



Regional CSO Meeting on FLEG in Southeast Asia

11AM-5PM, 2 JULY 2018

Regional CSO Meeting on FLEG in Southeast Asia

Participants: 14 CSOs (Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) with resource persons (EU FLEGT Facility, EU DEL Thailand, TEFSO, and RECOFTC Thailand)

Objectives:

1. Create a space for CSOs to exchange lessons learned
2. Update on the progress of the ASEAN Work Plan for FLEG
3. Explore how CSOs can enhance their contribution to the regional dialogue and provide inputs to the relevant ASEAN Working Groups
4. Update information on Voices for Mekong Forests project
5. Continue discussions on results from the First Regional CSO Meeting on FLEGT in Southeast Asia

Key summary

Lessons learned from country updates:

1. CSOs have been involved at various technical working group levels in their countries
2. Multi-stakeholder consultation and involvement have been possible largely due to external funding support
3. CSOs participation and advocacy have resulted in system improvements (e.g. monitoring of VPA implementation)
4. CSOs have been engaged in capacity building, trainings on different aspects of the VPA process and FLEGT in general
5. Some research and pilot activities have been conducted in some countries

Key summary

Challenges faced by CSOs:

1. Lack of capacity and technical knowledge to effectively involve in the VPA process
2. VPA is a long and complex process, and most CSOs do not have the resources (time, people and fund) to continuously engage in the process
3. There are no articles in the legal frameworks on the roles of CSOs participation in the VPA process or other multi-stakeholder consultation process in some countries

Key summary

The CSOs expressed interests in having a **Non-State Regional Working Group on FLEGT** to serve the following purposes:

1. A platform for members to provide updates on the FLEGT status in their countries
2. A mechanism to Increase representation of CSOs in the country and at regional level
3. An opportunity to build collective actions and strengthen the effective engagement of CSOs in the VPA process

Key summary

Key concerns regarding the effective and efficient operation of the Regional Technical Working Group include:

1. FLEGT is a complex process and takes time and resources that CSOs might not have at their disposal
2. Funding that CSOs received might not have FLEGT as a main work program
3. Need supports to set up the administrative arrangement of the working group

Thank you

