

**MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT
BETWEEN**

THE PROVINCIAL PEOPLE'S COMMITTEE OF KIEN GIANG PROVINCE (S.R. VIET NAM)

AND

THE GOVERNOR OF KAMPOT PROVINCE (KINGDOM OF CAMBODIA)

1. PARTIES.

1.1 This Memorandum of Agreement is entered into between the People's Committee of Kien Giang Province (Viet Nam) and Governor of Kampot Province (Cambodia)

2. BACKGROUND.

2.1 The transboundary waters (see the map in Annex 1) between the two provinces of Kien Giang (Viet Nam) and Kampot (Cambodia) are located in the eastern portion of the Gulf of Thailand. The coastline of the two provinces is 295 km in length, including 95 km in Kampot Province and 200 km in Kien Giang Province.

2.2 The coastal waters are characterised by coastal tropical ecosystems, including seagrass, coral reefs and mangroves. These habitats support high species richness of marine organisms; a large number of spawning and nursery grounds; and shared stocks of migratory species. The rich variety and high productivity of the marine living resources in the area provide livelihoods not only for coastal communities' resident in both provinces but also for fishermen from other areas. Coastal habitats have been used for development of tourism in both sides. The coastal zone and associated marine waters, therefore, play an important role in the socio-economic development of both provinces. In addition, joint management of the ecosystems and associated resources in this area will contribute to regional efforts in environmental management of the South China Sea due to the regionally significant seagrass beds, marine biodiversity and fisheries.

2.3 In the framework of the UNEP GEF Project entitled "*Reversing environment degradation trends of the South China Sea and Gulf of Thailand*", the transboundary demonstration site projects in Phu Quoc (Kien Giang, Viet Nam) and Prek Ampil (Kampot, Cambodia) have been under execution since 2005. An outstanding outcome of these demonstration site projects is the establishment of a mechanism for long-term, joint management in the transboundary waters. The management teams of both demonstration sites, through joint meetings with the participation of provincial leaders, have agreed to develop a policy and framework for cooperation in the management of coastal ecosystems and natural resources between the two provinces.

3. PURPOSE.

3.1 Under this Memorandum of Agreement the two parties agree to implement ***the policy and framework for cooperation in management of coastal ecosystems and natural resources between the provinces of Kien Giang (Viet Nam) and Kampot (Cambodia)*** in order to strengthen environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, and welfare of each province. The policy and operational framework are attached as Annex I, which forms a part of this Memorandum.

4. EXECUTION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 The policy and framework are developed on the principles of cooperation, equality and joint development and are intended to reflect the overall goal of the UNEP/GEF project "Reversing Environmental Degradation Trends in South China Sea and Thailand Gulf", namely *"to create an environment at the regional level, in which collaboration and partnership in addressing environmental problems of the South China Sea, between all stakeholders, and at all levels is fostered and encouraged; and to enhance the capacity of the participating governments to integrate environmental considerations into national development planning"*;

4.2 Each province will nominate a focal point group with responsibility for organizing activities in order to fulfil the terms of this agreement that will operate under the guidance of the provincial leaders;

4.3 The initial period of validity of this Memorandum of Agreement is from the date of signature to December 2012 and it may be extended thereafter by mutual consent. At that time the policy and framework may be amended or expanded as considered necessary;

4.4 In the event of problems arising from the execution of this agreement the affected partner will inform the other 60 days in advance of joint discussions to identify appropriate solutions;

4.5 This Memorandum of Agreement does not relate to, nor is it intended as a forum for discussion and/or resolution of any boundary disagreements that might exist between the two countries of Viet Nam and Cambodia;

4.6 This Memorandum of Agreement is made in 12 originals in 3 languages (Vietnamese, Khmer and English) having equal value, in the event of any differences arising from the interpretation of the Khmer or Vietnamese text, the English text shall take precedence.

The Memorandum of Agreement is made in Kampot, on 27th March 2008




H.E. Mr. Le Huu Hung
Chairman
Provincial People's Committee
of Kien Giang Province, Viet Nam



H.E. Mr. Chuong Siv Vuth
Deputy Governor
Kampot Province,
Cambodia

witnessed by



Dr. John C. Pernetta
Project Director
UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project

ANNEX 1

POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION IN THE MANAGEMENT OF COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

BETWEEN THE PROVINCES OF KIEN GIANG (VIET NAM) AND KAMPOT (CAMBODIA)

BACKGROUND

The transboundary waters between the Provinces of Kien Giang (Viet Nam) and Kampot (Cambodia) are located in the eastern portion of the Gulf of Thailand (Figure 1). The coastlines of the two provinces totals 295 km, including 95 km in Kampot Province and 200 km in Kien Giang Province.

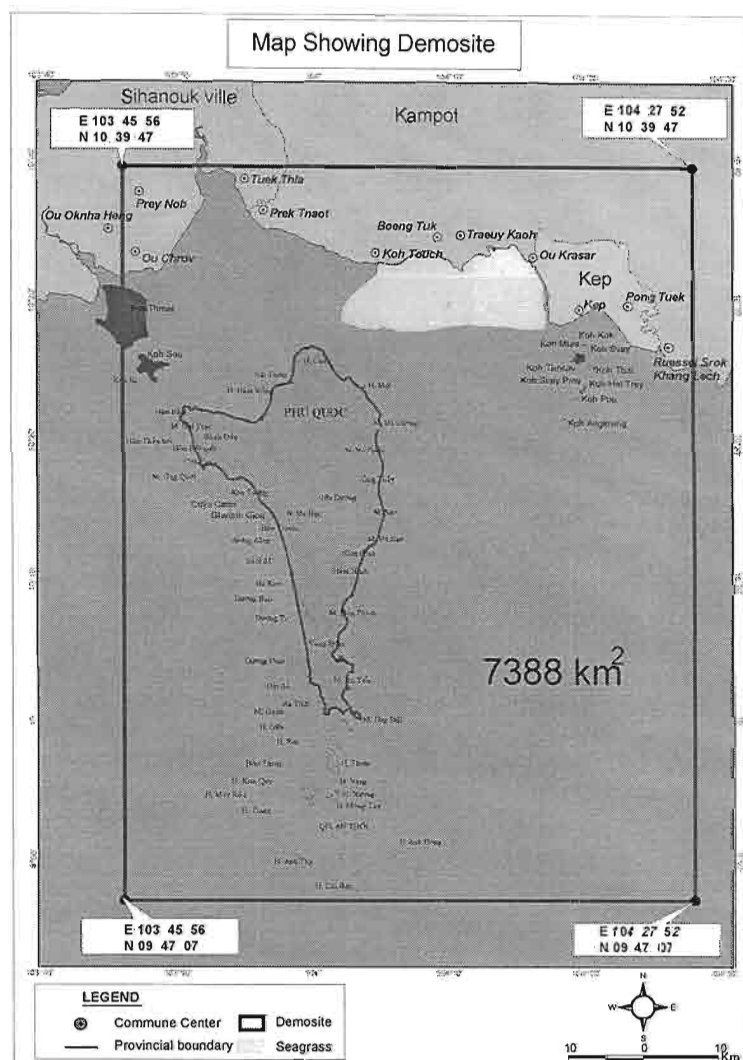


Figure 1. Map of transboundary waters between the Provinces of Kien Giang, Viet Nam and Kampot, Cambodia (the area covered by this co-operative framework does not include areas under the jurisdiction of Krong Preah Sihanouk – Sihanoukville Municipality)

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zone and associated marine waters, therefore, play an important role in the socio-economic development of both provinces. In addition, joint management of the ecosystems and associated resources in this area will contribute to regional efforts in environmental management of the South China Sea due to the regionally significant seagrass beds, marine biodiversity and fisheries.

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COASTAL HABITATS AND ASSOCIATED RESOURCES IN THE TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

Coastal habitats

The transboundary waters between two provinces have favourable physical conditions for development of tropical shallow water ecosystems such as seagrass beds, coral reefs and mangroves and as the result, support abundant living resources. Based on initial assessments, the seagrass area in these transboundary waters is more than 27,000ha including 12,000ha in Kien Giang and more than 25,000ha in Kampot Province, making them the most extensive in the South China Sea. The seagrass meadows in Kampot are located parallel to the coastline of Prek Ampil, extending 150-300m off-shore the widest extent lies in front of Bokor National Park. The area has a gentle slope with seagrass occurring at depths from 1 – 4m. Seagrass beds in Kien Giang Province are mainly distributed in shallow coastal waters of the archipelagos of Hai Tac, Ba Lua and Phu Quoc.

Based on recent taxonomic surveys (Vibol, 2006, Nguyen Xuan Hoa *et al.*, 2006) 10 seagrass species have been identified in the transboundary waters, including: *Enhalus acoroides*, *Halophila decipiens*, *Halophila minor*, *Halophila ovalis*, *Thalassia hemprichii*, *Cymodocea rotundata*, *Cymodocea serrulata*, *Halodule pinifolia*, *Halodule uninervis*, *Syringodium isoetifolium*. Only 18 species of seagrass in total are recorded from the coastal waters of the South China Sea (UNEP, 2004). The data collected in Phu Quoc indicates that richness of associated species of the seagrass beds is high: 113 species of macro-algae; 71 species of mollusc; 26 species of crustaceans; 19 species of Annelids; and 15 species of echinoderms. The preliminary surveys in Kampot have recorded 10 crustaceans, 100 gastropods, 7 sea urchins and 16 seaweed species.

Based on research conducted by staff of the Cambodia Fisheries Administration (FiA) in 2002 the total coral reef area in Kampot occupies 953 ha, forming a flat fringing reef with two areas connecting to the seagrass meadow. The first is located in front of Prek Kdat, which has about 31 ha and the second extends from Prek Kdat in the east to Prek Koh Torch. The average live coral cover for the whole coastline was estimated to be 23% to 58%, consisting of 17 species. The reefs are generally reported to be in poor health, with low species diversity dominated by massive forms (Mam, 2001).

Remote sensing and ground-truthing using manta-tows indicates that the total coral reef area in Phu Quoc waters is more than 470ha, of which 360ha (76%) is located in the southern An Thoi islands. Live coral cover averages 44.5%. A total of 260 species in 49 genera of reef-building corals are recorded in Phu Quoc waters. The list of coral reef fish includes 152 species in 71 genera. The coral reefs of Phu Quoc are very diverse in terms of species of grouper but less diverse in butterfly fishes when compared with other locations in Viet Nam. Recent surveys found 48 species of macro-molluscs, 25 species of echinoderms, including 18 species of holothurians and 53 species of macro-algae.

Mangrove forests are found along much of the coast of Kampot but the most extensive stands are found in the estuarine area of Prek Kampot. Approximately 7,900 ha of mangrove are found in Kampot Province and Kep City compared with an estimated 17,400 hectare in 1970 (FAO, 2004). The major causes of these losses appear to result from over-exploitation for charcoal, and firewood and removal for construction of salt pans which cover an area of 3,334 hectares resulting in annual salt production of between seventy and eighty thousand tones of salt. Some reforestation has been undertaken through the DANIDA project.

An initial list of 42 mangrove species belonging to 20 families have been identified from Cambodia whilst a study of the ecology of mangrove conducted in Prek Thanott commune, Kampot District, Kampot Province, recorded 10 species, from 6 families the most extensive being *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Avicennia officinalis*, and *Sonneratia alba*. The forests have a density of 19,479 trees per hectare including saplings and seedlings. The same study reported 30 species from 8 families of gastropods; 2 species from 1 family of bivalve; 9 species from 3 families of crabs, the most abundant being *Perisesarma eumolpe*, *Metaplex sheni*, *Metopograpsus latifrons* and *Perisesarma indiarum*, of the family Grapsidae.

The mangroves of Kien Giang Province have been seriously degraded due to over-exploitation for: stakes used in construction; firewood; charcoal for domestic use; clearance for shrimp ponds; and reclamation for urban construction. Data from a survey in 2006 suggests that only 703.7 ha remain, of which the special-use forest is 54.1 ha, and the protection forest is 649.6 ha. The special-use forest is found in Phu Quoc, and is distributed at the mouth of rivers and streams in the Rach Tram area. Mangrove trees include *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Bruguira gymmorhira*, *Sonneratia alba*, *Lumnitzera racemosa* and of special interest, *Lumnitzera coocinea* which is listed in both the Vietnam Red Book and IUCN'S Red Book. The protection forest is distributed on the mainland coast in the districts of: An Bien (138.7 ha), An Minh (130.7 ha), Ha Tien (19.9 ha), Hon Dat (242.0 ha), Kien Luong (118.3 ha). Plant composition: *Avicennia*, *Rhizophora apiculata*, *Bruguira gymmorhira*, *Sonneratia alba*, and *Excoecaria agallocha*.

Acid sulphate soils of Kien Giang Province occupy 8,191.1 ha belonging to district-town: An Minh (4,554.7 ha), Hon Dat (95.4 ha), Kien Luong (36.6 ha), Phu Quoc (1,422.8 ha), and the flora is dominated by *Melaleuca cajuputi* which occupies about 4,000 ha on peat soil with mud flat of 1.5 - 2.0 m. *Melaleuca* forest in Kien Giang province is found on 3 types of terrain. (1) On year-round flooded land, which is 6-pH, *Melaleuca* plants show a high density but their diameters are not very big ($D_{1,3} = 13$ cm; H = 14 m). (2) On acid sulphate soil mixed with sand, flooded during the rain season *Melaleuca* is found together with drought resistance grass. The trees are thinly scattered with canopy as big as 30 - 40 m. The other plants in *Melaleuca* forest of forest flooded acid sulphate soils are Bui (*Ilex cymosa*), Mop (*Alstonia spathulata*), Dau dau 3 la (*Euodia lepta*), Say (*Phragmites vallatoria*), Nang (*Eleocharis dulcis*), Sung ma (*Nymphaea nouchali*), Beo tai chuot (*Salvinia cucullata*), Bon Bon (*Typha domingensis*). (3) On fixed sand dunes that are rarely flooded, *Melaleuca* plants are mixed with other species and generally show a slow development.

Endangered species

The most important endangered species found in the transboundary waters is the Dugong (*Dugon dugong*) which is frequently encountered in the north and north-east of Phu Quoc island, and also in Kampot coastal areas. According to reports of the Kien Giang Department of Fisheries (2004 – 2005) 5 species of dolphins were recorded in the waters of Kien Giang, including: *Orcaella brevirostris*, *Tursiops aduncus*, *Sousa chinensis*, *Stenella longirostris*, and *Stenella coeruleoalba*. However, the appearance and movement of dolphin schools in transboundary waters are not well documented.

In addition, 3 sea turtle species have been recorded from the area, including: Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) and leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*), of which Green Turtle and hawksbill are more common. Recent surveys in Phu Quoc showed that sea turtles are becoming fewer and that only five nesting beaches are still in use in the Phu Quoc archipelago.

Although no concrete information on endangered species in Kampot waters is available, it is believed that the transboundary waters between the two provinces are critical for the above-mentioned endangered species, which include both migratory species and those which move over considerable distances.

Living resources

Based on the survey conducted in Kampot by Vibol (2007) the majority of the catch is from trawl and mackerel gillnet while the least is from hand push net. The figures show that the catch using motorized fishing boats is stable from January to October and increases from November to December, whilst the catch using non motorized fishing boats or by hand is stable throughout the year.

Based on data analysis the number of fishing households and fishing trips involving motorized fishing boats (motorized trawling boat, mackerel boat, motorized push net boat and beach seine) are stable from January to December, while the number of fishing households and fishing trips for non motorized fishing boats or hand fishing are significantly higher from January to October and lower from November to December.

The average fish catch per fishing household of Kampot is 260 kg. Significantly lower catches are found from July to September (rainy season) and increase significantly in November and December. Based on these figures, an estimated 520 tonnes per month or 6,240 tonnes per year of marine product are harvested from the seagrass beds in Kampot Province. This is equivalent to a value of 7,500,000 USD per year. Based on direct communication with fishing household the catch per unit effort is declining from year to year especially since 2000 due to an increase in the number of fishermen and use of illegal fishing gear. However, the data for total catch in Kampot are not significantly different, ranging from 6,000 – 8,000 tonnes per year.

Phu Quoc is an important landing area and fishing grounds of Kien Giang Province. Total fisheries yield increased from 30,969 tons in 1993 to 50,000 tons in 2000 and 60,246 tons in 2006 (Phu Quoc Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 2006). Together with Nam Du and Tho Chu islands, some large fishing grounds are formed in the area. The main fishing grounds are south of Phu Quoc. The areas of An Thoi and east of Phu Quoc island are important squids and crab spawning ground. The peak fishing season in Phu Quoc region is from November to March.

Finfish are the main contributors to the total fisheries production landed. At least, 67 species of teleost fish are caught in the area, of which representatives from the families Carangidae, Scombridae, Hemirhamphidae, Serranidae, Lutjanidae, Lethrinidae and Synodontidae. Many trevallies, jacks such as *Canrangoides ferdau*, *Caranx sexfasciatus*, *Selaroides leptolepis* and *Atule kalla*, mackerels *Rastrelliger kanagurta* and *Scomberomorus commersonii*, scad *Decapterus* and anchovies *Stolephorus* are the representatives in pelagic fisheries. A total of mackerels and anchovies landed in 2001 was about 3,500 and 12,500 tons respectively (Data from Phu Quoc Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, 2001).

Anchovy with two key species *Spratelloides gracilis* and *Stolephorus indicus*, key materials in making fish sauce, occupied the relatively high rate in pelagic fish, especially around Phu Quoc waters. 13,680 tonnes of anchovy were exploited in Kien Giang province in 2005 (source: Kien Giang Department of Fisheries, 2006). Productions of other resource are quite high with 30,047 tons shrimp and 29,537 tons cuttlefish and 220,799 tons fish caught in 2006 (source: Kien Giang Department of Fisheries, 2007).

In addition to fish invertebrates are important targets to reef fisheries. Pearl oysters *Pinctada mertensi* and *P. maxima*, abalone *Haliotis ovina* and scallops *Chlamys nobilis* and *C. irregularis* were exploited for food and jewelry. Information interviewed from the local fishermen showed that the number of *Pinctada maxima* caught at the depth of 20 - 40 m by four hookah divers reached 50 - 60 kg within 5 days. Lobsters *Panulirus* have also become the important species to the fisheries.

The results of local consultation in the framework of the pilot fisheries refugia of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project presented the abundance of resources in seagrass beds of Ham Ninh area with high annual production of swimming crab (196 tons), *Strombus* snail (9-18 tons), cuttlefish (22 tons), Octopus (80 tons), rabbitfish (9 tons) and shrimp (9 tons). Seahorse is an important resource of these seagrass beds, but over-exploited with production only 120kg per annum. The studies in the framework of Phu Quoc Demonstration Site (UNEP, 2006) showed that grouper (Serranidae), including 2 dominant species *Cephalopholis boenak* and *Cephalopholis formosa* are an important resource around Phu Quoc archipelago. Parrotfish (Scaridae) and Fusilier (Caesionidae), including *Caesio cuning*, *Caesio terres*, and *Pterocaesio tessellata* are also significant resources in coral reef areas.

THREATS TO AND DEGRADATION OF AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES

Over-exploitation

Increase in the number of fishing boats and better fishing gear causes increasing pressure on the resources and habitats that could lead to decline in fish stocks and yields. In Kampot, even though no concrete-scientific data are available to prove that stocks are over-exploited status; everybody from local fisherman to high officials admit that this is occurring. Most fishermen complaint that their daily catch decreases year by year and they have to increase the number of fishing gear to get the same catch.

The reports of Kien Giang Department of Fisheries show that fisheries production increased annually but catch per unit effort (kg/CV) reduced quickly, from an average of 1.563 tones/CV in 1985 to 0.273 tones/CV in 2006 (5.7 times less). Recent studies in the framework of the Phu Quoc Demonstration Site also suggest that over-exploitation is occurring in that large sized fish and costly edible fish species are rare or not observed in the surveyed reefs. Fish group with small size of 1 – 10 cm occupied more 90%, increasing 10% compared with that in 2000 (Nguyen Xuan Hoa *et al.*, 2005). The production of valuable species in seagrass beds such as swimming crabs, *Strombus* snails, sea cucumbers, sea horses, are gradually reduced.

Illegal fishing

Trawling, which is not allowed in the near shore waters as regulation of Cambodia and Viet Nam, commonly occurs on seagrass beds and shallow waters of both Kampot and Kien Giang provinces. This is one of the greatest sources of damage to seagrass habitats and biodiversity particularly young seagrass shoots, small juvenile fauna, and endangered species. Transboundary fishing activities occur everyday as fishing boats from Viet Nam illegally enter and fish on seagrass beds or coral reef areas of Kampot Province. Fishing using toxins and electricity are still recorded in the waters of both provinces.

Catching of endangered species

Fishermen in both provinces Kien Giang and Kampot still catch and trade endangered animals in transboundary waters, making endangered species such as dugong, sea turtles at risk of local extinction in the near future. Corals are also exploited for handicrafts and sold to tourists in Phu Quoc island.

Uncontrolled tourism

Tourism development contributes for development by providing jobs and improving livelihood for local inhabitants. Anchoring on coral reefs, waste discharge from hotels and tourist boats and sediments from construction have negative impacts on the marine environment and cause habitat damage.

Seaweed farming

Seaweed poles and ropes, which are built on top of seagrass and coral reef areas, result in the destruction of the meadows through construction methods and trampling. When seaweeds are hung on the surface, corals and seagrass are deprived of light and die after few months without

sunlight. This has already happened in coral reef areas of Koh Tonsay of Kep municipality, and farmers just abandoned the areas and moved to Kampot province.

Pollution/sedimentation

Littering, waste dumping, land clearing, road building, coastal construction and poor agricultural practices are considered factors lead to pollution, increase soil erosion and sedimentation, and cause the degradation of seagrass beds and coral reef areas in the transboundary waters. It is noted that waste from fishing boats, including oil discharge is a serious problems in fisheries piers in Phu Quoc archipelagos.

CHALLENGES IN MANAGING THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE TRANSBOUNDARY WATERS

Lack of coordination in fisheries management in the transboundary waters

Marine resources in the transboundary waters are exploited by fishermen of both provinces without definition of fishing boundary. Trading of marine products occurs daily between the two provinces. The coordination for joint management of fisheries has not yet developed and implemented effectively for this large marine area.

Lack of balance between economic development and environment management for sustainable development

Recently, many development projects have occurred in the coastal waters of both provinces in order to meet development plan with respect to increase income for local government and communities. Given that poverty alleviation is the first priority of the Governments, environmental management for sustainable development has not been adequately considered in planning and practices.

Lack of awareness of local communities on sustainable use and law enforcement

Through the execution of the demonstration site projects public awareness of the local communities have improved. However, their knowledge on sustainable use of resources is still limited, and local people concentrate on securing direct but not long-term benefits. Law enforcement is not effective enough due to weak capacities of both provinces.

BASIS FOR DEVELOPMENT OF POLICY AND FRAMEWORK FOR COOPERATION

- International Convention on trade in endangered species (CITES), 1973.
- International Convention on Biodiversity, 1994.
- Cooperation Program of three Indochina countries on environment, 1995.
- Agreement of three countries for biodiversity conservation??
- Law of Fisheries in Cambodia (2006)
- National Action Plan for Coral Reef and Seagrass in the Kingdom of Cambodia (2006)
- National Strategic Action Plan for Biodiversity Management in Cambodia
- Law of Fisheries of Viet Nam (2003)
- Law for Environment Management of Viet Nam (2005)
- Minute signed on October 13th, 2006 in cooperative relations of different fields between Chairman of Kien Giang Provincial People's Committee (Vietnam) and Governor of Kampot Administrative Committee (Cambodia).
- Memorandum signed with UNEP/GEF for execution of Demonstration Site of Phu Quoc (Vietnam) and Kampot (Campuchia)
- Minute of 1st Joint meeting between the management teams of Demonstration Sites of Phu Quoc and Kampot in Phu Quoc (Kien Giang Province , Vietnam), 29th – 31st May, 2006.
- Minute of 2nd Joint meeting between the management teams of Demonstration Sites of Phu Quoc and Kampot, in Kampot (Cambodia), 26th – 28th May, 2007.

GOALS

To enhance and strengthen cooperation between the two provinces in the fields of biodiversity conservation, reversing environment degradation trends, and sustainable use of resources, in order to improve the livelihood of local communities

OBJECTIVES

1. To strengthen institutional arrangements for management of natural resources and marine environment in the transboundary waters between the two provinces of Kien Giang and Kampot.
2. To improve the management capacity for natural resources and marine environment in transboundary marine zone between two provinces Kien Giang and Kampot.
3. To enhance awareness of managers and local communities regarding the importance of conservation in the transboundary marine zone between two provinces Kien Giang and Kampot.
4. To develop cooperative research programmes and exchange information, including sharing of data and databases.
5. To maintain financial sustainability for long term management, conservation of natural resources and marine environment in transboundary waters between two provinces of Kien Giang and Kampot.

PROGRAMMES AND ACTIONS

Programme 1. Strengthening institutional arrangements for management of coastal resources and environment and integration to development policy of two provinces

- Action 1. Review of existing legal documents of both provinces regarding management resources and environment
- Action 2. Integration of resource and environment management to cooperative agreement between two provinces and conduct of joint meetings of the Management Board/Steering Committee once or twice a year

Programme 2. Improvement of management effectiveness for resource and environment management in the transboundary waters

- Action 1. Additional inventory of biodiversity and resources for management purpose
- Action 2. Capacity building for scientific research, resource assessment and monitoring, management skill, and transferring knowledge and information to local communities
- Action 3. Study tour and workshop/seminars for local people, managers and policy makers for experience exchange in resource and environment management between two provinces and others in the region
- Action 4. Strengthening information exchanges and sharing between two provinces and maintenance of the joint GIS database for uses in management of resources and environment
- Action 5. Joint management and control of illegal trade, exploitation activities of resources in the transboundary waters; and to stop catching rare and endangered species

Programme 3. Enhancement of public awareness on marine conservation and sustainable resource use

- Action 1. Strengthening education capacity, communication system and establishment of network of communication and volunteers for enhancement of public awareness on marine resource sustainable use

- Action 2. Development and distribution of public awareness materials and implementation of communication programmes regarding ecosystem importance and sustainable use of coastal resources
- Action 3. Organisation of exchanges programme for natural resources conservation and environment protection for youths and students of Kien Giang and Kampot

Programme 4. Development and execution of joint projects with supports from International Organisations

- Action 1. Project for development and management of transboundary fisheries *refugia* belonging the two provinces
- Action 2. Project for migratory and endangered species conservation

Programme 5. Financial sustainability for long - term management and livelihood alternatives

- Action 1. Development of programmes for livelihood alternatives, including technical supports for aquaculture, fisheries processing, tourism, animal raising and integrated farming system
- Action 2. Development of models for community-based resource management
- Action 3. Promotion for development of tourism in the transboundary waters
- Action 4. Fund raising from international organisations for livelihood, and resource and environment management

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY AND FRAMWORK

Institutional arrangement

Focal agencies

The provincial leaders of each Province shall appoint an appropriate agency as the focal point to coordinate activities under the policy and framework, including:

- Department of Natural Resources and Environment of Kien Giang province, and
- Fisheries Cantonment of Kampot Province

Cambodian related institutions and responsibilities in implementing the policy and framework

Institution	Responsibilities
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Ministry of Environment	Provision of technical and financial supports, development of international cooperation,
<i>Fisheries Administration</i>	Provision of technical and financial supports, development of international cooperation, and assign responsibility for: coordination and facilitation of activities under the policy and framework
<i>Kampot Provincial Authorities</i>	Development and management of the projects regarding coastal resources and environment at the provincial level, including preparing proposals for funding support
<i>Kampot Department of Agriculture, Kampot Department of Environment, Kampot Department of Land Management, Kampot Department of Tourism, Kampot Department of Rural Development, Kampot Department of Women Affair, Kampot Department of Planning, Kampot Department of</i>	Support in implementing activities under the policy and framework for cooperation

<i>Public works and Transport, Kampot Department of Mine and Industry, Kampot Department of Water and Meteorology, Kampot Provincial Police Commission, Kampot District Authority</i>	
	Facilitating participation of local people in implementing activities under the policy and framework for cooperation
<i>Commune councils of Prek Tnot, Koh Toch, Boeung Touk.Chum Kreal, Trabiang Sangke, Kaun Sat, kampong Samrong.</i>	Direct involvement in implementation of projects under the policy and framework for cooperation at the local level

Viet Nam related institutions and responsibilities in implementing the policy and framework

Institutions	Responsibilities
Department of Agriculture and Rural Development	Marine resource management, forest protection and rural livelihood alternatives.
Department of Science and Technology	Technical and financial support for development of projects related to research and application of new models in sustainable use of resources
Department of Finance	Allocation of fund for coastal resource management
Phu Quoc National Park and the Management Board of Protection Forests in Phu Quoc district	Protection of forest and re-forestation in Phu Quoc archipelago
Provincial Women Association	Development and implementation of the alternative livelihood
Border Army	Support for enforcement practices
Phu Quoc District Office of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries	Executing activities regarding training and public awareness
Business sector (Veranda Co., Saigon-Phuquoc Resort)	Sustainable use of habitats for tourist business
People's Committee of three communes	Encouragement of participation of local communities in habitat management and sustainable use of coastal resources

Mechanism in coordinating joint activities in implementing the policy and framework

Based on the existing management mechanism established by the transboundary demonstration site projects in the framework of the UNEP/GEF South China Sea Project, a coordinating body in each province shall be formed in order to integrate all activities related to management of coastal ecosystems and associated resources.

This body in Kien Giang Province is the Provincial Steering Committee with the members from the Departments of Natural Resources and Environment (DoNRE); Agriculture and Rural Development, Science and Technology; Planning and Investment; and Culture, Sport and Tourism; Women Association and Phu Quoc District People's Committee. The Committee is chaired by Vice-chairperson of Provincial People's Committee and vice-chaired by Director of Department of Natural Resources and Environment. A permanent coordinating board shall be led by Vice Director of DoNRE with participation of Director of Management Board of Phu Quoc Marine Protected Area, Sub-department of Environment Protection; and Chairperson of three communes (Hon Thom, Bai Thom and Ham Ninh)

In Kampot, the existing Management Board and Advisory Group including all related entities shall continue to integrate activities concerning coastal management, including activities under this framework. This is led by the Governor of Kampot Province.

Joint meetings between coordinating bodies will be convened once per year as agreed in advance by provincial leaders

Technical assistance

The coordinating bodies of two provinces shall get technical assistance (human resources and experience exchange) for joint activities from International Organisations/Institutions such as: United Nations Environment Programme, Southeast Asia Fisheries Development Center, World Wide Fund for Nature, International Union for Conservation of Nature, TRAFFIC, Bird life

International; Coordinating Body for the Seas of East Asia (COBSEA) and Asia Institute Technology. A number of Viet Nam scientific Institutions, including Institute of Oceanography, Institute of Marine Environment and Resources, Centre for Natural Resources and Environmental Studies shall support for research and management of coastal habitats, capacity building and environment education. Ministries of Natural Resources and Environment, Agriculture and Rural Development, and Science and Technology shall provide experts and financial supports for the activities regarding coastal resources and environment.

Each side will search for needed technical assistance or ask/request other for support. Both provinces also work together to develop proposal(s) to donor(s) for support.

Financial Sustainability

Kien Giang Provincial Authorities shall allocate annual budget for implementing the policy and framework for cooperation in Kien Giang coastal waters and seek financial support from Viet Nam Central Government to assist Kampot and Kien Giang in implementing joint activities

The provincial authorities of Kampot province, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (Fisheries Administration) undertake to support the implementation of this framework, within the constraints of available finances

Both sides shall work together in seeking external financial support for activities under this framework.

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