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D9 - Forest policy and governance: research at multiple scales

**Overall assessment of FLEGT Action Plan
from the stakeholders' perspective**

A comprehensive review of the FLEGT Regulation and EUTR implementation

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Outline

- Introduction: background and objectives
- Methodological approach
- Summary of the main results
- Conclusions



Background (1/3)

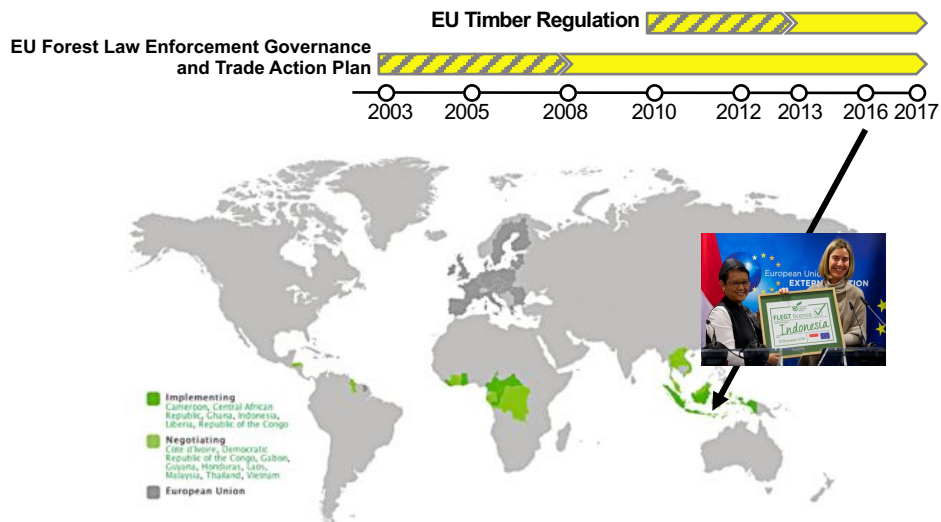


16-19% of EU imported wood is at risk of illegality = 26-31 Mm³

Evidences of illegal logging also **within** the EU

source: Hirschberger, 2008

Background (2/3)



Background (3/3)

EU FLEGT Action Plan is working, says independent evaluation

An independent evaluation report, published on 4 May 2016, confirms that the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan is a relevant and innovative response to the challenge of illegal logging and that the Action Plan has improved forest governance in all target countries. [Click here to download the report.](#)

The report concludes that the EU FLEGT Action Plan has been effective in terms of raising awareness of the problem of illegal logging, contributing to improved forest governance globally and particularly in partner producer countries, and has helped reduce demand for illegal timber in the EU. Read more on the European Commission's site and in a blog post by the European Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Neven Mimica.

EUTR Reports

EU Timber Regulation: First two years show progress, but more effort needed from Member States and private sector

On 18 February 2016 the Commission released a report on the effectiveness of the EU Timber Regulation during its first two years of implementation. The report finds that the EU is on track to achieve its objectives to combat illegal logging and associated trade in illegal timber, but challenges remain. So positive trends are visible, namely that EU operators are gradually taking steps to ensure the legality of their suppliers and that there is more awareness of the problem.

The Regulation has also encouraged producer countries to meet the requirements of the legislation. However, more effort is needed from the private sector to ensure its effective and efficient application. Progress in the implementation of timber regulation across compliant Member States, in June 2015 the number was 19 (Spain). The Commission launched infringement procedure against 10 countries also widely recognised that the Regulation adds significant value. Deforestation and forest degradation, conserve biodiversity and forest health. Evaluation will be used to further improve the implementation.

- EUTR Implementation Report
- Evaluation
 - Evaluation Annex 1
 - Evaluation Annex 2
 - Executive Summary

Illegal Logging: "Europe should put its own house in order"

22/10/2015

Tackling illegal logging is crucial for combating climate change by reducing carbon emissions into the atmosphere. As a way of helping the environment protecting the EU market. As the chain of timber could still be imported from illegal timber. The EU should logging and the trade of illegally Auditors responsible for this

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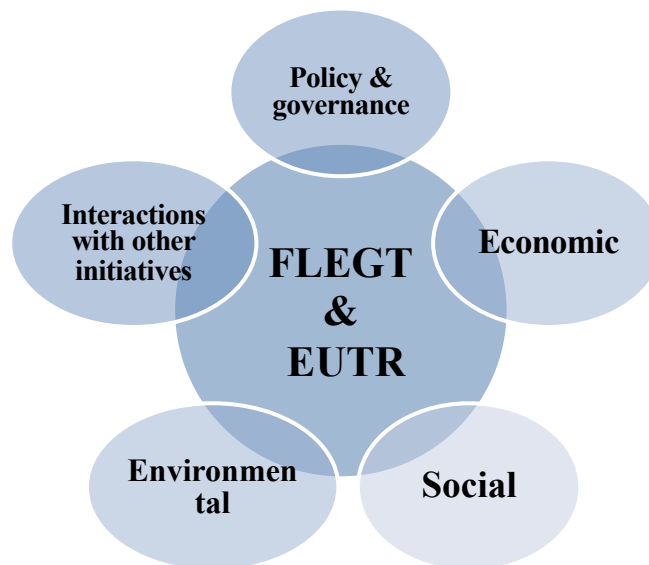
Objectives

- Analyse how **different stakeholders perceive**, the **objectives**, **implementation**, and **results** of FLEGT and EUTR
- Define which aspects of the two regulations have been **mainly focused** by different stakeholders
- Matching** with official **FLEGT/EUTR assessments**
- Build on **perceived problems and strengths**, in order to formulate **recommendations** for decision/policy makers

Methodological approach in brief

- Identification of the main **thematic areas**

Main thematic areas identified



Methodological approach in brief

- Identification of the main **thematic areas**
- Identification of the main **stakeholder groups**

Stakeholders' groups



Academics & experts [n = 8]

Universities and research institutions, experts and consultants

Business and trade-related actors [n = 11]

Timber companies and their federations, EUTR Monitoring Organizations, Centres specialized in wood analysis



Environmental & civil society organizations [n = 6]

Some troubles in reaching small organizations in producing countries

Political & technical actors [n = 7]

Actors operating within FLEGT/EUTR (e.g. country-based facilitators, EC Directorate-General's staff, European Forest Institute policy advisors...)



Methodological approach in brief

- Identification of the main **thematic areas**
- Identification of the main **stakeholder groups**
- Development of open-ended **questionnaires** and stakeholder (snow-ball) **sampling** and **interviews**
- **Content bibliographic review** (Scopus, WoS, Google Scholar...) → to check stakeholders statements and opinions
- **Elaborations and integration** with the outcomes of the content bibliographic review
- **Matching with official FLEGT/EUTR assessments** and reviews issued by the EC (including the Court of Auditor)
- **List of recommendations** for policy and decision makers basing on the research outcomes

Results: policy and governance



EC assessments

Communication fostered and improved (e.g. best practices) + controls

Innovative & worthy but maybe too much ambitious tools

EUTR: better coordination needed by the EC

Slow & uneven implementation...

...time & resource demanding

...countries left behind?

...efficiency

Illegality awareness






Capitalization of past/other experiences?

FLEGT too technical: governance?

Illegality awareness

Improved commitment in FLEGT target countries






Results: economics and trade

EC assessments

Still limited evidence of impacts on trade and markets , difficulties in attributing changes in trade patterns to EUTR				
Need to enlarge EUTR scope = more products covered			Legality initiatives in the private sector	
Stronger attention on composite products				
Changes in supply chain structure (concentration, impacts on SMEs)		FLEGT focus on key-countries (e.g. Brazil, Russia, China)		
Domestic markets			Domestic markets	

Results: stakeholder involvement

EC assessments

Inclusive approach	Domino effect	Inclusive approach		
		Domino effect		
The private sector (in particular SME) should be more involved				
Slow & uneven implement.: frustrating	Dialogue with EC staff & CAs?		Long-term commitment ?	Market engagement: key & innovative issue
	Market demand to be better addressed	Gaps: human & land tenure rights, conflict timber		





Results: environmental aspects

				 EC assessments
Successful tackling of illegal forest practices and trade, as well as their drivers, will produce environmental benefits				
Lack of biodiversity/environmental impact monitoring		Lack of biodiversity/environmental impact monitoring	Links with EU biodiversity S. & Wildlife Trafficking AP	Illegal logging impacts on deforestation and forest conversion to be better addressed
		Other commodities & sectors		

Results: Interaction with other initiatives

				 EC assessments
Awareness of potential links (REDD+, CITES, forest certification...)				
Better integration/coordination with other legality standards				
Better integration with forest certification: how? All schemes?				
			Acknowledgement not possible	EUTR assessment → link with forest certification [Court of Auditors (2015)]
FLEGT and REDD+:				
synergies & trade-offs	FLEGT: MRV system for REDD+	Synergies (funds, stakeholders, ...)	No dualism Synergies?	
Cross-sectoral initiatives	CITES	Cross-sectoral initiatives	SDGs	

Summary of the main findings

				
Lack of communication, guidance & coordination	✓	✓	✓	✓
Increased forest illegality awareness	✓			✓
Limited evidence of impacts on trade and markets	✓	✓	✓	✓
Enlargement of EUTR scope (more products)	✓	✓	✓	✓
Attention paid to domestic markets	✓			✓
Private sector shall be more involved	✓	✓	✓	✓
Weak environmental and biodiversity monitoring	✓		✓	✓
Private sector shall be more involved	✓	✓	✓	✓
Integration with forest certification	✓	✓	✓	
Cross-sectorial initiatives (e.g. agriculture)	✓		✓	

In short

- **High expectations**, but still limited evidence of impacts (lack of monitoring, difficulties in controls...)
- **Common points** (e.g. EUTR scope enlargement, better communication/coordination, private sector more involved) ...
- ...but also **different positions** (e.g. awareness creation, links with other initiatives,...) ...
- ...and sometimes **discrepancies** with **official assessments** (e.g. improved commitment in target countries, market involvement...)

Conclusions (1/2)

- Better **communication** among different actors and towards the public at large
- Need for a better **framing and supporting of CAs** (common guidelines, training, better information exchange,...) as well as **coordination** among them
- **Tool impacting the market** → **private sector** needs to be **more involved**, dialogue with other actors (e.g. NGOs) should be encouraged

Conclusions (2/2)

- Monitoring of **trade data** to assess market impacts
- Monitoring of **biodiversity & environmental impacts**
- **Better coordination** with existing tools (CITES, EU Biodiversity Strategy, Wildlife Trafficking AP...)
- Need for a **cross-sectorial** approach, considering **impacts from other sectors/commodities**



Thank you for your attention!

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