



**“Building Capacity for Timber Species Identification  
to Strengthen the Timber Legality Assurance  
System in Lao PDR”**

**What we have done &  
achieved so far**

**Faculty of Forestry  
July 2017**

# **Objective of the project**

**Enhance the control of timber supply chains in Laos by expanding the capacity to classify and identify wood, and providing government enforcement agents with the necessary tools and training to detect key commercial and protected timber species**

# Expected Outputs/outcomes

- **Output 1:** Establishment of baseline data on priority commercial and protected species and corresponding critical control points along the supply chain plus corresponding capacity building needs assessment;
- **Output 2:** Improved research facilities and learning resources for timber identification and verification are developed and recognized;
- **Output 3:** Strengthen capacity of researchers, enforcement agents and sector professionals in species identification and relevant verification requirements;
- **Output 4:** Monitoring, evaluation and visibility framework developed.

# Activities so far

**Activity 1.1 – Compilation of priority timber species list**

The review of literature to identify the priority timber species was carried

**Activity 1.2 – Analysis of critical points for timber identification along the supply chain.**

Not yet implement.

**Activity 1.3 – Assessment of training needs for government enforcement agencies inspecting timber at the critical points identified.**

The training need assessment was conducted in Khammoune and Attapue provinces. At least five Questionnaire forms were distributed to each provincial office of Forestry, Forest Inspection, Forest Resource Management, Industry, Import and Export, Domestic Trade, and Custom. we are now in the process of data analysis.

**Activity 1.4 – Conduct baseline study species related enforcement and inform TLAS development.**

During the course of our project implementation there were no logging operated in the two provinces in questions.

# Activities ...

**Activity 2.1 – Set up a national wood science centre.**

Certain equipment was already delivered to the laboratory. These include 1 microtome, two light microscopes, glassware and necessary chemicals to make tissue slice.

**Activity 2.2 – Establish wood sample collections**

Wood sample has been collected in the two provinces in question

**Activity 2.3 – Develop training manual**

The training manual was drafted which contains the significant of timber identification, basic wood sciences, techniques for wood identification.

# Activities ...

**Activity 3.1 – Build expertise and exchange experiences with wood anatomical identification specialists in the region**

**One of the project staff attended the training on wood identifications in Kew Gard, UK.**

**Activity 3.2 – Conduct training courses**

**Contacted a wood identification trainer from Konkaen University, Thailand to conduct a Training of Trainer in August 2017.**

# Outputs/outcomes so far

**Output 1** – Establishment of baseline data on priority commercial and protected species and corresponding critical control points along the supply chain plus corresponding capacity building needs assessment;

- The list of 201 Lao tree species which are grouped in 42 families was developed in excel file with some detail information such as: Lao name, Scientific name.
- Assessment need training was carried at the provincial and district levels.

**Output 2** – Improved research facilities and learning resources for timber identification and verification are developed and recognized;

- The laboratory was equipped with necessary equipment.
- Samples from 92 tree species was collected in the two provinces and in VTE
- An early draft of the wood identification training manual.

**Output 3** – Strengthen capacity of researchers, enforcement agents and sector professionals in species identification and relevant verification requirements;

- One project staff was trained in wood identification from abroad
- The letter of request for the trainer from Konkaen University was accepted and the date of training was arranged.

# What's next

## **Activity 1.1 – Compilation of priority timber species list**

Priority timber species list will be added further details which include, local name, characteristic, distribution. The list will be closely consulted and confirmed with DOF, DOFI, DOC, DEMEX, DIH, Wood Processing Association, Furniture association, NAFRI, research institutes in Vietnam, Thailand and Malaysia.

## **Activity 1.2 – Analysis of critical points for timber identification along the supply chain.**

### **Start the activity**

**Activity 1.3 – Assessment of training needs for government enforcement agencies inspecting timber at the critical points identified.**

Continue the assessment with the central level, Complete data analysis, write report and share the result with GIZ ClipPAD, SUFORD, etc.

**Activity 1.4 – Conduct baseline study species related enforcement and inform TLAS development.**

Keep eyes at the two provinces for the logging operation in order to conduct the baseline study.



# What's next

**Activity 2.1 – Set up a national wood science centre.**  
Request the official registration of the centre.

**Activity 2.2 – Establish wood sample collections**

Continue to collect the sample from other provinces to achieve the target of 150 species and process the wood sample in to the size of 1x7x11 cm and develop the wood tissue slides.

**Activity 2.3 – Develop training manual**

Finalise the material.

**Activity 3.1 – Build expertise and exchange experiences with wood anatomical identification specialists in the region**

Sourcing out the budget from ProFLEGT to support the project staff to exchange experiences with wood anatomical identification specialists in Thailand.

**Activity 3.2 – Conduct training courses**

Organize 3 trainings: 1 for FFS staff, 1 for professional staff at the central level, and 1 for provincial staff.

# **Issues for completion the project**

- Impossible to provide metadata (site description, GPS coordinates, ecological notes on forest type and soil condition).**
- Small and poor facility does not meet the requirement nor suit for national laboratory.**
- Quality of existing camera is not appropriated for taking good quality of wood picture.**

**Thank you for your attention**