

SYNERGIES OF FLEGT AND FORESTRY-RELATED INITIATIVES IN:

BRAZIL, COLOMBIA, ECUADOR AND PERU

This publication is an activity of the EC-funded project “Supporting the implementation of the EU-FLEGT Action Plan in South America: catalyzing initiatives to monitor and verify the origin of the timber trade and support related to improvements in forest governance” (DCI-ENV/21.040100/20-656/2011/277-872).

The project is implemented by TRAFFIC, IUCN-SUR and WWF Colombia.



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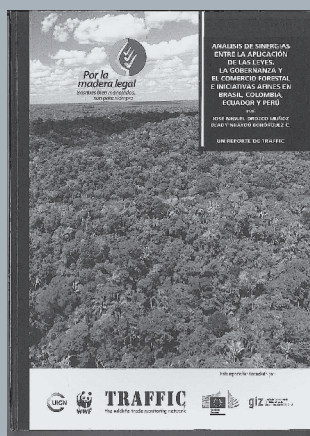
This briefing is based on the results of the analysis of synergies collected in a report titled, “*Análisis de sinergias entre la aplicación de las leyes, la gobernanza y el comercio forestal e iniciativas afines en Brasil, Colombia, Ecuador y Perú.*”¹ This report presents the synergies analysis between the FLEGT initiative (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade) lead by the European Union (EU) and related initiatives such as national policy frameworks, REDD+², the US Lacey Act, Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and other initiatives implemented in Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru.

POTENTIAL SYNERGIES

The analysis carried out in the countries concerned shows that national policies’ objectives on sustainable forest management, on the control of forest illegality and on other relevant issues such as REDD+ national strategies are **fully convergent** with the objectives of the EU FLEGT Action Plan. Despite the fact that none of the four countries considered have officially initiated a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) process, the analysis indicates **positive results of the interactions** between EU FLEGT Action Plan and REDD+ initiatives, with potential for the latter to benefit from the EU FLEGT Action Plan processes.

¹For further information the report can be found in Spanish in the following link: http://flegt.info/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/An%C3%A1lisis_Sinergias_ESP.pdf

²REDD+ is a climate change mitigation solution that many initiatives, including the UN Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (UN-REDD) Programme. REDD+ goes beyond deforestation and forest degradation, and includes the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks (<http://www.un-redd.org/aboutredd/tabid/102614/default.aspx>)



In almost all cases, in varying degrees and with different scopes, other additional initiatives to the national forestry policies and national REDD+ strategies that have also been considered in each of the countries also coincide. They include initiatives generated from the government as well as others generated or promoted by civil society.

A significant potential for the formal establishment of **synergistic actions** was identified from innovative and successful experiences of the countries considered for the improvement of forest governance. There are successful initiatives that could be the object of future actions of cooperation either at a bilateral level or from the region's global scope, identified:

BRAZIL

Document of Forest Origin (DOF) which is a key instrument to improve the control of forest legality offer a high potential for the development of interactions and potential synergies with the other countries in Latin America considered in this study, as well as with the scope of the European Union FLEGT Action Plan.

The “Sustainable Tropical Timber Roundtable” initiative, which has high potential for synergy with the EU FLEGT Action Plan. The aim of the roundtable is to strengthen the timber sector, ensuring the effective governance among all actors, which influence the development of the sustainable tropical timber market in Brazil. The Roundtable is organized by the ‘Rede de Amigos da Amazônia’ (RAA) network under the auspices of the ‘Getulio Vargas’ Foundation, with the financial support of WWF-Brazil and collaboration of TRAFFIC.

COLOMBIA

The Intersectoral Pact for Legal Timber which aims to ensure that timber, which is harvested, transported, processed, and marketed, comes only from legal sources. The Pact is implemented by 70 different entities of public and private sectors and civil society that have made commitments on ensuring the timber legality. The Pact is a national

initiative and a political platform with large potential to establish new synergies and strengthen existing synergies with the EU FLEGT Action Plan.

ECUADOR

The Forest Governance Model developed on the basis of the Strategy for Sustainable Forestry Development. The Forest Governance model establishes five main components, which are forestry incentives, forest information, forest monitoring, forest development, and research, training and dissemination. Non-monetary incentives include the streamlining of processes to obtain permits for forest harvesting for small producers, administrative services with itinerant technical offices in areas of timber production, free advice from the Ministry of Environment on management plans, and tariff exemptions.

The Forestry Administration and Control System is another initiative which aligns with the purposes and scopes of the EU FLEGT Action Plan, although various aspects of implementation need to be addressed (for example, the ability to trace logs back to stump). The System represents a digital platform that integrates at the national level information generated by the technical offices, where forest harvesting plans and programs are approved. This facilitates obtaining Forest Products Mobilization Permits and the monitoring of forest management.

PERU

Forest Oversight Communities which is a technical body within the indigenous organization called the ‘National Association of Development of the Peruvian Jungle’ (AIDSESEP). Its main goal is to protect the rights of indigenous communities in relation to the sustainable management and conservation of forest resources. The major convergences of this initiative with the EU FLEGT scope are related to improvement of the governance and promotion of the legal forestry trade.

Regarding **Free Trade Agreements (FTA)**, collaboration between Peru and the United States is worth a special mention. The Peruvian government

has been implementing various measures to comply with the FTA's Forest Annex 18.3.4³. These measures include improved forest information, control systems and capacities of the national/regional forest authorities in order to strengthen forest management. The agreement, along with the recently signed FTA with the EU, represents an opportunity to establish synergies with the EU FLEGT Action Plan, since they have similar objectives.

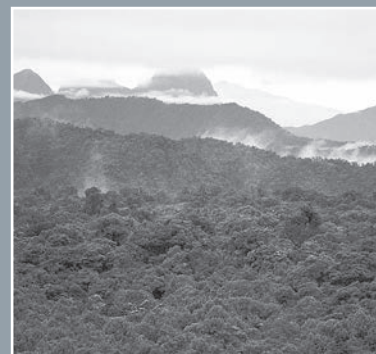
For further information please check: <http://flegt.info/en/>

The analysis has been completed by TRAFFIC in the framework of the project “*Supporting the implementation of the EU FLEGT Action Plan in South America: catalysing initiatives to control and verify the origin of timber in trade and support related improvements in forest governance.*” This project is implemented by TRAFFIC, in partnership with IUCN South and WWF Colombia, is co-financed by the European Commission, and is conducting activities in the four aforementioned countries, as well as in Europe. This study was conducted in cooperation with GIZ, on behalf of and financed by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).



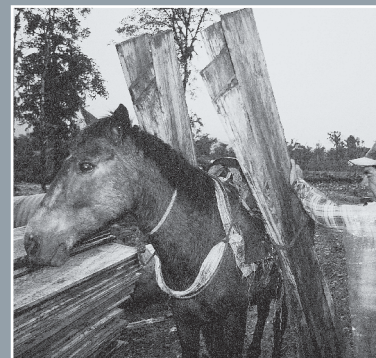
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³The Forest Annex seeks to combat trade of illegal timber and sets out about 30 obligations, mainly for the government of Peru to improve and strengthen forest administration.

TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network, is the leading non-governmental organization working globally on trade in wild animals and plants in the context of both biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

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