

**Summary of the Report of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of ITTO Project PD 195/03 Rev. 2(F) “TO Establish a National Monitoring Information System for the Effective Conservation and Sustainable Management of Thailand’s Forest Resources”, 8<sup>th</sup> August 2005, Bangkok, Thailand**

by James K. Gasana, Intercooperation, Bern

<b>Project title</b>	PD 195/03 Rev. 2(F) “To Establish a National Monitoring Information System for the Effective Conservation and Sustainable Management of Thailand’s Forest Resources”
<b>Country</b>	Thailand
<b>Implementing agency</b>	Department of National Park, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (DNP)
<b>ITTO contribution to budget</b>	USD 677’743.-
<b>Donors countries</b>	Japan, Switzerland, USA
<b>Duration</b>	3 years
<b>Starting date</b>	June 2004

The second meeting of the Steering Committee of the above project took place on 8 August 2005 in Bangkok. It was chaired by Mr. Preecha Valeepitakdej, Director of Protected Area Restoration and Development Office of the DNP. Participants included the senior officials of the Thai Royal Forest Department, ITTO representative, and a representative of the Swiss Secretariat of State for Economic Affairs (**seco**). The main points of the agenda were the Project progress since the 1<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting, the financial report and the Second Yearly Plan of Operation (YPO).

On the progress made so far, the PSC noted with great satisfaction that the project was accomplishing all its outputs as planned. The work program and associated budget as presented in the Second YPO were thoroughly discussed by the Committee participants. The meeting adopted this YPO as presented by the Executing Agency (EA), with proposed restructuring to enable the successful implementation of the Project and achieving the planned outputs and objectives.

The committee made the following decisions and recommendations regarding project implementation:

1. The Committee recommended that the Executing Agency submit hard copies and a digital copy of Technical Report No 1 and any other future technical reports to ITTO.
2. The Committee decided to accept the first year progress report vis-à-vis YPO 1 Activities 1.3 & 2.2, including the inputs applied, as presented by the EA.
3. The Committee endorsed the crew restructuring proposed by the EA, and intended to reduce field plot establishment cost and to achieve the Project Outputs in the most efficient way.
4. The Committee decided to adopt the Second YPO/work programme and associated budget, as presented by the Executing Agency, subject to modifications to the Work Plan Figure 1.

5. The Committee endorsed the proposal by the EA to pilot test the EFDRs (electronic field data recorders) as justified and outlined in the YPO 2. The source of finance for this pilot project is the budget of \$15,000 initially planned for the purchase of the PDAs.
6. The Committee decided to adopt the Project proposal that any remaining funds that had been earmarked for equipment purchase be used to supplement gasoline purchases for the Project field trucks as necessary, provided the equipment and gasoline are within the same Consumables Item of the budget. The EA will duly request ITTO to approve these budget changes.
7. The Committee recommended that the EA in addition to the planned national workshop, also consider organizing prior to Ex-post Evaluation, an international workshop to share the experience gained from the Project and to learn from other countries the alternative or complementary approaches.
8. The Committee urged the EA to continue to implement the Project in accordance with the rules and procedures applying to ITTO projects as elaborated by Dr. Sidabutar.

A field trip was successfully organized for the PSC members to Khao Yai National Park on 9 August 2005. The representatives from ITTO and Switzerland (seco) accompanied by the Project National Experts and International Consultant visited two Project permanent plots established at the national park. The PSC members acknowledged the benefits of the visit in so far as being able to see the activities on the ground.

The tree resources-outside-forest (TROF) project proposal PD 376/05 (F,M) submitted to ITTO by the Government of Thailand was also discussed during the field visit. The PSC members recognized that the proposed TROF project, with some modifications, would be beneficial and could take advantage of the methodology, tools and results of the current Project, resulting in cost savings and wider use of the results. For example, through the proposed project:

- Enhancement of the sampling in the areas outside the gazetted forest estate, by intensifying this Project's 20 x 20 km grid, would increase the precision of the estimates of the baseline inventory and production potential of economic tree species (such as teak and Dipterocarp) and non-timber products (NTFP) in the private tree and forest areas.
- Collection of additional soil information could be used to fine tune guidelines for tree and NTFP species selection for planting in areas outside forests.
- Collection of direct and more detailed socio-economic data from the villages in specific areas (e.g., sub districts), would increase the accuracy of data and strengthen the derived relationships between, for example, socio-economic conditions and deforestation, to support land use and economic planning at the sub district level.

This additional information from the proposed project would be used to formulate national policies such as incentives for promoting private afforestation and reforestation, to support the national timber and NTFP economy and to improve the livelihoods of the rural people. The PSC members endorsed the proposed TROF project.

A full overview on the progress can be consulted in a PowerPoint presentation asking [jgasana@intercooperation.ch](mailto:jgasana@intercooperation.ch).