



## CASE STUDIES



Raffia palm used to make baskets, Sierra Leone



Sierra Rutile Nursery, Sierra Leone

### **RAFFIA PALM REHABILITATION TO PROVIDE ECONOMIC BOON TO COMMUNITY**

The rehabilitation team at Sierra Rutile has successfully introduced the raffia palm (*Raffia vinifera*) species to its rehabilitation planting plan for the first time.

Community feedback during the Area 1 Environment, Social, and Health Impact Assessment emphasised the high economic value of this tree species. Among other things, raffia palm fronds provide a locally important roofing construction material. They are also used to manufacture baskets, fishing nets, ceiling tiles and sleeping mats. While raffia palm is one of the most desired economic trees, it was not previously included in the planting plan due to difficulties with seed germination.

Sierra Rutile's nursery team undertook a preliminary trial of seed treatment methods, with initial results yielding raffia seedlings, which will be ready to plant in 2020.