



Announcement:

Offer to provide direct assistance to governmental institutions in VPA countries

September 2012

The Food and Agriculture Organizations of the United Nations (FAO) invites the government institutes to submit their **direct assistance** requests through its European Union/FAO Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme (EU FAO FLEGT Programme).

The EU FAO FLEGT Programme is a four-year initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by FAO. It follows from the FLEGT Support Programme, which is in its closing phase. EU FAO FLEGT Programme began on 1 May 2012 and will end on 30 April 2016.

The objective of the programme is to improve governance in the forest sector through improvement of policy, legal and regulatory frameworks. Among the programme's diverse aspects, the EU FAO FLEGT Programme provides that the government institutions of the VPA countries will benefit from direct support by submitting project proposals.

The following are considered **VPA countries** (formally engaged in a VPA process): Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Indonesia, Liberia, Republic of Congo, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia and Viet Nam.

Direct assistance requests are justified when there is an urgent need for support. It must contribute to the implementation of the FLEGT process and aims at specific activities that **complement a national VPA strategy**. The requests can cover policy, legislation, the availability of information and knowledge, and institutional issues that have an impact on the effective implementation of the VPA process.

Only **government institutions** can submit direct assistance requests. Nevertheless, some actions proposed by governments can be implemented by any organization that is also eligible for the programme. Information on the potentially eligible projects can be provided by the VPA

representatives of the countries concerned, the Delegation of the European Union, the European Commission and the Joint Implementation Committee (JIC) set up under the VPA.

Applications can be submitted throughout the duration of the programme and are gradually evaluated. Each application may not exceed the amount of **50 000 euros**.

The guidelines concerning the formulation of direct assistance requests and the conditions for eligibility are provided in detail on the website of the EU FAO FLEGT Support Programme at the following address: <http://www.fao.org/forestry/eu-flegt/en/>.

Submissions of the proposals may be sent by e-mail to the following address: EU-FLEGT-Direct-Requests@fao.org. The signature page must be signed, scanned and submitted together with the electronic version of the proposal. Completed and signed proposals can also be sent by fax to the attention of the Programme Manager, at +39 06 570 55514.

For further information, please contact Robert Simpson, Programme Manager, Forestry Department, FAO at:

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