

# CAMEROON FOREST GOVERNANCE FORUM – CONCEPT NOTE

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**Project Name:** Congo Basin VPA Implementation: Championing forest peoples' rights and participation (EU-CFPR) project.

**Project Funding:** the European Commission (EC); the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Forest Governance, Markets and Climate (FGMC) programme

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## Introduction and objectives

This concept note outlines the aims and objectives, and indicative themes for the Cameroon regional Forest Governance Forum (FGF), which will be held between **16<sup>th</sup> March** and **18<sup>th</sup> March, 2016** in Yaoundé.

This event will be the 1<sup>st</sup> under the EU-CFPR project, but the 10<sup>th</sup> under a series of similar international conferences implemented under the Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT)'s previous project 'Strengthening African Forest Governance' (SAFG). The EU-CFPR project is supported by the European Union and DFID and is implemented in the Central African Republic (CAR) and Cameroon. The project is led by CIDT, University of Wolverhampton, working in partnership with Centre pour l'Information environnementale et le Développement Durable (CIEDD), Maison de l'Enfant et la Femme Pygme (MEFP) in CAR, Centre pour l'Environnement et le Développement (CED) and Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) Cameroon, FERN and FPP, both in Europe.

The FGF **aims** to contribute to the wider aims of the EU-CFPR project through experience sharing and raising awareness, and the profile of FLEGT-VPA process. Information on the previous FGFs is available at <http://forestgovernanceforum.com/>. More information is also available on the **CIDT** website.

The **objective** of the FGF is **to provide a free, deliberative and open space for the exchange of information, experiences, lessons, ideas and up to date research around Forest Governance, FLEGT-VPA and other initiatives seeking to improve forest governance and combat illegal logging.**

With the anticipated publication of the FLEGT evaluation report, this is a potential opportunity to discuss its recommendations and lessons and to provide a platform for national and regional stakeholders to discuss the future of the FLEGT-VPA initiative. Issues relating to deforestation, forest conversion, domestic timber markets, private sector actions, independent monitoring, indigenous peoples' rights, REDD+ and participation among others will also be discussed at this regional forum.

## Organisation

Approximately 200 participants will be invited by the organisers and their partners. These participants will be drawn from government, civil society, the private sector, forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, international organisations, the academic community, the media and donor organisations from Cameroon, the region and internationally. The regional event will aim to work with international partners and other projects to bring international delegations to participate in the conference and to share experiences, thus enriching the global FLEGT process.

The event will focus on experience-sharing and documenting of lessons learned from the FLEGT process, and will include looking at developments that lie ahead for the future. The outcome of the event will be a conference report which captures the results of the Q&As at session level and the findings from the working groups, with some recommendations where needed.

The Cameroon FGF will comprise of three 1.5 hour sessions on each day, with three presentations in each session followed by 45 minutes of open audience Q&As. There will be opportunities for networking and participant interaction including structured working group sessions.



A national **Forest Governance Forum Steering Group** will be set up to spearhead the organisation and preparation of this Forest Governance Forum. The national Steering Group will be made up of the following members, representing the key stakeholder groups;

- MINFOF
- Civil society
- Private sector (represented by 2 members)
- Communities
- Donors and international partners (represented by the EC Delegation)
- EU-CFPR project

The national Steering Group will coordinate all FGF preparation activities including the successful delivery of the forum. Their main role will include;

- On behalf of their constituents highlighting the issues to be included in the agenda and thematic sessions
- Publicising the event amongst their constituents to ensure maximum visibility
- Advising the FGF/project organisers on the general organisation of the event
- Liaising with the FGF Coordinator and team on all FGF preparatory issues
- Recommending and inviting on behalf of the organisers high level speakers for the event e.g. opening and closing remarks
- Agreeing on the final agenda for the event

## Indicative Themes

The indicative themes for the Cameroon Forest Governance Forum are;

- VPA update and FLEGT Action Plan Evaluation – vision for the future
- Transparency in the forest sector – implementation of the transparency annex
- Corruption in the forest sector
- Independent Forest Monitoring/Observation
- Actions of the private sector to promote good governance, legality, certification
- Domestic timber market
- Community Forestry, Tenure and rights of Indigenous peoples
- Gender in forest governance
- Land use change, planning and implications
- Benefit sharing and local development related to forests
- Participation of stakeholders in the VPA
  - Private sector (formal and informal)
  - Forest communities
  - Indigenous peoples
  - Issues of representation
  - Civil society participation
- Synergies between FLEGT, REDD+ and land use governance – post COP21
- Forest governance in academic curriculum
- The role of the media in promoting good forest governance
- The role of lawmakers and inter-ministerial coordination

A detailed agenda for the event will be distributed in late **February, 2016**. In the meantime for more information, comments and suggestions please contact the organisers;

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