



State of Play Lao-EU VPA and Lao TLAS

Technical preparation meeting for Lao-EU forestry dialogue on FLEGT-VPA

Date: 16/03/2023

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VPA ELEMENT	STATUS	NEXT STEPS
VPA Agreement text	Not discussed yet	Standard text to be provided by EU
Annex I. Product Scope	Set aside with EU	---
Annex II. Lao TLAS	Advanced v.6	NSDC approval of v6; negotiate with EU
– Appendix A TLDs matrix and related verification	Endorsed by NSDC	Align wording and finalize all Appendices for negotiations
– Appendix B Supply Chain control and related verification		
– FLEGT Licensing		Request clarification from EU on implementation under EUDR
– Independent evaluation		
Annex V. Terms of Reference for Independent Evaluation		Draft available; negotiate with EU
Annex VII. Public disclosure of information		
Annex III. Conditions [...] FLEGT license	Not discussed yet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Standard text to be provided by EU - Request clarification from EU on implementation under EUDR
Annex IV. Requirements and technical specifications of FLEGT Licenses		
Annex VI. Criteria for assessing the operationality of TLAS		
Annex VIII. Functions of Joint Implementation Committee		

LAO-TLAS DEVELOPMENT

v1 – v4

- developed between Feb 2018 and May 2019 by consultant
- Generic description reflecting TLAS negotiations
- Text not consulted with stakeholders or negotiated, only elements

v5

- Summary of consulted elements until Nov 2019
- Shared with DG ENV in April 2021
- Comments received from DG ENV

v6

- Major revision based on DG ENV comments, TLAS consultation and piloting 2021-2022
- TWG endorsed structure and content
- To be endorsed by NSDC and negotiation with EU

LAO-TLAS DEVELOPMENT V5 → V6

v5.0

1. INTRODUCTION
2. APPLICATION SCOPE
3. INSTITUTIONAL SETUP
4. VERIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH
TIMBER LEGALITY DEFINITIONS
5. TIMBER SUPPLY CHAIN CONTROLS AND
RELATED COMPLIANCE VERIFICATION
6. FLEGT LICENSING
7. FAILURES TO COMPLY WITH LAO TLAS
8. INFORMATION MANAGEMENT
9. INDEPENDENT MONITORING

v6.0

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- A. APPENDIX A TLDS MATRIX AND
RELATED VERIFICATION
 - B. APPENDIX B SUPPLY CHAIN CONTROL
AND RELATED VERIFICATION

LAO-TLAS V6 – MAJOR CHANGES

Responses to comments from EU on v5 (to be elaborated further in JEM)

- Institutional set-up and responsibilities of actors clearly outlined
- Interaction of verification body with law enforcement and complaints handling described in principle
- Licensing responsibilities and procedures outlined
- Substantial changes for compliance verification procedures based on consultation and piloting, incl. follow-up action and handling of complaints
- Role of Lao stakeholders in observation described
- Information Management System outlined and under development

LAO-TLAS V6 – MAJOR CHANGES

Chapter 3 Institutional Setup

3.1 Operators

- Manage several parts of the timber supply chains

3.2 Other management organizations

- Supply chain control of suspected illegal timber by POFI
- Project assessment compliance by investors

3.3 Internal Inspection organization

- Changed from regulatory inspection bodies
- Inspection and policy mandates of key ministries and their line agencies within the scope of the Lao TLAS

3.4 Verification body

- Verification of legal compliance with TLD and supply chain control by DOFI/POFI

3.5 FLEGT Licensing Authority

- Management of licenses by DIMEX

NEXT STEPS FOR LAO TLAS

1. Finalize TLAS text, Appendices A & B according to legal framework changes in TWGs (5th – 9th June)
2. Endorse Annex II (TLAS) v6 by NSDC (early July)
3. Negotiate **Annex II: TLAS** (together with **Annex V: Terms of Reference for Independent Evaluation** , **Annex VII: Public disclosure of information**) with EU in JEM/NEG (September)
4. Development of TLAS Decree
5. Implementation of TLAS under FLEGT-Financial Cooperation

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS FOR FLEGT-VPA

- Laos confirms to continue VPA negotiations with EU to move towards initialing, signing and implementation
- Laos commits to the FLEGT VPA by integrating the Lao TLAS in the forestry law
- Signing the VPA demonstrates a symbolic and important indicator for good forest cooperation between Lao PDR and EU;

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS FOR FLEGT-VPA

													JEM 5		JEM 6/ NEG		JEM 7/ NEG				
	2023												2024								
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul		
VPA text														JEM/ NEG	TWG	TEX	NSDC	JEM/ NEG			
Annex I. Product Scope																					
Annex II. TLAS			TWG	TWG	TWG	NSDC			JEM	TI	TWG	NSDC									
Annex III. Free circulation EU										TI (EU)											
Annex IV. FLEGT Licenses										TI (EU)											
Annex V. ToR for Independent Monitoring									JEM												
Annex VI. Criteria assessment of TLAS										TI (EU)											
Annex VII. Public disclosure of information									JEM												
Annex VIII. Functions of JIC										TI (EU)											

TI = Technical Input
 TEX = Technical Exchange
 NEG = Negotiation (Laos-EU)
 TWG = Technical Working Group
 JEM = Joint Expert Meeting (Laos - EU)
 NSDC = Negotiation Support and Development Committee

FLEGT

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ແຜນງານ Lao-EU FLEGT VPA
ການຄ້າໄມ້ ທີ່ຖືກຕ້ອງຕາມກົດໝາຍ

THANK YOU

