

People's Democratic Republic of Laos

Department of Forest Inspections



Developments in FLEGT



Introduction

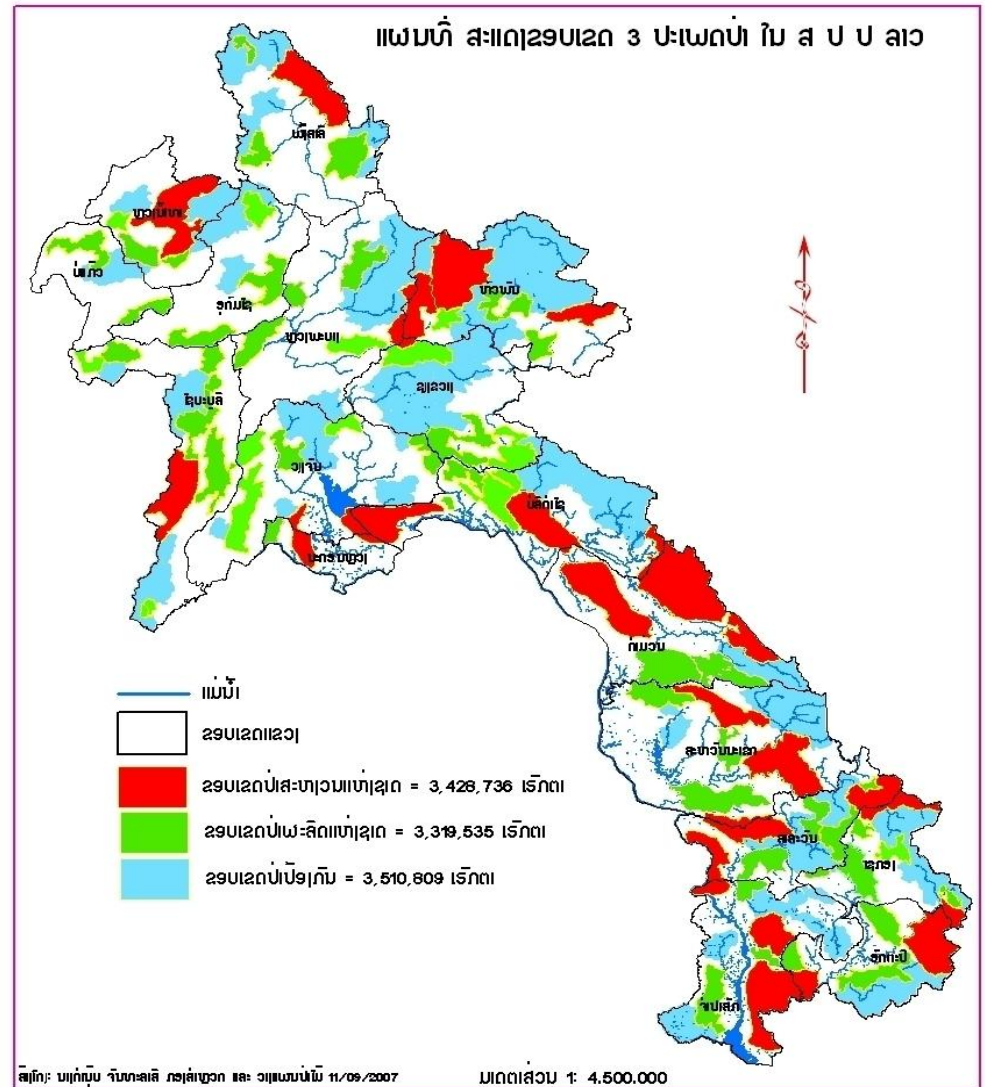
- Laos is a landlocked country. It is surrounded by 5 other countries, 3 China, Thailand and Vietnam are major timber consumers
- There are 5,083km of international border and 36 border crossing points.
- Laos is not a major exporter to Europe



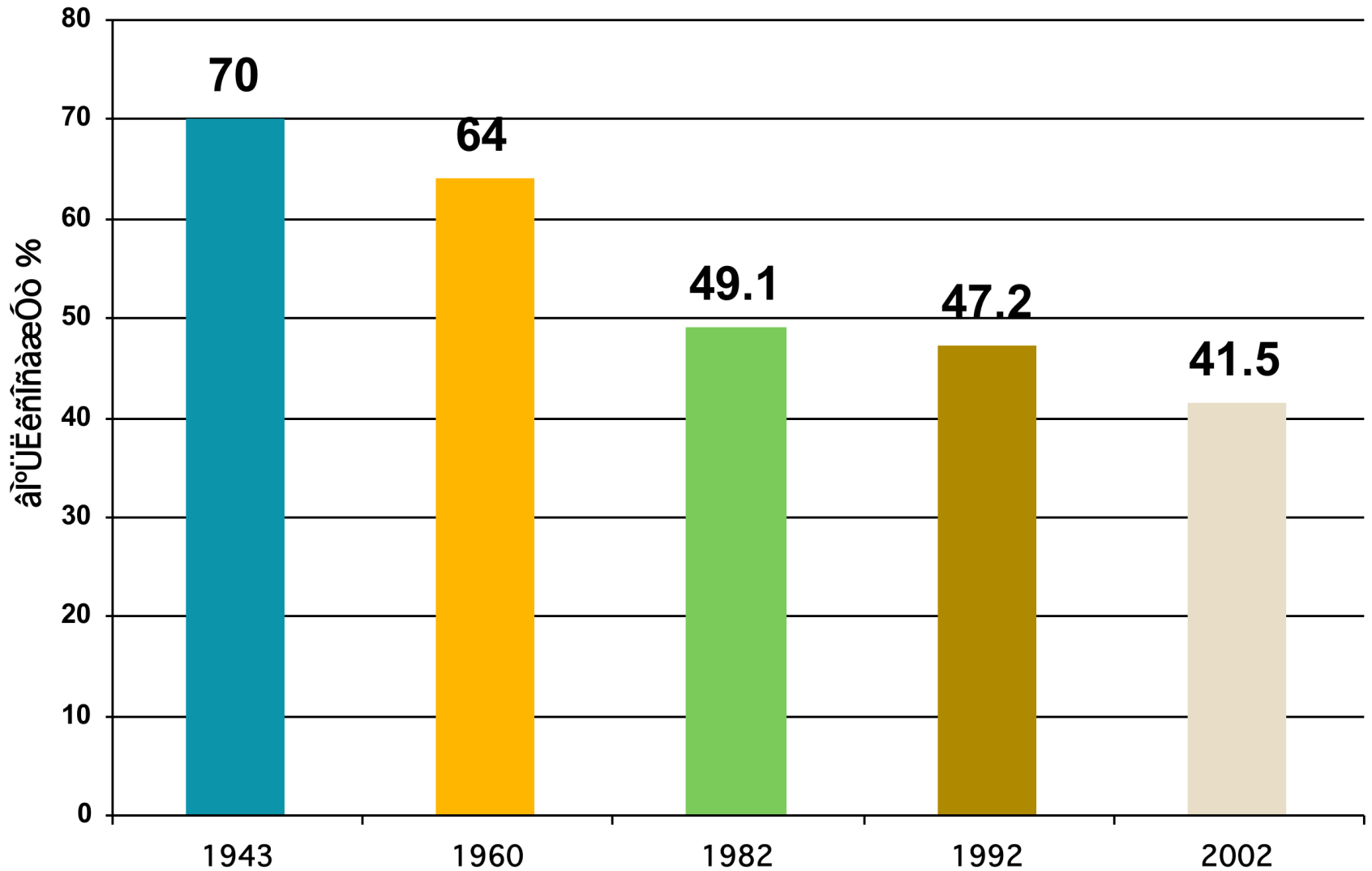
Forest categories Areas (M. ha)

- Protection Forest about 6.8
- Conservation Forest about 5.2
- Production Forest about 3.4

Total
15.4



Forest Cover in Lao PDR from 1943 to 2002



Introduction

- There is a recognition that there should be a separation between *management* of the forest resource and *oversight & control*.
- At the end of 2007 the National Assembly passed Forestry Law
 - Department of Forest Inspection was created to enforce the new laws



Current Situation

- In 2011 a new Ministry of Environment has been established, it has responsibility for Protection & Conservation Forests
- The current National Assembly will undertake a review of the 2007 Forest Law to reflect the new Ministry and the Department of Forest Inspection – this will clarify roles & responsibilities



FLEGT Context

- Laos has been in contact with the EU regarding FLEGT for 2 years:
 - April & Sept 2009 FLEGT Asia team visit
 - July 2010 letter of interest sent to Brussels
 - May 2011 Informal FLEGT Focal Point
 - May 2011 Baseline Study by Forest Trends
 - Aug 2011 Informal National Steering Group
 - Sept-Nov 2011 Timber Flow Study

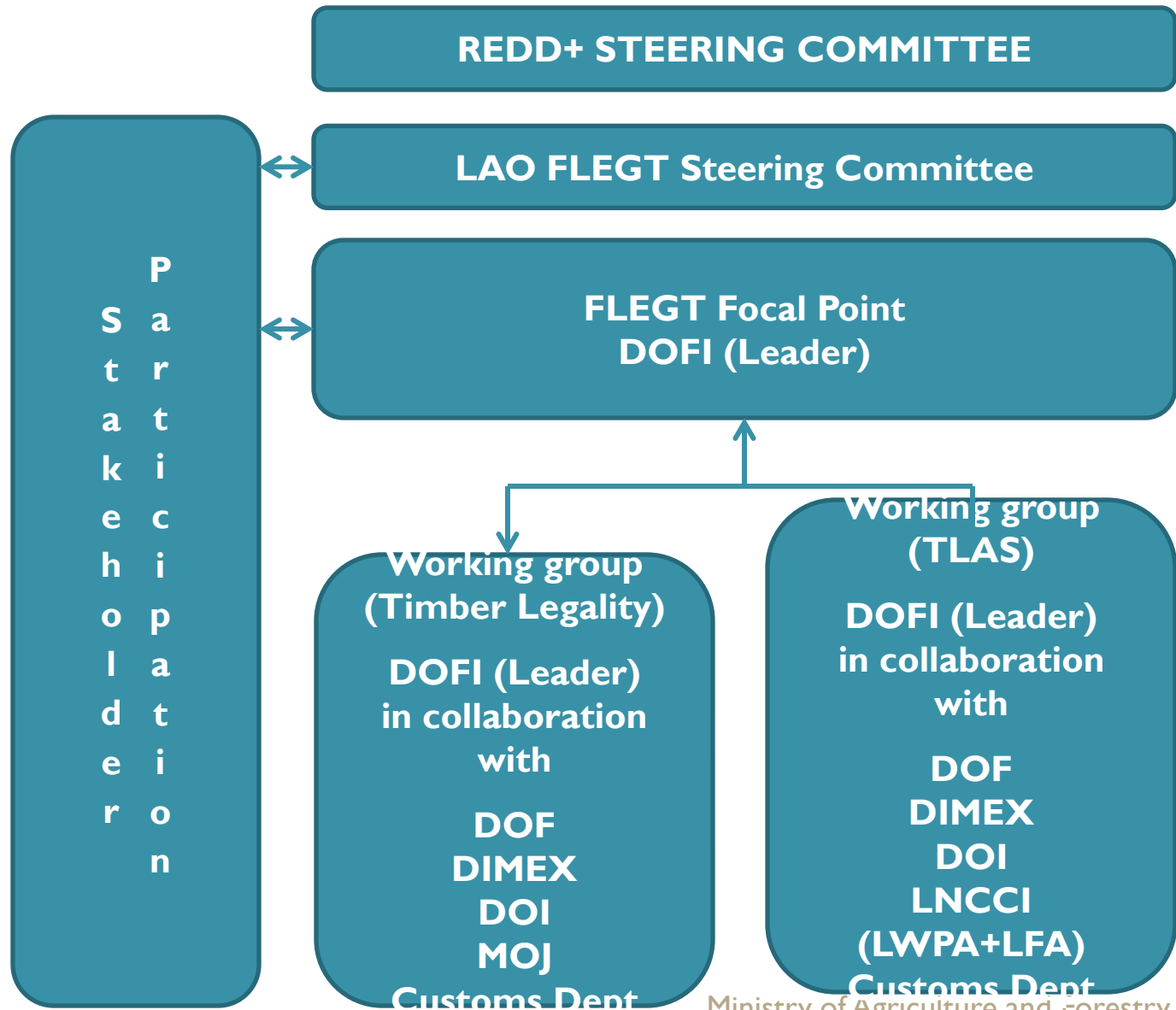


Stakeholders

- **CIVIL SOCIETY:** Ethnic Minorities; Local Communities; National Civil Society Organization; Mass Organization; International Civil Society Organization (LIWG;VFI; SIDSE; JVC; GAPE; WWF; WB; IUCN; WCS.
- **- MEDIA**
- **- INDUSTRY:** Plantation (Rubber, Pulp) and Agribusiness;
- Infrastructure; Wood-Processing Industry;
- **- DONOR AGENCIES:** The World Bank is the key donor agency in the Lao resource sector; The World Bank's Forest Investment Program (FIP); ADB; GTZ; JICA; FINNIDA.
- **- GOVERNMENT:**
 - **- Forest Governance-Framing Agencies**
 - **- The Prime Minister's office (MPO)**
 - **- National Land Management Agency**
 - **- Water Resources and Environment Agency**
 - **- National Audit Office**
 - **- Ministry of Finance (MOF):** Customs Department;
 - **- National Assembly**
 - **- Ministry of Justice**
 - **- Ministry of Forestry and Agriculture (MAF):** DOF; DOFI,
 - **- Ministry of Industry and Commerce (MoIC)**
 - **- NLMA**
 - **- Provincial Administrations**
 - **- District Administrations**
 - **- Village Administration**



Structure



Current Context

- The next major step is to make a decision on whether and when to enter formal VPA negotiations.
 - Need to formalize institutional structure
 - Full mandate for FLEGT Steering Committee
 - Full mandate for FLEGT Focal Point
 - Senior Ministry Staff to reflect on Baseline and Timber Flow study findings
 - Need clear understanding of benefits



Governance

- Department Of Forest Inspection
 - Works at national and provincial level, will extend to district and villages in due course
 - Currently 450 staff
- Legislation
 - Regulations
 - Decrees
 - Codes of Practice

All under review within the new Forest Law



International Commitments

- Lao PDR is a signatory to
 - CITES
 - ASEAN -WEN
 - The Convention on Biological Diversity
 - ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF)
 - Commitment to TLAS by 2015
 - Generic CoC systems



Enforcement:

- Whatever the policy the proof comes in what happens on the ground
 - Timber confiscation
 - Vehicles impounded
 - Mills suspended / closed
 - Wild life
 - Court cases



Road Map

Criteria	Actions	Responsible organization	Lastest update status
Legality	Feasibility study: - Gap analysis of Lao legal framework in the context of FLEGT TLAS requirements. - Assessment Lao PDR Baseline, Stakeholder and VPA Options scoping study for meeting FLEGT Requirement	MAF, MOIC, MOJ, MOF EFI FLEGT Asia Program	The draft ToR of these two proposals were merged into one study and will provide to Lao FLEGT Focal Point
	National Consultation to define a mutual definition of "Legality"	The key line Ministries	Not started yet
	Sharing experiences with experiences countries (Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, etc.)	EU delegations, MAF, MOIC, MOF, LWPA	- Laos FLEGT Focal Point went to Vietnam during 1 st to 5 th March 2011 in order to exchange the experiences regards FLEGT/VPA - Expected to go to Indonesia to exchange experience regards Indonesia's TLAS.
	Negotiate with EU for the common Definition of Legality.	EU, FLEGT Taskforce	The original date to launch this activity by 2012 will be proposed to move to the end of 2012 or early 2013.
Control of Supply chain	Complare the CoC system with ASEAN, EU Standard	MAF, MOIC, EFI FLEGT Asia, EU, ASEAN	Expected to launch by mid of 2011 with the feasibility study
	Dissemination of the CoC system	MAF, MOIC, LNCCI, EFI, WWF	The CoC system is already disseminated in the provinces within the SUFORD Project. However we still need the support to organize the workshop for the implementing staff at the local level

Road Map

Criteria	Actions	Responsible Organization	Lastest update status
	Promotion of CoC system in 10 pilot factories	MOIC, LNCCI in collaboration with SUFORD, WWF, EFI.	Expect to be achieved by the end of 2011
	Fully implementation of the CoC system	MAF, MOIC, MOF, LNCCI	Expect to be achieved by the end of 2011
Verification (supply Chain and Legality Definition)	- Strengthening the national verification institution	MAF, MOIC, MOF, EFI FLEGT Asia Program, ASEAN, EU	Expect to be launched in Dec 2010 or early 2011.
	Participation with Regional or International Workshop, Meeting	MAF, MOIC, LNCCI, EU delegations	
	Promoting the enforcement of the national regulation	EU delegations, MAF, MOIC, MOF	
Independent Monitoring of the entire system	Discussion with EU in the common requirement of the Accredited independent monitoring organization.	MAF, MOIC, EU	2012 – 2013
	Define TOR of independent monitoring organization	MAF, MOIC, EU.	2012 – 2013
VPA	Negotiation with EU	Lao PDR, EU	Expect to begin the negotiation by the end of 2012

Conclusion:

- Lao PDR is in transition
 - Forest Law review
 - New Ministries & Departments
 - Increased pressure on resources
- FLEGT can support
 - Institutional structure
 - Data to underpin strategy
 - Technical support & Resources



Thank you