



Linking Business with Responsible Forest Management

TFT's Indochina Program Kodak Moment Report

Issue 3: Jan – March 2009

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 or collectively referred to as the Gia Lai Projects.

Activity Highlights:

I. GIA LAI Province

1. Finalizing the Annual Work plan for 2009, approving it with the FMU and signing an MoU with the Dak Roong Forestry Company

Based on the Master Plan 2006- 2010 and in considering the current situation, TFT is cooperating with relevant FMUs to set up their Annual Action Plan for 2009. After discussions, TFT and the FMUs have signed and committed to implementing the Annual Action Plan for 2009.

The Dak Roong Forest Company signed an MoU with TFT on the 17th February 2009.

2. Conducting forest management and forest protection activities in the Dry Season

The three forest companies have set up their own Forest Management and Protection Plans for 2009. After being reviewed and approved by the relevant authorities, the plans have been demonstrated to all staff members of each forest company in January 2009. In the first quarter of 2009, the forest companies have conducted their Forest Management and Protecting Plans with significant activities such as:

- Teaching villagers about forest protection and developmental law;
- Petitioning the villagers to commit to conducting no illegal activities in the forest areas of the companies;
- Managing the forest to prevent and fight fire with the participation of company staff members and villagers.



Figure 1. Forest management course and fire fighting in the dry season

3. Conducting forest inventory

In the start of the first quarter of 2009, TFT has helped the technical staff members of the three forest companies to set up the forest resource survey plans. The technical staff members of the companies are implementing the surveys. This activity will be regularly managed and monitored by the managers of the companies and TFT staff.

In December, TFT Regional and Headquarter Staff had met with Vietnam team in Truong Son to review progress.

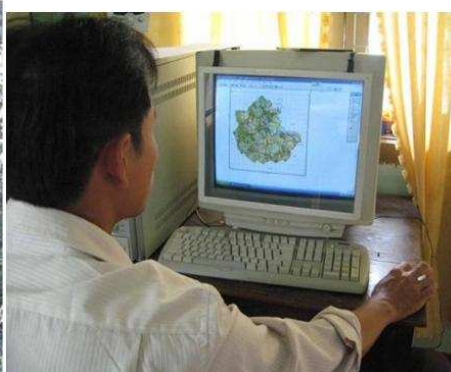


Figure 2. Field Visit to the RIL trial plot within Truong Son Forest Project and visiting a local village within the concession area

Figure 3. Computerized Map preparation

4. Update of basic maps and building subject maps

The technical staff members of the forest companies regularly update the basic maps. They are also building subject maps including harvesting maps.

5. Finishing the social assessment survey

Relevant communities, TFT and the forest companies have developed a Social Assessment Survey Report. This activity will form the foundations for building better relationships between the FMUs and the communities in forest management and developing activities.

6. Other activities

Monitoring the implement of resource tax payment; Clearing labour contract with communities.

II. TRUONG SON / LONG DAI – VIET NAM

1. Social Impact Assessment

From 20th February to 2nd March 2009, while scoping for technical support for the Truong Son State Forest Enterprise (SFE) LDFIC, Quang Binh province and Tropical Forest Trust co-operatively organized the social survey within the State Forest Enterprise. The survey assessed the forestry practices and social status using the SFE's area supporting database and consulting responsible organizations. The aims are to resolve any discontent with the FMU's activities between communities nearby or within the SFE's area, keeping with objectives towards sustainable and responsible forest management and compliance with FSC certification.



Figure 4. Social impact assessment report writing and interviews with local population

2. RIL

The Collaboration continues with German development agency GTZ working on a Reduced Impact Logging model in Truong Son.

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

Activity Highlights:

1. Field based surveys of teak plantations and registration activities commence

As part of the teak lot registration process, surveys have been completed for many teak lots within the Pilot Area. TFT, Local PAFO staff and farmers have already conducted surveys on 30 lots which will soon be registered according to the legal requirements of the Government of Laos. Registration of teak lots is an important step towards sale of teak logs, and it also improves farmers’ awareness of their legal rights. This in turn empowers local people, reducing the likelihood of manipulation by log traders who have, in the past, used the complexity and cost of plantation registration and associated legal requirements as a means to reduce the value of teak logs and therefore the return to the farmer.



Figure 5.. PAFO.-TFT and Head of Village group undertake a survey of the first teak lot to be registered

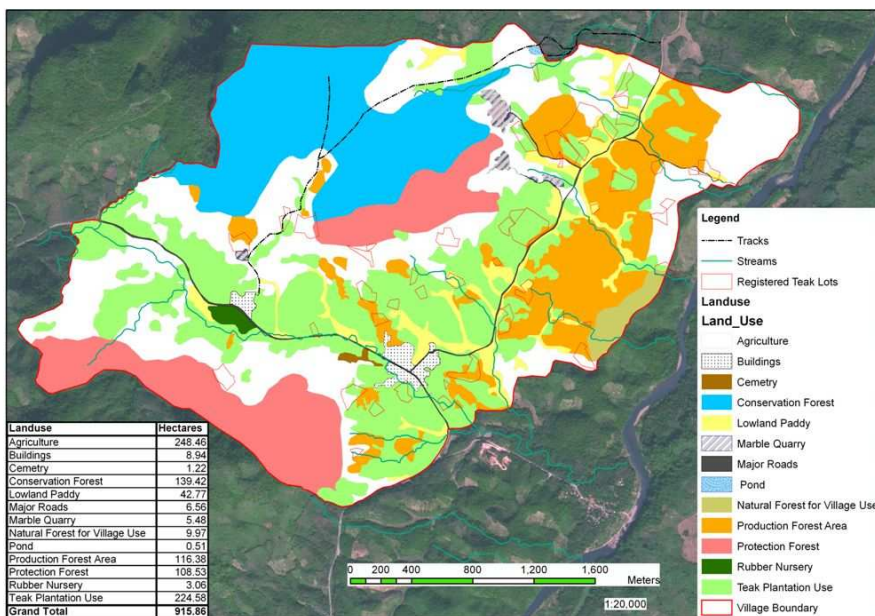


Figure 6. Land use map of Luang Prabang, achieved through collaborative mapping

2. TFT finalizes the position of the Local Program coordinator under agreement between the Forestry Section and TFT

The TFT family has been able to secure Mr Bounchanh Lattanavongkot to the position of Coordinator for activities under the Luang Prabang Community Teak Program. Bounchanh joins the program in a dual capacity role which will see him coordinate the day to day activities under the Teak Program as well as operate in his existing role as Head of Administration and Planning Unit for the Luang Prabang Forestry Section.

Bounchanh officially remains a Forestry Section employee however agreement has been reached where TFT will pay a component of his salary in return for 70% of his time dedicated to coordination of day to day activities.

Bounchanh, a Lao National, brings with him over ten years experience in the Forestry Sector and is already making significant

contributions under the program by efficiently coordinating day to day activities. Bounchanh has a Higher

Diploma of Forestry Management from the Faculty of Agriculture & Forestry, National University of Laos and a Masters Degree in Social Science from the Asian Institute of Technology.



Figure 7. (L)Bounchanh Lattanavongkot (R) Sam Och showing the landuse map for the pilot village.

3. First major training session held with villagers and farmer group leaders

A successful village training sessions was held in February to help translate international and local expertise on Sustainable Forest Management into a common understanding of the program goals and key requirements towards achieving FSC. The first training was a real success with in excess of 105 villagers in attendance. This leaves the program implementers in no doubt of the interest and commitment of villagers in the program.



Figure 8. Local Villagers and Farmers attend the Training Day

4.TNC and USAID visit the Teak Program

As part of the Mid Term Review of RAFT, TFT hosted a visit by Jack Hurd of TNC and Barry Flaming USAID. Barry and Jack were able to experience first hand the progress of the project, meeting the implementing team and spend time with the local villagers. Information exchanged freely and provided the team with a good understanding of the program and its goals.



Figure 9. TFT-Forestry Staff-TNC-USAID with local farmers

MALAYSIA PROGRAM- Support from RAFT has enabled TFT to initiate collaboration with Yayasan Sabah. TFT will work together with them on agreed activities to progress towards FSC certification.

Activity Highlights:

1. MoU Signing and AWP Preparation

Yayasan Sabah met with TFT (Boris Saraber) in January 2009 at the YYS offices. YYS Employees from Departments of Planning, Operations, Sales and Marketing, Conservation and Environment, Rehabilitation and Planning and Administration and regional District Manager and TFT staff attended the meeting to discuss particulars of collaboration between YYS and TFT. Participants drafted the Annual Work Plan and signed the MoU.

The draft AWP was produced based on a Assessment performed by SmartWood. The AWP is a key document and needs to be realistic and based on actual resources available and in a practical timeframe. Therefore TFT and YYS spent one day working collectively preparing the AWP based on the GA and with FSC standards in mind.

Going through individual actions in the work plan, indicated that the forest concessions have already completed a number of actions toward achieving FSC, these include an Internal Social Impact Assessment, a ProForest HCVF assessment, ISO 14001 certification, RFID log tracking systems, Environmental Impact Assessments etc. This is clear proofs of significant steps in the right direction, and even though many challenging areas remain to work on, it is encouraging news.

With the support of the Sabah Forest Department and in particular Mr. Sam Mannan, the Director General who has indicated his strong support and commitment toward achieving SFM and FSC, progress is on a good foundation.

The MoU was signed between TFT and YYS on 13th January 2009 finalizing details of collaboration and ongoing guidance in term of the path towards FSC certification TFT will be providing.