

## “GREEN GOLD FROM EAST NUSA TENGGARA”

Sandalwood (*Santalum album* Linn.) is an important natural asset for the East Nusa Tenggara (ENT) Province. It plays important roles to livelihood of people in ENT province both economically and culturally. Harvested mainly from natural stands, the wood has a pleasant odor and is used for various products such as handicrafts, woodcarvings, joss sticks, and particularly its main product, oil for the perfume and cosmetics industries. However, over the last two decades, the sandalwood population has been seriously depleted due to uncontrolled exploitation. In addition to local government policies that tend to neglect local people's rights to the benefits of the wood and thus discourage them from participating in the maintenance and developing the resource.



*Sandalwood was planted at 2005 by local community in Kuruwaki village. Photo by Sumba timur*

This ITTO project supports concrete action for the sustainable management of sandalwood resources in ENT Province by **strengthening government policy, economic incentives, and local institutional capacity**.

The project's objective will be achieved through the accomplishment of the following outputs: (1) New effective policies at district level for managing the resources formulated and endorsed by the local government and being implemented by the executive agencies concerned; (2) Suitable economic incentive framework to support sustainable sandalwood resources developed; (3) Capacity of forestry staff and communities leader improved for planning, managing and sustainable utilizing sandalwood resources; and (4) Community awareness on sustainable management of sandalwood resources raised.



*Community nursery for Sandalwood*

The implementation strategies taken by the project are as follows: (1) Analyzing the existence and implementation of regulations of sandalwood property rights, resource maintenance, harvesting and marketing; (2) Selecting four districts as pilot areas: Alor, East Flores, Timor Tengah Selatan, and East Sumba; (3) Establishing intensive communication with the local government and the local legislative as well as local communities to support the decision making process at the province and district level; (4) Improving the capacity of local institutions through trainings on resource cultivation, intensive plantation, and sustainable harvesting; and (5) Supporting the availability of a standing stock data and information system.

After project completion, local government regulations will be improved and well adopted by executives and legislatures in district level. Local communities will receive 100% of the economic benefit from the sale of Sandalwood harvested from their farm land. On the technical aspects, the trainings provided by the project will improve villagers' knowledge and skill on how to cultivate sandalwood.

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