

# EU FOREST LAW ENFORCEMENT GOVERNANCE AND TRADE

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GUYANA'S VPA PROCESS

Stakeholder Session on FLEGT in Region One  
Moruca Mabaruma Port Kaituma

Report

Period: January 27-31, 2014

**Prepared by: Guyana Forestry Commission**

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## Introduction

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A series of consultation sessions were held in Region One on European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (EU FLEGT) and were attended by representatives of almost all indigenous communities and other Community Development Councils, as well as a few representatives from government and Non-Governmental Organisation in the region.

The objectives of these consultations were to:

- ❖ To further develop and strengthen Guyana's existing framework for forest legality and sustainable forest management in a manner consistent with national priorities,
- ❖ To enhance Guyana's forest products' market opportunities.
  
- ❖ Ensure that participants were aware of what the EU FLEGT programme seeks to do at the national level.
- ❖ Ensure that participants who were aware of the programme were updated on the progress of the programme since its formal commencement.
- ❖ Receive feedback on various aspects of the VPA and more specifically the product scope and the Legality Definition.

This report provides an account of the discussion process, especially amongst participants, during the session – as well as the most salient topics that were raised.

The government of Guyana (GOG) and the European Union commenced informal discussion on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) since 2010 with the aim of exploring the possibility of Guyana entering into a voluntarily partnership with the EU that could continue to facilitate trade in timber products to this market.

An exploratory workshop was held in September 2010 on the EU FLEGT programme with EU and various stakeholders. The outcome of this session resulted in a policy decision by the Government of Guyana to enter into formal negotiations with the EU on a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) in March 2012. A Joint Roadmap was agreed on between Guyana and the EU outlining all activities throughout the VPA process. Further, a draft term of reference was developed and a National Technical Working Group, comprising representatives of various stakeholder groups, was established. Additionally, sub-committees were formed to foster an inclusive and participatory process. Some of these Constituency Groups include Forest Producers Association, Non-Governmental Organizations and Guyana Gold & Diamond Miners Association.

Guyana and the European Union agreed to commence formal negotiations in the latter part of 2012 deciding to conclude all negotiations on a VPA by 2015. This consultation was part of a series of other sessions that were held nationally.

## Welcome -Mr.Worren Lackna (Moruca), Mr. Williams (Mabaruma &Kaituma)

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The gathering was welcome and the moderator Mr. Ovid Williams was then introduced; individual introductions were facilitated for all the sessions and special thanks were extended to all by Mr. Williams at all the sessions.

A brief overview of the expectation and outcome of the forum was then carried out prior to the presentation and discussions; Mr. Williams highlighted the government's commitment to include all stakeholders in policy decisions and the gathering was challenged to voice their concerns, opinions and recommendations since all stakeholders input are very vital for this initiative.

## Presentations and Discussions

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### I. **Presentation & Discussion on European Union Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (EUFLEGT) initiative** (Presenters were Mr. Khan (Moruca), Mr. Lackna (Mabaruma), Mr. David (Port Kaituma))

The presenters focus their attention on the aim of the agreement and stressed the importance of such a partnership for the sector. Major emphasis on the reasons for Guyana engagement in such an agreement was discussed and the aim for these multi-stakeholder sessions. Further, the benefits of this initiative were explained and the chain of custody for forest produce from producers, including indigenous communities, to the consumer was deliberated upon. The presenter explained how Guyana's system currently works and expressed that there are minor adjustments that will have to be made. They further informed that the EU was invited in the past to look at the current systems being practice in Guyana and its compatibility with the requirements of a VPA with the EU. The finding were very favourable, hence the systems that were being employed in Guyana, prior to any discussion with the EU, were very unique and transparent. Additionally, Guyana's engagement in such an agreement will only build the capacity of existing systems and improve legality and verification. The presenter explained in details the delineation for the various producers and multiple land user groups and informed that each grouping will have to be examined carefully during this process.

They further emphasized that this agreement once signed will only cover specific types of forest products and will not include product such as furniture at this point in time. These may be added in the future as the agreement progresses and the markets change.

The functions of the National Technical Working Group (NTWG) were highlighted and their involvement in meetings and negotiations with the European Union (EU) were discussed.

The presenters further informed that all stakeholders across the country during the negotiation process are represented by this body having a 13-member delegation comprising government, indigenous community, private sector and civil society representatives who negotiate on behalf of the Government of Guyana.

Some of the achievements of the VPA process were highlighted and included, but not limited to, an overview of the EU customs procedures relating to FLEGT licensed timber entering the market, updating on progress made to date by Guyana in relation to FLEGT, drafting of a Road Map for the VPA, the development of a draft Legality Definition and the status of Guyana's Legality Assurance Systems (GLAS). The presenter also informed that the NTWG will continue consultations and meetings to ensure the VPA process is developed in a participatory manner.

II. **Presentation & Discussion on the Communication Strategy** (Presenters were Mr. Williams (Moruca), Mr. Rebeiro (Mabaruma), Mr. William (Port Kaituma))

The presenters explained some of the initiatives that were taken in the past involving indigenous communities and their participation in the VPA and requested the gathering opinions on what should be included in a Communication Strategy that would improve feedback from communities. Additionally, the gathering was tasked with highlighting how each community could be involved in effective communication with members of the NTWG or the Guyana Forestry Commission. The various barriers to effective communication were also discussed and much emphasis was placed on listening and interacting since it was explained that this will help with interpretation of the material being presented or disseminated to communities. In addition feedback from the communities was determined to be most important and each community was asked to meet with their people and inform them of the EU FLEGT programme so that feedback could be communicated to the NTWG within a specific time frame. Some basic tips for effective communication such as eye contact, body movement, tone of voice, knowledge of material presenting was deliberated upon. The barriers such as noise, language, body movement, too much information were also discussed during the presentation. Finally the audience was tasked with advising on means that will allow the NTWG to effectively communicate with each community, those that were listed included: facilitation of more workshop in communities, sending information via email, utilising television station (the Learning and other channels), utilising radio stations, brochures, pamphlets, posters, telephones and radio set messages, newspapers/newsletters, CD's and DVD's.

### Mabaruma Session

**1. Mr. Seon Ashby: benefits of FLEGT to Community Development Councils**

Mr. Ashby enquired how Amerindian Communities will benefit from the EU FLEGT initiative.

**Response:** Mr. Khan explained in details how the system will work and informed that it's a trade agreement and if communities, that are not titled, are granted titles in the future the agreement will already be in place to allow those stakeholders to access the EU market.

### Port Kaituma Session

**1. Mr. King-: Child labour**

The association is aware that children should not be on concession working however, sometimes individuals, mostly indigenous, seek employment on the concession and would normally take their entire family there. When they are told of this rule they would normally establish their camp off the concession and still work on the concession. From time to time, the child might visit his father's worksite and if coincidentally the GFC officer visits the concession when the child is there, could the concessionaire be penalised?

**Response:** (Mr. Williams: these are some of the concerns that will have to be address during the negotiations process with the EU. Additionally, the rights of the child to education should be respected.

**2. Mr. King -: GFC Officers need access to vehicle or ATV**

The officers attached to the Port Kaituma Forest Station need access to a vehicle to effectively monitor the sub-district.

## Appendix A – Participation

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### List of Participants - Moruca Session

No.	Name	Community Organisation/Company
1	Stavros Stanley	S.R.W.C.L.A
2	Genevieve Vansluytman	Father's Beach
3	Joseph Henry	Father's Beach
4	Philipa Savory	Koko/Wutawari
5	Timothy Williams	Wallaba S.R.W.C.L.A
6	A.L.Savory	S.R.W.C.L.A
7	Tyllem Walliams	Wallaba
8	Omar thomas	Kokerite
9	Benedict Rodriques	Koraburi
10	Shan Richards	
11	Phillip Jacous	Santa Cruz
12	Kanim Cyprino	1miles K.K.B.Rod
13	James Henry	Kokerite
14	Evan Charles	Kokerite
15	Basil Corneluis	Santa Rosa Village
16	John Campbell	Santa Cruz
17	Errol Charles	Assakata Village
18	Patrick Mendonca	Santa Rosa Village
19	Lewis Samuels	Kariako
20	Leslie Edwards	kokrite
21	Suzette Francis	Kamwattie Mission
22	Felica Abrams	Kumaka/Moruca
23	Fieona Henry	Mora Moruca
24	Alana Henry	Mora Moruca
25	Robal Fitzpatrick	Kwebanna F.P.A
26	N.Muslim	Kwebanna F.P.A
27	A.Reyhan	Kwebanna
28	Esther Conyers	Assakata C.S.O
29	Fazina Daniels	Assakata C.S.O
30	John Fems	Kumaka Santa Rosa
31	Racheal Williams	Waikiebi
32	Martin Williams	Waikiebi
33	Mabel Hackett	Kwebanna
34	Terrence Edwards	Parakesie

35	Nikita Millar	Chinese Landing
36	Benard Lord	Warimuri
37	J.Sharon Atkinson	APA
38	Alvin George	Manawarin
39	Gerald Rodriques	Moruca
40	Mary Zola Dasilva	Moruca M.O.A.A
41	Shaniez Roberts	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
42	Adonna Ganesh	Ministry of Amerindian Affairs
43	Dave Sankar	GFC Kwebanna F/S
44	Trevon Murray	GFC Kwebanna F/S
45	S.Rodriquez	GFC Moruca F/S
46	Michelle Fedricks	GFC Moruca F/S
47	Tasreef Khan	Guyana Forestry Commission
48	Worren Lackna	Guyana Forestry Commission
49	Lovell Rebeiro	Guyana Forestry Commission
50	Ovid Williams	Chain Saw Milling Project

#### List of Participants -Mabaruma Session

No.	Name	Community /Organisation/Company
1	Marcell Bovell	Black Water
2	Rickford Roberts	Barima Kariabo
3	Stephen Ashby	Mabaruma Settlement
4	Terrence	Morahawana
5	Terrance Abraham	Yarakita
6	Ruben Salomon	Morawhanna NWD
7	Micheal P. Henry	Three Brothers Village
8	Gregory Dedeideen	Aruka Sacred Heart
9	Terrence Antonio	Hotoquai Village
10	Derick Nazier	Waicarabi Village
11	Margaret Cyrus	Bumbury Hill
12	Paula Ramasindo	Bumbury Hill
13	Patrick Antonio	Hobodeia
14	Rudolph Poliah	Powaikuru
15	Elise Alberts	Yarakita
16	D.Gamell	Kumaka
17	Lorraine France	Hobodeia
18	Devon Emanuel	Mabaruma Township
19	Randolph Daniels	Mabaruma Settlement



<b>20</b>	Sylvestor Antonio	Hobodeia
<b>21</b>	Paul Hernandez	Bumbury Hill
<b>22</b>	Seon Ashby	Mabaruma Settlement
<b>23</b>	Fedrick Gomes	Yarakita
<b>24</b>	Sherman Lewis	Smith Creek
<b>25</b>	Micheal Williams	Smith Creek
<b>26</b>	Leslie Brown	Smith Creek
<b>27</b>	Nicholas Lewis	Powaikuru
<b>28</b>	Irma Daniels	Hotoquai Village
<b>29</b>	John Antonio	M.O.A.A
<b>30</b>	Femin Singh	RDC
<b>31</b>	Aegar	
<b>32</b>	Peter Nazier	Kamwatta
<b>33</b>	Emanual Abraham	Barasina
<b>34</b>	Leonard Daniels	Barimanobo Hill
<b>35</b>	Ronald France	Yarakita
<b>36</b>	Desmond Abraham	Yarakata
<b>37</b>	Andrew De Silva	Arukamai
<b>38</b>	Richard Anthony	Barima River
<b>39</b>	Stanley Sam	Smith Creek
<b>40</b>	Jerry Bumbury	Smith Creek
<b>41</b>	Desmond James	Red Hill
<b>42</b>	Ryan Antonio	Hobodeia
<b>43</b>	Kamla Amogon	Wauna
<b>44</b>	David Saywack	Wauna
<b>45</b>	Ernest Samuels	White Water
<b>46</b>	Lawrence Ashby	Aruka Mouth
<b>47</b>	Mark Persaud	Kumaka (concessionaire)
<b>48</b>	Kumar Persaud	Wauna Loggers Association
<b>49</b>	J Dhanraj	Wauna Loggers Association
<b>50</b>	Ron Smith	Koberimo Hill
<b>51</b>	Tasreef Khan	Guyana Forestry Commission
<b>52</b>	Worren Lackna	Guyana Forestry Commission
<b>53</b>	Lovell Rebeiro	Guyana Forestry Commission
<b>54</b>	Kevin Pereira	Guyana Forestry Commission
<b>55</b>	Ovid Williams	Chain Saw Milling Project-Guyana

## List of Participants - Port Kaituma Session

<b>NO.</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Community /Organisation/Company</b>
1	Isha Leander	Water front
2	Laureen Singh	Water front
3	Jeffrey Henry	Canal Bank Kaituma
4	Gopal	Eclipse Fall top
5	Brian Riddle	Main Road Kaituma
6	Maria Henry	Eclipse Fall Top
7	Keron Allicock	Canal Bank Kaituma
8	John Ceao	Jailing
9	Adrian Prince	Jailing
10	Joe Lewis	Canal Bank Kaituma
11	Philbert Henry	Canal Bank Kaituma
12	Daniel Kisz	One Mile P.K.F.P.A
13	Carl Daniels	Fitzburg P.K.F.P.A
14	Vibert La Rose	Orinoque
15	Phillbert James	Fitzburg
16	Allan La Rose	Sebia
17	Vincent Emmanuel	Sebia Toshao
18	Allan Baschur	Orinoque
19	Kenneth Cox	Kaituma
20	Lovia Mendonca	Orinoque
21	Desmond James	Guyana Forestry Commission
22	Christopher James	Guyana Forestry Commission
23	Kenny David	Guyana Forestry Commission
24	Worren Lackna	Guyana Forestry Commission
25	Lovell Rebeiro	Guyana Forestry Commission
26	Ovid Williams	Chain Saw Milling Project - Guyana