

Independent Forest Sector Review

13th January 2004
Hotel Cambodianna, Phnom Penh

Notes of Natural Resource Workshop

Welcome:

Co-chairs of Joint Coordinating Committee

Team presentations:

- A. Background:
- B. Forest description and landscapes
- C. Management options:
- D. Wrap-up

Discussions following presentations:

These workshop notes¹ cover the general issues and opinions raised during "open-floor" plenary discussion. They should be read in conjunction with the team presentations.

A. Background

No discussion

B. Forest description and landscapes:

(i) Concept

- Were alternative frameworks considered e.g. eco-systems, watersheds?
- What about links to regional frameworks (GMS)?
- How does it link with FA Inspectorates etc?
- Are new /additional concepts useful?

(ii) Landscape planning requires:....

- Land use planning (zonation)
- Data base (including silvicultural parameters) to reflect this perspective
- New ways of working by service agencies - new approaches
- Good governance approaches
 - Mechanisms for voice, funding, etc

(iii) Exercise presented by team

- Shows that "landscapes" are possible to define
- But more criteria are required for this exercise
- And landscapes will never match with all other boundaries

¹ These notes are not a record of proceedings and do not represent the view of either the team or individual participants.

C. Forest management issues

(i) Forest estate size and boundary

High compared to neighbours

Rate of degradation is unknown – maybe better known later from aerial photos

The importance of maintaining 60% forest area versus focus on key areas was discussed. Recognition that Cambodia did not need to follow path of neighbours

Other threats to forest areas (dams, hydro- electricity, etc etc)

(ii) Land concessions

Maybe small areas, but given locations have important knock-on effects in local area

No clear and transparent allocation mechanism

- based on unequal power and access
- not available to communities

Current area allocated is about 900,000 ha:

- not all (or not much?) on forest land

(iii) Illegal logging

Situation

Huge areas/long boundaries and few state resources to protect

Big incentives (hungry mills and markets) to illegally log

Regional demand is very high and will continue

Need to look for incentives to prevent

Based on new ownership rights → new stakeholders

Stake/ownership rights need to be clear and secure to be effective

Incentive to protect – and manage

Much illegal logging is “organised crime”

No likely incentive basis to counteract this reality

(iv) Bio-diversity management

Goals and strategy captured in various documents

Role of the PA → providing multiple services (Agric, development)

Instruments of Min of Environment similar to Forest administration

(v) Natural forest management

Post and non-concession areas will soon exceed possible concession areas

Forest values: to most people in Cambodia, NTFP values are more important than forest revenue

What is the role of the forest – can it be a source of resources for development?

(vi) Concession systems

Procedures etc in place for good practice

- but incentives are to feed ‘large hungry mills’

Total set of incentives facing legal logging are highly negative:

- huge costs; no supply for last 4 years; uncertain future → danger of “go for bust and run”!

(vii) Post-concession management systems

Not discussed

(viii) Plantations

Not a substitute for natural forest

(ix) Clean Development Mechanism

There may/may not be much land in Cambodia meeting criteria for CDM?

There is scope for indigenous fast-growing trees

(x) Community forestry

Lots of local capacity

Need to become self-financing

Incentives

Motivation (compete shifting cultivation)

(xi) Forest sector management (Options for agencies)

Different roles for different agencies

- Forest Administration, Concessionaries, Communities etc

Role of Forest Administration:

- Review team will report back at institutional workshop - still undertaking functional analysis

(xii) Fiscal issues and distributional issues

Level of royalty - effect on concessionary profit

Royalty distribution mechanisms

- Centralised versus decentralised

Extractive reserves

- Opportunities to introduce fiscal mechanisms for NTFPs - eg rattan etc

FA budget for operations

(xiii) Policy choices

Many of the issues discussed represented policy choices, including:

Values (whose values) of different products

Resin versus rubber

Local use value versus national revenue

Urban energy supply: Charcoal versus electricity

Balance between "incentives" versus "sanctions"

Opportunity for branding: "Green Cambodia"

D. Wrap-up

Issues to take forward to next workshops

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