The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation

5th Sub-Regional Training Workshop on Timber Legality Assurance

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6 – 8 December, 2016
Jakarta, Indonesia
Country Profile

Location

- Southeast Asia
- Latitudes = 9° 32’ to 28° 31’ N
- Longitudes = 92° 10’ to 101° 11’ E

Area

- Total land area = 676,577 km²
- Length (north to south) = 2,051 km
- Maximum width (west to east) = 936 km

Mean Temperature range

- 25° C to 33° C (Rainy Season)
- 10° C to 25° C (Cold Season)
- 32° C to 38° C (Hot Season)
- 43° C (Maximum Temperature)

Mean Rainfall

- Minimum rainfall <800 mm
- Maximum rainfall = 5,000 mm

Population

- 51.5 million
## Forest Cover Status (FRA-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Forest category</th>
<th>Area (000 ha)</th>
<th>% of total country area</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Closed forest</td>
<td>14,585</td>
<td>21.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open forest</td>
<td>14,456</td>
<td>21.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total forest</strong></td>
<td><strong>29,041</strong></td>
<td><strong>42.92</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Wooded land</td>
<td>15,080</td>
<td>22.29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others Land</td>
<td>21,634</td>
<td>31.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water body</td>
<td>1,903</td>
<td>2.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>67,658</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Workshop on FLEGT Action Plan: challenges and opportunities for the Forest Sector in Myanmar was held in July 2013.

According to the workshop recommendations, Myanmar formally proposed to enter into the EU FLEGT VPA process in November 2013 and EU acknowledged to participate in the process in March, 2014 starting from Preparation Phase.

After a series of meetings between FD and EU delegation (Myanmar), conducted the inception workshop on EU-Myanmar FLEGT VPA Preparation Phase in January 2015.

ITF (Interim Taskforce) was formed with 24 members in which 8 members from each stakeholder group (Government, Private and CSO) are included, by MONREC in order to complete the work-plan and facilitate to implement the activities of the plan before setting up Multi-Stakeholder Group.
Twelfth meetings of ITF were conducted during July 2015 to November 2016 to update the work-plan of the preparation phase and facilitate the implementation of its activities.

A team of ITF presented about the FLEGT VPA process to members of Pyi Thu Hluttaw and Amyothar Hluttaw related to natural resources on 8th August 2016.

Moreover, FD conducted awareness raising activities to line departments during July and August this year.

ITF will develop ToR for Multi Stakeholders Group (MSG) during Dec 2016 to be replaced of ITF before starting the negotiation with EU.

In addition, ITF teams will make presentation about FLEGT VPA activities to both members of Regional Government and Parliamentary and one day workshop including members of Regional Government and Parliamentary, relevant stakeholders from line departments, CSO and Private Sector in Sagaing and Thanintharyi Regions during Dec 2016.
A Legal and policy framework to practice sustainable forest management has been in place since systematic forest management started in 1850’s.

The corresponding rules and regulations were also developed to operate the timber legality operations.

The C&I for legality of Timber in Myanmar were developed in 2009, based on the ASEAN C&I for Timber Legality.

6 criteria and 15 Indicators were identified together with the activities and standard of performance.

Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS) was developed in 2013 by Myanmar Forest Certification Committee (MFCC) with the consultation of relevant Stakeholders.
Strengthening Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS)

- **Project Title**: Strengthening the development of Myanmar Timber Legality Assurance System (MTLAS)
  - Carried out by MFCC, with support of EU FAO FLEGT Support Programme

- **Objective**
  - To strengthen the development and implementation of MTLAS through activities: an expert-led participatory gap analysis of the current national Myanmar Legality Verification Standard or MTLAS as well as targeted awareness raising, training, field visits and international exchanges for key organizations and stakeholders to be engaged in the VPA process.
  - The project has being implemented with the aims to strengthen the MTLAS in order to meet international market requirements during this year.
  - The project will also provide on site training to concerned stakeholders including some ITF members and contribute in the further development of TLAS of FLEGT VPA Process.
Conclusion

- Myanmar forests are owned by the state
- Legislation and regulations to manage and harvest forest resources are in place.
- At present, Forest Department (FD) and Myanmar Timber Enterprise (MTE), the state Institutions, are responsible for the management, harvesting, processing and trade of timber including verification of legal timber for export and domestic markets.
- In addition, the private sector operates the processing and trade of timber supplied by MTE for domestic and export.
- The findings of the MTLAS Gap Analysis project will be considered in the further development of TLAS of Myanmar FLEGT VPA process by all stakeholder.
- The concerned stakeholder groups have been closely working in the FLEGT VPA Process with technical supports of Palladium Team, EU EFI including experiences of Other VPA countries, initiatives and partner organizations to achieve VPA with EU and to support SFM with the involvement of all stakeholders of the country.
THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION