FLEGT process in Cameroon – approach and lessons learnt

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CIFOR’s research framework

• Governance Programme
  – FLEGT, Illegal Forest Activities (IFAs), Domestic Timber Markets, Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), Integrated Law Enforcement Approach (ILEA), REDD+

• Asia, Africa, Latin America

• 2010-2013, EC PRO-Formal
  – Better integrate chainsaw milling and domestic timber markets into the legal framework (Cameroon, DRC, Gabon, Indonesia, Ecuador)
Nat’l and Int’l context

• Two decades of forest/ry policies
  – ‘Permanent Forest Domains’ v. ‘Non-PFD’
  – SFM in industrial, large-scale, export-oriented logging concessions
  – Increased state revenues
  – Redistribution to rural communities

• FLEGT (in Central Africa):
  – Guarantee the legality of the entire production (TLAS) to secure legal exports to the EU (‘FLEGT-licence’)

• Regional and national consumption and fluxes of timber acknowledged but officially ‘unknown’
The Cameroonian approach

- Preparation FLEGT/VPA since 2003-4
- Formal VPA negotiations end 2007
- VPA signature mid-2010
- VPA ratification mid-2011

Lessons learnt on...

- Data and information
- Governance
- Trade, markets and incentives
- Land use dynamics
Data and info

- ‘Official’ Timber Production
• ‘Official’ Timber Exports (declared by producer)
Data and info

- ‘Official’ Timber Imports (declared by consumer)
Data and info

- ‘Official’ Timber Exports (‘000 USD)
THINKING beyond the canopy

Data and info – Lessons learnt

- Traceability and TLAS – A deadline may help, but it is not the aim
- Do not let relative global significance drive the assessment of local relevance
- A ‘Ferrari’ is nice, but useless on potholes
- A champion may be needed, but tournaments are won by teams

Nat’l to regional good for us, but regional to nat’l indispensable for you (www.observatoire-comifac.net)
Governance
Governance

• Limited enforcement and monitoring
  – Greed and incompetence of state officials are not root causes of policy failures
  – Policy failures are instruments used by state officials for accomplishing unpopular, controversial or illegal programmatic and political strategic objectives (Ascher 1999)

• Consider FLEGT a trade agreement, not a development one
  – Incentives not aid (also for IOs)
  – ‘Legal’ costs < ‘Illegal’ costs (3-25 US$/m³)
Trade, markets and incentives

• FLEGT is not a panacea
  – Establish priorities (NTFP and charcoal problematic issues, use FLEGT if possible to improve legal frameworks)

• Model markets and policy options on real scenarios, not on preconceived ideas (chainsaw milling, domestic/regional markets, NTFP, charcoal)

• FLEGT is neither FSC nor REDD+
Land use dynamics

• What ‘F’ (forest) means in your country?
  – M-LEGIT, A-LEGIT, B-LEGIT...

• FLEGIT may work alone
  – A good forestry database
  – Improved forestry knowledge
  – More transparent forestry prices, trade dynamics

• FLEGIT will not work alone
  – Governance (incentives and sanctions)
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