

Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in South East Asia

ASEAN/ IFAD/ GEF

Regional Component

Annual Work Plan and Budget

PART I

Country:	<i>Regional</i>
Project Title:	<i>Rehabilitation and Sustainable Use of Peatland Forests in South East Asia</i>
Project Number:	<i>GEF 2751</i>
Financial year:	<i>2010</i>
Planning period:	<i>Jan – Dec 2010</i>
Year of implementation	<i>Year 1</i>
Total component budget (<i>in USD</i>):	<i>1,727,164</i>
Total expenditures to date (<i>in USD</i>):	<i>None</i>
Date of project effectiveness:	<i>28 July 2009</i>
Date of project start:	<i>23 Nov 2009¹</i>
Project duration:	<i>Four years (2009-2013)</i>
Date of project closing:	<i>2013</i>
Date of latest Logframe revision	<i>16 May 2008</i>

¹ e.g. official date when the Inception Meeting was held or first field activities implemented

A. Background

Government Policies

There have been no major changes in Government policies since the submission of the project in 2008. The ASEAN Peatland Management Strategy, which was endorsed at the 10th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on the Environment in November 2006 and which formed the framework of actions for the Project, continues to guide and support actions with regards to peatland management in the South East Asian region. The four participating countries – Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam have made progress in the development of their National Action Plan for Peatlands, and the Project will build capacity in these countries to ensure the further finalization, adoption and implementation of these NAPs. Project partner Singapore remains committed in the Project's efforts to develop an integrated system for fire warning and prediction for peatlands while Brunei Darussalam has made significant progress in peat assessment in the country through the Heart of Borneo Project, one of the priority action listed in its draft NAP. In the other ASEAN countries – such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Lao PDR and Thailand, the Project will assist with building capacity for peat assessments and information gathering, so that a final draft of the NAP can be completed by the end of the Project period. The ASEAN countries are still keen and interested to support and implement the APMS and the Project will build on this advantage.

Implementation arrangements

There are no significant changes in the proposed implementation arrangements for the regional component. As envisaged the implementation of the regional component will be led by a Regional project Executing Agency (RPEA). ASEAN Secretariat has proposed that the Global Environment Centre from Malaysia be appointed for this task and IFAD has issued a no objection letter to this effect. Details of the tasks and personnel are described in a detailed proposal from GEC. The Inception Workshop in November 2009 endorsed this arrangement.

Other factors

There remains a willingness of a range of partners – both international donors and the private sector - to play a role in addressing sustainable peatland management. The role of peatlands as a carbon store and its importance in the issue of climate change has raised the profile of peatlands in global discussion forums – such as the Climate Change Negotiations in Copenhagen recently. The Project will work in 2010 to encourage the establishment of further partnerships – between governments and other donors - to further support the work of promoting the sustainable management of peatlands in the region.

There is anticipation that the year 2010 will experience the effects of El Niño, which could see an increase in the impact of droughts in the SEA region and more fires in peat areas. The Project is prepared to rely on the fire prediction and warning system and build capacity among local stakeholders to control and prevent fires at the pilot sites to prevent significant damage to peatlands should this occur.

B. Achievements to date and proposed implementation focus for upcoming year

Table 1 - Summary of main achievements to date

Components	% of achievement to date (estimation)	Focus for new AWP&B period
Component 1		Activities will focus on capacity building to support the implementation of the APMS and NAP mainly in peat assessment techniques, workshops and study tours on best management practices and developing information materials. Technical support for the implementation of project activities will also be provided.
Component 2		Activities will focus on collating information on critical peatland sites in the region for biodiversity and carbon storage; a network for information sharing will be established and development of an integrated system for a real-time fire warning system would be initiated.

Component 3		Initial gathering of information from demonstration sites on best management practices for peatlands carried out.
Component 4		Input would be provided to consultations with the plantation sector in partnership with RSPO, national plantation associations and other organizations to promote sound plantation management on peatlands.

- **Changes in objectives/ project design:** There are no changes in objectives or project design.
- **Changes in implementation strategy/ arrangements:** There are no changes in implementation strategy and arrangements..

C. Costs and financing

- **Costs:** There are no major changes in unit costs due to inflation/ deflation or changes in design.
- **Financing:** There are no issues related to flow of funds as the project is in its first year; activities will be initiated only upon the receipt of funds. .

D. Annual Procurement

- **Procurement Plan:** There are no major changes in procurement compared to the overall, agreed Procurement Plan for the Project. .
- **Procurement process:** There are no issues with regards to procurement methods as project is in the first year of implementation.
- **Procurement Plan for 2010**
Most of the Tasks relating to technical support and project management for the regional component will be undertaken by the RPEA. Since the procurement of services from the RPEA has already been approved for the whole project period in 2009 – those tasks to be undertaken by the RPEA/designated RPEA staff are not listed in the 2010 procurement plan. Only those tasks which may be sub-contracted by the RPEA to other entities or individual consultants are listed.