

Can we have an ASEAN Timber Legality Baseline?

(Facilitated by Aimi Lee)

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YES, we can have an ASEAN Timber Legality Baseline

But before this could happen, certain steps have to be followed:

- 1) Reference set of Criteria and Indicators for timber legality verification.
- 2) Propose ASEAN C&I for Timber Legality (2009) as ASEAN reference set to be used to evaluate each country's timber legality standards for admission into the proposed ASEAN Timber Legality Verification Scheme (ATLVS).
- 3) This ASEAN C&I (2009) needs to be reviewed and revised to meet international norms in timber legality verification (e.g, TLAS, PEFC, FSC).

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- 4) To undertake this review, AMS should make a commitment to stop illegal logging and associated trade in accordance with their national legislation and regulations.
 - 5) This takes time; in the interim (1 - 2 years) it is recommended for ASEAN to have a standard reference set of documentation required to ensure that countries' documents for verifying legal timber meets this ASEAN standard set.
 - 6) To review if countries' standards for timber legality verification meet this ASEAN C&I for Timber Legality (2009), this could be undertaken by the ASEAN Peer Consultation Framework or by an established ASEAN Panel of Experts.

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- 7) When ASEAN agrees to use the current ASEAN C&I as the reference set under the proposed ATLVS for assessing AMS standards for timber legality verification, it is proposed that local CBs be used. In the interim, these local CBs need not be accredited against international requirements (ISO/IEC17021-1-2015).
 - 8) These local CBs must have competence and expertise to do verification work (i.e., capacity building to pass the performance evaluation test).
 - 9) Once ASEAN member states' standards are admitted into the ATLVS, this should be reflected in the National Single Window for the trade of timber and timber products.

Conclusion

- ▶ It is hoped that with the revised ASEAN C&I for Timber Legality in line with international norms for timber legality verification and certification by internationally accredited CBs, the trade of ASEAN timber and timber products is deemed as originating from legally-managed forest and trade of legal timber and timber products.