



TỔNG CỤC LÂM NGHIỆP
VIETNAM ADMINISTRATION OF FORESTRY



VN-EU VPA/FLEGT process and implementation plan

Da Nang, 10 – 12 April, 2019

Contents

1. Introduction to VPA/FLEGT;
2. Process and contents of VPA/FLEGT;
3. Main commitments;
4. Expected rights and obligations;
5. VPA/FLEGT implementation plan.



1. Introduction to VPA/FLEGT

2003



EU FLEGT Action Plan

FLEGT Regulation

EU /TR 995/2010

Public procurement policy

Action plan for enterprises

Development cooperation policy

VPA Negotiation

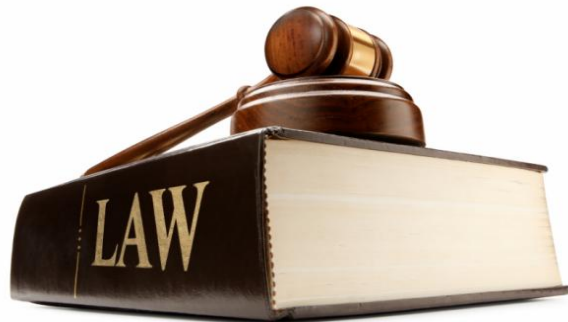
The FLEGT Action Plan aims to combat illegal timber harvesting through enhanced sustainable forest management, improved forest governance and promoted trade in legally produced timber products

Financial tool

Measures to manage and control timber and timber products imported into EU

(i) Exercise of due diligence as required by the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR995);

(ii) FLEGT License under a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).



VPA/FLEGT countries

Under negotiation: 8 countries	Malaysia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Guyana, Cote D'Voire, Honduras
Ratified and implementing VPA: 6 countries	Liberia, Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Viet Nam,
Issued FLEGT license: 1 country	Indonesia, FLEGT licence was issued on 15/11/2016

2. VN-EU VPA/FLEGT process

- 11 TWG
- 19 JEM
- >30 VCs

11/5/2017:
concluded
the VPA
negotiation

19/10/2018:
signed the
VPA

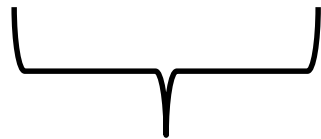
13/3/2019: the Office of
Gov. sent the Doc. No.
2076/VPCP-QHQT to
consult the Gov.
members

2010 - 2017

2017

2018

2019



03 national
consultation
workshops



12/3/2019: EP voted
to ratify the VPA

VIETNAM-EU



The VPA structure

- **VPA Legal text and 9 technical annexes, including:**
 1. Product coverage under the VPA
 2. Viet Nam's timber legality definition
 3. Conditions for free circulation in the Union of Viet Nam's FLEGT-licensed timber products
 4. FLEGT licensing scheme;
 - 5. Viet Nam Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS);**
 6. Terms of Reference for independent evaluation;
 7. Criteria for assessment of the operational readiness of VNTLAS;
 8. Public disclosure of information;
 9. Functions of Joint Implementation Committee (JIC)

Fundamental content

Viet Nam commits to establish and operate **Viet Nam Timber Legality Assurance System (VNTLAS)** to verify and issue **FLEGT license** to shipment of timber and timber products under the VPA before exporting to EU.



✓ Legally imported



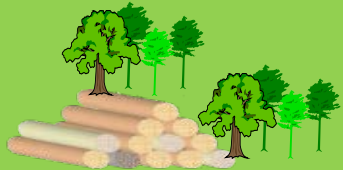
✓ Legally transported



✓ Legally processed



✓ Legally exported



✓ Legally harvested

Scope of VNTLAS

1. For all timber sources

Timber from domestic natural forests

Timber from domestic plantation forests

Timber from home gardens, farms and scattered trees

Rubber wood

Confiscated timber

Imported timber

2. For all markets

Domestic market

Export markets (EU and non-EU markets)

3. For all operators

Household timber growers

Enterprises (harvesting, importing, processing, exporting)

Purchasing, transporting and processing facilities



3. Main commitments

1. Management and control of imported timber;
2. Organization/Enterprise classification;
3. Verification for export;
4. FLEGT licensing



4. Expected benefits from the VPA














1. Timber exporters to EU are **NOT** responsible for exercising due diligence as required by EUTR 995 to avoid risks
2. **Established VNTLAS** will be internationally recognized, thereby expanding export markets in EU, USA and others
3. **Competitiveness** of Viet Nam's timber processing industry and export will be improved, export markets in EU, USA, Japan, Australia will be expanded
4. **Legislation** on forest management and timber processing industry and trade will be strengthened in accordance with international practice and regulations.
5. VPA will help **attract international supports** to enhance capacity for enterprises, households and VNTLAS enforcement agencies

Obligations arising from the VPA

1. The VPA commitments require Viet Nam to amend and supplement a number of legal documents
2. The VPA requires households, enterprises in the supply chain to fully perform self-assessment, self-declaration, documentation storage in production and business in accordance with legal regulations
3. The VPA requires regular high-level dialogues between VN and EU with the engagement of industry associations, domestic NGOs during the monitoring of the VPA implementation to ensure that the VPA is implemented in a transparent way.

5. The VPA implementation plan

(Decision No. 4852/QĐ-BNN-TCLN)

Activity	2019	2020
1. Approval/ratification of the VPA		
2. Development of legislative documents and technical guidelines		
3. Establishment of technical infrastructure for VNTLAS operation		
4. Capacity building for relevant stakeholders		
5. Communication and public disclosure of information		
6. The VPA implementation, monitoring and evaluation		
7. Connecting activities and supporting the VPA implementation regionally and internationally		

Thank you!

Trần Hiếu Minh

***Deputy Director, Department of
Science, Technology and
International Cooperation
Viet Nam Administration of
Forestry (VNFOREST),***

