

VPAs and SMEs in Mekong countries

Public group on:

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G **T** .org



share
your
views

VPAs and SMEs in Mekong countries

New website and discussion group

The EU FLEGT Facility has launched a web page and online forum focused on small and informal forest products enterprises in the context of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) in the Mekong region.

Countries across the region are engaging in processes to negotiate VPAs with the EU to address illegal logging and promote trade in legal timber products. But little is known about how VPAs could affect small and informal enterprises.

The Facility therefore aims to fill critical information gaps by assessing these sectors in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, paying special attention to potential impacts of VPAs on women. It aims to increase knowledge about small, micro and also informal enterprises (SMEs) and smallholders, and address potential challenges to them operating legally and being economically successful in the context of VPAs.

The Swedish International Development Agency (Sida) is funding the work, which will help national stakeholders identify ways to ensure SMEs and smallholders can more easily participate in the supply chains covered by national timber legality assurance systems.

The new web page explains the background and goals of the work, including its focus on gender. Stakeholders can use the new online forum to share their views and discuss issues among themselves and with the EU FLEGT Facility.

Links

Page on the EU FLEGT
Facility website

bit.ly/VPA-SME-web

Group on
FLEGT.org

bit.ly/VPA-SME-group

How to

become a member of FLEGT.org

1

Create an account

Go to flegt.org/sign-up and fill in your account details.

2

Fill out your profile information

Sign in with your account details and fill out your profile information.

3

Start using the social features

With your public profile you are ready to start using the **calendar**, **social wall**, **directory** and more.

How to join a group or an organisation

Follow

You need to follow a group or organisation before you can become a member.

1

Log in to FLEGT.org.

2

Go to the **directory** to find a group or organisation. Click on the name of the group or organisation to go to its profile page.

3

Click on the button

Follow



Become a member

Being a member enables you to access private resources and events and share materials with the members of the group or organisation.

1

If you are already logged in to FLEGT.org, you will see the option to become a member of that group or organisation on its profile page.

Become a member



2

You will receive an email once your membership is approved by a group administrator.

How to create a group or an organisation

Create a group or an organisation if yours is not listed on FLEGT.org.

1

Log in

Log in to FLEGT.org and go to the **directory**.

2

Request to create a new organisation or group

Click on the button

Create a new organisation or group if it is not listed



Located underneath the search column on the left.

3

Fill in the details

Fill in the information about your group or organisation. You will receive an email once your group or organisation is approved and online.

Frequently asked questions

How do I create a FLEGT.org profile?

To start using FLEGT.org and its social features, you first need to create an account. Fill in the information. You will be prompted to choose a group or organisation that you are affiliated with. If you are an independent user or your organisation is not listed, choose 'independent' and save your profile. You will receive an email to confirm that your account has been approved.

As soon as your account is approved, you can sign in with your account details. You will be prompted to fill in your member profile information. In this step you can also create a group or organisation. Save your profile and you are ready to start using the FLEGT.org social features.

How do I follow and become a member of another group or organisation?

Go to the directory to search for a group or organisation. Once you have found your selected organisation, go to the group or organisation page and choose 'follow' to follow that group or organisation. You will then receive a prompt to become a member of that group or organisation.

How can I post as an organisation?

Once you are a member of an organisation, you can link your posts to that organisation. You can post directly from the social wall page, your profile page or from the group or organisation page.

How do I link and unlink posts to a group or an organisation?

If you post as an organisation, that post will automatically be linked to that organisation. You can unlink the post from the organisation simply by clicking 'unlink organisation' underneath the post.

Why can't I post documents?

Only administrators of groups or organisations can post documents. If you are not an administrator, you can still post links to documents and other materials on the social wall. See the instructions below on how to become a group or organisation administrator.

Frequently asked questions

Why can't I create my own calendar event?

Only administrators of groups or organisations can create events. See the instructions below on how to become a group or organisation administrator.

How do I become a group or organisation administrator?

To become an administrator of a group or organisation you need to first be a member of that group or organisation. You will then be prompted to become an administrator of that group or organisation. This step needs to be validated by another administrator of the selected group or organisation.

Can I contribute news or other resources?

Yes, FLEGT.org is for all FLEGT actors to use to share their knowledge and resources. The EU FLEGT Facility will update FLEGT.org with new modules. Members of FLEGT.org can submit their own news, research and training materials.

How does FLEGT.org differ from other online spaces related to FLEGT?

Several websites and portals already host information about the EU FLEGT Action Plan. FLEGT.org does not aim to replace or compete with these sites. Indeed, FLEGT.org aims to increase visits to these sites by identifying them as credible sources of information.

Can I complain about content?

Our social features are moderated for any content that is deemed inappropriate or offensive. If you would like to alert us to particular content or user behaviour please contact us at info@flegt.org.

How can I receive further help?

Please send questions to FLEGT.org at info@flegt.org.



Combating illegal logging
through forest law enforcement, governance and trade

About FLEGT.org

FLEGT.org is dedicated to sharing accurate information and practical knowledge about the EU FLEGT Action Plan. It is a one-stop centre where members can access and share news, research, training materials and many other resources. It is a place to network with civil society, private sector and government organisations and individuals who are working to achieve the Action Plan's goals of combating illegal logging and fostering good forest governance.

Disclaimer

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