

3. In pursuit of its mission and purposes, the Network shall accord special attention to:
- a. Satisfying the livelihood and basic needs of people living in bamboo and rattan producing areas, and in particular those of women and disadvantaged people;
 - b. The role of bamboo and rattan in the protection of the environment, and more particularly in alleviating deforestation, soil erosion, and land degradation;
 - c. Conserving and expanding the biodiversity of bamboo and rattan resources;
 - d. Enhancing and extending the utility, productivity and processing of bamboo and rattan on a sustainable basis; and
 - e. Developing and promoting policies and value-added technologies aimed at realizing the full potential of bamboo and rattan as substitutes for timber.

ARTICLE 4 - Activities

The Network shall undertake all such activities as are conducive to the realization of its mission and purposes and, without limiting the generality of the foregoing, it shall:

- a. Identify, undertake, coordinate and support strategic research and development on bamboo and rattan;
- b. Organize international, regional, national and local fora and workshops on bamboo and rattan issues and promote the exchange of all types of information relating to bamboo and rattan;
- c. Facilitate the linking of scientific, technical, management and financial expertise with local partners;
- d. Train manpower and build institutional capacity at regional, national and local levels for bamboo and rattan scientists and development professionals;
- e. Provide expert resources that bridge scientific knowledge with local needs in strategic areas of research, technology transfer, policy formulation and information services; and
- f. Coordinate and lead teams to develop proposals and fund projects.