

# FLEGT Voluntary partnership agreements (VPAs) – monitoring and participation

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## FLEGT - Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade – EU Action Plan 2003

- To tackle illegal logging by reducing EU market access for unverified wood
- Alignment of traditional sector development approach (timber supply) and market access (timber demand)
- Rules-based governance concept, focusing on delivering credible timber sector
- Suite of mutually-reinforcing policy measures

## FLEGT policies and measures

- Bilateral trade agreements (FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements)
  - ❖ Commitment to trade only in verified legal wood
- 'Flanking measures'***
- Legislation to restrict EU market access for illegal wood (avoid circumvention or 'leakage')
- EU Member State Public Procurement Policies – premium demand for legal and sustainable timber

## VPAs – country coverage

- Principles concluded  
*Ghana, Congo Brazza, Cameroon*
- Ongoing national process and bilateral negotiations  
*Central African Republic, Malaysia, Indonesia, Liberia, Vietnam, DRC, Gabon*
- Preliminary discussions and identification of incentives for different groups  
*Guyana, Madagascar, PNG, Solomon Islands, Cote d'Ivoire, Ecuador, Columbia, Bolivia, Honduras*
- Very preliminary scoping  
*Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Equatorial guinea*
- Supportive discussions with processing countries (China) and other consumer countries (Japan, USA re Lacey Act etc)



# Timber Legality Verification Systems

## 1. National definition of legality

- Clear, coherent
- Addressing 3 pillars of SFM
- Stakeholder-endorsed

## 2. National verification function

- Based on compliance matrix in VPA
- Systematic audit of legal compliance by companies

## 3. Wood tracking system

- From forest to export/domestic sale
- Data collection separate from reconciliation

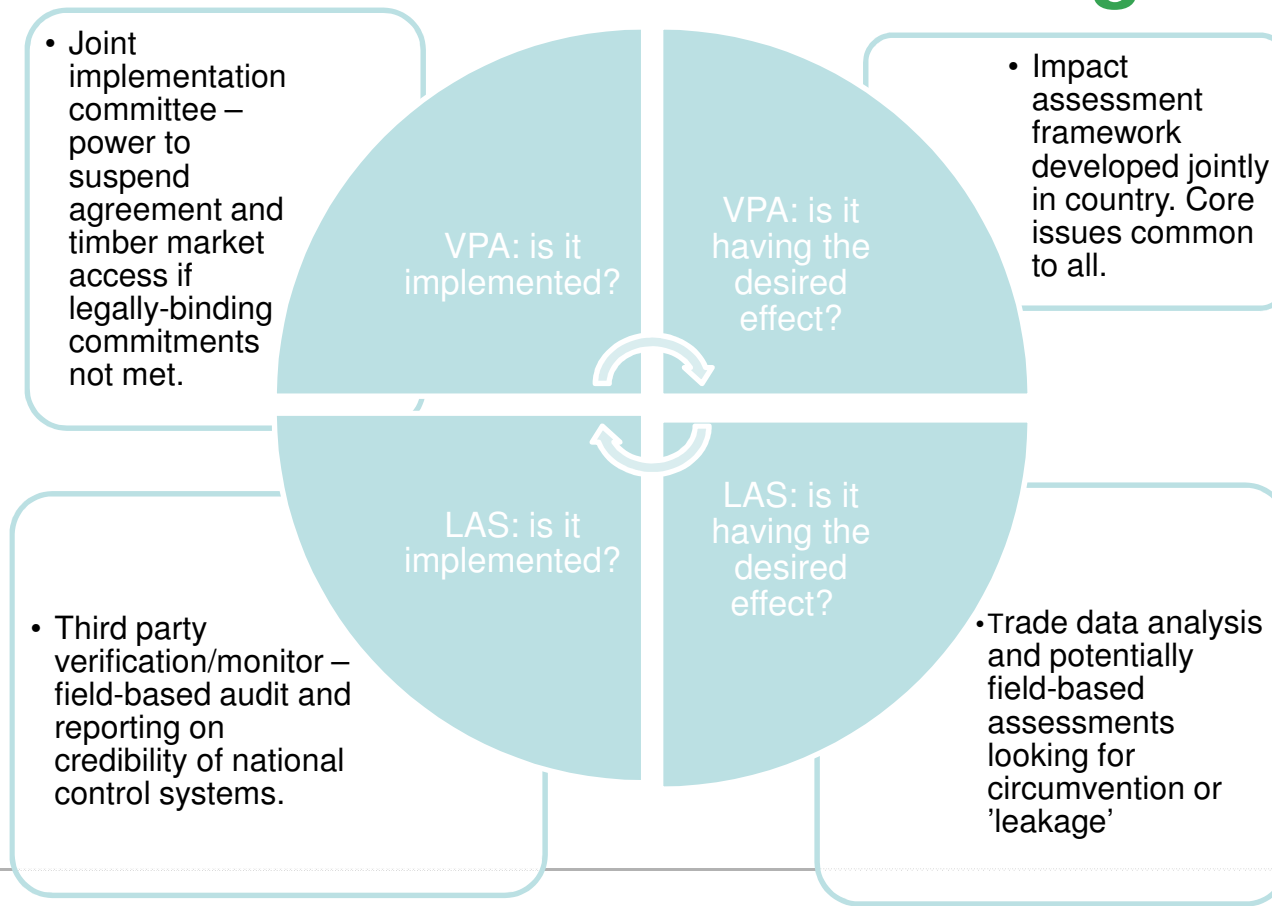
## 4. Legality licensing authority

- Licensing on basis of demonstrated compliance and traceability
- Independent from verification authority

## 5. Independent system audit

- Field-based activities
- Assessing credibility of system
- Report and recommend improvement

# VPA international-level monitoring functions



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## VPA participation – stakeholder roles

Identify  
relevant  
forest laws –  
3 pillars of  
SFM

Identify  
verification  
indicators

Define/  
inform/  
deliver  
independent  
monitoring

Identify legal  
reforms?

Negotiation  
and  
oversight  
committee  
seats?



# FLEGT – Lessons for Monitoring REDD+

## National process

- Stakeholder-endorsement = effective participation
- Realistic time frames – 6 months to 6 years to establish a 'clear, coherent legality definition'
- Define core functions necessary for credibility at international level – countries achieve them based on existing institutions and sector characteristics

## Monitoring, reporting & verification

- Core focus on relevant governance issues – in this case law enforcement in the timber sector
- Independent field-based monitoring central to credibility of system
- Consequences for failure to implement and enforce – on both sides





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