

Second Joint RGC/Donor Coordination Committee Meeting for the Independent Forest Sector Review

Royal Danish Embassy
Development Cooperation Section,
4 December 2003

1. **Welcome.** Ty Sokhun, head of the Forest Administration welcomed the participants to the second Joint Coordinating Committee meeting for the independent forest sector review.
2. **Progress report.** Dermot Shields presented briefly the work that the team has been doing in the different sectors (livelihood, natural resources, institutional, economic) and their status compared to the work plan, and raised some of the issues which seem to be emerging from the fact finding stage. Discussions, following the presentation, included:
 - the need for the team to look at the global picture of the country, its current state of development and the direction in which the country is moving
 - the importance of the process and in breaking down some of the current problems into components and enabling the different stakeholders to get around the table to discuss the future steps.
 - the extent to which the team would be able to assess the overall level of dependency of people on forest resources
 - The current sector strategy of (a) law enforcement; (b) extension and awareness building and (c) development of alternative sources. The importance and scope of alternative sources of forest products as a means of reducing pressure on the forest and the economic viability of the furniture industry
 - the way the debate about forest sector issues were framed: the forest could be seen as “an asset to be protected for future generations” or as an asset “to fuel development” in both cases subject to certain conditions
 - the importance of the economic analysis was discussed and it was noted that not all issues should be seen in economic term
3. **Proposal for finalising the fact-finding phase.**
 - Dermot Shields proposed:
 - Three debriefing workshops (one on livelihood, one on natural resources, and one on institutional and economic) in January to present and get feed-back on the results of the fact-finding phase.
 - The team would produce a paper and introduce each workshop with a presentation.
 - These workshops would be open to everybody interested and will give the opportunity to all stakeholders to have a voice and give their inputs.

- Following each workshop the team would complete/finalize the working papers which will form the descriptive part of the report.
 - As well as discussing the fact finding reports, time would allocated at each workshop to identifying issues to include in the scenario-building phase.
 - Shortly after the end of the third workshop team would produce a summary of the key issues for inclusion in the scenario-building phase.
- The committee agreed with this proposal. It was suggested to use the same format as in the October workshop (where donors and government presented their activities) with facilitated small group work and visual feedback presentations
 - Dates were fixed as follows:
 - i. Tues 13th January Natural resources
 - ii. Fri 16th January Livelihoods
 - iii. Tues 20th January Institutional and economic
 - The team would aim to complete the working papers within 2 weeks of the workshops. Comments, corrections and feedback would be welcomed during this period – although, as was stated from the start, the output must be the assessment of the team.
 - Advance notice of the workshops should be sent out by mid December.

4. Proposals for the scenario-building phase.

- The team leader made the following proposals:
 - The scenario-building exercise would be limited to the team and selected representatives of Government and line agencies – a maximum of about 20-25 people.
 - Civil society and donors will have inputted their ideas on themes and issues for the scenario-building during the debriefing workshops in January. There would a debriefing workshop after the retreat to report on the proceedings and outcomes.
 - The scenario-building would be facilitated by the review team and would require about 4 days – ideally at a retreat, away from Phnom Penh.
 - The team would write up the scenarios using both the proceedings of the workshop and the fact-finding documentation. This report, in English, together with the fact-finding report would be completed within 2 weeks of the end of the workshop.
- The committee agreed with this proposal. The dates for these events were set as follows:
 - 12-17 Feb Scenario-building retreat
 - 4 March Presentation of scenarios and final report

- After some discussion, it was decided that the details of who should participate in the scenario-building phase should be finalized at the next meeting of the committee which was planned for Wednesday January 21.

5. SFMP reviews

Dermot Shields explained the actions he had taken since the last meeting.

The Forestry Administration noted that 8 companies were expected to resubmit modified SFMPs as follows: 2 by end December, 2 by end of January, 2 in the middle of February, and finally 2 at the end of March.

Dermot Shields proposed that the review team undertook the review in February so that they could consider at least 6 plans at the same time. This would be cost effective and ensure that the work was completed by the same team.

Yves Thériault
Secretariat, WGNRM

Summary of agreed dates for future events:

Jan 13	Workshop on livelihoods
Jan 16	Workshop on natural resources
Jan 20	Workshop on institutional and economic
Jan 21	Joint RGC/Donor Commission Meeting
Feb16	Week of scenario-building retreat
Feb 24	Joint RGC/Donor Commission Meeting
Mar 4	Presentation of the final report
Mar 5	Completion of the final report

Persons Present:

Ty Sokhun, Co-Chair
Mogens Laumand Christensen, Co-chair
Menh Sam Oeun
Bin Da
Chheng Kinsun
Eang Savet
Chris Price
Toshiro Shima
Jürgen Hess
Dermot Shields
Yves Thériault