



Seminar announcement

Bridging local and global interests: Integration of domestic timber markets in FLEGT/VPAs and REDD+

17&18 January 2011

Location: Brussels (venue t.b.d.)

Domestic markets represent a large proportion of the total trade in tropical timber. In certain countries local timber consumption may be as high as or even larger than the amount that is exported and its production has significant impacts on local economies and rural livelihoods. Production for these local markets tend to be organised in informal ways.

Two recent initiatives, FLEGT and REDD+, are envisioned to result in far-reaching impacts on forest management and forest sector governance in developing countries, including the informal use of forest resources. Their consequences for forest dwellers and small entrepreneurs whose livelihoods depend on the informal sector may be substantial. However, these socio-economic impacts of VPAs (and REDD+) on domestic markets remain unclear and require further attention. Effective mechanisms that bring domestic timber trade into a legal framework and maintain the positive social and economic benefits are subject for debate.

This seminar will discuss: how to address domestic timber trade and timber-dependent livelihoods effectively in VPAs; map the potential consequences of VPAs on local livelihoods; and discuss the relevance of these for the further development of forest governance programmes such as FLEGT and REDD+. The seminar focuses on Africa, in particular the three countries with signed VPAs - Ghana, Republic of Congo and Cameroon.

The seminar targets policy makers, professionals and researchers with an interest in the interaction between international forest policies and local livelihoods.

Objectives of the Seminar

- To share lessons learned on how to address domestic timber production meaningfully within VPAs: how can producers for the domestic market be brought within a formal framework.
- To discuss the possible impacts of VPAs on local livelihoods.
- To discuss how these experiences relate to the newly evolving REDD+ process.
- To identify and assess the key issues, conditions and perspectives for synergy between FLEGT and REDD+ to enhance good forest governance, sustainable timber production and local livelihoods.

Registration

Participation is free of charge. To register, send an email with your name and affiliation to tropenbos@tropenbos.org.

For more information, check the website www.tropenbos.org/index.php/en/news/seminar-brussels or contact: Marieke Wit (marieke.wit@tropenbos.org)

This seminar is organised by: Tropenbos International (TBI), Wageningen University (WUR), Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), Chatham House, European Forest Institute (EFI), European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN), International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), and the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN), with financial support from the European Union, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dutch Ministry of Economics, Agriculture and Innovation and The French Cooperation.