



# Teak Mekong Newsletter

December 2019 - Volume 1(4)

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TEAK Mekong Newsletter support and facilitates teak networking in the Mekong sub-region through ITTO member countries and partners, and support sharing lessons of the project results through short news release, occasional papers, project related teak-based research and development information. The bi-monthly newsletter is released online through TEAKNET webpage [www.teaknet.org](http://www.teaknet.org) and co-hosted by Kasetsart University, Thailand.

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## Teak in Mekong Sub-region: A historical perspective of the evolving policies

Dr. Promode Kant<sup>1</sup>

Before the entry of European colonial powers in the Mekong sub-region in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the forests, unlike cultivated lands, were under the direct control of the local rulers but free access to timber and other forest resources was usually accorded to the neighboring people with some oversight to ensure that when used for trade the local rulers also get a part of the earnings. Since mostly teak was used for trade across the borders, the Alompra (or Alaungpaya) dynasty of Myanmar had declared teak as Royal tree. The felling, transport and sale of which required permission from local authorities. As export demand for teak, mainly for naval ship for expanding empires and establishing businesses across the globe increased, the rulers began allotting blocks of forests for a price permitting the purchaser to fell as many trees as they liked in any manner and take out of the country.

With the entry of the colonial powers these felling operations, hitherto limited by the financial capacities of the forest lessee, covered far greater areas and destruction became rampant everywhere. In 1826 Tenasserim province of Burma was ceded to the British East India Company under the Treaty of Yandaboo and in 1827 Dr. Nathaniel Wallich, Superintendent of Botanical Garden at Calcutta, reported that the forests of the province were better than anywhere else under the East India Company's sphere of influence. There was a rush to exploit these forests and in 1829 these forests were thrown open to any exploiter who could pay the ad-valorem value on the timber taken out of the forests to a port of exit.

Massive destruction followed and in 1837 the East India Company engaged the services of an eminent Naturalist of the time, Dr Johann Wilhelm Welfer, to examine the status of forests of Tenasserim. He reported low teak inventories and inadequate regeneration and recommended raising of teak plantations rather than relying exclusively on natural forests. Welfer's report led to the cancellation of all existing teak extraction leases in 1841 by the new Superintendent of Forests, Captain Tremeneheere, and new leases were issued with sufficient safeguards. But there was no effective mechanism to enforce the safeguards in the forests and the enforcement of regulations at the port of exit, when timber had already been felled and transported at considerable expenditure, led to strong protests from the business community and the East India Company overruled the Superintendent and allowed the former system to prevail.

In 1852 the East India Company annexed the province of Pegu (now called Bago) with its teak forests reckoned the best in the whole world citing increasing conflicts between the British traders and the King of Ava in Upper Myanmar as the reason for the act. The Company declared that "all the forests are the property of the Government, and no general permission to cut timber therein will be granted to anyone"<sup>2</sup> and appointed a new Superintendent, Dr John McClelland, a medical doctor with keen interest in nature, for Pegu forests.

<sup>1</sup> Formerly of the Indian Forest Service, Director, Institute of Green Economy, Gurgaon, India

<sup>2</sup> Empire Forestry and the Origins of Environmentalism by Gregory Allen Barton

## The beginning of policies that encouraged sustainable management

McClelland noticed heavy felling of young trees in easy access in lower parts of hills close to streams that was clearly encouraged by trade practices in vogue and felt it stuck at the very roots of scientific forest management. Deeply disturbed, he wrote a detailed report to the then Governor General of East India Company in Calcutta a single sentence of which, quoted countless times, contains the central principle of scientific forestry:

“A forest may be regarded as a growing capital, the resources of which are the young trees, and unless these are preserved and guarded to maturity, it is obvious the forest must necessarily degenerate from the nature of an improving capital to that of a sinking fund.”<sup>3</sup>

As a control measure McClelland suggested two policy measures<sup>4</sup>. One was to levy single duty on logs irrespective of its value to discourage harvesting of small trees and the second, the management of forests by the government where merchants would only be able to harvest trees marked by the government.

This report, it is said, heavily influenced the then Governor General of East India Company, Lord Dalhousie, in issuing the “*Minutes on Forest Policy*” of 1855, making all teak the property of the state, regulated its trade, and initiated a new approach to forest management in which the private interests were subordinated to the rights of the state over nature and the state was to be involved in all forestry operations – deciding how much to harvest annually, marking specific trees for felling, and transporting harvested products to the depots – directly. The Minutes were critical of the monopolistic role of big timber traders and favored smaller traders over the larger ones for harvesting and transport of timber on behalf of the government.

## Involving communities: Taungya in Teak

It felt to Dr. Dietrich Brandis, who succeeded McClelland as the Superintendent of Pegu forests in 1856, to translate into practice what scientific forestry actually meant in tropical forests. He made an estimate of what could be the annual allowable cut from the forests of Pegu spread over some eight million hectares. But, perhaps even more important, Brandis devised a way in which the people of Pegu, the Karen, considered hostile to the British, could benefit from the increasing value that teak was offering.

Till then the Karen people, practicing shifting cultivation, would clear a patch of forests by felling trees, burning and mixing ash with the soil, cultivate for three years, and then return to the same site after about two decades. Brandis offered them an attractive sum of money if they also plant teak along with their crops and leave a certain number of sturdy teak saplings behind as they move to new sites. Thus was born the Taungya cultivation that then spread across the tropical world, a novel agroforestry practice, an early prototype of sustainable forest landscape management by communities.

## French colonial influence: limited by circumstances

Compared to the British East India Company, the French East India Company was more neutral to how the Rulers in various parts of Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia conducted their internal trade practices. Its objectives were far more political than commercial from the beginning perhaps also because there was no natural teak, the timber most in demand for the imperial navies, in Vietnam and Cambodia and very little in the north-western region of Laos bordering Thailand. This resulted in very limited French influence in timber related policies in these countries. In the Vietnam peninsula timber harvest and trade practices largely evolved in response to the demands from the neighboring markets of China and changes were slow and limited by relatively decentralized nature of political control in these countries with remarkable autonomy in the hands of local tribal communities. The French did try to introduce teak in Vietnam in the early years of the twentieth century, but it was limited to planting along roads and in public parks around French buildings and had no impact on teak trade.

Adjusting itself delicately and deftly between the two European big powers of the day, Thailand remained politically independent but had to cede control over its teak forests in northern territories to the British<sup>5</sup> who primarily wanted to prevent the French from increasing their imperial expansion and accessing the great Teak resources of the country for ship building. King Mongkut of Siam, after signing the Bowring Treaty in 1855 giving the British extraterritorial privileges in managing teak trade in the northern vassal states with the British Vice Counsel in Chiang Mai holding magisterial powers of the Court to settle trade disputes involving British subjects, famously stated<sup>6</sup> his choice was whether to swim upriver and make friends with the crocodile (the French) or to swim downstream to the sea to be with the whale (the British). He obviously found the whale, that kept a cuddly but firm hold for the next three quarters of a century, a more manageable partner.

<sup>3</sup> Dan Handel, Into the Woods, Cabinet Magazine, Issue 48/Trees, cabinetmagazine.org, 2012

<sup>4</sup> Forests of India, by Stebbings

<sup>5</sup> Forestry as Foreign Policy: Anglo-Siamese Relations and the Origins of Britain's Informal Empire in the Teak Forests of Northern Siam, 1883-1925, by Gregory Barton and Brett Bennett

<sup>6</sup> Cambridge History of Southeast Asia, Nicholas Tarling



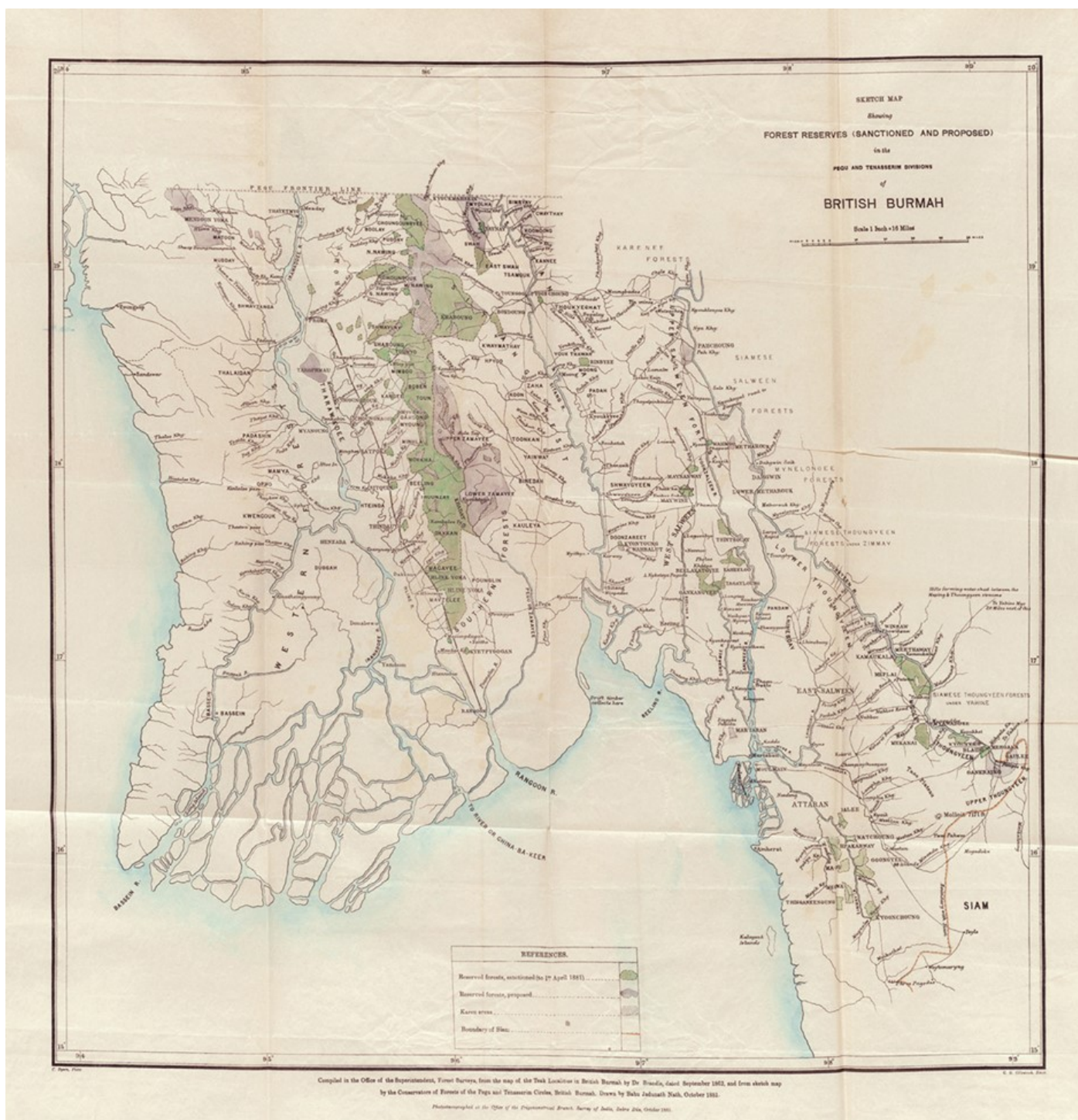


Fig 1: Sketch map of the existing and proposed forest reserves in Pegu and Tenasserim divisions of British Burmah in 1861. The Karen areas and the boundary of Siam at that time are also shown (Source: Into the Woods by Dan Handel, Cabinet Magazine, Issue 48, 2012)

## Current policies related to teak

Harvesting of teak in natural forests is not permitted in Thailand since 1989 with most of these natural forests having been declared protected areas. While this has promoted teak plantation activities within Thailand and also in neighboring Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam it has also led to increased demand for teak harvesting in natural teak forests of Myanmar where restrictions on natural teak harvesting were limited only by the principles of sustainable forest management. There are also reports of increased illegal logging of natural teak in Myanmar close to its borders with Thailand.

Teak harvesting in natural forests of Lao PDR is also prohibited since 1989 with most of the teak entering markets coming from shifting cultivation areas in its north western hills and also from left over harvested teak logs from previous harvesting. There is a ban on export of logs from the country but there are problems in effective implementation of the ban.

In Myanmar teak harvesting is carried out under the Myanmar Selection System with both allowable annual harvest and marking of harvestable trees being done by the Forest Department while the actual act of tree felling, conversion and transport to depots, and sale, is conducted by the sole authorized government agency, the Myanmar Timber Enterprises.

## A deep policy overhaul is needed

In view of high demand for teak timber, Governments in all countries of the region encourage teak planting by government forest departments over public lands as also incentives to people and communities for establishing teak plantations. As the availability of public lands for raising teak plantations are limited everywhere due to both ecological constraints and competing demands for other uses, the trend is to encourage raising teak plantations over private lands by individuals, communities and companies through subsidies and other incentives.

But much work remains to be done in this direction since there are still a host of policies and laws in all the countries of the region that in one way or the other act to discourage private sector investment in teak, foremost of which are the restrictions on felling and transport of teak that were put in place for protecting teak in natural forests and on public lands. Many more roadblocks are offered by a range of land and fiscal policies relating to lease tenures, land conversions from agriculture to tree cultivation, royalties and taxes.

Sourcing funds for financing long term investments that hardwoods like teak require, and the risks that deter financing need to be evaluated. Loan financing for these long-term investments pose serious problems and currently there are not many instruments that can satisfactorily link the financial institutions providing loans with the teak growers. Teak forests in their natural zone provide a range of ecosystem services that are highly valuable for the welfare of larger global and national societies including mitigation of, and adaptation to, climate change, biodiversity enrichment, soil and moisture conservation and regulation of air pollution, among others. The larger global and national societies should, therefore, be persuaded to share the risks that private investors face in long-term teak plantations and funding mechanisms that identify such sharable risks would need to be devised. The national society that benefits from the "green investments" in teak forests should also be able to extend tax incentives to the investors in teak plantations, particularly to those managing teak on a long-rotation basis.

Another aspect of policy intervention that needs to be explored fully is the promotion of public-private partnership in managing existing teak forests and growing more. This partnership has to go beyond merely sharing investment burdens for it to succeed at scale. One such area that requires private partnership is research which has so far been entirely in public domain. While competing interests, and resulting need for secrecy, cannot always be avoided in the case of research in teak growing by private companies making big investments there are clearly areas of cooperation that should be explored and expanded through policy measures.

Protecting the interests of small-scale unorganized teak growers is a major challenge before the policy makers. They require extension services through institutional arrangements and also access to international support mechanisms for new and evolving technologies, financing under the many international agreements on biodiversity, climate change and limiting pollution. Increased access to marketing of teak products in high end international markets by small growers would also help them significantly.

A comprehensive review of all these fiscal and land policies, and regulations related to harvesting, transport and export and import is needed to assess their impact on private investment in large and small sized teak plantations by commercial ventures, individuals and communities, and even household plantings. Such a review should be able to identify specific financial incentives at global, national and local levels, and the legal and institutional environment in which these incentives are placed, that are most efficient and cost effective in leading to the desired changes.





## The 2<sup>nd</sup> ITTO Project Steering Committee Meeting and the National Teak Forum in LAO PDR

**“Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region” (ITTO PP-A/54-331)**

18-20 February 2020, Vansana Riverside Hotel, Vientiane and Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

### Background

Teak (*Tectona grandis*) with its outstanding physical and aesthetic qualities is recognized as one of the most important and valuable hardwood species in the world. Natural and planted teak forests are found in about 70 tropical countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Given the importance of teak's prominent position in the global timber market and its potential to contribute to national economic growth and local livelihoods, the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) at its 53<sup>rd</sup> Session in Peru in 2017 approved an activity entitled “*Enhancing Teak Management*” under ITTO Biennial Work Program for 2018-2019 as a comprehensive global activity to improve the management and marketing of both natural and planted teak in all three tropical regions. In November 2018, the Federal Republic of Germany through the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture financed the first stage of this activity in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

The ITTO Teak Project Phase I, “*Enhancing Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (PP-A/54-331)*”, aims to assist governments, local communities and smallholders to enhance natural teak forest management, production and marketing through the establishment of legal and sustainable wood supply chains, improving local economy and local communities' livelihood in the Mekong Sub-region. The teak project has officially started 1 March 2019 and will end on 28 February 2022. The Launching Workshop and the First PSC meeting were conducted on 23-25 April 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The project is being executed by ITTO in collaboration with five agencies of the implementing countries, namely Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), Lao PDR's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Myanmar's Forestry Department (FD), Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS). In addition, Kasetsart University of Thailand through the Regional Project Leader is coordinating all activities being implemented in the five participating countries.

### Objectives

The organization of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Project Technical Meeting (PTC) on 18 February 2020, as well as the ‘*National Teak Forum in Lao PDR: Sustainable Value Chains for Sustainable Local Development*’ is scheduled on 19-20 February 2020, Vientiane and Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.

The PSC meeting is aimed at reviewing the overall progress of the project implementation, including reviewing the responses of the project team to the recommendations of the 1<sup>st</sup> PSC meeting and providing directions and recommendations to the Executing Agency and Project Team in achieving the project targets. The project technical meeting will further discuss results and recommendations of the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting and formulate operational action plans on the ground and solving any technical problems encountered.



## Provisional Agenda

Tuesday, 18 February 2020

Vansana Riverside Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

Morning Session (9:00 – 12:30pm)

Item	Subject
Item 1	<b>Opening of the Meeting</b>  Remarks by the Chairperson of the PSC Remarks by the donor representatives (the German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL) and representative of the German Embassy Remarks by the representative of ITTO
Item 2	<b>Self-introduction by the participants and Group Photo</b>
Item 3	<b>Review of the project structure and progress (including financial and inputs applied)</b>  The project's overall objectives, outputs, work plan, and financial matters (Dr. Hwan-ok Ma, ITTO) Review of the implementation of the Minutes of the 1 <sup>st</sup> PSC Meeting (Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Leader) Report on the first-year project implementation (Prof. Yongyut Trisurat, Regional Project Leader) Introduction on the 4th World Teak Conference (4 <sup>th</sup> WTC 2020) (Dr. Thulasidas, the project's consultant) and the Project's Contributions (Dr. Tetra Yanuariadi, ITTO )
<b>Coffee/Tea Break</b>	
Item 4	<b>Consideration of the Second Yearly Plan of Operation (YPO)</b>  Draft consolidated YPO (consisting of work plans and associated budgets of the five participating countries) for the second year of project implementation ( Prof. Yongyut Trisurat)
Item 5	<b>Recommendations</b>  Project Steering Committee will: Review, evaluate, approve and adopt reports presented at the PSC meeting Discuss any issues arising from presentations, including possible modification/improvement to the project implementation and/or the budget Provide recommendations to contribute to effective implementation of the project The chairperson may summarize the main recommendations made during the meeting.
Item 6	<b>Other Business</b>  Project Steering Committee will review: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Organization of next PSC meeting (time and location) &amp; Other business matters</li> </ul>
Item 7	<b>Closing of the Meeting</b>

## The 2nd Project Technical Meeting (including consultation BMEL representative)

### Afternoon Session (14:00-16:30hrs)

- Review the recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> PSC meeting and follow up actions
- Review the progress of work of the project's consultants
- Review the implementation of the ITTO Teak Project including review the implementation of the recommendations of the second Project Technical Committee Meeting held in September 2019 in Yangon, Myanmar
- Review of the work plans for the first half of the second year
- Discuss the project's inputs to the 4<sup>th</sup> WTC 2020

### Other Information

#### Language of the Meeting

English

#### Sponsorship:

The ITTO Teak Project in Mekong will support invited participants from the five participating countries and selected experts.

#### Meeting venue:

Vientiane –Vansana Riverside Hotel.

Check-in 17 February, check-out 19 February)

<http://vansana-riverside.hotelinvientiane.com/en/>



Vansana riverside hotel Vientiane



# National Teak Forum in LAO PDR: Sustainable Value Chains for Sustainable Local Development

19-20 February 2020, Vientiane and Luang Prabang, Lao PDR







#### Background:

Teak (*Tectona grandis*) with its outstanding physical and aesthetic qualities is recognized as one of the most important and valuable hardwood species in the world. Natural and planted teak forests are found in about 70 tropical countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Given the importance of teak's prominent position in the global timber market and its potential to contribute to national economic growth and local livelihoods, the International Tropical Timber Council (ITTC) at its 53<sup>rd</sup> Session in Peru in 2017 approved an activity entitled "Enhancing Teak Management" under ITTO Biennial Work Program for 2018-2019 as a comprehensive global activity to improve the management and marketing of both natural and planted teak in all three tropical regions. In November 2018, the Federal Republic of Germany through the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture financed the first stage of this activity in the Greater Mekong Sub-region.

In Lao PDR, teak is a priority native species and the area of natural teak forests is estimated to 68,500 ha in 2010. In addition, teak plantations have been established by private companies and rural communities. The Department of Forestry has promoted community-based teak plantations. An estimated 36,000 ha of teak plantations are mainly located in northern provinces (Luang Prabang and Boeko). The goals of the Forest Strategy 2020 include increasing transparency of natural resource policy and disseminating information on forest cover, forestry revenues, harvesting levels, plantation establishment and management actions. Many rural peoples in the northern provinces of Lao PDR depend on planted teak forests for their livelihoods. They gain employment and income from teak forestry as a most economically viable land use option particularly in remote and underdeveloped areas. The multiplier effect on local employment at small-scale wood processing and service sector levels is significant when value-added activities are developed in the local economy and among the forest-dependent workforce.

In view of the importance of developing value-added activities in the local economy in partnerships between the private timber sector and the local communities, the National Teak Forum aims at reviewing the opportunities and challenges of sustainable teak value chains in Lao PDR with a view to contributing to sustainable development of smallholders teak forestry in Lower Mekong Region

#### Objective:

The organization of **National Teak Forum – Sustainable Value Chains**, will particularly provide an opportunity to discuss the issues of sustainable teak value chains in Lao PDR by reviewing lessons from promotion of teak-based sustainable forest management (SFM) by the private sector and community forest enterprises in terms of technical aspects (seedling, silvicultural, management, value-adding processing, etc.) and economic aspects (investments, incentive mechanisms, credits, etc.).

It will also contribute to enhancing teak value chain research and sustainable teak forestry in Lower Mekong Region.





**National Teak Forum in LAO PDR:**  
**“Sustainable Teak Value Chains for Sustainable Local Development”**  
 19-20 February 2020, Vientiane & Luang Pha Bang, Lao PDR

<b>Wednesday, 19 February 2020</b>	
08.00- 09:00	Registration
09:00 - 10:00	<b>Opening ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks by Representative from Lao PDR</li> <li>• Welcome remarks by Representative from ITTO</li> <li>• Welcome remarks by German Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture (BMEL)</li> </ul>
10:00 – 10:30	<b>Tea break and Press release</b>
10:30 – 11:30	<b>Key note presentations and discussion</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sustainable Forest Management in Lao PDR, including Teak by Mr. Bounchanh Lattanavongkot, Lao PDR.</li> <li>• Teak value chains in Lao PDR: Challenges and Opportunities by Prof. Tek Maraseni, University of Southern Queensland, Australia and Mr. Vongvilay Vongkhamsao, NAFRI</li> <li>• Teak product industry in Lao PDR by Mr. Thongsavanh, President of Lao furniture association, a teak producer's organization/ teak company</li> </ul>
11.30-12.30	Country presentations on sustainable supply and value chains of quality teak timber in Lower Mekong: Cambodia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam
12.30-13.20	<b>Panel discussion: Sustainable teak value chains in Lower Mekong Region</b> Panel members: Representatives from the participating countries involved in teak value chains (Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam)
13.20 – 14:00	<b>Lunch at restaurant</b>
14.30	<b>Departure to Wattay International Airport (Participants for Filed Excursion)</b>
17.00	<b>Leave for Luang Prabang</b>
	<b>Stay overnight at E-outfitting Vang Thong Hotel, Luang Phabang</b>
<b>Thursday, 20 February 2020 (Field Excursion)</b>	
8.30-13.30 (Lunch included)	Teak Silvicultural Demonstration Plot Ban Xieng Lom Teak Plantation Management Group Ban Kok Ngiew Teak Farmers Group Thad Sae Waterfall
13.30-17.00	Upland Agriculture Research Centre (UARC) Teak seed production at Ban Lak Seep (10 km)
<b>Friday, 21 February 2020</b>	
	Departure of participants

## Luang Prabang Field Excursion (19-20 February 2020)

**19 February 2020 (Lao Airlines QV-103: Departure 17.00; Arrival 17.50)**

Participants will leave for Luang Prabang in the afternoon after the National Forum.

Stay overnight at E-outfitting Vang Thong Hotel  
[\(http://www.vangthonghotel.com/hotel/contact-us/\)](http://www.vangthonghotel.com/hotel/contact-us/)

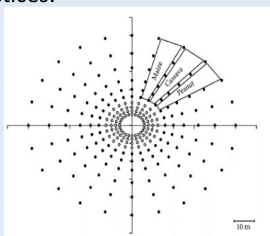
**20 February 2020 (8.30-16.00)**

A field excursion to teak plantations, a tissue culture laboratory, and natural teak forest management demonstration sites in Luang Prabang province. This field excursion will be organized by NAFRI.

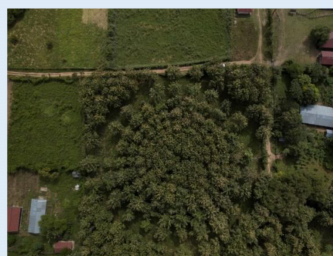
### Brief Information of each visit site:

**Stop 1. Teak Silvicultural Demonstration Plot (Nelder wheel experiment).**

The Nelder wheel experiment plot was established in 2008 with the support of ACIAR-Agro Forestry Project. The objective of establishment is to present the effects of teak planting in different spacing on growth performance. The plantation plot is located in the campus of Northern Agriculture and Forestry College (NAFC). Students usually use this area to learn, and conduct experiments and research practices.



Nelder wheel experiment





### Stop 2. Ban Xieng Lom.

Ban Xieng Lom Teak Plantation Management Group was established on 15 July 2013. There are 32 families participating in this group with 61 plots of teak plantation covering the area of 4,306 hectares. The group has in 2015 set up a teak wood processing unit for value adding of teak in 2005. The unit has bought timber from the group members and outsiders, and then sold it to processing factories and companies in Luang Prabang and other provinces in Lao PDR. They also export the processed wood to neighboring countries. The wood sale products include sawn logs, processed wood, furniture, and housing materials. The participants will visit a saw-mill and furniture enterprise of one or two members of group. This enterprise is based almost entirely upon smallholder teak wood harvested locally. The members also act as teak traders and deal with larger enterprises, buying standing trees from growers, attending to the complex regulatory requirements for harvesting and transport and selling logs to larger enterprises

#### Points to observe and discuss include:

- The importance of the local trader in the teak supply chain
- Importance of the trader as a source of finance

The importance of planted teak as an emergency source of finance.



Ban Xieng Lom Processing group

### Stop 3. Ban Kok Ngiew (Meeting with Teak Farmers Group)

Ban Kok Ngiew was established in 1955 and it is a multi-ethnic village of 1,300 people from 3 main ethnicities, Khamu (60%), Lao Loum (30%) and Hmong (10%). The proposed Chinese railway (under construction) will pass through the village.

In 2011 the program obtained a FSC group certificate, which is the first smallholder plantation certification within Lao PDR. Over the past five years, Luang Prabang Teak Program (LTP) has used FSC as a guideline to improve forest management and FSC has been an important mechanism for the development of the program. Some of the benefits from the establishment of the group include capacity building, establishment of small scale enterprises, clarifying land tenure and strengthening farmers' negotiation power.



Wood processing in Kok Ngiew Group

In 2016, Provincial Forest Service and TFT decided not to extend the FSC certificate for the Luang Prabang Teak Program due to the lack of FSC markets and costly bureaucratic audits. In addition, it does not align with the economic reality of smallholders in Lao PDR.

LTP is confident that it can continue to provide benefits to local farmers without being certified by FSC and by continuing their cooperation 'beyond certification' LTP will provide benefits to teak farmers in Luang Prabang.

#### Points to observe and discuss include:

- Is FSC certification appropriate for circumstances such as in Luang Prabang?
- The management of a Group and associated tasks of governance and finance are challenges.
- Can the group respond if a member wants to sell trees in an emergency?

#### Stop 4. Thad Sae Waterfall (including lunch)

Thad Sae Waterfall is recognized as a very popular attraction for local and overseas visitors. The high calcium levels in the water have formed these unusual and attractive falls. Here we have time to walk and enjoy the ambiance of the site before having lunch.

Points to observe and discuss include:

- Management of a beautiful and popular local resource to generate income for local communities
  - Strategies for training in financial literacy and entrepreneurship to be offered as a part of co-management
- Thad Sae Waterfall



After lunch, we will re-board the river boats and travel a short distance to Ban Enh village, a village with very close filial associations with the other riverside villages of Ban Noon and Ban Xieng Lom, where we will rejoin the vans.

#### Stop 5. Upland Agriculture Research Centre (UARC)

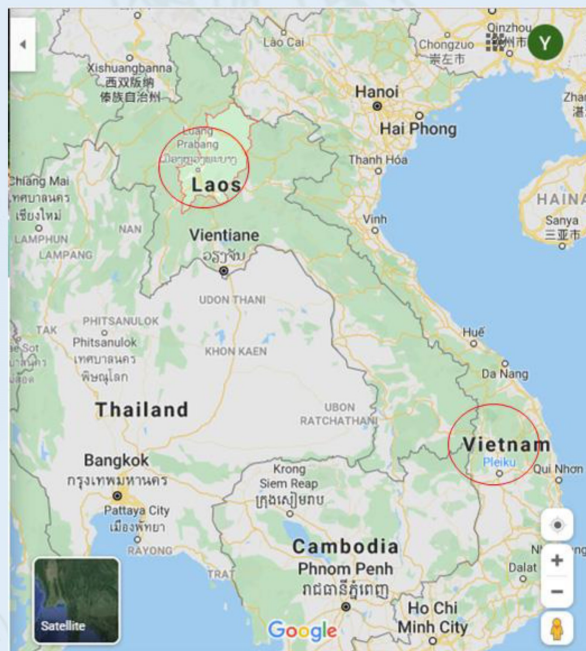
UARC is one of the 15 research centres of NAFRI. Its mandate is to conduct research related to biodiversity, agriculture systems, integrated agro-forestry for food security and cash crops in the northern upland for sustainability. During the visit we will get an overview of UARC which will be presented by Director of the Centre, then visit tissue culture laboratory on teak propagation.

#### Stop 6. Teak seed production at Ban Lak Seep (Km 10)

On the way back to the hotel, we will make a short visit to teak seed production at Ban Lak Seep. It is a planted forest, covering seven hectares, 46 years old and under the administration of Luang Prabang Provincial Forestry office. The purpose of establishment is for seed production. The site was poorly maintained in previous years due to lack of financial support. The Luang Prabang Forestry office proposes this site to get funding support from the ITTO-Teak Mekong Project.

#### 21 February 2020

Participants will depart to home countries on 21 February 2020.





## Other Information

### Language of the Meeting:

English

### Sponsorship:

The ITTO Teak Project in Mekong will support invited participants from the five participating countries and selected experts.

### Accommodation:

- E-outfitting Vang Thong Hotel in Luang Prabang.
- Check-in 19 February, check-out 21 February)

### Connecting flights to other cities from Luang Prabang

Luang Prabang-Bangkok

- Thai Airways/Thai Smile: 11.20-12.55
- Bangkok Airways: 12.20-14.35; 17.30-19.05

Luang Prabang-Vientiane

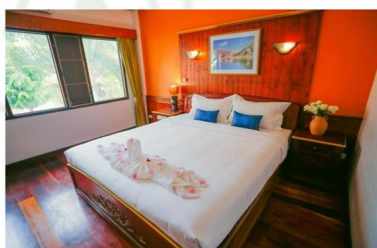
- Lao Airlines: 7.40-8.30; 11.20-12.10; 13.05-13.45, 18.20-19.10

Luang Prabang-Hanoi

- Lao Airlines: 8.30-9.50; 17.10-18.30; 13.05-15.50;



Vansana Riverside hotel in Vientiane



E-outfitting Vang Thong Hotel in Luang Prabang.



### Contact persons:

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