



2020 STUDY TOUR CONCEPT



LESSONS FROM VIETNAM & LAOS

In October 2016, the New Generation Plantations (NGP) platform held a study tour in Laos along the Ho Chi Minh Trail looking at how plantations can integrate multiple land uses for improved livelihoods.

NGP provides moments in which to build empathy and trust, to feel free to express your views, and to be prepared to listen to and learn from others.

At the end of the study tour a number of key themes emerged:

- 1) Case studies that can be shown to stakeholders are a great way to communicate and improve understanding of the challenges involved;
- 2) Large-scale plantation projects in developing countries are a challenge, often needing to be revisited as the projects develop and mature;
- 3) Without a robust and strategic approach to land use planning (what happens where, and who decides), the risks associated with plantation development are higher for all stakeholders – from the developer to the local communities and biodiversity.

Three years later in March 2019, NGP came back to the region to organize a Smallholders Fieldshop in Vietnam looking at the experiences of smallholders in the forestry sector in Thua Thien Hue.



This Fieldshop concluded that the challenges faced by smallholders in Vietnam are not new – and many solutions already exist. There are already highly successful models of cooperation between forest owners and companies. In Vietnam we saw great examples of how WWF and partners have helped build local capacity, enabling smallholders' cooperatives to work with a local sawmill and supply a major international buyer. But scaling up and long-term sustainability continue to be challenges.

2020 VIETNAM-LAOS STUDY TOUR

The premise of the New Generation Plantations platform is that by building on exchanges of knowledge and experience like this one, we can build a better future. Based on this premise, NGP identified the opportunity to develop a trans-boundary Vietnam-Laos study tour, aimed at cross-fertilization from both countries' experiences: the Vietnam Cooperatives model and the Stora-Enso land-use planning from Laos.

The 2020 Vietnam-Laos study tour aims at introducing the importance of developing a Landscape Approach with a transboundary dimension, given the common environmental and social aspects across the Central Annamites Mountains. The study tour will start in Hue, visiting field sites that demonstrate the successful cooperatives model and sharing knowledge from the Stora-Enso Laos land-use model. Then, crossing the border to Savannakhet in Laos, the study tour will visit the Stora-Enso Laos land-use model field sites and share the experiences from the cooperatives model in Vietnam.

This study tour will build on the knowledge and learning from the previous two NGP events, and further enable the Transboundary Landscape approach for a better future.

With rapid land use changes and increasing opportunities for plantation investment, Laos and Vietnam demonstrate the importance of bringing a transboundary approach to NGP.

