



Record of Discussion

IDN-EU FLEGT VPA Joint Expert Meeting

Jakarta, 26 March 2015

Opening

The meeting was co-chaired by Dr. Agus Sarsito (Indonesia) and Mr. Colin Crooks (European Union). Both parties welcomed all participants to the meeting and reemphasized their expectation to launch the full implementation of the FLEGT VPA at the soonest date possible.

Agenda 1: Progress of the *Joint Working Group (JWG)*

Indonesia have reported progress in data compilation. The work on data compilation has already started with the formal establishment of the Indonesian-European Union Joint Working Group (IDN-EU JWG) based on the Decree of Director General of Forestry Business Management Utilization. The meeting took note of the data so far collected and agreed on the template for data collection.

Both parties discussed and updated the Indonesian-EU Action Plan on Advancement of VPA Implementation, including the agreed measures of achievements. The IDN delegation will coordinate internally with all relevant national stakeholders to accelerate progress on the pending issues and will report at the next JWG.

The JEM agreed that the JWG field visits should be organized in Java and outside of Java (notably to look at SVLK implementation in remote provinces like West Papua), with exact locations to be determined later. Both parties agreed that these field checks are critical to assess SVLK implementation and effectiveness and that results should be used to inform future JEMs.

Agenda 2: The status of VPA Annex revision after preliminary JIC endorsement

The JIC Secretariat reported that the translations of Annex I, Annex II Introduction, and Annex V of the VPA into Bahasa Indonesia have been completed. The next steps include: translation of Annex II legality definition tables, legal scrubbing of the revised Annexes, and submission to the Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia. The JIC Secretariat ensured that the translation process has used correct technical terms and the remaining works will be purely editorial, i.e. no change was made to the content of the revised Annexes.

The EU informed that the EU internal process on VPA Annex adoption was on track.

Agenda 3: JIC Rules of Arbitration

There was no agreement on the final text for the Article 28 in the JIC Rules of Arbitration. The proposed text from the EU is still with the Legal Division of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Indonesia and this will be followed up soon. Both Parties expressed the urgency to solve this matter.

Agenda 4: Progress on VPA Impact Monitoring

The Indonesian delegation reported that a Panel Team supported by the JIC Secretariat and MFP3 has worked to complete the tender process for the design of the Impact Monitoring system such as receiving Expressions of Interest (EoI) and selecting the Experts. MFP3 will then proceed with negotiations and prepare the contract to the preferred bidder and the contracted Expert is expected to mobilize on 16 April 2015. A series of meetings for further discussion and coordination have been conducted by the Technical Working Group (TWG). The TWG will participate in the contract implementation and ensure the quality of the work. The proposed system of Impact Monitoring will be presented in the JEM and/or JIC before it is tested. The assignment is expected to be completed by mid-August 2015.

The EU delegation appreciated that the development of the VPA Impact Monitoring mechanism was on-track and is looking forward to the presentation of the proposed system.

Agenda 5: Progress on Periodic Evaluation

The Indonesian delegation reported that the TOR for Periodic Evaluation were completed based on the jointly agreed Concept Note (building on VPA annex VI). The recruitment of the consultant will start in April and a Tender Evaluation Committee comprising representatives of the different stakeholder groups will be established to select the consultant. Both parties agreed that the TOR will state that the contract duration will allow for one evaluation round and may be extended for a second round based on performance.

Agenda 6: Joint Communication

The JIC Secretariat presented an updated communication protocol, documents already published on both parties websites (SILK online, MoEF, EU Delegation, and MFP), and a brief update on the drafting of the JIC Annual Report. The Advisor Team for the Annual Report comprises the JIC Focal Points from Indonesia and the representatives from the MFP3 and EFI EU FLEGT Facility. The task for the Advisor Team is to assist the development of the report.

Agenda 7: Other matters

1. Both parties agreed that the 3rd IDN EU JWG Meeting will be conducted on 30 April 2015 and the next JEM will be on 7 May 2015. Both meetings will be held in Jakarta
2. The FLEGT Action Plan Evaluation Team will visit Indonesia in early June 2015
3. Mr. Agus Sarsito and Mr. Alexander Hinrichs debriefed the audience about the FLEGT Week 2015, conducted in Brussels on 16-19 March 2015.