

**Terms of reference for Ecologist  
(Resource person to the Independent multi-stakeholder forest sector review)**

**Background**

The **Joint Coordinating Committee** of the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) and the Working Group on Natural Resource Management (WGNRM) are carrying out an Independent Forest Sector Review as (a) part of the National Forest Programme (NFP) Process and (b) as input into the next CG meeting schedule for March(?) 2004.

Following two scoping visits by the Team leader, a review team consisting of independent consultants has been recruited to undertake this review. As well as the activities of the review team, there are other on-going activities, including activities related to forest ecology, which will feed into the review. Additional activities may be identified which may continue beyond the period of the initial immediate stage.

The immediate part of the review consists of two phases:

- the fact-finding phase will start in October 2003 and aim to complete by end of November 2003
- the analysis and scenario-building phase will follow on from the fact-finding phase with an aim of producing a report by end of January 2004.

The review team will engage with all the stakeholders in Cambodia, in order to both (a) listen and understand different perspectives and (b) develop ideas and frameworks on which to base the review outputs. However, the output of the team will remain independent of all stakeholders: all assessments, judgements and recommendations will be the professional judgment of the team.

The team will develop their understanding on the basis of visits to the field, including undertaking reconnaissance flights, and interactions with key informants and other resource people. The review will make use of outputs from the forest cover analysis and ecological studies as they become available.

In order to fulfil this undertaking, the team requires the services of an ecological specialist (David Ashwell) with specific knowledge of the natural resource base and, in particular, knowledge and understanding of the Cambodian forest ecological systems and attendant landscape considerations together with the geographic distribution of such systems.

## Outputs and activities

The Ecologist will work, primarily, with the Natural Resource Specialist. Together, their primary focus will be to develop an understanding and assessment of the natural resource base, including ecological issues, as set out in the Natural Resource Specialist's specific TORs and replicated below:

- 1. The Natural Resource consultants will provide an assessment of the extent and quality of the main forest types and land use within the forest area. The assessment will consider trends in forest cover and quality and, working with others in the review team, assess the likely impact of different stakeholders and actors on the natural resource. This assessment should also consider the ecological and environmental services provided by the forest area.*
- 2. Ideally, the natural resource base should be presented in a geographical format for use during the second phase. The consultants will need to take a view on the quality of available data - given that the review outputs will be strategic rather than managerial.*
- 3. The consultants, with others in the team, will form a view on the impact of the current concession management system, of other existing and potential alternative systems, and of development activities generally, upon the forest resource.*
- 4. The forest resource will be considered in the widest possible sense and include forest areas outside the formally defined forest territory and non-forested areas within the formal forest territory areas.*

The Ecologist is required during the period of the fact-finding phase. In the first instance, the requirement is for a period of 16 days, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> October, with an additional 5 days for follow-up work. A second input, of roughly the same duration and starting about the 23<sup>rd</sup>

October, will also be required in order to complete the fact-finding phase by end of November 2003.

Although the Ecologist will work as a resource person to the whole team, the Ecologist will work most closely with the Natural Resource Specialist, who, within the team, is primarily responsible for the natural resource analysis. During the first phase of fact-finding, the Ecologist will be expected to accompany the Natural Resource Specialist on field visits and to attend relevant meetings. The Ecologist will also provide an initial overview of the natural resources in Cambodia to the team as a whole.

The outline and form of the final report (probably a background paper) from the Ecologist will evolve during the review in the light of available data and the requirements of the overall review.