

CITES Tree Species Programme Regional Meeting for Asia
and
The 2nd Regional Workshop on the Management of Wild and Planted Agarwood Taxa


AGARWOOD (*AQUILARIA CRASSNA*) SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT
AND CAPACITY BUILDING DEVELOPMENT

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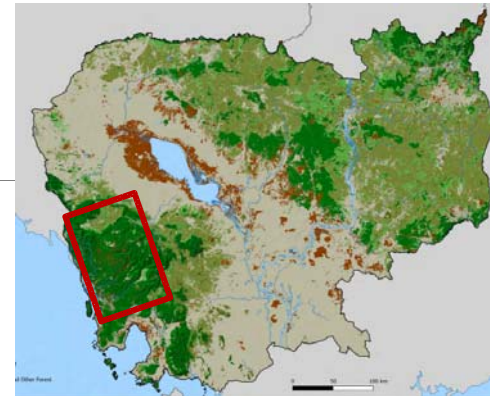
Project Objectives and Expected Results

The general objective of the project is to get public views in *Aquilaria crassna* conservation, protection, and development for sustainable management of the species in the wild and in plantation. The outcomes are:

- ✓ Assessment of the status of the existing *Aquilaria crassna* in the areas produced;
 - ✓ National conservation strategy and potentials for development of *Aquilaria crassna*, including private involvement, developed;
 - ✓ Participation of private sector in *Aquilaria crassna* protection and development improved.
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Current Status

- Location: Cost line areas with highest rainfall (3500 – 4000 mm per annum) of the country (see map);
- Forest type: Evergreen forests;
- Elevation of the areas: 1000 – 1400 meter above sea level;
- Rain pattern: about 260 days of rains per annum;
- Local Name: Chan Crassna (Agarwood)
- Scientific name: *Aquillaria crassna* Pierre
- Government prohibited species: **CITES Annex??(Phalla to add...)**




Current Status (cont.)



- Like many other plant species, Agarwood (wood and oil) have been used for religious beliefs, family incomes, and ornament for local people for centuries (e.g. religious status, incense);
- Commercial networks are among Cambodia, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam;
- For larger exported families, there used to be about one ton of Agarwood chips per year per family (mainly during 2000 – 2005);
- Price of Agarwood oil could be up to 4,000\$US per 360cc (present price);
- Among dealers, they agreed that Agarwood/oil (oud/smell) of Cambodia should be the best in the region (Indian and Southeast Asia);
- There is no more commercial scale of collection of Agarwood from the wild in Cambodia, although few agarwood hunters keep searching it in the wild;

Current Status (cont.)

- Almost all areas of (former) Agarwood are Protected Areas and Conservation NGO like CI, FFI, WA collaboratively work with government to safeguard general forest ecosystems, but no specific strategy and activity have been developed for the Agarwood species;
 - There is no official restoration and plantation mechanism established for Agarwood Management, rather, species conservation and protection in general;
 - Few Cambodian family-scale firms have continued their import/export Agarwood in Cambodia.
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Current Status (cont.)

Species feature



- Phnom Penh Post (2014): wild oil is four time more expensive than the plantation one
- Photos from Cambodian Friends (Facebook, 2018)

Challenges

- ❖ Un-sustainable harvest of the wild Agarwood conducted by un-controlled, organized and unorganized, collectors;
 - ❖ Lack of Research and Development Mechanism, especially by the State, although mandated staff have been focusing on protection of wild Agarwood;
 - ❖ Lack of capacity of officials and private in leading sustainable management of the species in the wild;
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Opportunities and Risks of the project implementation

- ❑ The forest areas and ecosystems of the Agarwood are under the State Protected Areas, which is supported by laws;
- ❑ Native Agarwood species (*aquilaria crassna*) is available for regeneration and restoration;
- ❑ Private engagement for long-term management and conservation of the Agarwood species;
- ❑

New Development

- There are many, mostly private- and family-scale, attempts and piloting sites of Agarwood plantations in the former areas of wild Agarwood;
- Thai and Cambodian Firms bolster 100 million USD (Thoub Chankrassna Khmer Co. and Thai-based First Capital Group to improve plantation of Agarwood (P.P. Post 08 Feb 2018);
- In their plantations, small-scale and family-scale firms, have tried to imitate natural processes of Agarwood development;



Thank you for your kind attentions

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