

**Fifth ARKN-Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
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ASEAN INITIATIVES ON STRENGTHENING FLEG



INTRODUCTION

- **Why FLEG?**

- Illegal logging and its associated trade has serious social, economic and ecological consequences. Also, risk loss of reputation and competitiveness in export markets.
- Growing demand by companies and consumers worldwide for guarantees that timber has been legally harvested.
- FLEG and trade related is an issues of concern and trans-boundary in nature that calls for joint actions.
- ASEAN intends to enhance competitiveness of their forest products to gain global market access



INTRODUCTION – contd.

■ What Framework?

➤ ASEAN Regional Framework:

■ **Vientiane Action Programme (2004-2010)**

“... to eradicate unsustainable forest management practices by 2010 ...”

■ **Realisation of ASEAN Community by 2015**

“...Ensuring regional competitiveness and full integration into the global community while minimizing social impacts...”



INTRODUCTION – contd.

- **How to Address?**

- Regional approaches in addressing FLEG

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- Policy dialogues
 - Information sharing
 - Capacity building
 - Coordinated actions
 - Partnership

**Improve forest
governance,
policy
development,
forest
management &
law enforcement**



DEVELOPMENTS

- Policy guidance
- Work plan and coordinated actions



Policy Guidance by ASEAN Ministers



The Ministerial Statement on Strengthening FLEG in ASEAN

- Reaffirmed the ASEAN's commitment to improve forest governance in the region
- To enhance collaborative activities and programmes such as:
 1. forestry sector transparency,
 2. joint approaches in timber certification,
 3. country diagnostics and experience sharing
 4. regional customs and trade cooperation,



Policy Guidance by ASEAN Leaders (Summit)



ASEAN Declaration on Environmental Sustainability

“to strengthening law enforcement, combating illegal logging and its associated illegal trade as necessary measures in addressing trans-boundary environmental pollution, including haze pollution”.



Commitment by the Leaders of East Asia Countries



Singapore Declaration on Climate Change, Energy and the Environment

“to reduce deforestation, forest degradation and forest fires, including by promoting SFM, combating illegal logging, protecting biodiversity, and addressing the underlying economic and social drivers”



Policy Guidance



ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint

- It provides ASEAN Member Countries a strategic schedule towards 2015.
- In the forestry sector, the AEC Blueprint sets target and timelines to develop a “regional reference framework on phased-approach to forest certification by 2015”.
- Also calls for strengthening efforts to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, forest fire and its resultant effects.



Work plan and coordinated actions

- ❑ A regional Work Plan for strengthening FLEG in ASEAN (2008 – 2015)
 - Agreed in principle at the ASOF Roundtable on EA-FLEG, held on 6-7 March 2008, in Chiang Rai, Thailand.
 - The overall goal is the attainment of SFM for enhancing sustainable and competitive trade in forest products and poverty reduction in the region.



Work plan and coordinated actions

- The Agreed Work Plan has two objectives:
 - (1) To strengthen forest law enforcement and governance;
 - (2) To enhance intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness of ASEAN's forest products;



Work plan and coordinated actions - contd

- A set of strategies and coordinated actions to achieve the objectives include:
 - ❑ **Strengthen Policy and Legal Framework:**
 - Review laws and enhance coherence by harmonizing laws and regulations at national level
 - Develop format for assessing FLEG implementation

 - ❑ **Promote transparency and accountability:**
 - Develop forest resources information and data exchange system using the existing ASEAN forest CHM
 - Conduct a study on rationalization of forest use (timber and financial management flows)



Work plan and coordinated actions - contd

- Enhance institutional and human resources capacities:
 - Conduct needs assessment at country level for FLEG implementation
 - Conduct training activities for customs, forestry and other law enforcers.
 - Raise awareness and conduct training on forest governance for business actors, civil society and local community.



Work plan and coordinated actions - contd

- Strengthen regional customs cooperation:
 - Develop a robust, efficient and transparent timber export and import documentation system allowing verification of legality of timber shipments.
 - Develop options for effective prior notification systems for selected timber products.

- Implement phased-approach to forest certification:
 - Develop principles and elements for legality of timber.
 - Develop a regional CoC to track legality of timber.



Thank You!



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<http://www.asean.org/>

<http://forest-chm.aseansec.org/>

