



Regional Conference on Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Forests of Greater Mekong Sub-region

The Forestry Administration, as the Executing Agency of the Cambodia Project Component of ITTO Project PD 577/10 Rev. 1 (F) - “*Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos, Phase III*” - announces the organization of a regional conference on **‘Biodiversity Conservation in Tropical Forests of Greater Mekong Sub-region**.

Venue - The regional conference will be organized on March 23-25 in **Siem Reap, Cambodia**.

Objectives

The objectives of the regional conference are to (1) assess the effectiveness of national, regional, and international approaches to conserve biological diversity in the region; (2) review the enabling environment that supports the establishment of effective linkages between improvements in community livelihoods and the strengthening of biodiversity conservation and reductions in community dependence on the unsustainable use of forest resources; and (3) distinguish the principal constraints that impede efforts to reduce illegal logging and the illegal trade of wild animals and plants and evaluate the applications of international conventions to limit the impacts of those constraints.

Keynote Presentations and Country Team Reports:

The regional conference will include a number of keynote presentations on various aspects of themes associated with (1) *National, regional, and international approaches to biodiversity conservation in Tropical Forests of Southeast Asia; Law enforcement resources and monitoring and reporting; and Biodiversity conservation and linkages to improvements in rural livelihoods*. Those presentations will be enriched by country team reports, as well as policy briefs that are prepared during the conference, to contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of some of the more important challenges and opportunities associated with efforts to strengthen biodiversity conservation, improve management of trans-boundary conservation areas, reduce illegal logging and the illegal trade of wildlife, and improve rural livelihoods and reduce dependence on forest resources. There will be a field trip organized, as well, to a site that showcases ongoing biodiversity conservation activities in Cambodia.

Participants: Participants in the regional conference will be mid-level and senior policymakers, planners, and decision makers in government ministries and departments, universities, research institutions and civil society organizations. The ITTO Trans-boundary Biodiversity Conservation project will cover all of the costs associated with participating in this regional conference, including round-trip economy class airfare to and from the conference site, accommodations and meals, costs associated with the field trip and a per diem allowance to cover sundry expenses for invited participant. Other stakeholder/persons or their sponsoring agencies, interests to participate this regional conference will be responsible for all other costs, including the costs of obtaining visas, as well as other personal expenses.

Contact Points – To obtain further information regarding the regional conference, please contact:

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