

Liberia – European Union (EU) FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)

1st Technical JIC Notes of the 5th JIC

Monrovia, Liberia

August 9, 2017

Principles	No.	Technical JIC Decisions/ Outcomes
Legal establishment (P1)	1	FDA to liaise with the Ministry of Justice to determine what type of statement can be issued to account for the missing documents.
	2	FDA legal adviser and MoJ to complete framework for the debarment list
	3	Companies have been asked for any documentation in their records. Other agencies to be approached to see if they have some of the documents. A final list of missing documents to be produced after this. List to be communicated to next JIC for an official declaration of the next steps
	4	Amendments to the legality matrix cannot be considered until this exercise is complete and the JIC has concluded on this issue
	5	The upcoming concession review findings to be used to update missing documentation list
Resource rights (P2)		See P1 above
Social obligation (P3)	1	It is proposed that the National Union of Community Forest Development Committees (NUCFDCs) and NBSTB collaborate to review current fiscal and monitoring processes. Recommendations from this review should be fed into forward planner and legality matrix
	2	Facebook page of the National Benefit Sharing Trust Fund shall publicise the ongoing projects in the communities by posting pictures and stories
	3	Report on financial disbursements by the NBST to be provided to the NMSMC to provide reassurance on transparency: clarify for the JIC the mechanism to systematically track the use of the funds
Forest management and harvesting obligations(P4)	1	Annual Operation Plans to be submitted for approval by the 30 th of September. FDA to request assistance from the VPA SU on the quality of the plans if required.
	2	FDA to ensure that Region 3 is to be fully staffed and operational by next Technical JIC
	3	One month grace period for payment of stumpage fees to be implemented. Timetable for the implementation to be developed between FDA and companies at technical level

	4	Checklist to be tested in FDA's Region 3 before the next Technical JIC
	5	VPASU to provide data pack to enhance annual operations planning
Environmental obligations (P5)	1	EPA provides official recognition of the checklist developed from the Code of Harvesting Practices as standard operating practise for forestry inspection and operations in the forest sector
	2	Continued involvement in the Region 3 pilot scheme
Transport and traceability (P6)	1	EU will provide their updates on the regulations that have been sent to them. Comments and inputs from the EU are to be provided
	2	Continued efforts by FDA management to get the confiscated and abandoned regulation through the Presidency
Timber processing obligations (P7)		FDA and private sector provide an update on the establishment of sawmills
Labor obligations (P8)	1	FDA to facilitate the engagement of the Ministry of Labour in the VPA process
	2	Ministry of Labour adopts the Code of Forestry Harvesting Practises (CFHP) checklist as standard practise for inspections in the forestry sector
Fiscal obligations (P9)	1	FDA and LRA consult on handling of payment on arrears. Official statement on this should be issued by the next technical JIC
	2	LRA, FDA and SGS to decide on market intelligence needs at monthly technical meetings
	3	LRA to consult with FDA and issue an official statement on how the government is handling tax arrears
	4	EU-FAO approved project support for the marketing information system; LRA to be involved with the project
Export obligations (P10)		
Transparency (P11)	1	Maintenance and continued use of the FDA website for reports, updates and stories

	2	NBST to share information regarding use of funds on website (see P3 above)
	3	Publication regarding agreement with companies on payment of tax arrears to be published on the FDA website. Draft to be prepared and shared
	4	NUCFDCs prepared template to acquired information from FDA/SGS on land rental fees and cubic meter harvest record
	5	CFDCs report shared with FDA's webmaster for uploading
	6	FDA to report to central government NBSTB funds disbursement
Cross Cutting Issues		Technical JIC Recommendations/ Outcomes
Regulatory framework completion	1	EU to provide updates on the regulations on Imported timber and Timber in Transit
	2	Concession review has been publicised again for applications. Bidders are submitting proposals
	3	FDA to make sure that the four (4) regulations at the Executive Mansion are printed into hand bill before the next technical JIC
	4	EU to present official comments on 'import and transit timber' regulation by next technical JIC
VPA Structures	1	Second Technical JIC scheduled for November
	2	FDA to incorporate the Secretariat in the budget. FDA to submit a management plan for the VPA Secretariat by the next technical JIC
	3	The VPA Secretariat should prioritize sustaining government engagement and participation
Community Forest integration into LAS	1	VPA SU to lead process, with FDA and SGS, to develop roadmap on the integration of community forests into the legality matrix

	2	Continued identification of the requirements of community forestry to be incorporated into the legality matrix. Information gathered to feed into the roadmap being developed
	3	VPASU, SGS and FDA proposed for the integration of CFMAs into the LAS; steps for this integration to be presented at next technical JIC
Chainsaw Logging	1	One of the investigative reports into chainsaw milling in Rivercess published. CFDC supporters to conduct second investigation on Chainsaw Minute (CSM) needed by CFDCs
	2	FAO report on chainsaw milling to be shared at the NMSMC
	3	NMSMC to remain fully engaged in following discussions on issues related to chainsaw logging activities in Liberia
Domestic market		See chainsaw
Impact monitoring		
Capacity building	1	Capacity assessment of LVD transfer in August. Transfer updates to be regularly provided at the technical level
	2	FDA to verify/ demonstrate how new Region 3 structure will be sustained beyond 2018
	3	Advanced training for FDA webmaster needed to ensure maintenance
	4	MoU between SGS and FDA on staff transfer post-2018 to be signed soon
	6	Three (3) help desk already at LVD and undergoing trainings
	7	Under performing CFDCs to be trained in project and financial management
	8	VPA SU providing capacity for NUCFDCs on the standardization of proposals and projects

	9	EU encouraged application for the FAO-FLEGT Facility call
Financial sustainability	1	Improvement in the usage of land rental fees; NBSTB to call for independent audit to be presented at next Technical JIC
	2	LVD and VPA Secretariat to be part of FDA budget submitted for the fiscal year
	3	FDA to continue disbursing funds for communities to NBSTB and will require financial reporting on the usage
Information System		
Non- compliance	1	EU suggested larger discussion on non-compliance relative to the implementation of fines, penalties etc.; FDA to begin issuing penalties for non-compliance

ATTENDANCE		
LIBERIAN DELEGATION		
No.	Name	Position/Organization
1.	Hon. Darlington S. Tuagben	Managing Director, FDA
2.	Mr. Matthais Yeanay	Facilitator, NGO Coalition
3.	Mr. J. Augustus Kwalah	President, NUCFDC
4.	Mr. Isaac Kipi	Financial Manager, FDA
5.	Mr. Joseph J. Tally	Technical Manager, FDA
6.	Mrs. Gertrude W.K. Nyaley	Technical Manager, FDA
7.	Mr. Edward S. Kamara	Manager, FDA
8.	Mr. Philip Joekolo	National Authorizing , FDA
9.	Mr. Ekema A. Witherspoon, Sr.	LTA
10.	Mr. Andrew Y.Y. Zelemen	NUCFDC
11.	Victoria Cole	FDA
12.	St. Solomon S. Peters	CFDC Community Rep. (Central region)
13.	Rex A. Henry	FDA
14.	George Tee Forpoh	RIU/FDA (M&E specialist)
EU DELEGATION		

15.	Mr. Alberto Menghini	EU Delegation
16.	Mr. David Palacios	EU Delegation
SUPPORT PROJECT		
17.	Mr. Frederic Teppe	SGS
18.	Mr. Theodore Nna	SGS
19.	Mr. Simulu Kamara	LVD/FDA
20.	Mr. Febien Kieh	LVD/FDA
21.	Mrs. Oona Burke-Johnson	FLEGT Facilitation Office
22.	Mrs. Rose Johnson- Bliidi	FLEGT Facilitation Office
23.	Mr. Nick Benitos Goll, II	VPA Secretariat/FDA
24.	Mrs. Harnon W-Garbo	VPA Secretariat/FDA
25.	Mrs. Queta R. J. Hessou	VPA SU
26.	Mr. Ikem Eronini	VPA SU
27.	Mr. Abraham Guillen	VPA SU
28.	Mr. Wolfgang Thoma	VPA SU
29.	Mr. Donald Lunan	DAI
30.	Abraham M. Sheriff	LVD/FDA
31.	Elvis Kuudaar	Consultant/SGS
INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS		
32.	Peter Aldinger	Consultant, World Bank (LFSP)
33.	Gerardo Segura	World Bank
34.	Glenn A. Lines	ACDI/VOCA-FIFES
35.	Arild Skedsmo	Government of Norway
36.	Shiv S. Panse	ICC
37.	Markus Rohrbasser	ICC
38.	Herald A.M.A. Janssen, LL. M.	ICC