

**Report of the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEApeat Project Coordination Meeting  
6 November 2012, Pontianak, Indonesia**

**INTRODUCTION**

The Second SEApeat Coordination Meeting was held in Mercure Hotel, Pontianak, Indonesia on the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2012. The meeting was attended by delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Global Environment Centre (GEC) as the Implementing Agency and representative from the EU delegation in Malaysia. The List of Participants is in Annex 1.

**AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME REMARKS**

1. Mr Faizal Parish, in his capacity as the Director of the SEApeat project and Chair of this meeting provided the welcoming remarks. He also relayed apologies from Singapore and Brunei who could not take part in this meeting due to unforeseen circumstances. He also welcomed Mr Pablo Iglesias Rumbo from the EU Delegation in Malaysia, who attended to provide inputs and guidance as well as the results of the recently conducted Results Oriented Monitoring mission which was conducted in early October 2012.
2. Mr Pablo informed he was delighted to take part in the second Project Coordination Meeting in his capacity as the EU Project Manager to the SEApeat project. His presence was to discuss the progress and provide clarification which may be needed by the respective countries. He also informed the meeting that he will be presenting the results of the recent ROM which was recently completed. These results will give countries the opportunity to clarify should there be any setbacks or interact with him positively so that the project can be implemented successfully.

**AGENDA ITEM 2: INTRODUCTION AND CONFIRMATION OF AGENDA**

3. Mr Faizal Parish, Chair of the meeting, introduced and proposed the agenda and it was accepted by all present. The agenda appears in Annex 2.

**AGENDA ITEM 3: PROGRESS UPDATE OF COUNTRY COMPONENTS**

**a. Cambodia**

4. Mr Long Kheng who represented Dr Srey Sunleang presented the updates for 2012 for activities implemented in Cambodia. The presentation appears in Annex 3.
5. The meeting noted the following:-
  - i) The key challenge for peat assessment activity in Cambodia is the extreme change of water level in wetland areas during wet and dry seasons.

- ii) Activities in 2012 included publication of translated APMS in Khmer language
  - iii) World Wetlands Day celebration in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh and
  - iv) Peatlands assessment in Koh Kong area which was held in May 2012.
6. The meeting also noted that the planned activities for Cambodia in 2013 are:-
- i) Training of coastal zone staff and peat assessment in several sites,
  - ii) Formation of a local working group for implementation of activities in Cambodia,
  - iii) Development of awareness activities will continue,
  - iv) Information on peatlands will be documented,
  - v) Development of a National Action Plan to be initiated and
  - vi) Establishment of a management system to manage peatlands will commence.

**Action points:**

- i. Cambodia to schedule their assessment to suit the appropriate weather conditions.
- ii. Translated APMS to be circulated widely to all stakeholders.
- iii. Involvement of all stakeholders to participate in future events to stimulate awareness.
- iv. Peatland assessment to be expedited in order to support the development of the peat directory.
- v. In view that small areas of peatlands are being discovered, the development of the NAP will be deferred until sufficient peatland has been found.

**b. Indonesia**

- 7. Mr Zainuri Hasyim, Director of Mitra Insani Foundation (MIF) provided the updates on activities carried out in Riau province, Indonesia. The presentation is attached as Annex 4.
- 8. He informed the meeting that the key objective of the project in Riau is to encourage Best Management Practices which increases income, reduces fire and encourages stakeholder engagement. Present issues include limited coordination among parties, land burning practices, land tenure conflicts, poverty and lack of knowledge for peatland management.
- 9. The meeting took note of the community based peatland management system in Harapan Jaya. Through this system, fines are imposed on those who cause damage to a neighbour's property due to uncontrolled burning. The system has done well to reduce fires in the village.
- 10. Additionally, the community has developed a radio station which updates the locals on the likelihood of fire, happenings and peatland activities. Members of a GEC and ROM mission have been interviewed on air during their respective visits to the village. Representatives of the broadcast team have been invited to Java to assist in a similar effort.
- 11. The meeting also noted the plan for 2013 which will continue with the completion of a contour map in Harapan Jaya, promote cattle rearing using palm oil fronds, fire prevention, institutional building and development of awareness materials.

**Action points:**

- i) Continuation of activities in Harapan Jaya and Teluk Binjai villages in 2012.
- ii) Explore the expansion of project activities to pest and water management.
- iii) MIF to discuss coordination of APFP and SEApeat projects in Riau with the Ministry of Environment Indonesia particularly related to site level activities in Riau under APFP.

**c. Lao PDR**

12. Mr Sounadeth Soukchaleun presented the progress of the project in Lao PDR. The presentation appears as Annex 5.

13. The meeting noted that activities held in Lao PDR in 2012 were:-

- i) The organising of a trainer training programme;
- ii) A peat assessment exercise to locate more peatlands;
- iii) Translation of the APMS document into the local language; and
- iv) A stakeholders consultation workshop on action plans for Peatland management held in August.

**Action Points:**

- i) Assessment of possible peat areas to be continued in 2013.
- ii) Preparation of the National Action Plan should only commence if sufficient peat areas are found.
- iii) SEApeat funds to be utilised within the proposed period.

**d. Malaysia**

14. Mr Nagarajan Rengasamy presented the progress of the project in Malaysia in 2012. The presentation appears as in Annex 6.

15. The meeting noted the following activities successfully implemented under the project. They are:-

- i) Tree planting in degraded areas – Up to Oct 2012, about 11.5 hectares of degraded peatland area within RMFR was planted with 4,835 tree saplings, involving 1,374 members of the public;
- ii) Canal blocking and tree planting activities were achieved through Corporate Social Responsibility efforts with partner organisations.
- iii) A community group was developed with locals. They were involved in enhancing awareness and monitoring for fires in Selangor, growing a community nursery to provide seedlings, developing ecotourism products and also peat fire awareness materials.
- iv) The formation of the Peatland Forest Rangers programme with schools. Besides helping to spread awareness, the group is also trying to further develop interest with other schools.

16. It was informed that in 2013, activities will include:-

- i) Continue testing of fire prediction and monitoring system in RMFR,
- ii) Production of awareness materials,
- iii) Initiate more canal blocking for water management and
- iv) increase of fire risk monitoring and community fire patrolling,
- v) Socio-economic assessment,
- vi) Pilot testing of incentive options and
- vii) CSR activities.

**Action points:**

- i) Malaysia to consider shifting more focus from tree planting to fire prevention through canal blocking in 2013.

**e. Myanmar**

17. Mr Sann Lwin from FREDa presented the updates for Myanmar in the period between November 2011 and October 2012, as is shown in Annex 7.

18. It was noted that activities in 2012 included

- i) The translation of the APMS into Burmese language and printing for dissemination,
- ii) Training of trainers on Peatland Assessment and Management was conducted at Nyaung Shwe town, Southern Shan State, for a period of 4 days from 14 to 17 May, 2012. It was attended by 24 participants from various parts of the country, including 18 from Forest Department, 4 from Agriculture Dept., 1 from Land Records Dept and 1 from FREDa.
- iii) FREDa participated in the Remote sensing training held in Vietnam in July 2012 to enhance peatland assessment.
- iv) For peat assessment, the assessment teams have visited Inle Lake, Nyaung Shwe and other areas. However, work in the Indawgyi area could not proceed due to security issues.

19. In 2013, the Myanmar component will conduct as many TOT sessions as possible for other groups.

20. The meeting also recorded their condolences on the passing of Mr Sein Maung Wint, the late chairman of FREDa

**Action points:**

- i) The meeting recommended that the Ministry of Agriculture should play a bigger role in this project to benefit local communities.

**f. Philippines**

21. Ms Armida P. Andres provided the updates for Philippines as presented in Annex 8.

22. The meeting was informed that:-

- i) Caimpugan and Leyte Sab-a peatlands have been prioritized for inclusion into conservation areas. Caimpugan peat swamp forest is now part of the proposed expansion area of the Agusan Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary under Republic Act 7586 or the National Integrated Protected Area System (NIPAS Act). Leyte Sab-a Peatlands is proposed as Critical Habitat under the Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Act.
- ii) Awareness materials such as the comics "Juan visits the least famous forest" are being produced and widely publicised.
- iii) The Sorjan system learnt from Thailand by the Leyte representative was widely promoted. The floating gardens, an innovative method of farming was developed by communities and is being tested on a pilot site; the results are positive.
- iv) Plans to develop agri-ecotourism in the Philippines are under way. Relevant information will also be shared with Vietnam.

**Action Points:**

- i) The Philippines to continue efforts with support from SEApeat/ EU.
- ii) Follow up with the development of an agri-eco-tourism plan for the Philippines.
- iii) Explore options of doing a joint peatlands assessment with British Oil Palm in Mindanao.

**g. Thailand**

23. Ms Kansuma Buraphaphol presented the progress update for Thailand as in ANNEX 9.

24. The meeting noted that the two main activities planned for 2013 are:-

- i) Awareness raising through leaflets and posters for dissemination, and establishment of a trained volunteer fire brigade network.
- ii) Finalizing and printing of the National Action Plan for Peatland Management

**Action Points:**

- i) To finalise the SEApeat agreement so that funds can be disbursed and planned activities can be implemented.
- ii) The meeting recommended Thailand to enhance fire prevention through water management in addition to fire fighting efforts.
- iii) To finalise the development of the National Action Plan.

**h. Vietnam**

25. Dr Le Phat Quoi presented the 2013 workplan for Vietnam, which is shown in ANNEX 10.

26. The meeting noted that there are no updates for 2012 as activities in Vietnam were funded by APFP for that period.

27. The plan for 2013 focuses on U Minh Thuong and U Minh Ha peatland areas; which are the 2 remaining large tracts of peatlands in Vietnam. The meeting was informed that leaflets for APMS (NAP) and research on National peatland issues have been produced and distributed.

28. Planned activities for both U Minh Thuong and U Minh Ha are:-

- i) Carbon assessment in UMH and UMT National Parks;
- ii) Assessment for forest restoration and expansion requirements;;
- iii) Integrated fire and water management system;
- iv) Development of a 5 year Action Plan for U Minh Ha National Park; and
- v) Development of an ecotourism education plan in UMT and UMH.

**Action Points:**

- i) Vietnam to refine the workplan to be submitted to GEC so that funds can be provided.
- ii) Prepare agreement with partner agency (Centre for Environment Science and Ecosystem (CESE)).
- iii) Vietnam to explore integrating the NAP into the law as a separate document.

**i. Regional**

29. Ms Chin Sing Yun presented the implemented activities in 2012, as shown in Annex 11.

30. The meeting noted the following key activities implemented:-

- i) regional events such as
  - a) Testing and development of the FDRS in Malaysia (workshops, meetings)
  - b) Organised the Peer Learning for Livelihood of communities, (May 2012) (40 participants from 5 countries)
  - c) WESFPP Bogor (100 participants from six countries)
  - d) "Our Precious Peatlands" Regional Photography Competition
  - e) Technical meeting for Integrated Management Plans for Peatland Management in Pahang, Malaysia
  - f) GIS training Workshop in use of GIS and remote sensing for assessment and identification of peatlands in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- ii) Promoted the project in Sweden (IPS Congress), Brunei (International Wetlands Conference)
- iii) Internal Monitoring Missions to Mekong Countries (VN, Lao, Myanmar, Cambodia) in July & August. At the same time, the regional component assisted with APMS review in the countries and organised the APMS Review meeting in conjunction with the Conference Of Parties on Transboundary Haze Pollution in Bangkok.
- iv) Organised the Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM) mission held in October 2012.

**Action Points:**

- i) The Regional component to monitor closely the activities of assessment in Mekong countries.
- ii) Expedite the development of guidelines for the IMPs.

- iii) Attention is given to the FDRS training.
- iv) Execution of plans for 2013 including
  - Regional Working Group meeting on FDRS
  - Media Contest
  - Working group meeting on BMP on Forest Plantation
  - Workshop on Sustainable Financing Options for peatland management (Resource mobilization/incentive options/carbon financing)
  - Community Peer Learning programme
  - TOT on BMP on oil palm for small holders (subject to the progress of the training module)

#### **AGENDA ITEM 4: PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION**

##### **a. Feedback/Finding from Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM)**

- 31. Mr Pablo from the European Commission in Malaysia presented the results of the ROM held in October 2012 as appears in Annex 12. .
- 32. He informed that the ROM is an exercise designed to monitor projects funded by the European Commission. It was conducted from 27 Sept 2012 to 4<sup>th</sup> October by Mr Eggar Topper from an independent assigned by EU. It began with a meeting in Bangkok, followed by missions to Indonesia and Malaysia
- 33. The meeting noted the findings from the ROM of the SEApeat project are as follows: –
  - a. Relevance : very good
  - b. Efficiency : good effectiveness, project is on track in terms of use of funds, good management practices and very transparent
  - c. Impact : good impact from the project on the community and governance
  - d. Sustainability : shows good sustainability strength
  - e. Recommendations :
    - Improve familiarity with EU financial procedures & encourage timely accounting for all activities by national partners
    - Improvement to accounting of joint APFP-SEApeat projects due to the risk of double charging.
    - Considering of gender issues
    - Focus on water management rather than tree planting
    - Develop a consistent data set on peatlands to serve as a baseline
    - PES needs to be developed
    - There is potential for project to go into further phase as it has demonstrated good results.

Mr Pablo, in conclusion, confirms that the project scored 3As and 2Bs, according to the rating.

1. Relevance : A (Very Good)
2. Efficiency : A (Very Good)
3. Effectiveness : B (Good)
4. Impact : B (Good)
5. Sustainability : A (Very Good)

Mr Pablo reiterated that in his many years of project management funded by EU, this is the only project that has secured such high marks.

**Action Points:**

- i) The project was advised to note and integrate more involvement of gender into project activities and events, in line with EU requirements.

**b. Project Coordination**

34. The meeting took note that any co-financing with APFP should be clearly defined to ease auditing.

**c. Linkage to EU Regional Activities**

35. The meeting noted Mr Pablo's suggestion for working with EU on the expiry of the SEApeat.

They are:-

- i) Submit a Phase II proposal under the category of environment, Natural Resources, as there is a good chance of securing project funding based on the SEApeat track record.
- ii) Secure funding through a bilateral cooperation with ASEAN. This will support regional economic integration and funds are available up to 100 million Euros.

**d. Project Reporting Requirements**

36. Ms Chin Sing Yun of GEC presented the project reporting requirements, as follows:

**i) Key contact persons**

- a) Cambodia was requested to consider having a second contact person as Dr Srey is often too busy to work on the SEApeat project.
- b) The contact person for Thailand is now Dr Prasert Sornsathapornkul from the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP).

**ii) Quarterly updates**

- Quarter 3 2012 updates should be submitted by 15<sup>th</sup> December. The report should include all activities and the finance report.
- a) The countries are requested to submit their reports on schedule.
  - b) Country components were required to record gender, as well as the number of people attending and their respective designations in activity attendance lists.



**AGENDA ITEM 5: OTHER MATTERS**

37. There were no other matters raised.

**Acknowledgement**

38. The meeting was held in the spirit of ASEAN cooperation and cordiality.

**List of Annexes:**

Annex 1: List of Participants

Annex 2: Agenda for SEApeat PCM

Annex 3: Progress and workplan for Cambodia

Annex 4: Progress and workplan for Indonesia

Annex 5: Progress and workplan for Laos

Annex 6: Progress and workplan for Malaysia

Annex 7: Progress and workplan for Myanmar

Annex 8: Progress and workplan for Philippines

Annex 9: Progress and workplan for Thailand

Annex 10: Progress and workplan for Vietnam

Annex 11: Progress and workplan for Regional

Annex 12: Report of Results Oriented Monitoring (ROM)