

# 2016-2025 STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR ASEAN COOPERATION ON FORESTRY

*Adopted in Makati City, the Philippines on 10 September 2015*

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AEC	ASEAN Economic Community
AFCC	ASEAN Multi-Sectoral Framework on Climate Change
AMAF	ASEAN Ministers Meeting on Agriculture and Forestry
AMS	ASEAN Member States
ASCC	ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community
ASEAN	Association of the Southeast Asian Nations
ASOF	ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry
AWG	ASEAN Working Group
FAF	Food, Agriculture and Forestry
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FLEG	Forest Law Enforcement and Governance
MAR	Monitoring, Assessment and Reporting
NTB	Non-Tariff Barrier
NTM	Non-Tariff Measure
SFM	Sustainable Forest Management
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SOM-AMAF	Senior Officials Meeting of the ASEAN Ministers on Agriculture and Forestry
SPS	Sanitary and Phytosanitary

## INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The ASEAN co-operation in the agriculture sector dated back as early as 1968, with co-operation in food production and supply. In 1977, the scope of co-operation was broadened to include the greater area of agriculture and forestry as the needs have increased. Currently, the specific areas under the ASEAN co-operation in food, agriculture and forestry include food security, crops, livestock, fisheries, forestry and joint co-operation in agriculture and forest products promotion scheme.
- 1.2 Historically, the Hanoi Action Plan (1997-2004) and Vientiane Action Programme (2004-2010) guided the ASEAN co-operation in forestry with the mandate to enhance global competitiveness of ASEAN's forestry products and to promote intra and extra-ASEAN trade, and greater private sector investment in the forestry sector. In dealing with that, ASEAN has been conducting regional policy dialogues, exchange knowledge and information and capacity building activities on many aspects of the forestry sector.

- 1.3 Towards the implementation of the AEC Blueprint 2025 and the vision and strategic plan of the ASEAN co-operation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry, the 17<sup>th</sup> Meeting of ASOF that was held on 12-13 June 2014 in Siem Reap, Cambodia discussed the strategic plan on ASEAN co-operation in forestry as elaborated in the paper entitled “ASEAN Co-operation on Food, Agriculture, and Forestry Sectors and its Strategic Plan (2016-2020): Forestry Sector”. The vision for the ASEAN co-operation in forestry is “Forest resources are sustainably managed at the landscape level to meet societal needs, both socio-economically and culturally, of the present and future generations, and to contribute positively to sustainable development”. The goal for the forestry sector in ASEAN is to “enhance sustainable forest management for the continuous production of forest goods and services in a balanced way and ensuring forest protection and biological diversity conservation, as well as optimise their utilisation, compatible with social and ecological sustainability”.
- 1.4 As guided by the ASOF Leaders, the Special ASEAN Senior Officials on Forestry (ASOF) Technical Meeting on Developing New Strategic Plan of Action (SPA) Forestry (2016-2025) was organised in Phnom Penh, Cambodia from 4-5 March 2015 to discuss the SPA for ASEAN Co-operation on Forestry (2016-2025). The Meeting came up with the first draft of the SPA for ASEAN Co-operation on Forestry (2016-2025). Subsequently the draft SPA was presented at the 11<sup>th</sup> AEG-IFPP Meeting, the 18<sup>th</sup> ASOF Meeting and finalised by the Workshop that preceded the 12<sup>th</sup> AEG-IFPP Meeting held on 8 June 2016.
- 1.5 The Workshop agreed to re-arrange the five Strategic Thrusts where Strategic Thrust 1 - Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management, and Strategic Thrust 2 - Enhancing Trade Facilitation, Economic Integration and Market Access will remain as proposed. They will be followed by Strategic Thrust 3 - Enhancing the Forestry Sector Resilience and Role in Climate Change, Strategic Thrust 4 - Institutional Strengthening and Human Resources Development, and Strategic Thrust 5 - Strengthening ASEAN's Joint Approaches on Regional and International Issues Affecting the Forestry Sector. The final draft SPA for the ASEAN Co-operation in Forestry (2016-2025) was agreed by the 12<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the AEG-IFPP that was also held in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 9-10 June 2016 for ASOF endorsement.

## **STRATEGIC PLAN OF ACTION FOR ASEAN COOPERATION IN FORESTRY (2016-2025)**

- 2.1 Based on the above developments, the SPA for ASEAN Co-operation in Forestry (2016-2025) has incorporated almost all elements of the 7 Strategic Thrusts and the 10 Action Programmes under the Strategic Thrust 7 of the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Co-operation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025). The 7 Strategic Thrust are as follows:
- (i) Strategic Thrust 1 - Enhance quantity and quality of production with sustainable, green technologies, resource management systems, and minimise pre- and post-harvest losses and waste;
  - (ii) Strategic Thrust 2 - Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access;

- (iii) Strategic Thrust 3 - Ensure food security, food safety, better nutrition and equitable distribution;
- (iv) Strategic Thrust 4 - Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks;
- (v) Strategic Thrust 5 - Assist resource constrained small producers and SMEs to improve productivity, technology and product quality to meet global market standards and increase competitiveness in line with the ASEAN Policy Blueprint on SME Development;
- (vi) Strategic Thrust 6 - Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues; and
- (vii) Strategic Thrust 7 - Promote sustainable forest management.

2.2 The SPA for ASEAN Co-operation in Forestry (2016-2025) as in Appendix 1, comprise of 5 Strategic Thrusts, 16 Action Programmes and 74 Activities. It has taken on board Strategic Thrust 2 - Enhance trade facilitation, economic integration and market access; Strategic Thrust 4 - Increase resilience to climate change, natural disasters and other shocks; Strategic Thrust 6 - Strengthen ASEAN joint approaches on international and regional issues affecting the FAF sector; and Strategic Thrust 7- Promote sustainable forest management of the 7 Strategic Thrusts of the Vision and Strategic Plan for ASEAN Co-operation in Food, Agriculture and Forestry (2016-2025) endorsed at the 37<sup>th</sup> Meeting of AMAF.

### **STRATEGIC THRUST 1 ENHANCING SUSTAINABLE FOREST MANAGEMENT**

It has 6 Action Programmes and 29 Activities as follows:

- (i) Action Programme 1.1 - Increase of Forest Resource Base and Conserving Existing Forest Resources, including Forest Biological Diversity with 3 Activities to:
  - (a) Facilitate reforestation and afforestation programmes, and review and assess fiscal and other social and economic incentives for enhancing forest conservation and restoration; and
  - (b) Review and adapt national strategies, plans and programmes for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- (ii) Action Programme 1.2 - Enhancement of Sustainable Forest Management and Use the Resources within Safe Ecological Limits [Malaysia seeks the definition] with 7 Activities, among others, to:
  - (a) Review and assess the implementation of the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Sustainable Management of Tropical Forests;
  - (b) Detect, prevent and suppress forest fires, including peatland fires;

- (c) Develop effective mechanisms for the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the commercial utilisation of forest genetic resources, including payment to local communities;
  - (d) Elaborate measures to prevent the introduction of invasive alien species to the forest ecosystems, and control or eradicate priority species; and
  - (e) Promote inter-sectoral co-operation between the forestry sector and other sectors, including agriculture, environment, customs, and trade.
- (iii) Action Programme 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 with 6 Activities, among others, to:
- (a) Design and implement social forestry programmes that effectively contribute to sustainable forest management, climate change adaptation and mitigation, rural development and poverty alleviation;
  - (b) Review customary and statutory tenure arrangements at the national level as provided for in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) of 2007;
  - (c) Assess and analyse the contribution and impact of social forestry programmes in enhancing sustainable forest management; and
  - (d) Promote the strengthening of appropriate technology and its accessibility in developing social forestry, and support alternatives to deforestation driven by basic needs.
- (iv) Action Programme 1.4 - Adoption of Sustainable Management Practices for Non-wood Forest Products, such as Medicinal Plants, Rattan, Bamboo, etc. with 2 Activities to:
- (a) Document sustainable management practices of non-wood products; and
  - (b) Promote cross-country learning in managing non-wood products sustainably.
- (v) Action Programme 1.5 - Strengthened Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) with 8 Activities, among others, to:
- (a) Finalise the Manual for Assessing Forest Law Enforcement and Governance (FLEG) Implementation in ASEAN Member States and monitor, assess and report periodically on its implementation;
  - (b) Conduct needs assessment at the national level for FLEG implementation and prepare a handbook on good practices of FLEG for the ASEAN region;
  - (c) Address the social cultural aspect of illegal logging and its associated trade; and
  - (d) Develop a framework for enforcement co-operation at the ASEAN level to address transnational illegal forestry activities and facilitate cross-border enforcement.

- (vi) Action Programme 1.6 - Mobilisation of Finance and other Resources for Enhancing Sustainable Forest Management and Development of Forest-based Products with 3 Activities to:
- (a) Mobilise significantly measurable increased in investments at all levels to finance sustainable forest management;
  - (b) Encourage incentives that stimulate investments in sustainable forest management and the development of forest-based products; and
  - (c) Further promote payment of eco-system services derived from forests.

**STRATEGIC THRUST 2**  
**ENHANCING TRADE FACILITATION, ECONOMIC INTEGRATION AND MARKET ACCESS**

It has 2 Action Programmes and 18 Activities as follows:

- (i) Action Programme 2.1 - Facilitation of Forest Products Trade with 13 Activities, among others, to:
- (a) Review and assess the implementation of forest certification using the ASEAN Guidelines on Phased-approach to Forest Certification;
  - (b) Review and assess the implementation of chain-of-custody of timber and timber products using the ASEAN Guidelines for Chain-of-Custody of Legal Timber and Sustainable Timber;
  - (c) Incorporate forest sustainability criteria and indicators into the ASEAN Criteria and Indicators for Legality of Timber;
  - (d) Harmonise periodically standards of ASEAN forest products and specifications to facilitate trade, including quarantine and inspection procedure and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures in accordance with internationally-accepted standards and guidelines;
  - (e) Encourage greater participation of the private sector in the development of the forest-based industries;
  - (f) Facilitate the inclusion of legal timber trade in the development of National Single Windows (NSWs);
  - (g) Identify and eliminate non-tariff measures (NTMs) that have no economic or scientific rationale, and increase competitiveness of non-wood forest products in the international market;
  - (h) Strengthen efforts among AMS to establish regional agreements on timber trade, including the requirement for legal timber; and

- (i) Develop a voluntary code of conduct and compliance system for companies to conduct their businesses lawfully, and include it in their corporate social responsibility (CSR).
- (ii) Action Programme 2.2 - Enhancement of Co-operation in Forest Products Development with 5 Activities to:
  - (a) Facilitate further improvement of timber and timber products processing technologies, including their efficiency in the use of raw materials and energy;
  - (b) Facilitate diversification and intensification of downstream processing of more value-added timber and timber products;
  - (c) Improve policy, legal and institutional frameworks to attract increased investments in value addition to the forest-based industries;
  - (d) Promote the domestication and mass production of medicinal, herbal and aromatic plants, and support the establishment of such industries; and
  - (e) Involve the private sector in identifying priority products and to focus scarce scientific and technical resources on high pay-off products.

**STRATEGIC THRUST 3  
ENHANCING THE FORESTRY SECTOR RESILIENCE AND  
ROLE IN CLIMATE CHANGE**

It has 3 Action Programmes and 13 Activities as follows:

- (i) Action Programme 3.1 - Integration of Climate Change in the Forestry Sector with 7 Activities, among others, to:
  - (a) Assess the impacts and risks of planned climate change mitigation and adaptation in the forestry sector, and develop holistic and integrated national mitigation and adaptation strategies to address them;
  - (b) Assess the impacts of climate change and risks on forest biological diversity at the genetics, species, habitat and ecosystem levels;
  - (c) Strengthen investors' confidence and attract carbon financing; and
  - (d) Strengthen private sector engagement in addressing climate change issues in the forestry sector, as well as capacity and resources through regional and sub-regional collaboration.
- (ii) Action Programme 3.2 - Promotion of Forestry and Climate Change Adaptation with 3 Activities to:
  - (a) Document the role of coastal forests and mangroves in providing protection for people and assets against storms and cyclones, tsunami and other natural disaster;

- (b) Conduct periodic assessment of forest health and productivity against fire, the spread of pests and diseases, and invasive species; and
  - (c) Address and strengthen the links between forestry and food production through an integrated approach in landscape management.
- (iii) Action Programme 3.3 - Enhancement of Forestry in Climate Change Mitigation with 3 Activities to:
- (a) Monitor, assess and report periodically changes in forest carbon stock;
  - (b) Promote the enhancement of sinks through afforestation and reforestation; and
  - (c) Facilitate and scale up REDD+ activities.

#### **STRATEGIC THRUST 4 INSTITUTIONAL STRENGTHENING AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT**

It has 3 Action Programmes and 9 Activities as follows:

- (i) Action Programme 4.1 - Promotion and Implementation of Training Programmes in Forestry with 4 Activities to;
  - (a) Identify existing training facilities and available training programmes in the region and develop mechanisms for sharing them;
  - (b) Conduct training of trainers on the online Monitoring, Assessment, and Reporting Format for Sustainable Forest Management in ASEAN (MAR Format);
  - (c) Undertake professional training programmes for judges in forest legislation, as well as for customs and border guards; and
  - (d) Promote greater awareness and legal literacy among local communities who are dependent on the goods and services provided by forests.
- (ii) Action Programme 4.2 - Enhancement of Sharing Experiences and Lessons Learned with 2 Activities to:
  - (a) Facilitate cross-learning among AMS in enhancing sustainable forest management practices, combating illegal forestry activities and timber trade, as well as in improving the range and quality of wood products; and
  - (b) Conduct workshops, seminars, webinars and focused group discussions on topics affecting the sustainability of the forest resources and the forest-based industries in the region.
- (iii) Action Programme 4.3 - Strengthened Research and Development (R&D) with 3 Activities to:
  - (a) Enhance R&D co-operation and technology transfer among forestry research institutions in the region;



- (b) Strengthen the networking of forestry research institutions within and with those outside the region; and
- (c) Formulate and implement arrangements for exchange of experts and scientists, and research materials and information in compliance with national legislation.

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

It has 2 Action Programmes and 5 Activities as follows:

- (i) Action Programme 5.1 - Strengthened ASEAN Co-ordinated Actions at Regional and International Fora with 3 Activities to:
  - (a) Support and contribute to international and regional initiatives to reduce carbon emission from deforestation and forest degradation;
  - (b) 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; and
  - (c) Strengthen regional and sub-regional collaboration in the implementation of agreed outcomes of forest and forest-related international agreements and fora.
- (ii) Action Programme 5.2 - Enhancement of ASEAN Joint Approaches in Addressing Regional and International Forestry Issues with 2 Activities to:
  - (a) Exchange information on forest and forest-related issues and challenges affecting the interest of AMS, including experiences and lessons learned in addressing them; and
  - (b) Adopt and articulate ASEAN common positions and influence the outcomes of the deliberations at international and regional fora.

2.9 Key performance indicators (KPIs) were also formulated for each activity under the 5 Strategic Thrusts and 16 Action Programmes, as well as responsible parties and the timeline indicated for realising the expected results over the planned period from 2016 to 2025. The detail SPA for ASEAN Co-operation on Forestry appears as in Appendix 1.

2.10 The implementation of the SPA on Forestry (2016-2025) will be carried out by the ASOF and its subsidiary bodies, namely AWG Forest Management, AWG Forest Product Development, AWG CITES and Wildlife Enforcement, AWG Social Forestry and AWG Forests and Climate Change.

2.11 On resource mobilisation, the current programme/projects supporting the ASEAN Co-operation on Forestry will be maintained and strengthened. In general, the resources to implement the SPA are the combination of AMS contribution, dialogue partners, international and development partners as well as the private sector.

2.12 To ensure the effective implementation of the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Co-operation in Forestry (2016-2025), ASOF should consider establishing an ASOF subsidiary bodies to pro-actively and closely monitor the implementation of the Plan. A mid-term review of the Strategic Plan of Action for ASEAN Co-operation in Forestry (2016-2025) should also be conducted in 2020 to assess the achievements made and to reflect on the relevance of the activities, taking into account emerging issues and challenges facing the forestry sector in ASEAN.