Best Practices for Improving Law Compliance in the Forest Sector
FAO/ITTO
FLE and REDD

- Illegal forest activities prime cause of forest degradation and deforestation
- Issues of governance, transparency, monitoring capacity are key to effective implementation of any mechanisms incorporating payments for REDD
Recalling the FAO/ITTO Best Practices Initiative

- **Publication in 2005:**
  - Critical overview/recommendations for best practices
  - Tool to assist countries to identify appropriate measures for combating illegality and to promote concrete actions based on available experiences

- **Regional workshops 2006-2008**
• **Amazon countries** (Guararema, Brazil, August 2006)

• **Central Africa** (Libreville, Gabon, January 2007)

• **Central America** (San Pedro Sula, Honduras, June 2007)

• **Southeast Asia** (Manila, Philippines, September 2007)
Workshop Objectives

- Share experiences of ongoing in-country and regional initiatives
- Discuss options for improving forest law compliance and governance based on Best Practices
- Promote stakeholder dialogue
- Strengthen regional networks to improve forest law compliance
Participants

• National forestry authorities responsible for forestry regulation and control
• Members of civil society organizations active in combating illegal activities in forestry
• Representatives of forest industry/wood products trade
• Representatives of other relevant sectors
• Relevant regional and international organizations and development partners
Amazon Workshop

- Convened under auspices of ACTO; hosted by MMA and ABC, Brazil
- 8 countries (mostly government) + observers (3 international organizations, 2 NGOs)
- Confirmed importance of national forest programs for prioritizing initiatives, role of Tarapoto C&I process, need for public consultation in drafting laws and rational decentralization in applying them
Central Africa Workshop

- Convened under auspices of COMIFAC; hosted by Ministry of Forest Economics, Gabon
- 10 countries: government (forestry and wildlife), private sector/trade associations, NGOs; 12 regional + international organizations
- Declaration stressed need for collaboration between stakeholder groups; identified concrete actions by countries, COMIFAC, partners; regional convention on FLE; invigoration of AFLEG process
Central America Workshop

- Convened under auspices of CCAD; hosted by COHDEFOR, Honduras
- Presentation by the President of Honduras
- 9 countries: private sector/trade associations, NGOs and public prosecutors; 7 regional + international organizations
- Declaration emphasized strengthening forest law enforcement + judiciary; increasing stakeholder participation, developing national prevention strategies; promoting investment; and improving information systems
Southeast Asia Workshop

- Convened under auspices of and hosted by DENR, Philippines
- 10 countries: government, private sector/trade associations, NGOs; 14 regional + international organizations
- Took stock of progress achieved, identified obstacles and recommended concrete steps forward in ongoing processes as well as responsible actors
Next steps

• Best practices workshop West Africa
• Summary publication of outcomes of regional workshops
• Monitoring the extent of illegal logging:
  – Study to assess current situation
  – Expert meeting to discuss potential methodologies
• Country support for improving FLE, meeting demands of REDD funding mechanisms