

Countries of intervention and priorities

Congo :

The company responsible for renovating the premises of the Forest Legality and Traceability Unit (CLFT) has been recruited, and a site launch meeting was held at the end of June. The work will take three months to complete.

The study of the domestic market and FLEGT facilitation have been underway by the service providers since last year. Final delivery of the study is scheduled for the third quarter of the year.

The terms of reference for support to the Multi-Stakeholder Working Group (MSWG) are currently being validated. The call for tenders for support for independent non-mandated observation has just been declared unsuccessful, and the terms of this support are under discussion.

GUYANA

Recruitment is underway for support for the VPA Technical Secretariat within the Guyana Forestry Commission, as well as for the Wood Tracking System and support for the FPA. Tenders have been received and are currently being evaluated by the programme coordinator.

For Component 2, support for the National Toshias Council (Amerindian communities) is under discussion.

HONDURAS :

The call for tenders for short-term support to the VPA Technical Secretariat (SETAVA) was mobilised and contracted for the period from June to September 2024.

The terms of reference for the development of the TLAS are currently being finalised in collaboration with the Honduran government.

The contract with the service provider to carry out the independent observation of the forests will be signed shortly. Activities are due to start in July.

Additional support for independent observation by the Amerindian and Afro-descendant peoples of Honduras will be signed at the start of the third quarter. The aim of this support is to develop the collective construction of an independent observation guide with the full and effective participation of indigenous leaders.

Focus on... Libéria

LIBERIA:

The 11th Joint Implemented Committee (JIC) took place in mid-June, and was attended by a delegation from the project team (AFD/EticWood). FLEGT facilitation is ongoing, and the team was involved in drafting the JIC Aide-Mémoire.

Additional support for LFMW has begun and they have produced the first radio broadcasts (1 per week). An initial training session for rural journalists was held in June to enable them to improve their ability to write stories about forest communities.

The terms and conditions of support for independent observation are under discussion and will probably involve a new call for tenders.

Calls for tender currently being recruited or soon to be published:

- Feasibility study for the creation of a 'sustainable forest management entity' (applications under evaluation)
- Independent audit of TLAS (ToRs being finalised)



Field mission to Liberia in June by AFD and technical operator EticWood during the 11th JIC. de terrain au Libéria en juin par l'AFD et l'Opérateur technique EticWood lors du 11^{ème} JIC.

The main objective of the mission was to attend the 11th VPA Joint Implementation Meeting to present updates on the EU FLEGT programme in Liberia and to liaise with the EU Delegation and the new Director General of the Forest Department Authority (FDA) appointed in January.

The mission was also able to meet and discuss with beneficiaries and service providers of ongoing activities, in particular the VPA facilitator, the JIC support team and the Liberia Forest Media Watch team.