



**Emerging Governance Mechanisms in ASEAN: Supporting improved “Standards and Conformance Infrastructure” for forest sector legality and sustainability initiatives**

**Organized by ASEAN Working Group on Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative (PATCI),  
FAO, PEFC, FSC**

9am to 1pm, 24<sup>th</sup> of February, Holiday Inn Hotel

This event will bring together relevant stakeholders across Asia-Pacific to develop a regional program and country initiatives for “Standards and Conformance Infrastructure” which includes scheme managers, accreditation, standards, certification and independent or government auditors. In line with the vision and strategic plan of ASEAN Cooperation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, in particular that related to trade facilitation, economic integration and market access, the side event is expected to bring together stakeholders involved in verification initiatives (including forest certification, FLEGT VPA, Due Diligence Systems) throughout ASEAN member states. This event will allow stakeholders to share experience and best practices facilitating the trade in of legal or sustainable forest products across the region and beyond. Supporting the improvement of “Standards and Conformance Infrastructure” and promoting synergies between systems to be more robust and inclusive, will support the forest sector, especially SMEs, in fulfilling market access requirements. ASEAN provides a framework to facilitate experience sharing and mutual assistance between countries with varying capacities and progress towards the establishment of robust “Standards and Conformance Infrastructure”. The objective is to consult stakeholders on country progress and to inform the design of a possible regional programme in support of better and more multi-purpose “Standards and Conformance Infrastructure” in ASEAN.

9.00	Opening and objectives: Importance of Standards and Conformance Infrastructure for the ASEAN+ and Asia-Pacific	Siti Mustapha, Lead Country: ASEAN Working Group, Pan-ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative (PATCI)
9.10	Initiative on Forest Certification in ASEAN	
9.30	ASEAN Standards and Conformance Strategic Plan 2016-2025 and relevance for the forestry sector	Roslee Saad, Standards Malaysia and Chair/Co-Chair of ACCSQ WG 2
9.50	FSC approach for standards and conformance infrastructure in ASEAN.	Guntars Laguns, Managing Director of Accreditation Services International
10.05	PEFC approach for standards and conformance infrastructure in ASEAN	Sarah Price, PEFC International
10.20	Standards and conformance infrastructure for FLEGT/VPA	Vincent van den Berk, EFI Asia
10.35	Commonalities/synergies across verifications systems	Bruno Cammaert, FAO-RAP
10.40	Group Work: Identifying Activities and Synergies.	Co-organisers (TBC)
10.45	Morning Tea and Group work begins.	All
11.20	Country groups feedback	5 minutes per group
12.30	Key panel discussion and Q&A: Identification of common needs and coordination support mechanism	Speakers
12.50	Closing remarks with key recommendations to Stream 4 and APFC	ASEAN PATCI
13.00	CLOSE	



### **Pre-event preparations for country level group work**

Participating countries may prepare a simple country status report which will inform the identification of country level priority support needs, possible synergies as well as regional level support and coordination mechanisms during the group work.

The objective of this pre-activity is to bring multiple perspectives together to improve “Standards and conformance infrastructure” through identifying: key activities and synergies for different verification systems; and, partners to implement and supporters to fund these activities

Participants may complete some preparations so that there is an up-to-date understanding of the current national verification processes, e.g. FLEGT VPA, PEFC and FSC. This will allow the group to focus on potential future activities to improve commonalities between the different “standards and conformance infrastructure”.

The Country Status Report should include:

- a. Current Standards and Conformity Infrastructure in place
- b. Current activities in support of Standard and Conformity Infrastructure development or improvement synergies and support (indicating corresponding partners and supporters)
- c. Current commonalities and synergies between Standards and Conformity Infrastructure for different verification systems (Voluntary Certification, FLEGT-VPAs, others)

The Country Status Report should be submitted to [siti@mtcc.com.my](mailto:siti@mtcc.com.my) and/or [Bruno.cammaert@fao.org](mailto:Bruno.cammaert@fao.org) bring to the event for the group work.

Please see the following for your assistance:

1. Examples of synergies of verification systems
2. Overview of the infrastructure elements of the systems
3. Table for completing before and during the group work

#### **1. Examples of synergies between the verification systems**

- Coordinated consultation and development of the systems
- Compatible legality or sustainability standards leading to (mutual) recognition
- Compatible CoC/traceability (Voluntary Schemes) and Supply Chain Controls (VPA)
- Joint review of standards (VPA-Joint Implementation Committees/technical working groups, Scheme Managers, Standard Development Groups)
- Multi-purpose verification training for independent or government auditors/inspectors
- Multi-purpose audits/inspections
- Reinforced linkages between Scheme Assessors and VPA Auditors
- Reinforced linkages between Independent Forest Monitoring and Complaints Mechanisms

Note: If VPA TLAS uses independent 3<sup>rd</sup> party verification, more synergies can be envisaged



## 2. Overview of Standards and Conformance Infrastructure Elements

Component	PEFC	FSC	FLEGT VPA
Accreditation Bodies	National Accreditation Bodies (members of International Accreditation Forum)  PEFC Associate member within the IAF	Accreditation Services International	Generally not applicable unless verification element of TLAS is done by independent 3 <sup>rd</sup> party certifiers (e.g. SVLK)
Scheme Managers	Independent organizations with membership within the PEFC Council	FSC, with National Standard Development Groups	VPA Joint Implementation Committee (JIC)
Legality Standards	PEFC Controlled sources	FSC Controlled Wood	Legality Definition (TLAS)
Sustainability standards	National Standards (PEFC-Endorsed)	FSC Interim National Standards or Approved National and Regional Standards	N/A
Chain-of-Custody requirements	CoC Standard	CoC Standards	Supply Chain Controls (TLAS)
Certification Bodies	PEFC-notified and accredited to national accreditation body	FSC accredited	N/A unless VPA uses independent verification (e.g. SVLK)
Auditors (Independent, government)	Independent	Independent	Government Officer and/or Independent (e.g. SVLK)
System auditors, independent monitors	The PEFC Endorsement and Mutual Recognition process; includes PEFC Approved Independent Assessors & Panel of Experts  Maintains clear separation between standard-setting, conformity assessment and accreditation functions in line with globally recognized ISO best practice.  International and National Complaint Mechanisms	FSC and ASI both full members of ISEAL, undergo independent evaluation against ISEAL's Codes of Good Practice.  FSC Policy for Association mechanism, protects system from reputational risk from organizations involved in unacceptable activities  Complaints mechanisms and Dispute Resolution System	VPA Evaluators or Auditors (at least once per year and appointed by JIC),  Independent Forest Monitoring (CSO)



**3(a). Current Activities, Needs and Synergies**

Component	Activities and needs (FSC, PEFC, VPA)	Existing/planned synergies
Accreditation Bodies		
Scheme Managers		
Legality Standards		
Sustainability standards		
Chain-of-Custody requirements		
Certification Bodies		
Auditors (Independent, government)		
System auditors, independent monitors		

**3(b). Existing partners and supporters**

Partners	Supporters