



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



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Harmonizing GLSC's and GFC's Forest and Land Information, Mapping and Verification System for Management of Land Leases and Forest Concessions

FACT SHEET

Background

In 2003, the European Commission adopted the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, the ultimate goal of which is to encourage sustainable management of forests. The FLEGT Action Plan focuses on governance reforms and capacity building to ensure that timber exported to the European Union (EU) comes only from legal sources.

On November 23, 2018, Guyana became the second Latin American country to sign a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with EU to promote trade in legal timber products and improve forest governance. Although Guyana is already known to have a low deforestation rate, the signed VPA brings about the following benefits to the country:

- It provides a basis for cooperation between the Government of Guyana and the EU, as well as a framework for overseeing, monitoring, and evaluating the implementation of the VPA.
- It describes a Guyana's Timber Legality Assurance System (GTLAS) capable of verifying the legality of timber products. When fully operational, GTLAS will provide the mechanism/framework to facilitate the issuance of EU's FLEGT licenses to accompany Guyana's exports of tested legal timber products to the EU.
- It improves forest governance and management and supports progress towards Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by improving legislative clarity, accountability, participation in decision-making, transparency, coordination among government agencies, and building capacities of all stakeholders to play their roles in sustainable forest management and legal timber trade.
- In addition to reducing illegal logging and deforestation, Guyana's entry into a VPA

improves the tracing and tracking of timber and shows the rest of the world that it is serious about using its forests in a sustainable and environmentally friendly manner.

Under FLEGT-VPA, GTLAS will integrate the current wood tracking system (WTS) to Guyana's legality definition based on national laws and regulations to ensure that Guyana's timber products are legal. A critical keystone of this integration is inter-agency coordination between GFC and GLSC and other land management agencies to enhance the land allocation process and develop robust verification and validation procedures.

Forest Sector Operators (FSOs) are categorized by the source of timber, which includes State Lands in conversion. Here, timber products can be reclaimed from State Lands that are approved to be converted to non-forest land uses including leases that are issued by the Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission (GLSC) over an area within State Lands for agriculture or other activities. A holder of a lease becomes an FSO when authorized by the GFC to salvage timber products within the boundaries of that area.

The project titled "The Harmonizing GLSC's and GFC's Forest and Land Information, Mapping and Verification System for Management of Land Leases and Forest Concessions project" is being implemented by GLSC with funding from the European Union.

It is piloted in Region 7 and will undertake the following actions:

- 1) Enhancement of the forest and land information system to provide legal assurance and location coordinates of relevant information,

and create verification coordination between GLSC and GFC.

2) To establish a protocol for safeguarding harvested forest resources ensuring compliance with forestry timber harvesting procedures in coordination with GFC.

3) To develop a verification system for reporting compliance measures and resolution of related issues

4) To develop the capacity of field and office staff in support of the pilot demonstration activities such as use of a global positioning systems, geo-referencing of land parcels, and generation of verification reports.

The overarching goal of this project is to design and implement the Guyana Unified Forest and Land Information System (GUFLIS), which represents a significant component for the implementation and automation of GTLAS.

Four major components comprise GUFLIS: Data Infrastructure, Core Technologies, External Systems and Services, and Business Applications.

The Data Infrastructure component of GUFLIS represents a unified repository database that would integrate the different types of data and documents required to support the tasks and activities associated with the lease validation requirements of VPA.

GUFLIS, core technologies are an enterprise Geographic Information System (GIS) and a Document Management System (DMS).

It will facilitate the interface with the legacy systems and databases that GLSC currently uses, mainly Lease Management System (LMS) and SAGE systems at GLSC and the proposed Central Inventory Database solution at GFC.

Finally, GUFLIS will support five business applications: GIS Data Viewer, GIS Data Management, Dashboard, a Web-GIS Portal, and a Field App.

Project Objective

The specific objective of the project is to harmonize forest and land information system to provide legal assurance, transparency and create compliance verification capabilities between GLSC and GFC.

Project Outcomes

Outcome 1: Guyana Lands and Surveys Commission - GLSC and Guyana Forestry

Commission – GFC integrate Forest and Land Information, mapping and verification system for management of land leases and forest concessions.

Outcome 2: Improved skills and capacity within GLSC and GFC and sensitize relevant stakeholders.

Outcome 3: Improved field data collection, monitoring and verification capability (procedurally and resource-wise).

Outcome 4: Monitoring, evaluation and visibility framework developed.

Project Budget

US\$49,900

Project Duration

Phase 1: July 3, 2018 – 12 Months

Phase 2: December, 2020 - 12 Months

Current Status

- Inception Workshop – August 28, 2018.
- Procurement of project equipment completed.
- Outcome 1: Information Communication Technology Consultant recruited by FAO - May, 2020.
- GUFLIS Project Charter & Management Plan completed and approved.
- GUFLIS Project Management Team established.
- GUFLIS User Needs Analysis questionnaires and interviews completed.
- GUFLIS Software Requirement Specification (SRS) document complete and approved.
- GUFLIS Technical Committee established and meetings on ‘user stories’ conducted.
- System Design Specification (SDS) document under development.



FAO EU FLEGT Project Inception Workshop