



# Role of Communities in Production Forestry in Myanmar

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# Current Status of Community Forestry

- Local communities have been traditionally managed and used their forests for years in Myanmar
- Community Forestry Instructions-CFI issued in 1995 and revised in 2016
- Target of CF by 2030 is nearly 1 mil hectares
- 160,000 ha established by over 2000 FUGs
- More focus on subsistence in CFI of 1995, but commercialisation of CF in revised CFI of 2016



# Why Community Forestry is important for Myanmar

- 3 pillars (State, Community and Private) for Sustainable Forest Management are essential
- More than 70% of population lives in rural areas near and around forests and their livelihoods are related to forest resources
- Daily demand of fuelwood through CF
- Participation of communities is decisive for conservation of forests as well as production of forest products: Timber and Non timber
- Power sharing on forest resources is one of the important steps in peace and democratization process



# Local communities' participation in forest products trade

- Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade- RAFT3 has been implemented together with TNC
- Capacity Building for local communities (CDNA and MA&D training)
- Engagement with private sector (Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneur Association-MRBEA) and other SME entrepreneurs
- Implementation of forest management plan which is an agreement between Forest Department and FUGs
- Access to financial assistance (loan or grant) for establishment of business organisation

# Activities by communities in production of Forest products



# Lessons to date and measures to overcome

- Trust between stakeholders e.g communities and governments, communities and private sector
  - Inadequate/lack of capacities of stakeholders
  - Access to financial assistance
  - Insufficient policy and legal instruments
1. Dialogues among stakeholders, Networking
  2. Training, Cross-visit, Communication products
  3. Establishment of revolving fund, loan from government and private sector
  4. Participatory Action Research, Case studies, Policy brief, Policy advocacy workshops



# THANK YOU

Local people hold the key to healthy forests

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