



European Union / Food and Agriculture
Organization of the United Nations (FAO) FLEGT
Programme (GCP/GLO/395/EC)

Call for Project Proposals

GUIDELINES

For VPA countries

Deadline for the calls for proposal: **31/05/2013**

!!! New deadline: 30/06/13 !!!

Programme funded by the European Union

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1. Background

Illegal logging poses a major challenge for the establishment and maintenance of efficient markets and sustainable logging practices in a global economy that increasingly demands assurances of legal and sustainable production of wood and wood products. Illegal behaviour in the logging sector results in lost government revenue, missed opportunities for industrial development, and increased environmental damage and social problems.

In 2003, the European Commission adopted the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Support Programme (FLEGT) Action Plan,¹ whose ultimate goal is to encourage sustainable management of forests. To this ends, ensuring the legality of forest operations is a vital first step. The Plan focuses on governance reforms and capacity building to ensure that timber exported to the European Union (EU) comes only from legal sources.

2. Programme objective, priorities and eligibility criteria

2.1 Objective

The EU FAO FLEGT Programme is a four-year initiative that supports stakeholders in the enforcement of forest law, governance and trade exchanges. This support is provided to countries engaged in the negotiations or the implementation of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union – known as “VPA countries” within the framework of these guidelines – but also to wood-producing developing countries and/or those who are major players in wood products trade, which are known as “non-VPA countries”.

2.2 Definition of “VPA countries”

This refers to the countries that have negotiated or are negotiating a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union. Under this definition, the list of 14 eligible countries in this call for proposals is as follows:

- Cameroon,
- Gabon,
- Ghana,
- Guyana
- Honduras,
- Indonesia,
- Ivory Coast
- Liberia,
- Malaysia,
- Central African Republic,
- Republic of the Congo,
- Democratic Republic of the Congo,
- Lao People's Democratic Republic
- Viet Nam.

¹ FLEGT Action Plan: <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=COM:2003:0251:FIN:EN:PDF>

2.3 Thematic priorities

For these VPA countries, the specific thematic priorities per country were defined jointly with the partner country and the European Union, and are presented in **Annex 1**.

2.4 Eligibility criteria

In order to benefit from the Programme, the following general conditions must be fulfilled:

1. The applicant is registered in an eligible country (see the list of VPA countries in point 2.2), in which the project is implemented.
2. The applicant is a government institution, a civil society organization² or an organization/federation of the private sector.³
3. The proposal addresses at least one of the thematic priorities defined in point 2.3 above and included in the VPA process underway.
4. The civil society and the private sector organizations submitting a proposal must provide the names of two reference officers from the government forestry agency. These references will serve to verify that the government is informed of the proposal.
5. The proposal is complete and follows the required format (see section on “Proposal Format” below).
6. The proposal is within the following financial parameters:
 - a. The proposal does not exceed the maximum limit of **EUR 100 000** (or USD135 000).
 - b. The contribution of the beneficiary counterpart amounts to at least **20 percent** of the required amount (in cash or in kind).

Without being an eligibility criterion, the countries are strongly encouraged to pre-select projects through existing national-level multiple stakeholder processes to ensure consistency with priorities defined within the framework of the VPA process.

3. Proposal submission

All proposals submitted in English, French or Spanish must be signed by the applicant organization and faxed or preferably sent electronically (see details in the box below). Proposals sent by e-mail must include a scanned copy of the page signed by the applicant. The applicant shall receive a notice confirming receipt of the proposal shortly after the proposals’ submission deadline.

The proposals must be sent by fax or e-mail to the following address:

² For the purpose of this guideline a civil society organization is defined as a not-for-profit organization that pursues an issue(s) and values defined by its members or constituency and that contributes to the common good or public interest.

³ For the purpose of these guidelines a private sector organization is defined as a not-for-profit grouping, union or association of private sector businesses or individuals working toward a common interest that is aligned with the public interest.

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4. Deadline for proposal submissions

The proposal must be submitted no later than:

~~**31/05/2013 at 17.00h GMT +1.**~~

!!! New deadline: 30/06/13, at 17.00h GMT +1 !!!

5. Scoring and selection process

All the proposals submitted to the programme shall be evaluated as follows.

Step 1: Verification of eligibility

All received proposals shall be registered by the Programme Management Unit (PMU) and their eligibility verified with respect to the criteria defined in these Guidelines (see point 2.4). Only the proposals that fulfil the eligibility criteria will be examined by the Expert Panel.

Step 2: Evaluation and scoring of proposals

The PMU shall send the eligible proposals to the members of the Expert Panel so that each proposal will be evaluated and scored. Each proposal will be evaluated independently by at least two members of the Expert Panel. The Expert Panel shall score the proposals according to the evaluation criteria presented in Table 1 below.

Concurrently, the list of eligible proposals shall be sent for information and possible advice to the EU Delegations of the countries concerned.

Table 1. Evaluation criteria and scoring system

Evaluation criteria	Maximum possible points
<p>1. <u>Relevance and complementarity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does the project address the thematic priorities of the Programme (Annex 1)? – Does the project address the priorities (roadmap, implementation schedule and priority action plan, etc.) defined within the awareness-raising, negotiations or the implementation of the VPA phases? – Does the project complement/strengthen an existing activity in support of the VPA process? 	30 points
<p>2. <u>Effectiveness and feasibility of the activities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Are the activities adapted to the expected results and set objectives? – Can the activities be carried out within the project duration? – Are the activities described adequately and are they technically achievable? – Are the activities Specific, Measureable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-bound (SMART)? 	15 points
<p>3. <u>Methodology</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does the implementation strategy truly reflect a logical process allowing to achieve the expected results? – Is the logical framework clearly presented and does it truly contain the required components (Objectives, Activities, Results, Objectively Verifiable Indicators and Source of Information)? 	15 points
<p>4. <u>Sustainability</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is funding for the activities planned at the end of the project? – Is there a structure(s) that would make it possible to continue activities at the end of the project? – Does the proposal effectively specify the means that will be deployed in order to sustain the project in the long term or at least its impact? 	10 points
<p>5. <u>Innovation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does the project include innovative approaches that could be replicated in other contexts, or does it contribute to programmes having these characteristics? 	10 points
<p>6. <u>Efficiency</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Is the ratio between the estimated costs and the expected results satisfactory? Are the costs justified? – Is the proposed budget coherent and balanced, and does it correspond to the funding needed for the activities' implementation? 	10 points
<p>7. <u>Capitalization of lessons learned</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Does the project contribute to the dissemination of ideas, lessons learned and best practices? – Is an activity planned to capitalize on lessons learned drawn from the project? 	10 points
<p>Total</p>	<p>100 points</p>

A maximum of 100 points are available for the seven criteria. A total of 70 points and a minimum of 50 percent of available points in each criterion are required to be eligible for EU FAO FLEGT Programme funding.

If there are more proposals with scores of at least 70 points than can be funded, the Expert Panel shall provide a hierarchy of scores and a list of proposals that they recommend for funding.

The Expert Panel will prepare an evaluation report summarizing the results of the evaluation process.

Step 3: Review by the Advisory Committee

FAO's Advisory Committee shall examine the proposals of the project recommended by the Expert Panel in its evaluation report. By taking into account the thematic and regional balance, the Advisory Committee may make complementary observations and request clarifications. On the basis of this review, it can make proposals to the PMU to modify the Expert Panel's evaluation report.

Step 4: Checking for duplication and/or overlap

The list of proposals considered by the Advisory Committee shall be forwarded to other FLEGT support institutions for review in order to reduce the risk of duplicate funding.

These proposals shall also be sent to EU Delegations of the countries concerned to enable them to provide technical advice.

Step 5: Approval by the Steering Committee

The PMU shall forward the Expert Panel's evaluation report to the Steering Committee of the Programme for review and final approval. The latter may request clarifications, present other points of view and/or require complementary information from the PMU.

Step 6: Information and contracting

After endorsement by the Steering Committee, the PMU shall inform all applicants of the evaluation results. For the selected proposals, the PMU shall then initiate the negotiations of Letters of Agreement.

Proposal format

Proposal should be no more than **15 pages**, formatted on A4 paper, and written in Time New Roman size 12 font. Additional relevant information may be submitted in annexes for reference.

Part I. Project Summary

1.1 Project title

Indicate the project title.

1.2 Thematic area concerned

Review the thematic priorities of the project countries (see **Annex 1**) and indicate here the one that best describes the objectives of the proposal.

1.3 Applicant's contact information:

- Name of the organization:
- Office address :
- City and postal code :
- Country:
- E-mail:
- Telephone (office) :
- Telephone (mobile) :
- Website:

Check the box that corresponds to the type of organization:

- Government institution
- Civil society organization
- Private sector organization

1.4 Information on the contact person within the organization:

- Name of contact person :
- Title:
- E-mail :
- Telephone (office):
- Telephone (mobile):

1.5 Organization background (1/2 pages maximum):

Please provide background information on the institution, including its mission statement, institutional objectives, number of employees, financial management capacity, work history highlights and current projects.

1.6 Information on the government references

Civil society and private sector organizations submitting a proposal must provide the names of at least two officials in the forestry administration who have knowledge of the project proposal.⁴ Each government reference must be accompanied by at least the name of the person, his/her title, e-mail and telephone number. Check the appropriate box:⁵

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government references <input type="checkbox"/>• Not applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
--

Please include the following information:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of Government Reference 1:• Title• Ministry :• E-mail :• Telephone :

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Name of Government Reference 2 :• Title:• Ministry:• E-mail :• Telephone :
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1.7 Summary of funding:

	Total (in US dollars)
Funding requested from FAO:	
Contribution provided by the applicant:	
Total amount of the project:	

Indicate the funding requested from FAO within the framework of the project and the counterpart amount that will be provided (all amounts must be expressed in US dollars). For each project, the contribution in cash or in kind by the applicant **must be at least 20 percent** of total project funding.

⁴ At this stage, it is not required to provide an official approval by the forestry administration. The references provided shall only aim to ensure that the submission of the project to the EU FAO FLEGT Programme is known by the heads of the forestry administration.

⁵ If the applicant is a government institution, no reference shall be provided and the box "not applicable" should be checked.

1.8 Declaration and signature

I hereby certify that all information contained in this proposal is accurate and true. This proposal is not currently and has not been previously funded by another institution.

Date_____Signature_____

(Signature and name of applicant)

Part II. Project Description

2.1 Background of the project and description of the problem (maximum 1 page):

Briefly describe the context of the implementation of the FLEGT Action Plan in the country of intervention and, in particular, the VPA process underway.

Describe the problem addressed by the project and the link with the VPA process.

2.2 Objective:

The objective of the project should be expressed in a concise statement, identifying the expected outcome of the project. The objective should contribute to resolving the stated problem and should be feasible given the resources available to implement the project.

2.3 Project outputs, activities and work plan (maximum 2 pages):

List the project outputs. Each output should be described in one sentence, supported by a list of key activities. Each of the activities should be described in one paragraph.

The satisfactory completion of all the activities should result in the achievement of the outputs. The completion of all outputs should create the conditions for the achievement of the project objective (see Figure 1).

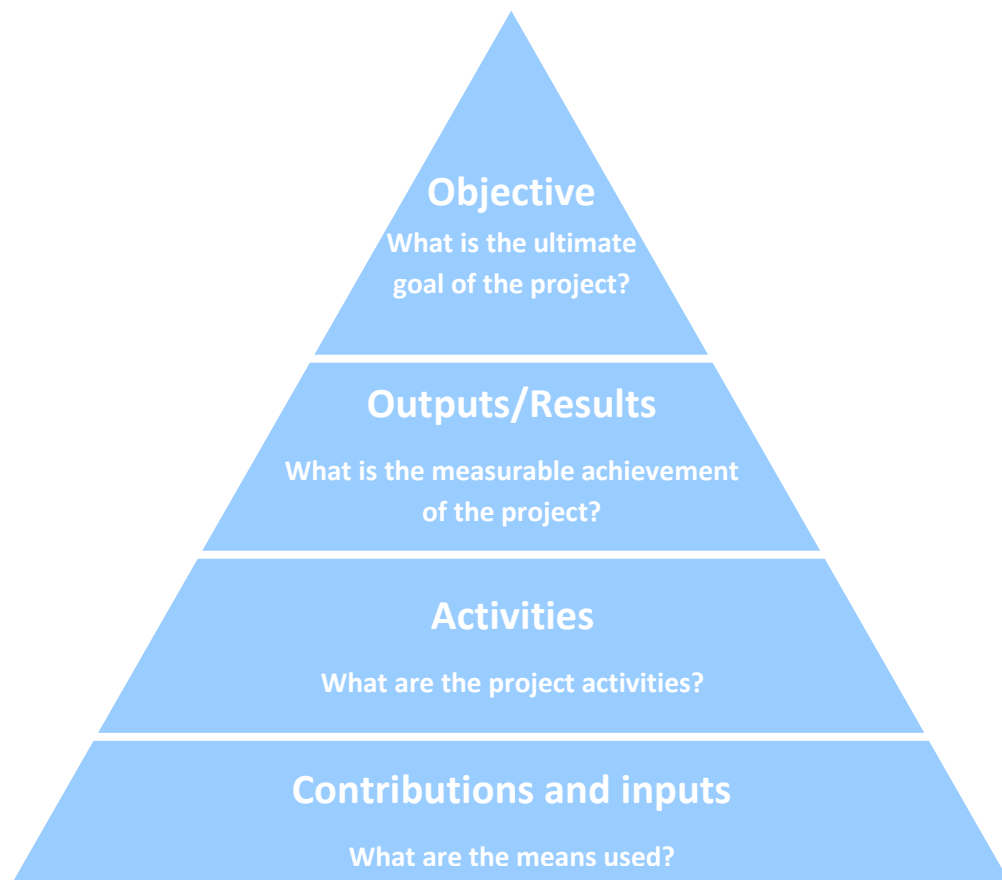


Figure 1: Intervention logic

It is strongly recommended that each proposal include:

- the organization of a **launching workshop** that will allow to inform actors concerned of the objectives and expected outputs of the project and to fine-tune the action plan;
- the organization of a **close out workshop** of outputs and lessons learned at the end of the project, in the presence of the main stakeholders.

The applicant must include in its activities a communications/visibility component in order to communicate the outputs and activities of the project to all stakeholders in the forestry sector. This may include publications (brochures, articles, posters, CDs/DVDs), websites, radio/television broadcasts/print media, documentaries, promotional materials or any other means capable of promoting the EU-FAO FLEGT Programme and its partners (EU and FAO).

Finally, a short work plan must be included in the proposal. The proposal shall in part be evaluated on the feasibility of the expected outputs with respect to the duration and available budget of the intervention. The duration of project execution shall not exceed **12 months**.

Example of a work plan⁶

Activity description	Months after Protocol Agreement signature											
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Launching workshop	x											
Output 1												
Activity 1	x											
Activity 2		x										
Activity 3			x									
Output 2												
Activity 1		x										
Activity 2			x									
Activity 3				x								
Output 3												
Activity 1					x	x	x					
Activity 2							x	X	x			
Activity 3										x	x	x
Close out workshop												x

⁶ This example is indicative only. Preference will not be given according to the number of outputs or activities.

2.4 Description of output indicators

Specify and describe in detail the indicators of the output that will be delivered as a result of the activities and financial resources provided to the project.

For example, the proposal could include the following output indicators:

1. inception report (describe the contents)⁷
2. progress report 1 (describe the contents)
3. progress report 2 (describe the contents)
4. final report (describe the contents).

2.5 Methodology (maximum 2 pages):

Describe the implementation modalities of the project activities, persons involved and the persons responsible for its execution. The methodology must also describe interrelations among activities, the chains of events or seasonal issues that could affect project implementation. The methodology should, if applicable, identify the possible roles of the forest-dependent populations, the gender parity issues or consistencies with national and regional forestry and poverty reduction policies.

In this section, the link with the VPA process and the way in which the project plans on sustaining the works and discussions on frameworks for negotiations, implementation and/or monitoring must also be developed.

Include in an annex to the proposal any figures, organizational diagrams or visual tools required to understand the methodology.

Part III. Creating an enabling environment for the FLEGT Action Plan implementation (maximum 2 pages)

3.1 Relevance:

Describe how the project is aligned with the priorities of the EU FAO FLEGT Programme (Annex 1) and with the priorities of the VPA process under way in the country of intervention. According to the country's progress in the VPA process, the priority actions in the VPA process could be found in documents such as: the negotiations road map, works of the technical commissions/working groups/multi-stakeholder platform, the VPA implementation schedule, the priority action plan, the report of the Technical Monitoring Commissions, and the Joint Implementation Committee, among others.

⁷ In addition to the progress of project activities, these reports can also present, in Annexes, deliverables such as: a proposal for a new regulation, procedures manuals, guides, workshop reports, mission reports, brochures, maps, etc.

3.2 Partnerships:

Identify and describe any partnerships with relevant actors that may be established or strengthened through the project. In particular, identify and describe clearly any opportunities of promoting collaboration among the government, the private sector and civil society.

3.3 Innovation:

Describe any innovations or opportunities for integrating or replicating the results at the national or regional level.

3.4 Sustainability:

Describe how the project will complement and/or contribute to the success of an ongoing national programme.

3.5 Capitalization of lessons learned:

Sharing lessons learned with the different stakeholders is a priority of the EU FAO FLEGT Programme.

Briefly describe how the applicant will record the outputs and lessons learned, make them available and share them with the stakeholders.

Part IV. Budget

Please develop the budget using the Excel spreadsheet attached ([Annex A](#)) and make all budget submissions in US dollars.

Please submit the budget, in Excel format (*.xls), duly completed with the project proposal.

Part V. Logical framework

Each project proposal must be accompanied by a simplified logical framework that will be used to assess the feasibility and relevance of the project. The logical framework must provide a detailed, logical and organized chart of your project. At the implementation phase of the project, this logical framework will serve as the main tool to ensure the project’s monitoring and evaluation.

	Intervention logic	Objectively Verifiable Indicators	Sources and means of verification
Objective	<i>What objective must the project achieve?</i>	<i>What indicators show in detail that the project objective has been achieved?</i>	<i>What are the available sources of information that can be collected? What methods can be used to obtain this information?</i>
Expected outputs	<i>The outputs are the achievements that will allow to reach the objective. What are the expected outputs? (Number these outputs) Output 1: Output 2:</i>	<i>What indicators allow to verify and determine that the project achieves the expected outputs?</i>	<i>What are the sources of information for these indicators?</i>
Activities	<i>What are the key activities to implement, and in which order, in order to produce the expected output? (Group the activities by output) Activity 1.1: Activity 1.2:</i>	<i>What means are required to implement these activities, for example, in terms of personnel, equipment, training, studies, supplies and operating facilities?</i>	<i>What are the sources of information on the development of the activity?</i>

Part VI. Check list

This checklist must allow the applicant to make sure that all the required components are included in the project proposal. This completed list must be attached to the project proposal.

Project title : <indicate title>	YES	NO
PART 1 ADMINISTRATIVE		
1. The proposal format, published under this call for proposals, was used.		
2. All of the sections of the application form have been completed and signed.		
3. The proposal is sent by e-mail or fax.		
4. The budget in Excel format is attached to the proposal (Annex 1).		
PART 2 (ELIGIBILITY)		
5. The duration of the intervention does not exceed 12 months.		
6. The contribution requested does not exceed USD 135 000.		
7. The contribution requested from FAO does not exceed 80 percent of the total eligible costs.		
8. The applicant is registered in the country in which the project is being implemented.		
9. The applicant is a government institution, a civil society organization or a private sector organization/federation.		
10. The proposal addresses one of the thematic priorities recommended by the Programme.		
11. The proposal provides the name of two head officers from the government forestry agency who are informed of the project		

ANNEX 1: List of thematic priorities of the EU FAO FLEGT Programme in the VPA countries

VPA Countries	Thematic Priorities
Cameroon	<p>Priority 1 : Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting communication and visibility of all forestry activities relating to the FLEGT, the VPA and EU Timber Regulation (EUTR); - Implementation and monitoring of Annex VII of VPA (publication of information); - Mitigation of corruption risks in the forestry sector.
	<p>Priority 2 : Enhancing VPA implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - External and independent observation based on national civil society organizations; - Assessment of impact (on communities, governance, corruption, etc.), socio-economic assessment and analysis of VPA implementation levels; - Supporting the establishment of a traceability system, complementary to the Timber Traceability Project; - Supporting the development of legality verification procedures for the Ministry of the Environment (MINEP) ; - Supporting the establishment of a “Legality Division” within the Ministry of Forests (MINFOF) ; - Supporting better management of MINFOF personnel in charge of VPA monitoring; - Supporting improvement of private sector involvement in all VPA implementation processes; - Supporting the establishment of the domestic timber market, under the VPA.
	<p>Priority 3 : Supporting communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community forest capacity-building for VPA implementation; - Support for implementation of forestry law provisions in favour of communities.
Ivory Coast	<p>Priority 1 : VPA negotiation support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting capacity-building among civil society and forestry sector actors to interact in VPA negotiations; - Supporting the establishment of representative and functional negotiation structures.
	<p>Priority 2 : Independent observation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the enhancement of the role of civil society and communities in the independent observation of sector governance.
	<p>Priority 3 : Legal reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the identification of legal reform needs in forestry governance and the feasibility of their enforcement.

Gabon	Priority 1 : Definition of legality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the drafting and field testing of legality grids and related communication activities.
	Priority 2 : Reform of regulatory framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review of overall legislation, including in relation to the forestry code. - Particular attention given to: improved recognition of rights of communities; various provisions enabling FLEGT and Community forest compatibility
	Priority 3 : Supporting community forests <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building among communities in charge of community forest management for FLEGT implementation. Capitalizing on pilot experiments and structured dialogue with stakeholders before new regulations come into force at national level.
	Priority 4 : Control of illegal logging <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening control, independent observation and transparency mechanisms
Ghana	Priority 1 : Legality Assurance System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building support for the implementation of the new timber Legally Assurance System (civil society, private or public services)
	Priority 2 : SME's Support <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity building/awareness-raising with Small and Medium Enterprises in terms of building their understanding of the VPA and FLEGT licensing;
	Priority 3 : Public Procurement Policy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support the implementation of the new public procurement policy for verified legal timber (monitoring or trainings with local government services for any procurement carried out by the District Assemblies).
Guyana	Priority 1 : Support during the VPA negotiations phase <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Build capacity of or support stakeholders (including government institutions, civil society, private sector organizations or indigenous groups) to participate in and/or provide input to national VPA processes, including at VPA negotiations, as outlined in the Guyana EU FLEGT VPA Roadmap and the activities of the National Technical Working Group.
	Priority 2 : Forest Governance <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support activities that aim at strengthening the implementation of forest governance measures at the operator level.
	Priority 3 : LAS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities aimed at developing the timber legality assurance systems building on current and existing systems in Guyana, the traceability of forest products and the national control systems. - Support the field testing of the LAS and the Definition of Legality in Guyana at the level of various forest users.
	Priority 4 : Addressing Identified Impacts of the VPA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Identify and assess the main social, economic and environmental impacts of VPA. Identify Impacts on Government stakeholders, indigenous peoples,

	<p>forest operators, millers, regulatory agencies, forest sector employees and other relevant stakeholders. - Build human and physical capacities at stakeholder level to effectively manage impacts identified so as to allow for effective implementation of the VPA. Reference made to the Guyana EU FLEGT VPA Roadmap.</p>
	<p>Priority 5 : Support the Implementation of the VPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities aimed at supporting the national roll out of the VPA elements, including the LAS, FLEGT licensing system, and Implementation Strategy. - Working with the local forest industry to meet EU FLEGT VPA requirements.
Honduras	<p>Priority 1 : Participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structuring of different groups of actors, their communication mechanisms and their representation in the FLEGT/VPA process and other areas of consensus-building. Strengthening dialogue initiatives in the areas of consensus-building and consultation. Motivation for participation in sectorial constructive dialogue.
	<p>Priority 2 : Dissemination of information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Dissemination of information and awareness of the FLEGT/VPA process in Honduras. Motivation to participate.
	<p>Priority 3 : Definition of legal timber</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contribute to the identification of the products, the definition of legal timber and establishing the legality grid.
Indonesia	<p>Priority 1 : Legality Assurance System</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Establishment of / support to provincial level forums involving local governments, civil society and timber producers to encourage the implementation of Indonesia's new timber legality verification scheme (SVLK).
	<p>Priority 2 : SME's Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provincial / district level support to small producers (SMEs, forest communities, farmer groups and cooperatives) to implement Indonesia's new timber legality verification scheme (SVLK).
	<p>Priority 3 : Independent Monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - -Efforts to reinforce independent monitoring of timber legality implementation by civil society.
Liberia	<p>Priority 1 : Strengthening of the legal framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the drafting and / or strengthening of regulations and legal reform directly pertinent to the VPA - Reinforce stakeholders' capacity to participate in these processes including support to stakeholders to participate in and/or provide input to actions recommended through the SIIB report as appropriate
	<p>Priority 2 : Civil society and community monitoring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to civil society, communities and Community Forestry Development Committees to monitor forest activities and implement aspects of the VPA targeted to these stakeholder groups in the 2013 work plan - Where possible, proposed actions should build upon successful methodologies already developed in the context of existing/previous

	<p>projects from Liberia or other VPA countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proposals may establish partnerships to up-scaling projects to larger networks
	<p>Priority 3 : Support to the private sector, including the operators providing for the domestic market</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Outreach to private sector to strengthen their understanding of the LAS requirements, their engagement in the system development and their ability to meet the requirements - Awareness raising and capacity building of chainsaw operators to conform with new regulations - Building understanding of the dynamics and management of the domestic market and informal sector in view of their integration into the LAS
	<p>Priority 4: Social agreements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the revision and testing of guidelines for social agreements, awareness raising and support of communities for the negotiation of next round of social agreements and the monitoring of their enforcement
	<p>Priority 5: Transparency and access to information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to improving access to information and transparency in the forest sector.
Malaysia	<p>Priority 1 : Stakeholder participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening CSOs and CSO Platforms to participate in VPA process (negotiations & implementation).
	<p>Priority 2 : Governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Strengthening synergies and sharing experiences between TLAS processes and TLAS stakeholders in Peninsular Malaysia, Sabah and Sarawak, including specific support to the State Government of Sarawak and stakeholders to engage in VPA process.
	<p>Priority 3 : TLAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reinforce transparency of the implementation and independent monitoring of the TLAS requirement through capacity building.
	<p>Priority 4 : Private Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working with industry to meet EU market requirements.
Central African Republic	<p>Priority 1 : Support to civil society and local communities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Participation in regulatory review ; - Contribution to implementation of VPA Annex on publication of information; - Raising awareness of VPA among local communities ; - Involvement of civil society in the development of VPA implementation procedures.
	<p>Priority 2 : Support to private sector initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of communication tools on the legality of Central African timber bound for the European market under EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) ; - Participation in regulatory review ; - Private sector involvement to comply with LAS requirements ; - Support to private sector in interconnecting their internal information

	<p>system with the national Legality Assurance System (LAS).</p>
	<p>Priority 3 : Supporting regulatory framework reform</p>
	<p>Priority 4 : Transparency and independent observation</p>
Republic of the Congo	<p>Priority 1 : Support to private sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to private sector in complying with traceability and legality FLEGT VPA requirements.
	<p>Priority 2 : Support to departmental authorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to DDEF (departmental authorities of Ministry for water and forests) and field brigades (equipment and training) for updating on the FLEGT VPA.
	<p>Priority 3 : Support to civil society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to civil society to integrate their new responsibilities under FLEGT.
	<p>Priority 4 : Monitoring VPA impact</p>
Democratic Republic of the Congo	<p>Priority 1 : Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the involvement of decentralised public services (site managers, provincial coordinators, provincial advisory boards) - Supporting the improved organization and monitoring of timber producers operating in protected forests (forest estates located outside industrial forest concessions, and protected areas) - Supporting the development of agreed Congolese civil society positions on current forest governance issues (community forestry, artisanal logging, moratorium, free and prior informed consent (FPIC), etc.) - Supporting the legal and regulatory framework proficiency of Local Development Committees responsible for monitoring the social provisions of the terms of reference concluded between local communities and industrial loggers
	<p>Priority 2 : Adaptation of legal and regulatory framework in line with the FLEGT VPA</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting the finalization of Forest Code implementation rules and regulations needed to implement an equitable VPA - Contributing to the establishment of a national Forest Control Strategy in collaboration with current initiatives (PCPCB (Timber production and marketing control), AGEDUFOR (Sustainable forest management support), PNFC (National forest and conservation programme, etc.)
	<p>Priority 3 : Transparency and communication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Disseminating easily accessible information to stakeholders on the main aspects of the legal and regulatory framework in the light of FLEGT VPA implementation - Raising awareness of EUTR regulation among central and local government authorities and economic operators - Supporting the collection, organization and dissemination of relevant information on logging activities and timber marketing within the framework of the EUTR and the FLEGT VPA implementation

Lao	<p>Priority 1: support for information and VPA process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities to inform stakeholders about the VPA process, support stakeholder preparation and participation in the VPA process.
	<p>Priority 2 : Transparency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities to promote better transparency and the development of an independent observation mechanism in the forest sector.
	<p>Priority 3 : Local initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to local communities and community forestry activities in line with a national FLEGT strategy.
	<p>Priority 4 : LAS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Activities aimed at improving the timber legality assurance systems, the traceability of forest products and the national control systems.
	<p>Priority 5 : Legal Framework</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to the process of revising the legal and regulatory framework.
	<p>Priority 6 : Private initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to private sector initiatives.
Vietnam	<p>Priority 1 : Capacity building of stakeholders to engage in FLEGT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support to civil society platforms to address regional (Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam FLEGT related) issues as well as at national and lower levels; - Strengthening of civil society capacities in the monitoring and collection of information on forestry infractions; - Building capacity of local intermediaries (e.g. provincial NGOs, provincial associations) to raise awareness of FLEGT and implications of the VPA; - Building capacity and understanding of local media/journalists on the FLEGT negotiation process and VPA implementation.
	<p>Priority 2 : FLEGT related information and awareness raising</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raising awareness amongst forestry households and micro- and small-scale enterprises to build their understanding of FLEGT and compliance with the VPA; - Supporting availability FLEGT related information to promote informed engagement of stakeholder groups; - Supporting research on actual potential impacts (+/-) of VPA implementation at various levels in Vietnam; - Raising awareness amongst civil society about the need to tackle corruption that perpetuates illegal behaviour in the forest sector; - Developing information on forestry and timber sectors through articles and publications to inform national and international stakeholders on VPA progress in Viet Nam.
	<p>Priority 3 : Local actions to reduce illegal logging and associated trade</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encouraging local participation in actions aimed at reducing illegal logging; - Support for actions aimed at integrating the informal sector into the national regulatory frameworks.