

# Lessons from FLEGT for REDD

*Key lessons on 'processes' for good  
multi-stakeholder involvement and  
engagement*



Une ONG œuvrant pour une plus grande justice sociale et environnementale, en se focalisant sur les forêts et les droits des populations de ces régions au sein des politiques et des pratiques de l'Union européenne.

# Outline of the presentation

1. Why processes aiming to improve forest governance fail  
*What is needed for real change*
2. VPAs: the cornerstone of FLEGT  
*How FLEGT improves governance*
3. Some key lessons and achievements from FLEGT
4. Conclusions
5. Final reflection – revisiting the history

# 1. Why processes aiming to improve forest governance fail

*Or what is needed for real change?*

There is **consensus** that REDD can only work if it improves forest governance

*Stern Review; World Bank; ITTO; FAO; WRI; & long etcetera*

## 5 principles of good governance

- Transparency
- Participation
- Accountability
- Coordination
- Capacity





FLEGT, REDD & any  
other process  
aiming to protect  
forests share the  
same challenges:

weaknesses in  
forest governance  
must be addressed



## 2. VPAs – The cornerstone of FLEGT

- **Legally binding bilateral trade agreements** that should have the buy-in of national stakeholders, including NGOs, local communities, indigenous peoples, and the timber industry.
- **VPAs set out the commitments and actions of both parties to tackle illegal logging**, including measures to increase participation of non-state stakeholders and rightsholders, recognise rights of communities to the land and address corruption.

The EU Council conclusions on FLEGT states that VPAs must, among others, “instigate forest sector governance reforms... to:

- **strengthen land tenure and access rights(...);**
- **strengthen effective participation** of all stakeholders... in policy-making and implementation;
- **increase transparency**... including through... independent monitoring;
- **reduce corruption”**



# How FLEGT improves governance

- Multi-stakeholder negotiating process
- Full participation of non-state actors in decision making
- Outcomes include commitments to law reform and continued participation in policy reform
- Ongoing processes to share information and build capacity and knowledge on the issue
- Real incentives and sanctions

# How is the process working?

## FERN believes:

- VPAs are a real tool for for improving forest governance.
- Successes in Ghana, Congo and Cameroon
- NGOs AND Government AND industry believe VPA is way forward



## Hindrances for FLEGT to work

- Stakeholder engagement remains a challenge in a number of countries where local groups fail to developed mechanisms to represent themselves or do not engage (lack of interest? capacity?)



So, if the  
underlying  
causes of forest  
loss are similar  
for REDD and  
FLEGT:

What is it for  
us to learn?





### **3. SOME KEY LESSONS FROM FLEGT...**

# KEY LESSON and ACHIEVEMENT: Participation in decision making

- Legitimacy of decision making processes requires participation from non-state actors
- Realistic timeframes needed
- This requires independent and functioning civil society

Key success of FLEGT is the move from adequate consultation to genuine participation

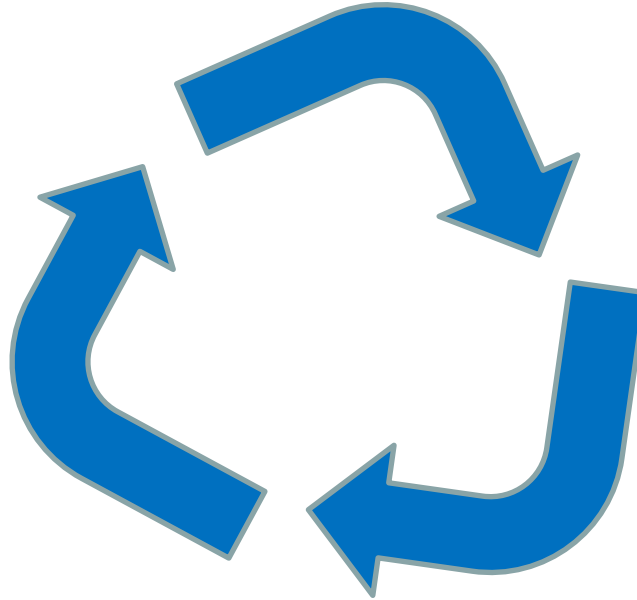
- **Interactive process** that should allow for ideas, inputs and capacities to develop over time
- **Tangible outputs** to consultation and participation

# The 3 Rs

1.  
~~Reduce~~  
Réduire

2.  
~~Re-use~~  
Réutiliser

3.  
~~Recycle~~  
Recycler





# KEY LESSON and ACHIEVEMENT: law and policy reform is key

Participation is not an objective, is a means.

*Are we achieving the changes we are asking for?*

- **VPAs** are characterised by a focus on legal review, policy reform and commitment to ongoing participation of non-state actors.
- **REDD** – RPPs are characterised by a focus on technical capacity building for monitoring forest carbon which displaces the commitment to governance reforms.

*we can't see the forest for the carbon?*

*Long term planning for sustainable (economic, social and environmental) development is an essential element of tackling deforestation*

## KEY LESSON: Incentives and sanctions

- FLEGT - donor commitments to only provide funds on the basis of whether certain governance targets have been attained (real incentives and sanctions)

**Reason?** Real commitment from key actors to address the underlying causes of the problem

- REDD – disappearing carrots and no sticks

**Reason?** Key actors are primarily concerned in benefitting from the problem

# 4. CONCLUSIONS

1. Focus on governance is key! *By focusing on emissions, REDD becomes a technical exercise divorced from rights, accountability, justice...*
2. To achieve that... Participation is key! *REDD is failing to build on existing processes or follow minimum consultation standards*
3. REDD risks undermining FLEGT. *Real danger that gov'ts focus on money and distract the limited capacities from implementing agreements secured through FLEGT on what is needed to improve governance.*

Maybe not that strange?



## 5. FINAL REFLECTION — revisiting the history

- FLEGT was developed by those wanting to improve governance.
- REDD was developed by carbon addicts...  
... those trying to avoid change!



You will also find **more information about REDD and FLEGT** and other related issues at

<http://www.fern.org/>

If you would like to receive **further information** about the REDD and FLEGT processes and how they are being implemented, please contact

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