

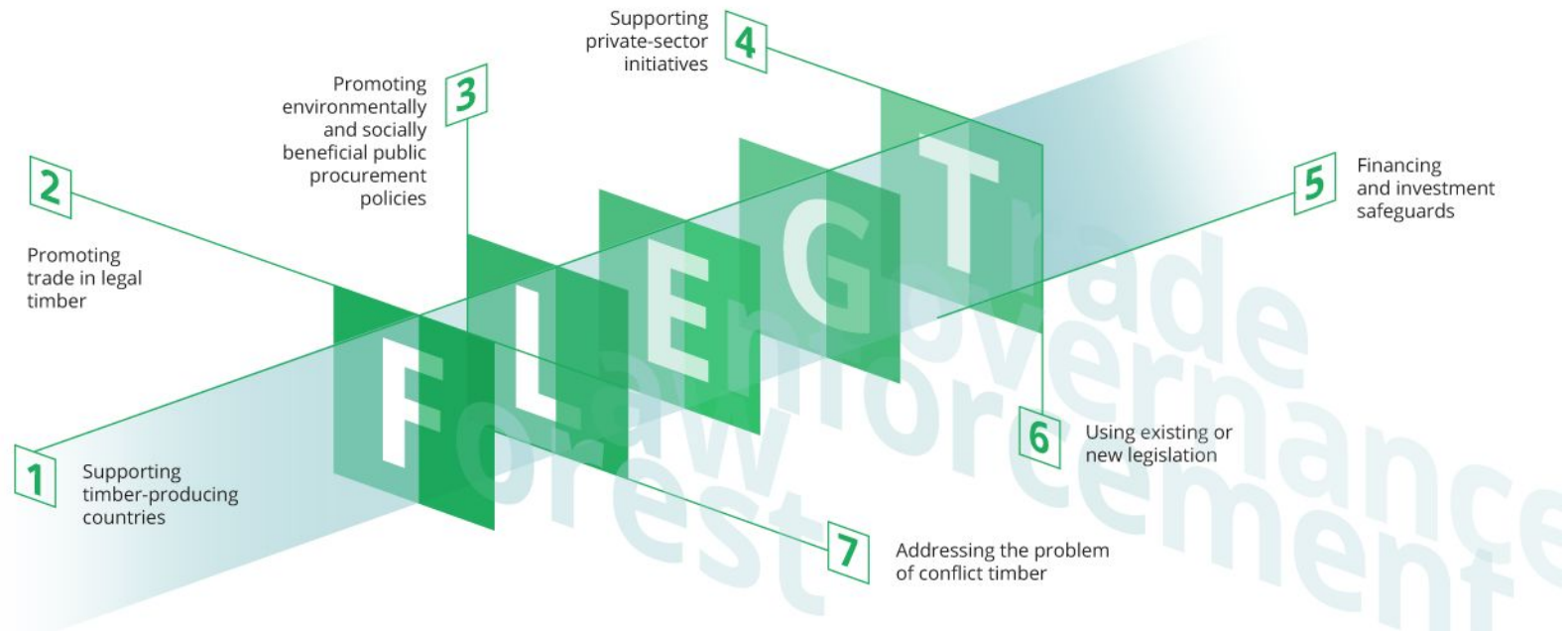
FLEGT VPA processes updates in the Republic of the Congo and Cameroon

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EU FLEGT Action Plan

- **Supply** and **demand** side measures to curb illegal logging and associated trade
- EU's wider objective of FLEGT is to encourage **sustainable forest management**, and to reduce degradation and deforestation considering their **climate change** impacts



VPAs – EU's direct engagement with Timber Exporting Countries

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- Support timber exporting countries to reform their forest sector in order to globally minimize the trade in illegally produced timber
 - Voluntary, but **legally binding trade agreement** between the EU and a partner country building on participative processes
 - Promote good governance and trade in legal timber

Rationale for entering VPA

- Cameroon:
 - maintain access to the EU market
 - align the existing IT-based system to VPA requirements
- Republic of the Congo:
 - strengthen existing controls
 - increase revenue collection

VPA Timeline	Cameroon (process started 2007) Congo (process started 2008)
Defining Legal Timber	Legal reforms agreed upon adopted and implemented.
Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS)	Relevant systems elements, controls and capacity to be developed and implemented
Transparency commitments	Transparency commitments agreed upon will be implemented.
Independent Audit	Once systems elements are in place and functioning.
FLEGT Licensing scheme	Once TLAS fully operational – joint evaluation by parties to determine readiness for FLEGT Licensing.

Cameroon

Overview

EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement

Implementation

Key features of the country's forests:

- 18.82 million hectares
- 0.7%/yr average loss
2013-2017

Forest cover: (GFW)

39.8% of land

Value of timber trade to EU:

41% of timber products
exported by value (2015)

19% of timber products
exported by volume (2015)

Top three export destinations:

China, Vietnam, Belgium

Exported products :

Round logs
Sawnwood

Progress

FLEGT licensing :

Not yet.

Implementation Plan :

Stock take completed in April 2019§ New roadmap 2020-2026 under development, 20 Quick Results Initiatives identified.

Oversight by the parties:

Last 11th JIC session on May 2018. Ad-hoc meetings since.

Legal Reform :

New forest code, implementing decree development pending . VPA legality definition revision ongoing.

Timber legality assurance system :

A new project to develop the TLAS application will start in 2020.

Independent Audit :

Independent auditor did one audit on concession allocation and seized timber. A new contract will start in 2020.

Transparency commitments :

The Forest Ministry has so far made good progress publishing forest-sector information online, but there is still more to do.

Stakeholder Participation in the process:

Several multi-stakeholders structures.

Upcoming Joint Priorities (QRI)

- ✓ Validation of the Forest law and Implementing decrees
- ✓ Establishment of a VPA monitoring structure
- ✓ Stakeholders capacity building
- ✓ Improve transparency

Republic of the Congo

Overview

EU Voluntary Partnership Agreement

Implementation

Key features of the country's forests:

- 22.4 million hectares (natural forest)
- 0.3%/yr average loss 2013-2017
(GFW)

Forest cover:

65.4% of land

Value of timber trade to EU:

23% of timber products
exported by value (2015, WCMC)

19% of timber products
exported by volume (2018, SCPFE)

Top three export destinations:

China, India, Belgium (2015)

Main exported products :

Round logs
Sawn timber

Progress

FLEGT licensing : Not yet.	Implementation Plan : Stock take completed in 2017. Five-year VPA implementation plan 2018-2022 endorsed on 5 December 2017 during the 7th JIC.
Oversight by the parties: Last 10th JIC on June 2019. Next JIC on November 2019.	Legal Reform : New forest code about to be voted, implementing decree development and legality definition revision pending.
Timber legality assurance system : TLAS application (SIVL) developed. Preparing deployment.	Independent Audit : Independent auditor did 7 audits in 2018-2019. A new contract in 2020. RoC Government is working on addressing non-compliances.
Transparency commitments : The Forest Ministry publish information on their website . Annual reports and JIC aide-memoires available.	Stakeholder Participation in the process: Several multi-stakeholders structures.

Upcoming Joint Priorities

- ✓ National roll-out of the SIVL
- ✓ Improved legal framework
- ✓ Steerage of the VPA process
- ✓ Improved effectiveness of law enforcement
- ✓ Development of VPA impact monitoring
- ✓ Inter-ministerial committee coordination with new support actions

Thank you

**European Forest Institute, EU
FLEGT Facility**

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