Combatting Illegal Logging in Asia

A Review of Progress and the Role of the Asia Forest Partnership 2002-2012

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A Need for AFP Identified

• Turn of new Millennium, tropical forests in Asia under intense pressure.
• Unsustainable, uncontrolled and often illegal logging.
• Negative impacts on environmental services provided by forests and biodiversity.
• Negative impacts on good governance, state revenues, and social/political stability.
• Need for a regionally owned multi-stakeholder dialogue mechanism to address the problem.
Rise of the Asia Forest Partnership

• Established in 2002 by a core group that included representative from the Government of Japan, Government of Indonesia, The Nature Conservancy and CIFOR.

• AFP quickly grew after official recognition to include a wide variety of stakeholders in the partnership.

• AFP provided neutral forum for information sharing, constructive dialogue, and joint action to promote sustainable forest management in the region.
Recent Accomplishments

• AFP 2008 in Hanoi, Vietnam
• AFP 2009 & 2010 in Bali, Indonesia (REDD focus)
• AFP 2011 in Beijing, China (plenary session included more than 1,000 participants)

• All events provided venues for constructive and open multi-stakeholder dialogue on issues relating to forest resources management in the region.
Strengths of Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Model

• Diversity of viewpoints;
• Ability to discuss issues in ways not previously considered (i.e. Illegal Logging);
• Variety of experience leads to greater creativity brought to problem solving processes;
• Leads to better solutions and decision making;
• Higher level of ownership of decisions made by all stakeholders;
• Ultimately increases social and political stability.
National Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Success Stories

• Cambodia: Community Forestry Sub-Decree

• Indonesia: Development of a Timber Legality Assurance System (SVLK)

• Lesson Learned: *Multi-Stakeholder dialogues lead to better results at the end of the process.*
Ten Years Time
Issues Have Evolved in the Forest Sector

- Shifts in forest products commodity markets, growth of China’s role as wood importer and products producer.
- Efforts to improve law enforcement and access to environmental justice.
- Recognition of forest resource links to climate change;
- Timber legality assurance and verification initiatives, both public and private sector.
- Development and use of new technologies.
- Increased connections made between forests and other land uses; important role of tenure and land use planning.
Looking Ahead

• Continued trends emphasizing legality in the marketplace;

• Continued use of multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue mechanisms at the international and national level;

• APEC Experts Group on Illegal Logging and Associated Trade;

• Use of multi-stakeholder dialogues to revise forest resource related laws and regulations, and ensure public participation in government decision making processes.
Lessons Learned

• Multi-stakeholder partnerships and dialogue mechanisms work, and lead to better outcomes.
• Standards we set as a society will continue to evolve and change over time (local, national, global).
• Issues we will be discussing and addressing surrounding the forestry sector will continue to evolve and change, often in unexpected ways.
• Working together in open, inclusive and transparent ways, we will be able to address these challenges.
THANK YOU

WISHING YOU ALL THE VERY BEST
AND SAFE TRAVELS