



Linking Business with Responsible Forest Management

## TFT's Q4 Kodak Moment Report

Indochina Program

Issue 2: Oct - Dec. 2008

---

TFT is working with forest companies and communities to improve their policies and forest practices, so they can achieve or maintain FSC forest certification.

This update report provides a snapshot of some of TFT's most recent activities conducted throughout RAFT supported - TFT project sites in Vietnam, Laos, and Malaysia.

---

VIETNAM PROGRAM - RAFT is currently providing financial support to 4 TFT Supported Forests in Vietnam. One is the Truong Son Forest Company the other three are located together in the Gia Lai Province and collectively referred to as the Gia Lai Projects.

### *Activity Highlights:*

#### **I. Truong Son Forestry Company – Long Dai Forestry Corporation – Quang Binh Province**

##### **1. Developing the Sustainable Forest Management Plan**

Following on the surveys and feasibility studies conducted in the last quarter, TFT is continuing to assist Truong Son FMU with the procedure for setting up the Sustainable Forest Management Plan (SFMP) for 2008 – 2020. Four meetings have taken place with the planning group where the outline for the SFMP was set up, and the division of work and responsibilities for each member were determined. TFT is playing a coordination role within the planning group, and ensuring the necessary information and relevant documentation is collected to finalize the SFMP.

##### **2. Reduced Impact Logging (RIL) Operations**

The team is cooperating with the German Cooperation Enterprise (GTZ) to establish a one hectare RIL site within the Natural Forest. Full pre-harvest inventory with tree marking and mapping has been completed and data and documents are being collected for the final evaluation. Once the annual allowable cut for 2009 is issued from the government the RIL trial will enter its next phase of Harvesting.



Figure 1: Example of the tree marking in the RIL Demonstration Plot in Truong Son

### 3. 2008 Progress Review and Annual Work Plan for 2009

In December, TFT Regional and Headquarter Staff met with the Vietnam team in Truong Son to review progress in the forest, and to confirm ambitious targets for 2009. Visits to the forest area and meetings with the Company Management – both within Truong Son FMU and Long Dai (parent) Company were encouraging and the company is well focused to undergo an FSC Assessment in 2009. The company is currently waiting for the Annual Allowable Harvest for 2009 to be authorized by the government, and will try to maintain progress to ensure government approval (all levels) of the forest management plan within 2009. TFT's proposed AWP for 2009 has now been drafted and sent to Truong Son FMU management Board for review and contribution.



Figure 2. Field Visit to the RIL trial plot within Truong Son Forest Project and visiting a local village within the concession area.

## II. Lo Ku, Dak Roong, Tram Lap Forestry Companies – Gia Lai Province

### 1. Continued support to FMUs for the update of Status Forest Maps

Building on last quarter's training on the use of mapping equipment; TFT has assisted the three FMUs (Lo Ku, Tram Lap and Dak Roong) in developing their own digital forest maps. Using data collected in 2005 for the moment, the FMUs are setting up plans to update the maps with latest data of forest status. In addition, TFT is also helping the Technical Department of Loku FMU with the development of a digital map to manage the project of planting 650ha of Eucalyptus. This project is conducted in cooperation between Loku FMU and the local community.



Figure 3: Meeting with Lo Ku Community

## 2. Social Impact Assessment in Lo Ku

Lo Ku FMU is conducting a survey on the welfare of the local people to assess the effects of company operation on the local society. The results of the survey will help the FMU to adjust its own operational strategy in order to ensure that it can bring more benefits to the local community. The survey is due to end in January 2009.

Hình Thức	Vườn Nhà	Nương Rẫy	Đất Trống	Rừng Tự nhiên
1. Điều kiện tự nhiên	Mt, xói mòn...	+ Bắp + Mì + Mía...	+ Bè, lúa... đất đai	+ Trại, kho, chợ, chợ... Cây cối tự nhiên, cây gỗ...
2. Tình hình quản lý sử dụng đất	Xâm, đổ... Đất trồng, đất đai...	+ Xâm, đổ, đất đai... Lô nhỏ ruộng thái đất...	+ Đất trống, trống...	+ Đất trống, đất đai... Mang Chông đất...
3. Lao động	+ Thủ mướn + Tài chủ	+ Thủ mướn + Tài chủ		
4. Năng lực khác	+ Vốn, kinh nghiệm của mướn, lao động... + Năng suất không cao	+ Thủ mướn, kinh nghiệm sản xuất... + Năng suất thấp, Thủ Tài - không...		
5. Tiềm năng	+ Chất đất, đất đai...			
6. Đề xuất	Cấp đất, hỗ trợ vốn và quỹ...	Hỗ trợ vốn, cấp hàng... Tư vấn kỹ thuật, năng lực...		

Figure 4: Example of the notes taken during rural appraisal consultations undertaken in Lo

## 3. Forest Inventory

In the fourth quarter of 2008, TFT helped the three FMUs to set up a program and use equipment to survey the current forest resources such as forest reserves; growing area; and appropriate zones for setting up trading cycle according to the forest status.

However, the survey in the field has been delayed due to unusual weather in November and December 2008. In January 2009, TFT will provide the FMUs staffs with forest surveying technical skills through a series of trainings. The FMUs plan to finish the survey in the first quarter of 2009.

LAOS PROGRAM - RAFT is currently providing financial support to the Luang Prabang Community Teak Program in Laos. The pilot program is being conducted in partnership with a number of organization and agencies in the country, and seeks to assist teak farmers in and around Ban Gok Gniew village pursue FSC group certification

### Activity Highlights:

#### I. Luang Prabang Community Teak Program

##### 1. Luang Prabang Launching Ceremony for the Community Teak Program takes place

The Luang Prabang Launching Ceremony was conducted on October 9th 2008. It was attended by the Department of Forestry, LP Provincial Department of Agriculture and Forestry, the Swedish International Development and Cooperation Agency, the Japanese International Development Agency, WWF and TFT. The main purposes of the ceremony included the dissemination of information to the Village group with an update of the program and the next key steps and on the general benefits of FSC certification. The event also ensured that all key Government Agencies are in support of the program and have been provided with the opportunity to meet program partners and village representatives to facilitate future collaboration. The central Department Of Forestry office also had the opportunity to provide clear guidance to Provincial and District Authorities and obtain support from them. Practical details were also attended to with the determination of the local coordinators roles as well as the office setup equipment. Overall the ceremony was a useful opportunity to strengthen ties and program focus in order to maximize its benefits and ensure timely completion of its actions.



Figure 5. Attendees of the LP Launching Ceremony

**2. Building market linkages for Luang Prabang**

In December 2008, TFT met with representatives of ScanCom- a company in Vietnam. Discussions focused on the emerging partnership between the Laos Wood Processing Association and ScanCom Group and options for production of ScanCom’s Teak components in Vientiane, Laos. TFT met to follow up with ScanCom and ensure that we are supporting the market linkages between Luang Prabang and potential buyers. ScanCom now understands more about the Luang Prabang program and is interested in becoming a long-term partner. A meeting is scheduled for February to follow-up.

**3. Building a collaborative program with WWF GFTN-Laos**

WWF GFTN-Laos and TFT are currently finalizing an MOU to improve collaboration in Laos. It is agreed that collaborating on the promotion of sustainable forest management practices and developing international market linkages has the potential to be far more effective than implementing independent programs of work within Laos. It is anticipated that the MOU will be signed in the first quarter of 2009.

**4. Intern from Australia**

In December 2008 TFT has taken on an Intern from the Australian National University for a two month posting for assistance with the progress of the Teak Program. The focus of the internship will be to assist with introductory GPS training, to review national and regional forestry laws relevant to village teak, to research rule implementation by government officials at the national, regional and local levels and the observance of current laws by businesses while considering any other legal requirements (i.e. village group formation.)

## 5. GPS training

In December 2008, GPS training was conducted for Local Provincial Agricultural Forestry Officers staff by TFT.



Figure 6. Conducting GPS training in the teak forest of Luang Prabang

MALAYSIA PROGRAM- Support from RAFT has enabled TFT to rekindle collaboration with Perak Integrated Timber Company. While Perak ITC was successful in re-gaining their FSC certificate earlier in 2008, TFT will work together with them on agreed activities to continuing strengthening their operations.

### *Activity Highlights:*

#### **I. Perak ITC**

##### **1. Preparing for Training Workshops**

During Q4, TFT did not yet commence activities with PIRC in Malaysia. Rather we continued discussions to identify Perak ITC's training needs. Currently, Perak ITC's wishes for the content of the training workshops include: information and training on FSC, tree species ID skills, survey techniques, mapping skills, RIL, HCVF, social awareness and surveys, road construction and maintenance and management skills. In the first quarter of 2009, TFT will further these discussions to pinpoint exact topics that we can provide, and look to organize and offer the first workshop in late February 2009.