

## **MoU with TRADA (Timber Research and Development Association) to develop Integrated Sustainable Bamboo-based Livelihoods**

### **Background**

Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), is an independent research association in UK established in the year 1934. International division of TRADA has been implementing projects in timber and timber related industries in developing countries for more than two decades and has specialized in bamboo development programmes for sustainable livelihoods. TRADA has worked in collaboration with the South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) to develop an inclusive project focusing on the South Asia region. A primary objective of the project is to build the capacity on the ground, and institutionally, for the sustainable management of bamboo, emphasizing the role of engaging local communities. In the case of the proposed pilot activities in Sri Lanka, SACEP will work in close coordination and collaboration with TRADA, local and regional agencies, international non-governmental organisations, and existing donor programmes that share common objectives.

SACEP and TRADA intend to cooperate in the areas common to their programmes in South Asia according to the signed MoU at the SACEP Secretariat on 21st April 2007. Mr. Lionel Jayanetti, Head of TRADA and Dr. A. A. Boaz, Director General of SACEP signed the MoU on behalf of the two organizations. TRADA and SACEP have identified the thematic areas of Access to CPR, Benefit Sharing, Community Development, Equitable sharing of resources. The main thrust will be to specifically address Poverty reduction and livelihoods issues, sustainable timber and wood production through demonstrating Best Practices, sharing skills and knowledge as the substantive fields on which the partnership will be built. This will be a major step to developing the community's adaptive capacity to the impacts on the forest resources because of climate change and consequent effect on productivity of the natural resources on which the local communities are dependent for their livelihood.

### **Concept :**

The concept presented here is for an integrated development programme to create sustainable livelihood opportunities for the rural poor of Sri Lanka. The core activity would be the cultivation of bamboo under plantation conditions and the complete utilisation of bamboo using both traditional methods and, where appropriate, high technology processes. The production and processing effort would be first and foremost of direct benefit to the local community, but with the possibility of sustainable expansion focusing on the export market. The design and implementation of the programme would focus on the support required by the beneficiaries to achieve their livelihood goals, within an overall framework of environmental and economic sustainability.

Adaptation to Climate Change and Waste Management issues will be addressed in the project. Similarly, strong community participation will be ensuring through the project activities as a new livelihood option and a sector for Non Timber Forest Product (NTFP).

### **Resource**

The diminishing wood resource and restrictions imposed on felling in natural forests have focused world attention on the need to identify a substitute material which should be renewable, environmentally friendly and widely available. In view of its rapid growth, a ready adaptability to most climatic and soil conditions and properties comparable with many fast growing woods, bamboo emerges as a very

suitable alternative. Bamboo is a versatile material which already has a long and well established tradition in areas as diverse as construction and handicrafts. For example, it can be used to build a house, furnish it and provide many of the basic tools and utensils. Increasingly, it is finding applications in high quality panel materials and laminated flooring through the development of high technology manufacturing processes.

There are over 1250 species of bamboo, many identified as suitable for cultivation, and tolerant of extremes of precipitation - from 0.8 to 6m of rain annually. Bamboo can be grown on deforested or degraded land and is effective in reducing soil erosion. As a crop, bamboo has a short rotation period (3 to 5 years) and substantial harvesting is possible on a sustainable basis.

### **The Complex**

In view of the ease with which bamboo can be grown, and the number of uses to which it can be put, it is envisaged that a holistic or integrated approach to cultivation and utilisation could be adopted. This could be realised by the establishment of plantation co-operatives, where, subject to technical support from local specialists, the stakeholders would be responsible for the planting, harvesting and management of the bamboo crop. The bamboo produced would be used to construct dwellings and community buildings, using improved technologies, together with other manufactured items for community use. In some cases, the bamboo could also provide a source of food.

The Complex would provide vertically integrated livelihood opportunities, with capacity in all areas for women to play an active role. As the complex develops, bamboo products could be sold locally and regionally. Ultimately, the aim would be to provide for manufacturing capabilities for high value-added products, such as laminated flooring, for the export market. This would provide a much needed source of foreign exchange and guarantee the future economic security of the village community.

### **Proposed Strategy**

It is suggested that initially a study be undertaken in Sri Lanka with a view to the establishment of a Integrated Community Bamboo Complex (ICBC). A participatory appraisal approach to test the concept at local level would involve discussions with target groups and key informants. As part of this study, suitable areas and communities would be identified. The possibility for technical support from local or regional research and development organisations would also be explored. In this context, a couple of International bamboo organisations, the Forest Department, Ministry of Science and Technology, University of Moratuwa and the NGOs LEADS, NEF, Habitat for Humanity, who have expressed their willingness to participate at all levels in such an initiative.

Industrial Technology Institute (ITI), Sri Lanka has just commenced a project to cultivate and process bamboo shoots for export in collaboration with the Chinese Government and sponsored by Common Fund for commodities (CFC).

### **Action Taken:**

SACEP has initiated a project to seek funding from the Commonwealth Fund for Technical Cooperation (CFTC) for the preparation of preliminary study report on "Integrated Community Bamboo Complex (SACEP-TRADA) Project". A detailed Project is being developed with the help of TRADA for the donors support.

**Terms of Reference and Scope of Service  
Preparation of Preliminary Study Report  
Integrated Community Bamboo Complex (SACEP-TRADA) Project**

**Name of Post:** SACEP-TRADA Project Consultant

**Agency:** South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP)

**Location of Project:** Colombo, Sri Lanka (Located at premises of SACEP)

**Background**

Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), is an independent research association in UK established in the year 1934. International division of TRADA has been implementing projects in timber and timber related industries in developing countries for more than two decades and has specialized in bamboo development programmes for sustainable livelihoods. The TRADA partnership is formed by the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP).

With oversight from TRADA has worked in collaboration with the South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP) to develop an inclusive project focusing of the South Asia region. A primary objective of the project is to build the capacity on the ground, and institutionally, for the sustainable management of bamboo, emphasizing the role of engaging local communities. In the case of the proposed activities in Sri Lanka, TRADA will work in close coordination and collaboration with local and regional agencies, international non-governmental organisations, and existing donor programmes that share common objectives with TRADA and are key stakeholders in South Asia.

The South Asia Co-operative Environment Programme (SACEP) is an inter-governmental organization, established in 1982 by the Governments of South Asia to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the region. Eight countries, namely; Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, have ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP. The SACEP was created to fulfill a vision based on the following three assumptions

- Recognition of environmental degradation caused by factors like poverty, over population, over consumption and wasteful production threatening economic development and human survival,
- Integration of environment and development as essential prerequisites to Sustainable Development, and
- Importance of co-operative action in the South Asian region where many ecological and development problems transcend national and administrative boundaries

The Mission of SACEP is to promote regional co-operation in South Asia in the field of environment, both natural and human in the context of sustainable development and on issues of economic and social development which also impinge on the environment and vice versa; to support conservation and management of natural resources of the region and to work closely with all national, regional, and international institutions, governmental and non governmental, as well as experts and groups engaged in such co-operation and conservation efforts.

**Project Scope and Functions:**

Under the overall supervision of the Director General of SACEP, TRADA and SACEP will be responsible for the preparation of pre-study report and development of the Project Integrated Bamboo Complex (IBC) on the creation of sustainable bamboo-based livelihoods which must be the close coordination mechanism with relevant government agencies, organizations, existing National Bamboo Network and the Steering Committee (SC) established under the project.

TRADA will appoint a consultant with relevant qualifications to carry out the work with a SACEP representative nominated by the Director General of SACEP as the counterpart :

1. Review locally available situation on livelihood dependence in Bamboo utilisation and prepare the timely and effective development of all activities in the Project and in the specific work plans.
2. Identify the potential Bamboo related activities for Handicraft, Furniture, Construction Energy, Charcoal, Food and other usages and possible livelihood diversification activities.
3. Identify and propose the suitable mechanism and pivotal focal point for project partners (eg. National Design Center) and relevant organizations to implement the project in sustainable fashion.
4. Identify the collaborative opportunities within the South Asia Region in support of the Project objectives as appropriate among governments, donors and other organisations.
5. Prepare pre-study report including conclusion, and recommendations.
6. Prepare the Project Proposal, depend on the above pre-study report with estimated cost, for the possible national or international funding. In the Project Proposal,
  - Identify resource development (access to land, nursery development, planting techniques etc.)
  - Technology transfer
  - Capacity building at all levels
  - Market identification and promotion
  - Private sector participation
7. Organise /conduct a meeting to present the Pre-study report to the identified key stakeholders of the project. With support from SACEP assist in the administration and preparation of terms of reference and project contracts with consultants and partners as per the proposed work plan of the Project.



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## MoU between SACEP and TRADA International

### A. BACKGROUND

1. Timber Research and Development Association (TRADA), is an independent research association in UK established in the year 1934. International division of TRADA has been implementing projects in timber and timber related industries in developing countries for more than two decades and has specialized in bamboo development programmes for sustainable livelihoods.
2. SACEP is an intergovernmental organization established in 1982, with a mission of promoting and supporting the conservation and management of the environment, both natural and human, in the South Asian Region in a co-operative manner to achieve sustainable development. Eight countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have ratified the Articles of Association of SACEP. In SACEP's revised mission statement, development of partnerships is also emphasized as an intrinsic aspect of the organization's mandate.
3. Forest Management has been identified as a key area in the Adaptation to Climate Change issues as its conservation and development not only has a direct impact on Climate Change, but also in the local communities adaptive capacity to the vital aspects related to Climate Change. TRADA and SACEP, both addressing programme activities in the areas of forest management share the focus on community resource management involvement in alternative livelihood management; poverty alleviation, with concerns for sustainable development, and guidance to the policy makers. Under this MoU, both the organisations seek to develop their collaboration in South Asia and to develop a programme of cooperative activities at the sub-regional level. This MoU provides a framework for TRADA and SACEP cooperation to assure that the resources available to each institution for activities in the areas of their mutual interest are used to best advantage for natural resource conservation and management and sustainable development in South Asia.

### B. PRINCIPLES OF COLLABORATION

3. Complementary and mutual support. SACEP and TRADA will support one another in fulfilling their respective missions by building on elements of both organisations' programmes, seeking to enhance effectiveness while avoiding duplication of effort.
4. Mutual benefit. The activities on which SACEP and TRADA will collaborate under this MoU will be selected and developed to bring a clear benefit to both organizations and their constituents. Collaborative activities will be undertaken with a clear and mutual understanding of which organisation does what, and how each activity will be funded.
5. Mutual recognition. Public statements and publications regarding activities undertaken jointly under this MoU will acknowledge this collaboration. Neither TRADA nor SACEP shall make any commitments or take any positions on behalf of the other without the other's specific written consent. Each organisation will maintain the right to independent expression on issues related to activities that may be undertaken under this MoU and each will make every effort to notify the other before publicly expressing a position on such issues. Information provided by either partner to the other may be used for any capacity-building or non-commercial purpose.

### C. PRINCIPAL AREAS OF COLLABORATION

6. TRADA and SACEP have identified the thematic areas of Access to Community Benefit Sharing, Development, Equitable share, specifically addressing Poverty reduction and livelihoods, Sustainable timber and wood products through demonstrating Best Practices, Sharing skills and knowledge as the substantive fields on which the partnership will begin to

build. This will be a major step to developing the communities adaptive capacity to the impacts of the forest resources because of climate change and consequent effect on productivity of the natural resources on which they are dependent for their livelihood.

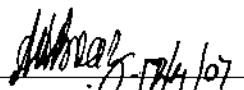
7. Within 90 days of the signing of this MoU, SACEP and TRADA will agree on and prioritize activities to be carried out in the first year of the partnership. Annual work plans for collaborative work will be developed as provided in paragraph 12, below. The evolving programmes of each organization will determine issues for future collaboration.
8. TRADA and SACEP will keep each other informed of their respective programmes of assistance and activities through exchange of newsletters, country-specific studies, and other relevant documents. Similarly, SACEP and TRADA will share information on any projects or studies in which the other has expressed special interest.
9. SACEP and TRADA will invite each other to send representatives to meetings, workshops and conferences, convened by them or under their auspices, on topics of mutual interest and application, subject to available budgetary resources within each institution.

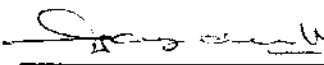
#### D. COORDINATION

10. Director General, SACEP and the Head, TRADA International or their successors, will have overall responsibility for ensuring that the objectives of this MoU are realized. The officials responsible for implementing this MoU will be Mr. Hiran Tillekaratne, Programme Officer of SACEP and Mr. Lionel Jayanetti, Head of TRADA International.
11. SACEP and TRADA staff at the national and regional levels will meet formally and informally, as mutually agreed, to develop concepts and plans for joint work.
12. The working arrangements set forth in this MoU will be reviewed annually by the officials responsible for implementation, who will meet as mutually agreed to assess progress in the agreed areas of cooperation and to discuss future directions for SACEP/TRADA collaboration. They will submit to the Director General of SACEP and the Head of TRADA International a joint written report on progress made, with specific recommendations for implementation for the following year.
13. SACEP and TRADA will jointly carry out a comprehensive review of achievements under this MoU within two (2) years of the date of signing and subsequently as may be agreed.
14. SACEP and TRADA will make every effort to ensure that women and men participate equally in the planning and implementation of projects and activities and that women and men have equal access to the benefits of derived from those projects and activities.

#### E. GENERAL PROVISIONS

15. This MoU shall come into force on the date it is signed by both SACEP and TRADA.
16. This MoU may at any time be amended, in writing and signed by both SACEP and TRADA.
17. SACEP and TRADA shall give each other six (6) months' prior written notice of intent to suspend or terminate this MoU.
18. Signed by the duly authorized representatives of SACEP and TRADA in two copies, on the dates indicated below:

  
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Dr. Arvind Anil Boaz  
Director General SACEP

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. Lionel Jayanetti  
Head TRADA International

Date: 17/4/07

Date: 17/04/07