VIETNAM’s FLEG T experience from a civil society perspective

Illegal Forest Conversion in the Mekong: Policy Implications for Land Investments, Climate, and Forest Legality Initiatives
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Vu Thi Bich Hop, Executive Director SRD
Chair of VNGO-FLEG T network
CSO Representative of PEB-UN REDD Vietnam
I. Context of VPA/FLEGT in Vietnam
II. VNGO-FLEGT network development
III. Achievements and challenges
IV. Conclusions
I. CONTEXT

2010
- Gov’t started negotiation with EU
- NGOs attended National Consultation and showed interest

2011
- Carried out 3 studies, 1st Negotiation Round
- Conducted community consultations and gave comments on the LD 5

2012
- Organized the 2nd negotiation round
- Gave comments on the LD 6+6.3, TLAS 2+3 and implemented LIA

2013
- Organized technical meetings, VCs
- Give comments on the VPA, chain of timber production communities

2014
- Expectedly conclude negotiation
II. VNGO-FLEGT’s formation and development

- **2012**: Jan: Established VNGO-FLEGT Network
  Apr: Informed to VNFOREST on the Network
  Jul.: Officially launching the Network and more than 20 organizations joined Network

- **2013**: 30 Member Organizations

- **2014**: 41 Member Organizations
  Is open for registration by interested VNGOs/CSOs

Steering committee: SRD, PanNature, ForWet, CRD
VNGO-FLEGT’s Organizational Structure

ADVISORY BOARD
Open for representatives from Gov and I/NGOs

STEARING COMMITTEE
- Chair (SRD),
- 3 Members (PanNature, CRD, ForWet)

NETWORK COORDINATOR

COMMUNICATION OFFICER
ACCOUNTANT

THE NORTH COORDINATOR
The North members

THE CENTRAL COORDINATOR
The Central members

THE SOUTH COORDINATOR
The South members
NGO network’s capacity building

• 1st year - 2012: concept of VPA, FLEGT, LD and community consultations on LD

• 2nd year - 2013: commented on updated LD and TLAS; concept of Livelihood Impact Assessment - LIA, three LIA WS organized, reports from LIA action researches sent to GOV

• 3rd year - 2014: continue commenting on updated LD, TLAS, Information Disclosure Annex, Role of CSO in negotiation and beyond; Further action studies on LIA, wood supply chains at household level; GIS training; 5 year strategic plan formulation, etc.
III. VNGO-FLEGT’s ACHIEVEMENTS

Raising awareness for CSOs on VPA/FELGT
Discussion on annual action plans

Regular meeting of the Steering Committee
Livelihood Impact Assessment (LIA)

The Network of Vietnamese Non-Governmental Organizations for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VNGO-FLEGT)
Contribution for the VPA negotiation

Consult Communities on Timber Legality in 33 villages/14 communes/6 districts/06 provinces

Consult CSOs on LD and TLAS via WS and meetings

Formal comments have been submitted to VNFOREST
Consult communities on the Forest Protection and Development Law 2004
Government officers attending and sharing at network meetings
Multistakeholder workshop

- Actively participate in, and provide meaningful contributions to the VPA/FLEGT negotiation process
- Contribute to the review of the Forest Protection and Development Law

The Network of Vietnamese Non-Governmental Organization on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VNGO-FLEGT)
III. CHALLENGES

• Limitation on CSO network’s legal Frame work, thus government and private sector has bad reasons to involve CSO formally or respectfully.
• CSOs’ written and formal comments on LD, TLAS to government have been not seriously responded
• Network’s limited knowledge and legal expertise to review a legal related document (LD, TLAS, Forest P&D Law,...)
• Loose Network with voluntary CSO members along the country often takes lots of time to make a decision and arrange an activity with majority
• VPA/FLEGT is dealing with lots of technical aspects and forest governance- a difficult topic, local consultants for trainings, research, planning for network are limited
IV. CONCLUSION

• VPA is a good opportunities to address forest governance and to fight corruption
• Linkage FLEGT and REDD is needed to optimize resources: legality, land tenure, drivers of deforestation, safeguards and governance
• Technical and legal capacity on FLEGT, VPA, LD, TLAS are important to CSO network members
• Formulation of 5 year Strategic plan build -the shared vision and greater picture for CSOs
• Well prepared for the implementation phase of VPA (e.g. Independent forest monitoring- IFM)
THANK YOU!

For more information, please contact:
Vu Thi Bich Hop
Chair of VNGO-FLEGT’s Steering Committee
CSO Rep at PEB, UNREDD Vietnam
Executive director of SRD
Hop@srd.org.vn

Or access the websites:
www.logging-off.info
www.srd.org.vn
www.vngo-cc.vn

THANK YOU!