



Seminar on ‘Emerging legality requirements in the timber sector of Suriname’

Background

Illegal logging has a devastating impact on forests throughout the world and on the people who live in and depend on these forests. Between €25 and 75 billion in illegal timber is traded every year, with a loss of tax revenue of around €10 billion to the governments concerned. Several initiatives have emerged that put market requirements on the legality verification of timber products, particularly the EU’s Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan and the US Lacey Act.

The FLEGT Action Plan supports countries in producing legally verified timber through Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) and bans illegal timber from the EU market through the EU Timber Regulation, which came into force in March 2013. The Lacey Act of the USA also prohibits the trade in timber which is illegal according to the laws of the country from which it is sourced. In effect since May 2008, the Lacey Act is aimed at individuals and companies that handle plant products, including timber, paper and other forest products, and makes it mandatory to provide import declarations with details of the country of harvest and the species name of the plants contained in the product.

Timber-producing countries in the tropical regions struggle to provide legally verified lumber. Tropenbos International (TBI) is supporting producer countries in finding new ways to assist the forest sector in supplying legal lumber to the market. Through multi-stakeholder dialogue TBI together with its partners, engages stakeholders in developing solutions for legal and sustainable domestic lumber supply in Ghana and Guyana. TBI’s experiences in addressing legality issues provide important lessons for stakeholders in other countries.

Suriname is committed to the sustainable management of its forests and to support economic growth in the timber sector. In March 2013 the country got its REDD+ readiness preparation proposal (R-PP) approved by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility of the World Bank. REDD+ promotes the implementation of sustainable forest management and is expected to build in extra safeguards against illegal logging as part of the monitoring process of the areas assigned to the carbon credit schemes. Suriname is currently not engaged in discussions on legal timber trade with the EU, but its timber export trade will be affected by the emerging legality requirements. In order to maintain long term access to and benefits from international markets, actors in the Surinamese timber trade need to build their knowledge and capacity to meet the high international standards. There is an urgent need for awareness raising, information sharing and capacity building in government institutions, private companies and local communities, to be capable of coping with the new developments.

With this seminar, TBI, together with partner organisations, aims to:

- 1) Create an in-country space for discussion and open exchange of ideas, experiences and research
- 2) Increase the knowledge of actors in the Surinamese timber sector on emerging legality requirements, specifically on the EU FLEGT Action Plan and the Lacey Act
- 3) Share TBI’s experiences in addressing governance issues in the sector from Guyana and/or Ghana
- 4) Assess/discuss/identify the possible impacts of legality requirements on the timber trade in Suriname and to develop an understanding on how to address these impacts.

Period

28-29 November 2013

Location

Paramaribo, Suriname. Venue: Marriott Courtyard Hotel.

Language: English

Agenda

General facilitator: Jerrel Pinas

Day 1 – Thursday 28 November

- **08h30 – 09h15 Arrival and registration**
- **09h15 – 10h00 Welcome & Introduction**
 - Introduction from the Facilitator
 - Welcome from Tropenbos International
 - Welcome from SBB Director

10h00 – 10h30 Break

- **10h30 – 12h00 Session One: Setting the stage: international trade requirements**
Moderator: Andrew Sutherland (theIDLGroup)
 - Trends in the international timber market (*Ulrich Bick, the Institute for World Forestry*);
 - What has been developed to address these trends? (*Adrian Whiteman, FAO*);
 - What does this mean for the industry (and other stakeholders)? (*Wim Hup, GWZ*)

Discussion

12h00 – 13h00 Lunch

- **13h00 – 14h30 Session Two: Experiences from Suriname**
Moderator: Sietze van Dijk
 - Government (SBB): Developments in the sector, policy developments, opportunities and challenges.
 - Private sector: Export market – composition, trends, outlook – reaction to incoming legislation.
 - *Rajen Baldew, ASHU*
 - *Benito Chin Ten Fung/Alexander Gesser, PHS*
 - Civil Society (*Rudi van Kantén, TBI Suriname*)

Discussion

14h30 – 15h00 Break

- **15h00 – 16h30 Session Three: Relationship between REDD+ and FLEGT**
Moderator: Sam Nketiah. Tropenbos International
 - Global links between FLEGT and REDD+ (*Marieke Wit, Tropenbos International, ETRFN*)
 - Ghana REDD+-FLEGT (*Emmanuel Marfo, FORIG*)
 - Guyana REDD+-FLEGT context (*Tasreef Khan, GFC*)
 - Suriname REDD+ context (*Cedric Nelom, NIMOS*)

Discussion

- **17h00 – 19h00 Reception – Marriott Courtyard Hotel**

Day 2 – Friday 29 November

- **08h30 – 08h45** Arrival
- **08h45 – 09h00** Recap of day 1 – (*Facilitator*)

- **09h00 – 10h30 Session Four: Experiences from Guyana**
Moderator: Godfrey Marshall (FTCI)
 - General introduction on Guyana’s VPA (*Kenny David, GFC*)
 - Perspective from the industry on the trends in international timber trade and the FLEGT/VPA-process (*Mr. Khalawan, FPA*)
 - Perspective on the FLEGT process from small-scale producers (*Tasleem Drepaul, Community Forestry Associations*)
 - Amerindian Perspective on the FLEGT process in Guyana (*Derrick John, National Toshi Council*)
 - The multi-stakeholder process in Guyana (*Rohini Kerrett, FTCI*)

Discussion

- **10h30 – 11h00 Coffee**

- **11h00 – 12h30 Session Five: Experiences from Ghana, Jamaica and Belize**
Moderator: James Parker (Tropenbos International Ghana)
 - Ghana
 - The FLEGT/VPA-process in Ghana (*Alex Boadu, Forestry Commission*)
 - Perspectives from civil society & addressing domestic timber market issues (*Sam Nketiah, TBI Ghana*)
 - Belize
 - (*Boris Arevalo, Friends for Conservation and Development*)
 - Jamaica
 - (*Rainee Oliphant, Forestry Department of Jamaica*)

Discussion

- **12h30 – 13h30 Lunch**

- **13h30 – 14h30 Session Six: Resources available to support initiatives in the sector**
Moderator: Rudi van Kanten, Tropenbos International
 - Introduction to The EU FAO FLEGT Programme (*Claus Eckelmann, FAO*)
 - Introduction of planned activities of IDH (Sustainable Trade Initiative) and CBI (Centre for the Promotion of imports from developing countries) in Suriname (*Hans Stout & Tim van Eldick, IDH & Eva Smulders, CBI*)

Discussion

- **14h30 – 16h20 Session Seven: Panel Discussion**
Moderator: Jerrel Pinas
Reflection on the impact of the legal trade requirements on the sector in Suriname. What can it learn from other countries?
 - Panel session 1 (45 min.)
 - Coffee (20 min.)
 - Panel session 2 (45 min.)

- **16h20 – 16h35** Wrap up, evaluation and closure of the meeting

This seminar is organised by Tropenbos International, the EU FAO FLEGT Programme, The Forestry Training Centre Inc. and the DLgroup, with financial support from the European Union and the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.