



Legality of Traded Timber: The Development Challenges International workshop feedback

Total respondents: 30

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor	V. Poor
Workshop objectives defined and achieved	30% (9)	67% (20)	3% (1)		
Thematic sessions useful	33% (10)	67% (20)			
Time allocated appropriate	17% (5)	60% (18)	23% (7)		
Participants well chosen	53% (16)	43% (13)	3% (1)		
Relevance to my work	67% (20)	27% (8)	7% (2)		
Organisation	67% (20)	33% (10)			
Overall quality	33% (10)	67% (20)			

1. What aspects of the workshop will be most helpful in your work on FLEGT and verification issues?

Thematic Areas

- The role of new technologies (x 9) – and the Brazilian experience
- IFM concepts and IFM implementation (x 5)
- The economics of legality assurance (x 4)
- The convergence of policy processes (x 3)
- MSP processes (x 3)
- Results of the discussion groups (x 2)
- Legality standard: sharing knowledge and experiences from other countries (x 2)

Other general comments:

- Help to institute and reinforce forestry governance in *[my country]* and end illegal trade there.
- The systematic explanation and analysis of legality of traded timber from multi-stakeholder, economic, technology, monitoring system perspectives really help me to in-deeply improve my understanding of FLEGT's role in promoting trade of legally sourced timber products

- Good group discussions generated many interesting and meaningful thoughts on timber legality issues in different regions and countries
- Workshop highlighted the challenges ahead and instruments or fundraising existing now, help a lot for me to further push relevant reforms in *[my country]*.
- Thematic session on economics of legality assurance. It gave me some insights on why government and business sector are quite reluctant to have and implement legality assurance systems. I would be interested to know the economics of not having legality assurance system, especially in countries where illegal logging and illegal trade of timber are rife.
- Perspective on diversity of country (circumstances).
- Legality process - verification of legality of forest exploitation. Set-up of the VPA. Also MSP, definitions of legality and IFM
- The implementation of the VERIFICATION system and controls of forest products. In the FLEGT project in *[my country]* we have to reflect on the theme of independent forest monitoring. In collaboration with the EC we need to explore how to continue with the process of forest governance. All data indicate this will be a long term project. We also need to make the problem of illegal logging in *[my country]* more visible
- All the sessions gave me the impetus to review the political, legal and social issues of the strategy and the reform in *[my country]* for illegal logging.
- *[My country]* has just implemented a national system and I have found that all of the sessions were really useful.
- It was very useful to find out about processes of forest governance and institutional settings. The other very useful thing was to be able to communicate with people from other countries on all the topics presented.
- As director of national forests, responsible for legality in forests, the whole workshop has been extremely useful and will help me to propose new alternatives to improve our processes (for example: develop new proposals to improve the law, continue with NFP, improve forest control with technology, integrate the my country in the FLEGT/REDD discourse)

2. Which issues which were not covered in the workshop would you be interested in concerning FLEGT and verification?

- Diffusion mechanisms of legality standards
- Weakness of governments and power games in the community
- The improvement of poverty economy of candidates to illegality
- The place and role of sub-regional organisations such as COMIFAC etc in the FLEGT process et verification
- How I can bring political actors to take a role in FLEGT?
- The financial support in place to help countries who have made progress in reforms in forestry sector
- FLEGT's link with major world processes as in China
- Who should pay the costs of verification needs more discussion and clarification.
- Institutional arrangements for legality assurance system were not discussed in detail. For example, what system is applicable to the producer countries, or whether a consignment basis or operations basis.
- Special development dimensions.
- Transfer of knowledge into decision-making processes in the various countries. There still remains a gap between policy research and actual policy formulation.
- Integration of governance issues at the national level
- Trade and the role of consumers (consumer countries) in the implementation of measure to reduce illegality (x2)
- The future and illegal activities in the Amazonian forest (x3)

- The follow up! How are we going to continue communicating and continue with this good work?
- More examples of actions in process, results, problems and lessons learned. We need more presentations and less working group sessions.
- Sources of consumption drive that places demands on the forest estate and how to address them. Implications of economic difficulty in the international financial system on forest product trade and what supply sources will do about forest management as prices fall (i.e. price margin for certification revenue to guarantee US enforcement).
- Need clarifications on the definition of certification and different types of monitoring
- What are the stages countries need to go through before the implementation of VPAs or before the implementation of legality standards. Are there examples of countries where these mechanisms work well? Are there training opportunities to prepare those working in the sector for reinforcing their capacities?
- Financial downturn globally yet the FLEGT and REDD arguments use very old paradigms
- Would be good to have more details about the role of each stakeholder in practice.
- The problem of corruption. Also the work of the working groups would have been better if each working group was composed by a number of representatives of the civil society and governments.
- Need to consider the necessary conditions (legal and political) for an adequate and objective verification process
- Alternative to illegal logging from the local community and the civil society
- The costs of monitors should have been discussed more fully
- Need to ensure that all the themes are discussed within specific countries as we still have a lot to discuss
- Forests in the Scandinavian countries

3. Please comment on the overall quality and value

- Good themes and interventions
- New approach for agreeable exchanges
- Workshop is recognised at the international level; in this sense, it has successfully linked concepts and practical experience
- The discussions around the themes were enriching and instructing to bring actors to sustainable management of forests.
- Quite good! The speakers and discussions. Hope will have more panel open discussion.
- Overall, excellent (x6)
- Very valuable on the whole.
- Some of the discussions were too much a brainstorm and not enough a dialogue, especially in the larger plenary. The smaller workshops were better.
- High standard
- The quality of this workshop is excellent, particularly impressed with the quality of presentations, group and panel discussions and also with the time management. The Summary during the closing session was excellent. I think the value of the workshop should be seen in lessons learnt, exchange of experiences and ideas and what needs to be done in moving forwards. And in this I think the overall value was very good.
- Valuable in reshaping and reinforcing thinking for implementation (also research).
- Quality was good with excellent moderation of sessions and speakers generally observing time limits. Excellent summing up by Ian Smillie. Interesting range of participants.
- Very good (x2).

- The quality of the workshop was excellent and it allows me to come in contact with the 'state of the art' in terms of forest governance. For the FLEGT project in *[my country]* this workshop gave us the orientation we need.
- The quality of the workshop and the general usefulness of the workshop were very good. However there is still a lot of discussion to be had on these themes and we need to continue these discussions to achieve improvements and the reduction of illegal trade.
- The workshop was good, but the francophone countries suffered a bit because the majority of documents were in English
- The quality of discussion was great, but the value is determined by how integrated the approach is with the reality on the ground and not in government and NGO offices or project plans.
- It was very good and my expectations were fulfilled.
- A little too moderate and 'tolerant' towards official entities and governments.
- Overall very good, but obviously time constraints prevented us from discussing the themes more fully
- The quality was excellent, but the value depends on the interest and efforts of each of the participants.

4. Do you have any additional comments and suggestions?

- Reduce the themes (better focus for more relevant exchanges)
- More on the follow-up at the sub-regional level
- It is important to encourage countries making efforts in rehabilitating forests by financial support.
- Based on the evaluation team, will it be any next discussion or meeting to address the questions raised by the team?
- Very well organised. Thank you to the team in the background.
- Put material in French.
- Too much time on the legal and avoiding the ethical.
- It would be important to analyse how to achieve cooperation amongst countries within particular regions to improve forest governance and the FLEGT/Colombia project is more than willing to participate to similar workshops/ meetings in the future.
- Perhaps fewer speakers and more processing of emerging insights.
- To promote a dialogue about alternatives and discussions about illegal trade in tropical forests
- I would like more cases and examples to be presented at the next meeting. For example, what happened in Ecuador, what continues to happen in Brazil, Honduras, and Cameroon etc.
- I hope that in future meetings like this (if any) there will be more representatives from civil society groups, including IPOs that work on the ground.
- The conclusions and the final document should be sent officially to governments, hopefully in a 'persuasive' tone. We know that FAO's recommendations are not law and do not need to be adopted by governments, but hopefully using a persuasive tone will convince some governments to adopt some of the best practice.
- Keep in contact with us so that we can continue to exchange.
- Organise meeting of participants at airport because of police
- I think the time allocated is good - but for such an international workshop, I would like to suggest that the closing session be brought a bit forward (eg 14.00). Thus if the workshop closes at 15.00 it would be preferred especially when some participants will travel at dawn the next day. But in all, overall organisation was excellent. I appreciate your invitation to me.
- Increase per diems as some hotels cost up to 215 EUR notwithstanding costs linked to the visa applications
- (It would have been good to have organised) a tour of Rome!

