



Draft Concept Note

Regional Workshop on Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion

24–27 September 2019, Yangon, Myanmar

Background:

With its outstanding physical and aesthetic qualities, teak (*Tectona grandis*) is recognized as one of the world's most important and valuable hardwoods. It has been used for centuries in a wide range of products, including furniture and housing construction, and is also highly valued for its cultural roles. Natural teak forests cover about 29 million hectares in central and southern India, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar and Thailand. There is an ongoing loss of natural teak forest in all native teak-growing countries, however, due mainly to overharvesting, agricultural expansion and shifting cultivation. In particular, there has been a significant decline in high-quality old-growth teak stands, and there is a high risk that valuable genetic diversity is being lost.

ITTO conducted an activity titled Enhancing Teak Management with the aim of improving the management and marketing of natural and planted teak in the three tropical regions. With support from Germany through the Federal Ministry of Food and Agriculture, ITTO is now implementing the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Teak Project encompassing five countries—Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Thailand and Viet Nam.

The aim of the GMS Teak Project is to enhance natural teak forest management, production and marketing through the establishment of legal and sustainable wood supply chains and thereby to improve local economies and the livelihoods of local communities. The project is expected to generate three outputs: 1) enhanced conservation of teak genetic resources, the sustainable management and use of natural teak forests, and market access of teak from legal sources; 2) the strengthening of community-based and smallholder teak forest management and agroforestry systems; and 3) increased regional and international collaboration, information sharing and knowledge management, and networking.

The first regional workshop on sustainable teak management is being organized by ITTO, the Forest Research Institute of Myanmar and the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) in collaboration with Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), the Lao People's Democratic Republic's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI),

Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) and Kasetsart University (KU), and the Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS).

Objectives:

The overall goal of this workshop is to explore the planning and implementation of research and development activities for sustainable teak forest management. Specifically, it will:

- I. Review the status of conservation of teak genetic resources, natural teak forest management and sustainable teak plantations in the GMS.
- II. Review policy and institutional arrangements for legal and sustainable supply chains and investment in teak forests.
- III. Review and share experiences on case studies, good practices and policy options for empowering local communities and smallholders in planted teak and teak management, and agroforestry systems to support sustainable livelihoods.

A field excursion to teak forests in Myanmar will be organized.

The outputs of the first regional workshop will be shared among the five participating countries, with interested individuals and organizations, and at the 4th World Teak Congress, to be held in Ghana in 2020. The TEAKNET Bulletin and the project's Facebook page will also be used to disseminate outcomes.

Language of the meeting: English

Sponsorship and participants:

The ITTO GMS Teak Project will support invited participants from the five participating countries and selected experts. Around 25 participants, mostly from the GMS, will attend the regional workshop.

Meeting venue:

Regional Education and Training Center (RETC) of AFoCO
Hmawbi Township, Yangon Region, Myanmar
Tel: +95)09972578592 E-mail: afocoretc@afocosec.org
<http://retc.afocosec.org/page/sub01/4-0-0>

Contact persons:

Forest Research Institute of Myanmar (focal point)

Dr Thaug Naing Oo
Director of the Forest Research Institute of Myanmar and National Coordinator
Yezin, Myanmar
Tel: +95-67-3416524; Fax: +95-67-3416523
Email: friyezinf@gmail.com; tnoo71@gmail.com

Kasetsart University:

Professor Dr Yongyut Trisurat
Department of Forest Biology
Faculty of Forestry, Kasetsart University
Bangkok 10900, Thailand
Tel: +66 2579-0176, Fax: + 66 2942-8107
E-mail: fforyyt@ku.ac.th

ITTO:

Dr Ma Hwan-ok
Projects Manager, Division of Forest
Management, ITTO Secretariat
Tel. 81-45-223-1110
Email: ma@itto.int

Annex 1

Regional Workshop on Enhancing the Conservation and Sustainable Management of Teak Forests and Legal and Sustainable Wood Supply Chains in the Greater Mekong Subregion

24–27 September 2019, RETC-Hmawbi, Yangon, Myanmar

Co-organizers: ITTO, Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, AFoCO

DRAFT PROGRAMME

Date	Topics
Day 1: Tuesday, 24 September 2019	
9:00–9:30 Opening	Opening session <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITTO • AFoCO • Forest Department of Myanmar <p>Group photo</p>
Morning Session 9:30–12:30 (including tea/ coffee break)	Session 1: Conservation of teak genetic resources in Mekong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote presentation: conservation of teak genetic resources in Thailand (Dr Suwan, RFD) • Presentation of five countries; Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), Lao PDR's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Forest Department–Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) – Kasetsart University (KU) and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A
12:30–14:00	Lunch
Afternoon Session 14:00–17:00 (including tea/ coffee break)	Session 2: Sustainable management of teak forests – R&D in silviculture and best practices <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote presentation: sustainable management of teak forest in Myanmar (Myanmar FD/FRI tbc) • Presentation of five countries; Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), Lao PDR's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Forest Department–Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Q&A

Day 2: Wednesday, 25 September 2019	
Morning session 9:00–12:00 (including tea/ coffee break)	Session 3: Promoting of smallholders and communities in natural teak forest management and establishment of planted teak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ITTO tropical forest landscape restoration guidelines (Mr Choi, ITTO) ○ Community-based teak farm establishment in Cambodia (Cambodia FA) • Presentation of five countries; Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), Lao PDR's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Forest Department–Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) • Q&A
12:00–13:30	Lunch break
Afternoon session 13:30–17:00 (including tea/ coffee break)	Session 4: Legality and sustainability in teak supply chains in the Mekong <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote presentations: ITTO Legal and Sustainable Supply Chain Initiative (Dr Ma, ITTO); Development of national, regional and international schemes for timber legality and sustainability: voluntary legality verification and forest and timber certification (tbc) • Presentation of five countries: Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), Lao PDR's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Forest Department–Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) • Q&A
Day 3: Thursday, 26 September 2019	
Morning session 9:00–12:00 (including tea/ coffee break)	Session 5: Value chains and demand and supply in teak <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keynote presentations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Situation and trends in world tropical timber production, trade and market (Dr Tetra, ITTO) ○ Efficiency of wood-based industry, waste utilization and value-adding (Myanmar private company) • Presentation of five countries: Cambodia's Forestry Administration (FA), Lao PDR's National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Forest Department–Forest Research Institute of Myanmar, Thailand's Royal Forest Department (RFD) and Vietnamese Academy of Forest Sciences (VAFS) • Q&A
12:00–13:00	Lunch break
Afternoon session 13:00–18:00	Session 6: Field visits to a teak plantation site and a woodworking factory near Yangon (Myanmar FD/FRI)
Day 4: Friday, 27 September 2019	
Morning session 9:00-12:00 (including tea/ coffee break)	2nd Project Technical Committee Meeting (members and partners only) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review the implementation of the ITTO Teak Project, including review the implementation of the recommendations of the first Project Steering Committee held in April in Bangkok • Review work plans for the second half of the first year and second year • Other
12:00–13:00	Lunch break
13:00–16:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and adoption of minutes of 2nd Project Technical Committee meeting • Technical consultation • Departure of some participants
