

Public consultation workshop on Cambodia National Forest Programme

I. Expectation of the consultation workshop

The Technical Working Group on Forest and Environment (TWG F&E) and the Forestry Administration (FA) of Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries with forestry stakeholders have embarked on a process to develop a National Forest Programme (NFP) as a significant step towards sustainable forest management. The NFP aims to meet local, national and global needs by providing a strategic coherent transparent and effective framework to plan, manage, use, protect and regenerate forest resources in a sustainable manner for the benefit of present and future generations.

In March 2009, with financial support from Danida/Dfid/NZAid and NFP Facility/FAO, the FA successfully conducted four consultation workshops on draft NFP at regional level across the country with more than 600 participants. In order to further improve and make the NFP more practicable and responsive to the actual needs at local level, the FA is planning to organize an additional public consultation workshop on NFP at sub-national level which is to be held on 4-5 June 2009 at Phnom Pros Hotel in Kampong Cham city, Kampong Cham province. The FA will invite up to 150 participants, consisting relevant government agencies, local communities, local authorities, the private sector, monks and the media, NGOs and development partners.

All invited persons are invited as representatives of their organisations and therefore are requested to in advance have raised the issues within his/her organisation before the attending the consultation. At the consultation, the organisations' consolidated views can be expressed and taken into consideration. The Organizing Committee of the consultation is interested in the viewpoints of the various organisations rather than of an individual. We would also like to use this opportunity to initiate pre-discussion on the NFP within various organizations.

This public consultation aims to raise awareness and collect comments and contributions from relevant stakeholders on the draft NFP Document and its associated Financing Programme. Tentatively, the first day of the workshop will be focusing on presentations/statements to be made by representatives from each group of stakeholders while the second day on discussion of the two sets of documents mentioned above.



A National Forest Programme provides strategic orientation of the sector, improved planning, implementation and monitoring of forestry and forestry-related activities and thus provide a cross-sectoral framework for sustainable forestry.

II. A briefing note on National Forest Programme

A National Forest Programme stands for an overall coherent framework for forest activities. National Forest Programmes are directing objectives and methodologies of planning, programming and implementation of forest based activities. National Forest Programmes varies from country to country and represent a range of approaches but also similarities of main elements.

The purpose of a National Forest Programme is to develop a workable social, economic and political frame for conservation and sustainable management of all types of forests for increasing the effectiveness and impact of public and private investments of all kinds.

Various events have encouraged all countries to develop National Forest Programmes beginning with Agende 21 of the UNCED, intensively followed-up by the international processes of Intergovernmental Panel on Forest (IPF) and Intergovernmental Forum on Forest (IFF).

Consequently, a joint request at the Government-Donor GDCC meeting in Cambodia in June 2006 where expressed **“In general we believe that there is a need for a transparent overall long term national planning and policy framework to support forest sector development”**. Parallel and supporting to this the Technical Working Group F&E put emphasis on the need for development of a forest programme and eventually some initiating funds have been mobilised.

III. Development process of the NFP in Cambodia

The Forestry Administration is committed to be the lead institution in the National Forest Programme process. There is a common understanding the development of an owned National Forest Programme is critical for the future development of the forestry sector in Cambodia. The Director General and Deputy Director General strongly support a successful National Forest Programme process.

Establishment and composition of NFP Task Force.

According to recommendations form the Start-up Workshop potential partners in the NFP development were identified during the second workshop. The Task Force is cross-sectoral and represents stakeholders from various ministries and departments, private sector, NGOs, international universities and donors. The Task Force supports and contributes to the development of a National Forest Programme.

NFP Programmes and working groups

The NFP Task Force formed six multi-stakeholder working groups which were to contribute toward the formulation of a programme each. The NFP Task Force suggested the following areas for programming:

- National Forest Demarcation, Classification and Registration
- Forest Resource Management and Conservation
- Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
- National Community Forestry
- Capacity Building, Research and Development
- Sustainable Forest Financing/Innovative Financing mechanisms

IV. Strategic Framework

The strategic Framework Document forms the bridge across the implementation programs. It sets main priorities for the 20 year duration of the NFP.

Like the programmes, it will be updated every 5 years, after thorough consultations with all stakeholders, not least communities.

The main content of the current draft is to:

- Define more clearly what Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) is and support that all forests should be managed according to these principles.
- Analyze how there still are shortcomings in forest management and
- Giving directions for overcoming these, mainly through improved forest governance. A main element here is improved participation, stronger enforcement and improved coordination and collaboration between various sectors.

The draft then gives recommendations for future forest management:

- Aim for increased income from the forest, for local people and the government, while still managing it sustainably and with respect for local rights and customs.
- Develop the forest sector to deliver to high-value markets (certified wood, processed NTFPs, carbon-markets), which require SFM to be strictly implemented and verified.
- Create and implement a comprehensive monitoring and reporting system, including independent institutions as verifiers.
- Develop and implement programmes for community forestry; forest law enforcement and governance; forest land classification, demarcation and registration; forest management; a biodiversity management system; forest certification; capacity building and others.

Discussion points in relation to the Strategic Framework Document

Which are the main obstacles for implementing Sustainable Forest Management – and how may they be overcome?

The forests are threatened by land grabbing and encroachment – how may that be managed better?

One way to increase forest income is by payments for environmental services (e.g. towns paying for clean water coming from the forest to the town). Can something like that happen in Cambodia? How soon? And how?

Could you suggest mechanisms for equitable sharing of income from the forest (between government, communities and businesses)? For example if there is payment for environmental services or for a conservation concession?

Which needs do you see in general education and more specific NRM education to support the goal of SFM?

Discussion points in relation the Financial Programme

Discussion Topic A.

The preliminary finance work has estimated the following prioritising among the five implementation programmes. What is your opinion on these priorities?

<i>Expenses sub-programmes</i>	<i>USD</i>
<i>1. Demarcation</i>	<i>53.6 mill</i>
<i>2. Natural Forest Resource mgt (forestry + conservation).</i>	<i>6 mill</i>
<i>3. Law Enforcement and governance</i>	<i>3 mill</i>
<i>4. Community Forestry</i>	<i>5.5 mill</i>
<i>5. Capacity Building—research, of all stakeholders</i>	<i>2.8 mill</i>
<i>Total over 12 years</i>	<i>70.9 mill</i>

Discussion Topic B:

With which priority would you recommend the government in the forest sector to;

B1. Generate income from commercial logging arranged by the government?

B2. Invest in and generate income from the sale of carbon quotas through investment in carbon sequestration system (REDD)?

B3. Invest in and generate income from conservation concession (specific conservation management of special forest areas against the sale of shares to international conservation foundations for certain period of time).

B4. Outsource operations like for example demarcation, research, planting, nurseries inspecting to independent organisations against through a competitive bidding and save budget and improve efficiency (in most western countries such operations are outsourced to the private sector and the government institution concentrates on public administration, enforcement, awareness, extension, training and monitoring).

Discuss, make conclusion and give a score on priority to each of the B1, B2, B3, B4,

The complete draft Strategic Framework Documents and its associated programmes mentioned above are available for download at: <http://www.twgfe.org/nfp/>