

Captions:

Fig. 1 to 5: © WWF / Per Brolund

Rattan-prototypes by Per Brolund (graduate of the University of Lund, Sweden) and Em Riem. Brolund was one of the three young designers engaged in designing new products for the international market together with local companies in the region of the Greater Mekong within the scope of the WWF project. Per Brolund was and still is, stationed in Cambodia.



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Fig. 6 to 13: © WWF / Clara Lindsten

Designs and prototypes from Clara Lindsten, who is working in Vietnam. Lindsten focuses on the most efficient use of the valuable rattan raw material, designing, for example, doormats in which rattan leftovers are utilised and worked.



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Fig. 14 to 18: © WWF / Therése Broberg

Therese Broberg concentrated on the rattan classic: the basket while she was working with local rattan companies in Laos. She has created innovative, contemporary and classical designs.



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Fig. 19: 005_Rattan Handicraft © WWF Laos / Delphine Joseph

Today rattan is still worked by hand. Rattan became popular during the twenties and thirties in Europe and caught public interest at the World Exhibitions in Barcelona, New York, and Paris.



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Fig. 20: Vietnam © WWF / Simone Stambach

The split rattan stems are carefully sorted according to colour, size, and quality before they are processed and used to make products.



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Fig. 21 bis 23: Pflanzen

Rattan is a member of the palm family (Arecales or Palmae). There are more than 600 known species from 13 genera. The main production areas of rattan are the humid tropical regions of South East Asia. A rattan plant can grow up to a length of 100 meters and winds its way up to the canopy roof of the tropical forests by hooking onto other plants.

Bild 21: Laos Sopphouane Village-rattan plant
© WWF Switzerland / Simone Stammbach



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Bild 22: Rattan Plant 1 © Khou Eang Hourt



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Bild 23: Rattan Plant 2 © Chris Elliott WWF-Canon



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Fig. 24: Rattan Forest Harvest © WWF Laos / Delphine Joseph

Harvesting rattan is laborious and time-consuming. The men walk the forests for hours at a time and carry up to 70 kilos of the thorny tendrils back to their villages.



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Pictures download [here](#).