

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Royal Government of Cambodia gives high priority to tree planting activities, and in preparation, the Forestry Administration, with the Cambodia Tree Seed Project, has identified and established a number of tree seed sources throughout the country, in order to ensure the availability of good quality seed for use in tree planting programmes. Whilst a number of small tree planting initiatives are evident within the country, longer term plans have yet to be established.

Part I of this document is intended to assist the Forestry Administration to prepare plans for tree planting, and subsequently, to identify sites that allow funding to focus on areas of high priority both within the national development objectives, and of donors, investors and other funding agencies. It aims to improve the scope for successful tree planting and management, by encouraging a consistent approach to site identification that includes participation of a diverse range of stakeholders.

Security of land tenure/resource use is a pre-requisite to site selection, and therefore, the procedures presented within the *Guidelines* are only valid in those areas. Through integration into broader land use planning, they are designed to be applicable for the establishment of planted forests, rehabilitation of degraded and secondary forests, community based tree planting activities, and farm forestry.

The procedures for site selection are illustrated through a series of flowcharts, backed by textual explanations and supporting documentation. A set of criteria and indicators related to site conditions, level of resource disturbance, and poverty rate, is provided to enable a preliminary evaluation of proposed sites against tree planting objectives, before a more thorough assessment of social, economic, political and environmental factors is conducted.

A number of 'enabling factors' are identified that lie outside the scope of this document, for example, supportive legislation and regulations; financial frameworks; infrastructure; and research studies to determine the extent of tree planting programmes required to meet increasing demands for forest products and services. They must be addressed, along with the root causes of forest degradation, to ensure successful tree planting programmes.

Having identified appropriate sites, Part II has been developed to support practitioners in the implementation of tree planting activities. It presents a range of methodologies, and their appropriateness in meeting the objectives of tree planting. These *Guidelines* describe thoroughly the necessary steps for management planning, species selection, seed procurement, including a table to allow calculations of the amount of seed required per hectare, nursery establishment and operation, and management of the planted sites.

A consultative approach was adopted in the development of the *Guidelines for Site Selection and Tree Planting in Cambodia*, which included a number of stakeholders with an interest in tree planting. It was led by the Forestry Administration and the Cambodia Tree Seed Project, with funding from the Royal Danish Embassy in Phnom Penh, through the policy formulation process for the tree seed sector in Cambodia.