



Enhancing capacity and collaboration of civil society organizations and community forest networks to engage in the FLEGT VPA process

Thailand

To: EU FAO FLEGT Programme

Submitted by: Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC)

August 2014

Part I. Project Summary

1.1 Project title

Enhancing capacity and collaboration of civil society organizations and community forest networks to engage in the FLEGT VPA process

1.2 Thematic area concerned

Thematic Area 4: Supporting local communities and community forestry activities in line with the FLEGT process or a national strategy

1.3 Applicant's contact information

- Name of the organization: Regional Community Forestry Training Center for Asia and the Pacific (RECOFTC) [also known as RECOFTC – The Center for People and Forests]
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Check the box that corresponds to the type of organization:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| • Government institution | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| • Civil society organization | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| • Private sector organization | <input type="checkbox"/> |

1.4 Information on the contact person within the organization

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1.5 Organization background (1 page maximum)

RECOFTC holds a unique place in the world of forestry as the primary institution for promoting community forestry (CF) in Asia and the Pacific for over 27 years. By developing the capacity of various stakeholders from communities to governments to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the private sector, RECOFTC employs a rights-based approach and has worked in partnership with others to improve the policies, institutions, and practices of community forestry. RECOFTC's mission is to enhance capacities at all levels for stronger rights, improved governance and fairer benefits for local people in sustainable forested landscapes in the Asia-Pacific region. Since its establishment in 1987, the organization has developed an alumni network of over 25,000 professionals, including national policymakers, researchers, practitioners, and local forest users in over 27 countries, and has managed

numerous projects supported by various donors such as the EU, FAO and other UN agencies, JICA, Norad, SDC, Sida, and USAID. RECOFTC's financial situation, including assessing and managing risks both internally and with partners, is regularly assessed through a Board of Trustees Corporate Services Committee and Finance Committee that comprises of the management and finance team. An annual financial audit of the organization is conducted by an external auditor and the report is shared with stakeholders. Headquartered in Bangkok, the organization currently has 124 highly qualified staff from 20 nationalities, working in seven countries in the region, with 7 staff in the RECOFTC Thailand Country Program Office.

RECOFTC's Thailand Country Program (TCP) has a long experience in strengthening civil society organizations (CSOs) and CF networks through networking, participatory capacity development, action research, and piloting and demonstration, and focuses on issues such as governance, conflict transformation, REDD+, and community-based natural resource management (CBNRM). Having supported the establishment of numerous CFs in the past, the Program has more recently played a key facilitating role in piloting the enactment of a sub-district regulation which allowed communities in Chiang Mai to manage their forest land through the *Tambon* (sub-district) Administrative Organization (TAO); this serves as a promising model for other Thai communities to secure management of their forest resources.

In 2013, TCP initiated work on strengthening CSOs and CF networks through dialogues, sharing platforms and workshops on FLEGT/VPA with the support of the European Forest Institute (EFI). A number of national and regional dialogues, workshops and platforms were organized where FLEGT experiences from Lao PDR, Vietnam and Indonesia were shared. Recommendations for EFI and the Thai government were gathered and an introductory FLEGT/VPA booklet¹ in Thai was produced and made available to the public and all stakeholders, including the private sector.

TCP is a key facilitator for Thailand's National Community Forestry Network. Involving CF representatives and local NGOs from throughout the country, the Network provides a platform for knowledge exchange and for unified advocacy efforts to achieve a better CF policy and regulatory environment. TCP has led the implementation of various national projects such as Mangroves for the Future/IUCN-funded *Strengthening the Community-based Coastal Resources Management Network through Community-based Learning Centers*, The Border Consortium/Government of Japan-funded *Strengthening Local Communities and Support Organisations through a CBNRM Approach and Capacity Building in Refugee Camps located along the Thailand-Myanmar border and Neighboring Communities*, the Siam Commercial Bank Foundation-funded *Young Seedlings Network*, and Royal Thai Government-funded *Sustainable Climate Change and CF Response* projects. The Program also implements and contributes to various regional RECOFTC projects as well such as the SDC-funded *ASEAN-Swiss Partnership on Social Forestry and Climate Change (ASFCC)*, USAID-funded *GREEN Mekong*, and JICA-RECOFTC *Partnership Program* projects.

¹ <http://www.recoftc.org/site/resources/FLEGT-VPA-booklet.php>

1.6 Information on the government references

• Government references	<input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/>
• Not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/>

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of Government Reference 1: Mr. Banjong Wongsrisoontorn• Title: Director of the Forest Certification Office, Royal Forest Department• Ministry: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment• E-mail: rfdcertainment@gmail.com• Telephone: 66-2-5614292-3 extension number: 5248

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of Government Reference 2: Mr. Sapol Boonsermsuk• Title: Director of International Cooperation Division, Royal Forest Department• Ministry: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment• E-mail: smit98@hotmail.com• Telephone: 66-2-5614292-3 extension number: 5673
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1.7 Summary of funding

	Total (in US dollars)
Funding requested from FAO [$A \leq 135.000 \text{ USD}$]:	A = 134,875
Contribution provided by the applicant [$B \geq 0.2 \times C$]:	B = 34,028
Total amount of the project [$C = A+B$]:	C = 168,903

1.8 Declaration and signature

I hereby certify that all information contained in this proposal is accurate and true. This proposal is not currently and has not been previously funded by another institution.

Date 26 September 2014 Signature



Tint Lwin Thaung, Ph.D
Executive Director

2.1 Background of the project and description of the problem (maximum 1 page)

Thailand and the EU launched formal negotiations on FLEGT VPA in April 2013. Multi-stakeholder involvement is a central element of VPA negotiations in which CSOs, especially CF networks, are among the key actors. However, preparation and discussions on FLEGT in Thailand were initially conducted in absence of their awareness and involvement. The VPA was simply seen from Thai partners as a trade measure that required only technical arrangement for granting the FLEGT certificate to export wood products. The role and stake of CSOs, CF networks, and forest smallholders in FLEGT were not recognized due to the assumption that wood products exported from Thailand to Europe were mainly sourced from imported timber and the fact that Thailand has banned extracting timber from its forests since 1989. The perception and willingness of other stakeholders to include CSOs, CF networks and forest smallholders in the process therefore were low at the start.

With the opportunity that the FLEGT VPA presents for catalyzing improved forest governance and initiating a forest law reform through a timber trade mechanism, Thai CSOs and CF networks started to get involved in a series of learning events facilitated by the RECOFTC with support from EFI. They discussed the key issues relating to CSOs, FLEGT and forest law reform, and identified their position on the FLEGT VPA. They succeeded in negotiating for CSO seats in the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Legality Definition, which is facilitated by the Thai-EU FLEGT Secretariat Office (TEFSO). The Thai CSOs' Network for Sustainable and Just Forest Management – FLEGT (CSOs' FLEGT network) was then established with the participation of representatives of the CF network, the Tree Bank Foundation, the Assembly of the Poor, forest smallholders (including representatives from the Private Forest Plantation Cooperative Limited), and environmental NGOs. Nevertheless, the CSOs' FLEGT network is still young with loose coordination systems and connections with forest communities nationwide. Establishment of a well-coordinated structure and interactive communication channel between the network members is a required step for their meaningful engagement in the FLEGT VPA process.

A restrictive legal framework, corruption, poor governance, insecure land tenure and limited access rights, as well as the unacknowledged roles and responsibilities of forest-dwelling communities and small-scale farmers to participate in forest management, are the fundamental problems inhibiting improved forest governance in Thailand. An additional legal concern is the provision on 'restricted wood' which constrains the rights and freedoms of individuals to utilize the wood species listed in Article 7 of Forestry Act B.E. 2484 (1941) and its amendment B.E. 2518 (1975). The list was recently expanded to 17 species through Announcement No. 106/2557 (2014) of the National Council for Peace and Order, regardless of whether the new species listed are grown in privately-owned land. Procedures for small-scale farmers and forest smallholders to get permission and verification of the restricted wood in private land are very complicated and time-consuming. The scale of complexity in the absence of a legal framework and recognition for secured tenure is more extreme among community forests located in both reserved forests and national parks whereas several of those communities, particularly ethnic minority groups, have been settled in the areas for generations prior to the designation of those conservation areas. Adopting the existing national laws and legal framework into the FLEGT VPA without careful consideration of these constraints and the lack of meaningful participation of all stakeholders in the VPA negotiation process will not only impede the opportunity to develop a sustainable timber business sector in Thailand, but also deteriorate the rights of local communities to utilize and receive fair benefits from forest resources that they have sustainably managed and protected. This in turn narrows the scope and interests of their participation in the FLEGT VPA, resulting in further centralization and poorer governance of forest resources in Thailand in contrast to the original intent of FLEGT.

2.2 Objective:

In addition to the institutionalization of the CSOs' FLEGT network, the project will seek to address the aforementioned issues by enhancing the capacities and knowledge of network members on FLEGT so that they can effectively engage and coordinate in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process. The project will also provide a space for them to generate information and knowledge on FLEGT based on their relevance, needs and gaps. These will help ensure that the FLEGT VPA negotiation process is more inclusive and comprehensive with the participation of all stakeholders.

The objective of the project is that civil society organizations (CSOs) and community forest (CF) networks' participation in the FLEGT VPA process is actively and effectively enhanced through the institutionalization of the CSOs' FLEGT network, with increased capacities for their effective engagement and coordination, and knowledge generation from improved capacities of the CSOs' FLEGT network.

2.3 Project outcomes, activities and work plan (maximum 2 pages):

OUTCOME 1: The CSOs' FLEGT network is institutionalized to function as a focal body and coordination mechanism for policy advocacy in Legality Definition development and the FLEGT VPA negotiation process.

Activity 1.1: Consultation meetings on the design of the institutional structure and its terms of reference

Activity 1.1.1: National consultation meeting to develop the network structure

A one-day meeting with 30 representatives from Thailand's five regions (North, South, East, West, and Northeast), will be organized in Bangkok to design the structure of the network and its terms of reference (ToR) and work plan. Additional issues for discussion include justifying the selection of the management team or committee, membership requirements and the roles of local networks.

Activity 1.1.2: Regional consultation meetings to collect feedback and finalize the network structure
Subsequent one-day meetings with 30 participants will be organized in each of the five regions to engage local communities and identify core persons in each region. This ensures that the CSOs' FLEGT network is developed with the participation of local network members and communities, and reflects the needs and aspirations of those it represents.

Activity 1.2: Bimonthly meetings of core CSOs' FLEGT network members

In order to provide updates on network activities and work plans, progress on the development of the Legality Definition and to prepare for multi-stakeholder consultation workshops organized by TEFSO, one-day bimonthly meetings of 25 core members of the CSOs' FLEGT network will be organized in Bangkok (a minimum of 4 meetings for the year).

Activity 1.3: Production of introductory brochure on the CSOs' FLEGT network

A brochure in the Thai language to briefly explain the network background, objectives and position on FLEGT VPA will be produced with 2,000 hard copies for dissemination to communities, stakeholders and the public.

Activity 1.4: Social media communication and information-sharing mechanisms

In order to encourage interactive communications amongst network members and to provide easily accessible FLEGT information, a Facebook page will be set up and managed for the CSOs' FLEGT network. In addition, a FLEGT blog will be hosted on RECOFTC's website. News, events, and updates relating to the FLEGT VPA process will be shared and discussed through these channels. Social media activities will specifically target CSOs.

Activity 1.5: National CSOs' FLEGT network forum and proceedings

At the end of the project, a one-day national forum on FLEGT will be organized in Bangkok for 100 representatives of the network. The forum aims to draw out key results and lessons learned by the network and to plan for future activities. A proceedings report will be written up to document key discussions of the national forum.

OUTCOME 2: The capacities and knowledge of CSOs, CF networks and communities on FLEGT are enhanced to ensure their effective engagement and coordination in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process.

Activity 2.1: Capacity development needs assessment (CDNA)

A CDNA will be conducted through a one-day group discussion with 25 participants and individual evaluations during different meetings. A set of basic competencies regarding skills, knowledge and capabilities will be developed and discussed with representatives and participants in the five regional consultation meetings. The CDNA will provide baseline information on existing knowledge, skills and attitudes of the network members on FLEGT VPA, which will be reassessed after provision of trainings to measure the level of improved understanding. A CDNA report will capture the findings.

Activity 2.2: Curriculum design on FLEGT: An Introduction, and Forest Governance

Based on the CDNA results, curricula on FLEGT will be developed and packaged for two topics – (i) 'FLEGT: An Introduction' and (ii) 'FLEGT and Forest Governance' – to provide recipients with the required materials to extend FLEGT capacity development activities within their own networks.

Activity 2.3: Trainings on FLEGT: An Introduction, and Forest Governance

On the basis of the completion of *activities 2.1 and 2.2*, a series of trainings will be rolled out.

Activity 2.3.1: Training of Trainers (ToT) on FLEGT: An Introduction

A three-day ToT on FLEGT: An Introduction will be organized for 25 participants outside Bangkok. The course will provide both knowledge and skills for facilitation and how to deliver FLEGT introductory trainings.

Activity 2.3.2: Five regional trainings on FLEGT: An Introduction

A one-day training on FLEGT: An Introduction will be organized for 30 participants in each region. Five training sessions will be organized in total, delivered by the trainers and Project staff.

Activity 2.3.3: Training on FLEGT and Forest Governance

A two-day training in Bangkok will be provided for 30 participants, comprising core members of CSOs' FLEGT network, in order to provide them with an advanced understanding on forest governance issues such as the legal framework, land tenure, timber tracking and verification.

Activity 2.4: Study visit on FLEGT VPA process in Vietnam

A four-day trip to visit CSOs and government offices working on the FLEGT VPA process in Vietnam will be organized for 15 people. The visit will include a field trip to communities and timber entrepreneurs to collect lessons learned on FLEGT implementation.

OUTCOME 3: Knowledge on FLEGT is generated based on the needs and gaps identified by the CSOs' FLEGT network to be used in policy advocacy and disseminated to the general public.

Activity 3.1: Evidence-based case study on forest governance and the legal framework for timber value chains

A case study on forest governance and the legal framework for timber value chains will be conducted to provide concrete justification on areas of improvement for selected wood product value chains in Thailand for CSOs. Findings will be published with 500 hard copies for dissemination to communities and related organizations, and ultimately be used as a guide for policy development.

Activity 3.2: National policy dialogue platform and policy brief

A national policy dialogue platform will be organized in Bangkok for 40 participants, comprising representatives of the CSOs' FLEGT network, academia, and relevant government agencies and media. The platform will be a space to discuss and raise awareness about important policy issues and the development of FLEGT. A policy brief synthesizing the key issues and recommendations for forest governance and FLEGT from this policy dialogue will be published with 1,000 hard copies for dissemination to the network members, communities and stakeholders.

Activity 3.3: Publication of educational materials

Simple education materials such as posters and leaflets aimed at stakeholders will be developed through a participatory process with key stakeholders and pre-tested. A joint dissemination plan will also be developed.

In addition to the above activities, a one-day **inception workshop** will be organized in Bangkok for at least 30 key stakeholders to inform them of objectives and expected outcomes as well as to refine action plans and build ownership prior to implementing outcome activities. At the end of the project, a one-day **reflection and conclusion workshop** will be organized in Bangkok for at least 30 participants to reflect on the overall project and develop recommendations on areas for improvement and future development.

Annex 1 contains the proposed project work plan.

2.4 Description of monitoring mechanisms and reporting of outcomes

1. Inception report²

An inception report will be produced following the inception meeting, and will include the project background, roles and responsibilities of network members and consultation on project work plan.

2. Six-monthly progress report

A six-monthly progress report will be produced and submitted by the 7th month of the project. The report will include a list of activities conducted, key achievements, challenges, adjustments to the work plan (if any), and a financial report.

3. Project activity reports and relevant survey

Project activity reports include:

- final documentation of the CSOs' FLEGT network structure, terms of reference and roadmap;
- CSOs' FLEGT network meeting reports and proposed recommendations on Legality Definition and the FLEGT VPA negotiation process;
- training delivery reports, post-training participant surveys, and exchange visit evaluation report;
- findings from the evidence-based case study on forest governance and the legal framework for timber value chains
- proceedings of national policy dialogue platforms

4. Final report

A final report will be produced and submitted one month after the project ends. The report will include a list of activities conducted, key achievements, challenges, lessons learned, recommendations for the next strategic phase and activities as well as financial report.

² In addition to the progress of project activities, these reports can also present, in Annexes, deliverables such as: a proposal for a new regulation, procedures manuals, guides, workshop reports, mission reports, brochures, maps, *etc.*

2.5 Methodology (maximum 2 pages)

The implementation modalities of the overall project are based on the full ownership and participation of all relevant partners, particularly those forming the core team of the CSOs' FLEGT network – the Tree Bank Foundation, CF networks, the Private Forest Plantation Cooperative Limited and other CSOs. RECOFTC will act as a facilitator to enable a participatory environment where all actors can partake and share their contributions throughout the project. Two full-time project staff – a Project Coordinator and a Project Assistant – will be recruited with support of the RECOFTC TCP staff in whose office project staff will sit. This approach is chosen to build in sustainability after the end of project as the CSOs' FLEGT network will continue to engage and coordinate on FLEGT issues with other CSO actors, including TCP.

To achieve the project objective, other implementing modalities are designed for each outcome.

Outcome 1: Institutionalization of CSOs' FLEGT Network

RECOFTC has developed a networking strategy in which networks are defined as social arrangements made up of individuals and representatives of institutions with shared interests, based on establishing and building relationships, sharing tasks and working on mutual or joint activities, enabling new learning and mobilizing alternative actions. Networks open opportunities through shared work to mobilize actions and policy options, foster cross-fertilization, influence the policy community, build research and policy analysis capacities, or build a case for a new agenda, etc. Networks add value to work that would otherwise be undertaken individually.

RECOFTC is interested in 'value networks' directed towards a deliberate action or outcome. In this project, the CSOs' FLEGT network takes this concept of value networks a step forward. It is formed as a platform for a web of existing networks because FLEGT covers diverse areas and interests. Hence, the project also adopts a cascading downward and upward approach in networking among the networks. The core team of the CSOs' FLEGT network must play key roles in ensuring that their fellow network members are aware of any updates, equipped with knowledge and have access to information, as well as being able to communicate their interests and positions through representatives. The forest-dependent populations and forest smallholders are involved through CF networks and the Tree Bank Foundation respectively.

With this modality, the consultation on developing the CSOs' FLEGT institutional structure and its terms of reference – including details such as the mandate, vision, decision-making process, work-plan, etc. – will be organized across all five regions to ensure adequate inputs and recognition from local network partners. Social media channels for communication and information-sharing which are easily accessible for all network members will be developed to share and exchange information. Lastly, a National CSOs' FLEGT network forum will be organized with the participation of network members to take stock over work undertaken the previous year and strategize for further action. The institutionalization of the CSOs' FLEGT network will consolidate the mobilization of relevant CSOs and CF networks for FLEGT policy advocacy and influence.

Outcome 2: Capacity Development Programme

The 'capacity development for action' approach used for designing the capacity enhancement packages will be based on capacity development needs assessment (CDNA) to identify existing capacities and needs of the target participants, and will provide opportunities or platforms for them to practice and use their newly-acquired/improved skills and knowledge. The CDNA will be conducted at the project outset to establish a baseline regarding the existing competencies of the CSOs' FLEGT network members and gaps on their FLEGT knowledge and application. The results of the CDNA will be used by RECOFTC to design and develop a training package consisting of a modular curriculum and materials. Trainings will be organized at two levels: first, a training of core trainers who will then play the role of local FLEGT facilitators and resource persons; second, regional trainings which will be delivered by the trained local FLEGT facilitators, providing a

platform for them to practice and sharpen their acquired skills and knowledge. These trainings will follow a workshop style using participatory learning principles that integrates the local context and experiences of participants. At the end of the regional trainings, the enhanced institutional capacity among networks – encompassing human, material, and financial aspects – will be available to contribute to the FLEGT agenda and further learning. Representatives of forest-dependent populations and forest smallholders will be among the selected local facilitators who will have increased confidence and capacities to engage in FLEGT VPA negotiation processes and address forest governance issues in general.

Outcome 3: FLEGT Knowledge Generation for Policy Advocacy

Knowledge is a source of power for policy decision-making and negotiation. So far, information and knowledge on FLEGT is generated by responsible government agencies and private counterparts which, as well as being far from comprehensive, fails to incorporate the views and concerns of CSOs and CF networks. Under this project, evidence-based data collection will be conducted for a case study on forest governance and an analysis of the legal framework for timber value chains. This will be undertaken using participatory action research in which a consultant works closely with local networks to collect site-specific case information in order to understand current practices and challenges in forest law enforcement and the timber trade, and develop recommendations on forest governance and the legal framework for timber value chains in Thailand. The forest communities and forest smallholders will contribute greatly in shaping the case based on their identified needs and issues with the timber value chain in their local settings. The evidence collected will form the basis for policy discussions at the national policy dialogue platforms to advocate and influence policy decision makers and create more understanding among the general public on the issues at hand. Such a modality is selected to provide strong support and solid evidence to relevant parties for appropriate policy formulation on FLEGT.

Social Inclusion and Gender Sensibility

The proposed project would promote social inclusion and gender sensibility by recognizing differences of roles, views, and needs of women and men and between socio-economic groups in FLEGT. Marginalized groups and women will be encouraged to actively engage and participate in all areas of the project. Social inclusion and gender equity would be integrated into project planning, delivery, and monitoring and evaluation, informed by RECOFTC learning and experiences on mainstreaming socially inclusive and gender sensitive practices into training and awareness-raising materials, events, research and case studies, and CF networking in other projects it implements. All activities under this project will be socially inclusive and gender sensitive, encouraging equal representation and participation of men, women and different ethnic groups.

2.6 Risks and Assumptions

Analysis of potential risks, based on the likelihood and scale of impact of each, that could prevent achievement of the project objective, and assumptions about factors outside the project which may affect project success, are described below:

Risks

Further delay in the VPA negotiation process between the Royal Thai Government and the EU due to the current political situation in Thailand is foreseen. The likelihood of this is considered high; however, its impact on the project is low as prolonging the negotiation process means that CSOs and CF networks have a longer period to prepare and catch up with other stakeholders. The only concern is the uncertainty over the negotiation position of the government, so the CSOs' FLEGT network must invest more efforts to develop different strategies for various scenarios.

Space and opportunities for civil society organizations to reflect their views openly and to effectively engage in policymaking have dramatically shrunk under the current political situation.

This context intensifies the risk that the policy recommendations from the CSOs' FLEGT network will be ignored. However, the likelihood and impact are considered medium as there are still channels to address and clarify gaps in understanding and share information with evidence-based case studies that the project will produce. EU insistence on CSO agreement to government proposals will strengthen the CSOs' position.

Red-tape and bureaucratic bottlenecks to advancing forest governance are persistent in Thailand. These can disrupt and discourage the mobilization of the CSOs' FLEGT network. The likelihood and impact are medium as participation in this project should be perceived by CSOs' FLEGT network members as a unique opportunity to address red-tape bureaucracy and poor forest governance.

There may be a lack of incentives and reluctance to involve and become members of the CSOs' FLEGT network among some CF networks and CSOs due to their forest conservationist approach and concerns over the trade dimension of FLEGT. The likelihood and impact of this risk are considered high and hence this project is designed to generate a networking platform for them to share their concerns, develop peer-to-peer learning and find a mutually-acceptable strategy to seek common advantage from engaging in the FLEGT VPA process.

Assumptions

It is assumed that before the project starts the timely recruitment of capable project team members acceptable to the CSOs' FLEGT network and all implementing partners should happen. Moreover, the interests, active participation and time availability of CSOs and CF networks are assumed to continue and expand from the ongoing EFI-supported FLEGT initiative. For the implementation of the planned activities, CSOs' and CF networks' views of shared interests or benefits in the project activities and their willingness to engage with other stakeholders are assumed. Information relevant to the FLEGT VPA negotiation process from government agencies, private sector and others is accessible. The availability of required external and local resources and expertise to support project activities is also assumed. At the larger scale, there should not be any strong opposition against FLEGT from environmentalist organizations and alliances among agricultural, forestry, and development partners.

Part III. Creating an enabling environment for implementing of the VPA process (max 2 pgs)

3.1 Relevance and Complementarity:

Thailand and the EU launched formal negotiations on FLEGT VPA in April 2013. After the first Joint Expert Meeting, the Ad-Hoc Working Group on Legality Definition was established to define Legality Definition (LD) for Thailand. So far, CSOs have actively participated in forming the Ad-Hoc Working Group and provided inputs and recommendations on the draft LD. This project will support even more substantive participation of CSO representatives in the Ad-Hoc Working Group. Inputs and reflections on the draft will be drawn from experiences of communities and the CSOs' FLEGT network members, including the findings of the proposed case study.

To move the FLEGT VPA process forward, TEFSO is planning to organize a series of multi-stakeholders consultations in Bangkok and Thailand's sub-regions in order to generate involvement and seek opinions from all stakeholders on the negotiation. With this development, the project will support CSOs' FLEGT network representatives to prepare for the multi-stakeholder consultation meetings. CSO representatives in each region will be identified and prepared to present the viewpoints and recommendations of those they represent. Updates on issues and progress made from the multi-stakeholder consultation meetings will be reported and discussed in the CSOs' FLEGT network through bimonthly meetings and other communication channels.

The project will also contribute to developing the timber legality assurance system (TLAS) through the case study on timber value chains which will provide information on current practices and issues in the timber tracking system and verification process from CSO perspectives. Meaningful reflection, dialogue and recommendations from CSO viewpoints are necessary to improve and complete the VPA process, ensuring participatory collaboration for its acceptance and subsequent successful implementation.

3.2 Partnerships:

The project design was developed and will be implemented through partnership with several key actors whose current roles and mandates are significant and relevant to the impacts of FLEGT. They include (but are not limited to) RECOFTC's partners from the ongoing EFI-funded project in support of the FLEGT learning forums. Partners include CF networks across Thailand, the Assembly of the Poor, the Tree Bank Foundation, the Private Forest Plantation Cooperative Limited, Raks Thai Foundation, Law Reform Commission of Thailand, and international NGOs such as Forests and the European Union Resource Network (FERN) in regional sharing events and support for Geographic Information System (GIS) training. They comprise community-based networks and organizations, non-profit private sector, civil society actors, legal think-tanks and independent bodies. This project will provide opportunities to further strengthen the newly-established partnership into the CSOs' FLEGT network, and mobilize and sharpen the existing capacities of each partner.

3.3 Innovation:

The innovative dimensions of the project that could be integrated or replicated at both national and regional levels include the formation of the CSOs' FLEGT network which will play an indispensable role in substantiating and representing forest-dwelling communities, forest smallholders, and small-scale farmers in the national FLEGT VPA negotiation process. Although the CSOs' FLEGT network operates at the national level, it represents and connects closely with its fellow networks operating at the regional and local levels. Fostering a partnership among these CSOs and CF networks that have shared interests but rarely join together to learn from and capitalize on solidarity with one another for achieving policy leverage is innovative under this project and for the FLEGT VPA process in Thailand.

Another innovation that this project pursues is the use of a capacity development program for action. This framework includes assessing the capacity development gaps and needs – the results of which will be used for developing a modular training curriculum and materials – as well as outlining the platform for potential FLEGT facilitators or resource persons to practice and sharpen their knowledge and skills through implementation directly with CSOs' FLEGT network members. The functions and existence of the CSOs' FLEGT network may not be maintained once the VPA negotiations are completed but the capacity will remain embedded in their fellow networks.

Last, but not least, is the innovation of an evidence-based case study on forest governance and the analysis of the legal framework for timber value chains which will be grounded upon the perspectives and interests of local forest communities, forest smallholders and small-scale farmers. Due to the logging ban and legal enforcement restricting wood harvesting and processing in Thailand, the proposed efforts to assess the feasibility and to develop policy recommendations for the most equitable management scheme for timber value chains are rather progressive and innovative. This will open space for policy discussion and engagement from CSOs' position.

3.4 Sustainability:

The project contributes to and strongly complements the FLEGT national program by integrating the insights of, and engaging with, civil society and CF stakeholder groups into the negotiation process and further institutionalizing their involvement in the formal Ad-Hoc Working Group on Legality Definition on an equal basis with other stakeholders, thereby ensuring their long-term recognition in the process.

Institutional sustainability is central to this project. At the end of project, the CSOs' FLEGT network will be a fully established institutional mechanism with strengthened capacities to advocate for positive policy change on FLEGT relevant issues and agenda through collaboration with their network members representing forest-dwelling communities, forest smallholders, small-scale farmers, etc. The CSOs' FLEGT network is structured and mandated to mobilize its support through bottom-up accountability. In addition, given the more active role that the CSOs' FLEGT network can play, their representatives can become members of the technical expert working group in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process.

Financial sustainability may not be effective at the end of this one-year project because the CSOs and CF networks—key actors for multi-stakeholder consultation in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process—are still in need of support to become familiarized and confident in taking their initiatives forward. The long-term outcome resulting from the accomplishment of this project would ensure that this stakeholder group receives fair benefits from FLEGT implementation and the CSOs' FLEGT network could be transitioned into a timber verification counterpart in the TLAS, potentially generating some income for its future operations.

Political sustainability is achieved through widening the policy space for the CSOs, CF networks, forest smallholders, and non-profit private sector, etc. to participate more actively and become decisive parties in FLEGT VPA negotiation and relevant development, which was not recognized at the initial phase of the process.

Socio-economic sustainability follows from the commitments, mutual understanding, shared ownership, vision and partnership that the CSOs' FLEGT network members are to establish.

3.5 Capitalization of lessons learned:

The proposal incorporates a specific output on documentation of lessons learned. RECOFTC, with support from the CSOs' FLEGT network and other partners, will capture good practices and lessons learned, and disseminate these to relevant stakeholders – other CSOs, government agencies, the private sector and general public. Particularly, the CF networks with which RECOFTC has developed a solid relationship and support will be the main target audience of project visibility materials as well as documentation and dissemination of key lessons learned.

Part IV. Budget

Please see separate Excel attachment

Part V. Logical framework

	Intervention logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources and means of verification
Objective	Civil society organizations (CSOs) and community forest (CF) networks' participation in the FLEGT VPA process is actively and effectively enhanced through the institutionalization of the CSOs' FLEGT network, with increased capacities for their effective engagement and coordination, and knowledge generation from improved capacities of the CSOs' FLEGT network.	1. At least two representatives from CSOs and CF networks are members of technical expert working group for FLEGT VPA negotiation process.	<i>Source 1.1:</i> Official letter of nomination and VPA negotiation structure of Thailand submitted to CSOs' FLEGT network's representatives
Outputs/outcomes	<i>Outcome 1:</i> The CSOs' FLEGT network is institutionalized to function as a focal body and coordination mechanism for policy advocacy in Legality Definition development and FLEGT VPA negotiation process.	<i>Indicator 1.1</i> A clearly-defined structure (with committee, mandate, role, position, strategy and roadmap) of the CSOs' FLEGT network is mutually accepted and agreed upon in a written document. <i>Indicator 1.2</i> At least 60% of recommendations from the CSOs' FLEGT network are accepted and incorporated into the LD. <i>Indicator 1.3</i> All multi-stakeholder consultation workshops on the FLEGT VPA process organized by RFD/Thailand have at least 33% of representatives from the CSOs' FLEGT network to discuss their concerns and make policy recommendations.	<i>Source 1.1.1:</i> ToR for CSOs' FLEGT network <i>Source 1.1.2:</i> Position paper of CSOs' FLEGT network <i>Source 1.2.1:</i> Final Legality Definition <i>Source 1.3.1:</i> Consultation agenda and reports

	Intervention logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources and means of verification
Outputs/outcomes	<p><u>Outcome 2:</u> The capacities and knowledge of CSOs, CF network, and local communities on FLEGT are enhanced for their effective engagement and coordination in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process.</p> <p><u>Outcome 3:</u> Knowledge on FLEGT is generated based on the needs and gaps identified by the CSOs' FLEGT network and used in policy advocacy and disseminated to general public.</p>	<p><u>Indicator 2.1</u> At least 80% of training participants use newly-acquired capacity and knowledge for active participation in FLEGT multi-stakeholder consultation workshops and VPA negotiation process.</p> <p><u>Indicator 2.2</u> At least 15 local facilitators are capable to disseminate knowledge on FLEGT in Thailand (3-4 per region).</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.1</u> At least 3 knowledge and communication products are further published/distributed in other media channels.</p> <p><u>Indicator 3.2</u> At least 3 knowledge and communication products are referred to in policy recommendations on Legality Definition and VPA negotiation process.</p>	<p><i>Source 2.1.1: Consultation reports</i> <i>Source 2.1.2: Training reports</i> <i>Source 2.1.3: Post-training participants' survey</i></p> <p><i>Source 2.2.1: Training reports</i> <i>Source 2.2.2: Post-training participants' survey</i></p> <p><i>Source 3.1.1: Meeting reports</i></p> <p><i>Source 3.2.1: Media publication and TV programme</i> <i>Source 3.2.2: Policy recommendations on LD and VPA negotiation process</i></p>
Activities	<p>Component 1: Institutionalization of the CSOs' FLEGT Network</p> <p><i>Activity 1.1:</i> Consultation meetings on the design of the institutional structure and terms of reference</p> <p><i>Activity 1.2:</i> Bimonthly meetings of core CSOs' FLEGT network members</p> <p><i>Activity 1.3:</i> Production of introductory brochure on the CSOs' FLEGT network</p> <p><i>Activity 1.4:</i> Social media</p>	<p><u>Means</u></p> <p><u>Personnel</u></p> <p>1 Project Manager x 30%</p> <p>1 Project Coordinator x 100%</p> <p>1 Project Assistant x 100%</p> <p>1.Admin and Financial Officer x10%</p> <p><u>Equipments</u></p> <p>2 Laptops</p> <p>1 Printer</p> <p>1 Voice Recorder</p>	<p><i>The project will attempt to maximize the utilization of existing capacities of network partners and members, not only for human resources and consultancy services but also for other equipments and facilities. Staff time charge covered by RECOFTC is elaborated in more details in Part IV: Budget.</i></p>

	Intervention logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources and means of verification
	<p>communication and information – sharing mechanisms <i>Activity 1.5:</i> National CSOs’ FLEGT network forum and proceedings</p> <p><i>Component 2: Capacity Development Programme</i> <i>Activity 2.1:</i> Capacity development needs assessment (CDNA) <i>Activity 2.2:</i> Curriculum design on FLEGT: An Introduction, and Forest Governance <i>Activity 2.3:</i> Trainings on FLEGT: An Introduction, and Forest Governance <i>Activity 2.4:</i> Study visit on FLEGT VPA process in Vietnam</p> <p><i>Component 3: FLEGT Knowledge Generation for Policy Advocacy</i> <i>Activity 3.1:</i> Evidence-based case study on forest governance and the legal framework for timber value chains <i>Activity 3.2:</i> National policy dialogue platform and policy brief <i>Activity 3.3:</i> Production of educational materials</p>	<p><u>Operational Facilities</u> Office rental Utilities Communication Expenses Stationery and other office supplies</p> <p><u>Consultants</u> Local and national experts are contracted as consultants to provide technical support in various activities – trainings and workshops, legal review, research, and publications.</p> <p><u>Trainings</u> ToT training on FLEGT: An Introduction, and Forest Governance Training Venue Training / awareness-raising Materials</p> <p><u>Studies</u> Research and studies on FLEGT VPA process, forest law enforcement, governance and trade</p>	

ANNEX 1: Work Plan

Activity description	Months after Letter of Agreement signature											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Inception workshop	X											
Outcome 1: The CSOs' FLEGT network is institutionalized to function as a focal body and coordination mechanism for policy advocacy in Legality Definition development and the FLEGT VPA negotiation process.												
<i>Activity 1.1.1</i> National consultation meeting to develop the network structure	X	X										
<i>Activity 1.1.2</i> Regional consultation meetings to collect feedback and finalize the network structure		X	X									
<i>Activity 1.2</i> Bimonthly meetings of core CSOs' FLEGT network members			X		X		X		X			
<i>Activity 1.3</i> Production of introductory brochure on the CSOs' FLEGT network			X									
<i>Activity 1.4</i> Social media communication and information-sharing mechanisms			X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<i>Activity 1.5</i> National CSOs' FLEGT network forum and proceedings											X	
Outcome 2: The capacities and knowledge of CSOs, CF network, and local communities on FLEGT are enhanced for their effective engagement and coordination in the FLEGT VPA negotiation process.												
<i>Activity 2.1</i> Capacity development needs assessment		X										
<i>Activity 2.2</i> Curriculum design on FLEGT: An Introduction, and Forest Governance		X	X	X	X							
<i>Activity 2.3.1</i> Training of Trainers on FLEGT: An introduction				X								
<i>Activity 2.3.2</i> Five regional trainings on FLEGT: An introduction					X	X	X	X				
<i>Activity 2.3.3</i> Training on FLEGT: An Introduction, and Forest Governance								X				
<i>Activity 2.4</i> Exchange visit on FLEGT VPA process				X								

Activity description	Months after Letter of Agreement signature											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
in Vietnam												
Outcome 3: Knowledge on FLEGT is generated based on the needs and gaps identified by the CSOs' FLEGT network to be used in policy advocacy and disseminated to general public.												
<i>Activity 3.1</i> Evidence-based case study on forest governance and legal framework for timber value chains				X	X	X	X	X	X			
<i>Activity 3.2</i> National policy dialogue platform and policy brief								X			X	
<i>Activity 3.3</i> Publication of educational materials			X				X					
Reflection and conclusion workshop												X



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PEOPLE AND FORESTS**

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