

Monitoring and control of timber export between Laos and Vietnam

15th -17th of December 2015, Vientiane

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Why is it important?

- Figures collection by the Customs Departments representing timber export from Laos and import to Vietnam are not similar
- A large increasing of timber import from Laos highlights and enormous difficulty in VPA negotiations for Vietnam and Laos
- Collaboration between Vietnam and Lao government is needed for the success of VPA negotiation in both countries

Who can issue a license for timber export?

- Central level:
 - The Government Office
 - Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
 - Ministry of Industry and Commerce
 - Ministry of Finance (finished products)
- Local level:
 - Provincial Government Office (escorting, collecting data, monitoring, etc.)

Who inspect timber export documents?

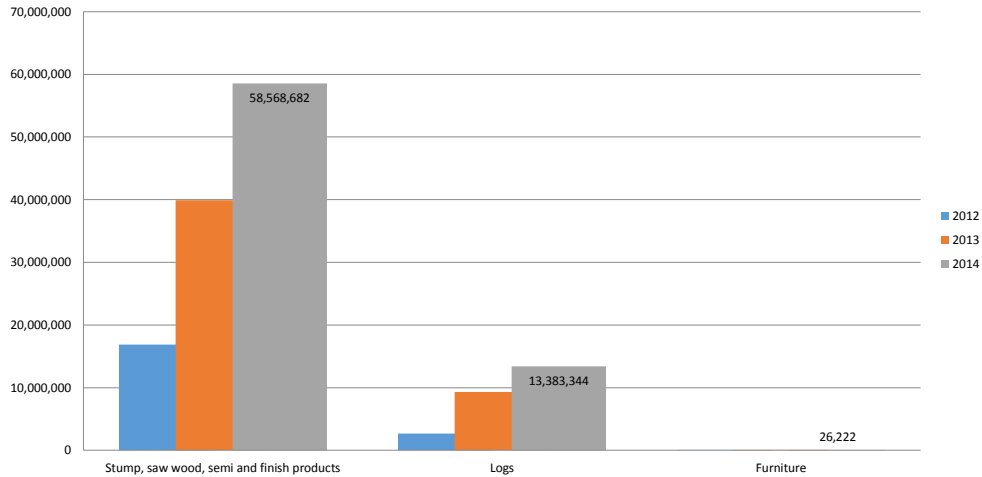
- Central levels:
 - Government Office (SAO)
 - MAF (DOFI, DOF, etc.), MOIC (DIMEX, DOIC, DOI, DDT), MOF (LCD, SAD, TD), MONRE (DFRM, etc.)
- Local levels:
 - PAFO, POFI, POIC, Customs Divisions (inspection office, inspection unit and sub-unit at international border checkpoints), etc.

Existing issues of data collection

- Weak coordination mechanism between agencies
- Some existing systems are not productive
- Every ministry has its own data collection system
- Not functional traceability/accountability system
- Lack of specific/well-trained staffs
- Customs Clearance mistakes (comma, full stop)

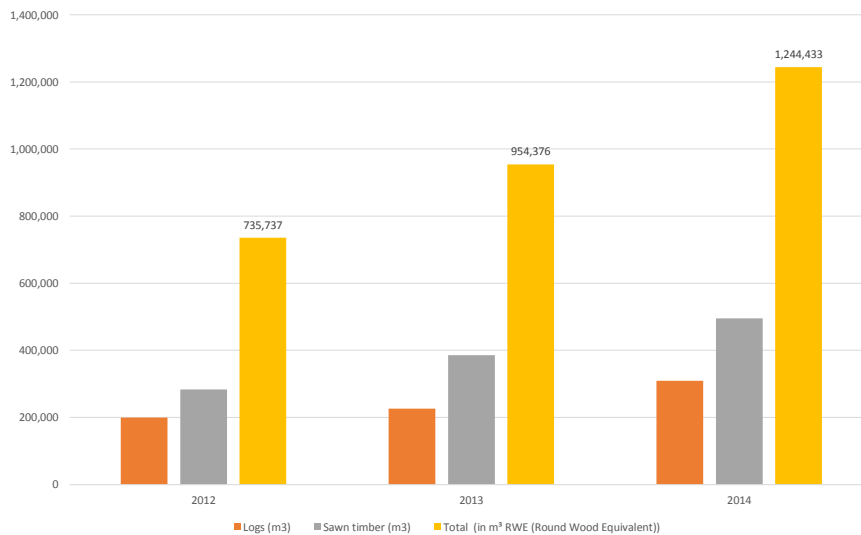
Timber exports from Laos to Vietnam in USD

(Source: DIMEX/MOIC)



Timber exports from Laos to Vietnam

(Source: Vietnamese Customs)



How to address the issues?

- Finding existing gaps/constraints
 - Conduct analysis on data collection of timber export (Laos) & import (Vietnam)
 - Identify timber and wood products' species between Laos and Vietnam
- Improving traceability system
 - Relying on existing system e.g CoC system, ASYCUDA, etc.
- Training for staffs
 - Regular trainings for relevant staffs
- Improving integrity of staffs
 - Transparency, responsibility and accountability

First Kick off activities

- Pick up one major border crossing (in FLEGT pilot provinces), and together with Vietnam team (FORESTTRENDS / Vietnam custom), start tracing import – export data from both sides of the border with special emphasis on the implementation of the enforced ban of logs and sawn timber.
- Analyse the dynamics (e.g. channels, procedures) of timber product export licensing systems (e.g. DIMEX, Government office) and similarities, differences among these systems, and linkages of these systems and the records of customs data
- Prepare a list of timber species exported from Laos to Vietnam. For each species exported, there should be Lao name, Latin name, and Vietnamese name.

Thank you