

# FLEGT licensed timber



Essential information

1. What is FLEGT?
2. What is a VPA?
3. What is a FLEGT licence?
4. Which countries issue FLEGT licences?
5. What are the benefits of a FLEGT licence?
6. What stands behind the FLEGT licence?
7. What are FLEGT Competent Authorities?
8. How is a FLEGT licence different from certification?
9. How do I communicate about FLEGT licences?
10. Where can I get more information?

# 1. What is FLEGT?

## 1. What is FLEGT?

FLEGT stands for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade.

## 1. What is FLEGT?

In 2003, the EU adopted the EU FLEGT Action Plan to address illegal logging and associated trade.

## 1. What is FLEGT?

The EU FLEGT Action Plan uses a combination of demand- and supply-side measures.

## 1. What is FLEGT?

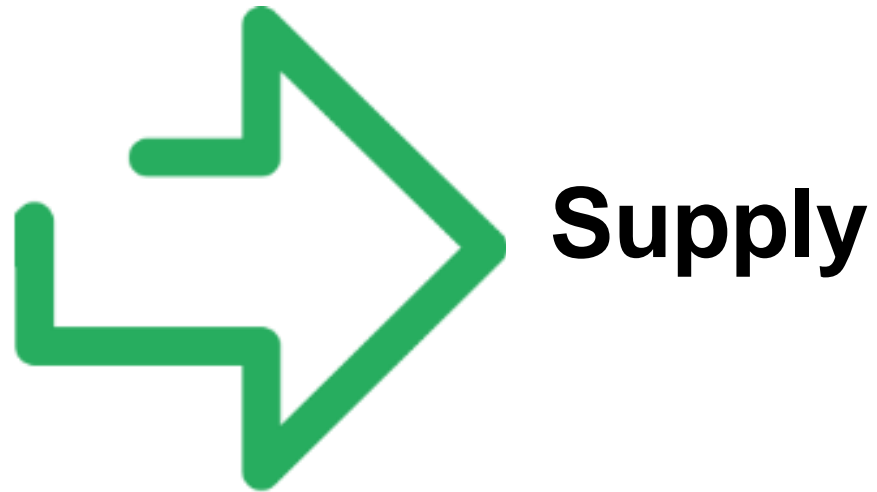
Demand-side measures include the EU Timber Regulation.

**Demand**



## 1. What is FLEGT?

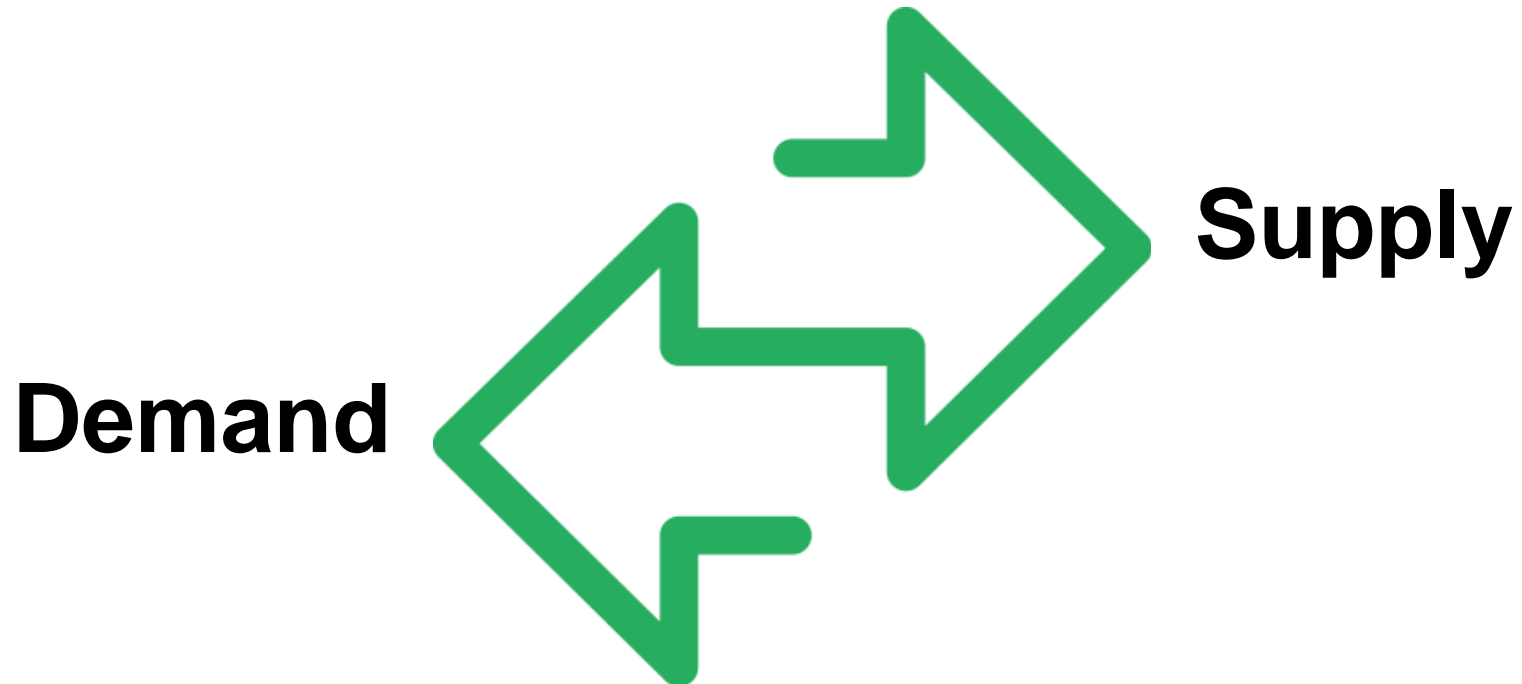
Supply-side measures include Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) with timber-producing countries outside the EU.





## 1. What is FLEGT?

FLEGT licences link these demand-side and supply-side measures.



## 2. What is a VPA?

## 2. What is a VPA?

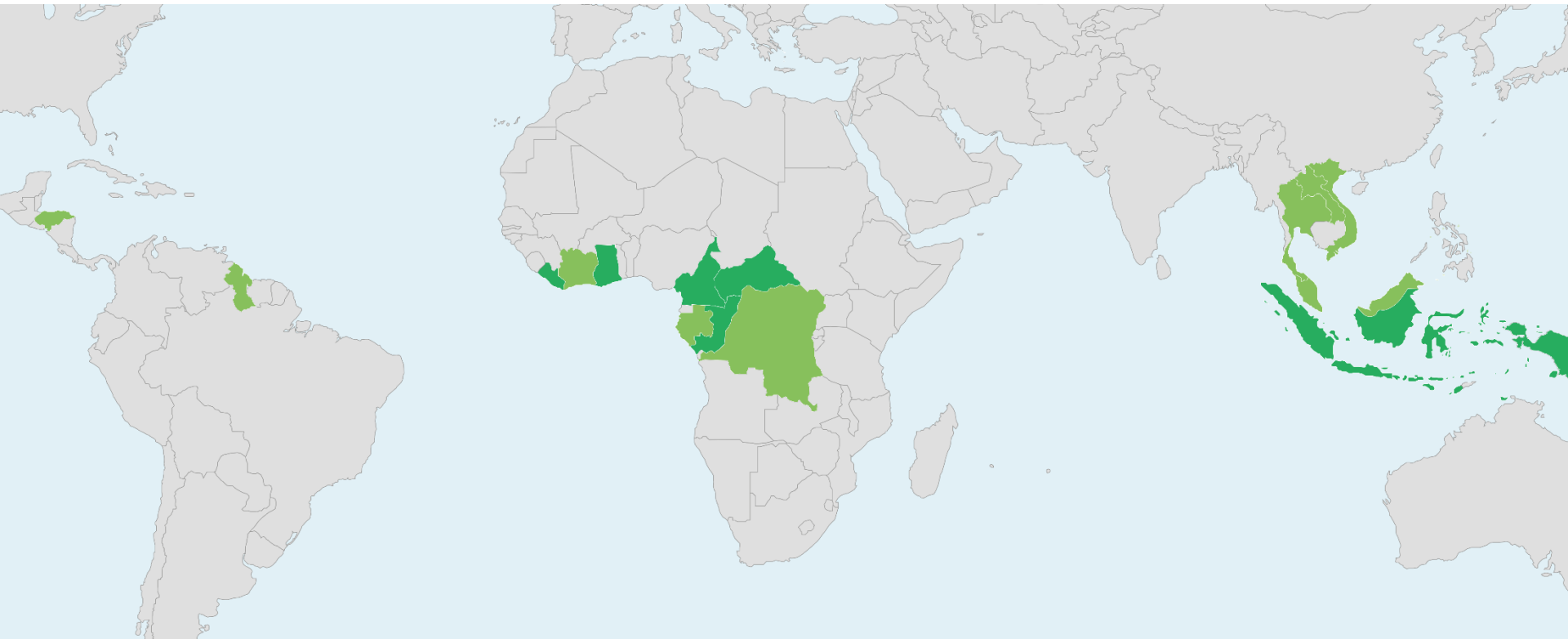
A Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) is a bilateral trade agreement between the EU and a timber-exporting country outside the EU.

## 2. What is a VPA?

Under a VPA, a partner country commits to developing a timber legality assurance system that issues FLEGT licences to verified legal timber products exported to the EU.

## 2. What is a VPA?

There are 15 VPA countries.



 **Negotiating countries**

 **Implementing countries**

## 2. What is a VPA?

Nine countries are negotiating a VPA. Six are implementing a VPA.

### Negotiating

Côte d'Ivoire  
DRC  
Gabon  
Guyana  
Honduras  
Laos  
Malaysia  
Thailand  
Vietnam

### Implementing

Cameroon  
Central African Republic  
Ghana  
Indonesia  
Liberia  
Republic of the Congo

### 3. What is a FLEGT licence?

### 3. What is a FLEGT licence?

A FLEGT licence is a document that confirms that timber or timber products comply fully with the relevant laws of the country of export.





### 3. What is a FLEGT licence?

FLEGT licences can only be issued by a country that has ratified a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU.



### 3. What is a FLEGT licence?

An annex in each VPA lists the products covered by the country's FLEGT licensing scheme.



### 3. What is a FLEGT licence?

To issue FLEGT licences, a VPA country must first implement a timber legality assurance system and other commitments outlined in its VPA.



### 3. What is a FLEGT licence?

FLEGT licensing can only begin when the EU and the VPA country confirm that the timber legality assurance system works as described in the VPA.



### 3. What is a FLEGT licence?

When fully operational, all VPA timber legality assurance systems are both robust and credible. They have effective supply chain controls, mechanisms for verifying compliance and are subject to independent audits that follow ISO standards.



4. Which countries issue  
FLEGT licences?

#### 4. Which countries issue FLEGT licences?

In 2016,  
Indonesia  
became the  
first country to  
issue FLEGT  
licences.



 **Indonesia**



5. What are the benefits  
of a FLEGT licence?



## 5. What are the benefits of a FLEGT licence?

FLEGT-licensed timber and timber products comply with the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation. EU importers do not need to do further due diligence.



## 5. What are the benefits of a FLEGT licence?

FLEGT licences enhance the reputation of the timber product industry and timber products by underlining commitments to legal trade and good forest governance.





6. What stands behind  
the FLEGT licence?

## 6. What stands behind the FLEGT licence?

Timber legality assurance systems are built around practical definitions of legality that have been agreed by stakeholders through participatory processes.



## 6. What stands behind the FLEGT licence?

FLEGT licences denote compliance with a broad range of laws and regulations on forest management, labour rights, community benefits and payments of fees and taxes.



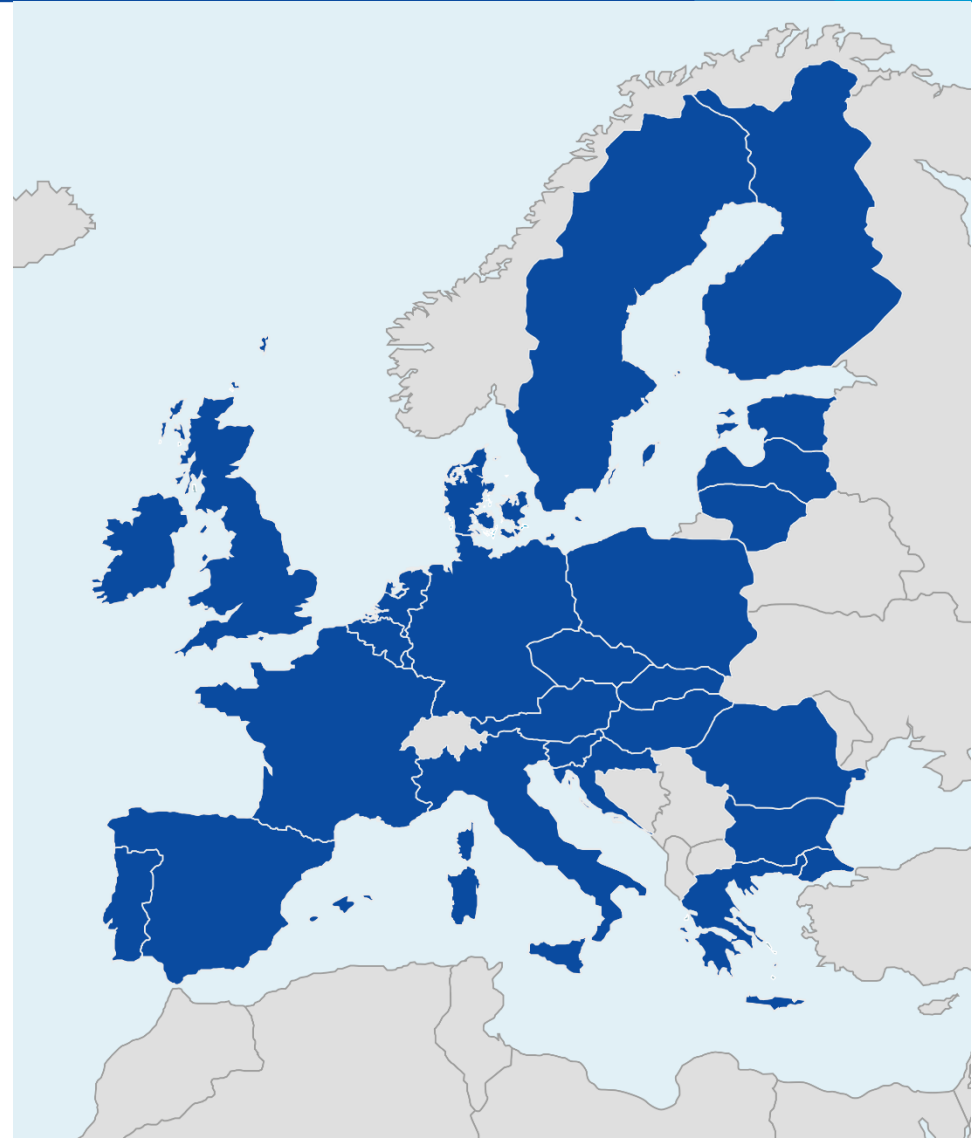
## 6. What stands behind the FLEGT licence?

The EU and the VPA country maintain oversight of the FLEGT licensing scheme through a joint implementation committee that addresses concerns as they arise and guides continuous improvement of the timber legality assurance system.

## 7. What are FLEGT Competent Authorities?

## 7. What are FLEGT Competent Authorities?

**FLEGT  
Competent  
Authorities are  
the authorities  
in EU Member  
States  
responsible for  
verifying FLEGT  
licences.**



 **European Union**



8. How is a FLEGT  
licence different from  
certification?

## 8. How is a FLEGT licence different from certification?

FLEGT licensing and certification can work together. Certification covers areas and products. FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreements cover entire countries and supply chains.

## 8. How is a FLEGT licence different from certification?

FLEGT-licensed timber meets the requirements of the EU Timber Regulation (EUTR), and therefore is considered legal. Certification helps companies exercise EUTR due diligence but is not a proof of legality.



9. How do I communicate  
about FLEGT licences?

The FLEGT licence does not have a visual identity, logo or trade mark. Refer to the licence using only words. Do not create a trademark or logo to represent or brand the FLEGT licence.

The FLEGT licence is non-competitive. It describes a specific characteristic of timber or timber products, but does not 'brand' them.

Acknowledgement that a product uses FLEGT-licensed timber should be phrased as follows:

‘This product is made of FLEGT-licensed timber from [name of VPA country].’


All FLEGT licences are equally legal, irrespective of the country of origin. One VPA country does not produce 'more legal' or 'better legal' FLEGT-licensed timber than another VPA country.



Do not incorporate the words ‘FLEGT’, ‘FLEGT licence’, ‘FLEGT-licensed timber’ or similar words in product names, service names, trademarks, logos or company names.



10. Where can I get more  
information?



For more information on FLEGT  
licences and FLEGT-licensed  
timber products, as well as  
answers to frequently asked  
questions, visit:

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

# FLEGT licensed timber



Essential information

[Home](#)[FLEGT and VPA countries](#)[About the FLEGT licence](#)[Frequently asked questions](#)[FLEGT competent authorities](#)[Licensing authorities](#)[Information for operators](#)[How to communicate](#)

FLEGT licence/ Home

# FLEGT licensed timber



Essential information

## Welcome

The FLEGT licence information point explains what FLEGT licences are and how they can benefit businesses in the EU as well as timber producers in countries outside the EU. It includes answers to dozens of frequently asked questions that cover everything from the basics to complex trade scenarios and how to report any problems.

It includes details of FLEGT Competent Authorities in each EU Member State, and provides information for importers and other traders of FLEGT-licensed products in the EU. A section devoted to Indonesia, the first country to begin FLEGT licensing, describes the country's timber legality assurance system (SVLK), FLEGT licensing procedures and FLEGT-licensed products.

The website also provides definitions, terms of use, and advice for branding and communicating accurate, coherent information about FLEGT licences.

For inquiries and assistance, contact the EU FLEGT Facility at [info@euflegt.efi.int](mailto:info@euflegt.efi.int).

# FLEGT licensed timber



Essential information

## Disclaimer

This resource is hosted by the EU FLEGT Facility and funded by the European Union and the Governments of Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom. The contents of this resource are the sole responsibility of its authors and can under no circumstances be regarded as reflecting the position of funding organisations.