

**LEGAL ASPECT OF PROTECTION AGAINST
DEFORESTATION IN GREATER
MEKONG SUB-REGION: AN EXAMINATION
OF ILLEGAL LOGGING**

PhD DISSERTATION

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Abstract

Illegal logging, a major driver of deforestation, represents a serious environmental, economic, and social challenge for the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS), encompassing Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, and parts of China. The region is an important area for a global biodiversity hotspot with extensive forest resources. The aims of this research are to analyze impacts of illegal logging in Cambodia, Vietnam and Myanmar, assess the effectiveness of existing national and regional legal frameworks, and propose sustainable solutions to combat this issue in the sub-Mekong region. The study highlights factors such as weak governance, corruption, inadequate law enforcement, and transboundary illegal timber trade as the problem. The research method is conducted by a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative methods for data collection such as Conventions, Laws, relevant articles, academic journals, books and the case study method for an in-depth exploration of challenges and issues as specific areas. Key research findings indicate that improving law enforcement, enhancing community involvement in forest management, and promoting sustainable livelihoods are essential strategies to effectively prevent illegal logging in Cambodia, Vietnam, and Myanmar. The results include fostering regional cooperation and sustainable forest management to combat the adverse impacts of illegal logging.

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