Interim Report

Rapport Intermédiaire

NARRATIVE REPORT INTERIM 1 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" Contract number: DCI-ENV/2011/273-200

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Project: "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" © April 2013 BRAINFOREST Quartier Ambowé, B.P: 23 749 Libreville – Tel: 07 97 84 25 E-mail: info@brainforestgabon.org – www.brainforest-gabon.org Registration No: 00265/MISPD/SG/CT - NIF: 89616C ® The opinions expressed, the information presented in this report do not in any way constitute the expression of the opinion of the donors and are the responsibility of Brainforest. 2

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NARRATIVE REPORT INTERIM 1 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" 3 Contract number: DCI-ENV/2011/273-200

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4 A sensitization workshop (Cocobeach)

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5 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" I - DESC

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..... 7 I-a) Name of the grant contract
beneficiary ..... 7 I-b) Name and position of the contact
person ..... 7 I-c) Names of the Action partners .....

..... 7 I-d) Title of the Action .....

..... 7 I-e) Contract number: .....

..... 7 I-f) Start date and end date of the reporting
period ..... 8 I-g) Target country or region(s): .....

..... 8 I-h) Final beneficiaries and/or target groups (including the number of women and men): ..... 8 I-i) Country or countries where the activities are carried out (if different from point 1.7) ..... 8 II - EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION
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7 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" I-a) Name of the grant contract beneficiary - NGO Brainforest. I-b) Name and position of the contact person ZUE OBAME Richelieu, Head of the Forest Governance Program, FLEGT/Civil Society focal point. I-c) Names of the Action partners - FERN - Well-Grounded - Gabonese Association for the United Nations (AGNU) - Nyanga-Tour - Dibumbu Network I-d) Title of the Action "Assimilation

and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by civil society in Gabon, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" I-e) Contract number: DCI-ENV/2011/273-200 I - DESCRIPTION

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Interim Narrative Report I 8 I-f) Start date and end date of the reporting period - November 2011 to December 2012 I-g) Target country or region(s): Estuaire Province: Komo Ocean Department (Nzomoe), Noya Department (Cocobeach), Woleu-Ntem Province: Okano Department (Mitzic) Ngounié Province: Douya-Onoye Department (Mouila) Nyanga Province: Mougoutsi Department (Tchibanga) Basse Banio Department (Mayumba). I-h) Final beneficiaries and/or target groups (including the number of women and men): The 36 NGOs members of the FLEGT/VPA civil society network (see annex), 20 people per village grouping in the following logging areas: - Nzomoe Department; - Noya Department (Cocobeach) - Mougoutsi Department (Tchibanga) - Basse-Banio Department (Mayumba) I-i) Country or countries where the activities are carried out (if different from point 1.7) - Gabon

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9 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" II - 1) Summary of the Action The action aims to promote the assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by actors of Gabonese civil society. The goal of this approach is to prepare and strengthen (qualitatively) the participation of CSOs in the negotiation activities and then, in the implementation of the VPA. To this end, the action focuses its activities around the following axes: Axis I: Strengthening the technical capacities of CSOs on the elements of the FLEGT action plan This axis supports all activities related to awareness-raising and training on the concepts of FLEGT. Its purpose is to facilitate the assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society so that it can participate qualitatively in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA. The present report provides details of the concepts addressed during year 1 of the project. Axis II: Establishment of monitoring cells for forestry activities. The purpose of this axis is: To inform and train civil society, rural communities, and local territorial administrations on the notion of OIF. It was also about addressing the importance of this governance tool; discussing its stakes, and generating interest among the training beneficiaries regarding the concept. To initiate the methodology, techniques, and use of its tools (GPS, digital cameras, etc.). Except for the memorandum of understanding currently being developed by the team of legal consultants, this report does not point to any activity implemented during year 1 under this axis. The project managers made a deliberate choice to postpone the activities related to this work axis to year 2. II - EVALUATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION ACTIVITIES

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Interim Narrative Report I 10 The reason is simple: already being a beneficiary of support from the ACP-FLEGT program of FAO to support training on external OIF for civil society organizations (CSOs), the project managers wanted to capitalize on the contributions and lessons learned from the program supported by FAO, and then proceed to the creation of monitoring cells for forestry activities as planned in the project supported by the EU delegation, under axis 2. Thus, the cells could be strongly active based on the lessons received during the project with the ACP-FLEGT program. Axis III: Effective participation of the platform in negotiations. This axis aims to support activities related to training in advocacy techniques and institutional support for CSOs. Conducted by FERN, the activities related to training in advocacy techniques were implemented and are presented in the report. The institutional support allocated to Well-Grounded has not

taken place, so nothing is indicated there. There is also a noted lack of progress in the negotiation process of the FLEGT APV in Gabon, which has not allowed for a more dynamic participation of CSOs. Axis III: Effective participation of the platform in negotiations. This axis aims to support activities related to training in advocacy techniques and institutional support for CSOs. Conducted by FERN, the activities related to training in advocacy techniques were implemented and are presented in the report. The institutional support allocated to Well-Grounded has not taken place, so nothing is indicated there. There is also a noted lack of progress in the negotiation process of the FLEGT APV in Gabon, which has not allowed for a more dynamic participation of CSOs.

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11 "Assimilation and dissemination of elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" Axis IV: Communication Numerous communication documents on FLEGT, as well as the project communication plan, and tools have been produced and are available online. II - 2) Activities and results This report provides an overview of the activities that were implemented during the period from November 2011 to December 2012. These activities concern the following axes: capacity building of CSOs; participation in negotiations; communication. It also provides information on activities that did not take place, and the reasons for their non-execution. Evaluation of activities related to axis 1 Strengthening the capacities of CSOs of the FLEGT platform to enable them to understand and analyze certain key themes of the FLEGT process and the contents of forestry legislation related to these themes. This axis aimed to organize within the country (Estuaire, Nyanga, Woleu-Ntem, Ogooué-Ivindo, Ngounié) and in Libreville, 8 awareness and information missions on the following FLEGT concepts: – Independent Forest Observation; – Wood traceability system; – Supply chain; – Procedures for controlling compliance of wood. However, out of the 5 regions contractually selected to host the awareness missions due to their intense logging activities, (Estuaire, Nyanga, Woleu-Ntem, Ogooué-Ivindo and Ngounié) two provinces only (Nyanga and Estuaire) were partially covered. In the Nyanga province, activities specifically took place in the departments of Basse Banio and Mougoutsi. The work lasted two (2) days for 30 participants at each site. The organization and conduct required 7 days for each workshop. Thus, from May 8 to 15, the work took place in MAYUMBA in Basse BANIO, and from 16 to 22 in TCHIBANGA in the department of MOUGOUTSI. In Estuaire, it was from March 21 to 30, 2012, in NZOMOE, and from April 1 to 7 in Cocobeach, department of NOYA. During the awareness activities, in addition to making presentations, interactive debates, brochures on each of the following themes were distributed. A total of 250 copies of brochures per site: – What is FLEGT, – The development of Laws through FLEGT – The EU trade policy through FLEGT – Why develop a partnership with producing countries... The workshops were organized by the CSOs AGNU and Nyanga-Tour in their respective capacities as project partners, but also and above all as member organizations of the FLEGT platform whose areas of activity mentioned above are precisely the intervention regions. Estuaire for AGNU, and Nyanga for the NGO Nyanga-Tour. The technical support to facilitate exchanges, present the contents of the concepts, and try to guarantee the targeted goals was provided by Brainforest. The selection of participants was based on two criteria: the main and most important was the proximity of their living environment (villages or groups of villages) to the wood exploitation sites: forest concessions, sawmills, wood yards or logging sites. The second criterion was more subjective and took into account the quality of the individual concerned (heads of families or clans, influential people in villages or communities, educated young people and other active or retired elites). Local authorities were also invited to the work by virtue of: (i) their status as administrative authorities and, (ii) the strategic importance of the forest resource in the upcoming context of the entry into force of the Decentralization Law. Regarding what has been

done:

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13 "Assimilation and dissemination of elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" 1) About Independent Forest Observation (OIF). The communication focused on clarifying the content of the OIF concept. To do this, it was necessary to provide: – The definition. – The objective. – The different forms. Regarding the definition, participants noted that Independent Forest Observation (OIF) is an approach consisting of gathering credible and verifiable information on the application of forestry laws and issues specifically related to governance, and using this information to encourage governments to take measures that directly address the identified problems. As for the objective, they learned that an OIF aims to contribute to the effort to stem the loss of state revenue in this economic sector as highlighted in a World Bank report1. In addition, that the OIF aims to improve governance in the specific context of an APV/FLEGT. It was also specified the need to strengthen the technical capacities of civil society organizations in terms of independent observation of the application of forestry laws and principles of good governance. This need, participants will learn, already finds a beginning of solution through the project supported by the ACP-FLEGT Program of FAO. The implementation of the following operations constitutes the tangible elements: 1. Initiate these actors in the preparation and realization of field surveys; 2. Develop with them a reporting and reporting approach that is reliable, objective, and useful, supported if possible by the management of a database; 3. Engage the different actors in a dynamic aimed at provoking a reform of the texts and their effective application; 4. Familiarize them with the use of certain basic tools (GPS, digital cameras, 1 Formulation and Implementation of National Action Plans to Combat Illegal Logging and Other Forest Crimes. Results of ENA-Fleg. World Bank Technical Paper.

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Interim Narrative Report I 14 data processing software). Addressing the different forms of OIF, it was explained to participants that there are two types of independent observation of the application of forestry laws and governance2. 1. External Independent Observation (EIO) often conducted by CSOs, without a protocol agreement with the government. This form does not guarantee access to physical sites, nor to documents. 2. Then, there is the officially mandated OI-FLEG (OIM). This is based on a protocol agreement between the government and a third-party operator, in order to allow the latter to carry out monitoring activities of the application of the Laws. This type of OIF provides access to all physical logging exploitation sites and all official documents. However, it should be noted that it is the result of a negotiation and that access to information remains subject to the clauses of the agreement made, as does the publication of survey results which remains subject to validation by the government party. In light of the two approaches, it should be noted that the EIO benefits from a significant degree of freedom, but its action has a limited scope due to its informal nature. In contrast, the OIM is subject to the clauses of the negotiation. To complete the information session, it was indicated that the major implementation steps are the same for both forms of OI-FLEG3. According to the negotiations of the FLEGT APV in Gabon at the moment, it seems unlikely that the government is ready to accept an OIM, so for the moment the strategy of CSOs aims rather to establish the EIO, a monitoring carried out by CSOs and representatives of local communities. Thus, the EIO can develop independently of the progress of the FLEGT APV process and can serve as a general 'watch' on forest governance and the application of the Forest Code. 2 Manuel_OIFLEG_REM.pdf. 2012. 3 Idem

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15 "Assimilation and dissemination of elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" Table 1: implementation steps of an OIF operation. 2) About the Wood Traceability System, the supply chain, and procedures for controlling the compliance of wood. The communication, during the information sessions, presented these three notions as constituting a homogeneous whole called the Legality Verification System (SVL). The SVL is a set of reliable means to distinguish legally sourced forest products from those of illegal origin. To do this, the SVL integrates both: – A traceability system for products; – Control procedures; – A definition of the supply chain.

Interim Narrative Report I 16 In order to enable participants to fully grasp the contents of the concepts discussed, the project managers indicated that Traceability is the ability to trace the path of a product, whether it is timber or food... through all stages of production, transformation, and distribution. It is the ability to follow a product from its design to its end of life. In the case of wood, from the stump of the tree to the export port. To illustrate this point, it was explained to the participants that it will involve tracing wood from an agreed identifier (such as a barcode, etc.). In other words, it will establish a computer link that allows tracing a timber product placed on the market, from the final consumer product back to the stump of the tree that was used to manufacture the product. Thus, it is expected that the traceability system developed by Gabon will provide information such as: the producing country, the name of the concessionaire; the exploitation title, its geographical location, the coordinates of the Managed Forest Unit (UFA), and the Cutting Area where the wood was harvested, etc... The objective sought through the development of such a system is to give the competent administrations, the private sector, and civil society the opportunity to have a precise idea: 1. of the origin of the produced wood; 2. of the legal nature of the sources of emissions; 3. of the quantities produced and possibly the returns obtained in terms of revenues and social benefits for the communities. It is a tool for ensuring the legal compliance of woods, as well as governance. Regarding control procedures, it will be stated that it involves all administrative operations aimed at verifying that wood has been produced according to regulatory procedures. Control procedures are specific to each administration intervening along the supply chain, the speaker reminded. Finally, the supply chain was addressed. It will be recalled that this notion refers to the different levels (points) of control of the compliance of woods. The supply chain extends from production sites to export points, passing through storage areas. What must be especially noted, the speaker will emphasize, is that mastering the supply chain introduces the need for a reliable control means that avoids mixing wood from illegal origins with those from legal origins at the

21 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" This meeting saw the participation of 21 CSOs out of the 32 that make up the FLEGT network of Gabonese civil society. The aim of this work was to take stock of the progress of negotiations regarding the signing of the APV between Gabon and the European Union and to formulate a position paper on their priorities in the legality grid (principles 3, 4, 9), the FLEGT APV process, and their commitments. 1- Organization of a training on advocacy for CSOs from November 27 to 28, in connection with current themes (FLEGT APV process, land insecurity, credit market, and land grabbing through large agro-industrial plantations). The training was based on the FERN manual "Provoking Change" and allowed 27 participants from 18 CSOs on the platform to familiarize themselves with the manual and understand various advocacy approaches and their benefits and drawbacks, the advocacy process, available tools, and mapping of opponents and allies. The training consisted of technical sessions as well as practical applications in group work on relevant themes. It is mainly thanks to these real exercises that the CSOs were able to

appreciate the training. The evaluation of the training indicates that participants were generally satisfied (Documents in annex). The presentations from the workshop are available on the Gabon Ma Terre website. In addition to the advocacy training, there was an interactive session facilitated by Client Earth on the manual of procedures for developing terms of reference. This was indicated as application texts to be taken into account in the latest version of the legality grid for which the civil society platform would make proposals. Exchanges between Client Earth, FERN, and Brainforest began in May 2012, and a first draft was presented to the platform. Group work and an interactive plenary debate allowed for the integration of other elements. (The current version is in the annex). It should be noted that the procedure manual, once finalized, is intended for stakeholders in the negotiations of the FLEGT APV, and once adopted, it will address all actors in the forestry sector (Rural populations, private operators, Local Administrations, Forest Administration, judicial authorities, development partners, FLEGT licensing authorities, etc). 5 http://loggingoff.info/fr/document/la-soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9-civile-gabonaise-pr%C3%A9sente-sa-premi%C3%A8re-note-de- position 6 http://www.fern.org/fr/publications/toolkits/provoquer-le-changement-un-kit-d%E2%80%99outils-pour-les- ong-africaines 7 http://gabonmaterre.org/index.php/activites/actu/atelier2-2

Interim Narrative Report I 22 This manual and application texts are undoubtedly one of the highest priorities for all of civil society and for local communities. 2- Organization of a national workshop on land tenure under the dual supervision of FERN and Brainforest, in collaboration with ClientEarth from July 11 to 12, 2012, including on the links between the FLEGT process and land insecurity. During this workshop, Liz Alden Wiley's report "Land Rights in Gabon, Facing the Past – and the Present" was launched. The report is based on detailed research on the legal framework conducted in Gabon in November and December 2011 as well as visits to three provinces of Gabon. For this workshop, the target audience was certainly the CSOs of the FLEGT network, but also all administrations concerned with land issues as well as the private sector (such as Olam). 8 http://www.fern.org/fr/lesdroitsfonciersauGabon

23 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" For the national workshop on land tenure, the attendance lists showed 60 invited guests, while the studies required consultants to survey a sample of villages (10) in three provinces (Woleu-Ntem, Ngounié, Nyanga) out of the nine that the country has. A panel of 150 informants had been consulted across all villages. The presentations from the workshop are available on the gabonmaterre.org website. This workshop was followed by a working meeting of the Environment Gabon platform on July 13, 2012. This resulted in the establishment of a new dynamic 'GabonMaTerreMonDroit' driven by Gabonese CSOs, alongside the FLEGT discussions that were not progressing. The action plan to raise awareness among populations about their rights is included in the annex. Regarding the 'GabonMaTerreMonDroit' dynamic, awareness-raising activities took place in 3 provinces (Woleu-Ntem, Estuaire, Ngounié) from January to February 2013. The 'GabonMaTerreMonDroit' must be understood as a practical exercise aimed at testing the advocacy capacity of CSOs in relation to decentralized authorities and rural populations after their initiation to the fundamentals of advocacy techniques. Even though this activity was not directly funded by the DUE project, it seems relevant to refer to it because it demonstrates that despite the blockage of the FLEGT APV process, the platform continued to work within a broader framework of improving governance and community rights. 3- The two representatives of civil society for the APV negotiations: Richelieu Zue Obame from Brainforest and Hubert Aime Koumba from the NGO Environment Without Borders/AGNU actively

participated in this initiative and in a workshop organized by FERN in Brussels from October 3 to 10, 2012 for the ACRN (the African network of civil society platforms of APV countries). This workshop consisted of internal exchanges regarding successes and challenges during the negotiation and implementation of the APV, exchanges with international NGOs, a working session with the European Commission (DG DEVCO and DG ENV), and an event at the European Parliament. All documents are available on the site of 9 http://gabonmaterre.org/index.php/activites/actu/atelier1-2 10 http://www.gabonmaterre.org/

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Interim Narrative Report I 24 logging-off. A position paper was also published. This activity was not directly funded by the DUE project either, but it demonstrates how Gabonese civil society interacts with their partners from other countries in order to participate more effectively in the FLEGT APV negotiation process. Evaluation of activities related to axis 4 concerning communication and visibility of the project. The aim of this axis was to disseminate information on FLEGT, notably its objectives, its importance, and especially, the information regarding Gabon's commitment to the process of improving forest governance through this instrument proposed by the EU. Various communication channels and supports were used to achieve this mission. Related links are published on the Brainforest website. For the press, the following media were involved: – Radio Africa n°1; – The program Environment + from the TV channel TV+; – The written press, notably the newspaper "Gabon Matin"; – Online press "Gabonreview" and "Gabonnews". Regarding communication supports, thematic brochures were produced to disseminate the objectives of FLEGT. These brochures cover: – FLEGT and its themes; – What is FLEGT; – The development of laws through FLEGT; – The EU's trade policy through FLEGT; – Why develop a partnership with producing countries? The brochures can be consulted on the Brainforest website at the address: www.brainforest-gabon.org. We distributed a total of 1000 copies of these brochures at the end of all awareness-raising workshops. 11 http://loggingoff.info/fr/document/tous-les-documents-et-pr%C3%A9sentations-de-notre-at%C3%A9lier-crn-du- 3-au-10-octobre-2012-%C3%A0-bruxelle

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25 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" Furthermore, FERN has republished on the "Logging off" site a number of publications covering: – 1 The FLEGT glossary; – 2 What is FLEGT?; – 3 The EU's trade policy. These publications are currently disseminated in digital form to all individuals wishing to obtain information on FLEGT, when it is impossible for us to provide them with the copies we have produced due to lack of copies. The links directing to these supports are attached to this report. While many elements have indeed been produced, it must be acknowledged that the management of the website, the main interface of the project's activities, remains to be improved during year 2. For the finalization of this report, we have already put most of the documents online. The communication plan of Brainforest for this project is also online. 12 http://loggingoff.info/fr/processes/flegt

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27 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" III - 1) Modified/Unrealized Activities. The modified or unrealized activities pertain to each of the axes

below. Axis I: Strengthening the technical capacities of CSOs on the elements of the FLEGT action plan. For this axis, the unrealized activities concern the awareness missions that did not take place in Estuaire and Nyanga (in two departments out of four, identified for each of these provinces). It also includes missions that were not carried out in Woleu-Ntem, Ngounié, and Ogoue Ivindo, thus excluding these provinces which were contractually retained. Finally, it concerns workshops that were to be organized in Libreville, addressing the same concepts that were discussed within the country. The usefulness of these workshops was to facilitate: (i) understanding of the concepts; (ii) mastery of the issues they contain; (iii) stimulate mobilization to demand their perfect implementation in the context of a signed APV. Axis II: Establishment of monitoring cells for forestry activities. The establishment of monitoring cells for forestry activities did not take place. The purpose of these cells was to initiate CSOs and communities into OIE activities. The interest was that these stakeholders would be equipped to deploy effective advocacy, reinforced by data collected on the ground, in the form of evidence. III - MODIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES.

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Interim Narrative Report I 28 Axis III: Effective participation of the platform in negotiations. This involves activities to support the strengthening of the institutional capacities of the CSOs of the platform "Environment Gabon" in a broad sense, and more specifically of the local partner CSOs such as: AGNU, Nyanga-Tour, and Réseau DIBUMBU. Designed to allow the lessons and experiences gained within the framework of the project and other related actions (FAO, DFID, etc.) to reach conducive grounds, the activities intended to make these results possible did not take place to ensure their contribution to improving the dynamics of civil society in Gabon. Axis IV: Communication. The main failing and most damaging activity was the non-functional nature of the website intended to host the project's information. This site has not been adequately animated. III - 2) Reasons for the modification/non-execution of the planned activity. In general terms, the project has fallen behind the initial schedule. Non-implementations and delays in activities have been recorded for various reasons. The proposed schedule was too ambitious and did not sufficiently take into account the actual capacities of the partners in the regions. The lack of progress in the FLEGT VPA process has also created a sort of confusion regarding the relevance of certain activities of this project, which has caused delays. Ultimately, the internal communication of this project has not been effective enough. This particularly concerns the production of activity reports by the CSOs from within the country, their centralization, and the final writing of the consolidated interim report 1. This was therefore a source of concern for the timely submission of the interim technical and financial reports, the programming of activities being late or incomplete. This situation will be remedied in year 2 by very close support from local partners by Brainforest and FERN.

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29 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" Axis I: Strengthening the technical capacities of CSOs on the elements of the FLEGT action plan. Awareness-raising actions in Woleu-Ntem, Ogooué-Ivindo, and Ngounié did not take place because shortly after the start of the project, Brainforest realized that it was not possible for EsF/ AGNU and NyangaTour to carry out activities in the other provinces, as they did not have a foothold in the communities of these localities. Furthermore, Brainforest itself did not have (apart from the project team) enough human resources that could be allocated to these activities on-site, so it was necessary to develop partnerships with local CSOs in these regions. Thus, it was necessary to identify other reliable partners who could take on these activities. It was necessary to formalize the agreement with the relay CSOs that are members of the platform, who were to

ensure the execution of this activity at the level of these provinces. Discussions with the Mitzicoise Dynamic for the Woleu-Ntem province only concluded in November 2012, and we still had to formalize the partnership after the donor's opinion. As for the negotiations with the NGO MUYISSI for taking charge of activities in the Ngounié province, they had progressed sufficiently to reach a principle agreement in July 2012 with the leaders of this organization. In light of this, it was necessary to resume negotiations with Muyissi in November to ultimately achieve a co-direction of tasks (Brainforest-Muyissi) in Mouila. Again, this internal agreement must first be validated by the donor. Regarding the missing missions in Estuaire and Nyanga, and the workshops in Libreville, an insufficient cash flow at the scheduled dates of certain activities (starting from May 2012) due to the rental/sale of the project vehicle has heavily delayed the implementation of certain operations. Indeed, having received 80% of the budget amount for year 1, the acquisition of the vehicle was made for its part on 100% of the amount required by the supplier, thus penalizing certain budget lines, according to the explanations of the accounting and financial unit. As for Ogooué-Ivindo, the absence to this day of a partner in this province led us to substitute it with two departments from the Woleu-Ntem province, which share with Ogooué-Ivindo the Minkébé forest massif, one of the last intact ecosystems, which unfortunately is increasingly attracting economic operators from various sectors (wood industry, mining, conservation) and artisanal gold and wood exploiters. Axis II: Establishment of monitoring cells for forestry activities. Already benefiting from support from the ACP-FLEGT program of the FAO to support training activities on external OIF by CSOs, the project managers under the guidance of the program coordinator wanted to capitalize on the contributions and lessons learned from the project with the FAO, to then program the creation of monitoring cells for forestry activities within the framework of the project supported by the EU delegation. This approach, from a strategic point of view, aimed to make the cells immediately active from year 2, strong from the lessons they had received during the project with the ACP-FLEGT program. Axis III: Effective participation of the platform in negotiations and strengthening the organizational capacities of partners. Following the evaluation of the institutional capacities of local partners in April and May and after several exchanges between Well-Grounded and these CSOs (AGNU, Nyanga Tour) during missions in Libreville of the resource person from Well-Grounded, in charge of the project's activities, this ultimately led to the conclusion that in-depth work requiring more time and resources, compared to what the project had planned, was necessary to address the needs for strengthening

institutional capacities. This analysis was shared with all partners and a working meeting was organized in Brussels in October, bringing together: Brainforest, FERN, Well-Grounded, and initially AGNU. The Brussels meeting concluded: (i) on the withdrawal of Well-Grounded from the project; (ii) on the reorientation of the resources allocated to it towards the tasks that FERN was to ensure; Regarding the reorientation of the budget and activities, a meeting among all partners in December 2012 indicated that FERN could support Brainforest with 1) project monitoring, providing tools to improve reports and especially result analyses, substantive conclusions, 2) the proposal and facilitation for a

31 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the VPA" better way of communication, 3) tailored training according to the needs identified by the partners, 4) support with the organization of the final workshop, and 5) advocacy adapted to the initial results of the mission reports. A meeting is scheduled at Brainforest on Thursday, April 25, 2013, with all partners to validate the new work schedule for the 2nd year together and to more precisely concretize FERN's role. We propose to make a restitution within the DUE on April 26,

2013, depending on availability. Axis IV: Communication. The reasons for the non-uploading of information are related to the work done on the Brainforest website. However, these have just been completed and all information will be available as soon as possible. III - 3) Contracts awarded During the reporting period, only one contract of more than €10,000 was awarded for the implementation of the Action. This concerns the purchase of the project vehicle: – Amount: 11,015,000 FCFA TTC (EUR 16,792.26) – Award procedure (Annex IV of the Grant Agreement; Point 5.3): Negotiated procedure without publication (Rules applicable to supply contracts; Contract of a value less than EUR 60,000). After consultation with 3 suppliers, we negotiated a rental-sale with the supplier with the best offer. – Name of the contractor: ETS GASSAMFO

III - 4) Please provide an updated action plan DUE Project Action Plan and Calendar June 2013 – May 2014 Axis 1: Awareness and dissemination of the FLEGT process (max 16 missions) Zone Partner Description Date Estuaire EsF Finalize the 2 sites of the 4 total June-July 2013 Nyanga Nyanga Tour Finalize the 2 sites of the 4 total June-July 2013 Ngounie Muyissi Ensure awareness in the identified sites June-July 2013 Woleu Ntem Brainforest with Dyna- mique Mitzicoise Ensure awareness in the identified sites (Mitzic, Oyem) June-July 2013 Axis 2: Establishment of monitoring observation cells Identification of investigators by local partners June-July 2013 Training of investigators by local partners (n=20), examination, establishment of monitoring cell (n=10- August 2013 Test missions OI-FLEG in the field with local partners (1 report per mission) October 2013-February 2014 Final report from partners on test missions by zone March 2014 Presentation of the OIF to the platform during a restitution after receipt of the reports. Invitation also to the concerned administration in DUE April 2014 Finalization of reports May 2014 Axis 3: Effective participation of the Environment Gabon platform in the negotiation A national workshop on traceability by TFT September 2013 A regional workshop (1 per zone) on governance aspects in the FLEGT process, their role in implementation and the OI-FLEG October-November 2013 Axis 4: Communication Broadcast on the FLEGT process and the DUE/OI-FLEG project June Update on the website (Brainforest, Logging Off) all project documents April 15 at the latest Publication accessible to the general public on the project and OI-FLEG April 15 at the latest Others (to be identified, newsletter, ...) April - May Coverage in the press, collaboration with the Green Journalists Club May 2013- May 2014 A meeting will take place on April 25, 2013, at the Brainforest office with all partners to validate this calendar. The DUE will then be informed about the final version.

33 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" IV - 1) Evaluation of the relationships between the formal partners of this Action. The project benefited from the dynamics that already existed between the various partners in terms of collaboration, prior to its conception and submission to the donor. This dynamic was therefore naturally continued within the framework of the implementation of activities. Consultation between the parties also needs to be improved in order to strengthen the implementation of activities. Thus, taking for example the awareness-raising activities on the elements of the FLEGT action plan within the country, the implementation entrusted to local CSOs (AGNU, Nyanga-Tour) was carried out in close collaboration with Brainforest, for the technical part. Meanwhile, the drafting of their activity report was not closely monitored. The design and production of communication materials on the elements of the FLEGT action plan, on the other hand, was done in constant relation with the NGO Réseau DIBUMBU. Next, FERN and Well Grounded, these two European NGOs were tasked as partners to ensure activities related to capacity building in advocacy (FERN) and improving the institutional skills of the three Gabonese partners (Well Grounded) which are:

Nyanga-tour, Gabonese Association for the United Nations (AGNU), Réseau Dibumbu. The withdrawal of Well Grounded as an official partner of the project was the result of a discussed and thoughtful decision among partners. This decision responds to a concern to provide an effective response to the problem of strengthening institutional capacities, which IV - PARTNERS AND OTHER COOPERATION

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Interim Narrative Report I 34 hinders the effectiveness of the work of several CSOs in the FLEGT network. As for Réseau DIBUMBU, this partner is responsible for coordinating communication on the project's activities. This mission, the partner has committed to ensuring in collaboration with Brainforest. To this end, communication and information materials have been designed and produced. The online posting of information is done on the Brainforest website at: www.brainforest-gabon.org. IV - 2) Relationships between the organization and state authorities. In general, the relationships between Brainforest and state authorities have always been turbulent. However, the specific context of this project has contributed to somewhat easing tensions. Indeed, through information campaigns on FLEGT within the country, campaigns to which the decentralized authorities (heads of sectoral administrations, prefects, and governors) and decentralized authorities (presidents of departmental councils) have always been invited, a beginning of rapprochement between CSOs and Local Authorities has been observed, which fosters a benevolent attitude towards the project's activities. In this regard, we can highlight the interest shown by the governors of the Nyanga and Ngounié provinces, as well as some prefects, in the issues addressed by FLEGT in general, and regarding the activities implemented by the project to combat illegal logging and rural poverty in particular. The most significant expressions of this interest have been: (i) exhortations to Brainforest to link awareness messages and other capacity-building activities with more pragmatic processes aimed at alleviating poverty in rural areas because, as most authorities will explain, a significant rate of illegal logging practices stems from the lack of credible alternatives for populations to meet their needs. Also, from their point of view, there is an urgent need to propose more credible and sustainable economic alternatives to illegal loggers.

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35 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" IV - 3) How have these relationships affected the action? It must be said that the project benefits from the support it currently receives from local authorities. The activities have taken place smoothly, and reflections have begun to establish synergies between the departmental councils (local assemblies) and the Gabonese CSO FLEGT platform. A memorandum of understanding has been drafted by a team of lawyers. This will be discussed with stakeholders: Administration, CSOs of the platform, and the Forestry Administration (Traceability Monitoring Agency). IV - 4) Links and synergies developed with other actions. Links have been developed with the OI-FLEG project implemented by Forest Monitor in the Republic of Congo. Indeed, interested in strengthening the technical capacities of CSOs in monitoring forestry activities, the Gabonese FLEGT platform, faced with the urgency of first defining an OIF methodology, has made it a point to develop an information exchange process with the OI-FLEG of Congo. This exchange process resulted in two successive trips to Brazzaville during the months of March and June. During these trips, technical sessions accompanied by practical exercises were taught to 4 members of Gabonese CSOs (Brainforest, Environment Without Borders, Réseau Dibumbu), as well as to many other actors from CSOs in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). At this stage of the project, the OIF methodology that will be applied by the monitoring cells of forestry activities on the ground has already been finalized. Given that the formalization

of the cells, their activation for test missions, their coordination, and the publication of the first reports are scheduled for year 2 of the project, we can say with certainty that the synergy developed with Forest Monitor has been conclusive for the project's activities. As mentioned above, some activities of the Gabon Environment platform and in relation to the dynamics of civil society platforms at the continental and even global level grouped within the ACRN, are funded by FERN but are in the same spirit and objective of ensuring an effective participation of civil society through capacity building of CSOs within the framework of the FLEGT APV process. IV - 5) Synergy with other grants previously received from the EU. The grant that allows the implementation of the activities of the current project complements two previous grants received from the ACP-FLEGT program of the FAO. Indeed, in 2010 and 2011 Brainforest received two supports from the FAO to carry out actions, one of which focused on analyzing regulatory texts in the forestry sector and the other on strengthening the technical capacities of CSOs members of the platform to facilitate their understanding of FLEGT concepts. The synergy between the current project and the previous grants received from the FAO is reflected in the approach aimed at capitalizing on the lessons learned from these projects, particularly to enrich the OIE activities. To materialize this idea, it was decided to create the cells in year 2, once the FAO project is completed. Awareness workshop Mayumba

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37 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" To ensure the visibility of the project, a communication plan has been produced. This plan was to act on three axes to intensify the visibility of the project. The first was the print and audiovisual press. It involved publishing or having articles published on the project's activities, on the donor and funding, as well as on the FLEGT process. Documents attached to this report (press clippings, etc.) illustrate the effort to ensure the visibility of the project, which has been guaranteed. The second, focused on new information and communication technologies, was to feed the Brainforest website with information related to the project. The third and final axis was the design and production of communication materials aimed at disseminating the contents of FLEGT. The communication plan that explains in detail the visibility approach is attached as an annex. The European Commission may wish to publish the results of the Actions. Would you have any objections to the publication of this report on the EuropAid website? If so, please state your objections. No objections to publication. We are therefore completely open to the dissemination of our reports when necessary for the effectiveness of our work. Name of the contact person for the Action: Richelieu ZUE OBAME Signature: Location: Libreville Date the report was due: December 27, 2012 Date of sending the report: April 8, 2013 V - VISIBILITY

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39 "Assimilation and dissemination of the elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" VI - 1) Mission reports (pdf documents in appendix) – Nzomoe Report (NGO AGNU) – Cocobeach Report (NGO AGNU) – Summary of the Mayumba and Tchibanga missions (NGO Nyanga-Tour) VI - 2) Brochures (pdf documents in appendix) – Developing regulations for importers; – What is FLEGT; – The EU trade policy through FLEGT; – Why develop a partnership with producing countries; – FLEGT glossary VI - 3) Position paper of Civil Society GABONESE CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM ON THE FLEGT PROCESS POSITION PAPER ON APV-FLEGT NEGOTIATIONS Meeting in Libreville on April 21, 2012, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations (PCSO), after conducting a

thorough and detailed analysis of the legality grid, in connection with the roadmap on the APV, on the issues listed below, has established the following positions: ON THE ROADMAP Noting that it has been the subject of numerous delays, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations wishes for a re-discussion of the roadmap? To allow everyone to better prepare and better follow the various debates. ON THE LEGALITY GRID The Platform of Civil Society Organizations proposes to provide elements VI - ANNEXES

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Interim Narrative Report I 40 concrete in the following principles: • Principle 3 regarding environmental legislation Noting the absence of a secure waste treatment system, the Platform demands that the issue of heavy waste treatment be discussed and result in concrete decisions. • Principle 4 regarding the promotion of employment for national workers The Platform of Civil Society Organizations calls for the promulgation, implementation, and inclusion in the APV of the regulatory text related to occupational health and safety, as well as provisions regarding working conditions as outlined in the Labor Code. Civil society also wishes that, in recruitment, the regulatory provisions regarding the preference for local labor, when skills are equal, be effectively applied. Finally, it wishes that the regulations regarding recruitment, as provided by the Gabonese Labor Code, be respected. • Principle 9 regarding the rights of communities The Platform of Civil Society Organizations recognizes the importance of delineating the rural forest domain and its implementation. However, in order to advance negotiations, it recommends that a support mechanism for communities be integrated into the APV, to assist communities in producing participatory maps of their territories, allowing for the limitation of logging concession areas outside of community rights zones. Some local populations live in the forest. They derive their food, medicine, beliefs, and culture from it. Their history is inscribed there. It is vital to respect their rights and secure their daily lives as nomads in the area they have occupied for centuries. Civil society reiterates its desire to support the reflection on the implementation of a sustainable legal and institutional framework for community forests. In order to enrich the reflection, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations proposes to develop, by June, a procedural manual and a model of contractual clauses addressed to other stakeholders, in order to complement provision 251 of the Forestry Code. Following its extensive consultation, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations recalls the importance of integrating into the body of the APV, an annex on information to be made public and one on legislative texts to be adopted. Finally, the Platform of Civil Society Organizations wishes for an independent forest observatory to be integrated into the negotiation process. The independent forest observatory constitutes an instrument for improving the governance of forest resources. This tool will be a partner and a complementary entity to the State, in fulfilling its missions. Done in Libreville, April 21, 2012 ATTENDANCE LIST

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41 "Assimilation and dissemination of elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" VI - 4) Communication action planning (pdf documents in addition) VI - 5) Communication guide (pdf documents in addition) VI - 6) Press articles – Online articles Gabonese Press Agency: Mayumba authorities informed about FLEGT (http://www.agpgabon.ga/spip. php?article2344) – Press clippings (Gabon Matin) Mayumba authorities informed about FLEGT (General Information Daily - No. 899 of Tuesday, May 14, 2012) VI - 7) Consultable links http:// loggingoff.info/fr/document/la-soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9-civile-gabonaise- pr%C3%A9sente-sa-premi%C3%A8re-note-de-position http://www.fern.org /fr/publications/toolkits/provoquer-le-changement-un-kit- d%E2%80%99outils-pour-les-ong-africaines http://gabonmaterre.org/ index.php/activites/actu/atelier2-2 http://www.fern.org/fr/lesdroitsfonciersauGabon

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Interim Narrative Report I 42 http://gabonmaterre.org/index.php/activites/actu/atelier1-2 http://www.gabonmaterre.org/ http://loggingoff.info/fr/document/tous-les-documents-et-pr%C3%A9sentations-de- notre-at%C3%A9lier-crn-du-3-au-10-octobre-2012-%C3%A0-bruxelle http://loggingoff.info/fr/document/note-de-position-du-r%C3%A9seau-pour-les-droits- des-communaut%C3%A9s-sur-flegt-et-redd-du-9-octobre-2 http://loggingoff.info/fr/processes/flegt

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Ambowé District, P.O. Box: 23 749 Libreville – Tel: 07 97 84 25 E-mail: info@brainforestgabon.org – www.brainforestgabon.org Registration No: 00265/MISPD/SG/CT - NIF: 89616C PROJECT "Assimilation and dissemination of elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV" "Assimilation and dissemination of elements of the FLEGT action plan by Gabonese civil society, for its qualitative participation in the negotiation and implementation of the APV"

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