

Draft Minutes

4th SEApeat Project Coordination Meeting

23 April 2014, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

The meeting was held in Hotel Pullman Kuala Lumpur Bangsar and attended by 40 representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam; IFAD, ASEAN Secretariat and Global Environment Centre as the Project Implementing Agency. The participants list is in **Annex 1**.

Welcome remarks were provided by Mr Faizal Parish as Project Director and Chairman of the meeting. He remarked that the project is scheduled to run through 2014 and the possibility of extending the project period to 2015. He highlighted the development of a collaborative programme with ASEAN which will be discussed later in the week.

1. Introduction and confirmation of Agenda

The Agenda as in **Annex 2** was introduced and accepted by the meeting.

2. Confirmation of PCM3 Meeting Minutes and Matters Arising

The meeting discussed and updated the matters arising as in **Annex 3**.

3. Progress Update of SEApeat activities for Implementation of 2014 Workplan

a. Regional

Mr Fuad Shariff presented the progress of the Regional component as in **Annex 4**.

Action 1: Country components to share information from surveys and peatland sites to be compiled in the peatland database.

b. Indonesia

Mr Hisam Setiawan presented the progress for Riau as in **Annex 5**. The Riau component was commended for preventing fires at Harapan Jaya during the recent drought and also for obtaining national recognition for creating internet access for information sharing at the project site.

c. **Lao PDR**

Mr Khonekeo Kingkhambang presented the proposed future activities for Lao PDR as in **Annex 6**. The details will be discussed later in the day.

Action 2: Lao PDR to follow up with GEC to confirm details of peatland assessments in 2014

d. **Malaysia**

Mr Nagarajan Rengasamy presented the progress for Malaysia as shown in **Annex 7**. Among the updates was on a fire that affected the current rehabilitation site in Raja Musa Forest Reserve. In addition, Sime Darby Berhad (a plantation group) has agreed to initiate a new rehabilitation area on a 4 km stretch along its boundary with Raja Musa Forest Reserve.

Action 3: A rehabilitation plan to be developed for the area affected by Fire in Raja Musa FR.

e. **Myanmar**

U Sann Lwin presented the progress in Myanmar as in **Annex 8**. The Myanmar team was congratulated for their discovery, in February 2014, of 9000ha of peatlands in Inle Lake basin including the rare calcareous mound spring and the forested peatlands in Southern Myanmar in March 2014.

Action 4: Myanmar component to provide further information for a newsletter article on the forested peatlands.

f. **Philippines**

Ms Armida Andres presented the progress for the Philippines as in **Annex 9**.

SEApeat funds were used in the Philippines to augment APFP funds. This includes training for eco-guides, research, and other activities. The Philippines component is planning to print the handbook on peatland Flora. The Chairman commended them for the good progress that was made with multi- agency engagement and innovative financing mechanisms. Good rehabilitation efforts also took place to repair the damage caused by typhoon Haiyan/Yolanda.

g. Thailand

Dr Prasert Sornsathpornkul presented the progress in Thailand as in **Annex 10**.

Thailand is working on endorsing its National Action Plan and enhancing their community engagement in forest fire prevention and fire-fighting. The Chairman commended them on the impressive range of activities which were implemented in a short time frame.

Action 5: Thailand to provide a summary translation of the NAP to GEC.

Action 6: The option of organising a workshop to share experience from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia on community based firefighting should be explored in the remainder of the SEApeat project or the future programme.

h. Vietnam

Dr Le Phat Quoi presented the progress in Vietnam as in **Annex 11**. Much focus was put on the Green Contract with 30 households in the buffer zone of U Minh Thuong and U Minh Ha National Parks. In cooperation with SNV, a training on Sustainable management was held in U Minh region. Ecotourism in both parks are developing positively. The number of visitors to UMT has increased by 20% thanks to increased publicity after being declared an ASEAN Heritage Park (AHP).

Action 7: Viet Nam to share information on AHP application and the benefits for the reference of other countries who wish to nominate their peatland areas for AHP status.

4. Project management and administration

a. Proposed extension to 2015

With efficiency and prudence plus the rise in Euro value and cost effective activities, considerable funds have been saved. Therefore, GEC will be proposing to the EU a 6-9 months extension of the project until mid-2015. Activities could be extended until March 2015, with the remaining time spent wrapping up.

Action 8: GEC to prepare a proposal for extension. Countries to provide feedback by 15 May regarding potential activities to include in the project extension period at country level.

b. Coordination between APFP and SEApeat in project completion period

Linkage is also important between APFP and SEApeat especially in those (Indonesia, Malaysia and VietNam) countries where different agencies are implementing the two projects - to enable a smooth transition between completion of APFP activities in June 2014 and any follow-on by SEApeat activities – especially related to fire prevention.

Action 9: APFP and SEApeat coordinators to continue to coordinate closely on the transition in July 2014.

c. Progress against LFA

A draft paper on progress against the LFA to March 2014 was presented (**Annex 12**).

Action 10: All countries were requested to provide updates to GEC for the LFA table by 15 May especially in relation to results at the site level.

d. Fund advances

The chairman informed the meeting that as per the project guidelines, EU will only be advancing 90% of the funds to GEC and the participating countries. Partners will need to advance the final 10% of the expenses and reclaim it afterwards.

Action 11: Components must indicate to GEC by 15 May if they will have any problems to advance the final 10% of their component funds and seek reimbursement later.

5. Other matters – next steps & Wrap Up

a. Next meeting

The next SEApeat meeting will be held back to back with the closing workshop of APFP tentatively at the end of October 2014.

Action 12: GEC to confirm the date of the next SEApeat Project management meeting