Foreword

Success in the cultivation of commercially important trees on a national scale - whether in natural forests, degraded forests, plantation forests, or even villages and home gardens - will play an important role in the economic development of our nation.

We are all aware that the rehabilitation of degraded forests will pose a number of difficult challenges for Cambodian foresters in the future. Moreover, we recognize these include the identification and protection of remaining forestlands that produce high quality seeds. Fortunately, there is a strong desire and willingness on part of the Forestry Administration and local forest communities to develop a network of natural seed sources that can serve the needs of rehabilitation of Cambodia's forests. This report provides a useful foundation on which these activities can proceed with reasonable expectations of success.

The gene-ecological zonation model provides a useful planning tool for the conservation of forest genetic resources and a guide for the selection and use of suitable seed sources for planting programs within each Gene-Ecological zone throughout our country.

First and foremost, I would like to extend my gratitude to Danida and the Cambodia Tree Seed Project (CTSP) for recognizing the need for a Gene-Ecological Zonation System in the Kingdom of Cambodia. It was developed through the coordinated efforts of Forestry Administration, Cambodia Tree Seed Project (CTSP)/DANIDA, and German Development Service (DED). Special thanks are extended to the Cambodia Tree Seed Project Manager Mr. So Thea and Advisor Mr. Arvid Sloth and also in particular to Mr. Ignas Dümmer of DED for forming a core working group that was responsible for the creation of the zonation system and the publication of the present manual. Without their vision, initiative, and professional commitment, the useful outputs of this project would have never been realized.

Results that are presented in this report could not have been accomplished without the contributions of many people in the Forestry Administration and attached to this work. It is therefore a pleasure to express gratitude to the Cambodia Tree Seed Project Team, Mr. Ma Soktha, Mr. Sok Srun and to extend a special thanks to the consultants Ms. Sarah Burgess and Dr. Andrew McDonald for their inputs, and editorial works.

The Forestry Administration and the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries are confident that all concerned parties will find this tool to be useful for sound forest rehabilitation and reforestation in the future.

Ty Sokhun

Chief of Forestry Administration