Progressing FLEGT in Southeast Asia through ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry

16th Seminar on Current International Issues Affecting Forestry and Forest Products, 5th August 2015, Jogyakarta, Republic of Indonesia

FLEGT & VPA progress in Asia

- FLEGT licenses (not yet)
- System development
- Formal negotiations
- Entering into negotiations
- Preparation, in-country consensus building
- Introduction to VMAs
- FLEGT dialogue
# VPA negotiation & implementation – Status in SE-Asia

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## ASEAN Cooperation in the Forestry Sector
ASEAN bodies covering the forest sector

ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF) - subsidiary bodies:
• ASEAN Senior Officials’ Meeting of AMAF (SOM-AMAF)
• ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF):
  - Policy co-ordination and decision-making on regional co-operation in the forestry sector
  - Established four experts groups, one working group and two networks – including inter alia:
    ▶ ASEAN Experts Group on International Forest Policy Processes (AEG-IFPP) – develops joint positions of AMS on international forest-related policy processes
    ▶ ASEAN Working Group on a Pan-ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative (AWG-PATCI) – aimed to develop a regional framework for a phased-approach to forest certification in AMS
    ▶ ASEAN Regional Knowledge Network on FLEG (ARKN-FLEG) aims to support the implementation of the 2008-2015 Work Plan for Strengthening FLEG in ASEAN

EU FLEGT Facility support...

Capacity building for regional FLEGT stakeholders through
• Joint ASEAN / EU FLEGT Facility / AMS sub-regional training in timber legality assurance: 2010, 12, 13, 14
• Revitalise ARKN-FLEG meeting, and exploring its potential as a multi-stakeholder forum on FLEG (jointly with GAP-CC)
• Scoping study on ASEAN timber trade, customs and timber legality – recommendations on
  - integrating timber legality assurance systems (TLAS) into National Single Window (NSW) systems for trade and customs
  - improving documentation to support export declarations as a check on legality
• Support to national VPA processes
Looking forward...

- *New Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN cooperation in forestry*

Towards a new ASEAN strategy for cooperation in forestry

- **Strategic Plan** for ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025)
- Overall aims: achieve AEC Blueprint; contribute to completion of MDGs and the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals;
- **Goals** of ASEAN co-operation in forestry to:
  - *enhance* international competitiveness of ASEAN’s forestry products by meeting market requirements on legality
  - *meet* international standards of sustainable forest management (*SFM*)...
  - *strengthen* joint approaches in addressing international and regional forestry issues
  - *increase* productivity & *efficient utilization* of forest products through improved forest governance and reduction in illegal logging.
Looking forward…

- How to promote institutional dialogue on timber legality within ASEAN?

Some options for ASEAN consideration:

• Encourage regional cooperation in strengthening forest governance in ASEAN through:
  • Trade & customs cooperation – foresters & trade and customs to collaborate, e.g. to attend Trade Facilitation Working Group (involving private sector?)
  • AMS defining specific legality definitions at national level - aim for regional mutual recognition and promotion of timber legality
  • ASEAN as an institution to develop and enforce requirements for legal timber within ASEAN and for timber entering into the ASEAN region (regional legislation?)
  • Enhancing capacity of related agencies, networks and actors
EFI Sida programme (2016-2018)

• Support to FLEGT-relevant ASEAN events and initiatives
• Support to national and regional trade associations involving SMEs
• Support for an ASEAN regional FLEGT CSO platform

Thank You

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