

Information note

Diagnoses and regulatory assessments of small, micro and informal forest-products enterprises in the Mekong Region

Background

Some countries in the Mekong region are engaging in processes to negotiate Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with the EU to address illegal logging and promote trade in legal timber products.

The EU FLEGT Facility aims to increase knowledge about small, micro and informal enterprises (SMEs) and smallholders in the region, and address potential challenges for these entities to operate legally, and also successfully in the context of VPAs.

This initiative will fill critical information gaps by assessing these sectors in Myanmar, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam, paying particular attention in the latter three countries to potential impacts of VPAs on women. It will then help national stakeholders to identify ways to ensure SMEs and smallholders can more easily participate in supply chains described in national timber legality assurance systems.

Goals and activities

The overall goal of this work is to contribute to poverty eradication and sustainable forest management in Asia by supporting implementation of the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.



Between 2016 and 2019, the initiative aims to:

1. Improve understanding of small forest products enterprises, including those in the informal sector and supplying domestic markets, in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. This will include research on the structure, dynamics and governance of selected in supply chains, including the different roles of women and men. The results of the assessment will be used to design and coordinate support structures for these smallholders.
2. Analyse the regulatory obstacles small enterprises face, and the resulting impacts on the viability of such enterprises and on their potential contributions – both economic and environmental – to national economies in Laos, Thailand and Vietnam.
3. Prepare recommendations for regulatory reforms that take account of the needs of smallholders in the forest and wood-processing sector.

Implementing consortium

The EU FLEGT Facility has contracted Nature Economy and People Connected (NEPCon) — www.nepcon.org — and Forest Trends Association — www.forest-trends.org — to implement this work.

The EU FLEGT Facility appreciates the cooperation and input of national stakeholders to contribute to a successful implementation of the initiative in support of thousands of smallholders in the Mekong Region.

More information

VPAs and SMEs in the Mekong region page in the EU FLEGT Facility website www.euflegt.efi.int/es/vpas-smes-mekong

VPAs and SMEs in the Mekong region group on FLEGT.org <http://www.flegt.org/web/vpas-and-smes-in-mekong-countries/>

About the EU FLEGT Facility

The EU FLEGT Facility supports the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan with a focus on Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs). The EU FLEGT Action Plan sets out a programme of actions that forms the EU's response to the problem of illegal logging and the trade in associated timber products. The Facility is hosted by the European Forest Institute (EFI), and was established in 2007.



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