

# FLEGT and REDD+ : encouraging effective synergy

## Overview

Julia Falconer, European Commission  
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## What is FLEGT ?

- International concern over illegal logging in 1990s: undermining rule of law, costing millions, depressing global prices, causing envt degradation & fuelling conflict.
- EU response: Forest Law Enforcement Governance & Trade (FLEGT) action plan
  - ✓ **Joint** action by **consumer** and **producer** countries
  - ✓ Measures to address **supply** and **demand**
- Two key elements
  - ✓ Agreement between producer countries & EU – **VPAs**
  - ✓ **Regulation** to ensure EU business know supply chains



# Work on illegal logging already demonstrates some tangible impacts

- A Chatham House study estimates that efforts against illegal logging in Indonesia and Cameroon from 2001 to 2006 resulted:
  - Avoiding 1,6 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - Avoiding tax losses of 4 billion US\$
- In Indonesia alone, about 160 million m<sup>3</sup> was saved from illegal logging- which represents about 7,8 million hectares of forests saved from serious degradation or destruction,
- This suggests that action to stop illegal logging, improve law enforcement and governance contributes to REDD+



# Voluntary Partnership Agreement

- A legally-binding agreement between EU & producer country
- Objectives
  - ✓ A system to verify legal compliance
  - ✓ License and audit to reassure markets
  - ✓ EU customs block entry of non-licensed timber
- **Contributes to** good governance, reforms, effective regulation, capacity building : govt services, operators, CSOs
- Agreed framework for development of reforms, negotiations, phased implementation and monitoring

## Key elements of the VPA

- Clear definition of legality negotiated with national stakeholders
- Traceability & legal compliance monitoring –forest to market
- Transparency & accountability - reporting & public info access
- Applies to all exports not just EU: circumvention/ leakage
- Stakeholders engaged in formal implementation structures
- Joint EU/ partner country monitoring committee
- The details resulting from national negotiations between stakeholders are enshrined in international treaty -VPA

# Strategies for Improving Governance in VPA

- Inclusion of stakeholders developing policy & law
- Negotiated consensus between stakeholders
- Clarity in rights and responsibilities esp. with communities
- Evidence of legal compliance linked to export
- Independent audit
- Complaints mechanisms
- Publication of information on contracts, fees, revenue disbursement, audit reports, legal cases, etc
- Stakeholder oversight committees/ councils



## FLEGT & REDD common requirements

➤ Both require:

- ✓ Multi-stakeholder processes -trust and clarification
- ✓ Credible Measurable Reportable Verifiable systems
- ✓ Establishing buyer confidence (carbon and timber)
- ✓ Control of international leakage and circumvention
- ✓ Mitigation of unintended negative consequences to local communities

# FLEGT & REDD: building synergies

1. What forest governance challenges for REDD+? What governance challenges for FLEGT? How does this compare to other challenges?
2. How are governance challenges addressed under REDD+? How does FLEGT contribute to REDD? How does REDD contribute to FLEGT?
3. Have there been overlaps? Synergies? Conflicts? Lessons?
4. Are there opportunities for synergy in the future? What will make this happen in reality?

