# UN-REDD LOWER MEKONG INITIATIVE

**Addressing Forest Crime through Improved Governance in the Lower Mekong Region**

UN-REDD Programme – Asia-Pacific Region

# Key Facts about the UN-REDD LMR Initiative

- Total Budget US$ 8.3M

- Government of Norway NICFI grant

- FAO/UNEP collaboration -  integrated into the existing UN-REDD Programme framework

- Initial 2-year phase 2020-21, 5-year vision

- Implemented in 5 LMR countries and China

- One international coordinator + country coordinator / admin assistant

- Project approved in March 2020 -> 6 months inception phase

- Ongoing country consultations on workplan

# UN-REDD LMR Initiative Theory of Change

- Working to increase national commitment to legal and sustainable trade and investment in wood products across the Lower Mekong Region and China

- The Initiative will support the development of national standards, systems and capacities for enhancing the scope for verifiably legal and sustainably produced timber products, and associated reduction of proportion of illegal and unsustainable products in regional and international value chains

- Maintain the importance of sustainability and legality in forest product trade in the recovery period after COVID-19

# UN-REDD LMR Initiative Theory of Change

- 1 regional and 2 national Outcomes

**Overall impact:** The overall impact of the project will be to reduce forest degradation and deforestation and promote sustainable management of forests across the LMR. This will ultimately lead to reduced GHG emissions

**Project goal:** The goal of this project is to increase national commitment to legal and sustainable trade and investment in wood products across the LMR (and China)

| Outcome 1: Strengthened bilateral and regional cooperation in place to facilitate legal and sustainable trade in forest products across the LMR (and China) | Outcome 2: Improved forest governance for legal and sustainable trade of forest related products | Outcome 3: Improved monitoring of forest and land use through enhanced data accessibility and management |
|---|---|---|
| **Outputs** 1.1 Dialogue and cooperation on tackling illegal logging enhanced, through bilateral and regional platforms 1.2 Intra-regional cooperation deepened, to promote SFM across the region 1.3 Platform established to encourage responsible investment in the forest sector 1.4 Dialogue between China and LMR deepened, to enhance cooperation on supply of sustainable wood products 1.5 Bilateral and regional data-sharing for transboundary cooperation strengthened 1.6 Communications campaigns developed to raise public awareness on forest crime and incite behavior change | **Outputs** 2.1 National activities implemented to support cooperation commitments 2.2 National certification standards strengthened across LMR countries 2.3 Systems and instruments strengthened to verify, track and license legality and sustainability of timber 2.4 Capacities of national institutions on forest governance, SFM and trade built 2.5 Viable forest production models identified, to supply sustainable timber 2.6 Community-based groups and smallholders enabled to access legal and sustainable forest product value chains 2.7 Agreements reached to scale up actions to tackle illegal conversion of forest land | **Outputs** 3.1 Near real-time monitoring system for deforestation and degradation developed and tested 3.2 Proxy indicators and data developed for a system for monitoring regional progress on legal forest activities and trade 3.3 Systems strengthened for tracking environmental and social impacts |

**Problem Statement:**
The major growth in the export of wood products from the region has catalysed forest crime and illegal logging, moving from countries of high forest cover (Lao PDR, Cambodia and Mynamar) to exporting hubs (in particular Vietnam and China). In order to reverse this trend it is necessary to enhance legal and sustainable trade in wood products across the region.

# UN-REDD LMR Initiative Outcomes

| Outcomes | Output |
|---|---|
| 1: Strengthened bilateral and regional cooperation in place to facilitate legal and sustainable trade in forest products across the LMR and China | 1.1 Dialogue and cooperation on tackling illegal logging enhanced, through support to ongoing bilateral and regional platforms |
| | 1.2 Intra-regional cooperation deepened, to promote sustainable forest management across the region |
| | 1.3 Clearinghouse or collaboration platform established and operationalized, to encourage and support responsible investment and lending in the forest sector within the region |
| | 1.4 Dialogue between China- LMR deepened, to enhance cooperation to supply sustainable wood products to China |
| | 1.5 Bilateral, joint monitoring and regional data-sharing strengthened, for enhanced transboundary cooperation |
| | 1.6 Communications campaigns developed, to raise public awareness and incite social and behavior change on forest crime |

# UN-REDD LMR Initiative Outcomes

| Outcomes | Output |
|---|---|
| 2: Improved forest governance for legal and sustainable trade of forest related products | 2.1 National level activities fully established, to support implementation of transboundary cooperation commitments |
| | 2.2 National certification standards strengthened across LMR countries (through a consultative processes). |
| | 2.3 Systems and instruments strengthened, to verify, track and license the legality and sustainability of timber. |
| | 2.4 Capacities of national institutions built, so to allow them to operationalise improved forest governance, sustainable forest management and forest product trade. |
| | 2.5 Viable forest production models identified, for supply of sustainable timber |
| | 2.6 Community-based groups and smallholders enabled to access legal and sustainable forest product value chains |
| | 2.7 Key recommendations and actions agreed by key stakeholders, to scale up actions to tackle illegal and extra-legal conversion of forestland to other land uses. |

# UN-REDD LMR Initiative Outcomes

| Outcomes | Output |
|---|---|
| 3: Improved monitoring of forest and land use through enhanced data accessibility and management | 3.1 Near real-time monitoring system for deforestation and degradation developed and tested |
| | 3.2 Proxy indicators and data for a system for monitoring regional progress on legal forest activities and trade developed |
| | 3.3 Systems strengthened, for tracking environmental and social impacts in the forest sector |

# UN-REDD LMR Initiative Potential Partnerships

- Regional Organizations – Partnerships envisaged with RECOFTC, CITES Secretariat, ITTO, CIFOR, Forest Trends, Interpol/UNODC, WWF

- ASEAN – Facilitate LMR country focal points to ASEAN Senior Officers Forestry (ASOF) and associated WGs to implement ASEAN decisions

- China – Engagement of Chinese forest product industry in association with ITTO-led Global Green Supply Chain and FAO FLEGT and SW4SW initiatives

- Finance – Work with capital providers to direct investment towards sustainable practices, and support community-led enterprises, SMEs to access legal, sustainable value chains

# Thank you

More information about the UN-REDD Programme:
https://www.un-redd.org/          https://www.unredd.net/