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## Topic:

- Fourth ASEAN Experts Group Meeting
- National workshop on C&I in Cambodia
- National Network Meeting in Indonesia

## Activity/event:

- Tripartite mid-term review meeting (Bangkok, 16 - 19 Sept. 2008)
- Workshop on FRA2010 and reporting harmonization (Kuala Lumpur, 13 - 16 October 2008)
- Regional training workshop on ASEAN C&I (Kuala Lumpur, 15 - 17 December 2008)
- National/sub-regional MAR programs
- Meetings
- NFI surveys

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<http://www.fao.org/forestry/mar>

Your contribution of short articles on forest MAR (1-2 pages) will be highly welcomed.

## Fourth ASEAN Experts Group Meeting on International Forest Policy Processes

- The 4th Meeting of ASEAN Experts Group Meeting on International Forest Policy Processes and a Training Workshop on a Clearing House Mechanism for Criteria and Indicators (C&I) took place in Vientiane, 28 - 30 May 2008 to discuss regional forestry policy processes among ASEAN member states, covering: (i) ASEAN C&I and its online reporting format to build a clearing house mechanism (CHM); (ii) a work plan on strengthening of forest law enforcement and governance (FLEG); (iii) formulation of inputs to the 8th session of the United Nations Forum on Forests (UNFF); (iv) a proposal for the Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD); and (v) updated National Forest Programmes (NFPs).
- Participants pointed out some difficulties in completion of data using an on-line C&I format (7 criteria, 59 indicators) due to different definitions within and among countries. They requested training for national staff relate to data collection for comprehensive international reporting. Collaboration among member countries should be encouraged to mutually strengthen their reporting with their experience and expertise. The ASEAN Secretariat is finalizing the format for countries' better use with their suggestions.
- The Forest Research Institute of Malaysia (FRIM) will hold a training workshop in December 2008 to build up capacities of ASEAN countries for forest MAR using the ASEAN C&I in collaboration with the ASEAN, supported by the MAR Project.

## National workshop on C&I in Cambodia

- The Forestry Administration (FA) of Cambodia held a national workshop with participants from central and local forestry offices in Phnom Penh on 20 June 2008 for deliberations on the draft Cambodian C&I format of 2008 for sustainable forest management. The format is based on the revised ITTO C&I format of 2005 as well as ASEAN needs, while accommodated to the national policy on forest management.
- The participants provided comments on the format: (i) Technical terms need to be further clarified, such as the extent of forests vis-à-vis designated forest boundaries, identification of primary forests and their historical changes, determination of permanent versus temporary private forest ownership, and national forest conservation status vis-à-vis IUCN categories; (ii) Permanent and non-permanent forest estates should be redefined with Cambodian land titles; (iii) Forest boundaries will have to be reassessed with updated land cover data through consultations among government agencies on land demarcation; (v) Coordination with the Technical Working Group on Forestry and Environment (TWG) and the Project Steering Committee is essential for official authorization of data on forests and forestry programmes; and (vi) Techniques of carbon assessment need to be transferred to national staff.
- Following these discussions, the proposed national MAR format will be finalized for dissemination to national and provincial officers.

## National Network Meeting in Indonesia

- The first national network meeting on MAR was held at the Ministry of Forestry in Jakarta on 3 July to discuss enhancement of national capacities for forest MAR by harmonization and institutionalization among concerned stakeholders, including the Central Bureau of Statistics (BPS). Coordination among related agencies will facilitate effective exchange of data and experience in forest MAR and socio-economic aspects.
- Participants expect the national network to facilitate consistent data collection at the provincial level by disseminating the MAR format. It is crucial to list competent organizations that collect good forest-related data through the national network for international reporting.
- Attendants suggested a flexible approach to network organization by setting up an informal forum in the MoF, while the process of official data correction and endorsement will need to be discussed.
- The MoF will formulate a work plan and budget for the forum. A small technical team will be organized to prepare detailed preparatory programmes to develop a national network. The BPS will support the network with socio-economic data. Then the MoF will invite several related institutions to implement follow-up meetings.