

Illegal logging update and  
stakeholder consultation:  
Progress towards definition of  
legality standards in VPA  
countries

Royal Institute of International  
Affairs, Chatham House

9-10 June 2008



# GFTN EC Project – Activity 2

- Project: Forest and trade networks for legal and sustainable forest management in Africa and Asia
- Activity 2: Developing of criteria and guidelines for definition and verification of legal sources of forest products
- In each country was based on the outcome of a needs analysis.
- Development of the principle and criteria
- National stakeholders consultation, interviews and discussions plus legal review of drafts



GLOBAL  
FOREST  
& TRADE  
NETWORK

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

# Countries involved

1. Central African Republic

2. Republic of Congo

3. Gabon

4. China

5. Vietnam

6. Malaysia



# Definition of legal timber

- Principles
- Criteria
- Indicator
- Guidance note
- Relevant forest laws and clauses



# Definition of legal timber

- 9 principles
  1. Access, Use rights and tenure
  2. Timber Harvesting
  3. Timber products transportation
  4. Timber processing
  5. Timber products' import/export
  6. Environmental regulations
  7. Conservation regulations
  8. Social regulations
  9. Taxes, fees and royalty
  10. Subcontractors and partners



GLOBAL  
FOREST  
& TRADE  
NETWORK

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

# Example 1 (Congo):

## Principle 1: Access, Use rights and tenure

➤ Criteria 1.1: the company is legally registered with the relevant administrative authorities

✓ Indicator 1.1.1: Registration with the economic, social and forestry authorities

▪ Guidance notes

For these different indicators, a documentation review will be needed. In addition, auditors will have to ensure that the company is in possession of the following elements:

Trade registry, Bank guarantees, Valid license, Certificates of registration with the National Center of Statistics and Economic Affairs, Certificate of tax morality, The company is registered with the National Office of Social Security, Payment receipts of employer social contributions, Official agreement to operate from the forestry profession. Professional



# Example 2 (Congo):

## Principle 2: Harvesting regulations

- Criteria 2.1: Forest management plan in accordance with the government policies, guideline and regulatory requirements where appropriate, approved by relevant authorities
  - ✓ Indicator 2.1.2: The forest management plan has been prepared in accordance with the rules and standards prescribed by the forest administration
    - **Guidance notes**
    - The forest management plan should be approved by the ministry in charge of forestry; during the audit the company should present the letter of approval



# Legal timber - Issues and Problems

- Content of the definition
- Level of details
- Acceptance of definition by the stakeholders



# Discussion

- Relevance of Definition of legality to consumer stakeholders
- Synergy with EU FLEGT VPA process



GLOBAL  
FOREST  
& TRADE  
NETWORK

**TRAFFIC**  
the wildlife trade monitoring network

Thank you

Chen Hin Keong

Global Forest Trade Programme Leader

TRAFFIC

[hkchen@pc.jaring.my](mailto:hkchen@pc.jaring.my)

[www.traffic.org](http://www.traffic.org)