



## REPORT OF THE FIRST PROJECT COORDINATION MEETING SEApeat PROJECT 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

### Item 1: Welcome Remarks

Mr Faizal Parish welcomed all participants to the meeting. The participants list is as found in Annex 1.

### Item 2: Introduction and Confirmation of the Agenda

The agenda as in Annex 2 was adopted.

### Item 3: Progress of Country Components

#### a. Cambodia

Cambodia reported on their main activities in 2011; World Wetlands Day celebrations, TOT on Peat Assessment and Management' and the publication of the APMS in Khmer. The peat assessment that was planned in August to November was delayed due to the prolonged rainy season and massive flooding. Future plans include assessments in December 2011 and March/April 2012 as well as the development of a National Peatland Action Plan in 2012.

#### b. Lao PDR

Laos presented their progress on the publication of the APMS. The peat assessment that was planned in October was delayed. The next step would be to conduct TOT training, peat assessment, stakeholder consultation and create awareness among the community and local people regarding the uniqueness and importance of the peatlands.

#### c. Indonesia

The project partner in Riau presented their activities, as see in Annex 3c. Their activities focused on fire prevention through joint activities, support activities, and community assistance. To start, needs assessment have been done in 4 areas, which are Rokan Hilir, Indragiri Hilir, Siak and Pelalawan districts.

Among the common problems are land tenure issues, land clearing using fire, illegal logging, encroachment, lack of knowledge regarding land management and poverty. There is also limited collaboration between the government, private sector and the local community. Plans for the future include supporting community initiatives, stakeholder collaboration and production of awareness materials.

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## d. Malaysia

In Malaysia, the main focus is on community. There have been close relationship with corporates who contribute as part of their corporate social responsibility; supporting tree planting and canal blocking efforts. A rapid assessment done in Kuala Langat South Peatswamp Forest helped stop a bid to de-gazette the area as a protected forest. Key activities were the World Wetlands Day celebration and ongoing rehabilitation of Raja Musa Forest Reserve. A community group called Friends of the Peatswamp Forests (Sahabat Hutan Gambut) has been established to help protect the peatland area. Full details are available in Annex 3d.

## e. Regional

The regional component presented their activities as in Annex 3e. Their key activities were support and promote APMS and NAPs, capacity building and awareness, resource mobilisation, regional technical support and country guidance. The focus was on production of awareness materials, TOT training on peat assessment, supporting pilot testing of the Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS), capacity building and website development.

### **Item 4: Preparation for SEApeat Implementation**

#### a. Myanmar

Planned project activities in Myanmar for 2011 will have to be carried forward to 2012 due to the lengthy additional procedures within the department as a result of a new government ruling. The plan for Myanmar in 2012 includes translation & printing of the APMS, Training and Peat Assessment, case study for best management practices on peatlands, awareness and education. Potential peat areas have been identified and will be confirmed following assessment activities in the coming year. More details can be found in Annex 4a.

#### b. Philippines

Philippines is planning to focus on the protection of the Caimpugan Peat Dome, development of a volunteer group, supporting academic studies and a handbook related to peatlands, support for community livelihoods, signages and establishment of a fire hydrant system. There are also plans to assess peat depth and publish a technical report of verified peatlands in the Philippines. It was suggested that they also sign an MOU with a key stakeholder to show commitment and improve governance.

#### c. Viet Nam

The plan for Vietnam includes carbon stock assessment, sustainable management and rehabilitation of peatlands in the U Minh region. Activities include training of agency staff and

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local communities as well as incorporating water management, agriculture and forest management in U Minh Ha region. It was commented that replanting degraded areas with *Melaleuca* may be of interest to other countries. Carbon storage can also be linked to other regional activity and developed further.

Thailand was not represented due to the flood situation, but it was reported that a stakeholder meeting will be held in December 2011 to determine the focal point in Thailand for related project matters. The focus in 2012 is the preparation of the National Action Plan, coordinated by the Thai Department of National Parks. Their two main activities are the further development of the NAP and awareness materials to support APMS.

## Item 5: Other matters

- i) The Myanmar Ministry of Environment will formally appoint FREDA as the project executing agency for Myanmar.
- ii) The format of the quarterly report is a concise two page note. A more comprehensive report will be required at the end of the year. Associates are requested to follow the reporting deadlines to facilitate project coordination.
- iii) There is some flexibility in budgeting and planning; adjustments can be made to the plan as necessary, especially in countries where the presence of peatlands has not been confirmed.

## Item 6: Closing

The meeting was adjourned at 1.30 p.m.

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