CONCEPT NOTE – FOREST GOVERNANCE FORUM, YAOUNDÉ

This concept note outlines the aims and objectives, draft agenda and thoughts on working groups for the Forest Governance Forum (FGF), which will be held between 22nd and 24th October 2014 in Yaoundé, Cameroon.

This event will be the ninth conference implemented under the auspices of the ['Strengthening African Forest Governance'](#) project, financed by the European Union and DFID and led by the University of Wolverhampton. The project operates in Cameroon, DRC, Ghana and Liberia.

The objective of FGF is to provide a free and open space for the exchange of information, ideas and research around Forest Governance and FLEGT. FGF aims to contribute to the wider aims of the SAFG project through raising awareness and the profile of FLEGT, and through engaging private sector, communities and governmental stakeholders. FGF is organised by [theIDLgroup](#), in partnership with local organisations. In Cameroon, the local partner is FODER. Information on previous events is available [here.](#)

Approximately 150 participants will be invited by the organisers and their partners and will be drawn from government, civil society, the private sector, forest-dependent communities, international organisations, the academic community, the media and donor organisations.

The regional event will aim to work with partners and other projects to bring international delegations to participate in the conference and to share experiences, thus enriching the global FLEGT process.

Themes for the event will be experience-sharing and documenting lessons learned from the FLEGT process, and, as this is the final event, what developments lie ahead for the future.

The outcome of the event will be a conference report which captures the results of the Q&A at session level and the findings from the working groups, with recommendations.

The first day will comprise of three 1.5 hour sessions, with three presentations in each session followed by 45 minutes of open audience Q&A. The second day will comprise of two further sessions, and a working group in the afternoon.

The third day will comprise of working groups and reporting to the plenary session.

The first draft agenda and ideas for the working groups are below. We welcome your suggestions and comments – please address these to andrew.sutherland@theIDLgroup.com .

DAY ONE

08:30-09:00   **Arrival and registration**

09:00-10:00   **Opening Ceremony**
- Remarks from a Community Leader
- Regional Trade and Industry representative
- Rodrigue Ngonzo, FODER
- EU delegation Cameroon
- MINFOF

10:00-10:10   **Overview of the three-day programme** *(Tim Fomete, Facilitator)*

10:10-10:30   **Film screening**

10:30-11:00   **Break** *tea and coffee will be served*

11:00-12:30   **First Session: 10 years of FLEGT**
Chair: to be confirmed
- Reviewing the FLEGT Action Plan
- What is the future of the FLEGT VPA process?
- Update on the global FLEGT process *(Carl Frosio, EU Delegation)*
- Q&A

12:30-14:00   **Lunch**

14:00-15:30   **Second Session: Evolution of funding support to FLEGT processes update**
Chair: to be confirmed
- Global perspective on how ease of access to funding has evolved
- Managing a programme of FLEGT grants *(Marc Vandenhaute, FAO)*
- Ensuring effective contributions of projects to FLEGT processes *(FODER)*
- Q&A

15:30-15:45   **Break** *tea and coffee will be served*

15:45-17:00   **Third session: Sharing our challenges**
Chair: Paolo Cerutti, CIFOR
- Challenges to implementation of FLEGT VPA resulting from the conflict in CAR *(Jean-Jacques Mathamale, CIEDD)*
- Land use change and legal timber *(Jaff Bamenjo, RELUFA)*
- Seized timber and legality *(CED)*
- Q&A

Followed by drinks reception at the venue

08:30-09:00   **Arrival and Registration** *tea and coffee will be served*

09:00-10:30   **Fourth Session: International market trends and legislation**
Chair: Germain Yéné, ETTF
- Monitoring trends in tropical timber markets
- National Legality Framework tool
- The Private Sector and FLEGT VPA in Cameroon: The importance of the agreement, and challenges and constraints on the contribution of the Private Sector during implementation
- Q&A

10:30-11:00   **Break** *tea and coffee will be served*

11:00-13:00   **Panel Discussion: What has FLEGT achieved?**
Chair: to be confirmed

13:00-14:30   **Lunch**

14:30-17:00   **Working Groups: Afternoon session**
- See below

DAY THREE

08:30-09:00   **Arrival and Registration** *tea and coffee will be served*

09:00-10:00   **Plenary on first working group session**

10:00-10:15   **Break**

10:15-12:30   **Working Groups: Morning session**
◎   See below

12:30-13:30   **Lunch**

13:30-14:30   **Plenary on second working group session**

14:30-15:30   **Next steps and closing remarks**

END

IDEAS FOR WORKING GROUPS

Some possible working groups are:

- Transparency and accountability
- TLAS development
- Stakeholder engagement
- SMEs/domestic market
- VPAs and community forestry
- Challenges to implementation

Format

Each working group would have a Facilitator and a Secretary (IDL and CIDT to act as secretaries), responsible for taking notes and assembling a presentation. Over 2-3 hours, mini-presentations on the topic would be made by selected invitees followed by facilitated group discussion.

The key findings would be assembled into a presentation which would be given back to the plenary and would be included in the conference report.

WORKING GROUP 1: Transparency and Accountability

DATE/TIME: Day 2 Afternoon

MODERATOR: tbc

OUTLINE: to follow

PARTICIPANT LIST:

WORKING GROUP 2: Stakeholder engagement

DATE/TIME: Day 2 Afternoon

MODERATOR: tbc

OUTLINE: to follow

PARTICIPANT LIST:

WORKING GROUP 3: Implementing verification in the context of VPA TLAS implementation

DATE/TIME: day 3 pm

MODERATOR:

OUTLINE:
These (ese) working groups aims at discussing verification challenges among practitioners from different VPA countries. The objectives are to:
- Share experiences and ideas for the implementation of legality verification among countries in VPA implementation and negotiations;

- Clarify the different concepts around the implementation of verification systems to overcome the current challenges, real or virtual (false ideas);

- Provide refreshers on the objectives of verification;

- Build a network of practitioners and trigger further cooperation.

PARTICIPANT LIST:

ZayZay Slonglo – **Liberia**
Darlington Tuagben – **Liberia**
Richard Gyimah – **Ghana**
Raphael Yeboah – **Ghana**
Salomon Belinga – **Cameroon**
Martin Mbongo – **Cameroon**
Ferdinand Bekollo – **Cameroon**
Adolphe Ngassembo – **Congo**
A. Ossebi – **Congo**
Annick Ngakosso – **Congo**
Joseph Mbangolo – **RCA**
Maurcie Yondo – **RCA**
Yves Yalibanda – **RCA**
Soro – **Ivory Coast**
Cheick Sylla – **Ivory Coast**
Dogui Aboa, SODEFOR – **Ivory Coast**
Louison Ngwo Ekolonga, Forest Minister, Bundundu province - **DRC**
Maribé Mujinga, directrice DCVI (Direction du contrôle et vérification interne) - **DRC**
Leonard Nlandu, chef pool forêts DCVI – **DRC** (or deputy)
Symphorien Azantsa – **CEEAC**
Germain Yéné
EFI technical expert - …
Alain Pénelon – **EFI**
Alain Daumerie – Tech. Assistant **Congo**
Alain Rousseau – Tech. Assistant **Ivory Coast**
Services providers (SGS, BV, AMG, etc.)?

WORKING GROUP 4: VPAs and Community Forestry

DATE/TIME: Day 3, Morning

MODERATOR: tbc

OUTLINE: to follow

PARTICIPANT LIST:

WORKING GROUP 5: SMES/How to effectively address domestic markets within VPAs

DATE/TIME:

MODERATOR:

OUTLINE:

PARTICIPANT LIST:

WORKING GROUP 6: Challenges to implementation

DATE/TIME:

MODERATOR:

OUTLINE:

PARTICIPANT LIST: