

**Summary of the Report of the 4th Steering Committee meeting of Phatam Project, held
in Bangkok on 7th September 2004**



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Project title	PD 15/00 Rev. 2 (F) Management of the Phatam Protected Forest Complex to promote cooperation for transboundary biodiversity conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos (Phase 1)
Country	Thailand
Implementing agency	Royal Forestry Department (RFD)
ITTO contribution to budget	USD 629,624.-
Contribution of the Royal Government of Thailand	USD 281,430.-
Donors countries	Japan, Switzerland, The Netherlands, USA
Duration	2 years
Starting date	October 2001.

The fourth meeting of the Steering Committee of the above project took place on 7 September 2004 in Bangkok. Dr. Charunee Vongkaluang, advisor, Royal Forest Department of Thailand, chaired it. Participants included the senior officials of the Thai Royal Forest Department, ITTO representative, Donor representatives (Switzerland, USA), a representative of the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in Thailand, project senior staff. The main point of the agenda was an exchange of views on the progress report, an analysis of the project's accomplishments since its inception, the discussion of the work plan and budget, and exchange of information on the status of the proposal for Phase II.

On the progress made so far, the PSC noted with great satisfaction that the project has accomplished all its outputs as planned. These outputs include consultants' reports on GIS, socio-economic, Forest ecology, Wildlife ecology, Human resources Development and Research program aspects. The Executing agency also successfully submitted to ITTO a proposal for the second phase under the title "*Management of the Emerald Triangle Protected Forests Complex to Promote Cooperation for Transboundary Biodiversity Conservation between Thailand, Cambodia and Laos*". The proposal, which was jointly presented by Thailand and Cambodia, was based on the Management Plan also elaborated by the Project. It was ranked Category I by the Expert Panel of ITTO and will be considered for the respective Council Committee in December 2004. The PSC approved the progress report, the financial report and the Yearly Plan of Operation.

After the PSC meeting, the senior officials of the Royal Forest Department, and the ITTO and Donors representative (Switzerland) visited the project zone. One of the sites they visited is Buntrik-Yodmon, an area that has been added to the Phatam Protected Forest Complex. This will turn the Complex into a continuous protected area along the border with Laos and Cambodia. In the previous PSC meeting it had been agreed that the area of Buntrik-Yodmon be include in the project area and be covered by the Management Plan to be elaborated.

The overall conclusion from the PSC meeting and the field visit is that the first phase of the Project has been successfully implemented. The successful submission of the 2nd phase proposal shows the continued commitment of the Governments of Thailand and Cambodia to manage the Emerald Triangle Protected Area within a trans-boundary conservation area framework.