

## **Final Project Board Meeting Minutes**

### **Strengthening Capacity and Incentives for Wildlife Conservation in the Western Forest Complex**

#### **(Tiger Project)**

##### **Agenda Item #1: Issues notified by the Chairman to the Board Committee members**

Deputy Director General, Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation (Mrs. Rungnapa Pattanawiboon) as a designated chairman of the Project Board Meeting informed the Project Board Committee about the Tiger project closing period which will be on 14 July 2021.

This objective of the meeting was to present the terminal evaluation results and considered the project activities according to the results indicators that were carried out as to what extent the project objectives were met with reference being made to draft final GEF-UNDP Terminal Evaluation Report.

##### **Agenda Item #2: Seeking endorsement for the Minutes of the Project Board Meeting on “Strengthening Capacity and Incentives for Wildlife Conservation in the Western Forest Complex” No. 1/2021 held on 18 May 2021**

**Meeting outcome:** The Project Board Committee endorsed the meeting minutes

##### **Agenda Item#3: Any other matters to notify to the Project Board Committee members**

The progress of the project activities was reported and approved by the Project Board Committee members on May 18, 2021. The Project Board Meeting Secretary or the Project Manager, Ms Phansiri Winichagoon reported the progress of the project activities that have been completed. For example, on the purchase of an equipment in preparation for public relations-related activities, the outsourcing of a company to create the website and other media publications of the project, the launch of Pinto Project. For more details on these activities, the organizing committee will inform further.

**Meeting outcome:** This has been acknowledged by the Project Board Committee

##### **Agenda Item#4: Other matters for consideration**

The project assets purchased under the project managed by respective agency were agreed by the Project Board Committee to be officially handed over to the Department of National Parks, Wildlife and Plant Conservation upon completion of project.

To proceed with the project closing, the team of experts including the Project Manager and the national consultant who conducted project terminal evaluation exercise, presented the three main project outcomes, key findings resulted from the terminal evaluation assignment conducted for Strengthening Capacity and Incentives for Wildlife Conservation in the Western Forest Complex Project.

The results of an evaluation and the progress of the project work will be monitored whether that it is consistent with the overall project objectives. The reference was made to draft final GEF-Terminal Evaluation report conducted by both International and National experts. Some indicators that were not achieved were also being presented for Project Board Committee’s further consideration and suggestion to the final report itself.

Some of the project lessons learned were also shared. For example, on how the communities and government officials in the area of wildlife sanctuaries have developed good relationship, which has made the work more efficiency, inspirational, and sustainable. The presence of local people in the work whom do not have to be highly educated but those who can bring real learning experiences can make the work more inclusive and sustainable. The characteristics of projects that work with the communities requires careful planning and the project must continuously develop plans and given the nature of the project itself should have all concerned and experienced partners involved. As such this project includes Sueb Nakhasathien and Rabbit for the Moon Foundation.

The Project Board Committee jointly also considered the recommendations from the Terminal evaluation exercise conducted which include the possibility that DNP would be able to increase the number of personnel or the liaison officer to work with the community in the forest sanctuary in light of COVID-19 outbreak, which has cut down the government sector budget. The financial stability should be taken into account. If the situation improves, then there may be further consideration of this matter in the future. The Project Board Committee also proposed that there should be a well-established database, which is important to collect and store various activities carried out by the project by each responsible party. This can be later used to improve Thailand's Tiger Action Plan.

**Meeting outcome:** The Project Board Committee agreed with the expert team on GEF-UNDP Terminal Evaluation Report with no further inputs. The overall 20 project key indicators of the were well achieved and satisfied without any further questions.

Ms. Lovita Ramguttee, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative made a closing remark that this project is one of the projects that has started long time ago and in terms of project timeframe, this is one of the longest projects with a strong cooperation from UNDP and DNP. She congratulated DNP team for their support in driving this very important project for Thailand and for Global Environment Facility. And reiterated that this is very important project which required strong cooperation from all sectors.

The several lessons learned and recommendations from the project evaluation results were drawn in the several areas which must be carefully studied. The mutually shared opinions from all concerned parties shall be obtained and take into consideration. Although, the terminal evaluation exercise was conducted by an independent agency, this has been strictly complied with GEF policies. There may be some project results that may not meet or contrary to the expectations, which we can definitely provide our opinions on. In addition, the covid situation has an impact in terms of finding an effective financial solution for the project that will in turn help to promote and drive the project towards sustainability. The problem is not solely being experienced in Thailand but also in many other countries internationally.

UNDP was pleased for DNP to share their views on the assessment conducted, although the ratings cannot be changed but DNP can always present about the context and situation of Thailand which is very important and will be considered in the future when designing for other projects. UNDP took note that in the future, indicators and goals must be set according to the real situation and thanked to all partners involved in the project. The Chair of the meeting likewise thanked UNDP for a good cooperation and friendship throughout the project. The key lessons learned drawn from this Tiger Project will definitely be useful and taken into account for an ongoing GEF6 project UNDP and DNP are working together as well as for other projects in the future.

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**Approved by: Ms. Lovita Ramguttee**  
**Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Thailand**

Date: 14 July 2021