



WWF

FACTSHEET

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Establishing a Sustainable Rattan Production System in Cambodia



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Objective

- Secure rattan forests and plantation resources under sustainable management plans that support local livelihoods and are able to supply sustainable and green products to rattan processors
- Increase the knowledge on rattan industry, conservation, and ecology by implementing a forest biodiversity impact monitoring system in order to support development of the rattan industry
- Secure legal support through the collaboration of national policies about the rattan supply chain in Cambodia and abroad



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Local rattan products supplying

Introduction

Using its hooked spines to grow over and around other plants, rattan a somewhat vicious looking tree is very prevalent in Cambodian forests. Though not much is known about them and their growth, they are widely recognized for their uses, such as furniture and baskets. Additionally, they are used for food, construction materials, and traditional medicine. This range of products puts rattan in high demand, reflecting the high source of income that rural villagers can earn, over 60 dollars per month, from rattan sales. The global rattan trade is expanding quickly and is currently estimated at \$4 billion per year. The rattan industry has the potential to financially incentivize the preservation of large areas of forest in order to preserve the rattan industry long term through sustainable management.

However, as over-harvesting, ineffective supply chains and unsafe production methods continue, the survival of rattan, its management, and the future of the rattan industry, face major challenges in Cambodia.

Project goal

By 2014: Secure 1,500 ton of raw and semi rattan commercial species from sustainable sources to supply to the rattan product manufacturers in Cambodia

By 2014: Establish rattan specific policy in Cambodia to ensure the legality of the supply chain

By 2014: At least 2 Rattan small and medium enterprises from the Rattan Association of Cambodia (RAC) member will supply sustainable semi-rattan species and processed rattan products to Cambodian and Vietnamese buyers including the IKEA supplier

By 2014: Rattan commercial diversity and management knowledge is available through a rattan manual, guidelines and maps

About the Project

Funded by IKEA, WWF's Rattan Project Phase III intends to expand the existing sustainable rattan supply and production chain with the aims of supplying 1,500 ton of sustainably managed raw material for production by 2014.

Project Achievements

Working in partnership with the government of Cambodia, NGOs and communities, WWF's Rattan Project has achieved great results over the past 5 years.

With technical and financial support from the WWF's Rattan Project, 7 rattan nurseries were established to produce rattan seedlings, especially of rattan commercial species. These nurseries can produce 100,000 seedlings of commercial rattan species each year. Simultaneously, WWF's Rattan Project plants 70,000 rattan seedlings in natural forest every year. This enrichment has significantly supported the natural growth of rattan seedlings, especially for commercial species. In addition, the project has also helped improve the livelihoods of rural villagers whose have become involved in the Cambodia rattan sector. To date 5,400 households in 23 villages are involved in some part of the rattan industry from harvest to market.



Rattan harvesting at Prek Thnot community protected area.

In order to sustainably manage rattan resources, the project increases capacity-building of rural people by assisting them in establishing sustainable rattan management plans in 23 villages within 6 provinces, including Kampot, Koh Kong, Preah Sihanouk, Kampong Thom, Kratie and Preah Vihear. Not only does this secure rattan resource management and enhance local livelihoods, but also supports biodiversity protection within the rattan site. According to sustainable harvesting plans, local villagers can sustainably harvest up to 1,500 tons of rattan per year from an area of 8,000 hectares across the country, where sustainable management of rattan resources occur.

The project also supports the establishment of rattan policy that benefits and permits rattan exports. This policy has led to the export 5 tons of semi-rattan products to a Vietnamese company. New sustainable rattan designs also promote green production by reducing waste. Consequently 17 new environmentally-friendly designs were created to help reduce rattan production waste by approximately 9.5% per year. In addition to establishing the Rattan Association of Cambodia, the project supported the Association in becoming a provisional member of the World Fair Trade Organization in 2011.

Forest management and biodiversity conservation

Through sustainable forest management and rattan harvesting plan, The Rattan Project enhances biodiversity protection as it protects the habitat of crucial species. In addition, the project raises public awareness among local villagers living in and around the forest area about the significance of rattan, the forest and biodiversity. As a result, there has been a local shift towards environmentally conscious behaviors to conserve biodiversity as more villagers want to participate in rattan and forest management.

Furthermore, the project has also assisted in establishing community conservation forests and community protected areas that will benefit rattan management and biodiversity protection.



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To stop the degradation of the planet's natural environment and to build a future in which humans live in harmony with nature.

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