

Senior Expert Contact – A programme of Swisscontact

POTENTIAL MEETS EXPERIENCE

The retired professionals of our Senior Expert Contact (SEC) are qualified experts on-site. Through their consulting services, they provide hands-on, cost-effective support towards the sustainable development of companies and institutions.

SEC Assignment in Cambodia, 2025

Assignment No. 4324

Location	Phnom Penh and Banlung, Cambodia
Client	Wood Industry
Expert	Ramon Zangger, Wood Specialist
Period	15.02. - 14.03.2025



Client Profile

The client is a company that covers the entire teak wood value chain in Cambodia, including planting trees on its own plantations, processing solid wood, and manufacturing and selling wood products. The company creates sustainable jobs and brings a product "from Cambodia, for Cambodia, by Cambodians" to the market.

Tasks

The assignment was to optimise the gluing and drying processes of teak wood for cutting boards at facilities in Phnom Penh and Banlung.

Results

The central challenges were addressed as effectively as possible within three weeks. A significant breakthrough was the optimisation of the gluing process: instead of using a high-quality but expensive PU adhesive, a more cost-effective white glue with a hardener was identified. This alternative not only offered a qualitative improvement in the feel of the cutting boards but also proved to be both practical and economically viable. Another success was the conversion of an existing, unused, and poorly designed drying chamber. It now allows for greater planning reliability in wood drying, particularly during the humid summer months. While the chamber's functionality is now ensured, optimisation of the drying process will take several weeks. Automation should be pursued to enhance wood quality during drying.