

## What is the Forest and Trade Platform?

The Forest and Trade Platform is a powerful partnership of The Forest Trust (TFT) and WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN), the world's leading private sector networks for sustainable forest management and responsible timber trade. This partnership has developed the Lao Forest and Trade Platform to assist the Government of Lao to achieve their goals to develop an efficient and competitive forest industry. Built on a foundation of sustainable forest management of natural and plantation forests, the platform will contribute to the goal of poverty eradication by developing community based resource management approaches, processing sector developments and market links to the existing global demand for certified wood products.



Lao Forest and Trade Platform



Connecting local forest to global market by linking business with responsible forest management



## Contact Address

### WWF Greater Mekong - Laos Country Programme Office

House no. 39, Unit 05  
Ban Saylom  
Vientiane, Lao PDR

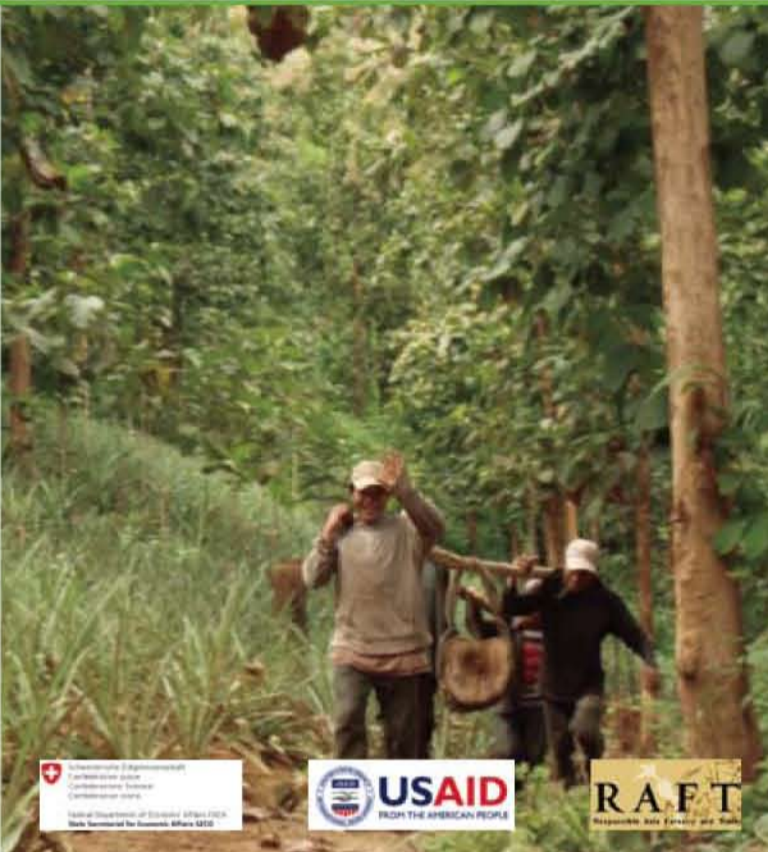
P.O.Box. 7871  
Tel. +856 21 216080/262830  
Fax. +856 21 251883

laoftp@gmail.com

www.gftn.panda.org  
www.tft-forests.com



Photos credit: WWF and TFT, except where noted.



## Strategy and Activities in 2010

In 2010, the Lao Forest and Trade Platform will focus its attention on a number of strategic activities critical to the development of the sector as a whole. In close cooperation with the Department of Forestry (DOF), the Lao National Chamber of Commerce (LNCCI), the Industry Associations (LNWIA and LFIA) and other key stakeholders, we provide the following services:

- Resource Center:** Single point of contact and "information bank" for businesses and key stakeholders of the Lao forest sector.
- Training and Guidance:** Raise awareness and provide operational guidance on the implementation of Chain of Custody (CoC) certification, Controlled Wood and other responsible sourcing for wood processing companies.
- Market Links:** Generate company access to growing value-added international markets for FSC certified wood products and Controlled Wood through our combined buyer networks.
- Certification:** Continue to support DoF with expansion of the Teak Smallholders and Rattan certification programme to increase the production of certified raw material in Lao PDR.

The Lao Forest and Trade Platform receives financial support from the Swiss State Secretariat of Economic Affairs (SECO) and USAID through the Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) programme to deliver these services.

## The Team



Thongleua Southavilay  
Forestry and Trade  
Coordinator

After finishing a Bachelor of Forest Engineering in Laval University, Quebec, Canada, in 1974, Mr. Thongleua Southavilay has worked with Lao Government for almost 20 years, in various capacities including Deputy DG of DOF, DG of Department of Planning and Cooperation and MD of a State Forest Enterprise under MAF. With recent experience as a National Consultant for SUFOR, ADB and World Bank, Thongleua is well equipped to coordinate the activities under the platform.

Sylvie Rathsbath  
Market Link Officer

With a Bachelor Degree in Business and International Trade from the University of Paris in 2003, Sylvie has been working in numerous International Sales and Marketing positions. Having returned to Laos in 2008 she has been assisting the Lao Organic Products Promotion Association develop market links as well as completing a number of short term consultancies for the Lao Handicraft Association. Her strengths in Marketing and Sales will be utilized within the platform to assist business generate strong links to international markets.



Sebastian Schrader  
GFTN Project  
Manager

Sebastian holds a Masters Degree in Tropical Forestry and has been working as an advisor on forest economics in Africa and Asia for more than 6 years. As WWF Project Manager for Forestry and Trade in the Mekong Region he brings in sound skills in certification of companies and small forest owners and supports GFTN members in the Mekong Region.



Sidavone Chanthavong  
Forestry Officer

Having completed a Bachelor Degree in Forestry from Don Dok National University Vientiane in 2005 Sidavone progressed here Forestry expertise with GTZ's Rural Development Mountains Area program where she combined her theoretical knowledge in the Lao context to promote sustainable use of forest products by local communities. In 2008 Sidavone joined the WWF Lao country program as a National forestry officer building her expertise in the forest sector.



Boris Saraber  
TFT Indochina  
Programme Manager

Backed by an Associate Diploma of Applied Science, Forestry, and a Bachelor Degree of Applied Science, Protected Area Management, Boris is an experienced Forester with over 12 years operational implementation and management skills in the Asia-Pacific region. He is now working as TFT's Indochina Program Manager, supporting operations in Laos, Malaysia and Vietnam whilst managing a number of TFT's members in the Asia-Pacific region.

The platform team will support sector development through their working knowledge of sustainable forestry management and markets as well as by developing and implementing responsible business strategies for private companies whilst balancing community needs. With their combined skills and enthusiasm, the platform team has the capacity to deliver a high standard of results oriented services to forest sector stakeholders in Lao PDR.

## How does it work?

The Forest Trust (TFT) and WWF's Global Forest and Trade Network (GFTN) together have more than 370 member companies in over 30 countries, which trade roughly 18% of the global volume in forest products. Member companies receive support from GFTN and TFT to implement certification systems and to bring certified wood products to international markets. In Lao PDR, TFT and GFTN will, for the first time anywhere, link their buyer networks, action oriented support and expertise towards a common goal, enabling Lao companies, communities and the Government of Lao to transform the forest sector to one internationally recognized for its achievements in Sustainable Forest Management.

