

Georgetown FLEGT Seminar: Sharing Regional Lessons on FLEGT VPA processes

Transitioning from Negotiations to Implementation

Pegasus Hotel, Georgetown, Guyana, 28-29 September 2016

Guyana has one of the largest unspoiled forests remaining in South America, covering approximately 75% of its land area. Seven years ago Guyana adopted a low carbon development strategy, seeking to use these vast forests to forge a green economy based on low levels of deforestation, reduced carbon emissions and climate resilience. In March 2012, Guyana sought to reinforce its efforts to address the problem of illegal logging and associated deforestation by entering into Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) negotiations with the European Union, under the auspices of the European Union (EU) Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.

The recent evaluation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan shows that despite achievements in the deliberative reform processes that the VPAs have promoted, it has taken a long time for FLEGT-licensed timber to reach the market. This seminar seeks to promote the exchange of experiences and lessons learned between countries that have completed VPA negotiations with the EU and have begun to implement the measures required to issue FLEGT-licensed timber.

Guyana's National Technical Working Group for the VPA, in cooperation with the Guyana Forestry Commission, Iwokrama, the Amerindian People's Association, the Forest Products Marketing and Development Council, the European Forest Institute, the UN-Food and Agriculture Organization and the FLEGT Facilitation Support Office, is organizing a FLEGT experience-sharing event in Guyana on **28-29 September, 2016**. The seminar will:

- Further raise the profile of Guyana's VPA, allowing Guyanese stakeholders to reflect on their experiences of VPA negotiations and to look ahead to the implementation phase.
- Situate Guyana's VPA process within the FLEGT context by allowing stakeholders to hear from international technical experts and discuss current forestry issues with regional counterparts; and
- Offer a unique space to network and share experiences with counterparts from other VPA countries

This seminar, inspired by the Illegal Logging Update Conferences hosted by Chatham House in London, will address a broad range of forest sector topics, with a particular focus on the challenges and opportunities of transitioning from VPA negotiations to implementation.

For further information and to register your interest, kindly contact Stacy Reece at the FLEGT Facilitation Support Office: stacy.reece@thepalladiumgroup.com. Telephone: +592 225 1538

