


"Nature always wears the colors of the spirit" – EMERSON

Learning Network as a Tool for Improving Legal & Sustainable Timber Production

Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade (RAFT) Program


presented by
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Hanoi, Viet Nam



Presentation Outline

- A. Starting Assumptions
- B. What is a Learning Network (LN)?
- C. How are LN relevant to improving legal & sustainable timber production?
- D. What is RAFT's approach to LN?
- E. Where does all this lead us?



A. Starting Assumptions

I take for granted that:

- Timber illegality and poor forest management regimes have been far too common in years past and this has taken place:
 - across multiple sectors of society (government, industry, civil society) and
 - across countries (country x demands cheap finished products that country y is willing to produce with conflict timber coming from countries z1, z2 and zn)



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- There is a growing recognition this pattern of practice is problematic and that various players/stakeholders are willing to engage and make a lasting and positive difference.
- Many of the problems associated with suspicious/illegal logging have roots in disputed or contested rights over land use or access to land use.
- Coordination between countries and regions on legal tropical timber trade is taking place at some level and there is much room for improvement.



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Some Definitions


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- A network can be anything from a group of people sharing the same hobby (e.g., collecting stamps or music) to a formalized group formed within a professional context.
- A network is a group of people sharing a common interest or expertise.
- A network is the “two-way sharing of information, experiences, knowledge and/or resources between previously distinct entities (persons, communities or groups) having a common objective”



B. What is a Learning Network (LN)


- A formalization of people sharing with people their thoughts, knowledge, opinions and more around a common interest/objective or context with a purposeful agenda in mind.



C. How are LN relevant to improving legal & sustainable timber production

Learning Network Relevance in the Forest Sector

- LN provide a two way communication venue that is potentially more meaningful and effective given exchanges fostered from person to person vs. person to nebulous group out there!



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

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- LN can be used to share and disseminate knowledge and research




D. What is RAFT's approach to LN?

RAFT Learning Network aim

- Create a series of parallel regional networks on:
 - Conflict Management & Mediation for Forests and Natural Resources
 - Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)
 - Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) including HCVF and RIL
 - Timber Certification (FSC, LEI, others)







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

Distinguishing Characteristics of a RAFT LN

- Clear aims and agreed upon methods
- Clear & strategic targeting of contact persons, active members, audiences, policy makers, etc
- Clear and appropriate governance structure
- Coherent communication strategy (2-communication flow, face-to-face contact, etc.)
- Participatory mechanisms to ensure feedback
- Build trust amongst members




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RAFT Learning Network Outcomes

- Create a more enabling environment for improved forest management
 - Establishing learning platforms for discussion to take place
 - Cultivating a cadre of core LN participants from government, industry and civil society to champion the discussions grow the networks
 - Enable regular face-to-face meetings to strengthen ties across sectors




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- Disseminate lessons learned both from RAFT and partners organizations
- Make publications and informative materials available electronically or in print and where possible offer key materials in local languages




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- Cultivate a cadre of core participants that will lead to a growing number of new Learning Network users who can share and exchange knowledge between fields
- Reaching a critical mass of committed individuals that can lead to a turning point where government, industry and civil society agree that improving the forest sector is a must ...

...one that translates into rapid and sustained sector and cross-sector changes in favor of legal and sustainable forest management and trade.




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Thank you!