

**Forestry Administration
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Support to Forestry Governance and National Forest Program
Development**

**Review of International Forest Policy Development and
Cambodia's Role, Involvement and Potential Benefit**



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Lists of Abbreviations

| | |
|----------|---|
| ADB | Asian Development Bank |
| AEG-IFPP | ASEAN Expert Group on International Forest Policy Process |
| AMC | ASEAN Member Country |
| APHA | Action Plan for Harmonization and Alignment |
| ASEAN | Association of Southeast Asian Nations |
| ASOF | ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry |
| CAP | Country Assistance Program |
| CICI | International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators |
| CMB | Cambodia |
| CMDG | Cambodia Millennium Development Program |
| CPF | Collaborative Partnership on Forests |
| DFW | Department of Forestry and Wildlife |
| ESIA | Environmental and Social Impact Assessment |
| FA | Forestry Administration |
| FCCC | Framework Convention on Climate Change |
| FCMPM | Forest Concession Management Planning Manual |
| IAF | International Arrangement on Forests |
| IPF/IFF | Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests |
| GSFM | Guidelines for Sustainable Forest Management |
| GDP | Gross Domestic Product |
| MAFF | Ministry of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries |
| MAR | Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting |
| MOE | Ministry of Environment |
| MOC | Ministry of Commerce |
| MEF | Ministry of Economy and Finance |
| MYPOW | Multi-Year Program of Work |
| NACOMFOP | National Committee to Manage and Execute Forest Management Policy |
| NCFP | National Community Forestry Program |
| NFP | National Forest Program |
| NFPG | National Forest Policy Guidelines |
| NSEDP | National and Socio-Economic Development Plan |
| NSDP | National Strategic Development Plan |
| NTF | National Task Force |
| PCF | Peer Consultation Framework |
| PfA | Proposal for Action |
| PoA | Plan of Action |
| ReFOP | German-ASEAN Regional Forest Program |
| RGC | Royal Government of Cambodia |
| SFM | Sustainable Forest Management |
| SFMP | Strategic Forest Management Plan |
| TWG F&E | Technical Working Group on Forest and Environment |
| UNDAF | United Nations Development Assistance Framework |
| UNFF | United Nations Forum on Forests |
| UNCED | United Nations Conference on Environment and Development |
| WB | World Bank |

Forestry Policy and nfp Developments in Cambodia

Introduction

Cambodia's rich forest resources can and must play a very important role in the country's development. Covering more than half of the nation's land area and contributing fuel wood, building materials, export earning, to many aspects of national life, the fate of the nation's forest is one of the foremost issues facing the country. Unfortunately, the forest resource is faced with danger from many directions. Illegal logging, over-exploitation, weak administration, and poor designed revenue systems are keeping forest from playing the role that they must if development in Cambodia is to be successful and sustainable.

Recognizing this, the RGC with support from the international agencies, in 1996 established a National Steering Committee to Manage and Execute Forest Management Policy (NACOMFOP) and commissioned a series of technical studies. The NACOMFOP has played important role in coordination of all forest policy reform activities, collected, collated, and synthesized findings from the studies and submitted its report to the RGC, the Council of Minister plenary session, for consideration and adoption of the report.

Following the decision by the PM of the RGC, forestry sector has been framed by the major national policy frameworks, which the actions within Cambodia are contributing to poverty reduction through forest resource development for sustainable economic growth, social and cultural development, sustainable use of natural resources and environmental protection. This articulated in the First National Socio-Economic Development Plan (NSED 1996-2000). In institutional terms, the forest sector is composed of different actors and rules that provide the incentives to behave in particular ways and ultimately determine the form that policy takes on the ground. The Royal Government of Cambodia has declared its intention to reorient forest policy towards increasing reforestation activities through participation of private sector, local communities, armed forces and all levels of authority (RGC, 2003). The government has been supporting community forestry which was initiated by local communities with strong supports from NGOs. Forest concession Management system was introduced in 1993 when the legal instruments and infrastructure were not yet in place. Experiencing with economic opportunities as well as challenges, the RGC has accepted supports from international organizations to set up official mechanism to manage and control forest concession system implementation. As results, Forest Policy, Forestry Law, and other Technical Regulations have been developed and used as instrument for good management practices. Consequently, many forest concession agreements have been cancelled due to violation by concessionaires to the law and regulations on forestry and forest concession agreements.

In addition to the set of national goals directed to the development framework for the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources the Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledges international issues, processes and commitments occurring as a result of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and its follow-up processes relevant to the country's forest resources. The Royal Government of Cambodia envisions that a long term National Forest Program (NFP) will be developed and implemented with reference to the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) promoted by the International Arrangement on Forests (IAF) with the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF) and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests (CPF).

The objectives of this review are focusing on the international forest policy, regional and country initiative in implementing the IPF/IFF proposals for action for purpose of developing Cambodian National Forest Program and seeking recommendations to give directions and needed actions.

The review is conducted by consultants, Mr. HANG SUN TRA, providing three-week service, starting from the 24th December through April 2007, under coaching by Arvid Sloth, Centre for Forest and Landscape. The review is disclosing information on forestry related policy and the Cambodian status on roles, strength and shortcomings in implementation of international forest policy.

In order to accomplish these tasks, historical review and analysis on forest policy reform processes, data and information collections conclusions, recommendations, and the coordinating activities of the FA are required.

The forestry management activities according to a stone inscription in AD 639 in the reign of King PER VEARMON 2nd (pre Angkor times) show that in the earlier times there were forestry professionals in charge of each region but there are no details of management activities. There was a Royal tax collection code in the reign of King ANG DUONG (1845-1859) relating to forest exploitation, and forest taxation was implemented through out the country.

The forestry policy development in Cambodia has been initiated since the French colonial time. The policy concept varies from one regime to another. In 1907 Mr. DU CAMP, Water and Forest Conservation Director, Ministry of Forest Indochina declared Forest Policy objectives¹ as: *(1) To prevent destruction of the forest estate to maintain the climate and water resources, (2) To adequately classify the forest into reserves for any purpose to provide sufficient forest products for domestic use and for trade and export.* However at that time, forest regulation to prevent forest fire damage, slash and burn activities for farming, illegal logging etc. could not be put into effect due to both the lack of management and equipment. In 1931 according to annual report of the Forest Ministry the Forest Policy was sated as: *(1) Forests were considered as a resource in which only the increment volume was available for utilization. They were to be built up by conserving and developing resources for future generations with sound management applied in each forest type. Logging of forest capital was prohibited as an ad-hoc measure. (2)The first management target was protection from: fire, shifting cultivation, felling without permission and illegal logging. The second target was to improve forest management by sanitation, clearing of debris after logging, removal of diseased trees or those with insect attack or poor form together with the liberation of regeneration and management of forest coup in accordance with the regulations.*

During Pol Pot time, 1975-79, there was neither any forest policy in place nor activities occurred. The management of forest resources in Cambodia had dropped to zero activities. Instead, a lot of forests were cleared for agricultural practices.

After 1979, forest management activities have resumed. Since the majority of forestry infrastructure and human resource had been destroyed and killed, the Department of Forestry and Wildlife² (DFW) started its work from scratch. Within the period from 1979-1993 there

¹ A history of forest activities in Cambodian 1898-1972 by Lao Bun Hak

² The Department of Forestry and Wildlife has changed its name and function to Forestry Administration

were no clear picture on policy in forest development yet. However, the reforestation program has been taken place since 1985. This program was applied in a certain provinces on forest degraded land to rehabilitate the forest cover against erosion and for fuel wood supply. In addition, the DFW strengthened the system on monitoring of timber transportation through out the country by deploying its staff along the roads and water ways. The logging operation and export monitoring were applied under the scope of international cooperation, especially with the neighboring countries to curb illegal sources of timber circulations.

In December 1994 with interest on forestry legislation, FAO provided an expert on legislation to help Cambodian Government in drafting the new forestry law. The new draft law was adopted by the Plenary Session of the Council of Minister and submitted to the National Assembly for further adoption. During review process by the committee of the national assembly, there was a lot of criticism especially from Donor agencies and international organizations that the draft forestry law had not fully taken into account the issues and challenges currently being emerged in forestry, and requested the Government to withdraw for further deliberation. In response to the requests, in 1995 the RGC withdrew the draft forestry law and requested technical assistance from Sustainable Forest Management Project supported by the ADB (TA-3152-CAM) for redevelopment. Due to completion of the project in 2000, the Forest Concession Management and Control Pilot Project (FCMCP) (Credit No. 3365-KH and Trust Fund 26419-JPN) took over the support of drafting process until it was successfully adopted and promulgated for implementation in August 2002.

In 1993-1998, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) started her activities in the development of the national forest policy. In late 1995, with strong cooperation from the DFW/MAFF and the Ministry of Economy and Finance (MEF), a joint supported study on Forest Policy Assessment in Cambodia between the World Bank, FAO and UNDP was initiated. The report of the study was submitted for consideration by the plenary session of the Council of Minister in 1996. Upon receipt of this report, the first mandate RGC has expressed her strong interest on the forest management policy reform in Cambodia. Consequently, a National Committee to Manage and Execute Forest Management Policy (NACOMFOP) was created under the chairmanship of the Co-Prime Ministers. This Committee was in charged of (1) identifying a concept to monitor and assess forest policy of the Kingdom of Cambodia (2) coordinate consultation between the RGC and Donor agencies on forest policy development and investment through CG meetings (3) launch plan of actions for the implementation of the forest policy by relevant institutions and parties. Within this mandate, in 1996, the Committee adopted a ban on export of round logs and rough sawn timber from Cambodia (Decision of the RGC number 17 SSR dated 29 April 1997)³ which is still valid till present. In addition to that, in order to have concrete background for the national forest policy development, the following four studies were approved by the Committee to contract independent international highly reputation firms to further study in detail on (1) Forest Policy Reform (2) Forest Concession Management (3) Logging Control and Log Verification, and (4) Legal Counsel Assignment. The results of these studies were presented by the independent firms to the Committee to Manage and Execute Forest Management Policy for information and consideration to further development of future forest policy.

During 1998-2003, the UNDP and FAO both adopted and provided grant fund of US\$236,700.00 to the National Committee to Management and Execute Forest Management

³ This Decision has now been succeeded by the Sub-decree number 131 on Forest and Non-timber Forest Products allow to Export and Import dated 28 November 2006

Policy (NACOMFOP) in drafting the *National Forest Policy and the Guidelines* (NFPG) for implementation from which its drafted results appears in **Annex 1** of this paper.

The NFPG expresses that “*overall objectives of the forest policy are intended to give a clear vision and direction for the forestry sector in the 21st century. The policy statements facilitate setting priorities among conflicting demands, and assist in the selection of developmental strategies. They will have to be translated into appropriate legislation, which will provide the necessary guidance to the implementing agencies and make these agencies accountable for their actions. The strategies should clearly define how the political will expressed in the policy statements is to be implemented by administrative and management actions. Legislative reform itself is one of the most important strategies in translating policy statements into action, because it provides the necessary framework for implementing the other strategies. The collective strategies will need to be translated into innovative development programs, which will describe the necessary actions and the implementation mechanisms*”.

National Policy and NFP mechanisms formally established and been in operation:

- The Updated National Forest Program Task Force has been established (Decision to establish Task Force for NFP and Good Governance no. 2581 FA. AICO dated 17.10.2006).
- The National Forest Program Task Force (NFPTF) has been established (Decision no. 558 FA. AICO dated 26 February 2004).

Table 1: The Objectives of NFPG

| National Forest Policy Objectives |
|--|
| Objective 1: To dedicate appropriate forestlands as permanent forest estates to be safeguarded and managed for posterity with particular reference to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● Conservation of biodiversity, soil, and water;● Assurance of traditional forest resource-use rights and privileges of local people; and● Sustainable supply of forest products for socio-economic advancement. |
| Objective 2: To assure and enhance the contribution of forestry to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The welfare of the population; and● Strengthen the national economy, with special attention paid to equity and economic development consistent with Government policy. |
| Objective 3: To promote greater participation of local communities and private sector in: <ul style="list-style-type: none">● The protection and management of forests;● Community forestry programs, and● Reforestation. |

However, the NFPG was accepted and approved by all parties and especially the RGC. In order to make use this draft policy paper, the DFW in collaboration with the Cambodian German Forestry Project (CGFP-GTZ) had further developed the Statement of the National Forest Sector Policy (SNFSP) based on the existing draft NFPG and the contribution from relevant stakeholders in Cambodia. In July 2002, the SNFSP was adopted by the RGC for implementation. *The Statement of the National Forest Sector Policy* appears in **Annex 2**. The existing draft NFPG could be the useful information for the NFP development process.

The objectives of the SNFSP are as follows:

The objectives of these initiatives within the set of national goals regarding forest resources are:

1. The conservation and the sustainable management of the country's forest resources shall provide a maximum contribution to the sustainable socio-economic development of the Kingdom of Cambodia.
2. The remaining forest resources of the country shall be considered as Permanent Forest Estate and managed by exclusively promoting conservation and sustainable forest management initiatives that directly contribute to the rehabilitation and conservation of a maximum stock of forested land and forest resources.
3. Within the context of conservation and sustainable forest management initiatives, a maximum involvement of the private sector and participation of the local population shall be achieved in order to ensure food security, poverty reduction and socio-economic development.
4. A wide range of coordinated multi-stakeholder processes shall be implemented to enable the harmonization of the different perceptions, interests and objectives of the various forest interest groups at all levels.
5. To continue to support forestation of arable land and to protect those trees for the development of forest resources.

In 1998 upon request from the RGC, the Asia Development Bank (ADB) adopted grant fund of US\$980,000.00 to initiate a Country Assistance Program (CAP). The CAP included provision of technical assistance (TA) to enhance the policy environment and regulatory framework for the forestry sector development in Cambodia. The TA was to be essentially a project preparation exercise with additional advisory tasks, and had an emphasis on community forestry and sustainable forest management. The advisory tasks included development of a community forestry policy and implementation guidelines and the development through consultative processes of a draft forest law and a standard forest concession agreement, and finally a review of forest concession performance.

ADB and the RGC had designed *three phases* of TA to support forestry in Cambodia. *The first phase* was the implementation of Sustainable Forest Management Project (TA-3152-CMB) which was started in July 1999 and finished in July 2000. In this phase, forest concession contracts and agreements had been reviewed and developed into a new model of forest concession agreement, supported of the preparation of the community forestry policy and guidelines for its implementation, supported drafting of the new forestry law and supported operation of the secretariat of the NACOMFOP. *The second phase* was designed to prepare an investment program. *The third phase* was designed to apply for loan to the development of sustainable forest management. **In reality, the second and third phases were never been implemented.**

Referring to the discussion on ADB's lending program, the RGC advised the ADB that borrowing policy for forestry sector development was not a current Government priority, and requested that the ADB reformulate the TA to concentrate solely on advisory tasks, namely to strengthen and intensify the activities relating to the forest concession review, forest law and regulation, and community forestry guidelines. However, there was no response to the request. A number of studies on forest sector have been conducted in recent years in Cambodia. The most recent one is the “*Independent Forest Sector Review*” (IFSR), 2004 sponsored by a consortium of donors, forestry experts and the Forest Administration. The draft of the IFSR and the compendium of comments on it by donors and some civil society organizations have provided a useful compendium of information and analysis for government actions. There are a number of issues that the government should take urgent actions. See **Annex 13**.

In October 2004 in response to decision 2 (XXIX) achieving the ITTO objectives 2000, an ITTO mission conducted a diagnostic study with three main objectives namely: (1) To identify those factors that most severely limit progress towards achieving Objective 2000 and Sustainable Forest Management (SFM); (2) Classify these constraints in order of importance and; (3) Recommend a series of measures aimed at lifting these constraints.

The Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment (TWG-F&E) was established on 19 November 2004 to provide a mechanism for government-donor coordination for supporting and strengthening development activities within forestry and environment. In addition, TWG-F&E provides technical assistance to the Royal Government of Cambodia in identifying priority areas, harmonizing of activities, improving the utilization and mobilization of resources and support efforts to strengthen the sector's capacity to contribute to economic growth. Its *TOR appears in Annex 12* of this document.

With long term TWG-F&E work plan, a numbers of national forest programs have been identified under the four major development headings as following:

Table 2: TWG Action Plan 2006-2010 and Priority Areas

| TWG Action Plan 2006-2010 – Priority Areas | |
|---|--|
| 1 | Strengthening Forestry Management and Conservation - Focus on Forestry Governance - |
| 2 | Promoting forestry and plantation contribution to social and economic development - Focus on Conservation and Reforestation - |
| 3 | Promoting forestry and plantations contribution to poverty reduction - Focus on community Based and Small-Medium Scale Forest Enterprises |
| 4 | Promoting forestry and plantations contribution to poverty reduction - Focus on community Based and Small-Medium Scale Forest Enterprises - |

Table 3: Lists of Forest Related Policy Study Reports

| No. | Subjects of Reports | Years of Editions | Support Agencies |
|-----|---|-------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Forest Policy Assessment | 1996 | WB-UNDP-FAO |
| 2 | Forest Policy Transition Paper for Cambodia Final Draft (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 3 | Forest Industries and Log Trade Policy in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 4 | Taxation and Policy Reform in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 5 | Land Use Allocations in Cambodia and Mechanisms for National and Provincial Level Coordination (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 6 | Development of a Forest Research Policy in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 7 | Strengthening Institutions for Implementation of Forest Policy in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 8 | Community Livelihoods and Common Property Resources in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 9 | Social Forestry as a Vehicle for Redefining Resource Management Institutions in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 10 | Reforestation and Natural Forest Rehabilitation Policy in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 11 | Forest Management Information Systems and Information Technology Policy in Cambodia (ARD Inc.) | 1998 | WB |
| 12 | Forest Revenue System in Cambodia-Recommendation for Change (FORTECH) | 1998 | WB |
| 13 | Cambodian Forest Concession Review Report (Fraser Thomas, GFA-AGRAR, ANZDEC) | 2000 | ADB |
| 14 | Independent Sector Review Report | 2004 | Multi-donors |
| 15 | ITTO Diagnostic Report | 2005 | ITTO |

Table 4: Lists of National Development Plans, Strategies, and other Government Strategic Development Papers

- 1- First Five Year Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP-I) 1996-2000
- 2- Second Five Year Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP-II) 2001-2005
- 3- National Poverty Reduction Strategy (NPRS) 2003-2005
- 4- Poverty Profile of Cambodia, 2004
- 5- Cambodia Millennium Development Goals (CMDGs)
- 6- RGC's Action Plan for Harmonization and Alignment (APHA) 2004-2008
- 7- National Strategic Development Plan (NSDP) 2006-2010
- 8- Agricultural Sector Strategic Development Plan (ASSD) 2006-2010
- 9- Rectangular Strategy and Development Assistance Needs, November 2004

Note: *The NSDP 2006-2010 is a consolidated plans of SEDP I and II, NPRS, CMDG, and the RGC's APHA.*

Cambodian Status on Implementation of International Forest Policy (Strength, Shortcomings)

a) Separate analysis on the IPF/IFF/UNFF 1-6 initiatives including objectives, activities and results in relation to the Cambodian situation.

The International Forest Policy Dialogues from UNCED to IAF

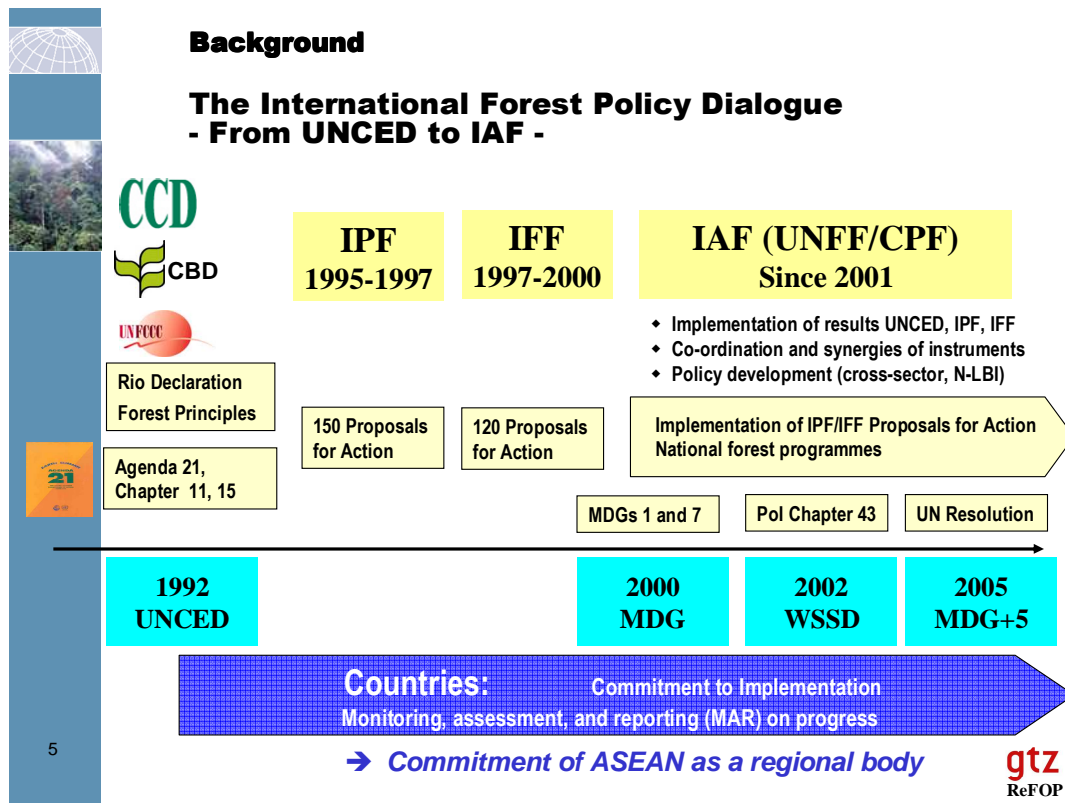
During the post-Rio international forest policy dialogue, the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests (1995-1997) and the Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (1997-2000) developed a total of about 270 proposals for action (PFA) to be implemented by governments and international organizations towards the achievement of sustainable management of all types of forests. These PFA represent negotiated text agreed by the international communities. Therefore, though they are not legally binding, there is a political obligation to give effect to them at the national level in accordance with the needs and requirements of each country.

As one of its most important proposals, the IPF encourage countries to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate national forest programs for countries' efforts toward the achievement of SFM. Subsequently, national forest programs (NFP) have become the paradigm for comprehensive forest policy formulation and implementation and are acknowledged as one of the major tools for the implementation of the IPF/IFF PFA at the national level.

The followings are milestones showing the series of meetings of the international forest policy dialogue:

- In the UNCED 1992, the Forest Principles was declared, the agenda 21, chapter 11 and 15;
- In the IPF 1995-1997, 150 Proposals for Action were adopted;
- In the IFF 1997-2000, 120 Proposals for Action were adopted;
- Since 2001 the IAF(UNFF/CPF), the results of UNCED, IPF, IFF has been committed to implement by countries and the ASEAN as the regional body, the instruments and policy development cross sectors have been coordinated;

Chart 1: The International Forest Policy Dialogue



Within its function to promote the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, UNFF in its First Substantive Session, 11–22 June 2001, at UN Headquarters, New York, developed its Plan of Action (PoA) to guide a more effective and coherent implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action. Ministers later endorsed the Plan of Action at the high-level ministerial segment during the Second Session of the UNFF in 2002, and transmitted it as one of the inputs of the UNFF process to the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in September 2002, in Johannesburg.

UNFF invited all relevant participants to work with the UNFF to implement the Plan of Action elements and called upon countries to proceed with assessment, prioritization and implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the context of their national priorities. Countries should develop or strengthen national forest programmes, as defined in the IPF/IFF proposals for action, or other integrated programmes relevant to forests, and involve all relevant stakeholders in the process.

The target of the Plan of Action was to monitor progress on implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, and demonstrate progress towards sustainable forest management, by 2005, whereby UNFF emphasised that specific targets and time tables will be set by individual countries, within the framework of national forest policy processes. *UNFF further invited countries, regions, organizations and other processes to voluntary report on their implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action, including achievements and identification of gaps and obstacles* to implementation at each of its annual sessions according to the thematic issues and Forum elements under consideration. Implementation of the PfA and nfp processes thus constitute an important part of the system of monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) on progress towards SFM at country level and world-wide.

In country's context, Cambodia has attended and reported to the UNFF sessions since the first meeting in 2001. The table below illustrates the status of attendances and reports by ASEAN member countries from 2001 till 2006. *Cambodian Reports* appear in **Annex 3** of this document.

Table 5: ASEAN Member Countries Participation in UNFF, Attendance and Reporting

(sources: UNFF Secretariat, UNFF Website, UNFF Session Reports, National Reports, interviews in countries)

| Country | UNFF-0 (2001) ¹⁾ | | UNFF-1 (2001) | | UNFF-2 (2002) | | UNFF-3 (2003) | | UNFF-4 (2004) | | UNFF-5 (2005) | | UNFF-6 (2006) | |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|---|----------------------|---|---------------|--------|---------------|--------|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|
| | ²⁾ Attend | | ²⁾ Attend | | Report | Attend | Report | Attend | Report | Attend | Report | Attend | ⁶⁾ | Attend |
| Bunei Darussalam | | - | | x | - | x | - | - | - | - | - | x | | - |
| Cambodia | | x | | - | x | - | x | x | x ³⁾ | - | x | x | | x |
| Indonesia | | x | | x | - | x | - | x | x | x | x | x | | x |
| Lao P.D.R. | | - | | - | - | x | - | - | - | - | - | x | | - |
| Malaysia | | x | | x | - | x | x | x | - | x | x | x | | x |
| Myanmar | | - | | - | - | x | - | x | x ³⁾ | x | - | x | | x |
| Philippines | | x | | x | - | x | x | x | - | x | - | x | | x |
| Singapore | | - | | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | x | | x |
| Thailand | | x | | x | - | x | - | x | - | x | x | x | | x |
| Viet Nam | | - | | x | - | - | - | - | - | x | x | x | | x |
| ASEAN Secretariat | | | | | | | | | | x ⁴⁾⁵⁾ | | x ⁵⁾ | | x ⁵⁾ |

¹⁾ Organisational Session

²⁾ Invitation for voluntary reporting started only for UNFF 2

³⁾ Report planned, but not available at UNFF Website

⁴⁾ Accreditation of ASEAN as an intergovernmental Organisation

⁵⁾ Statement delivered, at UNFF-4 by ASec for ASEAN; for UNFF-5 and UNFF-6 Joint ASEAN Statement delivered

⁶⁾ No report required

Methodology for the implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action⁴

How countries could approach implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

The suggested methodology provides guidance on a framework for country-specific assessments. However, it recognizes that approaches to the assessment and implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action can and should differ widely according to specific national contexts.

The first objective of the proposed methodology *is to enhance broad cross-sector participation by engaging government institutions and civil society in forest policy deliberations*. **The second objective** of the methodology *is to have the implementation of the proposals addressed in the appropriate national institutional and administrative setting*. This includes national forest programmes (NFPs) or other sector policy processes, including forest sector reviews and/or related sector or economic evaluations, as well as overarching forest-related processes like those of Sustainable Development Strategies or Poverty Reduction Strategies. Furthermore, relevant programmes or plans like National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans promoted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) or National Action Plans to combat desertification and drought promoted by the Convention to Combat Desertification and Drought (CCD) should be fully considered and cooperation with such initiatives should be established.

Undertaking an assessment process can be instrumental in approaching SFM in a more holistic and comprehensive way and in assessing what has already been achieved at the country level. The proposed methodology is designed to check the progress of national efforts towards SFM against the IPF/IFF proposals for action and to identify actions and improvements in the context of existing national forest programmes or other relevant processes.

Basis and Entry Points

In order to comply with the recommendation of the UNFF that “*countries will set their own national priorities, targets, and timetables for the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and will systematically assess and analyse the proposals in their national context*”⁵, points of entry for the assessment within the national forest programme or other forest-related policy process should be identified. Each country will have its own set of circumstances, existing processes, institutional arrangements and capacity to undertake the national assessment and therefore the entry point could be quite different for each country.

As mentioned above other such forest-related processes could include a general sector review, sector-wide planning and monitoring exercises, or overarching processes such as Poverty Reduction Strategies or Sustainable Development Strategies. Alternatively, more specific processes on issues such as forest certification, forest law enforcement, sustainable land use or conservation of critical areas for biodiversity or water supply could also provide entry points.

Which ever entry point is used, it is important that the full range of IPF/IFF proposals for action be considered in a national assessment in order to ensure that a holistic and comprehensive approach to implementation is achieved. The choice of the appropriate process and entry point is important for achieving the necessary cross-sector linkages and increasing the contribution of forest goods and services to sustainable development.

⁴ Extract from ‘Australia-PROFOR Guide’ (AFFA-PROFOR, 2003)

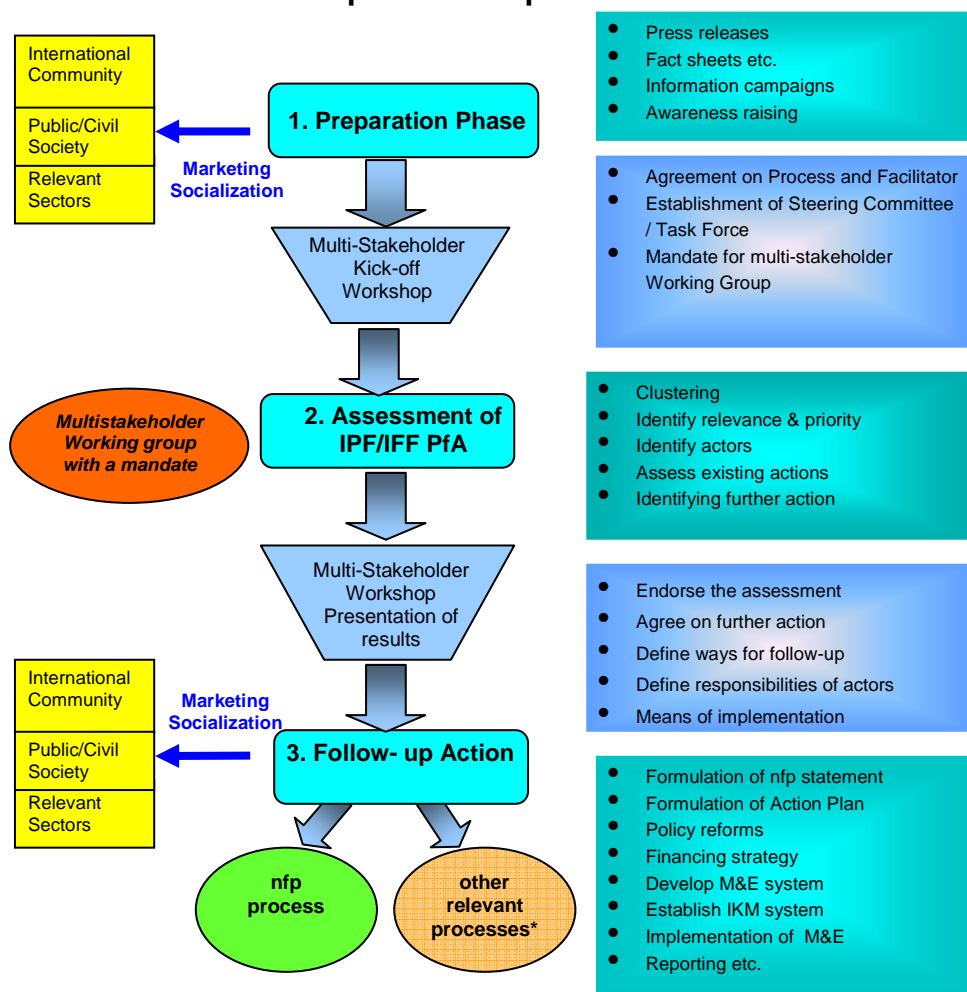
⁵ Report of UNFF I (E/2001/42 (Part II); E/CN.18/2001/3 (Part II), PoA Decision 1/3 in Annex paragraph 6

Phases of the National Assessment

Taking into account the existing processes and specific entry point chosen, it is proposed here that the national assessment process takes a systematic stepwise approach including the following three phases:

- (1) Preparation
- (2) Assessment of the IPF/IFF proposals for action
- (3) Identification of new actions and reinforcement of existing activities

Chart 2: Steps in the Implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA



* e.g. Sustainable development strategies, PRSP, Environmental strategies

The figure 1 above shows holistic steps in the implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA

The detail description of the *National Assessment Phases for the Implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA* appears in **Annex 14** of this document.

In Cambodian status of experiences, under the national framework and ASEAN a national task force and two working groups have been established to be responsible for contributing to the implementation of the international forest policy processes and preparation of reports on progress for national, regional, and international levels. The task force and working groups include (1) Task force for the development of National Forest Program (NFP) (2) Working group to implement the MAR format in sustainable forest management by using country C&I which has been developed based on the ITTO, and ASEAN C&I 2006, and (3) Working group to implement the IPF/IFF PfA. The working group 2 and 3 so far have been on the way of their

testing assessment of the national status in implementation of UNFF Plan of Action and the IPF/IFF PfA. These activities have been started in conjunction with the ASEAN work plan for regional activities to maintain sustainable management of the regional forest resources. The task force for the development of NFP, has been started with strong support from the Centre for Forest Landscape Denmark through the coordination activities from the Technical Working Group on Forest and Environment (TWG-F&E).

The International Forest Policy Dialogues-Recent Development

In its recent Sixth Session, in February 2006, UNFF reiterated its commitment to the IPF/IFF proposals for action and encouraged countries to promote SFM by “*Facilitating implementation of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests Proposals for Action through clustering and further simplifying of the language, as needed, taking into account existing work, and through promoting greater stakeholder understanding of the intent of these proposals*”⁶. Finally, it urged countries to make concerted efforts to develop and implement national forest programmes and, again, to report on progress in implementation. With a view to reducing the reporting burden on countries, voluntary monitoring, assessment and reporting should take into account the internationally agreed seven thematic elements for sustainable forest management, as agreed in the International Conference on the Contribution of Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Forest Management: the Way Forward (CICI-2003)⁷.

The UNFF-6 agreed on four global objectives on forests as follows:

1. Reserve the lost of forest cover worldwide through SFM, including protection, restoration, afforestation and reforestation, and increase efforts to prevent forest degradation;
2. Enhance forest-based economic, social and environmental benefits, including by improving the livelihoods of forest-dependent people;
3. Increase significantly the area of protected forests and other sustainably managed forest; and
4. Reverse the decline in official development assistance for sustainable forest management and mobilize significantly increased new and additional financial resources from all sources for the implementation of SFM.

Strengths and Shortcomings

With reference to commitment and effort made by the RGC, strength and shortcoming on the implementation of the international forest policy initiative have been clearly seen as followings:

A. Strength

- The RGC has committed firmly through the National Forest Sector Policy Statement from which it stipulates that “*The Royal Government of Cambodia commits itself to the conservation and management of the country’s unique forest resources in a sustainable manner now and for future generations. The results and the follow up processes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 are taken into account to consider the concept of sustainable forest*

⁶ UNFF-6 draft text on an ECOSOC Resolution on strengthening the international arrangement on forests

⁷ <http://www.fao.org/DOCREP/005/Y8694E/y8694e00.htm>

management within the framework of the sustainable development of Cambodia. The Royal Government of Cambodia acknowledges the multiple perceptions, interests and objectives of the numerous forest interest groups of the country's society, in the region of the Mekong Basin and at the global level regarding the conservation and sustainable management of forest resources. **The Royal Government of Cambodia envisions that a long term National Forest Program (NFP) will be implemented** consistent with the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests/Intergovernmental Forum on Forests (IPF/IFF) promoted by the International Arrangement on Forests with the United Nations Forum on Forests and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests."

- The Rectangular Strategy of the RGC has stipulated forestry reform as one of the first quarter under the agricultural sector enhancement.
- The National Strategic Development Plan, 2006-2010 and Cambodian MDG, stipulated that "the RGC will make every effort to maintain the total forest cover at 60% of the total land area and to continue reforestation. In order to achieve the above goal, **the RGC is committed to implement a NFP** (National Strategic Plan 2006-10 p.58) with priorities focusing on: (1) Strengthening forestry management and conservation, (2) Promoting man-made plantation by encouraging private investment and public participation, (3) Promoting forestry contribution to social and economic development, and (4) Creating public awareness to local communities on resource management participation."
- More interest from international Donor agencies in forestry development.

B. Short Comings

- Limited fund is available for the implementation of the National Development Programs;
- Government staff's knowledge ability and experience in developing and implementing a NFP are low.
- There is some reluctance of participation and genuine support from relevant stakeholders in the process;
- Technical planning and operational skills is still very poor due to lack of potential and competency in fulfilling tasks;
- Lesser support and contribution from international organizations and Donor agencies recently compared to for four-five years ago.
-

b) Separate analysis on the ASEAN initiatives (ASOF Policy forum initiatives including objectives, activities and results in relation to Cambodian situation.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was initially envisioned as a means of bringing together all the countries of Southeast Asia to cooperate in securing the region's peace, stability and development. Since 1999 ASEAN has encompassed all ten countries of Southeast Asia. 'ASEAN's forestry program includes, *inter alias*, the development of guidelines for Criteria and Indicators, trade harmonization and promotion through the ASEAN Forest Product Industry Club (AFPIC), and work on forest fires and haze.

Cambodia is also a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in which the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) has been playing a role in forest resource management in the region. In this connection, Cambodia has been involving in the following

regional programs:

- International issues affecting forestry and forest products;
- International Forest Policy Process (IFPP);
- Peer Consultation Framework (PCF);
- Social forestry policy;
- Asia Forest Partnership (AFP);
- Forestry research and development;
- Forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG);
- Monitoring assessment and reporting mechanism (MAR);
- Clean development mechanism in forestry (CDM);
- Asia forest alliance improving the sustainable management of forest resources and biodiversity in Asia;
- Regional Custom Cooperation Framework;

The ASEAN initiatives for implementation of the international forest policy processes have now been shaping as a vehicle for the development of sustainable forest resource management in the region. The ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) meeting is conducted once a year to discuss forestry program and priorities, monitor and evaluate the implementation of regional forest policy. Its main agenda consists of:

1. The ASEAN Expert Group on Research and Development for Forest Products;
2. The ASEAN Expert Group on Herbal and Medicinal Plant;
3. The Seminar on Current International Issues Affecting the Forestry and Forest Products; and
4. The ASOF Meetings.

ASEAN Steps toward Implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA and NFPs

ASEAN Member Countries (AMCs) have taken part in the IPF and IFF deliberations and are further involved in the international forest policy dialogue continued under the framework of UNFF (See **Annex 4** for the *UNFF Resolutions on PoA Elements*, the selected elements relevant to ASEAN). **They acknowledge National Forest Programmes as the agreed framework for improving forest governance and to enhance the contribution of the forest sector to sustainable development, including poverty reduction.**

In recent years, some ASEAN Member Countries made significant progress in the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposal for action and establishment of NFP processes. Achievements have been reported by some of the ASEAN Member countries to the UNFF through voluntary country reports. At UNFF-4 ASEAN was officially accredited as an intergovernmental organisation to the Forum. During UNFF-5 and UNFF-6 joint ASEAN statements have been presented to these Sessions, mentioning generally about progress on implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA and nfp processes in the ASEAN region. Despite of progress being made by some Member Countries, however, practical experience with the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and NFP processes is still limited in the region.

In order to support the implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action and to enhance national forest programmes of Member Countries, ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF), in 2004, established the ASEAN Ad hoc Experts Working Group on International

Forest Policy Processes (AEG IFPP)⁸, led by Cambodia, as a dialogue mechanism to promote the implementation of the international forest related commitments and agreements in the region. During its First Meeting in March 2005, the AEG IFPP developed a Work Plan comprising two components (1) developing a guideline for monitoring, assessment and reporting (MAR) on progress towards SFM, and (2) develop guidelines for IPF/IFF PfA implementation and NFP process management in the ASEAN region.

As part of the AEG IFPP Work Plan, the ASEAN Secretariat, with assistance by the GTZ-supported German-ASEAN Regional Forest Programme (ReFOP), conducted an E-discussion on implementation of IPF/IFF PfA and NFP processes in ASEAN from 19 September to 10 October 2005. The results of the E-discussion were presented and discussed during the workshop of the AEG IFPP, Phnom Penh 7-9 December 2005. In this workshop, members of the AEG IFPP agreed on the approach and tools to be used for the implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA and NFP process management in ASEAN Member Countries. The workshop further agreed on the next steps to be taken for the development of such guidelines, namely the documentation of existing experiences, and the establishment of a Task Force of AMCs (based on AEG IFPP Group Members) to develop common elements for MAR for the IPF/IFF PfA and NFPs at ASEAN level.

ASEAN Mechanism to Implement the International Forest Policy Dialogues

Many countries, at present, are in the process to implement the IPF/IFF proposals for action and to elaborate National Forest Programs according to the principles agreed in the IPF. As part of the global community and as members of the UN, ASEAN Member Countries are committed to participate in the formulation of global and regional policy frameworks, initiatives and agreements and to implement the agreed results of the international forest policy dialogue.

The ASEAN Vision 2020 calls for the promotion of forestry as a model in sustainable development by harmonizing environmental, social and economic policies between the ten member countries.

The current ASEAN Co-operation Plan for Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2004 – 2010) is envisioned to fully reflect sustainable development. Consequently, development interventions under the Vientiane Action Plan (VAP) 2004 – 2010 will distinguish three levels, i.e. policy formation, reform of implementation mechanisms and capacity building. The Strategic Plan in forestry will need to provide the framework for collective action to meet the above challenges..

An Ad Hoc Expert Working Group on implementation of international forest policy processes was established officially. The Working Group functioned as a dialogue mechanism for regional co-operation in the implementation of the international forest regime and assist ASOF in policy coordination and regional cooperation towards the implementation of the international forest regime with the following objectives:

- Achieve a common understanding of ASEAN Member Countries on the operationalization of the international forest regime, specifically the IPF/IFF proposals for action and forest related multilateral environmental agreements

⁸ After ASOF had agreed on the establishment of the AEG IFPP during their 7th Meeting on 27 – 29 May 2004, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, the Group was officially endorsed by the 26th AMAF in October 2004 in Myanmar.

- Establishment of a regional forest policy statement and guidelines as a common reference framework for national forest programs and implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action in the ASEAN region.

Milestones

The following milestones show history of meetings or workshops that were conducted so far by the ASEAN Expert Group on IFPP (AEG-IFPP) and the ASEAN Secretariat.

- March 2005: First AEG-IFPP was conducted in Phnom Penh;
- September-October 2005: E-discussion on IPF/IFF PfA and NFP were launched;
- December 2005: Workshop on MAR was conducted in Phnom Penh;
- July 2006: Second AEG-IFPP meeting was organized;
- January 2007: ASEAN Start-up Workshop for the Field Trial on Application of the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests and ASEAN Guideline for the Implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA was conducted in Phnom Penh.

Activities and Achievements of the ASEAN Expert Working Group

The following activities create foundation for a MAR system on progress towards SFM and linkages to forest policy coordination and ASEAN PCF (Peer Consultation Framework).

- The IPF/IFF PfA, NFP, and the MAR format have been discussed in several meetings and workshops among ASEAN Member Countries (AMC);
- Work Plan on Forest Policy Process implementation has been elaborated, updated, and endorsed by ASOF;
- Guideline documents for the implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and the MAR Format for SFM in ASEAN based on ASEAN C&I 2006 are being developed. These draft documents were attached as **Annex 5 and 6**;
- The AEG-IFPP activities have been included into Forestry Strategic Plan of Action 2005-2010.
-

The Implementation of the ASEAN Forest Policy Process in Cambodia

In Cambodian context, the Forestry Administration of Cambodia has involved actively in ASEAN forum on forestry including ASOF meeting, AEG meeting, workshop, etc. It was a great privilege that in 2005 Cambodia was endorsed by the AMAF to be a lead country in coordinating activities of the ASEAN member countries to implement the international forest policy and forest regime, and to develop guidelines as a common reference framework for implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action and the MAR format for SFM in the ASEAN region.

So far, the guideline for the implementation of the IPF/IFF PfA and the MAR Format for SFM in ASEAN based on ASEAN C&I 2006 are being developed in consultations among AMCs. The ASEAN Start-up Workshop for the Filed Trial on Application of "the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests" (ASEAN C&I 2006) and "ASEAN Guideline for the Implementation of the IPF/IFF Proposals for Action" was conducted in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 15-18 January 2007, as an awareness campaign to get involvement from all relevant forestry stakeholders. Within this process, the drafted guideline and the MAR format for SFM in ASEAN are being tested in Cambodia by Cambodian National Task Forces (NTF). The *Field Trial Work Plan/Schedules of Implementation* of the

NTF for MAR-FSM format appears in **Annex 7** and for IPF/IFF PfA appears in **Annex 8** of this document.

Participation in Policy Round-table Discussion of ASOF from which the ownership and commitment for regional cooperation in forest policy, the common understanding on principles of regional forest policy and on the effectiveness of the International Arrangement on Forests have been gained. The Policy Round-table Discussion gives additional knowledge to Cambodia in her preparation of reports for UNFF.

c) Separate analysis on the Forestry Commission and FAO initiatives including objectives, activities and results in relation to Cambodian situation.

Forestry Commission

The 21st session of the Asia-Pacific Forestry Commission which was held in Dehradun, India, 17-21 April 2006 has recommended for the attention of government and FAO as appear ref. **Annex 10**. The recommendations focus mainly on the attention of forest conservation, forest fire, tree outside forests, livelihood aspects in resource management, national forest program and implementation, forest law compliance and governance to combat desertification and land degradation, international forest policy awareness raising, developing forest policy and regulations, incentives for forest certification, address the challenges of illegal logging and associated trade of forest products, communities to contribute to SFM, linkage between global forest policy dialogue with regional and national levels, and forest code of practices.

FAO Forestry Program Implementation in Cambodia

The Forestry Programs supported by FAO in Cambodia during the last 10 years have been focused on (1) Legal Assistance, (2) Natural Resources Management, Research & Technology Transfer, and (3) Forest Resources, Policy, and Institution. *Lists of projects* supported so far appear in **Annex 9** of this document.

According to the information from the workshop in Chiang Mai, 31 Oct – 2 Nov 2006, and the commitment from FAO Regional Office in enhancement of the use of the MAR information in national decision making, formulation of effective forest policies, and sustainable forest management and planning, a project entitle "Strengthening Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting (MAR) on Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) in Asia" has been adopted for five-year implementation in the region. As a follow up action, a first national network meeting was conducted in Phnom Penh on 7 February 2007.

Program implementation for the next five years

In accordance with FAO National Medium-Term Priority Framework 2006-2010 in Cambodia which was signed by Minister of Agriculture Forestry and Fisheries and FAO Representative in Cambodia, the government of Cambodia and FAO has agreed that FAO's strategic framework for assistance in Cambodia for the next five years will focus on the following priorities.

- Sector and sub-sector policy assistance and advocacy;
- National Program for Food Security and Poverty Reduction;
- Productivity and competitiveness enhancement in agriculture;

- Community-based natural resources management; and
- Animal, plants, and fish diseases control assistance, food safety and emergency response to natural disasters.

In addition A NFP concept note has been prepared late 2006 requesting support from the FAO NFP facility and is now been accepted by the Steering Committee of the FAO NFP facility. The follow up process of partnership agreement is on going.

United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) for 2006-2010

The UN country team has formulated the UN Development Assistance Framework for 2006-2010, which was officially launched on 7 March 2005. The UNDAF has identified Agriculture and rural poverty as one of the four focuses of the UN system; three other areas of priorities being good governance and human rights, capacity building and human resource development for the social sector.

To implement the UNDAF for 2006-2010 as part of the government priorities implementation, the FAO National Medium-term Priority Framework (NMTPF) 2006-2010 in Cambodia is placed under co-ownership of the government of Cambodia and FAO. As for monitoring and evaluation, a national steering committee is established under the auspices of the Council for Agriculture and Rural Development (CARD), for the periodic review of and advice on progress in the implementation of the NMTPF, with the membership of senior officials of the government, team leaders of the projects, and FAOR. Under the framework of forestry support, priority activities have been focusing on:

- Support to Forestry Administration to prepare and implement a NFP;
- Livelihood improvement in communities and households participating in community forestry and forestry resource management;
- Forest research on NTFPs processing technology to contribute to local community wellbeing; and
- Support to forest reform with regard to enhancing local Forestry Administration infrastructure.

d) Analysis of other international and regional based initiatives

Cambodia Engagement with the International Conventions

Cambodia is signatory to a number of different forest related treaties and conventions that relate to forests. Amongst these are:

1. International Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) (1994)
2. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, RAMSAR Convention (1999);
3. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) (1997);
4. Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) (1996);
5. Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin (MRC) (1995);
6. Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)(1995);
7. International Tropical Timber Agreement (ITTA) (1995);

8. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and other Matter (MARPOL) (1994 and later additions);
9. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (1992).
10. Cambodia become a Member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in October 2004;
11. Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin (MRC) (1995).

These conventions engage the country to the international initiatives and action plans. The government commitment to the international plan of actions is a good sign of progress made during the last decade.

In addition, two recent forest sector reviews were undertaken in 2004: The *Independent Forest Sector Review* (commissioned by multiple donors in natural resource management) report available at the internet and the DANIDA Office's webpage and the *ITTO Mission on Diagnostic Study*. The **summary recommendations of report** appear in **Annex 11**.

Support to Development of National Forest Program

Cambodia has indicated its intention of adopting a National Forest Program (NFP) and its prime development assistance partners have stated their intentions of supporting an NFP. The logging ban, the uncertainty about industrial concessions and the decision to undertake the IFSR have taken attention away from the NFP.

A long term TWG Action Plan aligned with the NSDP has been prepared with assistance from DANIDA and is viewed as an element of a NFP. A NFP provides a basis for a more coherent approach to forest development. It could and should provide the structure needed for Government and donor coordination. At present the donor community is not acting in a coordinated or coherent way and it would be a major step forward if the Action Plan could be developed into a NFP and could thus provide the coordination that donors and the FA clearly need

In response to the two forest sector reviews, the national call in the NSDP 2006-10, the official Forest Policy Statement 2002 and series of statements and requests; the DANIDA has offered initial assistance for 2007-08 to assist the RGC, especially the FA, in building a National Forest Programme that could assemble the sector in an organized coherent transparent manner and facilitate an approach for the sustainable development of its forest and promote the integration of forest management and forest based livelihoods. The Forest & Landscape Denmark, University of Copenhagen has now initiated assistance in the NFP development processes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Conclusions

According to the government's efforts in forest policy reform during the last ten years, Cambodia has already stepped forward the integration of the country's forest management policy into the regional as well as global development trends. The RGC has seriously attended all relevant international forest policy dialogues and initiatives as parts of her mandate for actions. At the United Nations Forum on Forest, Cambodia has attended and reported to the UNFF sessions since the first meeting in 2001. At the ASEAN forum, the IPF/IFF Proposal for Actions has been considered to be applied in Cambodia as parts of its forest management policy. With the assistance by the Centre for Forest and Landscape and Planning (FLD), University of Copenhagen, a wide range of uncoordinated programs, projects and activities have now been targeted in the starting-up phase to develop coherent forest resource planning through the development of a NFP. The RGC has also been informed on from FAO NFP facility. The Technical Working Group of Forest and Environment (TWG-F&E) headed by the Director General of FA has laid out a work plan for follow-up actions to ensure harmonization and alignment of the government policy within environment and forestry sector.

As result, forestry management in Cambodia now has a window of opportunity. It has not had for a long time and which might not be reopened, to develop its forest management into a modernized coherent and effective participatory based system. These changes have been made in accordance with the response from the government to findings and recommendations from a numbers of independent studies from which the main outcomes came from: (1) the WB-UNDP-FAO study, (2) the ADB investment preparation phase project, (3) the WB LIL project, (4) the Independent Forest Sector Review supported by consortium of Donors including DANIDA, and (5) the ITTO diagnostic study. Under the forestry reform process, some new management ideas have been emerged. These ideas include, *inter alias*, (1) the community forestry development system, (2) the initiated commercial community forestry development, and (3) the forest concession management system. Eventually, the annual coup management is applied by the FA to meet local demands for timbers.

However, these findings and recommendations are not all acceptable and applicable in Cambodian present context. Some of the recommendations have been successfully taken into application by the RGC, while some others have been waiting for the right time and the right place and not least technical and management capacity to be implemented.

The national forestry program is now at the initial stage of its development. Now we are entering a phase for preparation of the official NFP Statement and development of main NFP and sub-programs. The national long term forest management planning which includes the investment program and policy implementation guidelines has not been formulated. These shortcomings have emerged due to limited capacity of the government officials and fund to develop and run the programs. In order to overcome these problems technical assistance and funding for example through the TWG-F&E mechanism would be needed.

Recommendations

- High political commitment and ownership are needed to assure the implementations and changes;
- Financial resource mobilization should be in place to assure financial support for the NFP process;

- The main National Forest Programs, sub-programs and statements including a national forest action plan should be formulated based on priorities of the government and its stakeholders;
- Consultative workshops to raise awareness and enhance participation at NFP formulation process should be conducted as awareness is of this is low
- Technical assistance facilitation to enhance quality and conflict resolution and consensus building would be a requirement.
- Under the facilitation of the TWG-F&E Secretariat, Working Groups to deal with specific forestry issues should be established.
- Clear procedures for participation, facilitation processes need to be defined;
- NFP is an iterative process, consultative processes at national, provincial and local levels should be assured in each implementation, monitoring and evaluation;
- Through the above mentioned structure and existing mechanisms, awareness raising on the NFP initiative in Cambodia should be highest priority.
- Assessment of the current relevant policies, work plans, programs, and projects implementation should be conducted by the NFP task force with support from the international and local consultants;
- Findings and recommendations which are the outcomes from previous independent studies are very important sources of information for NFP development process.
- Develop M&E system to monitor and evaluate the implementation process with definition of clear objectives, proposed action and indicators necessary to measure success;

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