



Regional Workshop on Capacity Building Needs to Support FLEGT in Asia

“FLEGT in Asia: supporting good governance and responsible trade for Asia’s forests”

Swissotel Nai Lert Park Bangkok, Thailand - 16 and 17 October 2013

Hosted by the Thai Royal Forest Department

Background

In 2003, the European Union (EU) adopted its Action Plan on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) with the aim to halt illegal logging and promote better governance. The negotiation and conclusion of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between the EU and a Partner Country has been the predominant tool, but there are many measures in the Action Plan to support improved governance. The ultimate objective of VPA is to ensure, through a licensing scheme, that only legal timber is imported into the EU. Each VPA is dependent on the development and implementation of a Legality Assurance System (LAS) which includes a definition of legal timber, a verification system, a licensing system and an independent audit. Five countries in Asia have initiated actions to develop a VPA: Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, The Lao Peoples Democratic Republic and most recently Thailand. Indonesia, which concluded negotiations in May 2011, is due to sign its VPA soon, and is making significant progress towards implementation of the VPA requirements.

The EU Timber Regulation became applicable in March 2013. The Regulation prohibits the placing of illegal timber and timber products on the EU market. The United States and Australia have both adopted similar legislation, completing a significant demand side incentive to enhance efforts to address illegal logging in supplier and processing countries. China, Japan and South Korea are contemplating the further development of policy instruments, including legal procedures, to curb the trade in illegal timber and timber products.

A number of programmes support regional and country level action to address illegal logging and to facilitate the implementation of these new trade related legal instruments. The executing agency of the EU FLEGT Action Plan is the European Forest Institute’s (EFI) EU FLEGT Facility. Since 2007 EFI has been providing technical and financial support to VPA processes and other elements of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. Since May 2012 The European Union further strengthened its support with the EU-FAO FLEGT Programme, implemented by FAO. The programme supports local stakeholder groups in developing countries to put the FLEGT Action Plan into practice. In addition, the European Commission has thematic programmes such as the EU-ENRTP (Thematic Programme for Environment and Sustainable Management of Natural Resources) and country programmes that can support FLEGT related activities. Concurrently, substantial support is also provided by the UK Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) Programme and the RAFT (Responsible Asia Forestry and Trade) Partnership funded through the Australian and US governments. GIZ’s **Forest Governance Programme** is also providing FLEGT related



support in a number of Asian countries including Indonesia, Lao PDR, Vietnam and The Philippines. Individual programmes are summarized below.

Workshop Objectives

1. Learn about available support programmes and identify key regional support priorities;
2. Identify capacity building needs:
 - In support of FLEGT processes, with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement;
 - Of businesses, especially SMEs, to meet existing and emerging international market requirements for timber and timber products;
 - To have support structures for TLAS development and implementation, including the legality of imports from third countries.

Participants

- Government, Civil Society and Private Sector representatives from regional VPA countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Lao PDR and Thailand) plus the Philippines, Cambodia, Myanmar, PNG and the Solomon Islands;
- Representatives of EU Delegations of concerned countries;
- Representatives and resource persons from FLEGT related support programmes (EFI, RAFT, DFID, FAO), relevant organisations (RECOFTC, ITTO) and initiatives.
- Speakers and representatives from Australia, China, European Union, India, Japan, South Korea and the United States.

Workshop Agenda:

DAY 1

Opening

09.00 – 09.45

- Opening remarks from Thailand Royal Forest Department
- Opening Remarks from EU Delegation to the Kingdom of Thailand
- Presentation of workshop objectives and agenda by the FAO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific

Session 1: Panel discussions on existing and emerging international market requirements for timber and timber products

09.45 – 10.15	Moderated panel: Australia, China and European Union
10.15 – 10.35	Q&A
10.35 – 11.00	Tea and coffee
11.00 – 11.30	Moderated Panel: Japan, South Korea and United States
11.30 – 12.00	Q&A Session
12.00 – 13.00	Lunch

Session 2: Presentations by different Forest Governance support programmes

13.00 – 13.10	EU EFI FLEGT Facility
13.10 – 13.20	EU FAO FLEGT Programme
13.20 – 13.30	RAFT Facility
13.30 – 13.40	UK Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Programme
13.40 – 13.50	EU-ENRTP
13.50 – 14.00	APFNet
14.00 – 14.30	Q&A
14.30 – 15.00	Tea and Coffee

Session 3: Identification of priority needs for technical support and knowledge products

15.00 – 16.00	Group discussions (3 groups: government, civil society and private sector)
16.00 – 17.00	Report back to plenary
18.30 – 20.30	Reception dinner

DAY2:

09.00 – 09.30 Summary of Day 1 and introduction to Session 4

Session 4: Identification of priority capacity building needs at country and regional levels

09.30 – 12.00 Group (3 groups) discussions based on preliminary introductions/presentations:

Group 1: Implications for businesses, especially SMEs, to meet existing and emerging international market requirements for timber and timber products.

Group 2: Support to FLEGT processes with an emphasis on stakeholder engagement, consultation and participation.

Group 3: Support structures for TLAS development and implementation, including the legality of imports from third countries

12.00 – 13.00 Lunch

13.00 – 14.00 Group discussions continued

14.00 – 15.30 Plenary with 3 group presentations and Q&A

15.30 – 16.00 Tea and coffee

Closing

16.00 – 16.30

- Summary of the workshop outputs and next steps by the FAO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific s
- Closing remarks by the Thai Royal Forestry Department

Language

The workshop will be held in English. It is requested that only stakeholders able to work in English be recommended for participation.

Venue

The workshop will take place at the Swissotel Nai Lert Park Hotel in Bangkok, Thailand. Detailed information about workshop logistics will be provided to participants in due course.

Regional support programmes:

EU-EFI FLEGT Facility:

The EU FLEGT Facility, hosted and managed by the European Forest Institute (EFI), supports the European Union, Member States and partner countries in implementing the EU FLEGT Action Plan. The Facility was established in 2007 and mainly conducts activities in Africa, Asia and Central and South America.

Contact: **Vincent van der Berk**
EU EFI FLEGT Facility
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
Email: Vincent.vanderberk@efi.int
<http://www.efi.int/portal/research/projects/?todo=3&projectid=161>

EU-FAO FLEGT Programme:

The Programme is funded through the European Commission and has two main components - providing resources to local stakeholders to implement priority aspects of the FLEGT Action Plan and supporting information services for the exchange and sharing of FLEGT related information. Resources are provided through either direct assistance to government institutions or through projects selected during annual calls for proposals in VPA and non-VPA countries in the region.

Contact: **Mr. Bruno Cammaert**
EU-FAO FLEGT Programme
FAO Regional Office for Asia-Pacific,
Bangkok, Thailand
Email: Bruno.cammaert@fao.org
www.fao.org/forestry/eu-flegt

Responsible Asia Forestry & Trade (RAFT) Partnership:

Regional program that provides capacity building and knowledge sharing services to Asia Pacific countries in support of their efforts to promote trade in responsibly harvested and manufactured wood products. RAFT is supported by the Australian and U.S. Governments and is implemented by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES), TFT (The Forest Trust), the Tropical Forest Foundation (TFF), TRAFFIC – the Wildlife Trade Monitoring Network, and WWF’s Global

5



Forest & Trade Network (GFTN). In addition to these core partners, RAFT works with government, industry, IGOs and educational institutions from across the globe. The program targets 6 countries—China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea and Vietnam—with others involved through regional dialogues and learning exchanges.

Contact: **Ms. Allison Bleaney**
IUCN Asia, Regional Office
Bangkok, Thailand
raft@responsibleasia.org
www.responsibleasia.org

UK-DFID Forest Governance, Markets and Climate Programme:

A global programme which has the broad aim of bringing about governance and market reforms that reduce the illegal use of forest resources and benefit poor people who depend on forests for their livelihoods. It supports the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, as part of a global effort to tackle deforestation, in particular by tackling illegal logging in developing timber-producing countries and the trade in illegally-produced timber products.

Contact: **Mr. Hugh Speechly**
Department for International Development
22 Whitehall, London SW1A 2EG
h-speechly@dfid.gov.uk
www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-international-development

GIZ Forest Governance Programme:

A global programme which seeks to improve institutional, legal and organizational framework conditions in the forestry sector with a particularly focus on international initiatives such as REDD+ and FLEGT. Among others, it supports the regional and international dialogue on FLEGT and / or REDD+, promotes synergies between REDD+ and FLEGT initiatives in partner countries and develops and disseminates experiences (lessons learnt) and best practices of contributions by German development cooperation.

Contact: **Mrs. Nora Heil**
Forest Governance Programm (FGP)
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
nora.heil@giz.de
<http://www.giz.de/Themen/en/1822.htm>