



# EFITAP Guyana

Presentation to the Pre-JMRC Meeting

9 March 2022



# Structure of presentation:

## 1. EFITAP Project Overview

- Project Summary
- Project Outcomes
- Delivery Mechanisms
- Oversight and Coordination

## 2. Overview on specific project outcomes

- Summary presentation I (Outcome 1)
- Summary presentation II (Outcomes 2)
- Summary presentation III (Outcome 3)
- Summary presentation IV (Outcome 4)
- Summary presentation V (Outcome 5)
- Summary presentation VI (Outcome 6)

## 3. Discussion



# 1.1 Project Summary

Basic Information	
<b>Project Name</b>	EFITAP Guyana supporting 'Forest Governance Reforms in Guyana'
<b>Funding Mechanism</b>	UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)
<b>Executing Agency</b>	European Forest Institute (EFI)
<b>Partner Institution</b>	Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC)
<b>Duration</b>	18 months (January 2020-June 2021)
	Extension till end of 2022 (delays experienced resulting from national elections as well as the Covid 19 pandemic)

# 1.2 Project Outcomes

## EFITAP Guyana (2020-2022)

Outcome	EFITAP Guyana has 6 project outcomes (each outcome is linked to a strategic task in the JIF)
Outcome 1:	Strengthened and more transparent legality control system designed. ( <i>JIF ST 3</i> )
Outcome 2:	Strengthened regulatory framework through harmonisation of the governing Acts and relevant procedures of TLAS agencies. ( <i>JIF ST 3</i> )
Outcome 3:	Increased capacity of stakeholders to implement the legality control system. ( <i>JIF ST4</i> )
Outcome 4:	Increased transparency in the forestry sector through the establishment of an information sharing mechanism. ( <i>JIF ST 5</i> )
Outcome 5:	Outreach increased with key stakeholders in preparation for implementation. ( <i>JIF ST 6</i> )
Outcome 6:	Supporting the GRM to facilitate the handling of Amerindian land rights issues. ( <i>JIF ST 7</i> )

## 1.3 Delivery mechanisms

- Support delivered at **country level** through core team supported by on-demand expertise.
  
- **Country level**
  - In country office situated within the premises of the Guyana Forestry Commission (GFC).
  - In country staff include Project Manager, Communications Officer and Administrative Officer.
  - Original recruitment of TLAS expert was placed on hold as result of COVID 19 pandemic and delays in national election
    - TLAS work supported through EFI internal resource persons as well as long-term consultancies.
  
- **Country level support is complemented by on-demand expertise**
  - EFI in-house experts.
  - Medium or short terms consultancies/ experts recruited.
  - Local/international partners.
  
- **Administrative/ other support**
  - EFI HQ (Joensuu)/ International Partnership Facility (Barcelona).
  - GFC (FLEGT Secretariat and GFC management).



# 1.4 Oversight and Coordination

## – Project oversight

- Project Steering Committee (oversight and guidance).
  - Members: GFC, FCDO and EFI.
  - 5<sup>TH</sup> SC Meeting 3 February 2022.
  - Observers: EU Delegation to Guyana (EUD), FAO (Guyana), AFD & EticWood, ALA Facility (EFI), FLEGT Facilitator, Forest Governance Facilitator.
- FCDO-EFITAP-Forest Governance Facilitator bi-monthly meetings.

## – Coordination with others

Regular project updates to/ feeding into:

- GFC management meetings.
- National Implementation Working Group (NIWG) meetings.
- Monthly meetings between GFC and EUD.
- Donor Coordination Meeting.

Local/international partners.

- Working groups on project implementation, learning events, other.



# Outcome 1: Strengthened and more transparent legality control system

- **Outcome aims to achieve the following results:**
- **Result 1:** Description of operational business processes including supply chain controls and legality verification processes required for the GTLAS (validated by relevant stakeholders).
- **Result 2:** Endorsed description of a future GTLAS system ready to inform an IT-development contract(s) which will provide functional and technical specifications for an IT contract building on the existing systems in place in Guyana that can be introduced in a modular and staged manner.
- **Result 3:** Priority improvements to the GTLAS IT system components and infrastructure implemented:
  - Required functionalities for FSO Register/Legality application (one of the elements of the anticipated future system) identified, developed, piloted and application enhanced/ operational.
  - IT Infrastructure improved to increase IT security, integrity, and services for existing and future operations.



## Activity 1.1-1.3: Guyana Timber Legality Assurance System

- **Needs Assessment Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) (2020)**
  - **Consultancy Report:** Highlighted procedures to be developed/updated, possible improvements in the WTS (information management), as well as capacity building needs of TLAS Agencies for the design, development and implementation of the GTLAS.
  
- **Description of supply chain controls (2020/1)**
  - **Consultancies (national and international):** Assessed the supply chain controls, identified gaps and provided guidance for closure of gaps.
  
- **Manual of procedures for verification and implementation of GTLAS (2021/2)**
  - **2 Consultancies:** To support the implementation of the GTLAS and the development of the manual of procedures for verification. Work to date focussed on (i) Updating of the Manual of procedures for FMD, FRMD, and FD (MISU) and (ii) Developing GTLAS Framework:
    - **Part A: Framework Document** provides a broad description TLAS and its operation
    - **Part B: Manual of Procedures for Verification,**
    - **Part C: Manual of Procedures for Exports,**
    - **Part D: Complaints Mechanism, and**
    - **Part E: Independent Audit and Management Review.**





## Activity 1.5 Upgrading of the IT Infrastructure upgrade

- IT assessment identified need for IT infrastructure upgrades
  - IT infrastructure in place and used by the GFC required improvement / upgrading for purposes of ensuring and **maintaining system security, connectivity, and operation of existing systems as well as any future systems** (applications and databases) introduced.
  - **Three priority areas identified:**
    - Priority 1: The GFC main datacentre (Georgetown).
    - Priority 2: GFC HQ office facilities & field offices (Georgetown & regions).
    - Priority 3: Disaster recovery datacentre (Georgetown).
  - EFITAP procurement on *'Supply, delivery, installation, configuration and deployment of Software and Hardware to support the development of the TLAS'* ongoing.
    - Priority 1 & 2; Priority 3 (conditional).
    - Excludes any data capturing/ handhelds/ similar devices (to be carried by other support projects).



## **Outcome 2: Strengthened regulatory framework through harmonization of the governing Acts and relevant procedures of TLAS Agencies**

- **Outcome aims to achieve the following result:**

- **Result 1:** Proposed revisions to the governing Acts and procedures of TLAS agencies agreed through stakeholder consultations.

### **Activity 2.1 Review of the coherence of various Acts governing the TLAS Agencies**

- **Consultancy for legal review**

- Consultant will review relevant laws and procedures of TLAS Agencies and make recommendations for addressing gaps, overlaps and inconsistencies.
- Recommendations will be discussed with the relevant stakeholders for review and consolidation.

- **Status of Assignment**

- A ToR for the assignment was developed in 2020.
- Work put on hold pending resolution of National Elections (2020) thereafter pending discussion between parties.
  - EU provided comments/ inputs to the ToR.
  - The Attorney General/Ministry of Legal Affairs who will fulfil a lead role in implementing this outcome also commented on the ToR.
- Comments were incorporated into the ToR and procurement process launched in Q1:2022.

## Outcome 3: Increased capacity to implement the legality control system

### Outcome aims to achieve the following result:

- **Result 1:** A demonstrated improvement in understanding and capacity of TLAS-agencies to monitor, oversee, and verify aspects of compliance as required by national standards and regulation.
- **Result 2:** A demonstrated increase in understanding and capacity of FSOs to comply with the legal requirements measured through the Knowledge, Attitudes and Perceptions/Practices surveys at targeted outreach events with FSOs.



# Outcome 3: Increased capacity to implement the legality control system

## Activity 3.1 Develop strategy to address the identified needs of TLAS Agencies

### – Capacity needs assessment

- Needs Assessment done by EFITAP and WRI in 2020.
- Desk review conducted in 2021.
- Follow-up meetings held with key TLAS Agencies (EPA, NIB MoL and GRA) to further discuss their capacity needs. To be integrated into the broader needs assessment once updated.

### – Institutional Assessment of FTCl

- The ToR prepared in 2020 was revised with inputs from FCDO and GFC.
- EFI launched a procurement process for an individual consultant.
- Dr. Kwame Asumadu (supported by Dr. Alhassan Attah and Ms. Donna Ramdial) was contracted by EFI to conduct the assessment.

## Activity 3.2 Deliver targeted training to concerned stakeholders

- Supported short courses to GFC/FLEGT Secretariat in 2021.
- A 2-day training for forest officers on the legal framework and compliance requirements in the Guyana Forestry Sector was developed in collaboration with TLAS Agencies (EPA, NIS, MoL and GFC) and the Forest Governance Facilitator.
  - Two training sessions were organised and delivered for forest officers from various field stations and head office of the GFC.

## **Outcome 4: Increased transparency in the forestry sector through establishment of an information sharing mechanism**

### **Outcome will be achieved through:**

- **Result 1:** Website of GFC and other relevant agencies is populated with the information as required in the VPA (Transparency Annex IX) and any additional information requirements identified.
- **Result 2:** Mechanism is established to maintain and service public information of GFC.
- **Result 3:** Mechanism has been developed for the request of information that is not publicly available.

### **Activity 4.1 Support the GoG to create an effective mechanism to make information public as required by the VPA**

- **Strategy on public access to information prepared and approved in 2021.**
- **Website/Microsite on sharing information.**
  - The Website went public on 3 March 2022 <https://euflegt.gov.gy/>
  - A training manual and the design of a training programme for GFC staff to maintain the website prepared.
  - Training to be conducted during week of 14-18 March 2022.
- **Procedures for unlocking information that is not available on the website to be developed.**

# **Outcome 5: Outreach increased with key stakeholders in preparation for implementation of the legality control system**

## **Activity 5.1 Development of Communication and Engagement Strategy**

- **Communication Strategy and Plan for the VPA Implementation in Guyana prepared in 2020**
  - 500 copies of the Communication Strategy and Plan printed for distribution.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Guidelines**
  - Working group formed, panel discussion held, document being drafted by working group.

## **Activity 5.2 Development of outreach actions, materials and dissemination**

- Approaches – GFC requested the 4 TLAS Agencies (EPA, NIS, MoL and GRA) to continue their active involvement in the outreach work being supported by EFITAP.
- Materials and dissemination -
  - 1000 copies of the first quarterly newsletter printed.
  - Retractable banner on ‘strengthening legal compliance in the Guyana forest sector’ prepared.
  - 5 posters from TLAS agencies were reviewed and revised as outreach materials.
  - Several social media graphics were prepared and published on Guyana FLEGT Facebook page.
  - Supported preparation of a video introducing the VPA to be used in Outreach
  - A 6-minute video prepared & used during the national learning event showing the learning event process.
- Outreach to be supported in 2022: concept prepared and shared with GFC management.

# **Outcome 5: Outreach increased with key stakeholders in preparation for implementation of the legality control system**

## **Activity 5.3 Hold (international) event Sharing of Experiences on the VPA implementation**

### **- Learning events supported**

- Learning exchange 2019 to Ghana and Liberia: Design, Development and Implementation of the GTLAS.
- Virtual learning event 2020: Markets, Technologies and Communities: Lessons and Experiences for the Forest and Wood Product Sector in Guyana, a Virtual Event.
- Learning event 2021: Examining Cost, Benefits and Barriers to Compliance within the Guyana Timber Legality Framework.
- Learning event 2022: Concept drafted and shared with GFC.



# Learning events/ capacity building





## Outcome 6: Supporting the GRM to Facilitate the handling of Amerindian rights issues



- **Outcome aims to achieve the following result:**
  - **Result 1:** Set of endorsed recommendations on how ALTP GRM/ its successor can be reformed/ strengthened.
  - **Result 2:** More engagement and capacity of Amerindian groups to use the ALTP GRM/ its successor for their benefit.
- **Activity 6.1 Support the Strengthening of the ALTP GRM**
  - **Consultancy and status of assignment**
    - A ToR for the review of the ALTP GRM was developed in 2020.
    - Work put on hold pending resolution of National Elections (2020) thereafter pending discussion between parties.
      - EU provided comments/ inputs to the ToR.
      - Ministry of Amerindian Affairs reviewed the ToR and provided feedback in Q1:2022.
    - The comments were incorporated into the ToR and procurement process will be launched in Q1:2022



**Thank you**