

# Linking FLEGT and REDD+

## 1 Background



Photo: Achmad Ibrahim, CIFOR

FLEGT is an initiative that the EU developed in response to global concerns about the negative impacts of illegal logging and timber trade. A Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) is one measure of the EU FLEGT Action Plan.

A VPA is developed through a bilateral process where the EU and a timber-exporting country negotiate a trade agreement that focuses on one particular forest issue: the legal production and trade of timber. REDD+ is a multilateral process framed by the international climate negotiations, which aims to address all drivers of deforestation, including drivers both inside and outside the forest sector. Despite these basic differences, there are overlaps and opportunities for collaboration between the two initiatives.

FLEGT can support successful REDD+ implementation in producer countries by directly addressing some of the drivers of forest degradation and loss. It also addresses promoting improved forest governance and law enforcement and establishing strong and effective multi-stakeholder processes, thereby creating enabling conditions for scaled-up investments and more transparent and inclusive national land use policies. At the same time, some of the consumption measures developed through the EU FLEGT Action Plan such as preferential purchasing of legally produced timber, investment policies that support legal production and legislation that prohibits the sale of illegally produced timber in the EU (see *Introduction to FLEGT*), provide valuable examples of possible actions which could be considered with relation to agricultural commodities that drive forest loss.



Photo: Ollivier Girard, CIFOR

REDD+ can support FLEGT by providing an incentive for conservation, sustainable use and restoration of forests. REDD+ can also increase momentum to:

- improve governance of land use
- clarify land tenure
- build technical capacity and social and environmental safeguards in the forest sector
- provide additional sources of finance.

In many tropical countries there is active engagement with both FLEGT and REDD+ initiatives. This provides an opportunity to build on the interactions between the two processes and make better progress on delivering the objectives of both. Conversely, failure to coordinate efforts under the two initiatives can result in confusing messages, competition between initiatives, inefficient use of resources and less effective delivery on the objectives of either FLEGT or REDD+.

This briefing note summarises the ways in which FLEGT and REDD+ can be mutually supportive with each initiative increasing the effectiveness of the other, as well as noting the risks posed by poor communication and coordination.

# 2 Building links

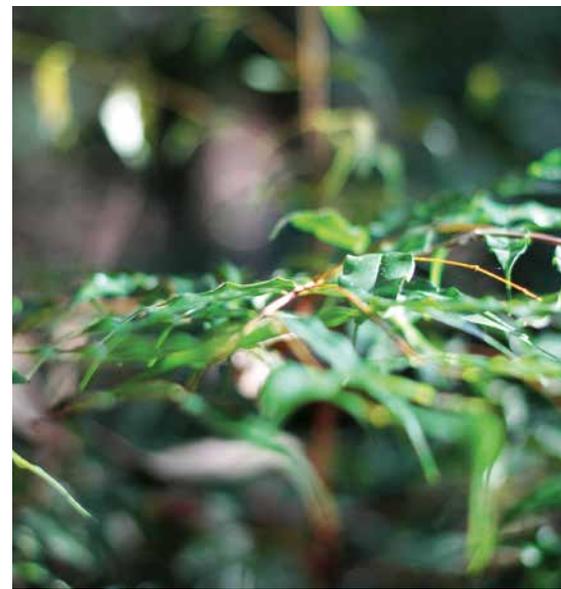
FLEGT and REDD+ can support each other in six key areas.

### Addressing direct drivers of forest loss

Fundamental to the success of REDD+ is finding effective ways to reduce forest degradation and loss in practice. Many of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation are the result of illegal activities in the forest and agricultural sector. FLEGT addresses the forest sector only and may provide valuable lessons for the agricultural sector.



Photo: Achmad Ibrahim, CIFOR



Photos: EFI

### Addressing underlying governance factors that contribute to forest loss

Both FLEGT and REDD+ have to address crucial underlying issues such as weak governance, unclear land use and tenure rights, and poor or conflicting laws.

### Effective processes

Much has already been learnt from VPAs and REDD+ about effective ways of undertaking national processes relating to land use governance and management. Both initiatives could benefit from the lessons of the other.

### Mechanisms for monitoring, measuring, reporting and verification

Monitoring, measuring, reporting and verification (M&MRV) are major issues for both FLEGT and REDD+ with considerable potential synergies.

### Effective use of resources

In many FLEGT and REDD+ countries, major constraints on human and financial resources exist. If countries combine efforts and resources for the two initiatives, they can deliver common goals more efficiently.

### Addressing consumption

Experience from FLEGT has shown that addressing the markets for cheap, illegal timber is crucial for combating illegal timber production. Lessons from FLEGT may reveal opportunities to address the consumption of agricultural commodities whose production drives forest loss.

## 2.1 Addressing direct drivers of forest loss

The objectives of REDD+ are to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and to conserve or enhance existing forest (and thus carbon) stocks. To achieve this, it is necessary to address a wide range of activities which are directly responsible for deforestation and forest degradation. While some of these, such as legal conversion of forest for commercial agriculture, are outside the forest sector and thus the remit of FLEGT, there are many others with where there are considerable complementarities. The table below summarises the major direct drivers of forest degradation and loss, highlighting those where FLEGT can play a role in achieving REDD+ goals and vice versa (table 1).

**Table 1 How FLEGT and REDD+ aim to address the direct drivers of forest loss**

Direct drivers of forest loss	Complementarities between FLEGT and REDD+
<b>Commercial logging</b>	FLEGT addresses forest degradation that occurs when commercial logging activities do not fully comply with legal requirements (such as low-impact harvesting, species conservation and road management, etc.) which exist in most REDD+ countries but are not fully enforced. REDD+ may provide incentives for better law enforcement and improved forest management, for example, by enhancing legal frameworks and establishing clear and equitable land tenure and use rights.
<b>Illegal logging</b>	FLEGT addresses deforestation and forest degradation caused by illegal logging. Illegal logging is a major driver of forest degradation and loss in many REDD+ countries. REDD+ can support FLEGT by creating a greater focus on good governance in the land use sector which in turn reduces illegal activities.
<b>Energy, including fuel wood and charcoal production</b>	FLEGT may have some impact on illegal collection of wood and charcoal production through better governance and enforcement of existing legislation or through promoting legal reform in this sector. REDD+ may include programmes that aim to improve resource efficiency or reduce dependency on fuelwood and charcoal. REDD+ also supports land-use planning and governance.
<b>Legal forest conversion for commercial agriculture</b>	FLEGT does not target legal activities that lead to forest degradation and loss. REDD+ may provide incentives for reduced conversion through improved land-use planning (see Section 2.2) and measures to reduce demand of agricultural products or promoting sustainable consumption (see Section 2.6). See also <i>Working with the private sector on REDD+</i> .
<b>Legal forest conversion for legal subsistence agriculture</b>	FLEGT does not target legal activities that lead to forest degradation and loss. REDD+ may provide incentives for reduced conversion through policies that clarify land tenure and benefit-sharing arrangements or provide access to credit or extension services.

Direct drivers of forest loss	Complementarities between FLEGT and REDD+
<p><b>Illegal forest conversion for agriculture</b></p>	<p>FLEGT may help achieve REDD+ goals by enhancing transparency, creating space for multistakeholder dialogue and preventing the sale of timber harvested from illegal land conversion thereby reducing incentives to clear land. REDD+ may provide incentives for improved governance and planning in the land use sector. This may lead to reduced supply of timber from illegal conversion, which would support FLEGT.</p>
<p><b>Land speculation (clearing forest to secure title)</b></p>	<p>REDD+ may provide incentives to clarify land tenure and use rights. This may lead to reduced supply of timber from speculative conversion because it removes the pressure to clear land to secure title. In this way, REDD+ would support FLEGT. FLEGT may help achieve REDD+ goals by preventing the sale of timber harvested from illegal land conversion thereby reducing incentives to clear land.</p>
<p><b>Infrastructure and mining</b></p>	<p>FLEGT may have an impact on illegal or informal mining activities through improving governance and preventing the sale of conversion timber arising from illegal activity. Review of the legislative framework undertaken for FLEGT and REDD+ could also help resolve conflicts between forest and mining laws. REDD+ may provide incentives for better land-use planning, clarification of land titles and reduced impact of mining on forest cover.</p>
<p><b>Fire</b></p>	<p>FLEGT may reduce the incidence of illegal or accidental fires through improving governance and the implementation of better management plans by forest enterprises. REDD+ may provide incentives to introduce effective monitoring systems, best management practices and effective land-use planning and governance. This may lead to reduced forest loss from fires.</p>



Photo: Daniel Murdiyarto, CIFOR

## 2.2 Addressing underlying governance factors

To succeed, REDD+ needs to address a wide range of underlying factors, many of which result from weak governance. This includes issues such as corruption and weak governance within government, inadequate enforcement, poor stakeholder engagement, lack of transparency and problems with allocation of land and resources. FLEGT addresses all of these issues to some extent through the development and implementation of VPAs. In this way, FLEGT directly supports REDD+ objectives.



Photo: EFI

Preparation for REDD+ also seeks to address many of these issues thereby supporting the achievement of FLEGT objectives. In practice this may include:

### **Improvements in governance and enforcement**

FLEGT aims to contribute to improved governance in the forest sector. Key activities include review and clarification of legislation, better enforcement of legal requirements and increased transparency throughout the sector. All of these are undertaken as part of the development of the timber legality assurance system (TLAS) underpinning the VPAs (see *Introduction to FLEGT*). These activities can support REDD+ goals related to the forest sector, but also provide lessons for improving governance in other sectors that REDD+ needs to address. At the same time REDD+ can bring new approaches and tools for strengthening governance through its focus on social, environmental and governance safeguards. It also involves a wider range of actors both within and outside the government. Some REDD+ initiatives may be particularly helpful for FLEGT, such as governance assessments, improved understanding of weak land-use policies and planning, South-South exchanges and improved tenure and resource rights.



Photo: EFI

### **Discussions about governance**

Discussions about governance, particularly those dealing with corruption or poor practice, can be extremely sensitive and political. VPA negotiations contributed to creating political space and have proved to be a relatively effective arena for discussing these challenging issues. Almost all countries developing REDD+ strategies and plans face the challenge of improving governance. Therefore building on FLEGT experience across several countries in Africa and Asia, either directly or by providing opportunities for south-south information sharing and learning, may be very useful. When designing and implementing REDD+ the need for clear tenure and addressing legal and illegal forest conversion is at the core of the debate. FLEGT may benefit from the increased attention to these governance challenges that REDD+ also needs to deal with.

### **From national to local level**

REDD+ planning is a national process but implementation has to be undertaken locally throughout each country. Similarly, countries develop timber legality assurance systems for VPAs centrally. In both cases, implementation takes place at local level. Lessons from each process are likely to be relevant to the other, particularly solutions to the many challenges that arise during local implementation.

## **Collaboration on REDD+ and FLEGT at provincial level in the Democratic Republic of the Congo**

When the government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo developed its national REDD+ programme, it set up provincial REDD+ focal points. The role of these focal points is to support the provinces in preparing for REDD+ activities, facilitate stakeholder participation and coordinate pilot activities. The national REDD+ coordinating body and the technical commission on FLEGT are training the provincial focal points on both REDD+ and FLEGT so they can pool their resources and find ways for both initiatives to contribute to joint objectives. Equipping REDD+ focal points with the necessary tools to communicate clearly about FLEGT improves information sharing and reforms at provincial level.

### Allocation of resources and benefits

One of the most challenging issues in REDD+ is the allocation of resources and benefits based on performance. A particular issue is the allocation of benefits to people or organisations whose activities lead to reduced forest degradation and loss but whose tenure or use rights are unclear. To some extent, these issues are also being addressed through FLEGT since it is necessary to clarify tenure and use rights, and to consider allocation of resources to different actors including illegal loggers and local communities encroaching illegally in forests.

### Safeguards

The development of a safeguard framework for REDD+ in order to mitigate risk and promote co-benefits from REDD+ activities includes analysing and improving the legal framework. A similar analysis is conducted when stakeholders in timber producing countries develop the legality definition in the context of the VPA. The safeguard framework and legality definition operate in very different ways, but they both help to strengthen the legal framework around shared principles. In addition, developing the safeguard framework and legality definition in parallel also allows for gap assessments.

## Safeguard approaches in Vietnam

Vietnam is developing a national REDD+ safeguards framework to meet its REDD+ safeguards obligations under the UNFCCC, based on a comprehensive gap analysis of relevant national policies, laws and regulations. The analysis identified gaps with regard to reversals from replacing natural forest with fast-growing plantations cut at short cycles, and displacement of emissions from Vietnam wood processing industries because they source most of their timber from neighbouring countries. The results of this assessment may be useful when developing the legality definition for the VPA. There are also clear opportunities in the process of developing country approaches to REDD+ safeguards and developing a legality definition, such as the multistakeholder mechanisms for negotiation and implementation, communication, and capacity building of civil society organisations.

## Multistakeholder dynamics in the Republic of the Congo

In Congo, VPA negotiations created space for organisations from civil society, indigenous people and the private sector to contribute and have their voices heard.

The principle of participation is also embedded in Congo's REDD+ process. Civil society and indigenous people's organisations have formed a REDD+ platform, the Cadre de concertation REDD+ (CACO-REDD+), building on lessons and experiences from the FLEGT counterpart platform, the Plateforme pour la gestion durable de forêts, created to follow the negotiation and implementation of the VPA.

Platforms help civil society groups better coordinate and participate in policy discussions and formal consultations structures

## 2.3 Effective processes

Considerable experience from FLEGT processes exists already, which can contribute to successful development of REDD+, while emerging experience from REDD+ can also contribute to FLEGT processes. Some key areas where lessons from FLEGT may be useful for REDD+ and *vice versa* are summarised below.

### Consultation and multistakeholder processes

VPA negotiations require consultation with a broad range of stakeholders. Therefore, the negotiations require an effective framework for consultations that are predictable and accessible. In general, stakeholders have understood how their input is utilised and the processes have been reasonably transparent. Developing national REDD+ programmes also requires consultation with a broad range of stakeholders and there is growing experience of this process at both national and subnational levels. Where VPA dialogues are already underway, they can potentially provide a basis or inspiration for consultations for REDD+. Similarly, where REDD+ platforms exist, and VPA negotiations come afterward, collaboration may provide access to important and influential stakeholder groups.

Conversely, if VPA or REDD+ dialogues already exist but are not given a role in the new mechanism, the existing process may be undermined, wasting investment in building trust and capacity. It can also provoke a very negative response from stakeholders that feel undermined, creating opposition to the newer initiative which then has to be addressed.

### Governance of the process

A major requirement for both FLEGT and REDD+ is agreeing appropriate mechanisms to oversee the development and implementation of the initiatives, including crucial aspects such as stakeholder engagement, provision of information and the role of international partners. VPAs include the creation of a Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) to oversee implementation of the Agreement. The JIC comprises representatives from both the partner country and the EU and generally include both government and civil society representatives from the partner country. This model may be useful for REDD+ in some countries. REDD+ includes the formation of a national coordination structure such as a national REDD+ committee comprising a range of different actors and ensuring intersectoral collaboration. These groups play an important role and may provide a useful model for a VPA.



Photo: EFI

### Reaching different stakeholder groups

FLEGT and REDD+ can differ in their effectiveness in reaching certain stakeholder groups. VPAs are bilateral trade agreements and the consultation process has been effective in engaging civil society and the private sector. REDD+ can build on this, particularly in engaging private actors linked to agricultural drivers of deforestation. Conversely, REDD+ is receiving a lot of attention from representatives of local communities and Indigenous Peoples which could be very useful for FLEGT. At a government level FLEGT and REDD+ often involve different Ministries or working groups. Bringing these groups together periodically may enhance the progress of both initiatives.

### Dealing with external pressures

There has been strong pressure on the VPA negotiation processes to demonstrate results quickly, even though they function within a wider policy context. Similarly, REDD+ programmes come under pressure to move quickly while at the same time being strongly influenced by the international climate negotiations. Experience with developing VPAs shows that defining a timeframe for negotiations helps maintain momentum and lends purpose to dialogue. However, it is also essential to maintain genuine stakeholder involvement which may sometimes slow the process, but also makes it more robust in the face of change. This may be a useful approach for managing similar pressures for REDD+.

### Moving from negotiations to implementation

VPA negotiations processes generate a significant amount of political attention, and this creates the pressures described above. Once an agreement is reached, political attention can decrease sharply with significant implications for the political will to ensure that implementation proceeds effectively. Similar problems are arising for REDD+, as some of the early political attention fades in the face of protracted negotiations and discussions and lack of progress at country level.

### FLEGT and REDD+ implementation in Ghana

Ghana and the EU started VPA negotiations in early 2007. Stakeholders were engaged in technical preparations for the negotiations, which led to the signing of the VPA in 2009. Although needed reforms were identified throughout the negotiation process, the implementation of the legal reforms and the roll-out of the timber legality assurance systems has been challenging, requiring much time and many resources. In 2008, Ghana also began the REDD+ process, submitting its final R-PP at the end of 2010. As Ghana concludes the development of its national REDD+ strategy, coordinating the many activities that affect land use in Ghana remains a key challenge.

### Bilateral negotiations

VPAs have generated considerable experience with bilateral negotiations on forests, in which the EU and partner countries engage at a senior level and as equal partners. VPA negotiations evolve over several rounds, based on learning about who needs to be involved, when they need to engage and how to link the negotiations to a multistakeholder process. Some of these lessons may be useful for bilateral discussions about access to early REDD+ finance, especially with regard to national ownership and forest governance reform, involvement of stakeholders, clarification of rights, benefit sharing and incentives for sustainable forest management.

Photo: European Commission



## 2.4 Mechanisms for monitoring, measuring, reporting and verification

REDD+ includes mechanisms for monitoring, measuring, reporting and verification (M&MRV). A major part of this will be M&MRV related to forest cover and condition, but it will also include the effectiveness of activities (particularly during the early phases of REDD+ implementation) and potentially the distribution of monetary and non-monetary incentives to different stakeholder groups. The institutional and technical capacity to monitor deforestation and forest degradation developed for REDD+ can be useful for FLEGT if it provides information on forest management, forest cover and illegal activities, and may also contribute to stronger national capacity and introduce a culture of effective monitoring and verification in the forest sector.

Timber legality assurance systems (see *Introduction to FLEGT*) also include several requirements for monitoring, reporting and verification. These include on-the-ground monitoring of forest management and legal compliance as well as independent third-party monitoring of the whole system. Timber legality assurance systems may be useful for REDD+ both directly and indirectly. Directly, they may generate information of use for REDD+ M&MRV. Indirectly, they may provide models that are applicable to REDD+.

### Access to information in the Republic of the Congo

In the Republic of the Congo, the national REDD+ coordination body and the Timber Legality and Traceability Unit of the Ministry of Forest Economy and Sustainable Development assembled, organised and distributed a REDD+ and FLEGT document library. They distributed the documents on CD-ROM to stakeholder groups. In this way, they gave stakeholders access to legal documents, studies and briefing notes on both FLEGT and REDD+ processes. Developing a single library achieved significant economies of scale in both development and dissemination. It provided stakeholder with better access to information and facilitated participation in both processes. The library also contributes to the transparency and information requirements in the VPA between Congo and the EU.

#### Transparency

A crucial element of M&MRV for REDD+ is public availability of information on topics such as land tenure and use, implementation of safeguards and distribution of benefits. However, these issues are very sensitive for many governments. VPAs include detailed requirements about transparency and public availability of information. Much of this information is likely to be directly relevant to REDD+ and could be used by an M&MRV system. Furthermore, a VPA may provide a useful example of an agreement where both sides accept mechanisms for transparency.

#### Monitoring of forest management and condition

A timber legality assurance system requires a functioning system for regular monitoring of the condition and management of forests. The information collected may be useful in providing some on-the-ground input into monitoring of forest ecosystem services for REDD+. Information with respect to forest degradation is particularly relevant for monitoring forest carbon. Similarly, information collected by the REDD+ MRV system can feed into the timber legality assurance system and facilitate monitoring for the VPA.

### Recognition of land rights supports the VPA and participation in REDD+ in Indonesia

Recent Constitutional Court rulings in Indonesia confirm that customary forest shall no longer be regarded as state forest, which covers two-thirds of the land. Indigenous people of Indonesia are therefore mapping their ancestral lands so they are referenced in district spatial planning and can resist illegal encroachments. This participatory mapping exercise may contribute to more carbon, biodiversity and livelihood optimal land use planning in more than 40 million hectares of forest claimed by indigenous peoples, reduce the amounts of conflicts for permit holders, facilitate the effectiveness of the timber legal assurance system under the Indonesian VPA, and facilitate access for communities that depend on forests to REDD+ funds based on secure tenure.

### Independent auditing of the system

A VPA includes a requirement for third-party auditing of the timber legality assurance system. The approach aims to meet the EU's requirement for credible oversight while also maintaining the sovereignty of the partner country. REDD+ also faces the challenge of developing an approach to monitoring which meets the needs of the different countries involved. FLEGT has addressed the issue by developing clear requirements for the type of organisation and the activities to be undertaken, but left the responsibility for identification and hiring of the independent auditor with the partner country. This approach might have useful lessons for REDD+.



Photo: Agus Andrianto, CIFOR

## 2.5 Effective use of resources

Human and financial resources are a major challenge in many of the countries where FLEGT and REDD+ initiatives are underway. Often there are too few people available at all levels from government to communities, making it essential to use people's time and skills well. Financial resources are often an ongoing constraint. A problem in the short term is the failure to disburse existing funds. A challenge in the medium term is scaling up, which requires much larger amounts of funding. Therefore, it is crucial that available resources are managed well. Following are some opportunities for effective use of resources.

## Collaboration

Pooling resources or building on the strengths of each initiative can make more effective use of limited personnel and increase the effectiveness of both initiatives. If actors who are implementing a VPA and those implementing REDD+ actively identify opportunities and engage in collaboration, both initiatives can gain access to more resources.



Photo: FAO

## Improved planning

Better communication between actors working on FLEGT and those working on REDD+ can lead to better planning and more efficient use of resources. For example, a common complaint among government officials, NGOs and even private sector in many FLEGT and REDD+ countries is that the high number of meetings they attend prevents them from completing their other tasks. In many cases, the same stakeholders are involved in discussions about both FLEGT and REDD+; combining meetings or running them sequentially will save time, particularly for those who travel some distance to meetings.

## Economies of scale

Where resources are limited, economies of scale can be of benefit. Opportunities include undertaking studies or developing tools and approaches of use to both VPA and REDD+ implementation.

## Avoiding competition

Where resources are limited, whether it is financial resources or trained staff, or access to senior officials, competition can arise and hinder progress. Competition may arise between government ministries, NGOs, national and subnational governments or organisations or funders. Collaboration between FLEGT and REDD+ processes can minimise such obstructive competition.

## 2.6 Addressing consumption

A major driver of deforestation is the production of agricultural commodities such as beef, soya, sugar and palm oil. There is a growing awareness that in order to reduce pressure on forests it is necessary to address consumption of these commodities. The EU FLEGT Action Plan offers many activities and lessons that are relevant to this goal.



Photo: Achmad Ibrahim, CIFOR

Voluntary approaches, such as responsible sourcing programmes by private sector entities, sustainable procurement policies by governments and responsible investment by the financial sector were instrumental in creating markets for legal timber in Europe. Many other countries and regions have followed this lead.

The EU Timber Regulation prohibits businesses from placing illegally harvested timber on the EU market. The regulation is an example of EU legislation designed to reduce consumption of illegal timber. Another EU regulation prohibits EU countries from including in their biofuel targets any biofuels produced from crops grown on deforested land. This regulation is part of the EU Renewable Energy Directive. These two regulations provide very useful lessons for REDD+ on the advantages and the significant costs and challenges of adopting a legislative approach to controlling consumption.

# 3 Linking FLEGT and REDD+ in practice

Policymakers and practitioners involved with FLEGT and REDD+ can achieve more effective collaboration through the following practical approaches.

## **Know what initiatives are active**

In many countries, several initiatives related to FLEGT, forest governance and REDD+ are underway. For better collaboration, it is important for stakeholders in each initiative to know what other initiatives are active, what their objectives are and who is involved. While this may sound very simple, in many countries there is very limited information exchange between different initiatives and the knowledge level of what other initiatives are doing is very low. For more information on some of the initiatives underway, see *Introduction to FLEGT*, *Introduction to REDD+* and *Working with the private sector on REDD+*.

## **Know the actors involved and their motivations**

It is also important for stakeholders to know which institutions or individuals are involved in each initiative and what their objectives are. This information forms the basis for interaction and understanding of potential conflicts or competition. Identifying and building on shared objectives is an effective way of creating collaboration between initiatives. Conversely, competition tends to arise between government ministries, civil society groups and individuals, particularly for financial resources or influence over decision-making.

## **Understand the processes and their strengths and limitations**

FLEGT and REDD+ can take months or years to implement. Both go through phases of planning, stakeholder engagement, consultation, reporting and implementation. Each initiative has its own approach and timeline, and it is often easier to work together once there is a clear understanding of what these processes are and where there is overlap or commonalities. For example, FLEGT involves VPA negotiations and implementation of a timber legality assurance system (see *Introduction to FLEGT*), and REDD+ has three recognised phases, namely readiness, scaling up and full implementation (see *Introduction to REDD+*). In addition, FLEGT is limited to the forest sector, whereas REDD+ looks at drivers of forest degradation and loss both within and beyond the forest sector.

## **Understand the outcomes and their scope**

Effective collaboration between FLEGT and REDD+ requires stakeholders to be clear about the desired outcomes of both initiatives – both in the planning phase (e.g. better stakeholder engagement or greater transparency) and in the implementation phase (e.g. reduced corruption or stronger law enforcement). Overlaps between outcomes create opportunities for collaboration. However, they also differ in their objectives. For example, a VPA is a trade agreement, but REDD+ is not. REDD+ addresses drivers of deforestation across all sectors, whereas FLEGT focuses on illegal timber harvesting. Understanding the overlaps and the differences is necessary to take advantage of them.

### Take time to understand lessons

While it is easy to talk about learning lessons in theory, it can be challenging in practice as reality is seldom simple or clear cut. However, as REDD+ and FLEGT continue to develop and experience accumulates, it is essential for those involved to take the time to understand what has been done, what has succeeded, what has failed and why.

# 4 Resources

In the European Commission, the Directorate General for Climate Action leads on REDD+. The Directorates General for the Environment and for Development and Cooperation implement the FLEGT Action Plan, in consultation with governments of EU member states.

#### DG Climate Action

[http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index_en.htm)

#### DG Environment

[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/illegal\\_logging.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/forests/illegal_logging.htm)

#### DG Development and Cooperation

[http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/intervention-areas/environment/forestry\\_intro\\_en.htm](http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/what/development-policies/intervention-areas/environment/forestry_intro_en.htm)

The **EU REDD Facility** supports REDD+ policy implementation. The **EU FLEGT Facility** supports the EU and partner countries in implementing the EU FLEGT Action Plan. Both facilities are supported by the EU and EU member states and hosted by the European Forest Institute (EFI).

[www.euredd.efi.int](http://www.euredd.efi.int)

[www.euflegt.efi.int](http://www.euflegt.efi.int)

The European Tropical Forest Research Network aims to ensure that European research contributes to conservation and sustainable use of forest and tree resources in tropical and subtropical countries. ETFRN News published a collection of articles on the links between FLEGT and REDD+: Broekhoven G and Wit M, eds., 2014. Linking FLEGT and REDD+ to improve forest governance. Tropenbos International, Wageningen, the Netherlands. <http://www.etfrn.org/publications/linking+flegt+and+redd%2b+to+improve+forest+governance>



Funded by the European Union and the Governments of France, Germany, Ireland, Spain and the United Kingdom



Proforest developed four briefings that introduce REDD+ and explain the links between FLEGT and REDD+ and with other forest initiatives.

- *Introduction to FLEGT*
- *Linking FLEGT and REDD+*
- *Introduction to REDD+*
- *Working with the private sector on REDD+*

This is the third of the four briefings, *Linking FLEGT and REDD+*. REDD+ stands for reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation plus conserving forests, sustainably managing forests and enhancing forest carbon stocks. REDD+ is a proposed international mechanism to provide incentives for developing countries to protect and restore their forest carbon stocks. FLEGT stands for forest law enforcement, governance and trade. The FLEGT Action Plan is a European Union initiative to address the problem of illegal logging and related trade.

This briefing was developed by Proforest, with input from EFI and officials of the European Union and EU member states, and produced with the assistance of the European Union. The contents are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to represent the views of the European Union.