Conserving Rosewood genetic resources for resilient livelihoods in the Mekong

Trainings on *in situ/ex situ* conservation strategies for *Dalbergia*Vientiane, Lao PDR, 5-6 March 2020
Phnom Penh, Cambodia, 9-10 March 2020
Hanoi, Vietnam, 11 March 2020



















Introduction

The State of the World's Forest Genetic Resources (FGR) Report highlighted that populations of many important tree species are declining due to a variety of threats (FAO, 2014). The alarming results led to the development of a Global Plan of Action on Forest Genetic Resources, as a call for governments, international organisations and others to respond before it is too late. Forest trees are long-lived species with high genetic diversity that is crucial for their survival, regeneration and adaptation. Genetic diversity also provides the foundation for selection and breeding programmes to improve the productivity, resistance or quality of trees and their products. Conservation of tree genetic diversity can be achieved together with the use of trees to produce wood or non-wood products, including food for humans and animals — as long as management and sustainable use practices are designed to safeguard this diversity.

However, forest managers and conservationists often lack good information about the relevance of genetic aspects to meeting their objectives. This knowledge gap constrains conservation of tree species, increases genetic risks in subsequent generations and limits adaptation to climate change. Tertiary (universities, forestry colleges) forestry education curricula often show poor or no coverage of FGR issues, while biology teaching is often devoid of the social and practical realities. As such there is lack of training to assist forest managers, conservation practitioners and other non-specialists to effectively integrate genetic conservation of tree species in forest conservation and management.

As part of the regional project *Conserving Rosewood genetic diversity for resilient livelihoods in the Mekong* funded by the UK Darwin Initiative (Indicator 2.2: 60 forestry and conservation officers across 4 countries trained in *in situ/ex situ* conservation strategies for *Dalbergia*), the trainings covered:

- basic population genetic principles in terms of how they influence conservation decisions
- options and limitations of different strategies for tree conservation (in situ, ex situ, circa situm)
- conservation of tree genetic resources through tree improvement
- case study group work on conservation of an endangered species
- review of the status of *Dalbergia* spp in SE Asia
- application of course learning to derive options for Dalbergia spp

The trainings were led by Dr David Boshier (University of Oxford), with contributions from project country partners and Ms Tania Kanchanarak (Bioversity International) to the training in Lao PDR. The trainings were hosted by:

The National Agriculture and Forestry Research Institute (NAFRI), Vientiane, Lao PDR (20 participants) Institute of Forest & Wildlife Research & Development, Phnom Penh, Cambodia (24 participants) Center for Biodiversity & Biosafety, Institute of Agricultural Genetics, Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Hanoi, Vietnam (8 participants)

Translation were provided by Mr Chaloun Bounithiphonh (Forest Research Centre; English and Lao), Mr Kim Sobon, Mr So Than and Dr So Thea (Institute of Forest & Wildlife Research & Development; English and Khmer). The training in Vietnam was conducted in English and delivered on-line. Last minute restrictions prohibiting gatherings due to COVID-19 forced the cancellation of the original training at the CITES centre in Hanoi. Instead a shortened training was conducted with a reduced number of participants who could attend online.

The programmes for the three trainings are given in Annex 1. Adjustments were made to the content of each training depending on the previously expressed interests of each country partner. Examples of the certificate presented to participants and of training materials translated into local language are given in Annexes 3 and 4.

Group Dalbergia Discussions and Presentations

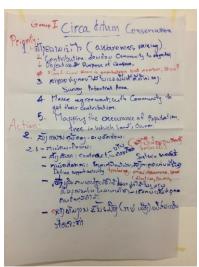
Following presentations on the status of *Dalbergia* species in South-East Asia and more specifically in each country, participants at the Lao and Cambodian trainings were split into 3 groups to discuss *Options for Dalbergia conservation in their country*. After 1-1.5 hours discussion each group presented their findings followed by questions and open discussion among the participants

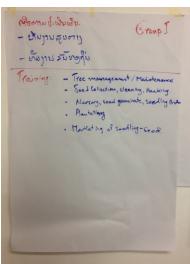
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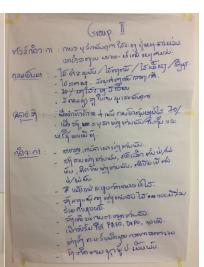


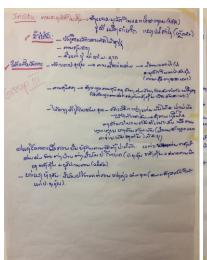


Group discussion and presentation in Lao training











Group I

Emphasis on circa situm – their data shows that most remaining trees are on-farm. Already know where the populations are, but what are the numbers and size?

Want training – tree management/maintenance, seed collection cleaning packing, nursery seed germination seedling production planting, marketing of seedling-seed

Map showing that need agreements at 2 levels – community and individual farm

Training – who would be the target for training? Normally mean a change towards agricultural extensionists, NGOs working with local communities

A particular/named geographical focus for this action?

Bansa very animated that circa situm doesn't work – contracts with individual farmers don't work. Too many risks. Emphasises why need for a combination of actions – ex situ, plus circa etc

Group II

Presented *in situ* for a particular population in an existing protected area in Central Lao – Nakai nam thuen National Park

Needs inventory for check how many trees the status of regen etc – recognise extent of resource Training needed for PAFO, DAFO personnel

Local communities inside the park can collect seed and sell – such activities only allowed in buffer and other zone, not core zone

Currently no genetic conservation unit system – need consultation meeting at MAFF amongst stakeholders/responsible organisations, then guidelines, delimitation.

Need to follow up on this to facilitate as a project output? DB to find guidelines for EUFORGEN and send – plus suggestion as to how might modify.

Group III

Presentation split into 3 areas of action:

In Situ, Ex situ, circa situm – discussed the needs within each of these.

Cambodia





Group discussion and presentation in Cambodia training

Group 1

- 1. Establishment of Seed Production Area (of Dalbergia species)
 - Site selection (preferably fertile soil)
 - Selection of mother trees (for seed or cutting collection)
 - Seedling production
 - Planting of seedlings
 - Maintenance of the SPA
- 2. Promote/disseminate the advantages of tree planting
- 3. Forest patrolling with participation of local authority
- 4. Provide legal assistance to register private forests
- 5. Mobilize funds from development partners for implementation conservation activities.

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Group 2

- Management of Samaki Community Forest containing 50 mature trees of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and 15 *D. oliveri*.
 - Conduct forest inventory
 - Mapping of the Dalbergia stands
 - Putting of tree numbering plates
 - Disseminate information
- 2. Protection
 - Guarding/patrolling of the forest
 - Establish forest fire lines
 - Implement law enforcement
- 3. Extraction of benefits
 - Conduct study on seed phenology and seed collection season
 - Promote the sites for research study and ecotourism
 - Documentation
- 4. Forest restoration
 - Establish a tree nursery
 - Conduct enrichment planting
 - Cooperation with development partners and research institutions.

Group 3

Objective are to conserving, production of good quality seed and seedlings of *Dalbergia cochinchinensis* and *D. oliver*i.

- Establishment of seed sources in natural forest
- Establishment of Seed Production Area
- Establishment of nursery
- Establishment of commercial plantations
- Restoration in community forests
- Encourage involvement from stake holders
- Strengthening law enforcement
- Building capacity of stake holders
- Identify sites for conservation
- Prepare forest gene ecological zone
- Mobilize funds and other resources.

Feedback

At the start of each training participants were invited to fill in a short questionnaire and similarly at the end of the training. The questionnaires gathered information on the participants' gender, education level and area, work role and aimed to capture views of their own knowledge levels about forest genetic resources, genetic principles, and application in their work both before and after the course. The full questionnaires and results are summarised in Annex 4. The responses in both Lao PDR and Cambodia show the following main points:

- majority of participants were male forestry graduates or MSc level
- majority working in the public sector, with a significant % in Lao employed in research
- a general improvement in level of understanding of Forest Genetic Resources
- an increased confidence in explaining the value of Forest Genetic Resources to others
- planning to apply training content to their work
- general satisfaction with the training
- desire to have an associated field trip to discuss the issues

By contrast in Vietnam the majority of participants were female biology graduates. Only 2 participants completed the post-training survey, so it is impossible to draw any conclusions in terms of changes in views as a result of the training. In Vietnam those who couldn't attend online studied the course materials and indicated that they found the materials useful for their work as they are working on forestry, with the training on *in situ/ex situ* conservation strategies for *Dalbergia* being very important. Their questions on small populations and their impact on genetics losses as well as population genetics were answered by the materials. The presentation on "*Tree Conservation options, opportunities and limitations*" was of most interest to them.

Annex 1: Training programmes

Lao PDR Thursday, 5th March 2020

08:30	Arrival – registration
09:00	Opening - welcome and introduction of participants
	Dr Bansa Thammavong, National Agriculture and Forestry Research
	Institute, Lao PDR
09:15	Pre-training survey of participants
	Introduction: why is genetics important for trees?
	Dr David Boshier, University of Oxford/Bioversity International
10:30	Coffee followed by <u>Group Photo</u>
11:00	Computer simulation: basic population genetic concepts – David Boshier
12:00	Lunch
13:30	Tree Conservation options, opportunities and limitations – David Boshier
14:30	Coffee break
15:00	Status of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp in SE Asia – <i>Tania Kanchanarak, Bioversity</i>
	International
15:30	Status of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp in Lao PDR – <i>Chaloun Bounithiphonh (Forest</i>
	Research Centre)
16:00	Close

Friday, 6th December 2019

09:00	Conservation & use of tree genetic resources through tree improvement
	– David Boshier
10:30	Coffee break
11:00	Options for <i>Dalbergia</i> conservation in Lao PDR - <i>group work</i> – <i>all</i>
12:00	Lunch
13:30	Options for <i>Dalbergia</i> conservation in Lao PDR - <i>group work cont.</i> – <i>all</i>
14:15	Options for Dalbergia conservation in Lao PDR - presentations by group
15:45	Presentation of certificates – concluding remarks – Bansa Thammavong;
	Post training evaluation by participants
16:15	Close

Cambodia

Monday, 9th March 2020

08:30	Arrival – registration					
09:00	Opening - welcome and introduction of participants					
	Dr So Thea, Institute of Forest & Wildlife Research & Development, Cambodia					
09:15	Pre-training survey of participants					
	Introduction: why is genetics important for trees?					
	Dr David Boshier, University of Oxford/Bioversity International					
10:15	Coffee followed by <u>Group Photo</u>					
11:15	Tree Conservation options, opportunities and limitations – David Boshier					
12:00	Lunch					
13:30	Conservation &use of tree genetic resources through tree improvement – David					
	Boshier					
15:00	Coffee break					
15:20	Review of relevant legislation in Cambodia for in situ/ex situ					
	conservation/protection Dr So Thea					
16:00	Close					

Tuesday, 10th December 2019

09:00	Status of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp in SE Asia – <i>David Boshier</i>			
09:30	Status of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp in Cambodia – <i>Dr So Thea</i>			
10:00	Coffee break			
10:30	Options for <i>Dalbergia</i> conservation in Cambodia - <i>group work</i> – <i>all</i>			
11:30	Options for <i>Dalbergia</i> conservation in Cambodia - <i>presentations by group</i>			
12:30	Presentation of certificates – concluding remarks – <i>Dr So Thea</i> ;			
	Post training evaluation by participants			
13:00	Lunch and Close			

Vietnam

Wednesday, 11th March 2020

10:00	Opening - welcome and introduction of participants					
	Dr Tran Thi Hoa, Center for Biodiversity and Biosafety, Institute of Agricultural					
	Genetics, Vietnam Academy of Agricultural Sciences					
10:15	Pre-training survey of participants					
	Introduction: why is genetics important for trees?					
	Dr David Boshier, University of Oxford/Bioversity International					
11:15	Coffee break					
11:45	Computer simulation: basic population genetic concepts – David Boshier					
12:30	Lunch					
13:45	Tree Conservation options, opportunities and limitations – David Boshier					
15:00	Status of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp in SE Asia – <i>David Boshier</i>					
15:30	Status of <i>Dalbergia</i> spp in Vietnam – <i>Dr Tran Thi Hoa</i>					
16:00	Close					

Annex 2: Pre/post training questionnaires and summary of responses

	1	1	Carabadia	Canabadia	\	\/: at = a = a
	Lao PDR	Lao PDR	Cambodia	Cambodia	Vietnam	Vietnam
Number Attending training	20	20	24	24	8	8
Number questionnaire respondents	17	19	18	17	8	2
1. Gender				1		I
Male	64.7	68.4	94.4	80.0	37.5	100.0
Female	35.3	31.6	5.6	20.0	62.5	0.0
2. What best describes your role / position	on?					
Student	5.9	5.3	11.1	6.7	12.5	0.0
Employed - public sector forestry	41.2	47.4	77.8	66.7	0.0	0.0
Employed - NGO	0.0	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0
Employed- Private sector forestry	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Employed - education	11.8	0.0	0.0	6.7	0.0	0.0
Employed - research	35.3	42.1	11.1	13.3	87.5	100.0
Other (please specify)	5.9	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
						<u> </u>
3. What best describes your highest leve			11 1	6.7	1 00	0.0
High School	5.9	5.3	11.1	6.7	0.0	0.0
University	29.4	36.8	44.4	33.3	25.0	0.0
MSc	58.8	52.6	38.9	53.3	50.0	50.0
PhD	5.9	5.3	5.6	6.7	25.0	50.0
Other (please specify)	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
4. What best describes the course for yo	ur highest i	level of e	ducation?			
Forestry	64.7	73.7	83.3	93.3	12.5	0.0
Biology	17.7	10.5	0.0	0.0	50.0	100.0
Environmental Sciences	11.8	15.8	11.1	6.7	25.0	0.0
Agriculture	0.0	0.0	5.6	0.0	12.5	0.0
Other (please specify)	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
5. Before the course, I had a good under		f forest g		res	_	ı
Strongly agree	11.8		11.1		0.0	
Agree	29.4		38.9		75.0	
Neither agree nor disagree	41.2 17.7		38.9		25.0	
Disagree Strongly disagree	0.0		11.1 0.0		0.0	
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5. After the course, I had a good underst	anaing of j	orest ger 15.8	netic resource.			100.0
Strongly agree		79.0		40.0 60.0		100.0 0.0
Agree Neither agree nor disagree		5.3		0.0		0.0
Disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
Strongly disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
6. Before the course, I was confident in e	explainina t	he value	of forest gene	etic resources t	to others	
Strongly agree	5.9	- Farac	11.1		0.0	
Agree	23.5		33.3		50.0	
Neither agree nor disagree	58.8		44.4		50.0	
Disagree	11.8		11.1		0.0	
Strongly disagree	0.0		0.0		0.0	
<u> </u>		<u> </u>	l			<u> </u>

6. After the course, I feel more confi	dent in explaini	ng the val	ue of forest	genetic resour	rces to other	·s
Strongly agree		21.1		35.3		50.0
Agree		52.6		58.8		50.0
Neither agree nor disagree		26.3		5.9		0.0
Disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
Strongly disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
7. Before the course, I had rarely co	nsidered geneti	c issues in	my role			
Strongly agree	0.0		22.2		0.0	
Agree	41.2		44.4		50.0	
Neither agree nor disagree	41.2		22.2		25.0	
Disagree	11.8		11.1		25.0	
Strongly disagree	5.9		0.0		0.0	
7. After the course, I plan to apply co	ontent from the	course in	my role			
Strongly agree		21.1		29.4		50.0
Agree		73.7		64.7		50.0
Neither agree nor disagree		5.3		5.9		0.0
Disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
Strongly disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
8. Before the course, I was confident	in applvina ae	netic princ	ciples in my v	vork		
Strongly agree	0.0		11.1		0.0	
Agree	23.5		50.0		25.0	
Neither agree nor disagree	52.9		16.7		62.5	
Disagree	23.5		22.2		12.5	
Strongly disagree	0.0		0.0		0.0	
8. Did the course meet your expecta	tions?					
Strongly agree		47.4		29.4		50.0
Agree		42.1		64.7		50.0
Neither agree nor disagree		10.5		5.9		0.0
Disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
Strongly disagree		0.0		0.0		0.0
Comments or suggestions						
9. Please add any further comments	on organisatio	n, content	or relevance	e of the course	2	
Lao PDR						
This training on in situ/ex situ conse	rvation strateg	ies for Dal	bergia is ver	y important		
So good						
field observation during training						
more field work It is good, more field work needed fo	or learnina					
Cambodia	<u>3</u>					
should have field trip. Please continu	ie this project					
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Annex 3: Example of Certificate presented to participants











Conserving Rosewood genetic diversity for resilient livelihoods in the Mekong *Training Workshop**

This is to certify that

has successfully completed the training workshop on In situ/ex situ conservation strategies for Dalbergia

Organized by

Institute of Forest & Wildlife Research & Development, Cambodia Department of Plant Sciences, University of Oxford, UK Bioversity International

> March 9-10, 2020 Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Dr So Thea

Deputy Director Institute of Forest & Wildlife Research & Development Forestry Administration Dr David Boshier

Senior Research Associate Dept. of Plant Sciences University of Oxford





Annex 4: Example of training materials in local language





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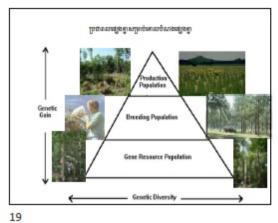


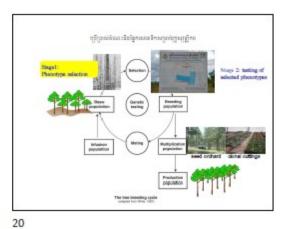


อักกลที่มีปัจจากสังเลยเลขึ้น โดยการกำระทั่งเลี้ยงเป็ genetic markers e.g. allozymes, DNA - neutral variation mutual genetic actions e.g. จะสุดสุดเกลย์

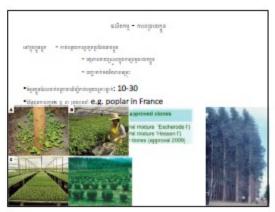


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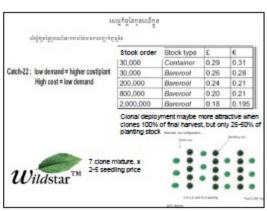




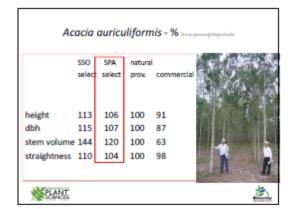




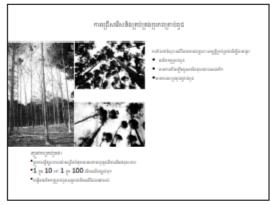








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