



# Making forests fair

A practical guide for civil society  
taking part in FLEGT VPA negotiations

# What is a FLEGT VPA?

European Council concludes VPAs should:

Strengthen land tenure and access rights

Strengthen stakeholder participation

Increase transparency

Reduce corruption

*A different kind of trade agreement*  
*Not a miracle cure*  
*A tool for improving forest governance*



# Good forest governance



## VPA: A PROCESS, NOT JUST A DOCUMENT

PRE-NEGOTIATION

NEGOTIATION

IMPLEMENTATION

# What do you want to achieve?



# Pre-negotiations

Form a coalition

Sustainable, representative, effective, with shared principles

Find allies

Allies at the local, national and international level

Own the process

Establish your status early on, share information



# Negotiations

“**strengthen effective participation** of all stakeholders notably of non-state actors and indigenous peoples in policy-making and implementation.”

reforzar la participación efectiva de todas las partes interesadas, principalmente de agentes no estatales y de poblaciones autóctonas <sup>(1)</sup>, en las decisiones políticas y su aplicación;



# Negotiations

Clarify internal structures

Is there enough time?

Is there enough information?

Are there enough resources?



# Negotiations – Legal reform

## Set the agenda



Clarify laws

Reform unjust laws

Incorporate international and customary laws

# Negotiations – A learning approach

“Making it up as we go along”

What do you want to achieve?



# Implementation – staying in the driving seat

PRE-NEGOTIATION

NEGOTIATION

IMPLEMENTATION



Probably more than you could ever  
want to know about civil society  
involvement in VPAs



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