



Forest Administration

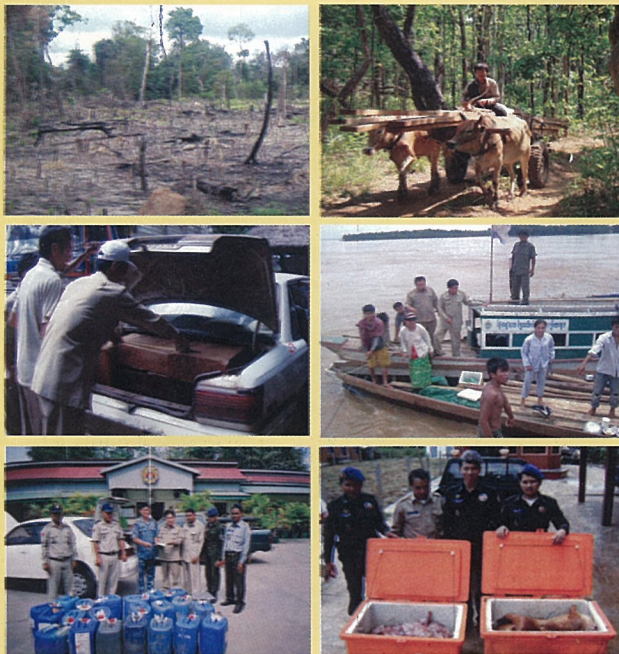


International Tropical Timber Organization

## FA-ITTO Project

PD 493/07 Rev. 1 (F)

### Strengthening Capacity of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Cambodia



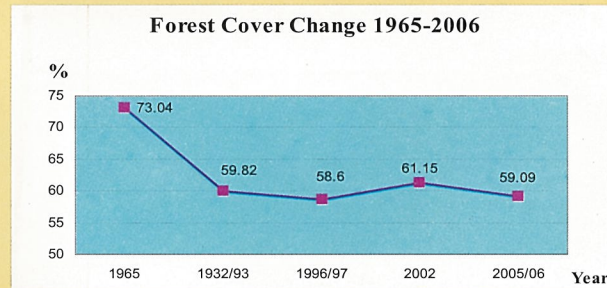
January 2009

Forestry Administration

## I. Background

The forests of Cambodia cover more than half of the country's total land area and are a significant renewable natural resource. The forests include such diverse types as evergreen forests, semi evergreen forests, deciduous forests, mangrove forests, flooded forests, bamboo forests, coniferous forests. The forests not only play an important role in protecting the environment, but they are of critical importance to the socio-economic development of the country.

Since 1969 to 2006, the forest cover of Cambodia had been decreased from 13.2 million hectares or 73% of the total area of the country to 10.8 million ha or 59.09 %. The reduction in forest cover during the last two decades amounted to about two million hectares of the total forest cover.



The causes of such deforestation in Cambodia are a complex of forestland clearing and land encroachment for agriculture and other purposes, illegal logging, non demarcated boundary on the ground for permanent forest estate, improper management in concession areas, protected areas and non-concession areas, limited reforestation activities, population pressure and poverty.

## II. Government Efforts

To address the causes of deforestation and forest degradation, the Royal Government of Cambodia (RGC) initiated policies to eliminate illegal operations in the forestry sector and to develop sustainable forest management to meet the requirement of the Cambodian people. The major efforts made by the RGC include the following:

- The current Forestry Law was adopted and promulgated in August 2002.
- The National Policy Statement on Forestry Sector was declared by Prime Minister in July 2002;
- Establishment of sub-decree on forest concession management and community forestry.
- Support of technical guidelines for the management of concessionaires, including Code of Practice, Planning Manual for Forest Management and Field Guide in Reducing Impact Logging;
- Issued Order No.01 BB dated 9 June 2004 and Order No. 01 BB dated 10 May 2006 covered the prevention and cracking down on forest land clearing and encroachment with establishment of a National Committee and Sub-National Committee at the provincial level to implement these orders;
- In the Government' Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, Equity and Efficiency Phase II (2008-2013), including Forestry

Reform cover strict measures to prevent, reduce and eradicate illegal encroachments and occupation of forest land by private individuals;

- Initiated development and implementation of National Forest Programme,
- Increased protected forest and protected areas more than 25 % of the total area of country,
- 24 forest concessions covering an area of 3.5 million ha withdrawn from 17 companies;
- Taken back 255,477 ha of forestland were cleared and occupied by illegal offenders.
- 7,869 cases (1999-2008) of illegal activities has been taken action and recorded into a computer case tracking system

### III. Development of FA-ITTO project

As illegal logging is a global issue, Cambodia has also participated actively in international and regional cooperation schemes including Asia Forest Partnership (AFP), East Asia Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (EA-FLEG), ASEAN-FLEG, ASEAN-WEN, CITES, UNFF and ITTO.

In 2004, an ITTO mission was fielded to analyze obstacles to achieving ITTO objectives 2000 and sustainable forest management in Cambodia. The mission produced a series of recommendations with regard to illegal logging, forest law enforcement and governance as well as capacity building in the Cambodian forestry sector.

Based on the outcomes of Pre-Project PPD 128/06 Rev.1 (F) on Strengthening Capacity of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Cambodia was approved and funded by ITTO in 2006, Project PD 493/07 Rev.1 (F) **Strengthening Capacity of Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in Cambodia** was formulated. This project was approved in May 2008 and financed by the Government of Japan, U.S.A, Australia and Republic of Korea through ITTO (International Tropical Timber Organization).

#### The Development Objectives

The Development objectives of the project is to contribute to enhancing and implementing a government policy frameworks in combating illegal logging, forest land clearing and land encroachment to promote the sustainable management of forest resource in Cambodia.

#### The Specific Objectives

1. Strengthen capacities for forest law enforcement and governance, and
2. Develop tools to enable effective Suppression of illegal forest activities

#### Target Beneficiaries

The target beneficiaries of the project are:

- the local community who participate in monitoring of illegal forest practices
- the Cambodian people as a whole through better distribution of the wealth deriving from forestry and its related sectors

- the Forestry Administration staff through improved capacity in forest law enforcement and governance
- the concessionaires (working in a controlled and safe environment with a long-term forest management plan).

#### Outputs

- 1.1 Appropriate facilities in place
- 1.2 Forest law enforcement training implemented
- 1.3 Effective monitoring and documentation of illegal forest practices
- 1.4 Effective judicial processing
- 1.5 Effective extension function.

**Project Timeframe:** January 2009-  
December 2011 (3 years)

**Executing Agency:** Forestry Administration  
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