

# Feedback / Findings from ROM



# ROM MISSION

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF PEATLAND FORESTS IN SOUTH EAST ASIA

- ▶ Consultant
  - Egbert TOPPER
- ▶ Schedule
  - From: 30/09/2013 To: 11/10/2013
- ▶ Main activitie
  - Based on a second monitoring visit, during which activities in Malaysia, Philippines and Vietnam were visited.



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# Grading

No	Findings	Grade
1	Relevance and Quality of Design	A
2	Efficiency of Implementation to date	B
3	Effectiveness to date	B
4	Impact prospects	A
5	Potential sustainability	B

Note: A = very good; B = good; C = problems; D = serious deficiencies



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# Relevance and Quality of Design

- ▶ The SEApeat regional project continues to be highly relevant
- ▶ The project continues to support ASEAN policies through implementation of the ASEAN Agreement on Trans-boundary Haze Pollution (AATHP) signed in 2002
- ▶ Clear regional objective, High degree of National Implementation
- ▶ Aims at private sector engagement, in line with the EU's 'Agenda for Change', by involving palm oil producing and other companies in partnerships for the identification and implementation of Best Management Practices for peatland cultivation
- ▶ At local level, pilots have important role in alleviating poverty
- ▶ 1<sup>st</sup> ROM mission recommended: Exploring follow-up funding options under the 2nd Multi-annual Indicative Programme



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# Efficiency of Implementation to date

- ▶ Converting resources and inputs in a cost-effective manner into outputs
- ▶ Resources are spent in a transparent and accountable manner; proper administrative systems are in place and timely accounting for all activities by national-level partners has improved
- ▶ National and Regional Technical Working Groups were found to be active and dynamic, and the collaborative management approach, whereby stakeholders are involved in activity preparation and implementation, contributes to actual use of outputs and to achievement of the project purpose
- ▶ Despite some delays, the expected results can be achieved in all countries by the end of the project



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# Effectiveness to date

1. National Action Plans for Peatlands are being prepared and implemented
2. Pilot projects have been established
3. Regional collaboration on identification of fire prone peatlands and development of a fire prediction and warning system is on the increase
4. Promotion of incentive mechanisms for conservation and sustainable management of peatlands is the one outcome that takes more time to materialise
5. Guidelines for integrated management of peatland plantations have been developed, distributed and adopted by the RSPO.



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# Impact prospects

- ▶ *Overall Objective: "Reduce deforestation and degradation of peatland forests in SE Asia by strengthening governance and developing incentives to promote their integrated management, sustain local livelihoods, reduce GHG emissions and conserve biodiversity"*
- ▶ The project is making an important contribution to strengthened peatland governance, planning and policies
- ▶ National and regional institutions are strengthened and their services are made available for use within the region
- ▶ The extent to which these and other outcomes result in reducing peatland deforestation and degradation remains to be assessed (OVIs to assess the progress)
- ▶ Replication of best management practices across countries is happening, pilot projects are being adopted as models; Involvement of local NGOs and CBOs in livelihood support activities is crucial; private sector involvement



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# Potential Sustainability

- ▶ Full political support for continued provision of project services and benefits, and ASEAN MS commitments are increasing



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# Key observation and Recommendation Feedback

## *Project Management/GEC:*

1. To enhance the project's focus on the implementation of two pilots for financial incentive mechanisms for sustainable management of peatland and forests in SE Asia, so as to ensure two functional models by end-of-project; **Response: The project will focus on Raja Musa Forest Reserve (community involvement in forest fire prevention and rehabilitation); Agusan marsh ( Buy A Living tree System and sustainable agriculture) as well as U Mihn Ha National Park ( Green contract in Buffer Zone)be continue and provide the role model at the end of project)**
2. To explore opportunities for embedding livelihood grant projects in a structure of a group savings and loan or micro-credit structure, so as to enhance sustainability of the supported activities; **(Response: the project will review the options for linkage to savings and loan/microcredit schemes at the project sites)**
3. To conduct cost-benefit analyses of the livelihood projects and study the effectiveness of the various implementation modalities, with a focus on the support role played by local NGOs or CBOs. **(Propose to allocate some resources for analysis in 2013)**



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# Key observation and Recommendation

## Feedback

### EU

1. Continue its support for preparation and implementation of a follow-up project pooling donor funds and merging APFP and SEApeat objectives and activities; **Response: Work is Ongoing with consultant appointed by EUD to ASEAN in December 2013.**
2. Foresee a final evaluation mission – which has not been budgeted for in the action’s budget – including visits to at least two of the following four Mekong countries: Myanmar, Cambodia, Laos and Thailand, in order to facilitate the identification of lessons learned. **Response: possibility of launching an evaluation mission is being discussed with HQ.**



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