

(PRIORITISATION) OF STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION (SPA) FOR THE ASEAN CO-OPERATION IN FORESTRY

(Period of Implementation 2021-2025)

SECTOR: FORESTRY
 SUB-SECTOR: -
 RESPONSIBLE WORKING GROUP : ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF)

STRATEGIC THRUST 1: ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT					
Action Programme	Activities	Sub Activities	Responsible ASOF Subsidiary Bodies/Lead Country	Timeline	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
1.1 Increase of Forest Resource Base and Conserving Existing Forest Resources, including Forest Biological Diversity.	1.1.1 Facilitate reforestation and afforestation programmes.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Annual extent of area reforested and afforested in ASEAN Member States (AMS) reported.
	1.1.2 Review and assess fiscal and other social and economic incentives for enhancing forest conservation and restoration.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	List of fiscal and other social and economic incentives in AMS for enhancing forest conservation and restoration compiled.

	1.1.3 Review and adapt national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.		AWG-CITES and WE, and AWG-FM	2021-2025	National strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity in AMS adapted for implementation.
	1.1.4 strengthening of forest protection and law enforcement initiatives		AWG-FM/ASOF	2021-2025	Annual extent of natural and plantation forests patrolled and protected Increasing of forest resources base and conserving of existing forest resources (including biodiversity conservation) can also be achieved by investing on the forest protection of the existing forests as well as new forest plantation established through reforestation.
1.2 - Enhancement of Sustainable Forest Management and Use the Resources within Safe Ecological Limits.	1.2.1 Review and assess the implementation of the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests through the online and offline Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting Format for Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN (MAR Format) at both the national and forest management unit (FMU) levels.	Regular update on the implementation of ASEAN C&I at the annual meeting	AWG-FM	2021-2025	Five year assessment report on the status of implementation of the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests in AMS prepared and shared with the ASEAN Secretariat.

	<p>1.2.2 Undertake a comprehensive review of forest and forest-related laws and regulations at national level to ensure that the laws and regulations are consistent with and are not in conflict with other bodies of legislation and that they support and promote sustainable forest management.</p>		AWG-FM	2021-2025	List of forest and forest-related laws and regulations at the national level that support and promote sustainable forest management compiled.
	<p>1.2.3 Detect, prevent and suppress forest fires, including peatland fires to reduce risk of fires and transboundary haze pollution through the implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI).</p>	Develop capacity building activities on forest fires management	AWG-FM	2021-2025	<p>Annual report on the frequency of forest fires, including peatland fires, and the status of implementation of the ASEAN Peatland Management Initiative (APMI) prepared and shared with ASOEN.</p> <p>A proposal for capacity building activities on forest fires management is developed.</p>
	<p>1.2.4 Develop effective mechanisms for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the commercial utilisation of forest genetic resources, including payment to local</p>		AWG-FM, AWG-CITES and WE, ASEAN Working Group on Social	2021-2025	Mechanisms for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the commercial utilisation of forest genetic resources, including payment schemes, to local communities and indigenous people ¹ developed.

	communities and indigenous people ¹ arising from the use of traditional forest-related knowledge and technologies developed by them for sustainable forest management.		Forestry (AWG-SF)		
	1.2.5 Elaborate measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species to the forest ecosystems, and control or eradicate priority species.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species on the forest ecosystems developed and incorporated in forest management plans.
	1.2.6 Facilitate the integration of forest ecosystem and biological diversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts.		AWG-FM, AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	Mechanisms to facilitate the integration of forest ecosystem and biological diversity values into national and local planning, development processes and poverty reduction strategies, and accounts developed.
	1.2.7 Promote inter-sectoral co-operation between the forestry sector and other sectors, including agriculture,		ASOF	2021-2025	Policies to promote inter-sectoral co-operation between forestry and other sectors formulated and implemented by AMS.

¹ Not applicable to Thailand as it does not have indigenous people according to Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Thailand, Lao PDR and Indonesia.

	environment, customs, and trade.				
1.3. Enhancement of Forest Management involving Community living within and surrounding the Forest for the Sustainability of the Forest and Prosperity of the People.	1.3.1 Design and implement social forestry programmes, including strategy, by indigenous people ¹ , local communities, forest communities and other forest-dependent communities that effectively contribute to sustainable forest management at the local level, climate change adaptation and mitigation, rural development and poverty alleviation, as well as improved livelihoods and social well-being.		AWG-SF	2021-2025	Social forestry programmes, including strategy that contribute to sustainable forest management at the local level developed and implemented by AMS.
	1.3.2 Promote forest management involving community living within and surrounding the forest while recognising and respecting their rights, especially those pertaining to their lands and resources.		AWG-SF	2021-2025	Number of forest management plans involving local communities in managing, developing and conserving the forest resources implemented.

	<p>1.3.3 Review customary and statutory tenure arrangements at the national level, including access and use rights, of indigenous people¹, local communities, forest communities and other forest-dependent communities to ensure that they are recognised, respected and protected by effective legislation, including the principle of free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as provided for in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) of 2007.</p>		AWG-SF	2021-2025	Updated list of customary and statutory tenure arrangements at the national level, including access and use rights, compiled and shared with indigenous people ¹ , local communities, forest communities and other forest-dependent communities
	<p>1.3.4 Assess and analyse the contribution and impact of social forestry programmes in enhancing sustainable forest management and the well-being of the people.</p>		AWG-SF	2021-2025	Extent of area of community forest developed and managed, and the percentage increase in income of the people involved documented.

	1.3.5 Support alternatives to deforestation driven by basic needs, such as subsistence farming and the reliance on fuelwood for energy.		AWG-FM, AWG-SF	2021-2025	Plans and/or policies developed by AMS to reduce subsistence farming and the use of fuelwood for energy significantly.
	1.3.6 Promote the strengthening of appropriate technology and its accessibility in developing social forestry, and in particular, to fulfill food and energy security and medicinal needs of local community and forest-dependent people.		AWG-SF	2021-2025	Documentation and the sharing of knowledge of appropriate technology in enhancing social forestry practices prepared and disseminated .
1.4. Adoption of Sustainable Management Practices for Non-wood Forest Products, such as Medicinal Plants, Rattan, Bamboo, etc.	1.4.1 Document sustainable management practices of non-wood products.		AWG-FM, AWG-SF	2021-2025	Documents of sustainable management practices of specific non-wood products prepared and shared among AMS.
	1.4.2 Promote cross-country learning in managing non-wood forest products sustainably.		AWG-FM, AWG-SF	2021-2025	Management practices of specific non-wood products in AMS are shared through the ASEAN Forest Clearing House Mechanism (CHM).
1.5. Strengthened Forest Law Enforcement and	1.5.1 Monitor, assess and report periodically the progress in implementing		AWG-FM	2021-2025	An assessment report on the status of implementation of the Manual prepared and shared among AMS.

Governance (FLEG).	the Manual for Assessing FLEG Implementation in AMS.				
	1.5.2 Prepare a handbook on good practices of FLEG for the ASEAN region.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	A handbook on good practices of FLEG in ASEAN, based on experiences and lessons learned in implementing the Manual for Assessing FLEG Implementation in AMS prepared.
	1.5.3 Strengthen the implementation of forest law enforcement, governance, transparency and the rule of law.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Strategic measures to strengthen enforcement of forest law and governance in AMS developed and implemented.
	1.5.4 Establish a regional clearing house mechanism to enable the sharing and exchange of information on legal and illegal activities in the forestry sector in the region.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Website of ASEAN Cooperation in Forestry is maintained and updated regularly as a platform to exchange knowledge and best practices on forestry among AMS.

	1.5.5 Develop a framework for enforcement co-operation at the ASEAN level that deals with transnational illegal forestry activities and to facilitate cross-border enforcement.		AWG CITES and WE/AWG-FM	2021-2025	Rules and procedures to facilitate cross-border enforcement on transnational illegal forestry activities established.
1.6. Mobilisation of Finance and other Resources for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management and Development of Forest-based Products.	1.6.1 Mobilise significantly measurable increased in investments at all levels to finance sustainable forest management.		ASOF, AWG-FM	2021-2025	Strategic measures to mobilise additional investment to finance sustainable forest management developed and implemented.
	1.6.2 Further promote payment of ecosystem services derived from forests.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Programmes for payment of ecosystem services in AMS prepared and shared among AMS.

STRATEGIC THRUST 2: ENHANCING TRADE FACILITATION, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND MARKET ACCESS					
Action Programme	Activities	Sub Activities	Responsible ASOF Subsidiary Bodies/Lead Country	Timeline	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
2.1. Facilitation of Forest Products Trade.	2.1.1 Review and assess the implementation of forest certification using the ASEAN Guidelines on Phased-approach to Forest Certification.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Annual report on the implementation of forest certification using the ASEAN Guidelines on Phased-approach to Forest Certification in AMS prepared.
	2.1.2 Review and assess the implementation of chain-of-custody of timber and timber products by the wood-based industries using the ASEAN Guidelines for Chain-of-Custody of Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Annual report on the implementation of chain-of-custody of timber and timber products by the wood-based industries using the ASEAN Guidelines for Chain-of-Custody of Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber in AMS prepared.
	2.1.3 Incorporate forest sustainability criteria and indicators into the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Forest sustainability criteria and indicators incorporated into the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber.

	2.1.4 Harmonise periodically standards of ASEAN forest products and specifications to facilitate trade.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Periodic reviews of progress on harmonisation of standards of forest products and specifications to facilitate trade conducted.
	2.1.5 Encourage greater participation of the private sector in the development of the forest-based industries through capital investment, technology transfer, and access to market opportunities.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Strategic measures to encourage private sector representatives to further develop the forest-based industries implemented and reported.
	2.1.6 Identify and eliminate non-tariff measures (NTMs) that have no economic or scientific rationale and reinforce efforts to improve trade in timber products.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	List of NTMs that have no economic or scientific rationale and prioritised in order of importance compiled and endorsed by AMS.
	2.1.7 Increase competitiveness of non-wood forest products in the international market.		AWG-FPD, AWG-SF	2021-2025	Information on properties and uses of specific non-wood forest products widely disseminated.
	2.1.8 Promote dialogue with the private sector in improving the quality and efficiency of the timber		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Strategic measures to promote dialogue with private sector representatives to improve quality and efficiency of the timber industry and in processing of other forest products developed and implemented.

	industry and in processing of other forest products.				
	2.1.9 Encourage the sharing of information on the requirements on trade in forest products among AMS.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Mechanisms for sharing information on the requirements on trade in forest products among AMS developed and implemented.
	2.1.10 Strengthen efforts among AMS to establish regional agreements to enhance intra-ASEAN timber trade, including the requirement for legal timber, and promote co-operation with ASEAN's external partners in the global timber trade.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Regional agreements to enhance intra-ASEAN timber trade, including legal timber, in place, and promote co-operation with external partners.
2.2. Enhancement of Co-operation in Forest Products Development.	2.2.1 Facilitate further improvement of timber and timber products processing technologies that enhance the efficiency in the use of raw materials and energy.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Mechanisms to facilitate the improvement of timber processing technologies that enhance the use of raw materials and energy developed.
	2.2.2. Facilitate diversification and intensification of		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Mechanisms to facilitate the diversification and intensification of downstream processing of more value-added products developed.

	downstream processing of more value-added timber and timber products.				
	2.2.3 Improve policy, legal and institutional frameworks to attract increased investments in value addition to the forest-based industries.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Periodic reviews of progress in the increase of investments in value addition to the forest-based industries conducted.
	2.2.4 Promote the domestication and mass production of medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants, and support the establishment of such industries.	Publication of the Herbal and Medicinal Plants (Vol III)	AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Strategic measures to promote the domestication and mass production of medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants with private sector representatives developed and implemented. ASEAN Herbal and Medicinal Plants Volume III published
	2.2.5 Involve the private sector in identifying priority products and to focus scarce scientific and technical resources on high pay-off products.		AWG-FPD	2021-2025	Plans to enhance private sector involvement in identifying priority products and to focus scarce scientific and technical resources on high pay-off products developed and implemented.

STRATEGIC THRUST 3: ENHANCING THE FORESTRY SECTOR RESILIENCE AND ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE					
Action Programme	Activities	Sub Activities	Responsible ASOF Subsidiary Bodies/Lead Country	Timeline	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
3.1. Integration of Climate Change in the Forestry Sector.	3.1.1 Assess the impacts and risks of planned climate change mitigation and adaptation in the forestry sector.		AWG-FCC	2021-2025	National report as required and submitted to UNFCCC by AMS prepared.
	3.1.2 Assess the impacts of climate change and risks on forest biological diversity at the genetics, species, habitat and ecosystem levels.		AWG-FCC, AWG-FM	2021-2025	Periodic reports on the impacts of climate change and risks on forest biological diversity in AMS prepared. Mechanisms to address the impacts of climate change and risks on forest biological diversity in AMS developed.
	3.1.3 Develop holistic and integrated national mitigation and adaptation strategies for the forestry sector.		AWG-FCC	2021-2025	Progress report on Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)/ Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the forestry sector by AMS prepared.
	3.1.4 Promote dialogue at the national and regional level on the role of the forestry sector in addressing climate		AWG-FCC	2021-2025	Numbers of dialogue and forum with stakeholders on the role of the forestry sector in addressing climate change issues and in contributing to sustainable development in AMS is conducted.

	change issues and in contributing to sustainable development objectives.				
	3.1.5 Strengthen investors' confidence and attract carbon financing.		AWG-FCC	2021-2025	Strategic measures to strengthen investors' confidence in forest carbon financing developed and implemented.
	3.1.6 Strengthen capacity and resources in addressing climate change issues in the forestry sector through regional and sub-regional collaboration.		AWG-FCC	2021-2025	Regional mechanism for strengthening capacity and resources in addressing climate change issues in the forestry sector developed.
3.2. Promotion of Forestry and Climate Change Adaptation	3.2.1 Document the role of coastal forests and mangroves in providing protection for people and assets against storms and cyclones, tsunami and other natural disaster.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Contributions of coastal forests and mangroves in providing protection against storms and cyclones, tsunami and other natural disaster in AMS documented.
	3.2.2 Conduct periodic assessment of forest health and productivity against fire, forest diebacks, the spread of pests and diseases, and invasive species.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Periodic assessment reports of forest health and productivity in AMS conducted.

	3.2.3 Address and strengthen the links between forestry and food production through an integrated approach in landscape management, especially watershed management.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Approaches for integrating forestry with food production studied and documented.
3. 3. Enhancement of Forestry in Climate Change Mitigation	3.3.1 Monitor, assess and report periodically changes in forest carbon stock.		AWG-FM, AWG-FCC	2021-2025	Periodic Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) report on the status of forest carbon stock in AMS prepared.
	3.3.2 Promote the enhancement of sinks through afforestation and reforestation.		AWG-FM	2021-2025	Extent of annual area afforested or reforested as sinks in AMS documented.
	3.3.3 Facilitate and scale up REDD+ activities through the effective implementation of the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ and other decisions on REDD+.		AWG-FCC	2021-2025	Extent of forest area implemented under REDD+ initiatives in AMS documented.

STRATEGIC THRUST 4: INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT					
Action Programme	Activities	Sub Activities	Responsible ASOF Subsidiary Bodies/Lead Country	Timeline	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
4.1. Promotion and Implementation of Training Programmes in Forestry.	4.1.1 Identify existing training facilities and available training programmes in the region and develop mechanisms for sharing of such training facilities and programmes.		AWG-FM, AWG-FPD, AWG-SF, AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	List of existing training facilities and available training programmes, including mechanisms for sharing them, compiled.
	4.1.2 Conduct training on the Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN.	Training on Timber Legality Assurance System	AWG-FM	2021-2025	Report on the training from AMS on SFM prepared and Exchanged.
	4.1.3 Undertake professional training programmes for judges in forest legislation, particularly those at the level of courts that deal with forest and forest-related cases, as well as for customs and border guards.		AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	List of conducted professional trainings in forest legislation for judges, customs and border guards in AMS compiled and disseminated.

	4.1.4 Promote greater awareness and legal literacy among local communities whose livelihoods are dependent on the goods and services provided by forests.		AWG-SF, AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	Strategic measures to further enhance local communities on the provisions in forest laws and legislation in AMS developed and implemented.
4.2. Enhancement of Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned.	4.2.1 Facilitate cross-learning among AMS in enhancing sustainable forest management practices, combating illegal forestry activities and timber trade, including the EU-FLEGT VPA process; and in improving the range and quality of wood products.		AWG-FM, AWG-FPD, AWG-SF	2021-2025	Practices of sustainable forest management, including combating illegal forestry activities and timber trade, and in improving the range and quality of wood products shared through the ASEAN Forestry Website.
	4.2.2 Conduct workshops, seminars, and webinars, including focused group discussions, on topics affecting the sustainability of the forest resources and the forest-based industries in the region.		AWG-FM, AWG-FPD, AWG-SF, AWG-CITES and WE	2021-2025	List of conducted workshops, seminars, webinars and focused group discussions compiled and disseminated.

4.3. Strengthened Research and Development (R&D).	4.3.1 Enhance R&D co-operation and technology transfer among forestry research institutions in the region.		AWG-FM, AWG- FPD, AWG-SF	2021- 2025	Annual reviews of R&D partnerships in the region conducted and to increase R&D resources significantly.
	4.3.2 Strengthen the networking of forestry research institutions within and with those outside the region.		AWG-FM, AWG-FPD, AWG-SF	2021- 2025	Mechanisms for networking of forestry research institutions within and with those outside the region developed.
	4.3.3 Formulate and implement arrangements for exchange of experts and scientists, and research materials and information in compliance with national legislation.		AWG-FM, AWG- FPD, AWG-SF	2021- 2025	Rules and procedures for facilitating exchange of experts and scientists, and research materials and information by AMS established in compliance with national legislation.

THRUST 5: STRENGTHENING ASEAN'S JOINT APPROACHES ON REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE FORESTRY SECTOR

Action Programme	Activities	Sub Activities	Responsible ASOF Subsidiary Bodies/Lead Country	Timeline	Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)
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<p>.5.1. Strengthened ASEAN Co-ordinated Actions at Regional and International Fora.</p>	<p>5.1.1 Support and contribute to international and regional initiatives to reduce carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation.</p>		<p>AWG-FCC</p>	<p>2021-2025</p>	<p>Mechanisms for regional co-operation to contribute to reduce carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation developed.</p>
	<p>5.1.2 Invite the international community to participate and contribute to ASEAN's efforts in afforestation and reforestation, as well as to reduce deforestation and forest degradation.</p>		<p>AWG-FCC, AWG-FM</p>	<p>2021-2025</p>	<p>Engagement with the international community to contribute to afforestation and reforestation, and reduce deforestation and forest degradation conducted.</p>
	<p>5.1.3 Strengthen regional and sub-regional collaboration in the implementation of agreed outcomes of forest and forest-related agreements and fora (UNFF, UNFCCC, CITES, etc).</p>		<p>AWG-FM, AWG-CITES and WE, AWG-FCC</p>	<p>2021-2025</p>	<p>ASEAN level report on implementation of agreed outcomes of forest and forest-related international agreements and fora prepared and disseminated.</p>
<p>5.2. Enhancement of ASEAN Joint Approaches in Addressing Regional and</p>	<p>5.2.1 Exchange information on forest and forest-related issues and challenges affecting the interest of AMS,</p>		<p>AWG-FM, AWG-FCC</p>	<p>2021-2025</p>	<p>Procedures to facilitate exchange of information on forest and forest-related issues and challenges established.</p>

International Forestry Issues.	including experiences and lessons learned in addressing them.				
	5.2.2 Adopt and articulate ASEAN common positions and influence the outcomes of the deliberations at international and regional fora (UNFF, UNFCCC, CITES, etc).		AW-FM, AWG-CITES and WE, AWG-FCC	2021-2025	Mechanisms for adopting and articulating ASEAN common positions at international and regional fora developed.