

ASEAN INITIATIVES ON STRENGTHENING FLEG



Outline

- INTRODUCTION
- POLICY GUIDANCE AND DEVELOPMENTS
- WORK PLAN AND COORDINATED ACTIONS
- THE WAY FORWARD

Introduction (1)

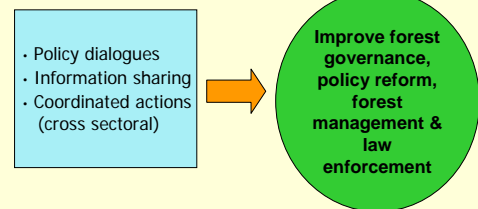
■ Why FLEG in ASEAN?

- 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 consumers worldwide for legally harvested timber products;
- FLEG is in trans-boundary in nature that can effectively be addressed by joint actions.

Introduction (2)

■ How to Address?

- Regional approaches in addressing FLEG



Policy Guidance and Developments (1)

ASEAN Regional Frameworks

- **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..."

Policy Guidance and Developments (2)

📄 The Ministerial Statement on Strengthening FLEG in ASEAN (1 November 2007)

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

Policy Guidance and Developments (3)

☞ 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".

13th ASEAN Summit (20 November 2007)

Policy Guidance and Developments (4)

☞ 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"

2nd East Asia Summit (21 November 2007)

Policy Guidance and Developments (5)

☞ ASEAN Economic Community Blueprint

- provides a strategic schedule towards a single and integrated market 2015.
- sets target and timeline to develop a "regional reference framework on phased-approach to forest certification by 2015".
- calls for strengthening efforts to combat illegal logging and its associated trade, forest fire and its resultant effects. (Promote cooperation, joint approaches and technology transfer with international, regional organisations and private sector)

Policy Guidance and Developments (6)

☐ A regional Work Plan for strengthening FLEG in ASEAN (2008 – 2015)

- Agreed in principle at the ASOF Roundtable on EA-FLEG, 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 (1)

➢ The draft Work Plan has three main objectives:

- (1) To improve forest law enforcement and governance;
- (2) To enhance intra- and extra-ASEAN trade and long-term competitiveness of forest products;
- (3) To establish FLEG linkages in a broader context of sustainable environmental management and development.

Work plan and coordinated actions (2)

➢ 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 and institutionalize ASEAN Peer Consultative Framework in this assessment mechanism.
- ☐ **Promote transparency and accountability:**
 - Develop a regional framework for disclosure policy on forestry sector.
 - Conduct a study on rationalization of forest use (timber and financial management flows).

Work plan and coordinated actions (3)

- ❑ **Build institutional and human resources capacities:**
 - Conduct training activities for customs, forestry and other law enforcement agencies.
 - Raise awareness and training activities for business sector, civil society and local community.
- ❑ **Enhance collaborative partnership with other regional and multilateral processes:**
 - Strengthen ASEAN role in the EA-FLEG process.
 - Promote collaboration with relevant multilateral program (e.g. UNODC, UNCTOC, EITI, Star Initiative) to strengthen the impact of FLEG activities.

Work plan and coordinated actions (4)

- ❑ **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.

WAYS FORWARD

- Build upon the proposed Work Plan for strengthening FLEG, ASEAN is taking the lead to implement FLEG in the Asia-Pacific region.
- ASEAN welcomes partnership with stakeholders/partners addressing the issue of illegal logging and pursuing the ultimate objective of FLEG.
- ASEAN will establish closer linkages with on-going regional initiatives (e.g. EA-FLEG, AFP).

Thank You!



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