

3. On the basis of the recommendations of the Joint Monitoring and Review Mechanism, the two Parties shall agree on a date from which the FLEGT Licensing Scheme should start full operation.

4. Both Parties shall consider the recommendation and notify each other in writing of their agreement with the recommendation.

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Article 13

Application of FLEGT Licensing Scheme to Timber Products Not Exported to the Community

1. Ghana shall endeavour to verify the legality of timber sold on domestic markets and of imported timber, using, where possible, the systems developed for the implementation of this Agreement.

2. In support of such endeavours, the Community shall encourage, where appropriate and in dialogue with interested parties, the use of the systems developed for the implementation of this Agreement.

Article 14

Schedule for implementation of the Agreement

1. The Parties agree to the implementation schedule set out in Annex VIII.

2. The Parties, working through the Joint Monitoring and Review Mechanism, will evaluate progress made in implementation with reference to the schedule set out in Annex VIII.

Article 15

Supporting Measures

1. The Parties agree that in order to address the root causes and drivers of illegal logging, supplemental measures are required to strengthen sector governance and the legal framework. Particularly with regard to tackling the challenges of growing domestic demand and the need to retool industry to remain competitive, Ghana shall endeavour to undertake measures as outlined in Annexes IX and II.

2. The Parties have identified the areas set out in Annex IX as those in which there is a need for technical and financial resources in order to implement this Agreement.

3. The provision of such resources shall be subject to the procedures governing the Community assistance as foreseen in

the Cotonou Agreement and in those governing the bilateral EU Member States' assistance to Ghana.

4. The Parties shall ensure that activities implemented under this Agreement are coordinated with existing and future relevant development programmes and initiatives.

Article 16

Stakeholder Involvement in the Implementation of the Agreement

1. Ghana, where feasible, shall endeavour to encourage stakeholder consultation in the implementation of this Agreement.

2. Ghana, in line with its principle of participatory management and protection of forest and wildlife resources, will promote appropriate strategies, modalities and programmes in consultation with relevant stakeholders in the implementation of this Agreement.

3. The Community will hold regular consultations with stakeholders on the implementation of this Agreement, taking into account its obligations under the 1998 Aarhus Convention on access to information, public participation and access to justice in environmental matters.

Article 17

Social Safeguards

1. In order to minimise possible adverse impacts, the Parties agree to develop a better understanding of the livelihoods of potentially affected indigenous and local communities as well as the timber industry, including those engaged in illegal logging.

2. The Parties will monitor the impacts of this Agreement on those communities and other actors identified in paragraph 1, while taking reasonable steps to mitigate any adverse impacts. The Parties may agree on additional measures to address adverse impacts.

Article 18

Market incentives

Taking into account its international obligations, the Community shall strive to promote favourable access to its market for the timber products covered by this Agreement. Such efforts will include:

(a) the encouragement of public and private procurement policies that recognise efforts to ensure a supply of legally harvested forest produce; and