

Xienxien Village Forest Management Plan Summary

Xiengxien Village Forestry Management Unit is located in Bolikhan District of Bolikhamxay Province at latitude 18°43'8.36"N and longitude 103°59'44.53"E. Xienxien Village is engaged in commercial rattan enterprise. Rattan was inventoried in a 3,279-ha compartment and was found to be of commercial quantity. Hence, this forest management plan was formulated by the Xiengxien Village Forestry Committee to support village management of the rattan resources. Forest management plan formulation was provided technical assistance by the Forest Science Research Center of the National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI-FSRC) together with World Wide Fund for Nature Laos (WWF-Laos) and with support and oversight by the District Agriculture and Forestry Office, Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Office, and the Department of Forestry (DoF) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF). The forest management plan covers a 9-year planning period from 2013 to 2021, divided into 3 rattan harvesting cycles.

The forest management objective is to implement sustainable management of rattan resources in Xiengxien Village and ensure yearly rattan harvesting that is consistent with forest ecosystem and biodiversity conservation.

The rattan resource management system prescribes that: (a) maximum annual harvest of rattan is 20% of rattan canes with at least 5-meter length; (b) strict application of rattan harvesting regulation and techniques; (c) protection of rattan resources, especially for rare variety of rattan; (d) natural regeneration of harvesting area; (e) re-planting in low-density area based on post-harvest assessment; (f) prohibition of conversion of the management area to other land uses; (g) and maintenance of the management area to promote regeneration and growth of vegetative resources.

Xienxien Village contains 3 types of high conservation value Forests (HCVF), including HCVF4: riparian buffer zones with total area of 389 ha and protection forest with an area of 731 ha, HCVF5: rattan livelihood area consisting of 3,279-ha and 1,752-ha compartments, and HCVF6: spirit forest of 7.4 ha. The village prescribes the use, regulation, and maintenance of the HCVFs.

Implementation of this forest management plan will be done in parallel with the annual activities of DAFO and the rattan harvesting group, and under close supervision of PAFO. Participatory and sustainable management is applied for social, economic, and environmental benefits. Risks that have been identified will be mitigated.

This forest management plan will be the reference for implementing future harvesting, management, monitoring, and assessment activities. Updating of this plan will be done at mid-term of the planning period.