

FLEGT Lao CSO Committee Meeting 1/12/2016 at LBA

Meeting Minutes

Participants:

Houmphanh (LBA)

Khambang (LBA)

Sinthone (LBA)

Sisavath (RRDPA)

Keu of GIZ: The Conversion forest Principle of the TLD:

The process for development of this standard has been unusual due to the pressing deadline: ProFLEGT drafted the principles and it was then approved by DOFI. After the TWG it will be sent to the TEG for adding details.

Comments from participants:

2.1.1.2: Who does “Official” refer to? District? Province?

2.2.1.1: Land approval must have clear demarcation (both physical and electronic) based on a physical survey of the area to make sure that community’s land is not impacted.

2.3.1.1: Article 18: Timber to be harvested must be registered. How are these projects going to accomplish this? Is there an exception for larger areas? The law requires that an inventory be conducted.

In many development projects, the area where timber is harvested is outside the area approved for conversion. What is the mechanism for ensuring that the timber comes from within the approved conversion area?

2.5: ESMMP is within EIA policy? What steps are necessary for community participation in ESMMP?

Comments of Keu: Conversion timber doesn’t yet have clear policies. For example there are more-or-less clear policies about hydro-power, but less policies are available for agriculture and infrastructure development projects. These will need to be clarified by policy improvements.

Sisavath: Certification of areas and timber needs to include the participation of communities.

Houmphanh: The participation of the community is a requirement of the EU’s FLEGT process. VPA needs to comply with all laws and has to include the NPAs and communities.

Next steps for reviewing this principle:

Invitations will be sent to network members who may be interested. We agree to meet prior to the TWG on the 14th in the afternoon to prepare.

Vilinthone: FERN reporting for finalizing the previous contract:

FERN needs reports of outputs and activities, including attendance at monthly meetings, etc., against the requirements of the contract from September to November extension.

In the past the administration or secretariat work has been confused, as the work, funding, and individual assignments have not been clarified.

After a review of the original agreement among members, there was never a clear assignment of who is responsible for reporting. Each organization is responsible for reporting their participation in activities, such as in a time sheet. Time sheets have not been submitted.

Another contract requirement has been maintaining communications and relations with the FLEGT standing office and DOFI, but these have not been accomplished. This will need to be explained in the reports.

Ongoing, there will be better efforts to connect with the FLEGT standing office and DOFI.

Brandon: Proposal for FERN funding extension

The funding from FERN was extended to November, but the EU did not want to extend it again. I spoke with Rudi, who explained that the EU would accept a detailed proposal with clear conditions for the funding, but that the funding would be shared among three of the committee members, and would be limited to 10,000 Euros per organization. That proposal was submitted and accepted.

Review of LBA FAO proposal and PADETC FAO proposal:

Comments on community consultation from participants: SUFORD has helped them support village forest management units, and problems that are occurring are due to problems in the policies of the district and province: Trying to draft better policies for district and province, i.e. better village land/forest policies. Projects in the future need to improve the village policies. All approaches need to be 'holistic' and address policies, governance, etc.

Forest conservation efforts fail because of irrelevant policies; for example the villagers are supposed to pay a fee whenever they harvest timber, but there is no enforcement, so nobody follows the policies.

These are not new issues, and the past issues should be considered/reviewed.

There will be many challenges, and many of them come from the governance side.

Involvement of the local government is essential.

These points will be raised with PADETC in writing the project proposal and with DOFI for consensus.

Note:

Because there was not sufficient time to review the TLD standards on plantation, labor, and production forest, they will be reviewed individually and reviewed on the 14th.