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Gender Equality and Social Safeguard Mainstreaming Guidelines for the technical cooperation projects

**Upscaling of Sustainable Forest Management and Certification (SFM)
and**

**Support for the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on
Forestry Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (VPA/FLEGT)**

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1. Introduction

1.1. Rational for a Guideline

Gender equality is one of the central values of GIZ's work. It is a prerequisite for and driver of sustainable development and a viable future for society, both at national and international levels. GIZ takes a gender-sensitive and, wherever needed, a gender-differentiated approach and consistent action to eliminate existing gender-based discrimination and to foster equal rights and opportunities for everyone, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

This guideline aims to guide gender equality and social safeguard mainstreaming in implementing the two GIZ projects.

These guidelines are for use by the projects "Support for the implementation of the VPA-FLEGT" (VPA-FLEGT) and "Upscaling of Sustainable Forest Management and Certification" (SFM), their project teams, and partner organizations (National and Provincial Project Management Units – NPMU & PPMU respectively) in the planning and implementation of their project activities. Furthermore, the guidelines encourage all team members and partners to conduct flexible and innovative gender mainstreaming in their activities, considering the existing context and available resources to achieve the most effective results that strengthen gender equality and gender responsiveness.

Furthermore, the project teams should refer to the guideline to effectively support partners and monitor measures to ensure Gender Mainstreaming is efficiently and adequately integrated into all project activities.

The document provides concepts, principles, implementation, and monitoring methods to support the project teams and partners in mainstreaming gender in all project activities.

1.2. Gender Equality and Social Safeguard

Enhanced Gender Equality and Social Safeguards, hereafter called GENDER, is one of the envisioned achievements of SFM and VPA-FLEGT's outcomes.

The Gender and Social Safeguards principles which guide all project interventions are as follows:

- Respect and actively promote diversity and cultural differences in all project interventions while ensuring the inclusion of vulnerable groups, such as women, ethnic minorities, and disabled groups.
- Well aware and consider the intersectional aspects when carrying out gender mainstreaming activities (e.g., ethnic minority women, migrant women in wood processing factories, etc.).
- Follow the LNOB approach – Leave No One Behind.
- Ensure women and men's equal representation and participation in all project activities. Ensure that women and men benefit equally from the project interventions.
- Engage with men as gender champions.
- Apply gender-sensitive and inclusive communication activities.
- Ensure Vietnam's laws and regulations related to gender and social safeguards are consistently applied in project intervention.
- Monitor, document, and communicate impacts related to gender transparently

GENDER Mainstreaming: Consider the different needs of women and men and people of different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds and people with disabilities in the project design and systematically integrate GENDER into all project activities (planning, implementation, monitoring, reporting) to enable beneficiaries to participate and benefit equally.

1.3. Basic Concepts

Sex	Indicates the biological characteristics of men and women. ¹
Gender	Indicates the socially ascribed characteristics, positions, and roles of men and women.
Gender Role	Indicates the different roles men and women undertake within families and society due to socially constructed perceptions of gender. Gender roles change over time and vary between contexts. Economic, cultural, and social factors determine gender roles.
Gender Prejudice	Indicates negative and positive perceptions, attitudes, and assessments based on an individual's gender.
Gender Discrimination	Gender discrimination is the unequal or disadvantageous treatment of an individual or group of individuals based on their gender.

¹ Concept of Gender, Sex, Gender Role, Gender Prejudice is extracted from Article 5 of Gender Equality Law, No. 73/2006/ QH11, National Assembly of Socialist Republic of Vietnam, November 29, 2006

Gender Equality	Gender equality is when men and women enjoy the same opportunities, rights, access, and control over resources.
Gender Blindness	Gender blindness refers to the failure to recognize that the roles and responsibilities of men/boys and women/girls are assigned to them in specific social, cultural, economic, and political contexts and backgrounds.
Gender Negative	Gender negative is when gender inequalities are reinforced to achieve desired development outcomes.
Gender Neutral	Gender neutral is when gender is not considered relevant to development outcomes.
Gender Sensitive	Gender-sensitive is when gender is a means to reach set development goals.
Gender Positive	Gender positive is when gender is central to achieving positive development outcomes.
Gender Transformative	Gender transformative is when gender is central to promoting gender equality and achieving positive development outcomes.

2. Guidelines on Gender and Social Safeguard Mainstreaming

2.1. Managing Gender Mainstreaming

Objective: To ensure gender is mainstreamed effectively into all project activities and identify where there are gaps, and additional support is necessary.

2.1.1. Appoint Gender Focal Point at Partner Organizations

- Each partner, including NPMU, PPMU, MARD, DARD, and the six companies/PFMBs should nominate a Gender Focal Point as responsible for gender issues & mainstreaming throughout the project cycle. Members from Committees for the Advancement of Women (CAW) within MARD and DARD should be considered for nomination.
- The Focal Point should participate in training on gender guidelines and other relevant training courses and reflection workshops conducted by the project(s). Furthermore, they should keep in contact with the project's Gender Specialist during project implementation to ensure they receive ongoing support and assistance on gender mainstreaming.
- They participate in the discussions organized by SFM / VPA-FLEGT to assess their organizations' degrees of gender equality and make recommendations for improvements.
- Gender Focal Points, to the degree possible, should develop specific gender mainstreaming activities within their organizations.

2.1.2. Addressing Resistance to Mainstreaming Gender

When the project staff or appointed Gender Focal Points are encountering resistance from people regarding gender equality or social safeguards, strategies for addressing such obstacles may include:

- Provide staff with critical messages about the benefits of gender equality and social safeguards for individuals, households, businesses, partners, and whole communities.
- Where women are given priority for participation in activities, events, training, etc., be transparent about why this is. For instance: women have not previously had equal opportunities or access to participate in events as men.
- Provide anti-sexual harassment skills training to staff and trainers to emphasize the challenges women can face in workplaces and that they have equal rights as men to be safe and not discriminated against in the workplace.
- Integrate gender into the implementation of project activities and partner consultations. Therefore, regularly consult relevant partners and target groups on their perceptions of Gender and Social Safeguards to identify opportunities to enhance gender and manage negative perceptions.

- Actively engage with the projects' gender specialist and experienced partners for additional support, such as development/facilitation of trainings or advisory inputs.

2.2. Mainstreaming gender in project activities

Objective: To focus on the equal and effective participation and benefits of women and disadvantaged groups in all project activities to better benefit from enhanced awareness, skills, and confidence to participate in these activities.

2.2.1. Gender In Identifying Activity Purpose

- Identify the purpose of the activity by answering the questions: what does the activity aim to achieve? What information is required by beneficiaries (women and men)? What are the expected results for women and men? What gender impacts may the activity have?
- Revisit the Gender Analyses and Gender Action Plan elaborated for the project and consult with the project's GFP or the GIZ National GFP, depending on the nature of gender risks and impacts, to mainstream gender across the respective project activity.

2.2.2. Gender In Identifying Target Participants

- Women should always be encouraged to participate in relevant activities. Where applicable, women represent at least 50% (for SFM) and 20-30% (for VPA-FLEGT) of participants. In addition, the participation of ethnic minority women, young women, and vulnerable groups, such as persons with disabilities and the very poor, should also be facilitated.
- Mobilize support from relevant stakeholders (in the case of SFM: District/Commune People Committee, Women's Unions, Forest Management Board, relevant agencies, etc.).

2.2.3. Gender In Identifying Appropriate Methods

In contracting external experts

- When working with external consultants, brief them about gender principles, including the need to use differentiated facilitation methods, language, etc., to collect the opinions of women and men. Develop and include standard formulation on requirements on gender in ToRs.
- Share the ToR with the project's gender focal point for review.

In Research and Study Activities:

- The methodology and/or study content should respect concerns around gender, age, ethnicity, religion, location, ability, socio-economic status, and hard-to-reach groups.
- Ensure that all data collection tools (and those of secondary data) are clearly shown not to have any ethical problems or sexism.

- Involve gender focal points or gender specialists in the research/study team
- The research questions should specifically include and consider gender concerns
- Ensure that a minimum of 15-20% of study/research participants or questionnaire respondents are female
- Include a gender-specific section or input in all research/ studies conducted under/ contributed by the project where possible.

In-Training Activities:

- Identify the different learning needs among beneficiary women, men, and disadvantaged groups to develop a capacity-building plan and participatory training tools and methods, e.g., visual tools, illustrative examples, stories, role play, models, games, art, and group activities.
- Allocate more time for practicing new skills, group discussion, and sharing of learning.
- Be aware of the different dynamics between the men and women in the group. For example, if it is only men who speak in meetings, holding separate meetings or discussion groups for women and men members may be appropriate and encourage greater participation of women in discussions. Give more attention to those who lack confidence by asking encouraging questions or soliciting their input without making them feel singled out. Provide additional support where necessary.
- Remember that women tend to have more time constraints than men due to their household and family responsibilities. They might also be less mobile and flexible to join meetings or trainings. Therefore, plan meetings and training adequately to ensure that women can participate (e.g. choose proper timing that does not interfere with household tasks and an adequate venue that is easy to reach by women). See sections 2.2.5 and 2.2.6 for more information on these matters.

2.2.4. Gender In Communicating

- Consider the most appropriate language for the target beneficiary group and their literacy level. Use a local interpreter if participants cannot communicate in a single common language.
- Respect the cultural diversity of different ethnic groups.
- Avoid gender-biased statements or negative orientation that may lead to misunderstandings in communications (e.g., avoid asking negative leading questions in a household questionnaire such as: "women are less able to be a leader because they are often hesitant when making decisions" or "women sometimes provoke being beaten").
- Avoid slang, complex technical jargon, sensitive words, and foreign languages.
- Consult with Gender Focal Points if you are unsure how to mainstream gender and adequately formulate training or meeting materials.

2.2.5. Gender In Identifying Appropriate Timing

- Always consult participants or their representatives before setting dates and times for meetings. Schedule events based on convenient times for beneficiary women. For example: at a time when women do not have household responsibilities (e.g., when children are at school and domestic chores are completed) and avoid peak crop harvesting seasons, wedding or funeral events, and traditional ceremonies.
- Consider coordinating or combining with local events organized by commune authorities or women's unions to take advantage of all participants being in one place and to reduce the time burden on all participants, especially women.

2.2.6. Gender In Identifying Appropriate Venues

- Consider convenience and safety elements of the venue to encourage the participation of women and people with disabilities. For example, select a venue that is central for participants, assess the accessibility for people with disabilities (e.g., are there disability toilets and wheelchair ramps), arrange the meeting room with enough space, light, air, and seats, and provide additional support in cases where events are far from participants homes, such as accommodation and per diems.
- Consider providing childcare during events since this may hinder women's participation.

2.3. Mainstreaming Gender in Forest smallholder cooperation models (relevant for SFM)

Objective: To enhance the participation, voice, and leadership of beneficiary women and disadvantaged groups in forest smallholder cooperation models and improve cohesion and cooperation among smallholders and with forestry companies / PFMBs and project implementors.

2.3.1. Gender In Developing Selection Criteria for Leadership

- Criteria for selecting members of the smallholder cooperation models: discuss and agree on selection criteria with representatives of women and men. Prioritize women's participation, particularly in smallholder cooperation models where women's participation is low. Promote both husband and wife joining groups. For co-investment activities with business partners, the project must have the support and agreements of husband and wife (not just the husband's) when using family resources (land, assets, capital).
- Criteria for selecting team leaders should promote: women, particularly those of ethnic minority background, to take leadership positions.
- Ensure equal representation of women and men at the decision-making level of smallholder cooperation models.

- The selection of the team leader and the management level should be democratic, equal, and transparent. The selection results should be recorded in meeting minutes with the signature of the participants.

2.3.2. Gender In Developing Group Regulations

- Group regulations should be developed cooperatively, giving equal opportunity to women and men to provide input. Consider regulations that encourage women's participation in the target forest value chain.

2.3.3. Gender In Organising Forest Smallholder Meetings

- Create an equitable, friendly, and supportive atmosphere in which critical topics and content should be prepared in advance by project team members.
- Mainstream topics on gender equality in meetings with appropriate content, using participatory methods and gender-sensitive timing.
- Also, consider guidelines on gender in identifying appropriate timing and venue for meetings, as stated above.

2.3.4. Gender In Developing Smallholder Cooperation Models

- Consider factors related to available resources, competencies, and priorities of target women, men, and disadvantaged groups when developing the group plan and ensure the equal participation of group members in the planning process.
- Decisions within the forest smallholders or between the forest smallholders and the forestry companies / PFMBs and other relevant stakeholders should be participatory, equal, and transparent, with the participation of appropriate representatives and documented accordingly.

2.4. Mainstreaming Gender in Capacity Building Activities

Objective: Improve the knowledge and skills of relevant stakeholders about the importance of gender equality and how to integrate this into their day-to-day work

2.4.1. Providing Training & Awareness-Raising on Gender Equality And Social Safeguards

Gender Focal Points appointed by the partner organizations and group leaders should be trained in gender equality to carry out awareness-raising activities in their organization. Topics can include:

- Concepts of gender equality and social safeguard.

- Barriers and benefits of women and disadvantaged groups participating in forest value chains.
- Solutions to increase equality (e.g., sharing household and production workloads; equal participation in investment and expenditure decision-making processes within families and production groups).
- Prevention of social risks and issues (e.g., harmful social norms, domestic violence, sexual abuse protection, women/children trafficking) and self-protection skills for young people against harmful traditional practices (e.g., robbing of the child bride² or child married of the Hmong ethnic people) organized.

2.4.2. Gender In Providing Training on Leadership Skills

- Make sure all women in leadership positions participate in leadership training. Focus on providing knowledge and practicing participatory skills (e.g., participatory decision-making, communications, conflict resolution, negotiation, group planning, operation, and monitoring).

2.4.3. Gender In Providing Technical Training

- Where relevant, the training provided for forest enterprises, PFMBs, provincial agencies and DARD could include gender-sensitivity aspects.
- Involve delegated from provincial level CFAWs in developing and implementing training modules.
- Encourage and support female leaders at partner organizations to participate in capacity-building activities. Specifically chose an adequate number of female training participants
- Provide standard procedures and processes (e.g., planting, harvesting, processing, marketing, service provision; common principles for using electricity/machines/chemical/waste treatment) with detailed guidelines and easy-to-understand and remember content. These should be accessible to all, particularly ethnic minority women who do not speak Vietnamese and are illiterate. This may require visual aids like pictures, symbols, and diagrams.
- Observe and record different opinions and experiences of men and women and provide suggestions for how activities can be adjusted to make them more inclusive or responsive to women's needs. Select trainers/consultants with relevant professional qualifications and prioritize those with knowledge of gender equality and experience working in the specific localities.

² It was a customary practice in Hmong ethnic minorities for a young man to come to a young girl's house to steal her as a wife without her consent. Many couples are still married when they are underage. This is a harmful cultural practice which perpetuates gender inequality because the purpose of the marriage is often to obtain labour to serve the family, in addition to reproductive duties.

2.4.4. Gender In Organising Study Tours

- Selection criteria should be transparent and mutually agreed upon amongst the group (e.g., potential future project contributions, dynamic and enthusiastic leadership, priority given to women).
- Consider participants' accessibility requirements and safety, particularly for women and people with disabilities. For example, traveling long distances may not be feasible or appropriate for women due to cultural barriers/duties/responsibilities. Therefore, consider locations that are more accessible and additional support that needs to be provided to ensure women members can participate (e.g., give an invitation with the name of the invitee, purpose of the tour, organizer, schedule, transportation, food, accommodation, and incidentals allowance).
- The tours should highlight successful experiences of women empowerment efforts and gender equality aspects of projects visited and invite successful women/married couples to share experiences with participants.

2.5. Gender in legal framework support and policy advice

Objective: To improve awareness of project partners on gender equality in developing policies and plans and enhance the voices of target beneficiaries in policy making.

2.5.1. Gender In Policy and Regulation Development

- Involve gender focal points and gender specialists in the research, formulation, or revision of rules, regulations, and policies (research design, review, and recommendations).
- Strengthen the role of women in SFM and VPA-related policy-making process.
- Ensure equal opportunities for female experts to participate in the promulgation or revision of SFM and VPA-related legislation.
- Ensure that the central government policies on gender, such as National Strategy on Gender Equality 2011-2020 and the National Gender Action Plan 2016-2020, are being consulted and referred to during the development of national and provincial rules, regulations, and guidelines.

2.5.2. Gender In Dialogue with The Private Sector

- Create equal opportunities for women and men to engage in dialogue with the private sector and connect to the market network.

- When facilitating consultations or dialogues, dividing participants into specific groups according to gender, interest, age, ethnic minority group, or disadvantage or marginalization will ensure that all participants have equal opportunity to participate meaningfully. This means giving equal space and voice to diverse perspectives.
- Promote gender equality within forest companies (i.e., access to social insurance and employment conditions). This promotion is also required by certification standards such as FSC (e.g., FSC Principle #2: Workers' rights and employment conditions), which should be more ambitious than current provisions in the national certification standard VFCS.
- If budget allows, support companies to do gender audits, leading to the development plan for gender mainstreaming.

2.5.3. Gender In Meetings with Policy-Makers

- Enable the representation and participation of women and disadvantaged groups in the policy dialogues.
- Promote the importance of inclusive policy consultations. Contributions from participants, especially from marginalized groups, such as ethnic minority women, should be respected, listened to, and incorporated into developing policies/guidelines/regulations.

2.6. Mainstreaming Gender into Human Resource Policies

Objective: To advocate with project partners and forest companies, creating favorable, secure, and equal opportunities for female workers to work more enthusiastically, effectively, and permanently.

2.6.1. Gender In Compliance with The Law

- Raise awareness of the project partners and forest companies on the government's policies and regulations related to gender, social safeguard issues, and disadvantaged groups, including the Labour Code 2019; the adopted National Strategy on Gender Equality for the 2021-2030 period.
- Reinforced gender mainstreaming in the review, assessment, adaption, and creation of regulations and policies related to forest management.

2.6.2. Gender In Recruitment

- Prioritize local women in recruitment processes and create opportunities for disadvantaged people (poor, disabled).
- Raise the public's awareness to eliminate stereotypes of the types of work women can or should do (especially in forestry and services sectors).

2.6.3. Gender In Labour Policies

- Foster an enabling environment to designate qualified women as leaders in decision-making positions. Have a salary and bonus policy that equally benefits male and female workers in the same position and in accordance with the requirements of labor use under Vietnamese law.
- Create an enabling environment for women, men, and people with disabilities to work effectively, equitably, and safely, free from discrimination (e.g., ensure space, light, ventilation, temperature, waste management, workplace safety, and policies that recognize the rights of all employees regardless of sex, ethnicity or disability status).
- Implement policies on sexual harassment and anti-discrimination and prevent other social issues (e.g., human trafficking, prostitution, drug use in the workplace).
- Consider the potential impact on the health of women, men, and vulnerable workers/users (e.g., waste and chemicals, hazardous waste management). Provide training to both male and female workers on the safe use of equipment, guidelines for first aid, safe use of chemicals, workplace safety, and hygiene.
- Provide safe, clean, and sex-segregated toilets at the workplace.

2.6.4. Policy For Women Workers That Are Pregnant or With Small Children

- Give due consideration to the different requirements of pregnant women with small children (e.g., a suitable type of work and working time, avoiding jobs that affect the health of mothers and children).
- Consult pregnant female workers on their roles and duties and, where possible, provide reasonable accommodation for them, giving them different tasks and responsibilities which are less labor-intensive during pregnancy.
- Pregnant women have equal rights to employment and safe work that all other women and men do, should be reasonably accommodated, and not be discriminated against on any basis.
- Social insurance for pregnant female workers (antenatal care and maternity regimes) should comply with the Labour Insurance Law 2014. Furthermore, employers must not dismiss or unilaterally terminate labor contracts for female workers because of pregnancy (according to Module 10, Article No.135 to 142 Labor Law, 2019).

2.7. Gender in Monitoring, Reporting, and Publication/ Communication

Objective: To provide awareness to internal and external stakeholders; and update gender-related indicators, results, and achievements of the projects

2.7.1. Gender In Monitoring and Reporting Results

- Record the number of participants, their sex, ethnic belonging, and their age at a minimum.
- Report on the different levels of participation and ability to acquire and apply knowledge of women and men, identify what worked and did not work, and propose solutions for improvement in subsequent activities to allow for adaptive activity design and implementation.
- Give priority to women and disadvantaged groups in quotations and images, but also ensure the voice and participation of men when appropriate.
- Meeting minutes should have the signatures of both men and women representatives.
- Ensure participation of gender focal points in regular progress monitoring and planning meetings, e.g., semi-annual OP review meetings among GIZ and MARD and other relevant meetings, and allocate sufficient time and space to collect their inputs.
- Develop a monitoring approach to measure the baseline and progress towards an impact on gender equality throughout the projects' lifetimes. Use tools such as storytelling to document the challenges stakeholders face related to gender equality and social safeguards and changes that occur supported by the projects.

2.7.2. Gender In Publication and Communication

- Create data visualization and infographics to increase the presented data's appeal, comprehension, and retention.
- Avoid using images and colors that reinforce gender stereotypes.
- Ensure the user-friendliness of gender-related data.
- Different users need different means of communication. Students and young people in general are attracted by social media. Journalists, policy-makers, academia, and researchers are strong users of traditional publications, press releases, and website statistics. Non-expert users are more confident with video and storytelling.

3. Responsibilities

The Gender Focal Points of the respective GIZ projects are responsible for applying the Gender Guidelines and are the main point of contact for staff members and project partners. They will be supported by the project leader, who will ensure that adequate means and resources are available to apply the Gender Guidelines. Respective tasks and responsibilities of the project's GFPs include:

- a. Inform project team members about relevant guidelines for their work area through bilateral or group meetings and training sessions as suitable.
- b. Ensure that measures proposed by the Gender guideline are integrated into project activities by consulting with implementing staff members and reviewing relevant project documents and training materials.
- c. Keep contact with the Gender Focal Points appointed by the Partner Organizations and provide updates and information on project activities and gender-related aspects through training courses/sessions and regular meetings.

The staff members are responsible for applying the Gender Guidelines in their work area and following up with the project's GFP if questions regarding gender mainstreaming arise. This includes challenges in implementation, or if a review from a gender perspective is needed for elaborated documents (e.g., training material, posters, ToRs for advisors, contracts).

Annex 1: Overview of SFM Project

Brief Description

Title of module	Scaling sustainable forest management and certification in Vietnam
Module objective	Progress has been made in the transition to sustainable, climate-friendly forest management.
Core problem	In practice, the transition to sustainable forest management, which reconciles economic, ecological and social principles, has not yet been realised on a large scale.
Target groups	Target groups are state and private forest companies, Protection Forest Management Boards (PFMBs), state and private forest capacity development service providers (in the sense of intermediaries) and forest smallholders.
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
Methodical approach	The module advises 6 forest companies or PFMBs on the transition from short-rotation plantations in monocultures to long-rotation plantations and tree species diversity. Sustainable forest management is practiced with actors in the forestry sector, and operational capacities at the companies and PFMBs are strengthened. The experiences are embedded at service providers for capacity development. Financing options for forest companies or PFMBs are identified, and legal prerequisites are established.
Key outputs	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Legal and institutional prerequisites are established; 2) Technical capacities are strengthened; 3) Information and instruments for financing the transition to sustainable, climate-friendly forest management are available to relevant actors in the forestry sector.
Contract value	Up to 4,000,000 EUR
Duration	From 10/2021 to 09/2024 (3 years)

Summary of Design of TC Module

Outputs	Key Activities	Results
Output 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification and adaptation of forest guidelines ▪ Development of studies to develop guidelines for site-appropriate native tree species 	Study to identify the gaps and needs for amendments to forest

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Development of uniform standards for scaling sustainable forest management ▪ Support of 6 forest companies or PFMBs in the preparation of the action plans 	<p>guidelines are available.</p> <p>Process and requirements for developing the annual action plans of the SFMP have been consolidated.</p> <p>A guideline is available as draft.</p>
Output 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Expert advice to nurseries for the cultivation of seedlings of native species ▪ Training measures of the target group ▪ Development of business models ▪ Technical support of forestry enterprises and PFMBs during the conversion 	<p>Study on climate risks carried out.</p> <p>Nursery(s) for native species identified.</p> <p>5 training modules digitalized.</p>
Output 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identification of possible financing mechanisms ▪ Preparation of documents to obtain possible financing ▪ Development of cooperation agreements between forest smallholders and forest companies or PFMBs 	<p>1 Report with recommendations for the inclusion of gender equality in the cooperation agreements is available.</p> <p>1 Exchange between forestry company or PFMB and forest smallholders carried out.</p>

Annex 2: Overview of VPA-FLEGT

Brief Description

Title of module	Support for the implementation of VPA/FLEGT in Viet Nam (FLEGT Project)
Module objective	The prerequisites for effective VNTLAS implementation within the VN FLEGT VPA have been created.
Core problem	In practice, the transition to sustainable forest management, which reconciles economic, ecological and social principles, has not yet been realised on a large scale.
Target groups	MARD/VNFOREST Verification agencies: Forest Protection Department (FPD) and customs at central and local level Private sector: Timber associations and enterprises Others: NSAs, research institutes, training institutes, etc.
Lead executing agency	Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (MARD)
Methodical approach	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Priority to capacity development at all levels according as a general principal of TA 2. Support to the implementation of specific elements of VNTLAS agreed to be consistent by both signatories of the VPA/FLEGT, the Government of Vietnam and the EU 3. Realism in terms of available budget and time frame; anticipation of the intended extension of the project in 2021 4. Complementarity to other interventions supporting the VN FLEGT implementation 5. Sensitivity and flexibility to address different needs in the course of support, if framework conditions change and following priorities agreed by the JEM / JIC 6. Limitation of risks due to the uncertainties linked to the table of comparison 7. Strengthening the multi stakeholder approach 8. Promoting gender-sensitivity and social safeguards 9. Building on results from the ongoing GIZ and EU implemented support to the VN FLEGT process
Key outputs	<p>Result 1: Legal regulations and organizational structure for FLEGT VPA implementation is improved</p> <p>Result 2: Selected elements of the VNTLAS which are jointly agreed by the EU and Vietnam as conforming with the VPA are operational</p> <p>Result 3: Impact monitoring under the Assessment Monitoring framework</p>

	and FLEGT VPA Execution Action Plan is implemented
Contract value	Up to 3,500,000 EUR
Duration	From 10/2021 to 09/2024 (3 years)

Summary of Design of TC Module

Outputs	Key Activities	Results
Output 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support the revision of legal documents in fields suggested by the table of comparison ▪ Support training and public disclosure of selected revised legal and operational arrangements throughout the VPA / TLAS implementation process ▪ Support the regular update of the lists of positive geographical areas and timber species imported into Vietnam ▪ Support an internal VNFOREST pre-readiness assessment for imported timber ▪ Strengthen the capacity of the FLEGT standing office in process management, cross sectoral coordination, policy reform promotion and M&E 	<p>1. Recommendations for the revision of legal documents concerning 3 prioritized discrepancies (operator scope, control of imported timber, verification for export) are submitted to MARD by 10/2022</p> <p>2. The effectiveness and efficiency of the FLEGT standing office is evaluated as good by JEM / JIC members by 10/2023</p>
Output 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Support clarification of roles and responsibilities in terms of TLAS related to timber import control (customs / FPD / private sector) ▪ Support technical capacities of FPD and Customs Authorities in the implementation of selected operational bylaws, procedures and guidelines supply chain control to imported timber ▪ Elaborate handbooks and guidelines on Customs timber risk assessment (WCO/UNODC) ▪ Strengthen the technical capacities of timber associations at central and decentralized level / Further dissemination (large audience) of Due Diligence guidelines ▪ Support the establishment of technical solutions in identification of timber species ▪ Strengthen technical capacities of FPD and Customs Authorities in physical inspections using the timber species identification support 	<p>1. Operational bylaws, procedures and guidelines on timber import control are developed by 08/2022</p> <p>2. One support tool (species identification tool) for timber import control is operational by 08/2023</p>

	<p>tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Identify additional elements of the VNTLAS ready for implementation and support them according to an analysis of priorities, budget and timeframe during the operational planning of the project 	
Output 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Research and evaluate the potential impact of policies related to VPA (baseline): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If necessary, facilitate the finalisation of the baseline in terms of gender impacts in cooperation with relevant stakeholders ○ Facilitate the elaboration of recommendations to address negative social, including gender impacts in cooperation with relevant stakeholders ○ Facilitate the post-VPA baseline review and learning process in cooperation with relevant stakeholders ○ Facilitate the revision of the IMIM in cooperation with relevant stakeholders ▪ Facilitate the elaboration of a framework for the establishment of the VPA / TLAS independent evaluation mechanism for the assessment of the implementation, effectiveness and credibility of the VN FLEGT TLAS and FLEGT licensing scheme ▪ Strengthen the role of non-state stakeholder in the Independent Technical Review Panel, approved by JIC ▪ Facilitate the dialogue and exchange of lessons learned on long-term financing options for the various actors involved in the M&E, including non-state actors 	<p>1. Major documents from the post-baseline impact M&E cycle are available, including a revised Impact Monitoring Indicator Matrix (IMIM) and recommendations for appropriate measures to mitigate negative social impacts 10/2023</p> <p>2. Gender-sensitive indicators and recommendations to address potential negative gender impacts are validated by JEM / JIC 10/2023</p>