Current status of FLEGT and VPAs and some thoughts about REDD+

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FLEGT stands for

Forest
Law
Enforcement
Governance and
Trade
Some history

- 1985 – 1995: Campaigning against import of tropical timber
- 1998: G8 Forestry Action Program
- 2001-: Regional FLEG declarations
- 2003: EU FLEGT AP
- 2008: US Lacey Act amendment
- 2012: Australian IL Prohibition Bill
FLEGT has placed illegal logging high on the political agendas of timber producing and timber importing countries, and proposed specific measures to address the problem.
EU FLEGT ACTION PLAN (2003)
The EU FLEGT Action Plan aims to reduce illegal logging by strengthening sustainable and legal forest management, improving governance and promoting trade in legally produced timber.
Seven broad areas:

1. Support to timber exporting countries
2. Voluntary Partnership Agreements
3. EU Timber Regulation
4. Public procurement policies
5. Private sector voluntary schemes
6. Safeguards for financing and investment
7. Addressing the problem of conflict timber
New policy measures: demand and production work together

EU Timber Regulation

Voluntary Partnership Agreement
Recognises the role of EU in driving illegal logging through consumption
EU Timber Regulation (EU TR)
Main obligations

1. Prohibits the placing on the EU market of illegally harvested timber and products

2. Requires EU traders to exercise 'due diligence'

3. Traders must keep records of their suppliers and customers.
Voluntary Partnership Agreement
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Purpose:</th>
<th>Timber-producing country agrees to control and license its timber exports as legal</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Timber and timber products exported to the EU come from legal sources</td>
<td>EU agrees to accept only licensed imports from that country</td>
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<td>Legality is assured through an agreed timber legality assurance system</td>
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Once VPA is in full implementation, the partner country’s exports to the EU carry a FLEGT-license.
Different Phases of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement

- In country consensus building
- Bilateral Negotiations
- Agreement Ratification
- Implementation / System Development
- Licensing – full implementation
15 VPA countries globally

Implementing
Cameroon, Central African Republic, Ghana, Indonesia, Liberia, Republic of the Congo

Negotiating
Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guyana, Honduras, Laos, Malaysia, Thailand
Six implementing countries

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Informing</th>
<th>Preparing to negotiate</th>
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<th>Implementing</th>
<th>FLEGT licensing</th>
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Nine negotiating countries

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Voluntary Partnership Agreements are formal negotiations with 3 layers

- Negotiations with the EU
- Negotiations **AMONG** stakeholders in-country
- Negotiations **WITHIN** stakeholders groups
1. Clear, uncontested, verifiable description of legality
2. Capacity to demonstrate compliance
3. National consensus and transparency
EU FLEGT Facility Experience
Progress / Lessons

• Address IL through comprehensive governance approach
• Work through stakeholder engagement, involving civil society and industry with government
• SMEs and conversion timber pose challenges
By emphasising broad participation and by focusing on governance, substantial progress has been achieved even before FLEGT-licensed timber is available, from profound regulatory reform in the Republic of Congo to considerably stronger national timber tracking systems in Indonesia and unprecedented participation from local communities in Liberia.
REDD+

- Benefit-sharing arrangements
- Linking REDD+ and FLEGT design and implementation at provincial level
- Transparency in spatial planning of commodity production
- Addressing drivers of deforestation and forest degradation through community forestry and participatory land-use planning
THANK YOU!

European Forest Institute

www.efi.int

EU FLEGT Facility

www.euflegt.efi.int

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