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**INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
ITTO**

Pre-project Completion Report
V.2 Revised 16 January 2003

TITLE:	IMPROVED LIVING STANDARD OF THE PEOPLE THROUGH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION IN SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT
SERIAL NUMBER:	PPD 22/99 Rev.1 (F)
COMMITTEE:	REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT
SUBMITTED BY:	GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA
ORIGINAL:	ENGLISH

Background to the Pre-project

Forests in Cambodia are critical to poverty reduction and the sustainable livelihoods of the rural population, both as sources of raw materials and as providers of ecological benefits especially hydrological stabilization and biodiversity conservation. Deforestation has increased greatly in recent years, and community-based alternatives to the concession system of forest management are being developed. New legislation has enabled community forestry as a management mechanism, and provides a beginning measure of decentralized authority for its implementation.

The purpose of this pre-project was to carry out a baseline survey of communities dependant on the resources in a particular area of degraded state forest land, to demonstrate the technical, economic and social feasibility of forest management with the organized participation of the local communities, and to design a project to implement a community-based reforestation and forest management regime.

Pre-Project Achievements - Results

INTENDED OUTPUTS AND ACTIVITIES	RESULTS
Output 1. Development and strengthening of local institutions for participation in SFM and equitable utilization of benefits	Community groups and leadership at commune and provincial level given experience in community-based NRM approaches
Activity 1.1 Resource Survey and data collection	Forest utilization and related NRM situation surveyed in 11 Villages in 2 districts, using PRA methods. Data compiled and analyzed by community research team drawn from among local officials, teachers, and students trained by project team.
Activity 1.2 Analyze data and provide training to field staff, local opinion leaders, and related agencies concerning SFM	

Output 2. Project proposal formulated on community participation in SFM	
Activity 2.1 Project outline preparation & discussion	Project component ideas developed and discussed at community meetings at district level, and consensus incorporated into project design. Proposal formulated and submitted.
Activity 2.2 Project proposal formulated	

The Pre-project was approved in 1999. Funds arrived to the account of the Executing Agency in October 2001. In the interim the National Coordinator and Staff carried out initial scoping visits to the study area, identified major strategic issues, built relationships with local authorities and civic leaders, and recruited the local Field Team and the International Expert. A contract was signed with the International Expert on 25 October 2001. The pre-project was executed on schedule and according to the workplan. Some delays were experienced in the release of RGC counterpart funds for field activity, but means were found to work around these. A final financial statement for the pre-project has been provided separately by the DFW. The abstract of the designed Project (Activity 2.2) is appended to this report.

The approach to the resource survey and data collection using RRA/PRA was discussed among the Pre-project Team (NC, Staff, IE) and with colleagues working on related community forestry projects elsewhere in the Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DFW). Experience of the Core Staff with RRA/PRA methods was judged to be substantial and sufficient for the work, including training the Field Team. A phased approach was adopted in which the Field Team would be trained "on the job" by the NC and Staff, through carrying out data collection in three villages in two communes in the study area. The study area is large and has many villages, relative to the Pre-project's resources. Villages to be sampled for further work were selected according to criteria of proximity to micro-watersheds on the two mountains of the study area likely to be critical for re-forestation, and of village use of the forest and other resources in those catchments. In all 11 villages were surveyed, giving a reliable picture of the resource systems in the study area.

Target beneficiaries Involvement

The participatory research in the Pre-Project has begun the process of stakeholder identification, and community participation in problem definition and strategy formulation. This participatory analysis will continue in the first year of the designed Project, as the communities work through the establishment of village-level Community Forestry Committees. Equitable distribution of costs and benefits has already been discussed in the focus groups, especially as regards changes in formal and informal land tenure. Access to forest products and to downstream water benefits will be high on the agenda in the first year.

Community members see poverty (lack of resource access and lack of employment opportunities) as their most important problem. Therefore economic gains for stakeholders are an important consideration for the Project design. These gains must be both realizable in the very short term, and sustainable in the long term. Community members recognize the environmental linkages between the forest and their largely rice-based agricultural livelihoods in the adjacent lowlands (plant and animal resources and the hydrological regime). People are very hopeful of restoring the environmental services from which they benefited in the past.

We believe that the framework for the project design is robust, addressing institutional capacity building, environmental reconstruction, local livelihood security

issues in an effective, synergistic and gender-sensitive manner. Moreover a competent team of local researchers has been developed, who will be able to implement the project effectively, given the right support.

Synthesis

Overall, the purpose of this Pre-Project was to offer the concerned communities the opportunity to assess their own needs for development of community forestry institutions (rules, practices, shared expectations, formal associations), and to assist them in preparing a fundable proposal for support in implementing a community based reforestation project. The intended outputs of the Pre-project were fully realized, essentially on time but for a delay in the formal submission of the final proposal. Actual expenditures were very close to budget projections (see separate financial report).

Conclusions and Recommendations

This is a very important project at a time when natural resources management in Cambodia is undergoing rapid development at the policy and legislative levels. There is a need for expanded practical experience of community based approaches, both among communities themselves and with the officials at all levels who must facilitate and nurture the process. There has been much controversy and major disappointment with the concession approach to forest management, and a strong constituency for community based alternatives is growing in the Royal Government and among the international donors. This project offers an important opportunity for learning by doing. Further delays in implementation should be avoided.

The financial contribution of the Royal Government to the effort will of necessity be limited. Moreover, the administration of the Government budget continues to be such that delays in spending will undoubtedly be experienced. Likely no RGC funds will be made available in the first year, until national budget allocation and funds delivery procedures catch up. The project is designed to minimize the impact of such delays, but some firm understanding should be negotiated prior to signing the project agreement.

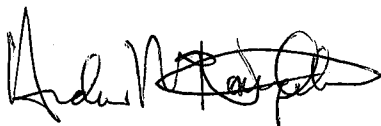
Unfortunately the formal submission of the project proposal to ITTO narrowly missed the June 10, 2002 deadline. This has the consequence of the proposal missing the August 2002 meeting of the ITTO Technical Committee and being deferred until the current cycle. Some significant momentum at the community level has thus been lost. In any case, the proposal calls for an inception period during which further community organization and specification of detailed work plans is envisaged. It is expected that the project, once initiated, will get quickly on track. The implementation schedule may need to be revised to take account of the seasons.

Responsible for the Report



Name: Ung Sam Ath
#40 Norodom Blvd, Phnom Penh, Cambodia,

Position: National Coordinator
Fax: +855 23 214 968



Name: Andrew McNaughton

Position: International Expert

INTERNATIONAL TROPICAL TIMBER ORGANIZATION
ITTO
PROJECT PROPOSAL, 10 May 2002

TITLE:	REFORESTATION OF DEGRADED STATE FOREST THROUGH COMMUNITY-BASED FUELWOOD PLANTATIONS AND AGRO-FORESTRY ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT.
SERIAL NUMBER:	
COMMITTEE:	REFORESTATION AND FOREST MANAGEMENT
SUBMITTED BY:	GOVERNMENT OF CAMBODIA
ORIGINAL:	ENGLISH

SUMMARY:

The aims of the project are: i) To increase the standard of living of the rural population living in the project area, through community-based sustainable management of their forest and other natural resources, and ii) to contribute substantively to the capacity of local and national institutions to understand and promote community forestry (CF) as a viable approach to resource management.

The project provides an opportunity for the people of Angkor Chey and Banteay Meas districts (Kampot Province, Cambodia) to restore the ecological functions of a 3,900 hectare degraded area of state forest in the mountainous area encompassed by the two districts, through reforestation and community-based forest management. Planted forests will provide fuelwood, tree-fruits, medicinal plants, other commodities, and wildlife habitat, and will restore the hydrological function of the mountain valleys to again provide water to agriculture and domestic use in the villages.

In the process the communities will be assisted to establish and strengthen local institutions for natural resources management, within the evolving framework of Cambodian law, regulation and best practice. This will occur in partnership with other governmental institutions, particularly the Commune Councils, Provincial Forestry Offices (PFOs) and national agencies especially the Department of Forestry and Wildlife. The project will contribute to the body of knowledge of community forestry in the country and regionally, through village to village site-visits, workshops, and participation in the design and prosecution of the community forestry research agenda.

At the end of the project, a number of communities in the Project area will have Community Forestry Agreements in place under the CF Guidelines (draft 2002) and will be managing their resources under a CF management plan.

The design of this Project is based on the outputs of ITTO Pre-Project PPD 22/99, "Improved Living Standard of the People through Community Participation in sustainable Forest Management Rev.1 (F)

EXECUTING AGENCY: Department of Forestry and Wildlife (DFW)

DURATION: The project is planned over a period of 48 months commencing in 2003

BUDGET:	a) ITTO Contribution	US\$641,651
	b) RGC Contribution	US\$99,800
	TOTAL	US\$741,451