

Workplan for FLEG in ASEAN & EU Facility support to ASEAN Cooperation on Forestry

6th Sub-regional Training Workshop on Timber
Legality Assurance, 3-5 July 2018, Chiang Mai,
Thailand



ASEAN Policy Framework on Forestry Cooperation

- Promoting Sustainable Forest management; enhance trade facilitation, foster competitiveness and economic integration (*AEC Blueprint 2025*)
- Strengthen regional cooperation on sustainable forest management (*ASCC Blueprint 2025*)
- 38th AMAF Meeting on 6 October 2016:
 - Strengthened efforts in preventing and combating illegal logging and its associated trade in timber and timber
 - Developing a **regional framework for mutual recognition of timber legality system**
 - Strengthening co-ordination of joint strategies, approaches and actions to seek greater **market access and promote ASEAN forest products** that are sourced legally
 - Strengthening collaboration on information exchange and technology transfer with all relevant stakeholders and international communities
 - Adopting ASEAN common positions on issues related to timber legality and associated trade at international fora, where possible



Some significant achievements

- In period 2008-2015:
 - ✓ ASEAN Guidelines for CoC of Legal and Sustainable Timber
 - ✓ ASEAN Guidelines on Phased Approach to Forest Certification
 - ✓ ASEAN C&I for Legality Timber
 - ✓ Study on Existing Initiatives for Ensuring Legal and Sustainable Timber in ASEAN

How to make those guidelines operationalise and can support trade facilitation?



New Structure of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry

ASEAN Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (AMAF)

SOM-AMAF

ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF)



- SFM issues
- FLEG issues
- Capacity bldg
- International forest Policy precesses

- CITES
- Wildlife enforcement

- HMP
- Forest Products
- Certification

- Forest & climate change

- Social forestry



Work Plan for FLEG in ASEAN (2016-2025)

- Objective :
 - ✓ the attainment of sustainable forest management for enhancing the international competitiveness of ASEAN's forestry products that meet international requirements and which is consistent with sustainable forest management practices, including conservation and protection, and contributes to the poverty reduction in the region
- Strategic thrust
 - ✓ Enhancing sustainable forest management
 - ✓ Enhancing trade facilitation, economic integration and market access
 - ✓ Strengthening ASEAN's joint approaches on regional and international issues affecting the forestry sector
 - ✓ Institutional strengthening and human resources development



Work Plan for FLEG in ASEAN (2016-2025)

- Action programmes:
 - ✓ Strengthened FLEG implementation
 - ✓ Facilitation of legal and sustainable forest products trade
 - ✓ Strengthened ASEAN coordinated actions on FLEG in regional and international for a
 - ✓ Enhancement of ASEAN Joint Approaches in Addressing FLEG issues
 - ✓ Promotion and implementation of training programmes on FLEG
 - ✓ Enhancement of sharing experiences and lessons learned on FLEG implementation



Way Forward

- Enhance partnership with development partners, private, CSO
- Encourage private sector in marketing forest products from legally sources
- Promote dialogue with private sector in increasing the trade of forest products
- Develop manual, guidelines, handbook on good practices of FLEG implementation
- Develop regional framework for mutual recognition of legality
- Promote and implement training programmes on FLEG
- Support SMEs in enhancing their capacity to meet regional/international trade requirements in forest products



- EU FLEGT Facility supported ASEAN's ambition towards a mutual recognition arrangement by contracting the study on "Feasibility of a Regional Mechanism for Mutual Recognition of Legality of Timber"
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- This MRA ambition is huge and challenging because of the differences in national systems development amongst the ASEAN Member States (AMS). The gaps between AMS must be taken into account.

- ASEAN has an existing Framework Agreement on Mutual Recognition Arrangements, 1988 and existing Guidelines on Accreditation & Conformity Assessment, developed through the EU ARISE project.
- Any MRA to be developed must be done under the ASEAN Consultative Committee on Standards and Quality (ACCSQ). ACCSQ has limited expertise on forestry – it will be up to the forestry & timber sector to develop the MRA mechanism in consultation with the ACCSQ.

- The EU FLEGT Facility would like to propose technical workshop for the relevant expert from ACCSQ to meet with ASEAN Forestry Experts to understand the procedures and to agree on the stepwise approach.
- It could lead to the setting up of a Committee for MRA for legality of timber. This committee would have to discuss standard and process matters.
- In the interim, the standard they will need to consider will be the existing ASEAN C&I 2009. The benchmark has moved upwards in the last 8 years .

- To take the process forward, ASEAN member states would need to nominate their forestry experts to the MRA workshop.
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- The decision to go for the MRA needs to be escalated by the ASEAN Secretariat to the Senior Officials Meeting of ASEAN on forestry (SOM ASOF) for the mandate to proceed. Workshop to be held in 2019, in Malaysia.

For more information:

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