



# **GUYANA FORESTRY COMMISSION**

## **Roadmap for Guyana – EU FLEGT VPA Process**

**(European Union Forest law Enforcement Governance and Trade,  
Voluntary Partnership Agreement)**

**January, 2013**

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## Acronyms

|                 |  |
|-----------------|--|
| <b>EU</b>       | European Union   |
| <b>EU FLEGT</b> | European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade   |
| <b>EUTR</b>     | European Union Timber Regulations  |
| <b>FPDMC</b>    | Forest Products Development and Marketing Council Inc.   |
| <b>GFC</b>      | Guyana Forestry Commission   |
| <b>GLAS</b>     | Guyana Legality Assurance System   |
| <b>GoG</b>      | Government of Guyana   |
| <b>IFM</b>      | Independent Forest Monitoring  |
| <b>IM</b>       | Independent Monitor  |
| <b>LAS</b>      | Legality Assurance System  |
| <b>LCDS</b>     | Low Carbon Development Strategy  |
| <b>MNRE</b>     | Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment  |
| <b>MoP</b>      | Manual of Procedures   |
| <b>NTWG</b>     | National Technical Working Group   |
| <b>REDD+</b>    | Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, Forest Degradation, Conservation, Sustainable Forest Management, and Enhancement of Carbon Stocks |
| <b>VPA</b>      | Voluntary Partnership Agreement  |
| <b>WSSD</b>     | World Summit on Sustainable Development  |
| <b>WTS</b>      | Wood Tracking System   |

# 1. Introduction

The growing concern for illegal logging of forests, particularly in the tropics has resulted in a global effort in introducing measures to address the problem. The World Bank estimates that the loss to developing countries is about US\$15 billion a year thereby denying developing countries revenues that could be used to improve the livelihoods of its people. Illegal logging impacts on the forests and the livelihoods of forests communities. The environmental effects of illegal logging include deforestation and loss of biodiversity and the emission of greenhouse gases. Addressing illegal logging is therefore seen as a pre-requisite to sustainable development and trade.

Guyana possesses approximately 18.3 million hectares of tropical rainforest, which cover roughly 87% of the country (21.1 million hectares). Guyana has put in place, a legal and policy framework, to practice forest management resulting in one of the lowest deforestation rates in the world. Its forests are among the most pristine on the planet.

In fulfilling common objectives of strong forest governance, sustainable forest management and forest legality, Guyana has engaged in strategic partnerships and alliances, with like-minded countries and regional groupings. Over the past few years, Guyana has made significant strides in building this foundation and has been doing so, both at the national level and through collaboration with international partners, including with the United States of America, the European Union, Norway, South American Partners and the Caribbean Community. An important part of Guyana's approach has been to look at available international programmes that exemplify the objectives that Guyana aims to achieve, and build partnerships that are mutually beneficial and nationally appropriate to Guyana's circumstance.

In 2002 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) at Johannesburg, South Africa, the European Commission expressed its commitment to addressing illegal logging and associated trade. This commitment was realised in May, 2003 with the publication of its EU Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade.

The Action Plan sets out a series of measures to address the problem of illegal logging and associated trade. These measures include governance related activities, and capacity building for the public and private sectors, including civil society organizations for implementing a legality assurance system. The EU is the largest consumer of timber products in the world and therefore is leveraging its purchasing power to eliminate illegal logging and trade in illegally produced timber while providing support measures to partner countries bilaterally through a Voluntary Partnership Agreement.

The EU has also introduced legislation that prohibits the placing of illegally sourced timber on its markets from March 2013. The EU is one of Guyana's markets for the export of forest produce.

In 2009, the Government of Guyana engaged the European Union in order to better understand the requirements of the EU FLEGT Programme. EU FLEGT is also part of Guyana REDD+ Programme, and has been identified by Guyana, as a REDD+ Enabling Activity under the area of REDD+ Governance. Guyana also sought to draw on the synergies between the requirements of the EU FLEGT programme and on-going processes at both the international and country levels.

The Government of Guyana and European Union have agreed to commence formal negotiations in December, 2012 with the view to concluding the VPA by September 2015. The two parties seek to develop a Road Map to guide the VPA negotiation process. This report therefore seeks to provide the Road Map for the negotiations.

## **2. Scope and Objectives**

### **2.1 Scope**

This Report highlights the processes for the development of the Road Map, in particular the consultation process that has been undertaken in identifying issues that needs to be addressed to enable Guyana embark on the process of negotiating a VPA with the European Union. The Roadmap provides guidance on activities to be undertaken to ensure Guyana is well informed and can negotiate from a position of strength with the EU. Additionally the Roadmap provides budget estimates and timelines for activities to be undertaken in the negotiation process.

The Roadmap is limited to the negotiation process, and at a narrower level, covers some preparedness activities, but does not cover detailed activities beyond the negotiation phase. Implementation of the VPA and its schedule is therefore excluded from this Roadmap Implementation Plan, since the outcomes will be dependent on the negotiations.

### **2.2 Objectives**

The objectives for this Roadmap are as follows:

- Provide guidance to the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC) and other stakeholders on activities to be undertaken in the negotiation process for the VPA
- Identify key components and milestones for the negotiations
- Determine financial and technical support required for the preparations for the negotiations of the VPA
- Determine timelines and schedules for the preparatory and negotiation processes
- Establish estimated budget for implementing activities
- Provide a framework for monitoring and evaluation of preparatory activities for the negotiations of the VPA
- Development of a Roadmap to facilitate consultations and negotiations of the VPA with EU.

### **3. Process for the Development of Roadmap**

In its efforts to explore the possibility of engaging the EU in negotiations of the VPA the government of Guyana through the GFC has embarked on a broad consultative process to identify elements for negotiations of the agreement. In the process, it has sought to draw on lessons learned from the evaluation of its Legality Assurance System currently being implemented under an initiative referred to as Independent Forest Monitoring, and the engagement of the Multi-stakeholder Steering Committee on the Low Carbon Development Strategy (LCDS) and REDD+ programme.

Furthermore, during the period 27<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> September, 2012, a wide cross section of stakeholders participated in a workshop aimed at providing guidance in Guyana's engagements with the European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (EU FLEGT) initiative. The stakeholders agreed on the need to develop a Roadmap for negotiations with the EU.

An International Expert was engaged to assist the GFC and key stakeholders in the development of the EU FLEGT Roadmap for negotiations with the EU. Key stakeholders in the process included Guyana's Ministry of Natural Resources and the Environment, Guyana Forestry Commission, Forestry Training Centre Incorporated, Guyana Geology and Mines Commission, the Forest Products Association, the Guyana Manufacturing Services Association, Forest Products Development and Marketing Council, several Community Logging Associations, Small and Large Concession Holders and Indigenous People's Organisation including the National Toshaos' Council and the Indigenous Peoples' Commission.

The country strategy in negotiating and implementing the VPA will centre on the following areas, namely:

- A definition and understanding of the key elements of the VPA to be negotiated which requires broad stakeholder consultations consistent with the Guyana vision;

- Extensive preparatory work required to inform a negotiating position, in particular the impact study and engagement with the civil society and private sector;
- A negotiating strategy for the VPA that would be at two levels - technical and political. Close working between the political leadership in Guyana and the technical team is required to ensure a strong negotiation position. At all times the political leadership in Guyana would be kept informed of the implications of element negotiated;
- The negotiating team would consider members of the NTWG, civil society, private sector/industry operatives and the public sector including the political leadership.

**Annex 2** of the Documents presents the Joint Aspects of the Roadmap, that is, those aspects that are related to the negotiations (and not including implementation activities for Guyana as part of the process). This Annex represents the areas that are jointly agreed between Guyana and the EU. Guyana and EU have noted that the timelines, especially those that are later in the Roadmap (2013 onwards) are indicative, and may be subject to modifications.



## 4. Roadmap for Negotiation

### 4.1 Phases for the VPA

The Roadmap for the preparations and negotiations of the Guyana - EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) is attached as Annex 1. The Roadmap details out the activities, key milestones, start and completion dates and parties responsible for the implementation of each activity. The Roadmap can be grouped into four main phases as shown in Figure 1.

**Figure 1: VPA Phases**



Phase 1 is the preparatory phase that involves internal discussions among various stakeholders in reaching a country position on various elements for inclusion into the VPA. It also involves consultations in identifying which legal aspects need to be considered in meeting the VPA requirements. The GFC would lead discussions with key stakeholders in identifying which of the countries laws require review or are not consistent with the requirements under the VPA. During this phase Guyana would undertake an impact assessment for the implementation of the VPA to ensure that stakeholders are not adversely affected by the VPA when it is implemented. The impact assessment also allows for the considerations of strategy and policy options in mitigating the impact of the VPA should they arise and become key elements in the negotiations. The impact assessment provides the

opportunity to target interventions and for Guyana to indicate the required support measures from the EU in meeting the requirements of the VPA.

Phase 2 involves the bilateral negotiations between the partner country (Guyana) and the EU. These negotiations would be informed by in-country discussions. Guyana will study the various VPAs that have been signed to date to establish EU position on the various elements. The EU FLEGT briefing notes are helpful but having clarity on Guyana's interest and vision for embarking on the VPA will be useful. Bilateral negotiations usually give space for sovereign issues. However, partner country (Guyana) would aim to utilize this space in a manner that will not defeat the spirit and intent of the VPA but still reflect appropriateness to Guyana. Negotiations with the EU can take several months and sessions to reach agreement. Hence a clear vision and position before engaging in the negotiations is critical for Guyana.

The third phase has to do with the ratification where both parties will have to get their respective level of Authority to ratify the Agreements. It has been identified that a priority will be to have early engagement on the VPA with the representatives at the Policy level. During the three phases, strong engagement in awareness creation has been identified by Guyana to be a critical focal area.

The last and final stage is that of implementation. This is one of the challenging phases and time lines are easily slipped resulting in the programme running behind schedule. Challenges in resource allocation is also a major contributor to non – action during this period. However for Guyana some work has been undertaken in defining legality and putting in place the Guyana Legality Assurance System (GLAS) and Independent Forest Monitoring (IFM). There is therefore the need to build on on-going work of the GFC given the progress that has already been achieved by GFC in developing the GLAS and IFM. The negotiation phase should draw on the lessons learned from GLAS and IFM, under the LCDS programme, to inform the negotiation position on elements of the VPA.

Key deliverables in the road map for each phase are as shown in Table 1:

**Table 1: Key deliverables in the 4 Phases of VPA negotiations**

| <b>Phase</b>                     | <b>Key Deliverables</b>  | <b>Start Timeline (Tentative)</b>   | <b>Cross-cutting</b>                                      |
|----------------------------------|--|---|---|
| 1. In-country consensus building | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishment of NTWG</li> <li>• Establishment of VPA Secretariat</li> <li>• Communications Strategy</li> <li>• Developing VPA Objective, Structure and Legal Framework for Guyana</li> </ul>         | Sept 2012<br>Sept 2012<br>Nov 2012<br>Sept 2012   | Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement <sup>1</sup> |
| 2. Bilateral Negotiations        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communiqué on negotiations (5 Sessions)</li> <li>• Scope of Agreement</li> <li>• VPA Elements</li> <li>• Develop LAS</li> <li>• Structure of FLEGT License</li> <li>• Conduct Impact Study</li> </ul> | Dec. 2012; July, Dec 2013; May 2014 and Dec 2014<br>Oct 2012<br>Jan 2013<br>Dec 2013<br>June 2013<br>Jan 2013 | Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement              |
| 3. Ratification                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Field Test of Legality Definition and LAS</li> <li>• Drafting text of Agreement</li> <li>• Finalise VPA Agreement</li> </ul>  | Aug 2012<br>August 2013<br>Dec 2014   | Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement              |
| 4. Implementation                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish Body for VPA implementation</li> <li>• Discuss implementation</li> <li>• Finalise implementation schedule</li> </ul>  | Aug 2014<br>June 2015<br>Dec 2015   | Capacity Building and Stakeholder Engagement              |

<sup>1</sup>Capacity building and Stakeholder Engagement are considered a cross-cutting issue in all the phases.

## **4.2 VPA Secretariat**

In driving the 4 phases of the VPA GFC will create a dedicated project management team that reports to the GFC but also serves as the Secretariat for the process.

The role of the VPA Secretariat will include the following critical functions:

- Coordinate VPA related activities in the public sector, civil society, indigenous communities and private sectors and ensure effective communication between and within the groups.
- Knowledge management, in particular keep track of information, experiences and lessons learned to enhance planning and implementation of VPA related activities.
- Coordinate capacity building initiatives under the VPA for all stakeholders.
- Ensure synergies with existing programmes such as the LCDS, GLAS and IFM.
- Submit regular reports to and advise the Commissioner of GFC on VPA related matters.

## 5. Implementation Plan

The draft Implementation Plan and Budget for the preparatory process for the VPA and the negotiations and is shown in Table 2. The implementation schedule for the VPA negotiations and activities is however shown in Table 3.

A significant component of the implementation plan in both periods (preparatory/negotiations and post negotiations) will be capacity building for key stakeholders. This includes capacity building for the civil society, indigenous peoples, and private sector. Engagement of the civil society and the indigenous people at main times in the negotiations, development and implementation phases are critical in addressing matters relating to the forest sector in Guyana.

**Table 2: Budget for preparatory process and negotiations**

| <b>Activities</b>   | <b>Amount Required (USD)</b> |
|---|------------------------------|
| Establish the VPA Secretariat   | 100,000                      |
| Running Cost per annum for VPA Secretariat<br>(Staff Cost = 75,000 per year & Office support cost = 66,000 per year) @ 3 years = US\$423,000  | 423,000                      |
| Operationalize NTWG and Sub Committees  | 25,000                       |
| Hold first meeting with EU to formalize VPA Process   | 5,000                        |
| Review of Forest Laws/Guidelines/and consultations outcomes for informing of the VPA  | 150,000                      |
| Develop Communications Strategy   | 120,000                      |
| Implement Communication Strategy<br>(150,000 per /yr) = 450,000   | 450,000                      |
| Conduct Impact Assessment and Gap Analysis  | 175,000                      |
| Review Definition of Legality and Engage Stakeholders during Process  | 200,000                      |
| Develop Legality Assurance System including Stakeholder Engagement during process   | 450,000                      |
| VPA Support Measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordination, Networking, Skills Development</li> <li>• Effective Consultation among stakeholders</li> <li>• Civil Society Capacity Building</li> <li>• Capacity Building for Private Sector, Customs Division, Judiciary and other regulatory agencies</li> </ul> | 500,000                      |
| Second to Sixth Negotiations meeting  | 300,000                      |
| Engage Independent Monitor  | 250,000                      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>3,148,000</b>             |

| VPA Support Measure – Medium to Long Term   | USD        |
|---|------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institutional support for GFC</li> <li>• Capacity Building for Private Sector</li> <li>• Civil Society Capacity Building</li> <li>• Consultations &amp; Feedbacks</li> <li>• Develop &amp; update of Legality Assurance System</li> <li>• Other Identified Areas of Support</li> </ul> | 32,000,000 |

**Table 3: Implementation Plan**

|     |   | 2012           | 2013           |                |                |                | 2014           |                |                |                | 2015           |                |                |                |
|-----|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| No. | Milestones  | Q <sub>4</sub> | Q <sub>1</sub> | Q <sub>2</sub> | Q <sub>3</sub> | Q <sub>4</sub> | Q <sub>1</sub> | Q <sub>2</sub> | Q <sub>3</sub> | Q <sub>4</sub> | Q <sub>1</sub> | Q <sub>2</sub> | Q <sub>3</sub> | Q <sub>4</sub> |
| 1   | NTWG and sub-committees established                               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 2   | VPA Roadmap developed   |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 3   | Hold Negotiation meetings   |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 4   | VPA Secretariat Established                                       |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 5   | Determine VPA Elements (including Def. of Legality and Licensing) |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 6   | Draft VPA Agreement   |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 7   | LAS Developed   |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 8   | Communication Strategy Developed                                  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 9   | VPA Objective Structure and Legal Framework Developed             |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 10  | Scope of Agreement Finalized                                      |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 11  | Structure of FLEGT License Developed                              |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 12  | Impact Study Conducted  |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 13  | Field Test Completed on Legality Definition and LAS               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 14  | Body established for VPA implementation                           |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 15  | Continuous Stakeholder Engagement                                 |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |

# **ANNEXES**



## **Annex 1: Detailed work plan (Activities, Outputs & Responsibilities)**

| <b>Activity</b>  | <b>Sub-Activities</b>  | <b>Tentative start date</b> | <b>Tentative completion date</b> | <b>Key Milestones</b>  | <b>Responsible party</b> |
|--|--|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| <b>1. Preparatory work for VPA negotiations and awareness creation</b> | 1.1. Establish National Technical Working Group (NTWG)   | Sept 2012                   | Nov 2012                         | NTWG & Sub committees operational and functioning                                  | GFC                      |
|  | 1.2. Hold initial stakeholder constituency meetings (to include private sector, civil society, indigenous NGO and groups, and Government) and workshop Finalise ToR for Sub-committees of NTWG | Sept 2012                   | Nov 2012                         | Workshop Report & Road Map developed. ToR finalised for NTWG and Sub Committees.   | GFC                      |
|  | 1.3. Constitute Sub-committees for thematic areas  | Oct 2012                    | Dec 2012                         | Committee Reports finalised and circulated   | NTWG                     |
|  | 1.4. Agree internally on vision, VPA objectives and structure, and legal framework for VPA   | Sept 2012                   | Dec 2012                         | VPA objectives & structure developed; National Preparatory Workshop held           | NTWG/GFC                 |
|  | 1.5. Develop Communications Strategy   | Nov 2012                    | Mar 2013                         | Communications Strategy finalised  | NTWG/GFC                 |
|  | 1.6. Commence Implementation of Communications strategy  | Apr 2013                    | Dec 2015                         | Key stakeholders engaged; Brochures/press releases/flyers published and circulated | NTWG/VPA Secretariat     |
|  | 1.7. Establish Secretariat for VPA   | Sept 2012                   | Nov 2012                         | VPA Secretariat operational  | GFC                      |
|  | 1.8. Seek/explore funding for VPA  | Oct 2012                    | Dec 2015                         | Funding secured  | GFC/GoG/EU/ Other        |

|   |  |           |          |  |               |
|---|--|-----------|----------|--|---------------|
|   | negotiation and implementation related activities  |           |          |  | partners      |
| <b>2. Launch of Negotiations (1<sup>st</sup> Pre-negotiation meeting with EU)</b> | 2.1. Hold 1 <sup>st</sup> session with EU to formalise negotiations                                  | Nov 2012  | Dec 2012 | Joint statement released by EU and GoG   | GoG/EU        |
|   | 2.2. Development of VPA structure, legal framework and existing regulatory and institutional systems | Dec 2012  | Mar 2013 | Presentation on VPA Structure, Legal Framework, and existing Institutional systems |               |
|   | 2.3. Agree with EU (on the negotiation elements) on VPA Roadmap and Logistics                        | Nov 2012  | Jan 2013 | Agreed Roadmap   |               |
|   | 2.4. Preliminary Field Study on Existing Systems   | Dec 2012  | Dec 2012 | Field Visit conducted  |               |
| <b>3. Develop LAS</b>   | 3.1. Draft Legality Definition   | Jul 2012  | Jun 2013 | Legal Standard Developed   | NTWG/GFC      |
|   | 3.1.1. Field test legality definition  | Mar 2013  | Dec 2014 | Legality definition and matrix finalised   | NTWG/GFC      |
|   | 3.2. Review legislation with respect to VPA requirements   | Nov 2012  | Jun 2014 | Review Report  | MNRE/GFC/NTWG |
|   | 3.3. Develop Legality Assurance System   | Apr 2013  | Jun 2014 | LAS Developed  | MNRE/GFC/NTWG |
|   | 3.3.1. Determine scope of agreement  | Oct 2012  | Mar 2013 | Scope of Agreement determined  | MNRE/GFC/NTWG |
|   | 3.3.2. Develop a Wood Tracking System (WTS) <sup>1</sup>   | Jan 2013  | Dec 2013 | WTS Developed  | GFC/MNRE      |
|   | 3.3.3. Establish verification  | June 2012 | Dec 2013 | Verification protocols & MOPs developed  | GFC/MNRE      |

<sup>1</sup> Wood Tracking System being developed will be developed through the strengthening of existing system used by GFC

|   |  |           |           |  |                          |
|---|--|-----------|-----------|--|--------------------------|
|   | system   |           |           |  |                          |
|   | 3.3.4. Develop FLEGT licensing procedures and structures   | Jul 2013  | Dec 2014  | FLEGT Licensing system operationalized   | GFC/NTWG<br>MNRE/GFC     |
|   | 3.4. Undertake pilot of LAS  | Jan 2014  | June 2014 | Pilot completed and report issued  | GFC/MNRE/<br>NTWG        |
|   | 3.5. National roll out of LAS  | Sept 2015 | Dec 2015  | All timber firms operating under a national LAS                                    | GFC/MNRE/<br>NTWG        |
|   | 3.6. Meeting of NTWG, Sub Committees and Stakeholder Constituency Groups   | Ongoing   | Ongoing   | Feedback for LAS development   | GFC<br><br>GFC           |
|   | 3.7. Implement Communications Strategy   | Ongoing   | Ongoing   | Progress Report  |                          |
|   | 3.8. Sharing and exchange of knowledge and information   | Ongoing   | Ongoing   | Report on Exchanges  | GFC/NTWG<br><br>GFC/NTWG |
|   | 3.9. Exploring funding sources   | Ongoing   | Ongoing   | Progress Report on Funding   | GFC                      |
| <b>4. Hold Second Negotiation Session<sup>2</sup></b> | 4.1. Review draft legality definition<br>4.2. Review LAS<br>4.3. Review and discuss FLEGT License and EU procedures for lodging licenses | July 2013 | July 2013 | Joint communiqué issued to reflect decisions on the elements discussed/ negotiated | GoG/EU                   |
|   | 4.4. Introduce independent monitoring and public information and transparency measures   | Nov 2014  | Ongoing   | Report of Independent Monitor presented to JIC/JMRM                                | GoG/GFC                  |

<sup>2</sup> Video Conferences will be held in between Negotiation Sessions by the Technical Teams of EU & GoG

|   |  |             |           |  |          |
|---|--|-------------|-----------|--|----------|
|   | 4.5. Meeting of NTWG, Sub Committees and Stakeholder Constituency Groups   | Ongoing     | Ongoing   | Feedback to inform negotiation session                     | GFC      |
|   | 4.6. Implement Communications Strategy   | Ongoing     | Ongoing   | Progress Report  | GFC/NTWG |
|   | 4.7. Sharing and exchange of knowledge and information   | Ongoing     | Ongoing   | Report on Exchanges  | GFC/NTWG |
|   | 4.8. Exploring funding sources   | Ongoing     | Ongoing   | Progress Report on Funding                                 | GFC      |
| <b>5. Impact studies of VPA on Guyana's forest sector</b> | 5.1. Identify and assess the main social, economic and environmental impacts of potential policy options for the VPA. This will include an identification of gaps in current and proposed new system implementation. | Jan 2013    | June 2013 | Report on impact study finalised                           | NTWG     |
|   | 5.2. Identify impact (including cost) and mitigation measures (including cost) on indigenous people, forest operators, millers, regulatory agencies, wood industry employees, etc.                                   | Jan 2013    | June 2013 | Interventions identified for each category or stakeholders | NTWG     |
|   | 5.3. Identify interventions and elements for inclusion in the VPA  | Jan 2013    | Sept 2013 | Elements for inclusion in the VPA identified               | NTWG     |
| <b>6. Hold third negotiation session</b>                  | 6.1. Review field testing of legality definition and matrix<br>6.2. Assess design of LAS and FLEGT licensing   | August 2013 | Dec 2014  | Joint statement released by EU and GoG                     | EU/GoG   |

|   |   |           |           |   |              |
|---|---|-----------|-----------|---|--------------|
|   | <p>function</p> <p>6.3. Introduce Annexes related to implementation of VPA</p> <p>6.4. Review the status of body formulated for implementation of VPA</p> <p>6.5. First reading on VPA text</p> <p>6.6. Meeting of NTWG, Sub Committees and Stakeholder Constituency Groups</p> <p>6.7. Implement Communications Strategy</p> | Ongoing   | Ongoing   | Feedback to inform negotiation session.             | GFC          |
|   |   | Ongoing   | Ongoing   | Progress Report                                     | GFC/NTWG     |
| <b>7. Market access and trade promotion</b>   | 7.1. Undertake market and trade promotion in key markets for Guyana in the EU market  | June 2013 | Dec 2014  | Report on participation of fairs and exhibitions    | FPDMC/GFC/EU |
| <b>8. Hold fourth negotiation session</b>   | <p>8.1. Commence and finalise review of VPA text</p> <p>8.2. Agree on implementation strategy and schedule</p>  | May 2014  | Dec 2014  | Joint statement by EU and GoG                       | EU/GoG       |
| <b>9. Training &amp; Capacity building for negotiations and implementation of VPA</b> | <p>9.1. Identify training/capacity building needs of key stakeholders(e.g. indigenous people, GFC, GRA/Customs, Civil Society, Private sector operators)</p> <p>9.2. Develop and implement training and capacity building programmes</p>  | Jan 2013  | Dec 2014  | Training and capacity building reports              | GFC/NTWG     |
| <b>10. Fifth Session – Initialling of VPA</b>   | 10.1. Discuss implementation and ratification processes in EU and Guyana  | Sept 2014 | Sept 2015 | Joint EU and GoG statement and Initialled agreement | EU / GoG     |

## **Joint Roadmap for Guyana – EU FLEGT VPA Negotiations**

### **Points to Note:**

1. Joint Technical meetings can be conducted via teleconference, video conference, and supported via email communication.
2. For technical areas of work that are proposed to be finalised by a specified timeline, these may be subject to changes at a later date up to the point of finalising of the agreement; and will be supported by appropriate justification.
3. For Negotiation Meetings 4-5, although not detailed in the table below, technical meetings will be scheduled and agreed on, to inform these and to conduct technical work in preparation for these sessions.
4. Activities identified for the post ratification stage, are not presented in the table below, and these would be subject to discussions through the process.

**Overview:**

The Joint Roadmap below presents a summary of the negotiations and technical meetings, as well as a detailed breakdown of activities that will be jointly executed over the course of the negotiation process, to inform the negotiation session and the finalising of the VPA.

|     |   | 2012           | 2013           |                |                |                | 2014           |                |                |                | 2015           |                |                |                |
|-----|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| No. | Negotiation Elements                      | Q <sub>4</sub> | Q <sub>1</sub> | Q <sub>2</sub> | Q <sub>3</sub> | Q <sub>4</sub> | Q <sub>1</sub> | Q <sub>2</sub> | Q <sub>3</sub> | Q <sub>4</sub> | Q <sub>1</sub> | Q <sub>2</sub> | Q <sub>3</sub> | Q <sub>4</sub> |
| 1   | Negotiation Meeting 1                     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 2   | Negotiation Meeting 2                     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 3   | Negotiation Meeting 3                     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 4   | Negotiation Meeting 4                     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 5   | Negotiation Meeting 5                     |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 6   | Wrap up/ Conclusion Meeting               |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 7   | Initialing of VPA                         |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 8   | Ratification process, including signature |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |
| 9   | Entry into force of VPA                   |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |                |

| Activities  | Tentative Sub Activities  | Tentative Completion Date     | Tentative Key Milestones   |
|---|---|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>Negotiation Meeting 1</b>                                  | Hold Negotiation Meeting and Joint Press Conference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Initial Presentation on VPA Structure and Objectives</li> <li>- Introduction to Guyana’s Legality Framework and Existing Timber Legality Verification System</li> <li>- Joint roadmap on negotiations</li> </ul>          | December 2012                 | Joint Aide Memoire of Meeting  |
|   | Conduct Pre Negotiation Meeting   | December 2012                 | Meeting Summary  |
|   | Conduct Initial Field Visit   | December 2012                 | Field Visit Agenda   |
|   | Develop and Finalise Roadmap on Negotiations Elements.  | January 2013                  | Final Joint Roadmap for Guyana – EU FLEGT VPA negotiations   |
| <b>Preparatory Activities to inform Negotiation Meeting 2</b> | Joint Technical Meeting 1: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VPA Structure and Objectives. Draft section of VPA on VPA Objective.</li> <li>- Initial Discussion on Compliance Framework.</li> <li>- Initial Discussion on Scope of Agreement (includes product coverage)</li> </ul>                              | February 2013<br><br>(week 1) | VPA Objectives for Guyana documented.<br><br>Initial Compliance framework developed.<br><br>Summary of initial discussions on Scope of VPA.  |
|   | Joint Technical Meeting 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further Discussion on Compliance Framework</li> <li>- Initial Discussion on Definition of Legality</li> <li>- Finalise Discussion on Scope of Agreement (includes product coverage)</li> <li>- Drafting of VPA Annex 1: Product Coverage</li> </ul> | March 2013<br><br>(week 3)    | Summary of initial and further discussions on Definition of Legality and Compliance Framework.<br><br>Scope of Agreement finalised, including outline of product coverage.<br><br>VPA Annex 1 developed. |
|   | Joint Technical Meeting 3: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Draft legality Definition and</li> </ul>  | May 2013<br><br>(week 3)      | Legality Definition and  |



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|   | <p>compliance framework (Annex 2).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Compile first draft on some aspects of Annex 5: LAS.</li> <li>- Wood Tracking Systems Developed based on existing systems.</li> <li>- Discuss verification system.</li> </ul> <p>Commence development of FLEGT Licensing procedures and structures.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Discuss and Draft Annex 3: EU Procedures Port Entry.</li> </ul>   |  | <p>compliance framework developed in draft, to be further informed by results of field testing. Annex 2 developed.</p> <p>First Draft of Annex 5 documented – some aspects.</p> <p>WTS developed.</p> <p>Summary of Discussions on Verification System, FLEGT licensing procedures and structures.</p> <p>Annex 3 developed.</p>   |
| <b>Negotiation Meeting 2</b>                                  | <p>Hold Negotiation Meeting and Joint Press Conference</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presentation on Final VPA Objective for Guyana</li> <li>- Presentation on Final Scope of Agreement (including an outline of product coverage)</li> <li>- Presentation on legality definition and compliance framework (subject to revision following field test). Annex 2.</li> <li>- Presentation on main Elements of LAS.</li> <li>- Annex 9 developed.</li> <li>- Discuss and agree on Wood Tracking System.</li> <li>- Discuss and finalise Annex 3: EU Procedures Port Entry</li> </ul> | <p>July 2013<br/>(week 2)</p>                              | <p>Joint Aide Memoire of Meeting</p> <p>VPA Objectives developed.</p> <p>Agreement on Scope of VPA (Annex 1).</p> <p>Annex 2 – Legality Definition and Compliance Framework agreed to (subject to findings of field test)</p> <p>Main elements of Annex 5 (LAS) and Annex 9 – (Assessment Criteria for LAS) finalised and agreed.</p> <p>WTS agreed to.</p> <p>Annex 3 agreed.</p> |
| <b>Preparatory Activities to Inform Negotiation Meeting 3</b> | <p>Joint Technical Meetings 4 and 5.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finalise discussion on verification system.</li> <li>- Further discussions on FLEGT Licensing procedures and structures</li> <li>- Review and Develop LAS. Draft Annex 9 Assessment Criteria for LAS</li> <li>- Identify and assess the main social, economic and environmental impacts</li> </ul>   | <p>Sept 2013<br/>(week 3)</p> <p>Nov 2013<br/>(week 2)</p> | <p>Verification Protocol and MoPs developed/ revised</p> <p>Summary of discussions on FLEGT Licensing Procedures.</p> <p>Main Elements of LAS finalised. Annex 9 developed.</p> <p>Supporting Measures for VPA</p>   |

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|   | <p>of VPA. Identify Impacts on indigenous peoples, forest operators, millers, regulatory agencies, forest sector employees and other relevant stakeholders.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Draft Annex 8 on additional Measures” identification of capacity gap.</li> <li>-Discuss main aspects of Agreement text including: Licence Verification process in the EU, Additional measures to reinforce legality verification, stakeholder participation, market visibility and promotion, and communication.</li> </ul>   |                 | <p>identified –Annex 8 developed.</p> <p>Review draft text of identified elements of VPA.</p>  |
| <b>Preparatory Activities to Inform Negotiation Meeting 4</b> | <p>Joint technical meetings and agenda to be determined</p>   |                 |  |
| <b>Negotiation Meeting 3</b>                                  | <p>Hold Negotiation Meeting.</p> <p>Presentation on Verification Protocol and Manual of Procedures developed/revised</p> <p>Presentation on supporting Measures for VPA identified</p> <p>Annex 8 on additional measures: identification of capacity gaps, developed.</p> <p>Presentation on main aspects of Agreement text including: Licence Verification process in the EU, Additional measures to reinforce legality verification, stakeholder participation, market visibility and promotion, and communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further discussions on FLEGT Licensing procedures and structures</li> <li>- Review and Develop LAS. Draft Annex 9 on Assessment Criteria for LAS.</li> <li>- Identify and assess the main social, economic and environmental impacts of VPA. Identify Impacts on indigenous</li> </ul> | <p>Dec 2013</p> | <p>Joint Aide Memoire of Meeting</p> <p>Verification Protocol and MoPs developed and agreed.</p> <p>Annex 8 finalised and agreed.</p> <p>Summary of discussions and agreements on identified elements and draft text for sections identified.</p> <p>Summary of discussions on FLEGT Licensing Procedures.</p> <p>Main Elements of LAS finalised.</p> <p>Annex 9 developed.</p> <p>Supporting Measures for VPA identified – Annex 8</p> <p>Annex 8 developed</p> |

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|   | peoples, forest operators, millers, regulatory agencies, forest sector employees and other relevant stakeholders.   |                   |  |
| <b>Preparatory Activities to Inform Negotiation Meeting 4</b> | Joint technical meetings and agenda to be determined<br><br>External legality definition review (if legality definition is mature enough)   |                   |  |
| <b>Negotiation Meeting 4</b>                                  | Hold Negotiation Meeting.<br><br>Develop LAS in full (to be informed by changes in legality definition).<br><br>Discuss Results of Pilot of LAS<br><br>Review Status of body formulated for implementation of VPA: Annex 11<br><br>Review of VPA text   | May 2014          | Joint Aide Memoire of Meeting.<br><br>All Elements of LAS developed, Annex 5 on LAS completed.<br><br>Results of Pilot of LAS<br><br>Annex 11 on developed.<br><br>Review of VPA text conducted.                                     |
| <b>Preparatory Activities to Inform Negotiation Meeting 5</b> | Joint technical meetings and agenda to be determined<br><br>External paper review of the VPA and its annexes.   |                   |  |
| <b>Negotiation Meeting 5</b>                                  | Hold Negotiation Meeting<br><br>Finalise FLEGT licensing procedures and structures.<br><br>Finalise Principles of Independent Monitoring/Audit<br><br>Discuss Results of field test of Legality Definition<br><br>Implementation strategy and schedule discussed and finalised.<br><br>Information disclosure and reporting | Dec 2014/Jan 2015 | Joint Aide Memoire of Meeting.<br><br>Annex 4 completed – FLEGT Licensing procedure.<br><br>Annex 6 – Principles of Independent Monitoring developed.<br><br>Finalise Legality Definition if require changes.<br><br>Annex 7 agreed: |

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|  | aspects discussed and finalised.<br><br>Review VPA Text   |                  | Implementation Schedule.<br><br>Annex 10 finalised:<br>information disclosure, etc.<br><br>Review conducted.  |
| <b>Close off,<br/>Wrap up<br/>Meeting</b>  | Hold negotiation Meeting<br><br>Finalise VPA Text<br><br>Initialling of VPA, beginning of<br>ratification process | Jan/Feb<br>2015  | Joint Aide Memoire of<br>Meeting<br><br>Final VPA text agreed for all<br>aspects of VPA.<br><br>Initialed VPA |
| <b>Ratification<br/>process,<br/>including<br/>signature of<br/>VPA</b>                      | Discuss implementation and ratification<br>processes  | Feb/Sept<br>2015 | Signed VPA<br><br>GoG/EU Statement issued   |
| <b>Conclusion of<br/>Ratification of<br/>VPA</b>   | Ratification completed by GoG and EU  | Sept 2015        | Ratified VPA Enters into force  |
| <b>Discussion on<br/>Next Steps<br/>Prior to<br/>Issuance of<br/>First FLEGT<br/>Licence</b> | National Roll out of LAS  | Dec 2015         | All timber firms operation<br>under a national LAS  |