



# Will you help us help you?

As new Vietnamese legality requirements for the timber industry will soon become effective, enterprises trading and processing timber will be evaluated and will need to comply in order for products to be exported to the EU.

An EU-funded project, implemented by NEPCon and SFMI, are helping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in the timber industry deal with these new requirements and sourcing low risk timber.

Our project is developing a toolkit that SMEs can use to help them comply with the applicable regulations, source low risk timber, ask for and keep the required documents, track and trace material and communicate with their suppliers and customers.



# We need your help



To ensure the toolkit is user-friendly, functional and effective the project team needs the involvement of 20-25 SMEs for preliminary research and to test the toolkit.



## We need SMEs' involvement for the following activities

Nov - Dec 2014

**Supply chain mapping:** Our technical team will evaluate the level of risk of illegal timber in the Vietnamese timber supply chain. In order to do that, they need your help to get a good, realistic picture of the complexity of the supply chain and the general flow of different materials in the country. We will work with SMEs to conduct mapping of the real supply chains.

Dec 2014 - Jan 2015

**Baseline study:** In order to develop the tools that most suit your needs, we will ask you a few questions about your current awareness, procedures and tools related to FLEGT and see if you have any specific requests.

Mar - Jul 2015

**Toolkit pilot tests:** Once we have developed the tools for SMEs they will need testing by real SMEs! We will show you how to use the tools and then come back some time later to see how useful the tools have been for you, what worked, what didn't and will discuss how they can be improved.

# Your involvement will entail

## Time with our expert

Half day for the supply chain mapping exercise, a few hours answering the questionnaire, and two days for the pilot testing.

## Providing information

Such information on where you are sourcing your input materials from, who you are selling your products to, what procedures and policies you have in place, as well as documentation relating to your business and the material you are sourcing, are needed by our experts.

## Using the toolkit

You invest some time in using the toolkit to see if it is useful or not it. Our experts will be there to guide you every step of the way.

## Feedback

Tell us your thoughts, what you need, what works for you, what does not, etc...

## Commitment

The results will be better for you and us if we can work with you throughout the project. We will, therefore, ask you to sign a letter of commitment to the project.

*All information gathered will be kept confidential. Our reports will only present summarised and/or anonymised information.*

## Your business will benefit from the following

- **Training** in quality management aspects to help your business comply with FLEGT requirements
- **Training** in the use of the toolkit and sourcing legal timber
- **Verification** of toolkit implementation and compliance with applicable requirements from credible national and international agencies, along with a report of this verification
- **An action plan** for your business tailored by local and international experts to close any gaps and communicate compliance status to customers
- **Being one of the first SMEs in Vietnam** to be able to demonstrate compliance and legal timber sourcing will boost your business. Buyers in the EU will want suppliers like you in their supply chain!





### Join us if your enterprise:

- Trades in timber and/or timber products
  - Has 200 employees or less
  - Your products end up in the EU, or you would like them to
- by calling or emailing us on the below contact details.

**Title: Increasing capacity of CSOs and SMEs to implement FLEGT requirements**

**Duration: March 2014 – March 2017**

**Donor: This project is partly funded by the European Union**

#### About NEPCon

NEPCon is a non-profit, international organisation focused on the sustainable use of natural resources. Working primarily through independent verification services and innovative projects, NEPCon helps business enterprises and other organisations to be part of the solution to major global challenges, such as deforestation and climate change. Learn more at [www.NEPCon.net](http://www.NEPCon.net)

#### About SFMI

The Research Institute for Sustainable Forest Management and Forest Certification is a Vietnamese NGO working on forest science and related topics. Founded in 2006, under the Vietnamese Union of Science and Technology Science, SFMI has contributed significantly to forest management and certification in Vietnam. The details of projects and research conducted by SFMI and its members can be found at [www.sfmi.org.vn](http://www.sfmi.org.vn)

**A Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade/ Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT/VPA)** is a legally binding trade agreement between the EU and a timber-producing country outside the EU. Vietnam is currently negotiating a VPA with the EU. The VPA is intended to ensure that timber and products made from timber harvested in Vietnam and exported to the EU come from legal sources.

Under the VPA the domestic material your business sources will be evaluated to meet Vietnamese legality requirements. However, as a large portion of material processed in Vietnam originates from other countries, the legality of this material will also be relevant in order to provide your buyers overseas with assurance of legality, not only of Vietnamese material, but of material imported from other countries too.



Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. We will respond to you as soon as possible.



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