



Friends of the Earth-Ghana

FOR IMMEDIATE PRESS RELEASE

Accra (April, 7 2015)

Friends of the Earth-Ghana (an environmental Non-Governmental Organization) announces the commencement of the project “Towards the Establishment of Baselines for Voluntary Partnership Agreement Impact Monitoring in Ghana” (EBIM). The project is funded by the European Union with technical support from the Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations under the European Union Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Programme. The Project is implemented by Friends of the Earth-Ghana in collaboration with the Timber Validation Department of the Forestry Commission in six regions of Ghana. The project which began on the 26th of March 2015 and ends on the 25th of March 2016 will cover six regions in Ghana namely Ashanti, Western, Eastern, Brong Ahafo, Volta and Greater Accra.

The EBIM project builds on the previous work done by the joint impact monitoring team from the European Union and Ghana to establish and implement a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) joint impact monitoring framework. The objective of the EBIM project is to establish and validate, in a transparent and participatory way, baselines for selected impact monitoring areas (governance, socio-economic situation and livelihoods) of the FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement in Ghana.

Through this project, Friends of the Earth-Ghana will assist the Joint Monitoring Review Mechanism established to oversee the implementation of the VPA by providing benchmarks against which measurement of the VPA progress will be made. The baseline established by the end of the project is intended to be used by the Ghanaian government, the European Union, civil society organizations and other key stakeholders to measure progress and impact against the existing social, livelihood and governance situation.

By the end of the Project, the following outputs will be expected:

- a) Indicators for capturing evidence of VPA impacts and monitoring arrangements are established and agreed among all national stakeholders
- b) National impact monitoring baseline information is available for use by all stakeholders
- c) Project management, monitoring, evaluation and all visibility activities completed.

For Further information Contact Mr. Eric Lartey, the Forestry and Biodiversity Programme Coordinator, Friends of the Earth-Ghana, e.lartey@foe-gh.org.