

Lessons learnt from Indonesia: The First Year of FLEGT Licensing



8 April 2018

Dear colleague,

We would like to update you about our progress in implementing the Indonesia-EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) to combat illegal logging, foster good forest governance and promote trade in legal timber products.

On 1 March 2018, the Indonesia-EU VPA Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) held its 6th meeting, in Jakarta.

At the meeting, the JIC endorsed and agreed to publish a joint action plan for VPA implementation in 2018. The plan lists 29 actions for the Parties to implement this year. It covers nine action areas, which include: supply chain control; licensing; independent monitoring; public disclosure of information; market outreach; and periodic evaluation, impact monitoring and independent market monitoring.

The JIC also adopted and will publish the summary report of the first periodic evaluation. This is an independent audit that checks that Indonesia's timber legality assurance system, or SVLK, functions as described in the VPA. The report concluded that the Government

agencies and other bodies tasked with controlling and verifying legal compliance of operations ensure that SVLK functions are credible. It identified several areas for improvement, some of which Indonesia is already addressing. The JIC agreed that the next periodic evaluation should begin in August 2018.

The Parties discussed matters related to the issuance of FLEGT licences and identified concrete actions to ensure its smooth functioning.

Regarding independent forest monitoring, Indonesia provided an update on funding support, and on publication of information on cases of non-compliance and related follow-up actions.

The EU provided updates on the work of the FLEGT Independent Market Monitor (IMM) and on the implementation of the EU Timber Regulation by its Member States. The IMM presented its 2018 workplan for Indonesia and explained its role in improving awareness in key EU member state markets about FLEGT timber.

The Parties also discussed the need to ensure consistency between Indonesia's national regulations and the VPA's requirements.

The Parties will next meet in May 2018 for a Joint Expert Meeting, which will discuss technical issues related to VPA implementation.

A report on the JIC meeting that includes the joint action plan and the summary report of the first periodic evaluation will be published on the websites of the [Indonesia's Ministry of Environment and Forestry](#) and the [EU Delegation to Indonesia](#), the [EU FLEGT Facility](#) and the [Multistakeholder Forestry Programme](#).

Best regards,
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Mr. Vincent Guérend