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

- Strong coordination
- Accountability
- Participation
- Capacity
- Transparency

FOREST GOVERNANCE
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
“**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 (1), 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
Probably more than you could ever want to know about civil society involvement in VPAs

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