

	digital entrepreneurship	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	/
	digital skills/literacy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	digital services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	Connectivity	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	digital connectivity	YES	NO	/
	energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
	transport	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
health	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
education and research	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Migration	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Reduction of Inequalities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Covid-19	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
BUDGET INFORMATION				
12. Amounts concerned	Budget line(s) (article, item): 14.020141 Total estimated cost: EUR 2 million Total amount of EU budget contribution EUR 2 million			
MANAGEMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION				
13. Type of financing	Indirect management with the entity(ies) to be selected in accordance with the criteria set out in section 4.3.1.			

1.2. Summary of the Action

Since 2013, the European Union (EU) has prohibited operators from placing illegally harvested timber on its internal market. As a way to ensure trade in legal timber and timber products, the EU negotiates legally binding bilateral trade agreements with timber-exporting countries. These trade agreements are known as Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT). Once a VPA is operational, the timber-exporting country can issue FLEGT licences that guarantee that its timber products are legal. Guyana is the ninth country to have signed a VPA with the EU⁶.

The Guyana-EU FLEGT VPA (hereinafter “the VPA”) aims to reduce illegal logging, improve governance, and promote trade in legally produced timber. It also focuses on the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, and will boost economic growth by facilitating the creation of jobs in the forest sector and expanding trade opportunities including through a gender perspective.

With the VPA ratified and having entered into force in June 2023, a process will start with implementing the necessary regulatory changes and a subsequent evaluation of the progress. After a successful joint evaluation, timber exports to EU will be accompanied by a FLEGT-license, indicating the legal status of the timber, and securing a green lane into the internal market for legality aspects.

As the VPA will cover all timber export markets (not just EU), and includes also the domestic market, the VPA will guarantee the sustainable management of the country’s entire production forest area (roughly 40% of the land area), thereby promoting carbon sequestration and climate change mitigation. The legality of timber products will

⁶ The EU and Guyana signed the VPA FLEGT in December 2022 at the Fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity (COP 15), Montreal (Canada).