

Regional Initiatives

PAN ASEAN TIMBER CERTIFICATION INITIATIVE

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Phased Approaches to Certification

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Association of Southeast Asian Nations



1. Brunei Darussalam
2. Cambodia
3. Indonesia
4. Lao PDR
5. Malaysia
6. Myanmar
7. Philippines
8. Singapore
9. Thailand
10. Viet Nam

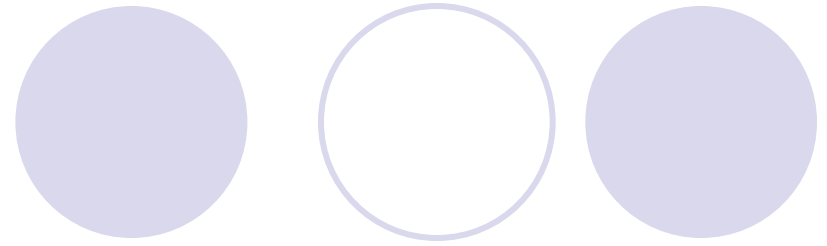
The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, by Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand. Brunei Darussalam joined the Association on 8 January 1984. Viet Nam became the seventh member of ASEAN on 28 July 1995. Lao P.D.R and Myanmar were admitted into ASEAN on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999.

Issues on Certification that Matters to ASEAN

- Restricts the export of ASEAN timber products
- Timber certification as a tool to promote sfm
- Public procurement policies that prohibit the use of tropical timber products not certified



ASEAN Response



- to further collaborate on timber certification at regional and international levels, and to cooperate closely, in particular to achieving sustainable forest management (SFM) by adopting a phased approach timber certification scheme using internationally recognized criteria and indicator for SFM.
- to contribute to the forest dialogue on certification from the perspective of tropical forest countries
- to be in a strong position to promote marketing of its certified timber products



ASEAN Facts & Figures

Total land area: 4.4 million sq. km.

- Three mega biodiversity countries in the region: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines
- Forest Cover: over 48% (world: < 30%)
- Mangrove forests: 35% of world total
- Protected Areas: Terrestrial: 1,014 sites (418,000 sq km, 9.5% of total land area); Marine: 94 sites (23,260 sq km)

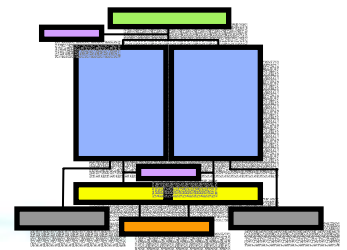


Established ad hoc-working group

the 5th Meeting of the ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) held on 15-16 July 2002 in Chiang Mai, Thailand agreed to establish an *Ad-Hoc Working Group* on a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Scheme

the primary task of the *Ad Hoc Working Group* is *to coordinate a regional approach to the marketability of ASEAN timber products, in particular through a certification initiative for sustainable forest management.*

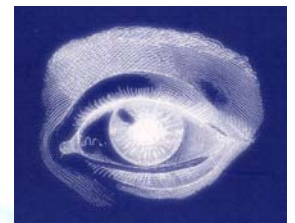
the Pan ASEAN Initiative could be officially adopted by 2006 and subject to review for further improvement in 2007 or 2008.



ASEAN Vision 2020

“ We will create a stable, prosperous and highly competitive ASEAN Economic Region in which there is a free flow of goods, services and investments, a freer flow of capital, equitable economic development and reduced poverty and socio-economic disparities...”

“ ...to enhance food security and international competitiveness of food, agriculture and forest products to make ASEAN a leading producer of these products and to promote the forestry sector as a model in forest management, conservation and sustainable development ...”



Terms of Reference

- identify a core set of criteria and indicators for a Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative, using a phased approach
- establish the principles, approach, methodology and work plan for the establishment of a credible and pragmatic Pan ASEAN Timber Certification Initiative
- facilitate the exchange of views and information on timber certification in ASEAN member countries and other global developments
- develop ASEAN Guidelines for the implementation of a phased approach to certification, taking into account the diversity of forestry environments and institutional capacity among Member Countries and development of the phased approach in the global fora



Activities

Working Group has met 4 times

- December 2002, Kuala Lumpur
- July 2003, Yogyakarta
- January 2004, Jakarta
- December 2004, Manila

exchange of information and experiences amongst ASEAN Member Countries is key to facilitate understanding and cooperation in this regional initiative



Progress

- Member Countries shared information on the state of the development of their respective Criteria and Indicators (C&I) for Sustainable Forest Management/ Forest Management Certification.
- consultations with representatives from consumer countries and interested parties. Countries/ international / regional buyers group such as the UK Timber Trade Federation to seek information on procurement policies and minimum requirements for timber certification of key timber importing countries
- engaged consultants thru GTZ and AusAID to identify priority issues and to develop various approaches



Next Activities

- form a Task Force to develop preliminary elements for the Guidelines *for Phased Approach to Certification*
- strengthen and promote legality verification as a first step towards SFM certification. Developing institutional support for a Pan-ASEAN approach, including the practicality or scope for regional bodies (including the Working Group) that would serve some regional functions
- expand technical capacity in sustainable forestry management for officials and forestry executives from ASEAN economies
- develop national standards and certification systems in CLMV economies by determining the capacity enhancement needs of CLMV countries



Conclusion

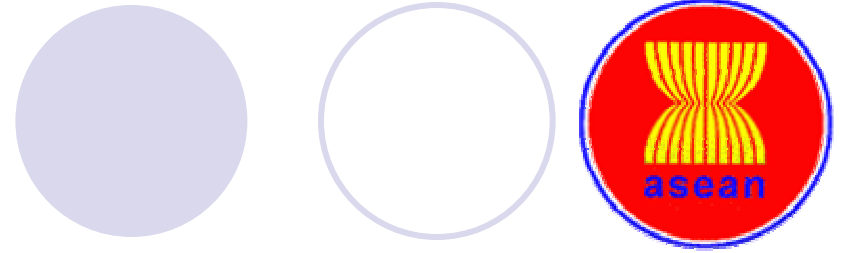
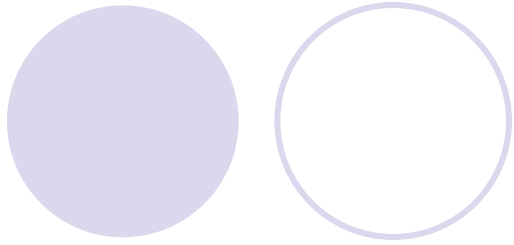
- the complexity and difficulties involved requires more time and effort. However, progress in terms of sorting out differences and the willingness to move forward on shared interests has been encouraging.
- the activities of this Working Group has gained the notice and interest of like-minded organisations and countries to support efforts towards ensuring the sustainable management of ASEAN's forest resources
- the ASEAN Member Countries will require technical and financial assistance in these efforts, in particular national capacity to implement the standards



Role of the ASEAN Secretariat

- Provide support for the institutional bodies (AMAF, AEM, SEOM, ASOF and the working groups)
- Act as a resource base
- Provide advice and information
- Manages the implementation of regional activities and programs
- Ensure coordination among activities of other sectoral bodies to promote synergy and avoid duplication; and
- Promote coordination among ASEAN bodies and its programs and those of dialogue partners and other international organizations in terms of resource mobilization, program implementation and institutional linkages
- Service the meetings of the ASEAN forestry bodies





Viele Danke

