



WWF

SUSTAINABLE
RATTAN & BAMBOO

LAOS

2018

© WWF-Laos

RATTAN AND BAMBOO PROJECT

Sustainable Rattan and Bamboo Harvesting and Production Project Phase V, 2018 to 2020

Project Introduction

WWF-Laos and National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI) have been working with communities in 28 villages in Bolikhamxay, Sekong and Salavan Province in development a model of sustainable rattan and bamboo supply chain in Lao PDR in partnership with local communities, local authorities, community-based organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector.

LAO PDR

In 2011, the first FSC certified rattan products were available in Lao PDR and bought by the Swiss retailer COOP. The demand for FSC certified forest products in Europe and other markets exceeds the supply. It is therefore necessary to invest into sustainable forest management and the supply chain in key countries such as Lao PDR.

This phase will focus its efforts on supporting the creation of an enabling policy environment for the development of rattan and bamboo value chains that include both the concept of sustainable forest use and management and the concept of fairly distributed business profitability. The project continue supporting forest management capacity building for local communities and FSC certification in Bolikhamxay province, as well as supporting sustainable business development that benefit both small and medium enterprises and local communities who harvest and pre-process raw material. The project will be implemented by WWF-Laos in direct partnership with the Government of Laos, through a memorandum of understanding signed with NAFRI, and with local non-profit association Participatory Development Training Centre through the signing of a partnership agreement.

Key Achievements of the Past Phases

WWF-Laos and NAFRI's work on sustainable rattan in the Lao PDR started in 2006 (and bamboo since 2014). For the past ten years, it has shown remarkable progress in empowering forest-dependent people, improving livelihoods, promoting FSC certification (forest management and Chain of Custody for SME) and market linkages, and advancing management practices and policies, all leading to enhanced environmental conservation.

During the past four years, with the support from SDC and in synergy with initiatives supported by IKEA and Sida (the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency), WWF's Rattan and Bamboo Project has managed to directly assist more than 1,300 households and ensure the sustainable management of 28,688 hectares of forests, including 10,949 hectares of FSC-certified forests.

WWF-Laos was also able to initiate and secure important policy changes at the district, provincial and national levels that support and royalty fee reduction for harvesting sustainable rattan and bamboo sourcing and trading, quota approval processes/procedures. The harmonisation of the tax regime in Khamkeut district and the progress made in Bolikhan are positive examples of WWF's intervention.

Project Objectives

Forest-dependent communities have improved livelihoods through equitable access to land and forest, participation in their management, and the sustainable use of rattan and bamboo resources is the project overall objective.

For interventions to reach scale throughout the country, there is a need to consolidate current results and build on the best practices of the project. In the next three and a half years, in coordination with TABI and GRET, the project will continue its work along the whole supply chain from forests to shelves, by influencing policy changes at provincial and national levels and supporting responsible forest management and sustainable trade benefitting communities in rural areas. This integrated approach will also ensure that self-sustaining mechanisms are in place (i.e. refer to implementing strategy below) to guarantee the continuation of sustainable rattan and bamboo supply chains beyond the life of the project.

Project Main Activities

1. Development bamboo and rattan policy framework in Lao PDR to enable a growing FSC-certified bamboo and rattan business that benefits local livelihoods.
2. Empowerment communities to sustainably manage forests rich in bamboo and rattan in target villages.
3. Capacity building for rattan and bamboo producers, processors and traders to match international standards and promote FSC products internationally, regionally and locally.

Project Partners

National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute; Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry will be the main partner to implement the project activities.

Other MAF departments such as DoF is also a key focal point for the project, as well as their line agencies in the provinces and district. The project also engages on a regular basis with TABI project, DALAM and its line agencies on land use planning activities in target villages.

The MoIC and its line agencies is also a key partner when it comes to the promotion of sustainable business initiatives such as Community Forest Enterprises.

Project Duration & Target

The project is started from January 2018 to December 2020 in three provinces; Bolikhamsay, Xekong, and Saravan. The Activities directly targets at 28 villages in 6 Districts with an estimated total 1,500 HH benefit from all project activities.

WWF-Laos

House No. 39, Unit 5, Chanthabouly District, Vientiane Capital, Lao PDR. PO Box: 7871

E-mail: wwf-laos@wwf.org.la / Website: www.wwf.org.la

Phone: +856 21 216080

Bouavanh Phachomphonh, Project Manager
bouavanh.phachomphonh@wwf.org.la

© WWF-Laos



Why we are here

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

