

News Monitoring (2nd half of January 2015)

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Announcements:

Free Online Course on Environmental Justice

The University of East Anglia (UEA) is organizing a free *online course on environmental justice*. The course aims to increase understanding on how environmental change affects people, and how we can work together for justice in environmental management. The course considers environmental challenges such as climate change, deforestation and biodiversity loss. Inscriptions are now open for a session starting on 30 March 2015.

Duration: The course lasts for ten weeks and there are around 4 hours of lessons per week.

Where: FutureLearn Platform

<<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/environmental-justice>>

For whom: The course is designed for people who are already working on environmental problems or are familiar with environmental issues. It seeks to address environmentalists around the world.

More information: please visit our course website

<<https://www.uea.ac.uk/study/short-courses/online-learning/environmental-justice>>.

In addition, the UEA is offering a number of *short courses to professionals* during summer 2015. The course on Climate change will take place 29 June – 4 July 2015:

<<https://www.uea.ac.uk/international-development/dev-co/professional-training/climate-change-and-development>>

The course on Forest governance will be held between 24 August – 4 September 2015:

<<https://www.uea.ac.uk/international-development/dev-co/professional-training/forest-governance>> .

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Trade of rosewood from Madagascar to China

Please also find a link on the trade of rosewood from Madagascar to China, published in the French newspaper “Le Monde”. Vietnam and Laos are cited. The article is in French though:
http://www.lemonde.fr/planete/article/2015/01/24/bolabola-le-bois-qui-saigne_4562855_3244.html

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Thailand opens six seized containers shipped from Laos_VT29Jan15_P3

Times Reporters

Thai authorities have opened six containers of wood shipped from Laos and found only seven small pieces of mai kha young [rosewood], a Lao official at the Lao embassy in Bangkok said yesterday.

Last week, the Thai authorities seized 30 containers at Laem Chabang port in Thailand, which were shipped from Laos.

The authorities believed that within the containers was illegally harvested kha young logs smuggled into Laos and then falsely labelled and shipped back to Thailand. The containers were destined for China.

The opening of the containers took place on Tuesday in the presence of Lao officials from the Lao embassy in Bangkok.

Of the rosewood pieces found— each was just a size of an adult human leg, according to the Lao official, who was invited to the opening of the containers.

The official told *Vientiane*

Times yesterday that a pack of dried Lingzhi mushrooms and a pack of orchid species which were not declared on the invoice were also found.

Thai authorities wanted to open the remaining containers but the Lao officials suggested the Thai authorities to consult and seek agreement from the shipping company, given what was found in the six opened containers that were not declared was not a big deal.

“Discussion is underway as to whether to move on with or cease the opening,” he said, adding that removing the timber from the containers would damage the timber to some extent.

The invoice accompanying the shipment of the containers declared they contained Mai Du (*Pterocarpus macrocapus*) timber.

Thai authorities became suspicious because the containers weighed 15-30 tonnes more than the weight declared on

the invoice. The seizure of the containers followed a tip-off that the wood had been illegally felled in Thailand and smuggled into Laos.

There, the timber was loaded into containers and shipped back to Thailand, according to Thailand's *Bangkok Post* citing Thai authorities.

It reported that a similar ploy had been uncovered recently. During the New Year holiday 40 containers containing logs illegally felled in Thailand had been sent to China via the same route.

A source said wood smugglers had previously felled trees in Thailand and then sent them to Vietnam via Laos, for shipment to China.

Due to a disagreement between Vietnam and China, the smugglers changed the route. They sent the logs to Laos where they were put in containers, relabelled and sent back to Thailand, bound for China, according to the *Bangkok Post*.

* ຫັດຖະກຳໄມ້ພວມໄດ້ຮັບຄວາມນິຍົມຢ່າງແຜ່ຫລາຍໃນສັງຄົມບ້ານເຮົາປັດຈຸບັນ ແລະ ອາຊີບນີ້ກໍໄດ້ຂະຫຍາຍພັນເດີນຂຶ້ນທັງແບບຂະໜາດກາງ ແລະ ຂະໜາດນ້ອຍດັ່ງການຜະລິດຫັດຖະກຳໄມ້ຂອງ ທ່ານ ນາງ ທິບພະຈັນ ວໍລະວົງສິນວນ ທີ່ແຕ່ລະປີສາມາດສ້າງລາຍຮັບໄດ້ 1 ຕື້ກວ່າກີບ ຈົນກາຍເປັນຄອບຄົວຕົວແບບການຜະລິດດັ່ງກ່າວຢູ່ບ້ານໂພນ ເມືອງລະນາມ ແຂວງເຊກອງ.

ທ່ານນາງ ທິບພະຈັນ ວໍລະວົງສິນວນ ທີ່ປັດຈຸບັນອາຍ 47 ປີ ແລະ ເປັນສະມາຊິກແມ່ຍິງບ້ານດັ່ງກ່າວໄດ້ລາຍງານຕໍ່ກອງປະຊຸມໃຫຍ່ຄັ້ງທີ V ຜູ້ແທນແມ່ຍິງແຂວງເຊກອງວ່າ: ຄອບຄົວຂອງຕົນມີ 6 ຄົນ, ຍິງ 2 ຄົນ ແລະ ໄດ້ຢຶດຖືອາຊີບການຜະລິດຫັດຖະກຳໄມ້ເປັນຫລະກິດຂະໜາດຄອບຄົວໂດຍອາຊີບນີ້ໄດ້ເຮັດໃຫ້ຄອບຄົວມັ່ງຄັ້ງຜາສາ. ຄວາມຈິງແລ້ວ, ຕົນແມ່ນ 1 ໃນສະມາຊິກແມ່ຍິງກວ່າ 300 ຄົນ ຢູ່ບ້ານໂພນ ທີ່ໄດ້ປະຕິບັດນະຕິຄຳສັ່ງຂອງຂັ້ນເທິງວາງອອກເວົ້າລວມ, ເວົ້າສະເພາະນະຕິຄຳສັ່ງກ່ຽວກັບ 3 ສ້າງ, ແຜນພັດທະນາເສດຖະກິດ-ສັງຄົມຂອງແຂວງ, ເມືອງ, ບ້ານ ກໍຄືແຜນພັດທະນາ 5 ປີ ຂອງສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍິງແຂວງ 6 ແຜນງານ 18 ໂຄງການເປັນຕົ້ນແຜນງານການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດຂໍ້ແຂ່ງຂັນ 3 ດີຂອງສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍິງລາວ ວາງອອກ. ຂະນະດຽວກັນຄອບຄົວຕົນໄດ້ບຸກ

ປືນສີ່ຊິນສ້າງເສດຖະກິດຄອບຄົວໂດຍການດຳເນີນຫລະກິດຫັດຖະກຳໄມ້ ເຊິ່ງເມື່ອກ່ອນການດຳເນີນຫລະກິດນີ້ບໍ່ຄ່ອຍປະສົບຜົນສຳເລັດເທົ່າທີ່ຄວນເນື່ອງຈາກບໍ່ທັນມີປະສົບການ ແລະ ດ່ານຫ່ຽ, ແຮງງານທີ່ຜະລິດກໍແມ່ນແຮງງານດິບບວກໃສ່ທຶນຮອນທີ່ດຳເນີນຫລະກິດກໍບໍ່ພຽງພໍ ຈຶ່ງເຮັດໃຫ້ຜົນການປະກອບການບໍ່ຄ່ອງໂຕໂດຍສະເພາະບໍ່ມີກຳໄລ, ຂະນະທີ່ບາງເທື່ອກໍຂາດທຶນເຮັດໃຫ້ຊີວິດການເປັນຢູ່ຝືດເຄື່ອງ. ແນວໃດກໍດີແຕ່ປີ 2010 ເປັນຕົ້ນມາໄດ້ປະຕິບັດຕາມແຜນພັດທະນາເສດຖະກິດ-ສັງຄົມຄັ້ງທີ VIII ຂອງແຂວງໂດຍມີນະໂຍບາຍສົ່ງເສີມສິ່ງຫລະກິດຂະໜາດນ້ອຍ ຫລື SME ແລະ ແຜນພັດທະນາຂອງສະຫະພັນແມ່ຍິງໂດຍສະເພາະແຜນງານການສ້າງວຽກເຮັດງານທຳ ແລະ ແຜນງານການຈັດຕັ້ງປະຕິບັດຂໍ້ແຂ່ງຂັນ 3 ດີ ເຊິ່ງຄອບຄົວຕົນກໍໄດ້ຮັບໂອກາດອັນດີ ແລະ ໄດ້ຮັບການອຸຊຸມຊົນເຫລືອຈາກພາກລັດກໍຄືຂະແໜງການກ່ຽວຂ້ອງຄິພະແນກອຸດສາຫະກຳ ແລະ ການຄ້າແຂວງທີ່ໄດ້ເຂົ້າມາສົ່ງເສີມໂດຍການສະໜອງທຶນກູ້ຢືມ 25 ລ້ານກີບ ແລະ ກຸ້ນກຳໃຊ້ກອນທຶນດັ່ງກ່າວຈາງນາຍຊາງທີ່ຊຳນານງານ ແລະ ຊື່ເຄື່ອງມືທີ່ທັນສະໄໝ ເພິ່ນເຮັດໃຫ້ມີທ່າແຮງພັດທະນາຜະລິດຕະພັນເພິ່ນຂຶ້ນ ແລະ ຄອນນະພາບສິນຄ້າກໍດີຂຶ້ນຄືງານຈົນໄດ້ຮັບຄວາມນິຍົມຂອງລູກຄ້າທັງພາຍໃນ ແລະ ຕ່າງແຂວງກໍຄືນັກທ່ອງທ່ຽວຕ່າງປະເທດ ທີ່ຊື່ເປັນເຄື່ອງທີ່ລະນຶກ. ຕໍ່ມາກໍໄດ້ເພິ່ນຕົ້ນທຶນການຜະລິດຂຶ້ນໂດຍການກູ້ຢືມຈາກ ຫຄຕລ ເພື່ອຍົກລະດັບການຜະລິດໃຫ້ສາມາດແຂ່ງຂັນ

ໂດຍ: ມ. ສີຫາວົງ
 ກັບຕະຫລາດທັງພາຍໃນ ແລະ ຕ່າງປະເທດ ເຊິ່ງຜະລິດຕະພັນຕົ້ນຕໍແມ່ນເຝິກເຈີ, ແກະສະຫລັກ, ເຄື່ອງທີ່ລະນຶກ ໂດຍນຳໃຊ້ວັດຖຸດິບຄືໄມ້ເສດເຫລືອຈາກການຂັດຄົ້ນຂອງບໍລິສັດ ທັງຊຶ້ນຳປະຊາຊົນທີ່ໄດ້ຮັບອະນຍາດຈາກຂະແໜງການກ່ຽວຂ້ອງ ແລະ ໄມ້ເສດຈາກໂຮງງານ ເຊິ່ງຖືວ່າເປັນການນຳເອົາໄມ້ທີ່ບໍ່ໄດ້ນຳໃຊ້ມາເພິ່ນຄຸນຄ່າ ແລະ ເກີດປະໂຫຍດຫລາຍທີ່ສຸດຫລັງຜະລິດທີ່ຮັບປະກັນຄອນນະພາບນັ້ນ, ລູກຄ້າກໍສົ່ງຊື່ ແລະ ຈອງເປັນຈຳນວນຫລາຍ. ທີ່ພມໃຈຫລາຍກໍຄືການມີນະໂຍບາຍສົ່ງເສີມ SME ຈາກພາກລັດເຮັດໃຫ້ມີໂອກາດເຂົ້າຮ່ວມວາງສະແດງໃນເທສະການຕ່າງໆທັງພາຍໃນ ແລະ ຕ່າງປະເທດກາຍເປັນທີ່ຮູ້ຈັກໃນສັງຄົມເປັນວົງກວ້າງ. ຈາກການປະກອບອາຊີບນີ້ກໍສາມາດສ້າງລາຍຮັບໃຫ້ແກ່ຄອບຄົວໄດ້ເຖິງ 1.762 ລ້ານກີບຕໍ່ປີ.
 ທ່ານນາງ ທິບພະຈັນ ກ່າວຕື່ມວ່າ: ຜົນສຳເລັດດັ່ງກ່າວເປັນຜົນມາຈາກມີແຜນນະໂຍບາຍທີ່ຖືກຕ້ອງ ແລະ ສອດຄ່ອງຂອງລັດ-ລັດ. ຂະນະທີ່ຕໍ່ໜ້າຈະໄດ້ປັບປຸງ ແລະ ພັດທະນາຜະລິດຕະພັນໃຫ້ຫລາຍຂຶ້ນ ໂດຍເນັ້ນຄອນນະພາບສິນຄ້າ, ມີຫລາຍຮູບແບບ, ຫລາຍລັກສະນະ ເພື່ອສາມາດຕໍ່ລອງ ແລະ ແຂ່ງຂັນກັບຕະຫລາດແຫ່ງຊາດທັງຈະພະຍາຍາມບຸກປືນສີ່ຊິນທັງກຳລັງແຮງ, ກຳລັງຊັບເພື່ອເຮັດໃຫ້ເປົ້າໝາຍດັ່ງກ່າວປາກົດຜົນເປັນຈິງແລະ ສ້າງເງື່ອນໄຂໃຫ້ຫລະກິດຂອງຕົນກາຍເປັນຫລະກິດຕົວແບບຫລະກິດຂະໜາດນ້ອຍຂອງແຂວງເຊກອງ.

Quick Translation:

Ms. Thippachanh Voravongsinouan, a 47-year entrepreneur in Phone Village, Lamam District, Xekong Province, could now earn more than 1 billion Lao Kip annual from wood handicraft, after a long years of hardship. With financial and technical support from the government, her small business could secure raw materials, particularly un-usable wood, from authorized factories and villagers and produce a range of products such as furniture, wood crafts and souvenirs, for both domestic and international markets.

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Streetwise

How can we help the authorities to protect our forests?

Illegal logging is a big problem in Laos and everyone needs to band together to prevent it. Trees are being felled in conservation areas and these activities are both unreported and unpenalised. Vientiane Times asked people for their thoughts on this issue and what might be done to curb the destruction of Laos' forests.

Patithin Phetmeuangphan

Mr Noui Chaikho from Attapeu province: Attapeu is a poor and less developed province and we have a lot of



problems with illegal logging because many people don't have a regular job and felling wood is their only source of income. But I don't think they make much money from it because the number of big trees here has decreased a lot. The police and the authorities come here to try to protect the trees and forests but I don't think it makes much

difference. Of course some people around here don't like the fact that so many trees are being cut down but they don't want to talk about it because they worry that informing the authorities will backfire on them and will be a waste of time any way. I would like the authorities to be more responsible in their duties and to think of the interests of the nation as a whole rather than how they might benefit.

Mr Done Vongphachanh, a government employee in Hadxaifong district, Vientiane: Many people talk about the illegal



activities surrounding the timber industry in Laos but they never give any useful information to the authorities, they only talk about it among themselves. But social media is a very good outlet for discussions on this issue. Communication is fast and safe, especially Facebook, where we can say what we think and bring problems out into the open.



Mr Thavone Duangkho, a company employee in Longxarn district, Xaysomboun province: My village has many big trees so it's an area that many timber

companies are interested in. I've seen company staff come to visit. They offer us a good price for wood but I don't know whether they've received permission from the authorities to buy wood from this area. However, as the people who live there, we don't think it's good for trees to be felled because forests are a very important part of life. We would like to tell the authorities about it to help them protect the forests but we worry that it might cause problems for us because very often the authorities are involved in the business. The government could help us by making sure it's safe for us to pass on information.

Ms Bounmy Lodphaxa from Nabien village, Naxaithong district: Forests are not just being cut by illegal loggers. Widespread development and construction projects mean that many trees are being cut down. When there were no roads there was a lot of woodland but this has gone now because of development

and it seems that many people don't care about preserving trees. I'm worried about what will happen in the future because I don't think people



realise the importance of forests. But it does seem that recently some people and the authorities are paying more attention to the destruction of nature because of concerns about climate change. The government should pay more attention to this problem. It's good that Vientiane and Laos as a whole are pursuing the road to development, but we must not forget to preserve our natural resources in the process.

Mr Pern from Naxaikang village, Naxaithong district: I don't think we do enough to protect our forests. It seems that only woods in private and conservation areas are protected, because of illegal logging activities elsewhere. In Vientiane we often see trucks carrying logs, both legally and illegally felled. There aren't many trees left in Vientiane now but at least there are more checkpoints here than in other places. But I still think a lot of the logs we see on our roads have been cut illegally. Sometimes wood is hidden in an attempt to evade officials at inspection points. This is certainly an issue that needs more oversight.



Public urged to help identify illegal loggers_VT17Jan15_P1

Somxay Sengdara

Accurate information and evidence are essential for bringing to justice illegal loggers and wood traders, and forestry authorities are calling on the public to help in this matter.

Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry's Department of Forest Inspection, Mr Paphakone Vongxay, recently called for public support when responding to questions on illegal logging put to the National Assembly through telephone hotline calls.

In one such call, a resident of Vientiane province's Keoudom district spoke about negligence on the part of forest officials in the province. He said they fined illegal loggers and timber transporters but did not hand over the money to the relevant government agency and spent it on themselves instead.

In response, Mr Paphakone said it was not possible to verify

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Public urged to help identify... FROM PAGE 1

this claim because there is no permanent forest inspection post in Vientiane province.

He explained the system for fines, saying people who have been fined must pay the money at the provincial Department of Finance on the instruction of a forestry inspection official.

Mr Paphakone said this caller and many others may be mistaken in thinking that alleged wood transporters had been let go along with their vehicles and equipment, as they could have already paid the fine.

Another caller from Feuang district in Vientiane province raised concerns about the diminishing value of wood and forests in the district, saying that timber was being clandestinely supplied to traders by local residents using minibuses, for which they



Mr Paphakone Vongxay.

received cash in advance.

Mr Paphakone admitted that this practice was commonplace, saying traders used various ways to disguise their illegal activities. Unfortunately, there is a limited number of forest officials and they cannot monitor every

square metre.

He asked anyone who witnessed suspected illegal activities to report the incident to the relevant officials. Ideally, offenders should be named and their place of residence supplied, as any allegation needed comprehensive evidence to support it, and this information would make it easy to trace lawbreakers.

Mr Paphakone also touched on the illegal transport of wood, including the use of minibuses and public buses for this purpose.

He stressed the importance of providing factual and accurate information as supporting evidence in identifying the perpetrators. He suggested people use mobile phones to take pictures or video of illegal activities, as this would be useful in a court of law.

China Myanmar to increase exchange on timber legality verification system_KPL16Jan15_P10

YANGON-Xinhua

China and Myanmar have agreed to increase exchange on timber legality verification system to serve as a basis for establishing a bilateral agreed timber legality scheme to regulate and promote legal and sustainable timber trade

between the two countries, said the website of the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar. The two sides agreed on the move at a closed-door informal dialogue during a seminar on timber governance and legality system in China and Myanmar held in Nay Pyi Taw Wednesday.

The both sides also discussed issues of the implementation, compliance and awareness of legality system as well as the potential to establish joint wood-processing industrial zones in Myanmar, said the website. The seminar serves as a kick-off meeting for the “Myanmar-China

Timber Governance Project” which will explore a range of concrete collaborative activities, including enhancing the capacity of Chinese customs officials to identify specific guidelines on responsible forest investment to guide Chinese companies’ investment behaviors in Myanmar.

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Indonesian indigenous groups look to tourists to protect forests

9 January 2015

(Reuters) - Indonesian indigenous communities launched a project on Friday to encourage foreign tourism in ancestral forests to slow the advance of logging operations and palm oil plantations.

The GreenIndonesia non-governmental organization, working with six indigenous groups, said the plan would ease poverty, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and diversify from traditional forest-based incomes such as weaving.

"We're trying to draw tourists to areas of [Indonesia](#) where communities are working to preserve their land and ... show how they are helping to prevent forests from being lost," Chandra Kirana, head of GreenIndonesia, said.

The project was inspired by similar initiatives in the Amazon region of Latin America, she said at a tourism exhibition in Oslo.

Raymundus Remang, head of the Sui Utuk community in West Kalimantan, said the villagers, who have preserved 9,000 hectares (22,000 acres) of forest from illegal logging and palm oil expansion, would welcome more visitors. Tourists could stay in the community's vast longhouse, where about 250 people live.

"Everyone in the village has the same feeling of having to protect the forest because it comes from our ancestors," he told Reuters via an interpreter.

Indonesia has lost vast tracts of forests in recent years, threatening the livelihoods of forest peoples as well as endangered creatures such as orangutans and Sumatran tigers.

Indonesian Environment and Forestry Minister Siti Nurbaya Bakar endorsed the eco-tourism project and said the government of President Joko Widodo, who took office in October, was working on a decree recognising the rights of indigenous groups.

GreenIndonesia's Kirana said she hoped the initiative would draw hundreds, perhaps thousands, of tourists in a first year. She added the communities would seek ways to limit the extra stresses on fragile ecosystems from more visitors.

(Reporting By [Alister Doyle](#); Editing by Sam Wilkin)

[<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/01/09/us-environment-indonesia-idUSKBN0K11QZ20150109>]