



Improving Forest Governance

Six week training course
14 May-25 June, 2014

Telford Campus, University of Wolverhampton, UK
Centre for International Development and Training



For people working in the forestry and natural resource sector, the rapidly moving management situation can be complex and difficult to keep pace with.

The major timber consuming markets are now demanding the supply of legally harvested and traded wood as reinforced by the EU Timber Regulation which came into force in March 2013 and the 2008 Lacey Act in the US. These laws, together with initiatives that include Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) processes and certification are fostering a new culture of improved forest governance and legality in the forest sector.

The Improving Forest Governance course unpacks these issues and examines their impact on different parts of the forest sector, particularly now as more and more countries move towards setting up Timber Legality Assurance Systems and full implementation of the VPA.

The course will analyse reasons for poor forest governance and look at the use of multi-stakeholder processes and enterprise development as tools to improve the situation. It aims to give you understanding and skills to analyse and improve forest governance processes so that you are better equipped to design and implement forest management delivery mechanisms, including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD)and climate change, mitigation and adaptation.

Context

The policy aims and objectives, processes and practice of forestry have changed greatly over the last ten years – FLEGT, climate change and REDD+ have been at the heart of these changes. There is a need to understand the changing agenda of international forest and natural resource management in terms of climate change, livelihoods and sustainable economic production. There are also technical skills and knowledge challenges associated with creating evidence bases: demonstrating legal and sustainable management; securing and certifying supply chains; and measuring carbon sequestration.

Improving forest governance, by involving a range of stakeholders to hold authorities to account and to report corruption, intimidation and criminality in the forest sector, lies at the heart of these developments.

Programme delivery sequence

- The first three-and-a-half weeks of the course focus on core concepts and understanding the drivers of forest governance.
- The final two-and-a-half weeks of the course are optional. Participants choose up to two modules and take part in the Illegal Logging Update Meeting at Chatham House, London.
- Participants will be offered online mentoring support following the course for a period and undertake a task which has been agreed between participants, their managers and course tutors.



The six-week programme will specifically address:

Core modules – learn the theory and application of FLEGT and VPA

Module 1: Forest Governance Issues (five days)

- Illegal logging, corruption and criminality in the forest sector.
- Exploring the drivers of poor forest governance.
- Actions being taken to confront illegal logging and trade in illegal forest products.
- Overview and update of the VPA processes.
- Land use, tenure and rights-based approaches.
- Institutional reform.
- Decentralisation – community-based management.
- Legality of formal and informal forest trade.

Module 2: Developing Trade Incentives (five days)

- International timber trade flows.
- Forest economics – GDP and economic value of forests.
- Value chain system.
- Independent verification and certification.
- Chain of custody documentation and control (includes theory and practice of conducting an audit)

- Certification – legality and sustainability.
- Corporate social responsibility – consumer demand, private sector response.
- Either Timber Legality Assurance Systems (standards used for TLAS assessment, planning, conducting and following-up an audit in accordance with OSI 19011 and internationally recognised Forest Management and Chain of Custody Standards)
- OR the role of independent monitoring in relation to government policy and legal frameworks (includes aspects of TLAS, consideration of VPA texts, monitoring skills and frameworks).

Module 3: Participatory Planning and Communication Skills (five days)

- Multi-stakeholder processes.
- Communication analysis and strategy.
- Participatory planning tools – stakeholder, problem and risk analysis.
- Advocacy and influencing skills.
- Facilitation and communication skills for audit and monitoring.
- Influencing skills.
- Presentation skills.
- Negotiation skills.

During these core modules, there will be field trips, and additional evening/half day visits to organisations/forests that are relevant to the course.



Tutorial support is provided throughout the course in small groups and 1:1. Presentations and action plans will be formally assessed.

Optional modules (participants select up to two from these optional four-five day modules)

Module 4: Forests and Climate Change

- Understanding and responding to climate change.
- The role of forests in climate change adaptation and mitigation.
- Carbon financing, forestry carbon markets and REDD+.
- REDD: safeguards and governance issues.
- Governance issues for forests and climate change.

Module 5: Training of Trainers

- Training needs assessment and target groups.
- Setting training aims and objectives.
- Training methods.
- Course design
- Use of visual aids and real material.
- Practice of presentation and training skills.
- Assessment and evaluation.

Module 6: Project Design, Programme Cycle Management and Proposal Writing

- Understanding funding proposals.
- Situation and needs analysis.
- Stakeholder analysis.

- Setting objectives.
- Identifying and mitigating risks.
- Setting indicators for monitoring.
- Review and evaluation.
- Setting budgets and work plans.
- Developing your proposal or project.

Module 7: Developing a Communication Strategy (including the use of social and mass media)

- Understanding different communication strategies.
- Development of a communication strategy.
- Using mass media for communication and lobbying.
- Electronic and social media as forest governance tools.

Illegal Logging Update Meeting, at Chatham House, London: an overview of progress from a range of countries.

(Date to be confirmed). NB: travel and accommodation for this event are included and arranged as part of course fee.

- VPA negotiation and implementation update.
- Private sector update.
- EU and US legislation updates.
- REDD update.
- Research updates.
- Networking with international forest governance specialists.

The course programme:

- is six weeks long but individuals can select the weeks and modules they want to attend (places funded by DFID require attendance for the core modules). In addition other bespoke needs for groups can be taken into account and built into the course programme if there is sufficient time to negotiate and plan for this. Participants will be able to return home with a tangible proposal, action plan or influencing strategy.
- is targeted at participants from the private sector, natural resource, trade and finance ministries, civil society, and development agencies from, or working with, low or middle income countries. Potential candidates should be actively engaged in the forest sector and issues at a managerial or decision-making level; have at least a first degree; and have a high competency in the English or French language. Internet access would be useful for pre and post-course communication.
- will include input by cutting-edge practitioners from key think-tanks, international non-governmental organisations (NGOs), consultancy organisations and government.
- will be applied and based on real world situations. The style of learning will be active and experiential, based on case studies and structured facilitated group exercises, designed to be of direct relevance to participants' working lives.
- will be delivered by the Centre for International Development and Training, University of Wolverhampton. Participants will be based at the Telford Campus of the University of Wolverhampton for the period, including study trips to explore forest governance, sustainability and management issues.



Eligibility

Applications are considered from any country, provided they meet the basic selection criteria (see application form) and they have confirmed funding.

Applicants will be eligible to seek DFID funded places if:

- 1) their organisation has not benefited from more than one funded place in the past three years.
- 2) they are working in the following countries; Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Ghana, Guyana, Indonesia, Ivory Coast, Laos, Liberia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Republic of Congo, Thailand, Vietnam.
- 3) they are from developing countries not currently involved in VPA processes but have a highly relevant role/are in a position to influence the participation of the forest sector in relation to FLEGT/VPA.

Costs

The course programme fee is UK £1,200, per week – including all materials, study tour costs, translation and administration.

Accreditation fee £60.

Accommodation, subsistence and international travel are not included in the course fee but we recommend that the following amounts be earmarked by sponsoring agencies:

- £430 per week allocated for accommodation and subsistence.
- £2,100 (approximately) travel from home base to and from Telford (includes flights and visas).

Contact details

Contact us for further information or an application form.
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