



Establishing a Sustainable Production System for Rattan Products in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam



The Challenge

- Unsustainable harvest** - Major depletions of rattan leads to forest degradation.
- Wastage** - Up to **55 percent** of harvest is wasted along the supply chain.
- Pollution** - Highly toxic substances causing air, water and soil pollution and health issues for workers.
- Unreliable and illegal supply** – Non-registered rattan traders can undercut legitimate traders.
- Low quality** - Over **90 percent** of finished rattan products currently produced in Cambodia and Lao PDR do not comply with required product quality standards and lack proper licenses.

The Path to Improvements

- This project four areas of activities:
- (1) Improving rattan management and pre-processing at village level by implementing sustainable rattan management and production plans;
 - (2) Strengthening supply chain management and introducing cleaner production by applying the “Design for Sustainability” approach;
 - (3) Introducing credible certification to the rattan management/processing and establishing links with responsible;
 - (4) Supporting government institutions to enforce and improve related legislation and policy frameworks;

In a Nutshell

The SWITCH-Asia “Establishing a Sustainable Production System for Rattan Products in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam” project seeks to address the “Sustainable Rattan Industries” and aims to boost the export of sustainable rattan products from Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam.

By 2015, the project envisions that at least 50% of rattan processing in the region is sustainable, leading to environmental improvements, strengthened competitiveness, poverty alleviation and national economic benefits.



The Project and its Impact

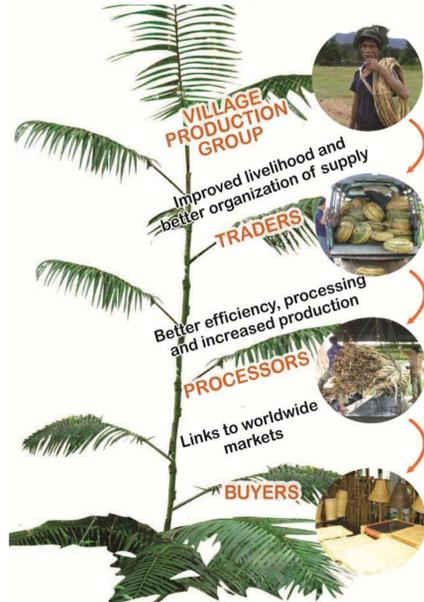
This project aims to establish a sustainable rattan industry by introducing Cleaner Production (CP) and a credible Chain-of-Custody certification for raw rattan, as well as market. A sustainable rattan industry provides a money incentives to maintain **50,000 hectares** of forest in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam, and avoid economic and environmental cost.

- By 2010, 100 communities** in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam will be engaged in sustainable rattan production.
- By 2011, 40 percent** of all targeted small and medium enterprises in the supply chain will be actively engaged in cleaner rattan production. **15 percent** of processing industries will provide eco-friendly products to European and worldwide markets.
- By 2015, 50 percent** of the rattan processing industry in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam will be environmentally cleaner and more competitive within regional and worldwide markets, generating better economic returns.



The SWITCH-Asia project trains villagers in harvesting sustainable rattan and producing sustainable furniture. Linking local producers with global value chains creates new local income opportunities and employment. The objective: poverty alleviation and protection of natural resources at the same time. The project involves all actors in the rattan supply chain.

Rattan Supply Chain



The Outreach Strategy

The approach in such a way that involves all actors of the rattan supply chain, from village producing groups to traders and processors to buyers (national and international). At the village level, much action is taken to strengthen the position of rattan harvesters and pre-processors. This is done through the development and implementation of sustainable rattan management plan with focus on rattan sustainable management and harvesting system, priority on FSC certification, as well as through more efficient and value adding processing. At the level of rattan Small Medium Enterprises (SMEs), the aim is to engage them in achieving cleaner production, leading to more efficient use of raw material, compliance with international product quality standards and ultimately strengthened competitiveness of the rattan sector.

Contact:



Coordinator:
Sabine Gisch-Boie
Project Manager
WWF Austria
sabine.gisch-boie@wwf.at

Thibault Ledecq
Rattan Programme Manager
WWF Greater Mekong
House no. 39, Unit 05
Chanthabouly District
Vientiane Capital; Laos
Tel.: +856 21 216080
Email: thibault.ledecq@wwf-greatermekong.org

