

FAO FLEGT PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Dear Colleagues,

It is my pleasure to inform you that FAO FLEGT has hired Ms. Daphne Hewitt as the new Private Sector Specialist to assist the programme to better target programme support to private sector. To date, FAO FLEGT programme support to private sector actors has largely focused on raising awareness of legality requirements, conducting needs assessments and delivering training while also supporting government partners in the development of improved legal frameworks and policies which will impact the sector. The Programme, now in its third phase, has added a special component to increase support and focus our efforts to address pressing private sector issues including (but not limited to):

- Assessing and supporting efforts to address domestic and regional market issues of legality and opportunities to private sector for increasing these efforts.
- Development of policies and regulatory frameworks that promote equitable access and inclusion of SMEs in legal timber production and supply chains.
- Understanding and promoting appropriate linkages between forest certification schemes and country led processes to assure legal, traceable and sustainable timber and timber products.
- Promoting business fora, business to business exchanges and south-south learning.
- Joint learning opportunities at the global, regional and country levels.
- Support private sector federations, in particular organizations of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) including community and indigenous enterprises, in their efforts to bring greater benefits to their constituents through increased legality and market access.
- Promote gender equity in forest production and commercialization.

Ms. Hewitt has significant and demonstrated experience working with the private sector in a variety of capacities, including FSC certification training and auditing, developing responsible purchasing policies and sustainable supply chains, increasing market access for SMEs, and strengthening corporate-community relationships around legal and sustainable production in the forest sector. She has spent the past three years supporting forest governance initiatives in Latin America with the FAO FLEGT programme. Ms. Hewitt was also selected based on her knowledge and ability to take challenging concepts of legality and sustainability and practically apply them in real world settings for both large companies and small and micro enterprises.

Ms. Hewitt is based in Rome and will work closely with private sector organizations and governments in the countries eligible for support through the FAO FLEGT Programme.

Best regards,

Robert Simpson
Programme Manager
EU FAO FLEGT Programme