

GHANA TIMBER LEGALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEM AND THE VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP
AGREEMENT (VPA): 1ST GHANA VPA STAKEHOLDER CONFERENCE

30TH OCTOBER, 2013 – BRUSSELS, BELGIUM

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

9:00 – 09:30 Registration and Coffee

WELCOME & KEYNOTE

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcome Address**

- **H.E Morgan A. Brown**, *Ghana Ambassador, Belgium*
- **Hon. Barbara Serwaa Asamoah**, *Dep Minister, Lands & Natural Resources*
- **Statement** – *European Commission*

10:00 – 11:00 **SESSION 1: Ghana's Sustainable Forest Management: Principles, Forest Governance & the VPA**

Chair – **Dr Alhassan Attah**, *Consultant, Ghana Forestry Commission (GFC)*

- **VPA as a Tool for Enhancing Forest Governance in Ghana** – **Chris Beeko**, *Director, Timber Validation Department, GFC*
 - **Ghana's Forest Management Systems** – **Edward Obiaw**, *Director, Resource Management Support Centre, GFC*
 - **Q & A**
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11:00 – 11:30 Coffee Break

11:30 – 13:00 **SESSION 2: VPA and the Timber Industry**

Chair- **TBC**

- **Addressing the Interest of the Small Scale Sector in the VPA** – **Samuel Nketiah**, *Country Director, Trobenbos International*

- **Timber Trade Policies and Timber Export Procedures – Dr. Ben Donkor**, Executive Director, Timber Trade Development Division, GFC
 - **VPA and Timber Trade: Perspectives and Readiness of the Ghana Timber Industry – Dr. Kwame Adam** (Chief Executive, Ghana Timber Millers Organisation) / **Richard Nsenkyire** (General Manger, Samartex)
 - **Q&A**
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13:00 – 14:00 Networking Lunch & VPA Video Documentary

14:00 – 15:30 **SESSION 3: Ghana Legality Assurance System: FLEGT-VPA**

Chair- TBC

- **Global Market Outlook and the FLEGT VPA - Emily Fripp**, Managing Director, EFECA
- **Implementation of FLEGT-VPA: Challenges and Lessons Learned – Raphael Yeboah**, Executive Director, Forest Services Division, GFC
- **The Ghana Wood Tracking System - George Kuru**, Director, Ata Marie Group Ltd
- **Q&A**

15:30-15:45 Closing Remarks – Samuel Afari Dartey, Chief Executive, GFC

15:45 -16:00 Launch of Ghana VPA Logo - Dep Minister; H.E High Commissioner; CEO- GFC

16:00 – 18:00 Reception