



## FROM ACP-FLEGT TO EU FAO FLEGT: SCALING UP EFFORTS TO IMPROVE FOREST GOVERNANCE

### 1 - WHAT IS THE FLEGT ACTION PLAN?

In 2003, the European Union (EU) adopted the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan to halt the supply of and demand for illegal timber. Two core instruments of the FLEGT Action Plan include the conclusion

of Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) between the EU and individual timber producing countries and the application of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR) that prohibits placing timber of illegal origin on the EU market from 3 March 2013.

### 2 - WHAT IS THE ACP-FLEGT SUPPORT PROGRAMME?

The FLEGT Support Programme for African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP-FLEGT Support Programme) is a four-year, collaborative effort between FAO, the European Commission (EC) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States. This demand-driven initiative, which received €€0 million funding from the EC, offers financial and technical assistance to

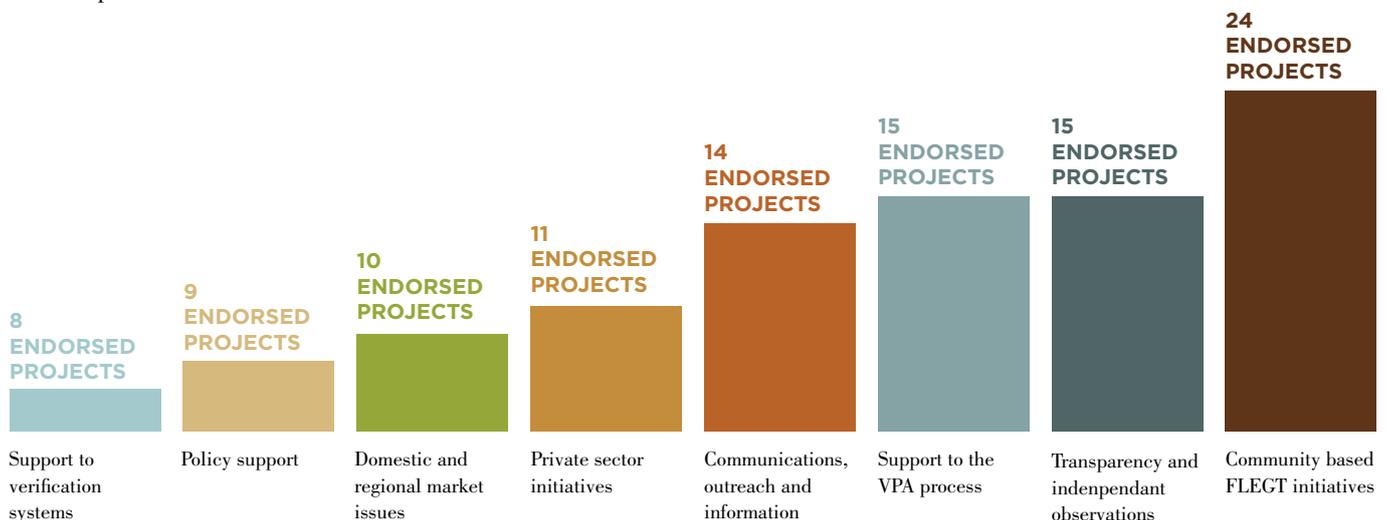
local stakeholder groups – government institutions, civil society and private sector organizations – in ACP countries to put the FLEGT Action Plan into practice. The Programme also supports the analysis and dissemination of FLEGT-related information and experiences among local stakeholder groups.

### 3 - WHAT ARE THE ACP-FLEGT SUPPORT PROGRAMME'S MAIN AREAS OF SUPPORT?

The ACP-FLEGT Support Programme endorsed projects that have contributed to the following eight thematic areas of the FLEGT Action Plan:

- *Support to verification systems* to develop and apply monitoring systems but also mechanisms to ensure legal compliance and the legal origin of timber.
- *Policy support* to revise and/or reform existing legal frameworks.
- *Domestic and regional market issues* to build knowledge on the dynamics of national timber markets and capacities to manage national and sub-regional markets of timber.
- *Private sector initiatives* to support the organization of internal and external audits and the development of manuals to ensure compliance with the LAS.

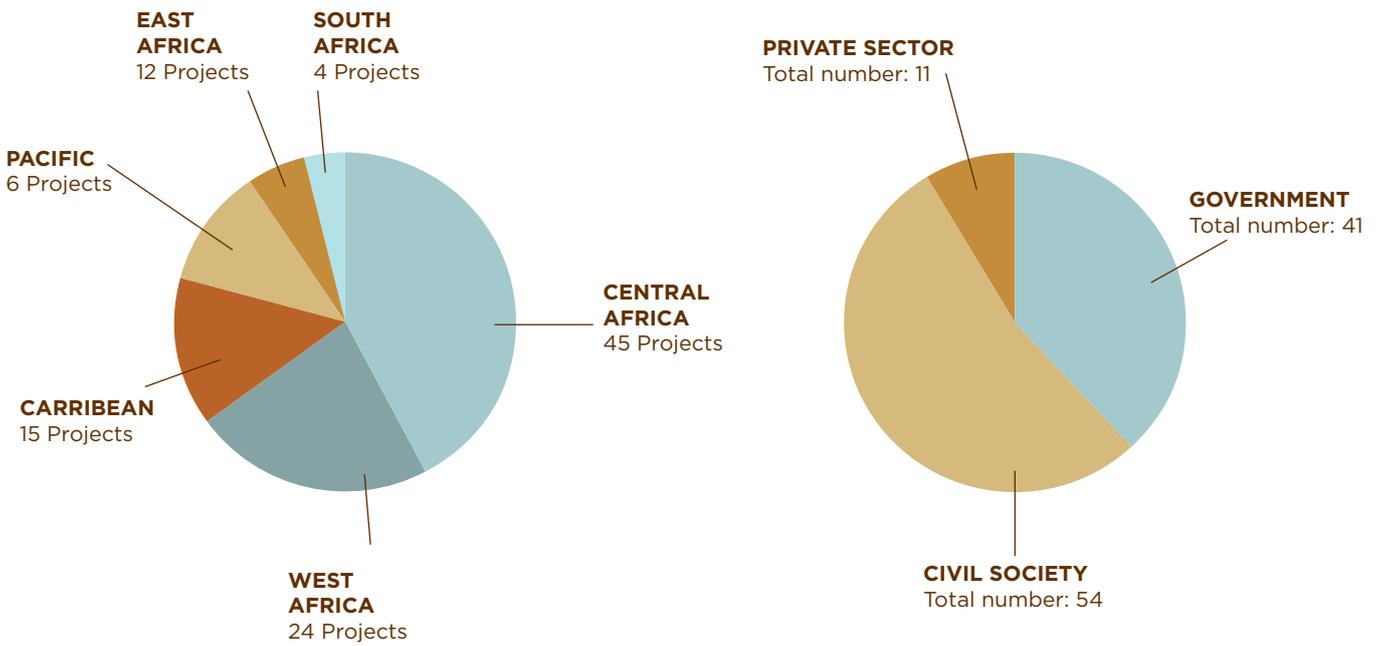
- *Communications, outreach and information* to improve awareness-raising and knowledge-sharing on FLEGT-related issues.
- *Support to the VPA process* to walk stakeholders through the VPA process by sustaining multi-actor national committees.
- *Improving transparency and independent observation* to improve access to information and promote awareness among decision-makers and develop monitoring and control systems.
- *Community-based FLEGT initiatives* to broaden participation in monitoring illegal practices and encourage the production of timber from legal and sustainable sources.



#### 4 - WHAT ARE THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACP-FLEGT SUPPORT PROGRAMME?

To date, the ACP-FLEGT Support Programme has supported 106 projects in 33 countries. Some of the Programme’s greatest achievements include supporting:

- government institutions to address urgent and locally-defined governance issues;
- local stakeholders to participate in the FLEGT process, through country-level dialogues, for example;
- the production and dissemination of normative documents (such as guidelines, manuals of procedures, policy briefs, etc.);
- exchange missions between timber-producing countries and fostering regional collaboration initiatives to develop networks, regional expertise and local perspectives and solutions;
- knowledge-sharing on FLEGT, namely two regional conferences, in Ghana to share experiences on the VPA process and in Kenya to discuss the need to better assess and monitor timber production, consumption and trade regionally;
- country-level coordination meetings for local stakeholders to exchange ideas or lessons learned to date, identify overlaps, gaps and synergies and link projects to the national forestry agenda.



#### 5 - WHAT NEXT?

After four years of providing support to ACP countries, in May 2012, FAO, with continued funding from the EU, embarked on the EU FAO FLEGT Programme. This new Programme builds on the lessons learned under the ACP-FLEGT Support Programme and continues to support local stakeholder groups to implement projects that address FLEGT-related issues, not only in Africa and in the Caribbean but also in Asia and the Pacific and in Latin American regions. The Programme also aims to increase the availability of FLEGT-related information, knowledge and experiences among local stakeholder groups. Additionally, under a larger grant ceiling for VPA countries, the EU FAO FLEGT Programme can now better target assistance to government actions.



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