

Capacity Building of the Environmental Conservation Department (ECD-CAB)

This is the second semi-monthly newsletter from the ECD-CAB project co-sponsored by the Danish Cooperation for Environment and Development (DANCED). The newsletter provides you a brief status of the implemented and planned activities, and is distributed to all key stakeholders.

The outputs of the project are divided into six main areas (see last page of the newsletter). A short description of the status and planned activities for the next two-month for each area is given below.

Please contact us if you need more information. Yabi Yangkat, Project Director, (088-238130), and Carsten Hollaender Laugesen, CTA, (016 832 6766).



Environmental Planning

We have in the previous months completed the **submissions for the 8th Malaysian Plan**. Three proposals were submitted concerning (i) the production of Environmental Indicators, (ii) preparation of a shoreline management plan for the east coast of Sabah and (iii) study on future conservation areas.

NEWSLETTER

We have looked into the possibilities of joining forces with Penampang local authority to review the existing land scheme as a practical example on how environmental concerns can be integrated in planning, and based on this to produce **environmental guidelines for planning and land zoning**. In the next period we will look further into these possibilities.

Research activities regarding (i) the linkages between land use and gravity feed systems and (ii) the use of invertebrates as biological indicators, have also been initiated.

The work on the **environmental indicator report and the human resource development plan** will begin during the next two-month period. Relevant stakeholders will be asked to participate

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)

A draft **Handbook for EIA in Sabah** has been prepared, and is presently being reviewed by external stakeholders, including international and local consultants.

Two **environmental guidelines** have been initiated, namely a guidelines for logging operations and a guideline for sand mining. Local consultants have been contracted to draft the guidelines.

In the next period the Handbook and two guidelines will be finalised, and new **guidelines** initiated.

Monitoring and Enforcement

For this area the preparation of a **monitoring and enforcement manual** have been initiated. The manual will include methods for on-site inspection, sampling techniques, administrative enforcement and prosecution. Specific M&E manuals on 'construction on hill slopes' and 'oil palm plantations' have also been initiated. Two international and three local consultants have been contracted. Key persons from other departments will be asked to join a reference group for the review of the manual.

Based on the manuals a **systematic and intensified monitoring & enforcement** programme on specific areas will be planned in detail and implemented in the coming year.

A number of M&E **training activities** will be planned and implemented during the forthcoming period.

Communication & Awareness

We have initiated the development of **C&A presentation tools and equipment** for the Department, such as a presentation tool kit, video, brochures, pamphlets, name cards, etc.

The formulation of a Departmental C&A strategy has been begun, and will be finalised in the coming period. Specific C&A activities will thereafter be initiated.

Environmental Information Systems (EIS)

The **ECD homepage** has been finalised, and will be launched soon.

EIS equipment has been purchased, including computers, printers, LCD, and photocopier.

Work on the **internal environmental databases**, for example for EIA handling and reporting, has been initiated and will be continued. **Internal data networking** will be established during the next two-month period.

GIS equipment and software will be purchased in the forthcoming period. GIS training will begin in the next period.

Administration

The **library** has been established in the new ECD meeting room. A classification system has been made. Professional literature has been purchased.

In the coming period the work concerning the **ISO 9000** will be intensified.

Inputs and miscellaneous

Consultants used in the previous period include the full-time CTA, Tony Greer for one month, Karsten Due Jensen and Sten Ronhave for three weeks each, and Mohammed Sinoh, Richard Taumas and Darrell Leiking, all part-time.

Patricia Jackson, a master degree student from Denmark/South Africa, has joined the project for a period of three months.

Project Outputs – overview

The following 26 outputs have been planned for the ECD-CAB project.

Planning:

1. Sabah Environmental Indicator Report 1999 & 2002
2. Proposal for a Sabah Environmental Policy
3. Proposal for an overall Conservation Strategy, including inventory and environmental conservation recommendations for the 8th Malaysia Plan
4. A Human Resource-Plan for ECD, including an ECD 5-10 year Strategy
5. A Review of the CEE, 1996
6. A Research Strategy and Research Activities implemented
7. An Environmental Planning Training Package implemented, incl. a study tour

Environmental Assessment:

8. A General Handbook on EIA Policy & Procedures, Sabah
9. Guidelines and *Regulations* for selected prescribed and non-prescribed activities
10. A Manual on EIA Auditing Procedures and Techniques
11. EIA Compliance Survey
12. Guidelines for environmental screening of land alienation & development
13. An EA Training Package implemented

Monitoring & Enforcement:

14. A Monitoring & Enforcement Strategy and focused M&E activities implemented
15. A Monitoring & Enforcement Manual
16. A M&E Training Package implemented

Communication & Awareness:

17. A Communication & Awareness Strategy and focused C&A activities implemented
18. Dissemination of Project Lessons Learned
19. A C&A Training Package implemented

Environmental Information Systems:

20. Establishment of a Management Information System
21. Establishment of a Departmental home-page
22. Establishment of GIS
23. An EIS Training Package implemented

Administration:

24. An ISO 9000 certification
25. An ECD environmental information resource centre
26. An Organisational Development Training Package implemented.