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Short informal Summary Report

for debriefing, documentation, follow up and briefing of others

1. Consultant: Name and affiliation:

Ida Theilade, Senior Researcher, Forest & Landscape Denmark

2. Period of mission:

January 2007

3. Work performed

A start-up workshop was prepared and conducted on the organisation and policy priorities for a National Forest Programme (NFP) in Cambodia. The workshop was organised as a Forestry Administration workshop. In preparation for the workshop and at the workshop itself, a great deal of time was spent to explain and discuss the NFP background and concept, the purpose of a NFP and clarification of a NFP as a process. Approaches in different countries were presented as examples of the different forms a NFP can take and what kind of main elements may be included. It was stressed that a NFP is not necessarily contained in one document but could be a collection of several related documents forming a framework for the forestry sector and its linkages with other sectors.

During the workshop, the objectives of a Cambodian National Forest Programme were discussed and the main issues a Cambodian NFP should address were outlined. Vision and mission statements of existing Government Strategies dealing with the forestry sector were reviewed followed by a discussion on vision and mission statements for a future NFP.

A potential organisation of a NFP process in Cambodia was described. The suggested set-up was discussed during the workshop. It was proposed to establish a coordinating body, -here referred to as a NFP Task Force. A draft ToR for the Task Force was prepared and discussed with participants at the workshop. The draft ToR was revised according to decisions by the workshop participants. Potential members of the Task Force were listed. It was agreed that the NFP Working and Resource Group (FA Working Group) should push the process forward. The NFP Working and Resource Group should be responsible for that the TWG F&E extend invitations to future members of the Task Force. The appointment of the Task Force members should be approved by and refer to the TWG F&E. It was suggested to employ a national facilitator to support the process and the work of the Task Force.

Finally, workshop participants identified potential stakeholders and ways to involve and communicate with stakeholders. Minutes from the workshop, including identified main issues and stakeholders, were prepared in collaboration with the FA.

Participants were reminded that there was a significant budget line in the Danidadfid programme to support NFP process. It was stressed that it is up to the FA to produce a work plan and a budget break-down for the use of these funds.

4. Results achieved

There is a common understanding within FA that the development of a NFP is critical for the future development of the forestry sector in Cambodia. The Director General and Deputy Director General strongly support a timely and successful NFP process.

The main outcome of the workshop was that discussions were initiated at FA regarding the concept of a NFP and which form it should take in Cambodia. The workshop went some of the way to answer common questions and clarify the concept of a NFP.

The vision and mission statements by workshop participants were in line with the statements in the Forest Policy Statement, The Rectangular Strategy and The National Strategic Development Plan. It is suggested to adopt vision and mission statements from the latter two.

The main issues to be addressed by the NFP as suggested by participants fit into the four pillars of the Forest Policy Statement. The main issues as seen by participants relates to sustainable management and conservation, poverty alleviation, legal and institutional reforms and good governance.

FA expressed commitment to develop the overall NFP framework within the first year and the suggested sub-programmes in the second year.

The suggestion to establish a multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral NFP Task Force as a coordinating body was adopted. It was agreed that the Task Force should be granted decision making power within its area of duties. Participants agreed on a draft ToR for the Task Force.

The workshop participants agreed to recommend a full-time national facilitator to ensure that the process moves forward. A call for suitable candidates should be advertised and a qualified candidate selected. The national facilitator will be given a suitable office within FA.

5. Other observations and recommendations

There was a great deal of confusion among participants as to what was meant by a NFP and a NFP process. The workshop went some of the way to answer common questions and untangle misconceptions but clearly more interaction and dialogue is needed to provide a common understanding and vision within FA about a future NFP.

A NFP Working and Resource group was established within FA in October-November but has only met once. If the FA is to become the lead institution in a NFP process as suggested, the working group will have to take initiatives. Budgets are also available from TWG F&E provided that a work plan and budget break-down is prepared by FA. It should be highly stressed that the role of FLD is to support the process, -not to take a lead role and the FLD will stick to that role.

The NFP Working and Resource group should be supported in playing a role and moving the process forward. In particular, the NFP Working and Resource group must be active in order to establish the Task Force. The Task Force should be appointed by March 2007.

Should FLD also, beside the FA support, provide support to the new Task Force? Or should input be provided on request by FA? It is recommended that FA is continuously encouraged and supported to act as a lead institution in the NFP process. FA (the NFP Working and Resource Group) must take the initiative and contribute to the process in a constructive way based on its own decisions. It should be made widely known that TWG F&E has provided a budget line to support of the NFP process. Thus it is not lack of funds which restricts FA initiatives.

6. Comments to TOR and comments to reality (TOR attached)

Reviews of 'the NFP process in Cambodia seen in an international perspective' and 'a draft review of the forestry sector in Cambodia in the past decade' were not yet ready for review. The documents are to be finalised once drafts are made available to the consultant.

7. Programme for FA Workshop on NFP Planning and Organization Forestry Administration, Phnom Penh, 12th January 2007

Session	Topic	By
Registration 8.00-8.15	Registration	TWG Secretariate
Morning session I 8.15 – 10.00	Introduction and programme Welcome and background for the NFP What is a NFP? Vision and Mission of a NFP Main elements Some NFP approaches in other countries How to design the NFP? Main phases of the process	Sokh Heng Chea Sam Ang Ida
Coffee break		
Morning session II 10.15 -12.00	Strategic Planning: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preliminary analysis incl. identification of main issues • Specific studies Formulation of Cambodian NFP vision and mission based on main issues identified and national strategies Remaining steps within 'Strategic Planning' <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic analysis • Formulation of the NFP • NFP documents 	Ida Discussion groups Discussion groups Ida
Lunch		
Afternoon session I 14.00 – 15.00	General principles guiding NFP preparation Which principles should guide NFP preparation in Cambodia? Organization of the process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder analysis and identification of stakeholders • Identification of partners 	Sokh Heng All Sokh Heng + All Sokh Heng +All
Coffee break		
Afternoon session II 15.15 – 17.00	Organization of the process continued: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National coordination mechanisms incl. ToR for NFP 'task force' 	Ida/Sokh Heng +All
	Sum up and closing remark	Chea Sam Ang

8. Materials for Forestry Administration workshop on NFP planning and organization, Forestry Administration, Phnom Penh, 12th January 2007

Handouts

1. Programme
2. National Forest Programme Facility. What is a National Forest Programme. www.nfp-facility.org
3. Statement of the Royal Government on National Forest Sector Policy. RGC 2002.
4. Danish National Forest Programme in an international perspective. Danish Government 2002. (Other NFPs are available from FLD in e-files)
5. Vision and Mission Statements of Aligned documents (Ida 2007)
6. Draft ToR for NFP Task Force Jan. 2007.

To be consulted in the formulation of vision and mission and identification of main elements of a NFP:

1. Statement of the Royal Government on National Forest Sector Policy. RGC 2002.
2. Implementing the Rectangular Strategy and Development Assistance Needs. RGC 2004.
3. Overall capacity building program for the forestry sector in the Kingdom of Cambodia (vision and mission). Jica. Forestry Administration 2004.
4. National Strategic Development Plan. RGC 2006.
5. Action Plan 2007-2010. Forestry and Environment. Drafted by TWG F&E Secretariat 2006.

Additional document reviewed and filed with the TWG F&E Secretariat and the NFP Working and Resource Group: National forest programmes - instruments for improving sector governance? Experiences of German development cooperation. BMZ Information Material No 129. Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development. Germany. 2004.