

## Project Partners

**CIDT** has long and unrivalled expertise in forestry training and capacity building in Africa and Asia. CIDT will transfer this expertise to the in-country partners, who will be responsible for in-country capacity building.

**theIDLgroup** leads the organisation of the in-country illegal logging update meetings (Forest Governance Forums). IDL has an in-depth understanding of FLEGT VPA processes and has a long standing involvement with the Chatham House illegal logging update meetings. IDL have strong stakeholder networks in this area as they have been supporting these processes for the past five years.

**FFI** will deliver the Liberia capacity building events. FFI has been working on forest management issues in Liberia since 1997, specialising in the capacity building of stakeholders at all levels.

**REM** specialises in the independent monitoring of law enforcement and natural resources extraction, including forestry. REM is unique for monitoring on-the-ground governance mechanisms and provides objective, site-specific and feasible recommendations for long-term policy and enforcement improvements.

**FWG** is a network of environmental and forestry NGOs in Ghana and has been deeply involved in every stage of Ghana's VPA process including the current implementation programme.

**FODER** focuses its activities on forestry, rights of forest people, rural development and lobbying. FODER has been working in Cameroon on forestry issues for the past eight years.

**RNN** is the civil society focal point in the DRC. RNN has set up a local network that collects information for monitoring illegal logging in the DRC. RNN will build on this network to develop capacity building events that will enhance civil society and private sector involvement in the FLEGT VPA negotiations.

## Contact us

If you are interested in sharing your experience and expertise on forest governance or would like more information about the project, please contact:

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For project related information please visit: [www.wlv.ac.uk/cidt](http://www.wlv.ac.uk/cidt)

### A project implemented by



theIDLgroup



# Strengthening African Forest Governance

– through high level national 'illegal logging' meetings  
and mid-level awareness raising and training

This project is part-funded by the European Union.





## The Importance of Forest Governance

Forests are the world's richest ecosystems in biological wealth. They provide key services and products for the livelihoods of millions of the rural poor. Forests also make huge contributions to the economies of many countries in terms of income and local employment.

The manner in which forests are governed affects the benefits that can be derived from them. Illegal logging for example, can be seen as a manifestation of poor governance, disregarding the rights of indigenous communities, often displacing them from their land and depriving them of a source of livelihood. It also results in loss of revenue for national governments, impacting negatively on the services they can provide for their citizens.

## The Project

The European Commission is funding a four year project entitled **Strengthening African Forest Governance** to tackle some of these issues.

The project seeks to contribute to greater transparency and accountability within the forest sectors of four key African timber exporting countries: Cameroon, DRC, Ghana and Liberia. To do this, the project will improve links between key forestry stakeholders and create opportunities to foster improved forest governance based upon a commitment to just and pro-poor policies.

The project is led by the UK-based **Centre for International Development and Training (CIDT)** at the University of Wolverhampton working in partnership with theDLgroup, Fauna and Flora International (FFI) and Resource Extraction and Monitoring (REM), all based in the UK.

The other project partners are Forêts et Développement Rural (FODER) in Cameroon, Réseau Ressources Naturelles (RRN) in DRC and Forest Watch Ghana (FWG) in Ghana.

## Project Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to improve awareness of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) and other international initiatives to combat illegal logging, as well as the engagement of civil society, communities and the private sector in forest governance. This also includes promoting debate and freedom of expression on forest policies in the four countries.

Cameroon, DRC, Ghana and Liberia are all engaged in Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPA) with the EU aimed at reducing illegal logging and improving forest governance. The project aims specifically to strengthen the engagement of civil society, indigenous communities and the private sector in multi stakeholder processes leading to VPA preparation, negotiation and implementation.

### The project will achieve its objectives by:

- carrying out capacity needs assessments for private sector, communities and civil society actors involved in FLEGT VPA negotiations and implementation
- facilitating in-country capacity building events for private sector, communities and civil society actors involved in FLEGT VPA negotiations and implementation
- delivering an annual UK-based training course on Improving Forest Governance for 'high' level civil society and private sector stakeholders involved in FLEGT VPA negotiations and implementation
- organising 'Chatham House style' illegal logging update meetings (Forest Governance Forums) in each of the four countries.