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Organization of the
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FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade Programme - Phase III (2016-2021)

The FAO-EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme works in partnership with the European Union its Member States to implement the EU's FLEGT Action Plan to combat illegal logging and associated trade.

Since 2016, the Programme has supported over 200 partners from civil society, government administrations and private sector in tropical timber-producing countries to enact locally-defined solutions, such as national timber traceability systems, to strengthen forest governance and increase legal timber production and trade. Programme actions have increased the capacity of national and local actors to ensure the sustainability of interventions and have fostered co-operation between actors in the forest sector.

To date, USD 27 million has been committed to projects, directly delivered by these partners, and the Programme is working towards a vision beyond 2021 where support to FLEGT-related action is fundamental to halting deforestation and ensuring a future for our forests.

The Programme supports work in the following cross-cutting areas:

- Reinforcing the capacity of private sector for legal production and trade;
- Strengthening legal and policy frameworks;
- Promoting inclusive and participatory forest governance;
- Increasing transparency and timber traceability.

This multi-pronged approach increases the capacity of national governments to meet legality targets, which leads to improved forest governance. This in turn generates long lasting changes which bring social, environmental and economic gains.

Protecting forests is central to multiple global agendas, including adaptation to climate change, prevention of deforestation, ecosystem restoration and biodiversity conservation.

The work of the Programme demonstrates that forests are an invaluable vehicle to sustain livelihoods, create opportunities for green recovery, and achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.



Highlighted programme achievements in key areas

Reinforcing the capacity of private sector

Working through associations, micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), such as household artisans and furniture manufacturers, members of community forests and cooperatives, receive trainings on skills and knowledge needed to produce and trade in legal timber. This support helps MSMEs to maintain or improve market access. Co-operation with forest state administrations improves the implementation of regulations.

286

training events
organized for private
sector actors in 17
countries

86

percent
of those participating
in training events
were MSMEs

20

policy and legal
framework reviews
carried out in 10
countries

7

forest governance-
related multi-
stakeholder platforms
have received Programme
support in 5 countries

Strengthening legal and policy frameworks

Participatory law-making allows government, civil society and private sector stakeholders to collectively define and clarify legality standards, identify reforms needed, including through innovative public procurement policies, and increase compliance with and enforcement of forest sector regulations. Clear and enforceable national and local-level legislation is the foundation for transparent and accountable forest governance.



Promoting inclusive forest governance

Active involvement of women, youth and indigenous people in forest governance processes through trainings, including on the use of technology and business skills, enables them to effectively manage the resources they depend on. This, together with formalized customary land rights and stronger gender policies, ultimately contributes to securing long-term access to forest resources and to protecting livelihoods.

32

percent
of participants in
training events were
women

13

studies analysing
women's roles in the
forest sector or industry
gender policies across 6
countries

Increasing transparency and timber traceability

Transparency in the forestry sector bolsters good forest governance. By publishing information, online portals incentivize the private sector to uphold legality commitments. Independent Forest Monitors (IFMs) verify compliance with legality requirements across timber value chains, in line with timber traceability and control systems and publish information on forest illegalities.

1293

forest-governance
related documents
made public as a
result of Programme
support in 4 countries

140

Independent
Monitoring reports
made public in 8
countries

Contact: FLEGT-info@fao.org

<http://www.fao.org/in-action/eu-fao-flegt-programme/en/>



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