



Kingdom of Cambodia

**National Report to the Fifth Session of the
United Nations Forum on Forests**

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II. Progress and issues related to implementation of IPF/IFF proposals for action

General

1. Cambodian forests have always been an essential feature in the patterns of life for its people and continue to be of fundamental importance, environmentally, socially and economically. The forests are valuable for the people living in rural areas and the production of large and small industrial logs, for fuel-wood, for regulating water flows in the Mekong and other rivers, for controlling erosion of soils and for the conservation of biological diversity. Furthermore, forests are a natural source of wealth and, if managed wisely, can continue to provide essential goods and services for the current and future generations and, in terms of Government revenues, for rehabilitation and development.

Wood is the main source of fuel in Cambodia, and firewood is the most common form of wood utilization collected from accessible forests. In Cambodia, over 92 per cent of the population is dependent on firewood as its primary energy source. The general information on Cambodia's forest is listed below:

Total country areas: 181,035 km²

Permanent forest estates: 11,104,285 ha. (FA-2004)

Protected forests¹: 1,490,499 ha. (FA-2004)

Protected areas²: 3,128,471 ha (after some reductions from the original areas in Royal Decree of 1993)

Forest concessions: 3,374,328 ha (12 concessionaires remain valid as of September 2003).

The areas of forest types within permanent forest estate are briefed as follows (DFW, 2003):

- a) Evergreen forest: 3,720,493 ha.
- b) Semi-evergreen forest: 1,455,183 ha.
- c) Deciduous forest: 4,833,890 ha.
- d) Other forest: 1,094,728 ha.

The Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) is endeavoring to implement a coordinated set of laws, programs, action plans, and institutional arrangements regarding forest resources which are directed toward the achievement of national goals of environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, poverty reduction, socio-economic development and good governance.

1. *Protected forest: the term is used for forest areas that are managed by MAFF/FA*

2. *Protected areas: the term is used for forest areas that are determined by Royal Decree (1993) and under jurisdiction of the MOE. The protected areas include national parks, wildlife reserves, protected landscapes and multiple land use areas.*

The RGC commits itself to the conservation and management of the country's unique forest resources in a sustainable manner. The results and the follow up processes of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 were taken into account to consider the concept of 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 National Forest Sector Policy Statement (2002) is framed based on the major national policy frameworks, with the major policy goals such as good governance, socio-economic development and poverty reduction. This is articulated in the second Socio-Economic Development Plan (SEDP II) of the Royal Government of Cambodia

In order to achieve these policy goals, the new Forestry Law was adopted in 2002 as the legal basis governing the forest sector. The Forestry Law provides various new rules and concepts for sustainable forest management, for example public participation in the decision-making process, classification of forests into production, protection and conversion purposes, traditional user rights of local communities and promotion of community forestry, new rules and regulations for forest concession management, clear procedures and penalties against forest offences, etc. The new regulations and institutions are currently being developed to support the effective enforcement of the Forestry Law.

The governmental forestry agency has just been restructured as the new Forestry Administration (FA) from the former Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DFW) based on the Forestry Law. The new Forestry Administration has streamline structures and functions, both at central and local levels, and delegated more resources and functions to local offices to enable effective law enforcement. The current structure of the Forestry Administration is attached.

In the third legislature of the National Assembly, the Royal Government of Cambodia sets out the rectangular strategy which includes forestry reform. The goal of the forestry sector strategy of the Royal Government of Cambodia is to ensure sustainable forestry management based on the three pillars as follows:

1. *Sustainable forest management policy*, to ensure the rational and strict monitoring of forest exploitation according to the good international practices in forest management that require adequate forest reserves for domestic consumption, protection against drought and flood as well as wetlands that as fish sanctuary,
2. *Protected Area System* to protect biodiversity and endangered species; and
3. *Community Forestry* as a sound, transparent and locally managed program.

To achieve the above goal of sustainable forest management, the Royal Government of Cambodia is implementing the National Forest Program, which includes the strategic measures as follows:

1. Strengthening Forest Resource Management and Conservation

- a. To rationalize, reclassify and to dedicate the major part of remaining natural forests to their ecosystems protection and biological conservation functions.
- b. To strengthen the enforcement of forestry law, especially the RGC's Order No.01 BB dated 9 June 2004 to combat forestland clearing & encroachment
- c. To promote conservation and protection strategies such as protected forests/areas, watershed management, genetic and wildlife resources conservation, eco-tourism, and special management areas with maximum participation of the local population,
- d. To implement the strict application of Codes of Practices as regulatory framework for sustainable management of forest resources, including forest concessions,

2. Promoting Forestry Contribution to Socio-Economic Development

- a. To promote socio-economy value of forest ecosystems protection and biodiversity conservation of forest resources,
- b. To promote the substitution of timber supply from natural forests by man-made plantation through encouraging private investment and the public participation,
- c. To optimize the use, processing and marketing system for forest products, especially the plantation forest products to support domestic demand and export market.
- d. To continue supporting forestation of any arable land and to protect those trees

3. Promoting Forestry Contribution to Poverty Reduction

- a. To recognize legally and protect the traditional rights of local populations to use forest resources under the framework of food security and poverty reduction. These rights are protected by the Forestry Law and regulations.
- b. To optimize the benefits to local population from use and management of forest resources through implementation of forestry and wildlife conservation concept based on the participation of local populations.

4. Strengthening Capacity and Good Governance in Forestry Sector

- a. To implement capacity building, institutional strengthening and research program at all levels,
- b. To conduct education, training and public awareness campaigns, with particular regard to the participation of local populations within the context of sustainable forest management,
- c. To strengthen a high competent forestry administration to control overall forestry sector in which necessary steps of devolution of decision making power can take place and in which functional procedures for strengthening cooperation with concerned institutions and supports to local populations are grounded.

The Forestry Administration, as a key actor in the forestry reform, has taken action to prevent and suppress illegal loggings , and has obtained great success in combating large scale of illegal activities. The Forestry Administration has been supported by numerous organizations in forest management such as:

1. **GTZ:** Supported the RGC in its national development efforts with projects on Forest Cover Assessment & Monitoring, Sustainable Management of Resources and Watershed Management through MRC, and Forestry Support Project. Major achievements of German contribution include: Step-wise establishment of management support structures for NFP process; Coordination of the National Forest Policy Statement; support of the consultation processes for forestry sector in Cambodia with main focus on community-based management and integrated planning approaches.
2. **ADB:** Supported the Sustainable Forest Management Project by reviewing jointly with DFW/FA all forest concessions' performances and contracts. ADB also provided technical assistance to DFW/ FA for formulating technical and legal draft frameworks such as: Model Forest Concession Agreement, Manual for Forest Management Planning, Sub-decree on Community Forestry, Sub-decree on Forest Concession Management and Forestry Law.
3. **FAO:** The Belgium funded FAO implemented project "Participatory natural resource management in the Tonle Sap Region" has piloted the development of community forestry within the province of Siem Reap since 1995. This project has also supported development of agro-forestry (100,000 trees outplanted per year), horticulture, aquaculture, and environmental education.
4. **DANIDA:** Supporting through the “Cambodia Tree Seed Project” and “Kbal Chhay Watershed Management Project”, which identify important tree genetic resources and build capacity of the human resources in tree seed source management and plan and implement forest gene conservation; and plan for sustainable development of the Kbal Chhay watershed. Moreover, a

minor project is working on development of a policy framework.

5. **World Bank:** Implementing “Forest Concession Management and Control Pilot Project” assisting new forest concession management planning process by providing technical and material support for formulating guidelines, conducting forest inventories, training officers. It also contributes to suppression of illegal logging through Forest Crime Monitoring and Reporting Unit of Forestry Administration.
6. **JICA:** Supporting the capacity building of the Forestry Administration staff including local people in various forest-related subjects through formulation of Capacity Building Program and conducting training courses at Forestry and Wildlife Training Center, field project sites, field training sites and grouped-special trainings in Japan.
7. **ITTO:** Supporting several pre-projects such as: the establishment of a forest research base for Sustainable Forest Management; a Human Resources Development program for the improvement of the forest industry; draft development plan for sustainable forest management and the Reduced Impact Logging.
8. **WildAid:** Established Joint Mobile Wildlife Protection Group with FA & the Military Police to fight against wildlife crime. WildAid is also supported Phnom Tamo Wildlife Rescue Center and Patrol Teams in SWEC protection forest in Koh Kong province.
9. **Conservation International:** Formulated the Cardamom Conservation Program to protect and conserve the forest and wildlife in part of Koh Kong, Kompong Speu and Pursat Provinces.
10. **Wildlife Conservation Society:** Created the protection groups for the biodiversity protected areas in Mondulkiri province and Preah Viheah province.
11. **Concern Worldwide:** Supported by Danida is implementing community forestry in a couple of target provinces: Kompong Chhnang, Pursat, Kompong Cham and other provinces.

Besides the above international cooperation projects, Forestry Administration, donors and other relevant government agencies have been holding a regular working group meeting to share information and discuss important issues on forestry and natural resource management. Based on a proposal by this working group, an Independent Forest Sector Review has been conducted, as a step in the National Forest Program, from late 2003 to early 2004 by a group of international consultants. The Sector Review Report contains a series of recommendations that received various comments by stakeholders and these are currently being reviewed by the working group. This working group has recently been renewed as Technical Working Group for Forestry & Environment and allocated new roles such as joint formulation of Action Plan for the sector.

In addition, Cambodia is a signatory to a number of international laws, treaties and conventions. Those that relate to natural resources management and environmental protection include:

1. Agreement on the Cooperation for the Sustainable Development of the Mekong River Basin - MRC
2. Convention on Biological Diversity –CBD

3. International Tropical Timber Agreement -ITTA
4. Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora -CITES
5. Framework Convention on Climate Change -FCCC and Kyoto Protocol
6. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance - RAMSAR Convention
7. International Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD)
8. Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage
9. etc.

Cambodia has also participated actively in international and regional forestry cooperation schemes including Asia Forest Partnership and ASEAN Experts Working Group and International Tropical Timber Organization.

Within the ASEAN collaborative framework, the RGC supports the ASEAN vision 2020 calls for the promotion of forestry as a model in sustainable development by harmonizing environmental, social and economic policy between the member countries of ASEAN. Cambodia's collaborative action with ASEAN Member Countries in the forestry sector is based on the Strategic Plan on ASEAN Co-operation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (1999-2004), developed as part of the Hanoi Plan of Action.

In particular, ASEAN Senior Official on Forestry (ASOF) of Cambodia has been actively contributing to and participating in collaborative actions with the challenge to shape the international forest policy dialogue. Notably, next year (2005), ASOF of Cambodia will host the 8th Meeting of ASEAN Senior Official, which is due to be held in Phnom Penh. At the technical level, a number of forestry staff from the Forestry Administration have been assigned to work with various ASEAN expert working groups on forestry. Cambodia has also become a lead country on some important forestry collaborative actions. For instance, within the framework of the ASEAN-German Forest Program, Cambodia is the lead country for the establishment of an ASEAN Ad-hoc Working Group on Implementing International Forest Policy Processes. Cambodia has also advanced into developing national forest gene conservation programs

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 2

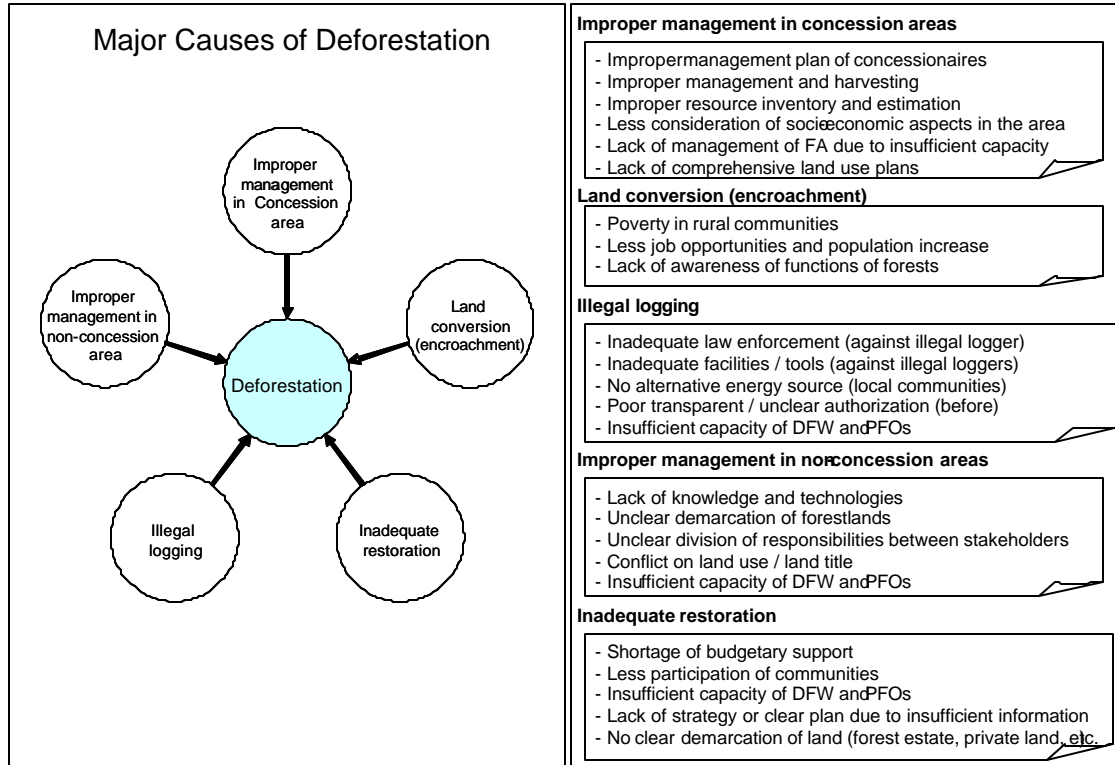
Combating deforestation and forest degradation

2. Cambodia is well known as one of the countries, which still has rich forests and natural resources. In 1960s, forests covered 13.2 million hectares or 73 % of the country's total land areas. The result from the Forest Cover Assessment and Monitoring Project in 1997 showed that forest cover in Cambodia remains 58.8 % of the total country areas. This shows that the forest cover declined about 14% during the 28 years.

The direct causes of deforestation or degradation of forests are considered as follows:

- a. Improper management in concession areas
- b. Illegal logging

- c. Improper management in protected areas and non-concession areas
- d. Conversion of forestlands for agriculture purpose (encroachment on forestlands)
- e. Limited reforestation activities



The RGC, based on the basic principles, policies and legislations explained in the above Section 1, has been trying to tackle the issues of deforestation and forest degradation by taking measures to improve forest management practices, to crack down illegal forest activities, to promote participation of local communities in forest management activities.

3. To develop new comprehensive legal and technical frameworks for fair and coordinated land-use planning, etc. Some examples are as follows:

The "**Cambodian Code of Practice for Forest Harvesting**", a legal-technical instrument for achieving sustainable forest management in concession areas, became effective in 1999. Its implementation is intended to protect the environment and promote economic development consistent with the principles of sustainable forest management. The Code will protect sites of cultural significance, maintain forest regenerative capacity, improve the economic and social contributions of forestry and ensure the health and safety of forest workers "Sub-decree on Forest Concession Management" was adopted in 2000

A "**Sub-decree on Forest Concession Management**" was adopted in 2000. It preserves the rights of local communities to participate in decision-making with regard to the granting of forest concessions, the

preparation of forest management plans and the development of systems for monitoring and controlling harvesting operations in forest concessions. The sub-decree requires the establishment of a permanent consultative communal committee to facilitate discussions of important issues with local communities living in or near forest concession areas. The sub-decree has been distributed to concessionaires and provincial offices to facilitate its implementation. "Forest Concession Management Planning Manual for SFM" was developed and forwarded to concessionaires in 2000. A model forest concession agreement was also developed as a framework for dialogue between the Forestry Administration, concessionaires and other stakeholders.

A **Forest Concession Management Planning Manual for SFM** has been developed and forwarded to concessionaires in 2000. A **Model Forest Concession Agreement** was also developed in collaboration with the World Bank and ADB technical assistance, as a framework for dialogue between the Forestry Administration, concessionaires and other stakeholders. Currently, it forms the basis for contract renegotiations between the Royal Government of Cambodia and forest concessionaires.

"Sub-decree on Community Forestry" was enacted in December 2003 to put public forest assets under the stewardship of local communities in the framework of approved management plans and benefit sharing arrangements. The Sub-decree was the result of over six years of consultations with many stakeholders and advisers. The Royal Government has been working in partnership with various donor agencies and non-governmental organizations to pilot community forestry initiatives in different parts of the country. So far, about 110,000 hectares have been developed under community forestry arrangements.

The Royal Government has been very active in reducing illegal logging since the end of 1998. As a result of governmental directives and action, there has been a dramatic reduction of illegal logging and other forest crimes. To further strengthen the control of illegal logging, two separate Forest Crime Monitoring and Reporting (FCMR) units were established under a FAO/UNDP project in the Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Forestry Administration/MAFF to efficiently monitor and report the illegal logging and transportations and to improve transparency and public credibility on RGC's commitments against those illegal activities. Investigation and cracking down on illegal logging have been carried out by the Forestry Administration in cooperation with other agencies / authorities concerned. Also equipment and illegally harvested logs were seized and hundreds of sawmills were closed. As a result, the number and scale of those illegal loggings have considerably been reduced compared to 1990s, although small-scale illegal activities still continue in various parts of the country.

The **Forestry Law of 2002** also strengthens measures against illegal activities by providing legal settings such as provision of judicial police status to forestry administration officers, defining forest offences and respective penalties, setting clear procedures for the arrest and prosecution of violators, and giving instructions to other ministries and local authorities to cooperate with Forestry Administration.

An overall land-use plan is important to ensure sustainable forest management in relation to the development for other sectors of the economy. In this context, the external boundaries of the permanent forest estate should be clearly demarcated, and changes in their extent should be regularly monitored. The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC) is the main player in formulating land-use plans and conducting boundary demarcation and registration of all kinds of state and private land. The MLMUPC is conducting Participatory Land-Use Planning (PLUP) with donor assistance involving local communities and other stakeholders in the planning process. However, PLUP is still in its early stage, and the area completed this land-use planning process is very limited so far.

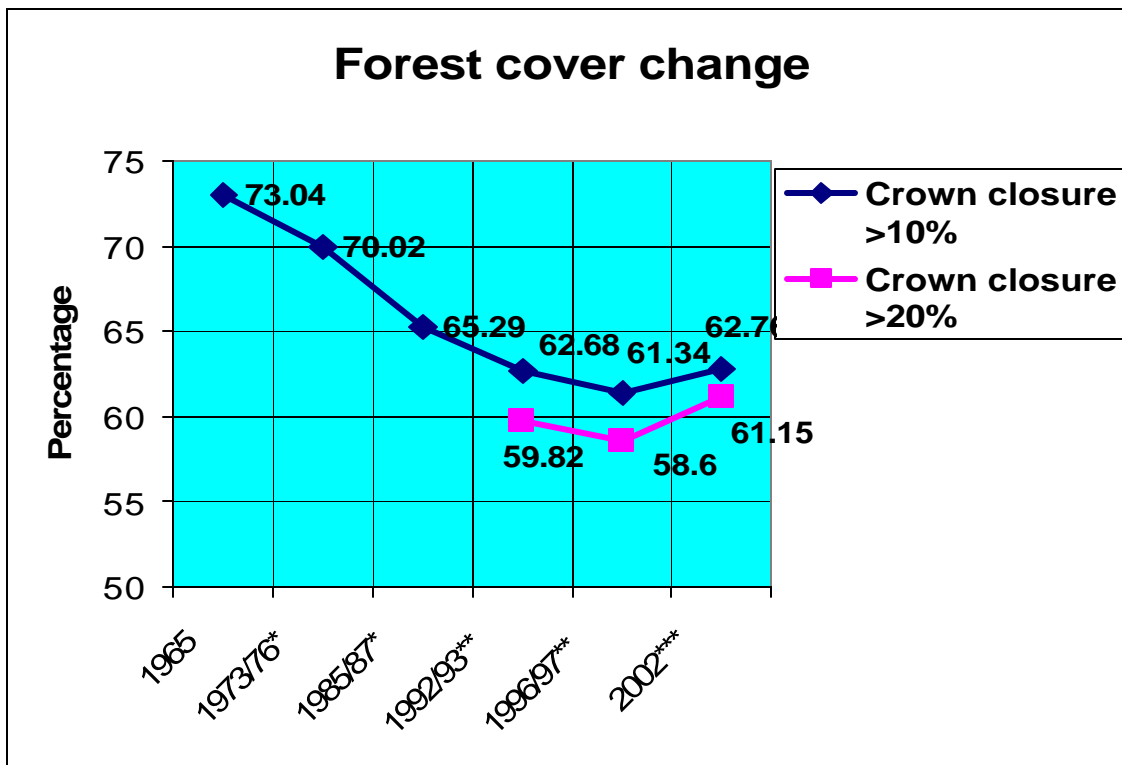
Furthermore, the Royal Government of Cambodia issued **Order No. 01BB** date 9 July 2004 on Prevention Suppression and Combating Forest Land Clearing and Encroachment. In order to effectively enforce this order, the Royal Government of Cambodia has established the National Committee and Sub Committee at all provinces to combat forestland clearings and encroachments.

4. Deforestation and forest degradation are the main issues in Cambodia as well as global concerns. RGC through its MAFF/FA has been trying its best with national and international supports to raise awareness on the value of forests through “Arbor Day” (National Tree Planting Day), community forest management, extension activities such as producing video film, magazine, media through national TV and cooperation with NGO to disseminate that information to the people.

The “Arbour Day” is organized once a year with a wide participation from local people, monks, students, civil servants, militaries and authorities, who are presided over by His Majesty the King or his representatives. At this occasion, FA/MAFF organises tree planting with participants and display exhibition on the importance of forest and wildlife, endangered tree and wildlife species and forest activities that have been taken to manage Cambodia’s forest for sustainable use.

Apart from the above-mentioned activities, FA has established forest plantations on the unfertile soils or bare lands through its reforestation program. The tree seedling distribution program takes place every year to provide seedlings (free of charge or very little cost) to the local people who are interested in planting trees around their home garden, in the village, along the road and in the temple. The reforestation program is also partly carried out by the Royal Cambodian Armed Force with technical support from FA. Cambodia's Action Plan to Combat Desertification has been formulated and implemented. Some small projects on CDM scheme has also been introduced to Cambodia.

The most recent assessment by FRM/SGS, under the World Bank-funded Forest Concession Management and Control Pilot Project, indicated that forest cover in Cambodia had increased from 58.8% (10.6 millions ha) in 1997 up to 61,15 % (11,104,285 ha) of the country’s total land area in 2002.



Forest conservation and protection of unique types of forest and fragile ecosystems

5. As mentioned in the general section of this report, Cambodia's forest areas are roughly divided into forest under concession, protection/conservation forests (under jurisdiction of FA/MAFF) and protected areas (under jurisdiction of the MoE).

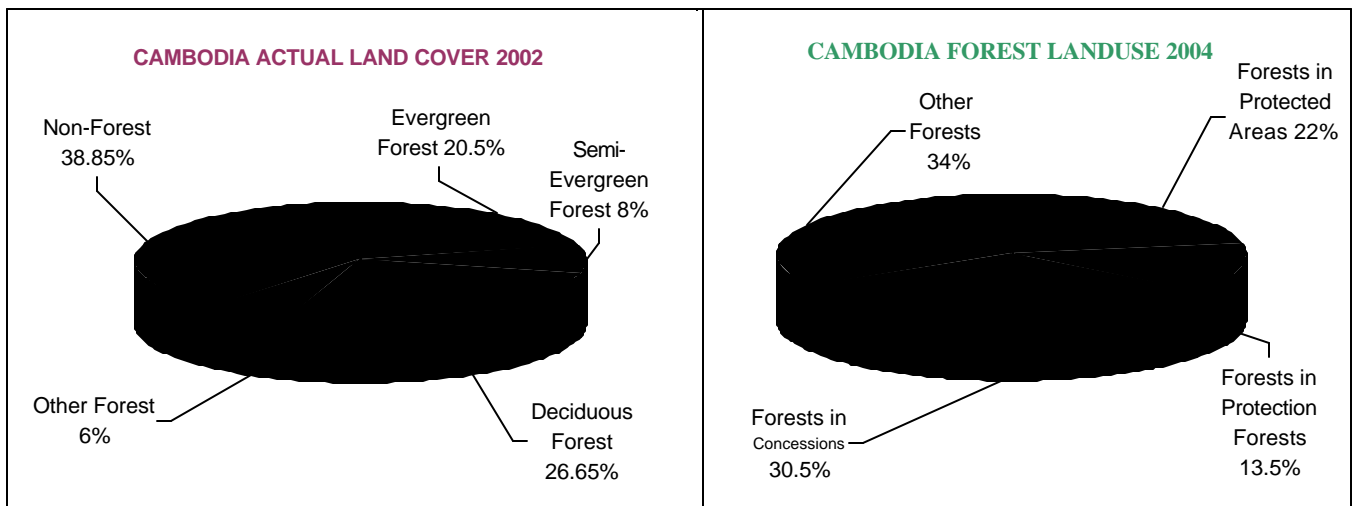
As a number of concessionaires in the past did not perform satisfactorily in accordance with the laws, technical guidelines and agreements, 17 concessions were cancelled which covered of 3.5 million hectares. 1.5 million hectares of the cancelled concession areas were officially transferred into protected forest. Some other areas of the valid concession are cut and put into the protected forest and community forest due to its social, environmental and biodiversity importance.

The RGC is aware and recognizes the threats to its forest resources and has accelerated formulation of conservation policies and strategies as follows:

- a) Creation of the Protected Areas System in 1993, which covers 3.2 millions ha or 17.3 % of the total Cambodia's country territory. These include national parks, wildlife sanctuaries, protected landscapes, and multiple use areas. All together, there are 23 areas; all are under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment.
- b) Continued transferring of undisturbed forest areas from concession areas to genetic conservation, biodiversity and watershed protection. From 1999 to 2004 the RGC has established four Protection Forests, 25 Forest Seed Sources/Forest Gene Conservation Areas and Wildlife

Reserves across the country. These conservation forests are under the jurisdiction of the FA and cover an area of 1.5 millions ha of forest cover.

To date the areas under protection and special conservation management have increased to more than 4.6 millions ha, which is more than 25% of total area of the country. This indicates that Cambodia is one of the leading countries in the region in terms of proportion of forest area under the special management and conservation.



6. In Cambodia, substantial parts of protected areas and protected forests, including national parks, wildlife sanctuaries and bio-diversity conservation forests, have been managed and conserved under the partnership between the responsible governmental agencies, i.e. Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, and a number of national and international conservation NGOs such as WWF, WCS, WildAid, Conservation International, Flora and Fauna International and so on.

A multi-sectoral, multi-stakeholder biodiversity strategy and action plan had been formulated to provide the basis for all future activities in biodiversity conservation. This is directly supported by a Forest Gene Conservation Strategy developed with assistance from the Cambodia Tree Seed Project and with financial assistance from Danida. With World Bank GEF (Global Environmental Facility) funding and a Learning and innovation loan, a pilot project is being implemented at the Virachey National Park to develop and demonstrate an approach to manage Cambodia's National Protected Areas System. The project also develops and tests specific measures to minimize degradation of biodiversity in the area. A significant component is the development and testing of ways and means to involve local communities' participation in forest protection.

The RGC and people in Cambodia are faced with serious challenges to develop national economy, alleviate poverty and, at the same time, to ensure sustainability of the forest resources for future generations. The RGC does not have sufficient capacity alone to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of forest resources. Therefore, all stakeholders and the Cambodian people need to support the process. Collaboration with other countries, especially with the neighboring countries, is essential to

share the resources and experiences for the coordinating measures between economic development and forest conservation. Local authorities, private sector, local communities, research institutions, international organizations and the other relevant stakeholders will also serve as significant catalyst in the conservation of forest resources and sustainable development. Building and working with partnership is crucial to ensure the success of sustainable forest management.

7. The forest estate is classified in the Forestry Law in accordance with the major functions, namely production, protection and conversion forest. Sustainable forest management is the basic principle overarching all the forest resources, except for conversion forest which is to be earmarked for conversion to other land-use including agriculture purpose. On the other hand, protected forest is under jurisdiction of the Ministry of Environment and a new law to give legal framework for the conservation and management of the protected areas is under preparation.

It is required by the Forestry Law to prepare Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and consider its recommendations prior to any major forest-related activities in order to avoid adverse environmental and social impact caused by such developments.

Rehabilitation and conservation strategies for countries with low forest cover

8. to 10. Cambodia still maintains quite rich forest resources comparing with neighbouring countries, with 61.15 % of the land area covered by forests. Therefore the above subject for countries with low forest cover is not applicable to Cambodia. However, Cambodia has formulated and is implementing its Action Plan to Combat Desertification in the context of UNCCD as well as its Environmental Action Plan and Biodiversity Action Plan.

Rehabilitation and restoration of degraded lands and promotion of natural and planted forests

11. The RGC through FA has been conducting reforestation program by the government budget which supports establishment of tree plantations about 1,000 ha per year. From 1985 to 2004, about 12,000 ha of tree plantations have been established on the bare and degraded land with major species of Acacia and Eucalyptus. FA also distributed 25 million seedlings to local people and in Arbour Day ceremony to promote tree planting by people.

It is also planning to establish commercial tree plantations and community plantations in social land concession areas (these areas are degraded forest areas or former forest lands). The FA is currently working on the draft of the government sub-decree on the promotion of plantations in social land concession areas. This draft sub-decree will be circulated for public consultation soon.

As regards indigenous tree species, FA is implementing “Cambodia Tree Seed Project” with assistance of DANIDA. Under this project, with the objective of conserving endangered and rare tree species in Cambodia, the forest area consisting of these important species have been identified all over the country. Forest areas will be classified as forest gene conservation areas and used for conservation of endangered or rare species and populations and for seed sources of those species. A national gene ecological zonation has been developed as a tool for planning of gene conservation and seed use. FA expects in the future, by developing and adopting appropriate seed handling and silviculture techniques, to extend tree planting of indigenous species particularly in the areas where socio-economic, environmental and wildlife conservation is given high priority.

12. Demand for forest products in Cambodia is increasing as the rural population that occupies substantial part of total population continues to grow rapidly. Urbanization is also extending rapidly leading to increased demand for charcoal and other wood products such as furniture and construction material.

Many rural communities depend on forest resources for their daily livelihoods. These communities often have long traditions of sustainable forest resource use and a wealth of knowledge and skill regarding forest resources and management. Non-timber forest products (NTFPs) are an important safety net for the life of rural poor. In response to this issue, the new Forestry Law recognizes and ensures the customary user rights for local communities living within or near permanent forest reserves to collect wood and NTFPs for their house consumption.

In order to promote sustainable forest management while meeting demands for forest products in the country, formulation of Forest Management Plans both at national and local levels has recently been initiated. These Forest Management Plans will guide the coordinated management of forest resources in terms of both conservation and utilization, taking into account the conditions of the forest resources in each area and the forest products and services expected from those forests.

.From 1999 to present, in order to ensure the sustainability of forests, the RGC has made use of the Cambodian Code of Practices for Forest Harvesting and a number of Guidelines. These technical elements have been used to complement the forest policies and regulations. A long-term forest concession management planning and implementation cycle has also been introduced to ensure more sustainable concession management system. As a result of monitoring and evaluation of past performance of forest concessions taking into account those technical guidelines, 17 forest concession investment contracts have been cancelled.

Furthermore, the remaining forest concessionaires were requested to submit their new Strategic Forest Management Plans (FMSP) and Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIA) to FA/MAFF. The FMSP and ESIA were disclosed for public and consulted with local communities living in and near

the concession area. The concessionaires will be allowed to continue their activities if the FMSP and ESIA are passed the evaluation committee and approved by the MAFF. These review and evaluation processes are consistent with the procedures developed by national and international experts under the Forest Concession Management and Control Pilot Project.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 3

Economic aspects of forests, including trade

13. Timber is the most valuable forest products, especially in terms of contribution to the economy including provision of foreign currency to the government. In Cambodia, large quantities of timbers are used for construction of wooden houses, manufacture of furniture, bridges, wagons, and sleepers and in the construction of concrete building.

Forests provide a range of environmental services, which have benefits outside the immediate area of the forests. In Cambodia, the forests provide an important source and protection for watersheds. In particular, they perform essential functions in ensuring fish breeding grounds and in regulating water flow to farmers in the lowlands. Forests also provide home to significant numbers of rare animals. The Cardamom protected forest covers the largest tract of virgin rainforest in mainland South East Asia together with two other wildlife sanctuaries (Samkos and Aural).

However, there has been no research conducted yet in Cambodia on the valuation of the forest services such as water / soil conservation, biodiversity conservation, etc. Currently, one joint research project is ongoing between Cambodia and Japan on the water circulation in the Mekong River Basin which includes a component of identifying functions of forests in water circulation and conservation at macro level.

14. Export market for Cambodian forest products does not show great stability. It may vary depending on free market trends and political decision of the RGC based on investment policy. From 1996 to 2001, timber production from concession areas amounted to 1.2 million m³. The amount of processed and exported wood products (round logs, sawn timber, veneer, plywood, etc.) was 0.9 million m³. The main importers of timber products from Cambodia include China, Thailand, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Viet Nam, Singapore, the Philippines, Malaysia and Japan. The main species exported are *Pterocarpus pedatus*, *Hopea odorata*, *Dipterocarpus alatus*, *Shorea hypochra* and *Anisoptera glabra*

Table 1: Timber production and export from 1996 to 2001 (m³)

Year	Timber production *	Timber export							
		Round logs	Sawn-timber	Veneer	Plywood	Furniture	Particle board	Railway sleeper	Flooring
1996	136 026	161 673	69 044	28 491	-	-	-	-	-
1997	242 463	-	72 566	182 481	-	-	-	-	-
1998	233 348	-	39 766	180 547	16 419	-	-	-	-
1999	290 876	-	10 257	68 194	14 868	-	228	-	-
2000	179 330	-	2 606	44 684	26 507	198	314	-	-
2001	121 497	-	3 690	23 232	13 612	-	-	145	893
Total	1 203 540	161 673	197 929	487 629	71 406	198	542	145	893

Sources: FMO and KAMFOREXIM, DFW 2001.

* *excludes timber obtained through purchasing and bidding*

Forest has made a relatively small contribution to both national revenue and to GDP, not exceeding 4% and 8% respectively since 1994. This trend is likely to continue as Cambodia continues to diversify its economy away from direct dependence on natural resources. The value and percentage contribution of the forestry sector to Gross Domestic Product is presented in the table 2 below.

In addition, firewood, charcoal and NTFPs are essential forest products for the livelihoods of the Cambodian people. Firewood and charcoal are estimated to provide more than 90 % of the total energy of the country. However reliable statistical data on these products are not available because they are mainly produced by huge number of very small-scale producers all over the country.

Table 2: Value and Percentage Contribution of the Forestry Sector to GDP

Year	Contribution to GDP	
	Value (1000 US\$) ⁺	Percent of Total GDP (%)
2002	545.232	N/A
2001	7,769.123	2.1
2000	11,144.121	2.3
1999	9,858.242	3.6
1998	6,361.262	5.4

15. As economic and policy instruments to facilitate progress toward sustainable forest management, RGC signed investment agreement with forest concessionaires who agree to pay the cost of standing tree and reforestation cost at \$ 2.41 per cubic meter. This royalty rate for commercial harvest of trees was raised in year 2000 in order to prevent over-exploitation of forest resources. The Forestry Law has a provision that RGC gives several awards, aids or certificates as an incentive to the individuals or communities that demonstrated good forest management practices.

16. The forest resource base should be secured not only through legislative means but also through the control of forest management will not be wasted and that it will continue to yield the desired forest goods and services. This will ensure that investment in long-term sustainable estate can be protected through legislative means. However, this will work if the law enforcement is in place and human capacity is adequate to enforce the law and regulations. The efforts to reduce illegal logging and trading are mentioned below and in Section 18.

In 1995 the RGC banned all export of round timber, and in 1996 the sawn timber was also banned. Since 1999, the Royal Government of Cambodia issued a declaration and has made more efforts to stop the operation of illegal sawmills and factories nationwide, continuing the valid operation of plywood and lumbers by joint state plants or by investment companies possessing lawful forest concessions. A declaration was also made to cancel the quota list of old logs from 42 firms containing 672,887 cubic meters.

From 1999 to-date, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) has, through joint comprehensive performance and contract reviews, cancelled forest concession licenses of 17 companies covering total forest land area of around 3.5 million hectares in 24 locations. As of now, there are only 12 concessionaires who are in the process of planning their concessions and will be required to ensure the sustainability of the forests according to international standards. Since the end of 2001, a logging moratorium has been imposed to all remaining forest concessions. The timber concessions' operations should not be resumed unless their forest management plans & ESIA reports in place with SFM standards.

17. The forest certification and labelling schemes have not yet been introduced. Cambodia has prepared the report on Criteria and Indicators for sustainable forest management of natural tropical forests with the support from ITTO, however it needs to be followed up because a number of Criteria and Indicators have not been fulfilled.

18. RGC has made its strong efforts to crack down the illegal forest and wildlife activities since late 1998. The RGC has sent letters to the heads of State of Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam, asking the Governments for co-operation to prevent cross-border movement of illegal logs from Cambodia. In June 1999, the Royal Government of Cambodia also initiated and sponsored the 1st International Symposium on Forestry Law Enforcement and Governance to strengthen collaboration between the Mekong Basin Countries.

As the results of law enforcement up to the end of 2003, RGC through its FA has classified, based on types of perpetrations, and input data on 3,931 cases into the case tracking system. Some 1,386 illicit sawmill plants, 653 timber processing handicraft, 39 yellow vine powder manufacturing handicraft, 24

Tepiro oil manufacturing handicraft, 159 aloe steaming and forest sub-product processing ovens have been removed, destroyed and put out of business. Many thousands cubic meters of logs and poached wildlives have been confiscated. 332 offenders were apprehended and prosecuted. In the course of performing their duties 7 FA staff have been killed and 34 have been injured while administrative measures were taken against some officials found to be involved in forestry offences.

Forest health and productivity

19. Not applicable

Damage to the forests by air pollution has not been reported in Cambodia. Therefore, this subject is not applicable.

Maintaining forest cover to meet present and future needs

20. In response to the national goals of sustainable forest management, FA has developed framework for the conservation and sustainability of the natural forest. The RGC acknowledges international issues, processes and commitments developed as a result of the UNCED in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and its follow-up processes relevant to the country's forest resources. The RGC envisions that a long term National Forest Program will be implemented consistent with the framework of the Intergovernmental Panel on Forests / Intergovernmental Forum on Forests promoted by the International Arrangement on Forest with the UNFF and the Collaborative Partnership on Forests.

21. The assessment of long-term trends on supply /demand of wood and NTFPs at national level has not been conducted so far in Cambodia. The forthcoming national forest management planning process would reveal mid-term projection on the supply side of the forest products. While on the demand side, a rough estimate of future wood demand would be possible taking into account the available data on population and economic growth in the future

As an example of regional cooperation that will facilitate IPF/IFF process, the RGC joined the Mekong River Commission (MRC) in 1994 to cooperate in the management of natural resources including forests in the region. A number of projects have been implemented in Cambodia with the support from the MRC for the purpose of sustainability of the resource in the Mekong Basin.

Also as an example of international cooperation, the RGC was admitted to the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO) as a member of producer country in 1997. This admission enabled Cambodia to strengthen the linkage and cooperation with the international organizations as well as producer and consumer countries all over the world on development of forestry policies and guidelines.

In addition the FA has cooperated with a number of the International Organizations and NGOs who have the mandates in their management of natural resources. These organizations include UNDP, FAO, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Wild Aid, CI, FFI, WCS, etc. The cooperation with those international organizations can facilitate the implementation process of the IPF/IFF proposals and National Forest Program for Cambodia through the development of policy and strategy as well as strengthening of institutional and human capacities for the sustainable forest management.

The RGC is a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands , and the monitoring and protection of endangered animal species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The RGC has also signed the Convention on Combating Desertification and Protection of Biodiversity. Cambodia is a member of the Southeast Asia Zoo Association (SEAZA) and the Asia-Pacific Association of Forestry Research Institutions (APAFRI). The RGC's determined actions against poachers have reduced illegal wildlife trade in Cambodia significantly.

Implementation of the IPF/IFF proposals for action related to thematic issues of UNFF 4

Social and cultural aspects of forests

22. There have not been much efforts and progress made in regard to promoting the fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of forest resources and addressing the issue of intellectual property rights, including the identification of the origins of forest genetic resources .The main constraints to this aspect is the shortage of fund available as well as technical and human resources. Nevertheless, the policy makers in Cambodia especially those of forestry increasingly recognized the importance of laws on intellectual property rights and related regulations.

Among other efforts, the Forestry Administration, with support from the Royal Danish Government (Danida), is implementing the Cambodia Tree Seed Project. The primary purpose of this project is to conserve the genetic resources of endangered and rare tree species in Cambodia and to established seed sources of genetically superior mother trees to meet future requirements of tree planting of indigenous tree species.

23. Women play the main role in collecting fuel woods and other important NTFP such as medicinal plant, pole, rattan, and wood. These year-round activities by women are very important for the livelihood of local communities because in Cambodia rural women are responsible for 80% of food production and more than 65% of women are farmers living near and within forests.

Participation of women in the forest management practices is being encouraged in the process of promoting community forestry. Their capacity in building and awareness raising are also being promoted

in the process of community forestry development or rural development projects with assistance of international donors and NGOs.

24. The RGC recognises the traditional user rights of local communities and indigenous groups. Customary user rights of local communities in or near forests are recognized and ensured in Forestry Law, e.g. collection of dead wood, NTFPs and timber for house consumption without permission. The customary user rights are also ensured in the forest concession areas and it is prohibited to harvest of trees which are traditionally used for resin tapping by local communities.

Community forestry is one of the priority areas to promote in the forest sector in Cambodia. There are already some 300 to 400 initiatives mainly supported by various NGOs. Forestry Law and sub-decree promote communities' participation in forest management including decision-making process for formulating the management plan and internal rules. Throughout the community forestry planning process the local communities are encouraged to play a leading role in decision making at all stages. The local FA staff are encouraged to assist and advise for the development of community forestry. Under the new organizational structure there are more functions and larger number of staff assigned at local level. They are supposed to play supporting roles regarding the technical aspect for the process especially in preparing the forest management plan.

As provided under the Community Forestry Sub-decree, the local communities that participate in the community forestry projects have the rights to manage and use forestlands near or in their villages for their benefits up to 15 years based on the agreement between the community and RGC. The local communities can keep this secured land use rights as long as they follow and respect the forest management plan agreed with the State. The allocated forestland for community forestry purposes can neither be sold to the third party nor divided among community forestry members. However, community forestry members can use the allocated lands for their multiple purposes. For instance, they can divide the lands into blocks for specific purposes such as agriculture, protection, regeneration, production and reforestation etc. As for the constraints in this regard, the Sub-decree on Community Forestry does not states clearly about compensation for the local community if the State retakes the allocated lands for other use.

In November 2003 Social Land Concessions Sub-Decree was promulgated by the Ministry of Land Management Urban Planning and Construction (MLMUPC). The Sub-Decree provides a mechanism whereby state land can be transferred to poor people for residential and family farming purposes. However, the area for social land concessions is not defined yet. Land grabbing and encroachment by different individuals and groups, including authorities and armed forces are so serious which the Prime Minister had issued an 11-point order to halt it. The MLMUPC is the main player in registration and cadastral of all kind of state and private land.

Capacity building of local communities on forest management, e.g. through training, workshops or preparation of manuals, have been conducted on individual basis by NGOs and local forestry officers in the process of establishing community forestry. Currently, regular training courses are conducted for FA staff with assistance of JICA on community forestry, forest management and other subjects. Capacity of local communities in forest management is expected to be strengthened through extension works by these trained FA staff. Moreover, the process of community forestry has already provided enabling environment for indigenous and local communities to exchange knowledge and information through study tours and other activities on sustainable forest management. The FA is going to establish field project sites and field training sites under the Capacity Building Project JICA to facilitate and provide trainings to local people through "demonstration and learning by doing" models.

Traditional forest-related knowledge

25. Historically, indigenous and local communities in Cambodia have been using and depending on natural resources, especially forest resources, for their subsistent livelihoods. Therefore, it is strongly believed that they have good experiences and TFRK that should be documented and used to contribute to sustainable forest management in Cambodia. Unfortunately, almost no research has been carried out in Cambodia in regard to indigenous forest knowledge.

26. There are no legislations or other schemes in Cambodia supporting the application of intellectual property rights and/or other protection regimes for traditional forest related knowledge, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of traditional forest related knowledge, innovations and practices.

Scientific forest-related knowledge

27. Scientific research in the field of forestry has been conducted mainly by Forest and Wildlife Science Research Institute of Forestry Administration. Most of these research works have been carried out in cooperation with international donor agencies or under regional / bilateral joint research programs. Some examples are summarized as follows:

In 1998, 112 one-hectare Permanent Sample Plots (PSP) were established in 5 provinces. All trees were identified and diameters were measured. A second measurement was carried out in 2001. The Forest Concession Management and Control Pilot Project collected data from all the PSP for analyzing and calculation of volume equation, volume increment, mortality, and intervention.

ASEAN-Korea Environmental Cooperation Project (AKECOP) started in 2001 with an objective to conduct research on methodology to rehabilitate secondary forest using a method of enrichment planting.

A 5-hectare plot was established in Kampong Thom province where commercial indigenous species were planted under the canopy of remaining natural forests.

A five-year (2002-2007) research project entitled "Changes of Water Circulation in Mekong River Basin" is being jointly implemented by Japan and Forestry Administration. The main purpose of this research program is to develop simulation models for hydrology and water resources in the Mekong River Basin for 20 years in the past and 20 years in the future. After making predictions of water resources changes in the Mekong River Basin based on various scenarios such as climate change, socio-economic development and institutional options, the basic framework of countermeasures and strategies will be recommended. The results of the project so far up to now are as the following: (1): hydrological data are observed and analyzed and (2): a meteorological observation tower, an interception observation plot, ground water level observation wells, and stream water flow observation points were set up in Kampong Thom. Vegetation and soil survey were also carried out in forests.

From year 2004, Cambodia through Forestry Administration joined a network with Asia Pacific Forest Genetic Resource Program (APFORGEN) and a National Coordinator appointed. The first meeting will be held from 29-30 November 2004 in Kuala Lumpur to discuss the regional issues of forest genetic resource conservation and management and to identify priority areas of potential collaborative research.

The Forestry Administration has in cooperation with the Cambodia Tree Seed Project (Danida) conducted a broad range of research and development activities. The following are some selected activities:

- Comprehensive Monographs of 21 indigenous tree species developed and out of the 21 priority species, 13 species were chosen for transforming into species leaflets for dissemination to a wide range of tree planters.
- Gene-Ecological zonation of Cambodia. Such a zonation is an essential guide, for tree planters on limitations for moving tree seed and other planting materials over shifting ecological situations. Furthermore, such an ecological zonation is the very basic tool in gene conservation. Along with the Gene-Ecological zonation a GIS-based model of biological data, political and administrative data, geographic and infrastructure information was also developed to guide tree planters in matching the tree species to planting sites.
- Community/participatory based seed source management system is under development.
- 21 *in-situ* forest gene (seed) resource conservation areas were established in the whole country. These areas are the sources of good quality seeds of indigenous species.
- A plot of 12 ha for *ex-situ* forest gene resource conservation of eight endangered tree species were established in Kbal Chhay protected area. In addition to the conservation purpose these plots form additional roles as demonstration of growth of indigenous species from which performances are measured for research purposes. In addition they make up an excellent function as seed orchards where quality seed can be collected for future tree planting.

- A plot of 1.5 ha for species elimination trial for 21 tree species was established in Kbal Chhay in order to compare growth performance of these indigenous species. The result from this plot will tell which species or group of species that performs best in Kbal Chhay and similar environment. The results will be useful for a wide range of planting and forest rehabilitation activities and indeed for rehabilitation of this water-shed area.
- A provenance trial plot of *Hopea odorata* (five populations) was established in collaboration with Royal University of Agriculture (campus of RUA) and another provenance trial plot of *Azelia xylocarpa* and *Pterocarpus macrocarpus* (six populations) was established in Kbal Chhay.
- Experiments on direct seeding methods on highly degraded soils, as a cost-effective mean of bringing degraded sites back into production are ongoing.
- National Gene Conservation Strategy was developed and recommended by a wide range of stake holders and donors.
- A wide variety of extension materials (species leaflets, TV-spots, books, posters) on the importance of using good quality seed and the right tree at the right site. Books were also developed and published, on gene conservation, explained glossary for flora reproduction terms and other biological terms, tree planting manuals etc.

FA has been producing the 6-month magazine to make awareness to FA staff. The magazine is distributed to relevant government institutions and NGOs. It is also available upon request. The magazine issues the essential topic including new law and regulation if any were adopted during this period, activities of the FA, events, outputs from the research activities by government and NGO projects such as assessment of endangered forest plant species in Cardamom mountains, the status of rattan resources and rattan mills in Cambodia, the study on the method for collection and how to handle in tree seeds for particular species, etc.

The official form the Forestry Extension Office of FA participated in the dissemination and training of new forestry law to the local people in cooperation with relevant NGOs. Moreover, a Public Affairs Unit has been established and operated to make public access to all information related to forestry. FA has a website ([www. bigpond.com.kh/user/dfwjica](http://www.bigpond.com.kh/user/dfwjica)) to be accessible by any stakeholders who are interested in forest activities. It also used for exchange information, receiving comment from readers especially outsiders.

28. *enhancing interaction between scientific research and policy processes, including priority setting of research, addressing of knowledge gaps and using scientific knowledge to support decision-making*

In order to enhance interactions between scientific research and the development of policies, the Forestry Administration has cooperated with several international institutions and organizations, as well as NGOs, including DANIDA FAO, GTZ, JICA, the UNDP, the EU, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and Flora and Fauna International. One example of interaction between research and policy

development would be forest resource data and mapping using remote sensing and GIS techniques. The data of forest resources and various types of maps developed under these new technologies have been broadly used in the forest sector and basic tools for decision-making of policies on forest resource management in Cambodia.

Monitoring, assessment and reporting, concepts, terminology and definitions

29. *Improving information on national forest resources, making the information widely available, assisting other countries in their related efforts*

In order to improve information flow, in early 2004 the Forestry Administration established a new unit called Public Affair Unit. This unit is responsible for collecting and collating all forestry data and information available to be used by relevant forestry stakeholders who are interested in the information. The data and information are available upon request. The main tasks of the unit are to:

- Disclose information and data related to forest economy, forest management, forest regulation, and to report on interested stakeholders' comments and suggestions on natural resource management;
- Clarify related questions on forest and wildlife management and conservation;
- Describe and explain goals, management and conservation strategy to the public;
- Coordinate with other institutions in order to collect and collate information, event, activities, and progress in forest management ;
- Research and analyse press release, editing documents, conference, workshop, or training report;
- Issue forestry magazine.

Criteria and Indicators of sustainable forest management

30. In September 2003, FA prepared the report on Criteria and Indicators for SFM at national level following the ITTO format. However, some criteria and indicator of the report lack relevant data and therefore, research activities are needed to obtain those data to fulfil the requirement of the C&I report. In addition, as the C & I report has just recently been prepared, an efficient monitoring scheme on the C & I in Cambodia needs to be developed and adopted.

III. Preparation of the Report

31. *Describe the process of preparing this report, including which government agencies and stakeholder groups were involved, and the extent to which they contributed. Provide information on successes, challenges and lessons learned in the preparation of this report.*

The report has been prepared through the following process:

- organizing a seminar among FA leaders and managers to present and discuss the guidelines and format of the report sent by the UNFF secretariat
- assigning to offices under FA to take responsibility in providing the data and information according to the requirement to report to the national focal point to compile
- preparing the first draft report and circulating to international experts and senior officers staff member of FA for comments
- discussing and incorporating comment into the second draft for up loading in FA website to seek for public inputs and comments.
- finalizing the report

Organizational Chart of Forestry Administration

