

Indonesia and the EU release latest annual report on VPA progress



6 December 2017

Dear colleague,

We are pleased to inform you that Indonesia and the EU have published their latest report on the implementation of their Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on illegal logging, forest governance and trade in legal timber products. The report covers May 2015 to December 2016.

During this period, Indonesia made significant progress in further implementing the VPA, rolling out the timber legality assurance system (SVLK) and increasing exports of verified legal timber and timber products.

In November 2016, Indonesia made history by becoming the first VPA country to obtain the right to issue FLEGT licences to accompany exports of verified legal timber and timber products to the EU.

The latest report focuses on progress made in the roll-out of the SVLK, trade in FLEGT-licensed timber, institutional strengthening and VPA monitoring. For more information, please download the report [here](#).

The progress the report describes has of course been surpassed in the months following the reporting period — on 15 November 2017 we marked the first anniversary of FLEGT licensing.

By that date, Indonesia had issued 39,010 FLEGT licences for exports to the 28 EU Member States, with a total value of 1.2 billion USD.

Indonesian businesses, licensing authorities, independent monitors and customs officials, and EU businesses, competent authorities and customs officials have adapted well to the new way of working.

Of course, the launch of any new system is always likely to bring to light practical implementation issues. Thankfully, the relevant personnel in Indonesia, the European Commission and EU Member States are in close and regular communication to address them.

In addition, the first periodic evaluation to assess the effective implementation of the scheme is ongoing. This independent audit will give indications on issues and areas for improvement.

The FLEGT Independent Market Monitor (IMM) surveyed operators in the EU and found a positive perception of Indonesia's FLEGT licensed timber on the EU market.

We hope you will join us in celebrating this anniversary and that you will find the [latest report](#) interesting. As Indonesia and the EU continue to implement the VPA and continually improve the SVLK, we will provide further updates on news and progress.

Best regards,

IB. Putera Parthama, Ph.D

Director General of Sustainable Forest Management
Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia

Mr. Vincent Guérend

Ambassador

Delegation of the European Union to Indonesia and Brunei
Darussalam