Decree No. 10 on Daily Subsidy Allowance for missions within and outside the country in response to the current economic situation.