Involvement of Lao CSO in the development process of timber legality definition (TLD) in the FLEGT/VPA Process In Laos

Illegal Logging Update and Stakeholder Consultation Meeting, June 16-17

Mrs. Vansy Senyavong, Director of MHP (Women Participating in Development), Lao CSO FLEGT Committee Member
Lao-FLEGT CSO Committee and Network

- Meeting on 14th September, 2015 to elect 5 representatives from 7 candidate
- Participants from 19 Lao CSOs
Network Committee
Five CSO Representatives

Coordination (1)
• National
• International
• Awareness raising
• Media production
• Network coordination
• Village consultations and dissemination

CSO Technical Experts (3)
• Involved in VPA
• Thematic Expert Groups
• Information/documents
• Project Plan
• Monitoring/Evaluation
• Research/development

Secretariat (1)
• Coordination
• Management/admin.
• Financial/accountant
• Meeting Organization
• In/Out documents
• Meeting minute

Network 19 CSO Members
Lao CSO as a PART of THE FLEGT/VPA Organizational STRUCTURE

**NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE**
with one representative from CSO

**Negotiation Team**
With one representative from CSO

**Technical Working Group**
Timber Legality Definition/Timber Legality Assurance System (with 3 representatives CSO)

**Thematic Expert Groups**
Prepare drafts for Timber Legality Definition (open to CSO)

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**FLEGT STANDING OFFICE**
Head: Director of Division of Department of Forestry Inspection

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**Stakeholders**
(Government, Enterprises, Civil societies)
CSO Expectations from VPA

- Increased equality amongst stakeholders (poor and rich) involved in forest governance
- Better quality of CSO leadership when working was a network and linking with other stakeholders
- Increased transparency between private sector, government, CSO and forest dependent communities
- Stronger solidarity between CSO, government and private sector/peaceful relations
- CSO recognized by government as a valuable stakeholder in forest governance.
Benefits of CSO involve in VPA

- Created space for Lao CSO in national and international levels in forest governance
- Committee has gained skills in leadership
- Expanding link/connection to other country CSO and international organisations
- Bring the voice of forest dependent communities to the national level and bring examples of good forest governance to communities
Network Member Implemented Activities

- Active participation in several FLEGT Committees
- Village level VPA information dissemination on FLEGT
- Village level capacity building on legality for timber harvesting
- Assessment of timber supply chain
- Negotiation skills for communities in benefit sharing process
Regulary Network meetings

• To report to members about the involvement of Lao CSO FLEGT committees in the process
• To have consultation with Lao CSO FLEGT members on the activities
• To discuss on the work plan and next step of Lao CSO FLEGT involvement process
• To exchange technical knowledge through workshops and study tours
CSO participated in joint expert meeting (JEM) in December 2015
Next step of CSO FLEGT involvement in the FLEGT process

- Finalize the CSO FLEGT Charter and Strategy in June 2016
- Identify the involvement of CSOs in the timber inspection at log landing 1 related Prime Minister Order 17/2008.
- Organize discussion platform regarding legal aspects between government and villagers.
- Strengthen further involvement of CSO in thematic expert groups to ensure that the rights of local communities are reflected in the timber legality definition.
Next step of CSO FLEGT involvement in the FLEGT process

- Establish monitoring units with many stakeholders, including CSOs.
- Disseminate forestry law and existing regulations on anti-corruption
- Establish cooperation for better forest governance (Village authorities, District, CSO and private sector).
- Assess wood supply chain. CBED (Community Based Enterprise Development)
- Learn from other CSO Networks about their experience in the FLEGT Process
CSO Challenges in the VPA

- Role of CSO is not always clear
- CSO are unsure of what type of inputs are wanted from other stakeholders
- Complexity of VPA is difficult to follow
- Time commitments/requirement are high
- CSO are new to international forest governance work
Lao CSO FLEGT Committee

• THANK YOU