

Report of the 6th APFP Project Management Meeting

11-12 July 2012, Pahang, Malaysia

INTRODUCTION

1. The 6th ASEAN Peatland Forests Project (APFP) Project Management Meeting (PMM) was held on 11-12 July 2012 in Pahang, Malaysia. The Meeting was attended by representatives from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Viet Nam, the ASEAN Secretariat, and the Global Environment Centre (GEC) as the Regional Project Executing Agency (RPEA). The List of Participants is in **ANNEX 1**.

AGENDA ITEM 1: WELCOME REMARKS

1. The Meeting was chaired by Dr. Raman Letchumanan, the Head of Environment Division of ASEAN Secretariat and also the Project Director. He highlighted that a main agenda item of the Meeting related to the request for no-cost project extension up to the end of 2014 as agreed at the Special Project Management Meeting held on 11-12 February 2012 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Although the APFP is a four-year (2009-2013) project, implementation began in late-2010 due to the delay in signing sub-agreements and transfer of funds. For this reason, a request letter to IFAD justifying the extension was sent on 1 May 2012.

3. Dr. Raman also emphasized that the Meeting will also follow up actions on progress and update of the Fire Danger Rating System (FDRS) since the ASEAN Regional Workshop on Development of the ASEAN Peatland Fire Prediction and Early Warning System convened in Kuala Lumpur on 20-21 March 2012. In fact, the 13th Technical Working Group and Ministerial Steering Committee Meeting was impressed with the development of the FDRS system to complement the hot spot monitoring, and wanted to raise this to the ASEAN Leaders Summit.

AGENDA ITEM 2: INTRODUCTION AND CONFIRMATION OF THE AGENDA

2. The Meeting adopted the Agenda, as in **ANNEX 2**.

AGENDA ITEM 3: MATTERS ARISING FROM PMM5/SPMM

3. The Meeting reviewed the matters arising from the Fifth Project Management Meeting (PMM5) and Special Project Management Meeting (SPMM) and noted progress made. The progress on action from the PMM5 and SPMM is in **ANNEX 3**.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS OF COUNTRY COMPONENTS

a. Indonesia

4. The Meeting noted the progress of the Indonesia Component, which was presented by Mr. Hermono Sigit, the National Coordinator, as in **ANNEX 4**. The Meeting also noted that only USD 307,527.89 has been utilized by the project, which is about 25.63% of total budget (USD 1,200,000).

5. The Meeting noted that the delayed appointment of consultants in Riau Province have contributed to the slow progress for Indonesia. It was acknowledged that the Environment Agency of Riau Province (BLH Riau) has submitted the list of consultants to the Ministry of Environment of Indonesia (KLH). The established bidding committee would later appoint the consultants.

6. The Meeting supported the action taken by the Government of Indonesia to suspend the new license on further development of peatlands and primary forest areas. This action of postponing the new license will support further actions to introduce new regulations to control peatland development.

Action points:

- KLH will expedite the contractual and bidding process to ensure consultants and contractors are appointed by August 2012.
- The National Strategy of Sustainable Peatland Management (NAP) has been updated and ready for dissemination by the end of July 2012.
- KLH and BLH of relevant province have to monitor and control the consultancy work and ensure that the work is undertaken according to the plan and procedure. For the allocation to community-based services, efforts should be made to ensure timely delivery of support to community and to maximize the direct benefits.
- Indonesia proposes to host the peer learning next year.

b. Malaysia

7. The Meeting noted the progress of the Malaysia component, which was presented by Mr. Hamdan Napiah, the National Coordinator of Malaysia, as in **ANNEX 5**.

8. The Meeting noted that the number of stations for weather monitoring has been increased from 39 to 168. Installation of a new Automatic Weather Station in peatland area provides real time prediction for Raja Musa Forest Reserve (RMFR).

9. The Meeting also noted that Selangor Forestry Department has completed 10 kilometers of outer boundary marking exercise in RMFR. This boundary marking is necessary for all participating countries, not only Malaysia.

10. The Meeting also noted a big allocation (USD 197,550 or 34.65% of annual budget 2012) was for consultancy costs, but the procedure for consultant appointment has not yet been completed.

11. The Meeting encouraged Malaysia to expedite the development of Integrated Management Plan for RMFR that hasn't started yet due to the delayed appointment of consultant. Furthermore, Malaysia should also expedite work on buffer zone management. Sahabat Hutan Gambut is a good start in supporting the community to preserve the forest.

12. The Meeting noted the issues and challenges in the RMFR, which is affected by Integrated Agriculture Development Area (IADA) Barat project, due to lack of integrated management amongst the stakeholders. The case study should be documented as a lesson learning to promote the sustainable management of peatlands.

13. The Meeting acknowledged that Selangor Forestry Department, European Union, HSBC and Bridgestone had provided a significant co-funding enabling the component to make progress despite the delay in disbursement of IFAD-GEF funds.

Action points:

- Malaysia should document all works undertaken from the beginning of the project including with co-funding.
- The NAP for Malaysia should be launched and promoted by September 2012, before the Review meeting on the APMS and the Mid-Term Review (MTR).
- The appointment of the consultants needs to be expedited by the Malaysian component by August 2012 so that consultancy work is underway well before the MTR.

c. Philippines

14. The Meeting saluted the progress of the Philippines Component, which was presented by Ms. Armida P. Andres, the National Coordinator for the Philippines, as in **ANNEX 6**. The Philippines has done a good job in developing innovative activities, drawing on experience from all study tours conducted since the beginning of the Project, and engaging local authorities and local communities to determine the development of the peatlands in the country.

15. The Meeting congratulated the Philippines for their striking promotion "It's more fun in the peatlands" and the peatland comics entitled "Juan meets the least famous forest". It was noted that currently the Philippines is exploring the options for ecotourism projects in both Agusan Marsh and Leyte Sab-a Basin.

16. The Meeting noted that the rehabilitation plans for degraded peatlands were being firmed up. Five-hectare pilot demo reforestation projects per municipality will be facilitated in Agusan Marsh. However, more site assessment is needed for the formulation of hydrological restoration of Leyte Sab-a peatlands.

17. The Philippines also informed the meeting that through the Bureau of Fire Protection, preparation for the adoption of the “Buying Living Trees System” developed by Palangkaraya University of Indonesia is underway and proposed to be built into the government funding within the parameters of the Conditional Cash Transfer of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The two pilot sites will be the testing ground.

18. The Meeting acknowledged the proposed floating garden and sorjan farming as the diversified and integrated farming system to generate optimum productivity without disturbing/destroying the peatland in Philippines. These innovative systems are utilising the peatlands in a practical and logical way. It is encouraged that other countries to follow this example.

Action points:

- SEApeat workplan to be revised and submitted by 20 July 2012.
- Philippines to share experience in innovative activities including: a). Adapting the Buying a Living Tree System, and b). Community based activities on ecotourism and guided demonstration farm for sustainable agriculture on degraded peatlands, including the mentioned and comics development.
- The component will seek input from RPEA and other countries in order to complete the local guide for planners and developers in peatlands and buffer zones by September 2012.

d. Viet Nam

17. The National Expert for Viet Nam, Dr. Le Phat Quoi, presented the progress of the Viet Nam Component, as in **ANNEX 7**. Activities implemented were drafting peatland distribution and peat layer thickness maps, conducting surveys of social economic livelihood, and collecting data and inventory of peatlands in Viet Nam, particularly in Mekong Delta, U Minh Thuong National Parks (UMNTP), and U Minh Ha National Parks (UMHNP).

18. The Meeting also noted a new five-year master plan of UMNTP (2013-2018) and a livelihood development plan for community in the buffer zone of UMNTP is currently being drafted. The innovative green contract developed for farmers will be signed and applied to the livelihood in the buffer zone of UMNTP.

19. The meeting noted that Vietnam had submitted documents related to the nomination of UMNTP as ASEAN Heritage Park to the ASEAN Secretariat. The 22nd

Meeting of ASEAN Working Group on Nature Conservation and Biodiversity (AWGNCB) held on 12-13 June 2012 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, noted the submission of ASEAN Heritage Park nomination of UMTNP. Currently the ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB) as the Secretariat of ASEAN Heritage Park Programme is liaising with Viet Nam to further process the submission for consideration and recommendation to AWGNCB.

Action Points;

- The component should follow up on the status of the NAP to encourage approval by Ministries/Prime Minister of Viet Nam Government before the Review meeting in September 2012.
- Viet Nam should provide RPEA and other participating countries a translated copy of the green contract and share the idea of the green contract.
- ASEC to follow up on the UMTNP nomination as ASEAN Heritage Park. Other countries to consider designation of peatland area as ASEAN heritage site.
- Viet Nam to send SEApeat work plan by 20 July 2012.
- Complete the drafting of the five-year master plan of UMTNP (2013-2018).
- All countries are encouraged to nominate the pilot sites as ASEAN Heritage park if applicable.

AGENDA ITEM 4: PROGRESS OF REGIONAL COMPONENT

20. RPEA presented the progress of Regional Component of the Project, as in **ANNEX 8**. The Meeting noted the significant progress and outputs produced under the Regional Component.

21. The Meeting noted that RPEA will compile all various studies and findings from the workshops related to best management practices to showcase efforts have been done in the region. All works have been done would be uploaded on the portal.

22. RPEA will continue working with Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) to finalise the guidelines for best management practices of existing palm oil cultivation on peatlands and guidelines for best management practices to maintain and rehabilitate natural vegetation associated with peat swamp forests.

Action Points:

- The website will be updated regularly. Moreover, all project documents will be posted on the portal. RPEA will provide guidance to log in to the portal to access the documents.
- RPEA will promote various awareness materials produced as well as products developed by other organisations such as the video of haze hell over Asia.

AGENDA ITEM 6: PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION ISSUES/UPDATES AND FOLLOW UP

a. Finalisation of Financial, Technical (SAPR Jan-June 2012) and PIR Report

22. The Meeting agreed that the Semi-Annual Progress Report (SAPR) should focus more on strategic issues and quantify information that relates to monitoring of progress towards targets. SAPR Jan-June 2012 shall be kept simple and should be submitted to IFAD by 20 August 2012 accompanied by financial report showing expenditures according to accounting categories and outcomes.

Action Points:

- All Components to provide their SAPR and financial statement January-June 2012 to RPEA by 20 July at latest

b. 2011 Audit Report Submission

23. The Meeting noted that the 2011 audit report for all components have been submitted to IFAD on 29 June 2012 together with the summary of audited financial statements, as in **Annex 6B**.

c. Review of Progress in Meeting Indicators/Targets in M&E Plan

24. The Meeting noted the updates on progress in meeting indicators and targets in LFA as in **ANNEX 6C**. Each component should identify specific actions or milestones to support implementation of the plan. The Meeting also discussed the need for any specific reports related to monitoring and timing for any internal monitoring missions for 2012 and also inter-relation between the LFA and progress reporting for work on the ground.

25. The Meeting agreed that all components must start filling up the LFA including compiling number of publication on media related to peat issues and also making list of third parties using APFP material for training.

Action Points:

- Revised LFA/indicators to be sent to components and IFAD by 20 July 2012.
- RPEA to circulate a data sheet for countries to provide information for selected indicators by 20 July 2012.
- Components to collect/provide data related to the indicators and targets by 15 August 2012.
- RPEA to prepare a Mid-term summary of progress in meeting the overall indicators based on the feedback from components by 1 September 2012.
- Success stories and achievements from the pilot sites and project should be documented and highlighted by all components.

d. Review of status of co-financing

26. The Meeting noted that each component is required to prepare a co-financing plan for 2012. Although the governments of participating countries have agreed to co-finance the project, all co-funding sources (other ministries, NGOs, privates, or other donors) should be identified. Co-funding should be indicated as part of the APWB submitted to the PSC and later reported in the co-financing statement submitted together with the accounts. Activities that have been identified during the project development stage can be listed as the co-funding. An example of a completed co-financing statement is in **ANNEX 6D**.

Action Points:

- Country to submit revised co-financing plan for 2012 and updated co-financing report for 2009-2011 by 20 July to RPEA

AGENDA ITEM 7: SPECIFIC DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND OUTPUTS OF THE REGIONAL COMPONENT AND RELATED COUNTRY ACTIVITIES

a. Update of the Development of FDRS

27. The Meeting noted the updates of the development of FDRS by Malaysian Meteorological Department (MMD) as in **ANNEX 7a**. At the recent 13th TWG Meeting held on 7 May 2012 in Brunei Darussalam, the Ministers noted with appreciation the significant progress in developing national FDRS in Malaysia and Indonesia. Other MSC countries have expressed their interest to consider establishing their national FDRS with the assistance of Malaysia and Indonesia. Considering the usefulness of the FDRS, the Ministers agreed to recommend the development of the proposed ASEAN-wide FDRS to the ASEAN Leaders.

28. The Malaysian and ASEAN- wide FDRS maps are currently also displayed using Google Earth. Both Malaysia and Indonesia have further refined their systems by integrating weather data and ground conditions such as fire prone peat areas, installing more automatic weather stations to improve further the resolution of FDRS, and improving the short term and medium term forecasts. As now Myanmar is providing data, the resolution of the ASEAN-wide FDRS maps has been improved.

Action Points:

- MMD will continue to follow up with Canada on updated software and training options
- Countries to increase the number of weather stations providing data for use in the FDRS.

- MMD to redefine fire danger (severity) code
- MMD to work with DOE to include FDRS in the Malaysian SOP for fire prevention and open burning.
- MMD to liaise with Malaysia Component and RPEA on options for short-term budget support for FDRS related activities.
- ASEC to send a formal letter to Malaysia/MMD to convey the importance of FDRS at the regional level and the need to maintain and enhance the FDRS.
- ASEC and RPEA together with Indonesia and Malaysia to work out proposals for additional funding requirements for FDRS
- Indonesia will share the map of peatland distribution developed using remote sensing and provide a time series of distribution and trends of hotspots on peatland areas.
- All components should promote the use of FDRS and set up national system to disseminate FDRS warnings.
- ASEC/MMD follow up with Cambodia to provide weather data to enable full FDRS to be prepared

b. Follow up action of the framework for incentives for sustainable management of peatlands in SEA

29. The Meeting noted the report on incentives and the proposed road map for introducing economic incentives for peatlands conservation in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Viet Nam as in **ANNEX 7b**.

Action Points:

- The focus for follow up of incentives should include options for a) government incentives/regulations; b) private sector – e.g. certification/cess/rehabilitation fund etc c) community level – e.g. sustainable agriculture/ecotourism; green contract and Buy a living tree scheme.
- All countries to explore and identify appropriate incentive mechanisms to be used for sites and or country level and inform the RPEA by 15 September
- RPEA and relevant components to continue to document and share experience and lessons learned with REDD+/climate financing and encourage REDD+ activities at the pilot sites.
- All countries to provide feedback (if any) on the draft report by 31 July.

c. Follow up on the SEA Peat site Network and Peat site directory

30. The Meeting noted the update on Southeast Asia (SEA) Peat Network and updates from country on the draft of country peatland directory as in **ANNEX 7c**.

31. The Meeting acknowledged that the map of peatland distribution in Indonesia already developed through remote sensing. Ground-truthing should be done for

biodiversity survey and status of peatland management, not for basic distribution of peatlands. Satellite images combined with ground-truthing will create a reliable map and information source.

Action Points:

- All countries to develop and provide GIS maps to show the peatland extent and establish a web-based interface for sharing information on peat sites etc
- Indonesia to take the lead to test/showcase the approach in coordination with RPEA, other countries to follow; Malaysia to start with Peninsular Malaysia
- Philippines to focus on pilot site and providing details of the additional peatland sites identified in the assessments
- Vietnam to focus on ground-truthing the existing maps.

d. Photography Contest – “Our Precious Peatlands”

32. The Meeting noted that the photography contest titled “Our Precious Peatlands” was launched during the Workshop on Enhancing Sustainability of Forestry Practices held on 27 June 2012 in Bogor, Indonesia, with attractive cash and prizes totaling worth USD 9,350. As one of the peatlands awareness raising activities, the contest will start from 1 July 2012 to 30 September 2012 and open to all nationalities but photos must be taken from the peatlands in Southeast Asia.

Action Points:

- Each component should promote the Photography Contest – ‘Our Precious Peatlands’ by translating where necessary, distributing information on the competition and promoting it through the projects sites or any other peatland areas and activities.
- Each country should identify by the end of July a focal person to whom queries about the competition can be sent and a judge (with understanding of photography and peatlands) who can be involved in the final selection.

e. Review of implementation of the APMS

33. The Meeting noted the draft proposal for review of the APMS and its implementation as in **ANNEX 7e**. One of the APFP activities is to review the APMS and the progress after 5 years of its implementation in the ASEAN region.

Action Points:

- Each country to undertake an internal review of the implementation of APMS/NAP and provide to RPEA by 15 September 2012.
- A meeting to review the progress with the APMS scheduled on 22-23 September 2012 in Bangkok back-to-back with 8th Meeting of the Conference

of the Parties (COP-8) to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze and Pollution (AATHP).

- A report will be made to AATHP on the progress with the APFP and any recommendations for enhancement of its implementation.
- ASEC to formally write to all relevant ASEAN countries to inform them of the review of the APMS and the need for completion and promotion of the NAPs where appropriate.

AGENDA ITEM 8: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF THE APFP PROJECT

34. The Meeting noted that the Project Director had sent a request letter on 1 May 2012 to IFAD justifying the extension till December 2014. As of 4 July 2012, IFAD has drafted a formal extension request letter to be lodged with Global Environment Facility (GEF) as in **ANNEX 8**. A clear timetable for completion of the project is needed so the participating countries can incorporate the time frame in their planning now and in the preparation of the 2013 work plan which will need to start in September 2012 for consideration at the PSC in November 2012. It was also agreed that countries with slow implementation to date must set in place measures to speed up progress.

Action Points:

- ASEC should request IFAD to proceed with the request for extension

AGENDA ITEM 9: PROPOSED CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR JULY-DECEMBER 2012.

35. The Meeting agreed on the schedule for the remainder of 2012 as in **ANNEX 9**. The workshop on resource mobilization and incentive options carbon financing will be re-scheduled to 2013 as it is premature to have a workshop this year. An additional meeting on the APMS was agreed to be held in September 2012.

Action Points:

- The RPEA should circulate the revised calendar should be circulated to components and included on the website
- Components should notify the RPEA on their calendar of events for the rest of 2012.

AGENDA ITEM 10: PROPOSED ARRANGEMENT FOR MID-TERM REVIEW NOVEMBER 2012

36. The Meeting discussed proposed arrangement of Mid-Term Review (**ANNEX 10**). The APFP Mid-Term Review (MTR) is scheduled for a month in November 2012 prior to the 4th Project Steering Committee (PSC) Meeting. Based on IFAD's request, the MTR will visit all components and all sites to meet not only the Project Coordination Unit (PCU) but also relevant stakeholders and review the progress and

achievements against the project indicators and targets. In case of poor performance and institutional problems, the MTR can recommend significant changes to the project design or implementation strategy. Some comments were made on the TOR of the MTR in particular to ensure that the assessment and reporting frameworks were appropriate for a regional project with highly diverse activities. It was also agreed that the appointment of consultant should be first consulted with ASEAN Secretariat. A draft schedule for the MTR was discussed as in **Annex 10**.

Action Points:

- RPEA to submit further comments on the TOR of the MTR to IFAD on behalf of the project.
- RPEA to circulate the draft schedule for the MTR visits to components and fine-tune the potential schedule based on potential logistic arrangements.
- The country components to make necessary preparations for the visit of the MTR team.

AGENDA ITEM 11: Preparation for the PMM7 and Fourth Project Steering Committee Meeting in Indonesia in November 2012(PSC 4)

37. The Meeting agreed that the next PMM/PSC would be held in Pontianak on 5-7 November 2012.

Action points:

- RPEA in coordination with ASEC and Indonesia to finalise and circulate invitation and agenda.
- All components to organise their national NPIC meetings and prepare their AWPB for 2013 sufficiently before the PSC meeting.

AGENDA 13: OTHER MATTERS – NEXT STEPS

38. RPEA and ASEC to explore options of additional funding to support further implementation activities – e.g. Japan fund.

Acknowledgements

39. The delegates expressed their appreciation to the Forestry Department of Peninsular Malaysia, the Selangor State forestry Department, and the RPEA for the arrangements made for the meeting. The delegates also expressed appreciation to the ASEAN Secretariat for the support provided for the Meeting.

40. The Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN cooperation and cordiality.

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