

Update on FLEGT-VPA process in Viet Nam¹

August 2015

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1. Timeline of VPA negotiation

1.1 Key dates and events 2010-2013

May 2010	Senior Official Meeting on FLEGT-VPA
September 2010	First Joint Expert Meeting (JEM-1)
November 2010	First Technical Working Group (TWG-1) in Ha Noi
August 2011	Presentation of baseline studies on: stakeholder mapping, timber flows and legality definition
August 2011	1 ST National Consultation Workshop on FLEGT-VPA
August 2011	JEM-2 in Ha Noi
September 2011	Establishment of inter-agency Working Groups on LD, TLAS and VPA text
November 2011	Draft 4 of Legality Definition posted on VNFOREST website for comment
November 2011	JEM-3 and TWG-2 in Ha Noi
January 2012	Establishment of VNGO-FLEGT Network
April 2012	JEM-6 on Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) in Ha Noi
April 2012	Draft 5 of Legality Definition posted on VNFOREST website for comment
November 2012	Community consultations on timber legality in 6 provinces by VNGO-FLEGT Network
November 2012	JEM-7 and TWG-3 in Brussels
March 2013	Livelihood Impacts Assessment of VPA started by VNGO-FLEGT Network
September 2013	Draft 6.3 of LD and Draft 2 of TLAS posted on VNFOREST website for comment
October 2013	First Bi-lateral dialogue with Laos PDR

1.2 Key dates and events 2014-2015

2014	
February	Start-up of several INGO/VNGO small-grant projects to support FLEGT-VPA process
Feb-April	EU FAO FLEGT Program support to VNFOREST for further preparation of Annex V TLAS
March	Video Conference (VC-20) between VN and EU to update on status of preparation of VPA annexes

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March	TLAS consultation workshop with state management agencies (Hanoi)
March	TLAS consultation workshop with private sector (Ho Chi Minh City)
March	TLAS consultation workshop with state management agencies, CSOs and private sector (Hanoi)
March	Stakeholder meeting to discuss preparation of FLEGT-VPA Activity Matrix
April	2 ND National Consultation Workshop on FLEGT-VPA (Hanoi)
April	Report on Livelihood Impact Assessment of VPA by VNGO-FLEGT Network
May	Second Bi-lateral dialogue with Laos PDR
May	Report on information needs assessment with SMEs by CED and VCCI
May	Working Group on FLEGT-VPA Information and Communication established (1 st meeting)
July	Meeting of FLEGT-VPA information and communication working group to discuss Technical Glossary
June	Meeting of FLEGT-VPA information and communication working group to discuss Annex VIII
July	VC-21 to update on status of preparation of VPA annexes
August	VC-22 to discuss Annex VIII Public Disclosure of Information
August	VC-23 to discuss Annex VI Terms of Reference for Independent Evaluation
September	Stakeholder meetings with industry to discuss VNTLAS
September	VC-24 to discuss Annex VII Criteria for assessing the operationality of TLAS
October	VC-25 to discuss preparations for JEM-8/TWG-4
October	VC-26 to discuss documents on LD, TLAS and FLEGT licensing for JEM-8/TWG-4
October	JEM-8 / TWG-4 in Hanoi (20-24 October)
December	VC-27 to discuss Annex II LD
December	Stakeholder consultations with industry to discuss VNTLAS
2015	
January	VC-28 to discuss Annex II LD
January	VC-29 between the Negotiators to discuss VNTLAS
February	VC-30 to discuss Annex II LD
April	JEM-9 in Hanoi
April	Technical meeting on cleaning LD text
June	Technical mission on Annex V VNTLAS
August	Technical meeting on cleaning LD text

2. Status of preparation of VPA documentation

Document	Latest version made public for consultations	Status of technical preparation and negotiation
VPA Legal Text	N/A	Latest draft shared between VN and EU for discussion at JEM8/TWG4 (October 2014)
Annex I Product Coverage	Draft shared with stakeholders at consultations in Quarter I+II 2014	Latest draft updated/revised at JEM8/TWG4 (October 2014)
Annex II Legality Definition (LD)	Draft (Version 8) made available to stakeholder in May 2015.	Draft updated/revised at JEM8/TWG4 (October 2014). Latest draft (Version 8) shared by VN with EU in March 2015, including updated legal references to 31/03/15.
Annex III Conditions for free circulation of goods in the EU	Draft shared with stakeholders at consultations in Quarter I+II 2014	Latest draft shared for discussion at JEM-8/TWG-4 (October 2014)
Annex IV FLEGT licensing system	Draft shared with stakeholders at consultations in Quarter I+II 2014	Latest draft updated/revised at JEM8/TWG4 (October 2014)
Annex V Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS)	Drafts shared with stakeholders at consultation workshops and meetings through 2014 to 2015	Draft updated/revised at JEM8/TWG4 (October 2014). Latest draft July 2015.
Annex VI Terms of Reference for Independent Evaluation	Draft shared with stakeholders at consultations in Quarter I+II 2014	Latest draft shared for discussion at JEM-8/TWG-4 (October 2014)
Annex VII Criteria for assessing the operationality of TLAS	Draft shared with stakeholders at consultations in Quarter I+II 2014	Latest draft shared for discussion at JEM-8/TWG-4 (October 2014)
Annex VIII Public disclosure of information	Draft shared with stakeholders at consultations in Quarter I+II 2014	Latest draft updated/revised at JEM8/TWG4 (October 2014)
Annex IX Functions of Joint Implementation Committee (JIC)	N/A	Latest draft updated/revised at JEM8/TWG4 (October 2014)
Annex X Technical Glossary	Draft shared with stakeholders at consultations in Quarter I+II 2014	Latest draft shared for discussion at JEM-8/TWG-4 (October 2014)

3. Status of FLEGT-VPA support initiatives

3.1 Grant projects started in 2014

Project	Capacity building of business associations and media to engage in FLEGT to provide information on FLEGT and related issues
Agency & partners	Centre for Education and Development (CED), in partnership with the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI)
Funding	EU FAO FLEGT Program (12 months). Project closed August 2015.
Objectives	Capacity building of business associations and media to engage in FLEGT to provide information on FLEGT and related issues, through (i) Promoting understanding of local media on the FLEGT negotiation process and VPA implementation; (ii) Supporting the availability of FLEGT related information to promote informed engagement of the business sector.
Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project started (February 2014). • Inception Report (March 2014). • Information Needs Assessment with SMEs and media agencies (April-May 2014). • Training workshop of communications of media, industry associations and VNGOs (July 2014). • Follow-up training and support for journalists such as: information provision, press tours, business interviews, liaison between VNFOREST and media agencies (ongoing). • Communication plan was finalized and distributed to relevant stakeholders (October 2014). • Preparation of key Q&A booklets for businesses (August 2015). • Support implementation of media plan, leveraging both social and traditional media. • Peer learning workshop for business associations and enterprises in Binh Dinh (June 2015). • Final review workshop (August 2015). • Closing date (project extension to 13 August 2015).
Geographical coverage	Nationwide (focused on Quang Nam, Quang Ngai, Binh Dinh, Binh Duong, and Ho Chi Minh)
Links	http://flegtvpa.com/# http://ced.edu.vn/category/our-work/programs/
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information needs assessment report: http://flegtvpa.com/full-report-understanding-practices-flegt-information-needs-flegt-smes-vietnam.html • FLEGT-VPA Communication strategy: http://www.slideshare.net/MinhVu11/final-flegt-vpa-com-plan-presentationpdf • Meeting between media agencies and VNFOREST on FLEGT-VPA communication: http://flegtvpa.com/cac-van-de-trong-truyen-thong-de-tai-flegt-vpa-hop-voi-phong-vien-tai-tcln-ngay-13-thang-3-nam-2015.html • Peer learning workshop for business associations and enterprises in Binh Dinh (June 2015): http://www.slideshare.net/MinhVu11/note-tho-lun-hi-tho-tng-kt-d-n-flegtvpa-ca-ced-ngy-2082015 http://flegtvpa.com/tong-ket-hoi-thao-quy-nhon-ket-noi-doanh-nghiep-go-ve-flegt-vpa.html • Vietnam Television broadcast on FLEGT-VPA: http://vtv.vn/video/moi-truong-co-che-ngan-chan-buon-ban-go-bat-hop-phap-85791.htm
Contacts	To Kim Lien, Director CED – lientk@ced.edu.vn Vu Anh Minh, Project Coordinator – minhva@ced.edu.vn

Project	Strengthening capacity of CSOs and forest dependent communities to effectively participate into the VPA process
Agency & partners	Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) and VNGO-FLEGT Network members.
Funding	EU FAO FLEGT Program (12 months). Project closed March 2015.
Objectives	To enhance the capacity of forest-dependent communities to enable them to effectively participate in FLEGT/ VPA negotiations and implementation, and to analyse the findings from field studies and other research on relevant stakeholders to anticipate the impacts of a VPA on the livelihoods of vulnerable communities.
Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch workshop (February 2014). • Inception Report (March 2014). • Training on participatory Livelihood Impact Assessment (LIA) of VPA (April 2014). • Training on participatory communication campaign (April 2014). • LIA baseline studies and communication campaigns in several localities (2014-2015). • Report on results of LIA (October 2014). • Publication of manual on LIA methods (February 2015). • Project completion workshop (March 2015).
Geographical coverage	Project activities in Nghe An, Ha Tinh, Bac Kan and Yen Bai provinces
Links	http://vngo-cc.vn/dmt-Gioi-thieu-ve-VNGO-FLEGT-36/ http://loggingoff.info/countries/vietnam
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Livelihood Impact Assessment of VPA: case studies in Thai Nguyen and Yen Bai. • Policy brief on Protection forest zoning in the time of VPA: http://loggingoff.info/document/policy-brief-about-protection-forest-zoning • Manual on Participatory Livelihood Impact Assessment: http://loggingoff.info/document/livelihood-impact-assessment-manual • Training materials for workshop on Livelihood Impact Assessment. • Training materials for workshop on Community Outreach and Awareness Raising.
Contacts	Vu Thi Bich Hop, Director SRD – hop@srd.org.vn Hoang Quoc Chinh, Program Officer – chinh@srd.org.vn Nguyen Truong Quan, Network Coordinator – quan@srd.org.vn

Project	Common Access to VPA Process in Laos and Vietnam (regional project)
Agency & partners	World Wildlife Fund (WWF), in partnership with PanNature (Vietnam) and Village Focus International (Laos) and the forestry authorities in Laos and Vietnam
Funding	EU-ENRTP (36 months)
Objectives	<p>Overall objectives: by 2010, as a result of multi-stakeholder negotiation and implementation of VPAs in Vietnam and Laos, domestic and transboundary timber flows are compliant with the EU timber regulations, and contribute to an economically-robust, socially responsible and environmentally sustainable forestry sector.</p> <p>Specific objective: by 2017, the VPAs in Laos and Vietnam explicitly and adequately account for the needs and interests of civil society, forest-dependent communities, and forest sector companies and the VPA processes distinctively address transboundary issues in timber trade, including impacts on forest services and the needs of these target groups.</p>

Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project document for Vietnam component approved by MARD (June 2014) • Inception Workshop for Vietnam component (August 2014) • Support for VNFOREST to conduct stakeholder consultations (August –December 2014). • An E&M plan for project in Vietnam developed and shared among partners (2014) • Capacity assessment of Vietnamese NGOs in FLEGT-VPA (2014). • Capacity assessment of SMEs (2014). • Training workshops for local project partners (December 2014). • Support joint meeting between forest protection authorities in Laos and Vietnam (2014). • Assessment of compliance between SME chain-of-custody systems with LD. • Community Based Forest Committees (CBFCs) in 7 provinces established (172 members) and baseline data of household economic of members of CBFCs collected. • Capacity assessment of CBFCs (on-going). • Awareness raising on legality of timber and forest management for CBFCs (on—going). • Establishment of CBFC’s network (on-going – agenda developed). • Design and development of training materials for CBFCs (on-going) • M&E training for CSO (April 2015). • Leaflet production. • Preparation of training materials on VPA/FLEGT for CSOs (on-going). • Preparation of training material on VPA/FLEGT for SMEs (on-going). • Organizing a series of meetings to support VNFOREST in negotiation process with EU.
Geographical coverage	Ha Tinh, Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Thua Thien Hue, Quang Nam, Kon Tum and Gia Lai provinces
Links	http://vietnam.panda.org/en/what we do/common access to vpa process/ http://www.nature.org.vn/en/about/
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training Need Assessment reports on VPA/FLEGT for CSOs and SMEs. • M&E training documents. • Leaflets.
Contacts	Nguyen Ngoc Thang, Project Manager WWF – thang.nguyenngoc@wwfgreatermekong.org Le Cong Uan, FLEGT Regional Manager WWF – uan.lecong@wwf.panda.org Hoang Xuan Thuy, PA Nature – thuy@nature.org.vn

Project	Promoting FLEGT in SE Asia through proactive CSO engagement (regional project)
Agency & partners	FERN, together with the Centre for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD) and VNGO-FLEGT Network members in Vietnam
Funding	EU-ENRTP (36 months)
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: improved livelihoods, forest governance, and respect for tenure rights of forest-dependent communities by providing space for civil society in the VPA negotiation and implementation process.</p> <p>Specific objectives: (i) Key concerns of empowered and well-informed forest dependent communities and local CSOs are fed into Lao and Vietnamese VPA negotiation and implementation to improve forest governance and respect for land rights of these communities; (ii) To open space in Malaysia, Thailand and Cambodia for CSOs to secure a place in the VPA process; (iii) To support FLEGT and VPA negotiations in SE Asia and reduce the trade in illegal timber by raising awareness through CSO networks with stakeholders in the region, Europe, and Japan.</p>
Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch workshop (February 2014) • Consultancy to review lessons and experience from the VNGO-FLEGT Network and to develop a strategic development plan for the network (May to December 2014). • Training workshops on Participatory Action Research for network members (May 2014).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research on capacity of household timber growers and processing households to the requirements of the LD/TLAS (May to August 2014). • Training on GIS in forest monitoring (August 2014). • Training on research report and policy briefing writing skills (September 2014). • Training workshop on Independent Forest Monitoring (December 2014). • Network Steering Committee participation in FLEGT week in Brussels (March 2015). • Network Steering Committee participation in IFM workshop in Indonesia (April 2015). • Training workshop on Baseline Assessment and Independent Monitoring of the LD Compliance at Household level in Da Nang (May 2015). • Training workshop on Community Outreach and Awareness Raising in Ha Noi (May 2015). • Scoping study for Independent Monitoring baseline assessment in 4 provinces – Hoa Binh, Nghe An, Binh Dinh and Kon Tum (June 2015). • Meeting to review results of scoping study for Independent Monitoring with EU Delegation and VNFOREST (June 2015). • A community awareness event about FLEGT in Hoa Binh (June 2015). • Independent Monitoring baseline assessment fieldwork in 4 provinces (on-going).
Geographical coverage	Project activities in Yen Bai, Thai Nguyen, Thanh Hoa, Thua Thien Hue, Binh Dinh, Ba Ria Vung Tau, Hoa Binh, Nghe An and Kon Tum
Links	http://vngo-cc.vn/dmt-Gioi-thieu-ve-VNGO-FLEGT-36/ http://loggingoff.info/countries/vietnam
Publications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidated Report on Livelihood Impact Assessment of Vietnam’s proposed VPA: http://loggingoff.info/document/livelihood-impact-assessment-vpa-viet-nam • Consolidated Report on the ability of households engaged in timber harvesting, buying, transportation and processing to meet requirements on timber legality http://loggingoff.info/document/research-report-ability-households-engaged-timber-harvesting-buying-transportation-and-proc • Training concept design and materials for the workshop on Baseline Assessment and Monitoring of the LD Compliance at Household level. • Training materials for the workshop on Community Outreach and Awareness Raising. • Quarterly policy brief of VNGO-FLEGT network.
Contacts	<p>Vu Thi Bich Hop, Director SRD – hop@srd.org.vn</p> <p>Hoang Quoc Chinh, Program Officer – chinh@srd.org.vn</p> <p>Do Thi Ha An, Network Coordinator – an@srd.org.vn</p>

Project	Increasing capacity of CSOs and SMEs to implement FLEGT requirements
Agency & partners	NEPCon and the Sustainable Forest Management Institute (SFMI)
Funding	EU-DEL (36 months)
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: to encourage the participation of civil society organisations and the private sector in the FLEGT process by strengthening the capacity of intermediary organisations (i.e., industry associations, NGOs, heads of wood processing villages, private consultants, etc.) that work with hard to reach stakeholders (i.e., SMEs) in the Vietnamese timber industry.</p> <p>Specific objective: to increase the capability of SMEs to implement systems that allow them to comply with FLEGT legality requirements, by strengthening the capacity of the intermediary organisations that work with them.</p>
Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch workshop (February 2014). • Workshop on EUTR and project activities together with Client Earth in HCM City (March 2014). • Legal Source Expert Training for project staff and partners (September 2014).

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of information and media materials (September 2014). • Country timber legality risk assessments in 6 countries (on-going). • Supply chain mapping study (on-going). • Capacity needs assessment with SMEs and intermediary organizations (on-going) • Selection of intermediary organizations and SMEs for pilot activities (on-going). • Certification and verification scheme against FLEGT requirements evaluation (on-going). • Production of risk mitigation toolkit (ongoing). • Three small SME toolkit workshops (Hanoi, Binh Duong and Binh Dinh, June 2015).
Geographical coverage	Working with SMEs and intermediary organizations in north, central and south Vietnam.
Links	http://www.nepcon.net/VNFLEGT http://flegt-tools.org/
Publications	Project description, information leaflets, and toolkit materials available at: http://flegt-tools.org/resources/
Contacts	Duong Thi Lien, Project Coordinator SFMI – dtl@nepcon.net Ann Weddle, Chief Advisor NEPCon – aw@nepcon.net

Project	Promoting the participation of the Central Vietnam VNGO-FLEGT Network in the FLEGT-VPA processes
Agency & partners	Inter-church Organization for Development Cooperation (ICCO), together with the Centre for Rural Development in Central Vietnam (CRD) and the Consultative and Research Center on Natural Resources Management (CORENARM).
Funding	EU DEL Program (36 months)
Objectives	Overall objective: to contribute to the inclusive and sustainable implementation of the EU-VN FLEGT VPA. Specific objective: strengthened VNGO-FLEGT network, CSOs and CBOs in Central Vietnam to influence the EU-VN FLEGT VPA participatory processes, from public consultations to its implementation.
Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch workshop (February 2014) • Training workshops for project partners in 4 provinces on: issues related to FLEGT (October 2014); constraining social and political barriers to CSOs in the implementation of the FLEGT-VPA process (October 2014); behavior change communication (BCC) skills on FLEGT (November 2014); concepts of FLEGT, TLAS, REDD+ and policy feedback (September-December 2014). • Producing a TV program on community consultation and capacity building for stakeholders in VPA-FLEGT process. • Round table workshops and community consultation workshops to collect inputs for FLEGT-VPA negotiation process in 4 project districts in 4 provinces (June-October 2014). • National workshop on views of forest dependent communities and small timber processors on FLEGT in Da Nang (October 2014). • Training on advocacy skills for VPA-FLEGT process (February 2015). • Training on network management skills for key members of the network (March 2015). • Policy Briefing on local consultations on FLEGT-VPA (March 2015). • Annual review and planning workshop with other VNGO Network members (March 2015). • Setting up community-based forest management model in T.T. Hue province (on-going). • Setting up a forest dependent community network in the Central region for providing inputs, monitoring, and advocating for the EU-VN FLEGT VPA process (on-going).
Geographical coverage	Thua Thien Hue, Quang Tri, Quang Binh and Quang Nam provinces.
Links	www.corenarm.org.vn

Publications	<p>Newsletter: http://www.corenarm.org.vn/?pid=24&id=1177</p> <p>Research report on orientation models of community forest governance: http://www.corenarm.org.vn/?pid=100&id=1275</p> <p>Consultation workshop report draft suggestions for FLEGT/VPA negotiation process: http://www.corenarm.org.vn/?pid=100&id=1190</p> <p>TV program on community consultation and capacity building for stakeholders in VPA-FLEGT: http://vtvhue.vn/chuyen-muc/201503/tham-van-cong-dong-va-nang-cao-nang-luc-trong-dam-phan-vpa-flegt-596446/</p>
Contacts	<p>Truong Si Hoai Nhan, Project Manager ICCO – Nhan.Truong@icco-cooperation.org</p> <p>Truong Quang Hoang, Director CRD – hoangtranghue@gmail.com</p> <p>Le Thi Tinh Chi, Director CORENARM – letinhchi@gmail.com</p>

3.2 Grant projects starting in 2015

Project	Supporting local communities and forest management communities on capacity and knowledge that is base on to fall in line with FLEGT process, improving forest governance activities
Agency & partners	Sustainable Forest Management Institute (SFMI)
Funding	EU FAO FLEGT Program (12 months)
Objectives	<p>Overall objective: to encourage the participation of local communities and local governments by increasing their awareness and executive capacity on FLEGT through training and communications.</p> <p>Specific objectives: (i) to increase awareness and capacity of the local communities living near forests, forest planting households and communities directly managed forest area allocated by the State for FLEGT Timber Legal System Assurance (TLAS), to aim to improving forest governance activities; (ii) to contribute to the promotion of VPA FLEGT process in Vietnam</p>
Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed project preparation underway
Contacts	Dao Cong Khanh, Vice Director SFMI – daocongkhanh@gmail.com

Project	Developing enforcement indicators and a reporting mechanism to promote transparency and information-sharing for FLEGT implementation in Viet Nam
Agency & partners	Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
Funding	EU FAO FLEGT Program (12 months)
Objectives	To support the establishment and adoption of a reporting mechanism for sharing information on forest crimes and enforcement responses in Viet Nam.
Status and main outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed project preparation underway
Contacts	Scott Robertson, WCS Asia Wildlife Trafficking Coordinator – sroberton@wcs.org