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NATIONAL
CONSULTATION REPORT

SUSTAINABLE
FOREST TRADE IN THE
LOWER MEKONG REGION

VIET NAM

Summary Notes
from Viet Nam
Stakeholder
Consultation Meeting

Location La Thanh Hotel, Ha Noi

Date Tuesday, 27 October 2020

Chair Mr Nguyen Quoc Hieu,
Vice Director, FPD

Participants Government agencies,
VNGOs, Timber
Association and Research
Institutions, Experts



Background:

An intra-government consultation meeting on the UN-REDD Sustainable Forest Trade in the LMR Project has been held in late September. Besides there has been frequent communication between the project and the Forest Protection Department under VNFOREST of MARD, the national project focal agency. The intra-government consultation process has led to the development of draft project document in a format required by the national legislation.

This meeting was a step to engage the wider stakeholders with the following objectives:

Objectives:

- A** To present project outcomes, activities and national priorities to a broader stakeholder group.
- B** To receive feedback on the above, with the aim to seek validation of country's priorities as identified by the Government agencies and additional relevant priorities as perceived by non-government stakeholder and identify potential synergies and scope for coordination with the UN-REDD STF-LMR project.

Workshop methodology:

- Early circulation of meeting materials to facilitate informed discussion
- Overview presentation of SFT-LMR Project
- Presentation of proposed priority activities identified by intra-government consultation
- Group discussion links to Project Outcomes (guideline in Annex)
- Presentation of group discussion result
- Plenary discussion Q & A
- Wrap up session

Summary of discussions and feedback from participants on priority areas of work based on the project outputs:

Activities to support implementation of transboundary Cooperation (Outputs 1.1 and 2.1)

- Bilateral cooperation:
 - Exchange/meetings to review existing bilateral MOUs on forestry cooperation between Viet Nam and Laos, Cambodia and China
 - Facilitate the signature of a MOU on forestry cooperation between Viet Nam and Myanmar
 - Initiate discussion on a MOU on forestry cooperation between Viet Nam and Thailand
 - Signature and implementation of agreements on forestry cooperation between border provinces in Viet Nam and neighboring countries
- Multilateral cooperation including ASEAN, CLMTV, Lanciang - Mekong, CITES, FLEGT etc.

Certification standards and systems strengthened (Output 1.2 and 2.2)

- Review/update SFM standards and group forest management standards under the Viet Nam Forest Certification System (VFCS) to align with the revised PEFC SFM standards (PEFC ST 1003:2018) and PEFC group forest management standards (PEFC ST 1002:2018).
- Develop Appendices (guidelines) to the SFM standards of the VFCS:
- Guidelines for the interpretation of requirements in the case of non-timber forest product management (Appendix 1) and trees outside the forests (Appendix 2).
- Long term and stable policies, review and issue land use certificates, risk management in plantation investment, cooperation with Lao PDR on PEFC

Systems and instruments to verify, track and license the legality and sustainability of timber (Output 1.2 and 2.3)

- Develop a programme for the enterprise classification system as defined by VNTLAS.
- Develop a database for handling of violations in forestry.
- Assess, maintain and upgrade CITES e-licensing software.
- Enhancing broad communication, strengthening capacity for private and public forest enterprises, Households; commune forest rangers, connecting/coordinating stakeholders, organisations/projects working on similar areas, e.g. FLEGT licensing; ensure access to information such as VPA Organisation Classification System (OCS)

Capacity building for improved forest governance, sustainable forest management and forest product trade (Output 2.4)

- Strengthening the governance capacity of VFCS through training courses, workshops
- Train 10-20 officers/staff in SFM and CoC assessment/audit as required by VFCS/PEFC to be equipped with required capacity to work with the national certification bodies.
- Produce a communication video on SFM and Legal Forest Trade.
- Organise workshops to raise public awareness on SFM and Legal Forest Trade



Viable forest production models identified for supply of sustainable timber (Output 2.5)

- Organise exchanges, workshops on viable planted forest demonstrations for sustainable timber supply.
- Produce communication documents to promote, reach out viable planted forest demonstrations for sustainable timber supply.
- Sustainable forest production for livelihood security, provision of big-sized timber and reduced impact on natural forests.
- Review sustainable forest production models for livelihood security
- Promotion of big-sized timber plantation

Community-based groups and smallholders access legal and sustainable forest product value chains (Output 2.6)

- Assessment of community-based forest management models, identify barriers related to land/forest tenure and their impact on value chain.
- Assessment of capacity of household groups and households and communities in meeting national sustainable and legal timber production.
- Capacity training for forest owners to enhance sustainable forest management and group forest certifications as required by VFCS/PEFC; SFM certification for community forest owners.
- Training to enhance capacity on CoC for timber production and processing enterprises applying for CoC certification of VFCS/PEFC; CoC certification for timber production and processing SMEs



Scale up actions to tackle illegal and extra-legal conversion of forestland to other land uses (Output 2.7)

- Assessment of the status of forest land conversion to agricultural production in the Central Highland, identify drivers and propose solutions.

Near real-time monitoring system for deforestation and degradation (Output 3.1)

- Pilot near real-time forest monitoring tower to detect forest destruction, illegal logging, encroachment, forest fire.
- Maintain and improve FPD Forest Fire Monitoring System
- Develop a programme to monitor deforestation, near-real time monitoring of forest changes to update forest database
- Upgrade the NFMS to provide updated national monitoring data
- Exchange study tours for lessons learned .



Proxy indicators and data for system for monitoring regional progress on legal forest activities and trade (Output 3.2)

- Summary report on forest land in Vietnam and forest trade activities.
- Communication materials
- Information sharing: various websites, FLEGT VPA Website (to be established by VNFOREST by Quarter 1/2021, VNTLAS Decree

Tracking environmental and social impacts in the forest sector (Output 3.3.)

- Update the REDD+ Safeguard Information System
- Identify and prioritise information systems for tracking environmental and social impacts (building on current SIS systems where possible).
- Develop action plans to improve collection, management, analysis and sharing of priority data (which may include national/regional/global data as needed).
- Support countries to implement action plans and improve content/operation of priority systems.
- Identify and promote opportunities for sharing data across systems at national and regional level, including those developed by this initiative.

Annex 1: Agenda and links to project materials

Meeting Agenda

Time	Activities	Implemented by
8:00 - 8:30	Registration	FAOVN
8:30 - 8:45	Opening remarks	UNEP, FPD Leader
8:45 - 9:00	Introduction to participants	
9:00 - 9:30	LMR Project presentation Q&A	NPC
9:30 - 9:45	Proposed project priorities for Viet Nam	Project Focal Point, FPD
9:45 - 10:15	Coffee break	
10:15 - 11:15	Group discussions	All & facilitators
11:15- 11:30	Plenary feedback from group discussion	
11:30 - 11:45	Next steps	
11: 45 - 12:00	Closing remarks	Nguyen Thanh Phuong UNEP

Annex 2. Guide for group discussion

Groups discussion will be arranged to focus on the project Outcomes. Three groups will be formed according to 3 project Outcomes. It is envisaged a group will be formed for Outcome 2, and Outcome 1 & 3 can be discussed separately or jointly will need a group depending on the number and experience of the participants.

Guiding questions will be sent to the participants in advance for consideration. However, given the time limitation, group discussion will focus on key topics drawn from the project Outcomes, including:

Group 1. Bilateral & Regional Cooperation

- Bilateral Cooperation
- Regional Cooperation
- Collaboration platform to support responsible investment in Region
- Cooperation with China
- Bilateral, Regional Data-Sharing
- Communication on forest crimes

Group 2. Improved Governance

- Sustainable Forest Management/ National certification standards
- Systems/instruments to verify, track, license timber legality and sustainability
- Capacities of national institutions
- Viable forest production models for supply of sustainable timber
- Groups and smallholders participation in legal and sustainable forest product value chains
- Recommendations/actions agreed to tackle illegal conversion of forestland to other land uses.

Group 3. Forest Monitoring

- Near real-time monitoring system for deforestation/degradation
- Proxy indicators/data for monitoring regional progress on legal forest activities and trade
- Systems for tracking environmental and social impacts in the forest sector (ref. SIS)

Discussion will focus on:

- Status of the matter, including what is being implemented and by whom
- Issues, constraint
- Priorities actions to be implemented and by whom

Annex 3. Circulated meeting materials

- LMR Project Summary
- Question template for group discussion
- LMR Project Introduction (presentation)
- VNFOREST Presentation on proposed priority activities for Viet Nam





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