

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

28TH OCTOBER, 2013 – LONDON, UK

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME

9:00 – 09:30 Registration and Coffee

WELCOME & KEYNOTE

09:30 – 10:00 **Welcome Address**

- **H.E Prof. Kwaku Danso-Boafo**, *Ghana High Commissioner, UK & Ireland*
- **Hon. Barbara Serwaa Asamoah**, *Dep Minister, Lands & Natural Resources*
- **Statement** – *Department for International Development (DFID)*

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- Dr. Alison Hoare, *Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House*

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

- **The EUTR and the VPA: Monitoring Impacts on Timber Trade – Anand Punja**, *Head of Sustainability, Timber Trade Federation, TTF (UK)*
 - **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- Mr. John White, *Chief Executive, TTF, UK*

- **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