

UPDATES

INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN THE PHILIPPINES ON TIMBER LEGALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM



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BASIC FORESTRY LAW

*PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO.
705 Revised Forestry Reform
Code of the Philippines, (May
1975)*

COMMERCIAL TIMBER HARVESTING

Comprehensive Development Management Plan (25 Yrs)

Five-Year Integrated Operations Plan (FYIOP)

Annual Integrated Operation Plan (AIOP)

TRANSPORT – *Transport Certificates (logs, lumber and non-wood forest products)*

EXPORT – *Registration or Export Authority, Transshipment Certificates*

IMPORT – *Import Authority*

WOOD PROCESSING – *Wood processing plant permits, i.e. sawmill, veneer, plywood*

Extraction or harvesting of TIMBER & including non-timber products requires specific type of AUTHORITY in the form of PERMIT i.e. Short-Term Permit and Long-Term Permits (Contracts or Agreement) issued by the *DENR (Section 68, PD 705)*

Duration of such PERMITS varies from 1 to 25 years.

*PARALLEL UNDERTAKINGS IN
PREPARATION FOR
TIMBER LEGALITY
ASSURANCE SYSTEMS*

*1. Formulation a national guidelines on national certification scheme -
-in-progress*

-- Review of the Phil. Criteria & Indicators for SFM

-- Aligned it with international Certification standards for accreditation purposes

-- Setting of a national governing boards & its operationlization

-- Includes forest certification for FMUs & Chain-of-Custody for wood traders

2. Implementing timber tracking project funded by ITTO with emphasize on improving forest governance

- come up with a clear recommendation for appropriate timber tracking technology for nationwide adoption*
- fully comply with traceability criteria or the back to-the-stump requirement*
- forest governance addressed & eventually improved*

3. *Pilot testing the use of new on timber tracking technology i.e. RFID (radio frequency identification)*

-- improved & effective timber tracking system during transport from cutting areas to wood processing & downstream industries

-- adopt reliable TRACEABILITY scheme or back-to-the-stump requirement to verify legality of harvested timber

4. We have signified in writing our interest to negotiate for a Volunteer Partnership Agreement (VPA)

- still waiting for signal from superiors i.e. DFA to proceed serious discussions with EU*
- this is a top policy decision which is not within our control at the technical level*
- thus, we go by EU TR to trade wood products with EU in the absence of VPA*
- serious deliberations is on-going to develop our own TLAS for timber legality requirements of EU*

4. Formulated & implementing the Five-Year National Forest Protection Program of the country

-- Use & application of state of the-art technology in forest protection & law enforcement

-- Provision of logistical support by the government for effective FLE

-- Neutralize identified illegal logging hotspots by 2016

-- Equip & capacitate forest officers for improved FLE works

**COMPLIANCE WITH THE
ASEAN CRITERIA & INDICATORS
ON
TIMBER LEGALITY**



DOCUMENTARY COMPLIANCE

ASEAN Economic Blueprint outlined the key criteria and indicators for SFM ensuring MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS TO VERIFY LEGAL ORIGIN OF TIMBER.

ASEAN developed & approved six elements of the *ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber within the Phased - Approach to Forest Certification* approved in April 2008.

6 ELEMENTS of the *ASEAN Criteria & Indicators for Legality of Timber within the Phased-Approach to Forest Certification (2015)*

1. Compliance with all relevant forest laws & regulations;
2. Payment of statutory charges;
3. CITES compliance;
4. Implementation of a system that allows tracking of logs to the forest of origin (*back-to-the-stump*);
5. Timber harvested by parties who have legal rights to carry out the logging at the designated forest based on an approved plans,
6. Party which harvests timber shall comply with the laws governing social and environmental aspects, i.e. workers' safety, as well as environmental impact assessment

ASEAN TIMBER LEGALITY ASSURANCE CRITERIA	PHILIPPINE LEGAL COMPLIANCE <i>(documentary compliance)</i>
1. Compliance with all relevant forestry laws & regulations	All entities that harvest timber are in possession of valid permit or license issued by appropriate authorities <i>(PD 705 - Basic Forestry Law in the Phil.)</i>
2. Payment of statutory fees & charges (some call it <i>Royalties</i>)	DAO 2000-21 (<i>Payment of forest charges for natural grown trees</i>); DAO 1999-53 (<i>Government share</i>); DAO-2000-63 (<i>administrative fees; etc</i>); RA 7161 (<i>re Forest charges</i>)

**ASEAN TIMBER
LEGALITY
ASSURANCE
CRITERIA**

PHILIPPINE LEGAL COMPLIANCE
(documentary compliance)

3. CITES compliance

DAO 2007-01 (list of threatened species),
Except those specific provisions of the
agreement or license

Various DAOs e.g. Bans cutting of *Agathis
Philippensis*, all mangrove species, etc

4. Implementation of
a system that
allowing the
tracking of logs to
the forest of
origin;

DAO 2007-31 (*Computer generated CTO/CLO*);
DAO 1997-04 (*Transport Certificate for
CMFPO*);

DAO 1996-06 & 1996-11 (*Log Control
Monitoring System-LCMS*)

**ASEAN TIMBER
LEGALITY ASSURANCE
CRITERIA**

PHILIPPINE COMPLIANCE
(documentary compliance)

5. Timber harvested by parties who have legal rights to carry out the logging at designated forest based on an approved plans

Based on approved CDMP, FYIOP, MYIOP (*pursuant to numerous existing guidelines on the matter*)

6. Party who harvest the timber shall comply with the laws governing social and environmental aspects.

PD 1586 (*Philippine Environmental Impact Assessment System*),
RA 8371 (*IPRA Law for Free & Prior Informed Consent or FPIC*)

OUR PRIORITIES

- Develop a (electronic) Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) that will have access to the different documents issued by the Department similar to the of the National Single Window Systems by the Customs.*
- Current, legality documents are issued in various locations and different stages of the wood trade.*
- Planning to have a working TLAS where verification procedures becomes operational.*

We will develop our TLAS based on the ASEAN criteria & indicators for SFM within the Phased - Approach to Forest Certification to comply with the Minimum Requirements to Verify Legal Origin of Timber.

-- reliable timber tracking system compliant with the back-to-the-stump requirement.

-- where legal verification / procedures is established & operational

-- hopefully, forest certification guidelines & procedures approved & in placed soonest to forest sustainability.

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THANK YOU

SALAMAT PO!