

**CONGO BASIN  
FOREST  
PARTNERSHIP  
(CBFP)**



# **4<sup>th</sup> Regional Plenary Meeting of the Congo Basin Forest Partnership**

**Progress in FLEGT-VPA negotiations in  
COMIFAC countries**

N'Djamena 20-22 September 2012

# Steps of the presentation

- **Introduction**
- **VPA's situation by country**
- **Lessons from the regional experience**
- **Challenges**

# Introduction (1/2)

- *FLEGT in the world : 8 african countries among 17 (5 **Central Africa countries**).*
- *VPA is only one axis of **2003' FLEGT AP**.*
- *Among 17 countries, 10 are really engaged with EU and **5 of them are from Central Africa***

Concl 1 : *Central Africa = FLEGT engine*

Concl 2 : *Massive contribution of EU/MS.*

- *FLEGT & VPA ≠ programmes/projects but **promoting initiative to change**. Need strong involvement of the partner countries.*

# Introduction (2/2)

- *In less than 10 years, EU-FLEGT :*
  - *is progressing on all tropical forest continents*
  - *has connected “legality” to timber trade through its VPA*
  - *Is connecting VPA and REDD+ mechanism*
  - *has completed its VPA with EUTR.*

*Concl 1* : *EU is proposing a global “package” as tools for improvment of forest gouvernance.*

*Concl 2* : *Central Africa remains a very concerned regions for both processes.*

# VPA situation by country

	<i><b>Cameroun</b></i>	<i><b>Congo</b></i>	<i><b>Centrafrique</b></i>
Information / Discussions	nov05- juil06	fév05- jan07	nov06- déc07
Ouverture négociation	déc-07	juin-08	oct-09
Conclusion / Paraphe APV	mai-10	mai-09	déc.-10
Signature APV	oct-10	mai-10	nov-11
Ratification APV	août-11	juil-12	déc-11
Réunion(s) CCMO	<b>2</b> (03 & 07-2012)	-	<b>1</b> (09-2012)
Emission Autorisation FLEGT	<i>janv. -13</i>	<i>déc.-12</i>	<i>janv.-14</i>

# VPA situation by country

	<i>Gabon</i>	<i>Rép. Démocratique du Congo</i>
Information	fév.-07	mai-07
Discussions informelles	juin-07	oct-07
Ouverture négociation	sept.- 10	oct.- 10
Conclusion / Paraphe APV		
Ratification APV		
Mise en oeuvre		
Emission Autorisation FLEGT		

# Lessons learned

1. Implementation and field tests underline difficulties : many reforms to undertake (IM, operational procedures, etc. => long and critical implementation phase
2. Real constraints to be fully legal !
3. Re-connexion between legality & traceability => LAS
4. Problems to get contribution from Governments' budget
5. Stronger more regular mobilization from private sector in the implementation phase.
6. IM play its role = governance indicator in progress
7. Debate on Licensing Authorities. What is the last document to deliver (Customs doc or FLEGT License from Forest Adm) ?
8. Timber in transit : need or not to register for traceability ?

# Perspectives

- Implementation of a strong follow-up and control is and will remain a permanent challenge for the VPA. It is the *sine qua non* condition to its success !
- LAS may become a model to prepare consultation for REDD+ Strategy definition. On reverse, REDD+ may describe the frame of discussions especially on the forest domain concerned by VPA.
- VPA may become a mean of regional integration and implementation of COMIFAC/Plan de Convergence (Axes 1 & 5).
- ***The entry into force of EUTR in March 2013 will distinguish COMIFAC countries engaged in FLEGT-VPA. It will strengthen the commercial position of the countries facing the EU and valorize their VPA.***



Thank you for your attention

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