

## Countries of intervention and priorities

### REPUBLIC OF CONGO :

The construction company Sotraco was hired to renovate the premises of the Forest Legality and Traceability Unit (CLFT). A launch meeting took place on-site at the end of June. The bulk of the renovation work has already been successfully completed, with support from the FLEGT Facilitator and the CLFT Coordinator to support monitoring of the work. It is expected that this work will be completed before the end of the year.

A first final draft report of the domestic market study was submitted by Terea. The findings will be presented and discussed during a workshop to be held in Brazzaville on 11 October with VPA stakeholders. The final report (last deliverable) will be finalized after the workshop.

Terms of reference for additional support to the CLFT and the Information Systems Directorate (DSI) to purchase and install equipment for the good functioning of the Timber Legality Assurance System (SIVL) are being finalized for a start envisaged in January 2025.

The call for tenders to support the FLEGT process through the provision of a team of experts (support to the multi-stakeholder working group and follow-up to the VPA Five-Year Plan) was published on 8 August and the technical brief took place on 5 September. The bids were received on September 18. The selection of the contractor is ongoing.

The call for tenders for support non-mandated independent observation was relaunched on 26 August and the tenders were received on 26 September and are being evaluated. The terms of reference for supporting mandated independent observation are being validated.

### HONDURAS:

Short-term support to the VPA Technical Secretariat (SETAVA) has been extended to the end of November 2024 and the contract with the service provider for long-term support to SETAVA is due to be signed shortly, with a view to starting in early December 2024.

Support for Amerindian communities by the CONPAH-ONILH consortium was signed on 10 July and activities are currently being implemented, with their first deliverable already received and validated.

The contract for independent forest monitoring was signed on 11 July. A kick-off meeting was held with the consortium, EUD and government (ICF), as well as the Programme Management Unit to discuss the main objectives and activities of the project. Activities are underway and the first deliverable, including context analysis and intervention strategy with local CSOs, is being validated.

The terms of reference for the development of TLAS are being finalised in collaboration with the Honduran government, and the call for tenders is due to be published on 27 September.

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### **LIBERIA:**

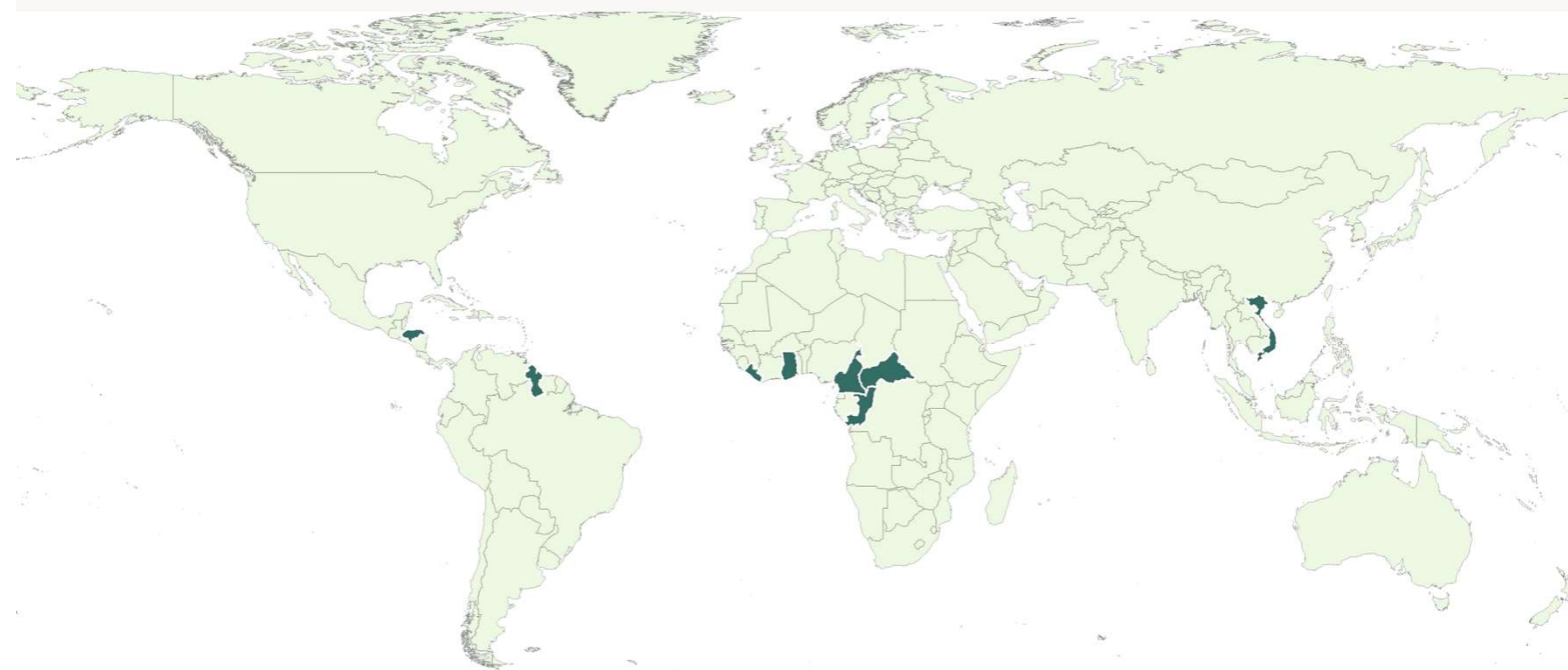
FLEGT facilitation continues, with no particular difficulties, including monitoring of JIC decisions and ongoing support for VPA implementation meetings.

The JIC support contract continues to provide administrative support for the organisation of stakeholder meetings.

The service provider for the preliminary study to identify opportunities for strengthening sustainable forest management in Liberia has been selected (Terea) and the contract started in August. The inception report has been received and validated. The project is underway and a field mission was undertaken (17-27 September).

Additional support for Liberia Forest Media Watch (LFMW) is underway. The Programme Management Unit met with LFMW in the margins of the JIC in June to discuss their activities. Their first report was well received and approved by the PMU at the end of July.

The call for tenders for support for independent observation has been published and the tenders are being reviewed for signature in early November.



### **GUYANA**

The FPA (Forest Products Association) private sector support project started at the beginning of July. The initial report was validated. The consultant carried out field visits to meet FPA members in 4 regions and organised a workshop in Georgetown. The final report will include an assessment of the needs of the FPA and its members, as well as a communication and engagement plan.

Tenders for the development of the Wood Tracking System were received in August and a service provider has been selected. The contract is due to start in November.

The contract to support the VPA Technical Secretariat is also due to start in November.

The call for tenders for the baseline study on monitoring the impact of the VPA was published on 16 August and a technical brief was held on 5 September. Tenders were received on 23 September and are currently being analysed.

The terms of reference for support to the National Toshaos Council (Amerindian communities) are currently being discussed and will be published shortly.