# Overview of FLEGT and VPAs Cancun, 04 December 2010

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# FLEGT: why and what?

- Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade

- International concern over illegal logging and its impacts:
    - → rule of law  /  cost  / environment  / conflict

- EU response (2003) :  FLEGT action plan

- **supply-** and **demand-side** measures to combat illegal logging and associated trade.

# The EU FLEGT Action Plan

- proposes Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs)
  - Technical trade agreements to tackle illegal logging
- Supply-side (wood-producing countries)
  - governance improvement in forest sector
  - measures to regulate and control timber trade
- Demand-side (EU)
  - Green public procurement policies
  - Private sector & investment initiatives
  - Illegal timber regulation

# FLEGT Partnership Agreements

Some key elements:

- Voluntary but legally binding

- Made to measure: content defined during negotiations

- Multi-stakeholder participatory process

For a final result:

- legal licensing system for timber exports to EU

  1. Partner country ⇨ 2. delivers a FLEGT license ⇨

  3. to accompany timber shipments ⇨ 4. controlled upon arrival in EU

# Why embracing VPA?

Long and complex process: what are thus the advantages for engaging?

<u>For the country</u>
- Increased revenue collection
- Improved legal and policy framework
- Clear roles & responsibilities & less corruption Improve the country's image

<u>For the stakeholders incl. communities</u>
- Transparent and inclusive system
- Clearer rights and responsibilities

<u>For the private sector</u>
- Better market access, larger market share, new niches
- Credibility + clarity + reliability: promote investment

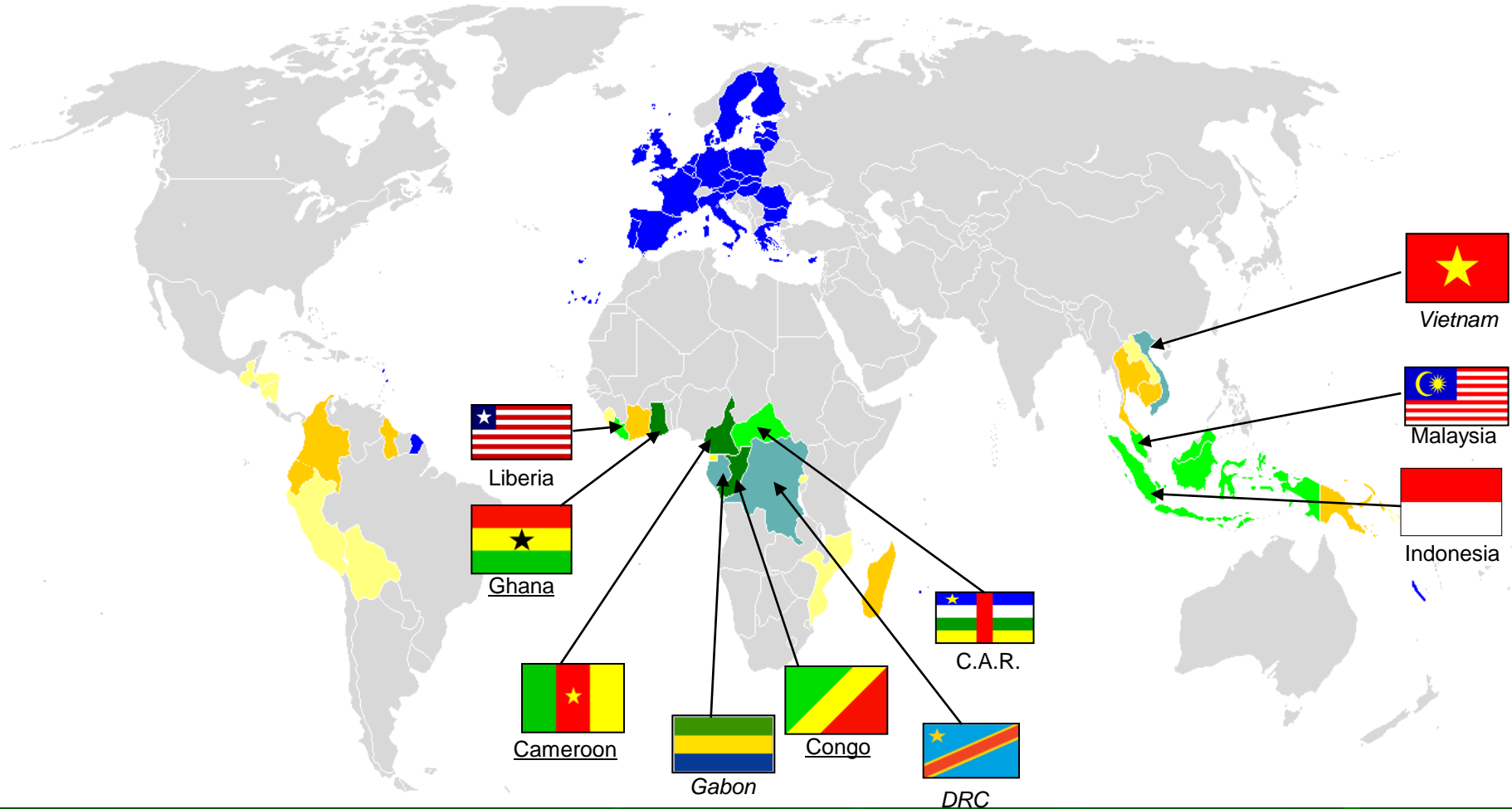# FLEGT Partner countries

Legend:
- FLEGT licenses (not yet)
- System development
- Formal negotiations
- *Moving to negotiations*
- Preparation, in-country consensus building
- Introduction to VPAs

Country flags labeled: Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Liberia, Ghana, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo, DRC, C.A.R.

*EU FLEGT Action Plan: forest law enforcement governance and trade*

# Thank you

## For further information contact

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### or see

**http://ec.europa.eu/development/policies/9interventionareas/environment/forest/forestry_intro_en.cfm**

### or

**www.euflegt.efi.int**