

# LAO FOREST AND TRADE PLATFORM

## INTRODUCTION OF LAOS

Laos is one of the last countries in the Mekong region with significant natural forest cover. Located in a transition area between tropical dry and moist forests, the country is naturally rich in decorative hardwoods such as various rosewoods, and dipterocarp timbers. In addition, teak has a natural distribution in northern Laos, and plantations have been established since the 1980ies.

Facing the problem of uncontrolled and unsustainable logging, the Lao government has made significant efforts to improve forest management, leading to FSC certification of some production forests in 2005. With 3.2 Million hectares of natural production forests and recent efforts to modernize the Lao Wood processing industry and to control illegal logging, the country has a high potential to become the region's most important supplier of sustainable high value forest products over the next years.



## THE LAO FOREST AND TRADE PLATFORM (LFTP)

The LFTP is the first collaborative platform between TFT and GFTN. TFT and GFTN both started working in Laos in 2007. LFTP was then launched in November 2009 in order to facilitate global market access for Lao's rich and expanding FSC certified natural forest areas. The approach of the LFTP is to:

- Provide hands-on support to 5 of the most advanced Lao wood processing companies to achieve FSC CoC certification in 2010 and early 2011.
- Reach an attractive supply of precious FSC timbers from teak plantations and natural forests, by expanding the FSC certified area from currently 81,600 ha to up to 300,000 hectares until 2012.

Recruit responsible Lao businesses into the TFT and GFTN networks and continue to expand responsible production by linking supply to GFTN and TFT member companies and their growing international markets for responsible products.

**CLOSEST PORTS: Leam Chabang, Thailand; Danang, Vietnam.**

## MEMBER PROFILES:

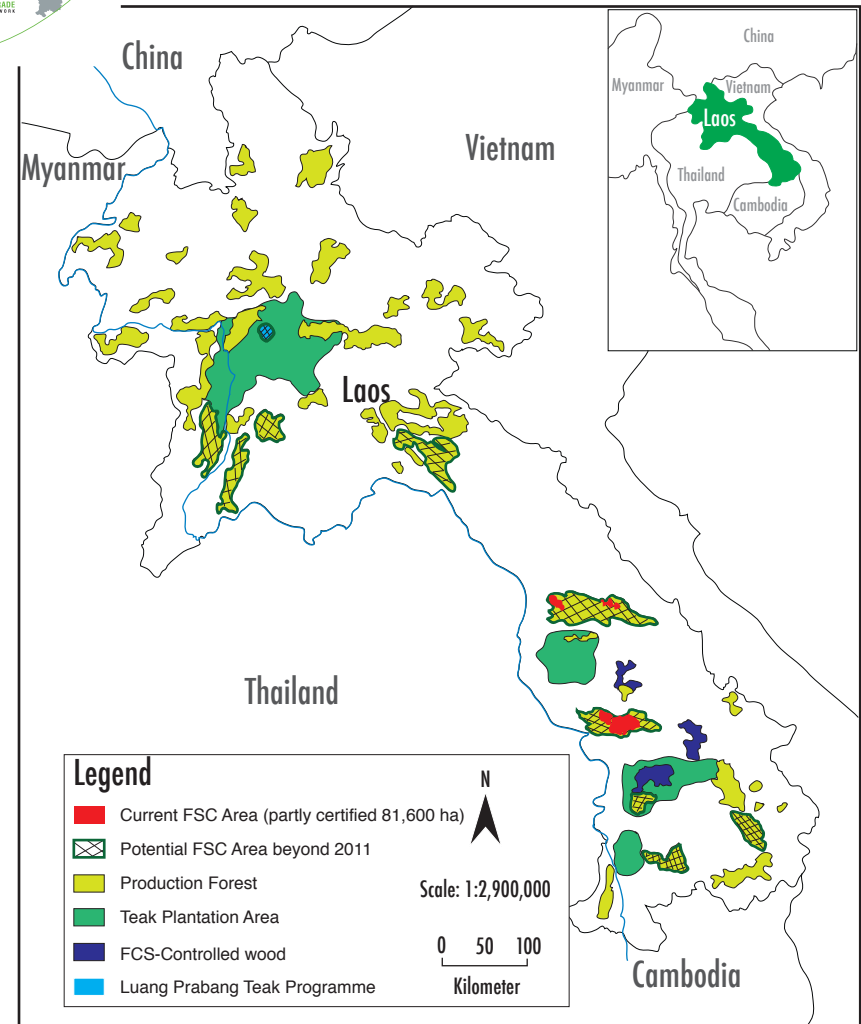
Member	Turnover in USD	Address	Contact	Products
LaoFIC	5 million	Km 21, No. 13 Southern Rd. Vientiane, Laos	Tel. +856 20 555 27 450 lao.furniture@hotmail.com www.gftn.panda.org/laos	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Indoor furniture</li> <li>■ Outdoor furniture</li> </ul>
Burapha	1.1 million	Kaisone Phomvihane Ave. P.O Box. 3144. Vientiane, Laos	Tel. +856 21 451 841 market@buraphawood.com www.buraphawood.com	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Outdoor furniture</li> <li>■ Floor tiles</li> </ul>

## CONTACT:

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## FSC AREAS IN LAOS



## THE LUANG PRABANG TEAK PROGRAMME (LPTP)

Under the Luang Prabang Teak Programme, GFTN and TFT and the Lao government are collaboratively working on group certification of teak smallholders, who own the majority of about 20,000 hectares of mature teak plantations in Laos. The FSC teak area is expected to grow significantly over the next years :

- A village pilot area of about 100 hectares will be FSC certified in late 2010 early 2011. One platform member is already successfully exporting teak floor tiles from this area to the UK.
- An expansion phase is being developed by LPTP to reach potentially 600 hectares of FSC plantations in 2011.
- Scaling up the approach with private investment in other significant teak plantation areas (up to 20,000 hectares).

## KEY NUMBERS

Group / Species	Percentage of current harvest	Examples for FSC product groups that can be supplied by LFTP members
High value decorative heavy hardwoods	<b>10 %</b>	Parts for musical instruments, Veneers, parquet, high value furniture
Dipterocarp Medium Hardwoods	<b>25 %</b>	Outdoor furniture, decking, flooring, plywood etc.
Lagerstroemia floribunda (Lesser known medium hardwood)	<b>30 %</b>	Indoor and outdoor furniture
Other Lesser Known Timber Species	<b>35 %</b>	Various
Teak Plantation	<b>0.4 %</b>	Which represents approximately 500 m <sup>3</sup> up to a potential of 120,000 m <sup>3</sup> / p.a.