

Technical Report to IUCN

TRAINING SUPPORT FOR 8 VILLAGE SCHOOL NURSERIES AT DOI MAE SALONG — EXTENSION PERIOD



Project staff joining tree planting 19/6/10. Gen Chaluy, Rhet Harrison (ICRAF China), Steve and Kwankhao

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Introduction

Thailand's Supreme Command, in collaboration with IUCN and FORRU-CMU (Forest Restoration Research Unit, Chiang Mai University), aims to restore forest on 1,440 ha of degraded land at Doi Mae Salong (DMSL), Chiang Rai Province (more than 1,200 m above sea level). This 14-year project has been adopted by IUCN's 'Livelihoods and Landscapes' Initiative, with the forestry component sponsored by Plant a Tree Today (PATT) Foundation. The sites being restored are exhausted former agricultural areas on steep land at risk of soil erosion and landslides. The objectives are i) to transform degraded areas into forest to honour the Royal Family and ii) to prevent soil erosion.

Over 2007-08, FORRU-CMU contributed to this project by providing technical and scientific assistance to restore the forest landscape, so that a self generating ecosystem can once again be created. Sixty participants from DMSL (including village leaders, local authority officers, school teachers and forestry officers) attended 3 workshops, implemented by FORRU-CMU staff in Chiang Mai, on the general concepts and skills needed for forest restoration.

Subsequently, IUCN organized construction of tree nurseries at 8 village schools in the project area. FORRU-CMU provided training in tree nursery techniques on-site at the 8 school tree nurseries during 2009. The FORRU-CMU team ran a series of educational and training events at the schools over the year, covering seed germination, potting trees, care of trees in the nursery, as well as tree planting and aftercare. Seed collection was identified as an area requiring special attention. To address this, FORRU-CMU organized a "forest children" ("*look mai pah*") club program. Children got involved in labelling target seed trees, collecting seeds from them and also helping to germinate them. Participating children became members of the club, and accumulated points on a membership card, in exchange for a reward. In addition, as part of this program, an experimental plot was established to test the suitability of the framework species method of forest restoration (FORRU, 2006) near Ban Lo Yo, in collaboration with the village committee there. FORRU-CMU carried out monitoring of this plot over the year and a technical report, presenting initial results on performance of the planted trees, was submitted to IUCN in December 2009.

All main objectives were accomplished within the project period, with 75,686 THB of the allocated budget remaining unspent. Therefore, an extension to the original project period (until Sept 30th 2010) was granted and an agreement was reached to spend the remaining funds on the following 3 activities (derived from discussion with community leaders at the final workshop of the main project):-

- 1) FORRU-CMU and Supreme Command to carry out joint quality control of trees to be purchased;
- 2) Provide funds to purchase trees from the nurseries for the military to plant and
- 3) Educational event aimed at new target groups especially the adult education centre (requested by Gen Chaluy).

A brief account of the completion of these activities follows.

1) Monitoring Trees Produced in Schools Nurseries

This was carried out by Yingluck Ranapongsai and three staff from FORRU-CMU on May 11-12th of May 2010, together with military personnel, Lieutenant Somchai. The FORRU team and military personnel checked sapling health, measured sapling heights and classified the saplings into three groups by height; 1) shorter than 30 cm, 2) 30-50 cm and 3) taller than 50 cm. Prices agreed for the trees were 4 baht for group no.1, 5 baht for group no.2 and 6 baht for group no.3.

More than 4,500 saplings, belonging to 25 indigenous forest tree species, from 7 school nurseries were ready for planting in the restoration site. Santi Khiri Primary School produced the most trees and Ban Klang School produced the greatest variety of species (14 species). Many schools had few trees left in their nurseries by the evaluation date because they had already been planting trees around their schools and donated trees to their communities before that date. Therefore, the trees listed in the table below do not represent the total tree production from the project. Also all nurseries retained many trees that did not reach the required height. These will be held over for planting next year.

Numbers of trees at each of the school nurseries reaching quality requirements for the military tree planting project

School	Sapling height (cm.)			Total saplings
	30	30-50	50	
RumJai	-	-	9	9
Santi Khiri Primary	624	1,055	777	2,456
Panasawan	-	649	339	988
Ban Klang	-	-	408	408
Santi Khiri Secondary	-	-	183	183
Ban Maisanti	28	132	134	294
Rachpattana	-	-	251	251
Mae Ter	-	-	0	0
Total saplings	652	1,836	2,101	4,589

2) Planting day and payment for the trees

A tree planting event, specifically to plant those trees produced by the school nurseries, was organized by the military near Ban Mai Santi Khiri village on 19th June 2010. The participants included military, school students, villagers, local NGOs, FORRU staff (Khwankhao Sinhaseni and Dr Stephen Elliott) and our guest from ICRAF-China, Dr Rhett Harrison. Approximately 1,000 saplings, from the school nurseries at Ban Panasawan and Ban Mai Santi, were planted during the event, mostly by the children (from all schools) who had joined the 'look mai pah' club program.

General Chaluay Yamphochai opened the event with a speech about the forest landscape restoration project in Doi Mae Salong, and then he presented the envelopes of payments for sapling purchases to representatives from 7 school nurseries, according to the survey above..

After that, the planting activity was run until lunchtime.

Amounts paid to each school

PAYMENTS TO SCHOOLS FOR SAPLING PRODUCTION	Baht
MAI SANTI	2,600
RACHADORN PATTANA	1,600
BAN KLANG	2,500
SANTI KHIRI WIT	1,100
PANASAWAN	5,300
SANTI KHIRI	12,500
RUAMJAI	100

Gen Chaluay presents payment for trees produced to a representative from one of the schools that took part in the main project, before the trees were planted.



Plant was carried out by school children (left), soldiers (right) and FORRU-CMU staff 19/6/2010.



3) Vocational Training workshop

General Chaluay Yamphochai aims to expand the network of nursery activities and the involvement of the forest restoration project to 3 additional hill tripe communities within the FLR site, including Loryo, Anglor and Hego, as well as the Doi Mae Salong informal education centers, because the poverty of local people remains the main driver of forest clearance and conversion to agriculture. However, nurseries with the multiple functions are needed - not only for forest tree production for restoration, but also for agricultural plants.

Agroforestry is being promoted in the FLR site by IUCN and other agencies as one option. Moreover, organic agriculture is one to add value to crop production. Finally villagers also expressed an interest ecotourism because agricultural markets fluctuate, so diversification of economic activities helps to reduce risk. Furthermore, Doi Mae Salong is a famous tourist destination, especially among the Chinese community and Thai cherry blossom season (*Prunus cerasoides*). So forest restoration can create wonderful surroundings for matching the eco-tourism market. Therefore, in addition to FORRU staff, Assist. Prof. Theerapong Soawapark, lecturer of agriculture faculty, Chiang Mai University, was invited to provide expert into the workshop, in terms of agricultural knowledge.

The training workshop was carried out on 31 July for Doi Mae Salong informal education centers at Ban Santi Khiri Primary School. There were 30 participants. In the morning activities were the forest restoration project concept, framework tree species method, and nursery management; Luk Mai Pah project arrangement, seed collection schedule and local

utilization chart, seed germination, potting, nursery care. Then, in the afternoon, alternative agriculture was presented and group discussions were run. The same program was repeated on 1st September 2010 for 50 local villagers from Loryo, Anglor and Hego villages. Hego village hosted the activities on this second day, with a demo agroforestry area, forest and coffee plantation, managed by local villagers.

The schedule of the workshop activities

Time	Activities
8.30	Registration
9.00	Open ceremony
9.30	Tree survey for seed collection
10.15	Seed collection and local utilization chart
11.00	Nursery activities: Seed germination, Potting and Nursery care
12.00	Lunch
13.00	Alternative agriculture: agro-forestry and organic agriculture
14.00	Obstruction of agriculture process and Eco tourism
15.00	Group discussion
16.00	Closing

