

Progress Report: International Consultant # 3: Legality

Promoting Quality Timber Production in Smallholders and Community-based Teak and Other Valuable Species Plantations in the Tropics (PP-A/54-331A)

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Outline

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2. Research Design & Methodology
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Key Mandate to promote legal timber production and trade from smallholder's plantations

- Review and evaluate policy measures in 6 target countries.
- Assess legal frameworks, identify **global challenges**, and suggest **solutions**.
- Compile all findings with **recommendations for follow-up actions**, in a technical project report

Key Deliverables

- 1x Technical Report
- 2x Policy Briefs
- Presentations for PSC meetings and Regional Workshops
- Final Report



Research process to evaluate legal frameworks promoting legal timber from smallholder and community plantations, ensuring the findings support policy recommendation.

1. Establish the **Policy Review Framework (The ideal policy mix)**
2. Review & Evaluate policy across six target countries (**Benchmark against Framework**)
3. Analyze Country Results (Identify Gaps: Policy Design vs. Implementation; Assess Receptivity)
4. Formulate Policy Recommendations & Follow-up Actions



Data Collection Methodology

1. Framework Development: Literature Review & Expert Interviews
2. Country Benchmarking: **Data Collection and review by National Consultants** via desk review & interview surveys
3. In-Depth Input: **Additional Interviews** to validate country findings and assess policy receptivity.



3. Work Plan & Progress Status

Period: 1 August 2024 to 31 October 2026

Activity	Timeline	Status	Plan
1. Framework Development	Oct 2024 – June 2025	Completed (100%)	-
2. Review & Evaluate policy of 6 countries			
Select and contract consultants (6 countries)	May -Aug 2025	Completed (100%)	-
Data Collection and review by the consultants (6 Countries)	Sep -Dec 2025	In progress	Completed by Dec 2025
Additional interview survey	Feb-Mar 2026	In Progress	Feb-Mar 2026
3. Analysis and Reporting	Jan – Sep 2026		
Analysis & Drafting Technical Report		Upcoming	Jan 2026 – Jul 2026
1st Policy Brief (challenges and opportunities)		Upcoming	Draft in Mar-May 2026
2 nd Policy Brief (policy recommendations)		Upcoming	Draft in Aug-Sep 2026

The Policy Review Framework: Ideal policy mix to promote legal timber production and trade from smallholder’s plantations

Structure	Policy Theme	Elements	Rational	Guiding Questions
Purpose/contents	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To establish the broad structure and scope of the policy review5 themes “Policy objective and Governance”, “Enforceable legal framework”, “Incentives”, “Market Access”, “Traceability and Due Diligence support”	<ul style="list-style-type: none">To specify the conditions that constitute each policy theme.17 specific policies, institutions, or requirements	To establish the justification for including each Element and ensures the academic legitimacy	Specific questions to verify and assess whether a country's policy adequately incorporates the Element

The Policy Review Framework: Examples

Policy Theme	Elements	Rationales	Guiding Questions
Clear policy objectives and government mechanisms	Integration into higher and wider policy arenas	Address multi-sectoral barriers and fragmentation while maximizing policy synergy	Are the promotion of smallholder and community plantations integrated into broader policy objectives and policy frameworks related to rural development, climate change, biodiversity conservation, and other key areas?
A clear, enforceable legal framework	A well-defined concept of legal timber	Simplifies compliance for smallholders, while simultaneously ensuring verifiability and credibility.	Does the country have the clear definition of timber legality?
Incentives	Legality requirement in domestic markets	Create robust and stable demand for legal smallholder timber, remove unfair competition from illegal operators	Whether the legality of wood is explicitly mandated by law for the domestic market?

5. National consultants/experts of six target countries

Country	Name	Position/organization
Cambodia	Mr. Say Sinly	Consultant.
India	Dr. T.R. Manoharan	Consultant
Indonesia	Mr. Muchamad Muchtar	Consultant
Thailand	Dr. Nopparat Kaakkurivaara	Assoc. Prof, Department of Forest Engineering Kasetsart University
Togo	Dr. SEGLA Kossi Novinyo	Lecturer-Researcher, Forest Research Laboratory The University of Lomé,
Vietnam	Ms. Kim Anh Luong	Researcher, Forest Trend

6. Draft Structure: Technical Report

	Chapter	Objective / Content Summary
1	Introduction and Objectives	To explain the background, the importance of smallholder plantations, the objectives of the study and structure of the report
2	Brief profile of the 6 countries	To describe the context of the six target countries
3	Research Design and Methodology	To explain the research design, which adopt the policy review framework and data collection methods, as well as limitations
4	Literature Review to establish Policy Review Framework	To present the essential set of policies indispensable for promoting legal timber production and trade, considering smallholder contexts (The ideal policy mix).
5	Results of policy reviews in the 6 countries	To synthesize the results of the reviews conducted in the 6 countries
6	Analysis of Gaps, Common Challenges, and Policy Receptivity	To analyze and interpret the "gaps against the framework," "common challenges," and "policy receptivity" based on the facts presented in Chapter 5 and interview
7	Conclusion and Policy Recommendations	To present policy recommendations, follow-up plans, and conclusion

Finalize data collection and move to core analysis phase.

Data Finalization (Now – Dec 2025):

- **Finalize** all data collection via national consultants.
- **Synthesize** and finalize results from 6 country reviews.

Analysis & Drafting (Jan – Mar 2026):

- Analysis of country review results.
- Conduct Interview Surveys
- Commence drafting of the Technical Report.
- Draft 1st Policy Brief

Key Challenges

- Ensuring timely completion of all 6 country reports
- Securing access for additional interviews.



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