



Ghana's experience in FLEGT-VPA, Forest Governance and Sustainable Management of Forests

measures to promote trade in legally-harvested timber and timber products

WTO Committee on Trade Environment Meeting, Geneva

30th June



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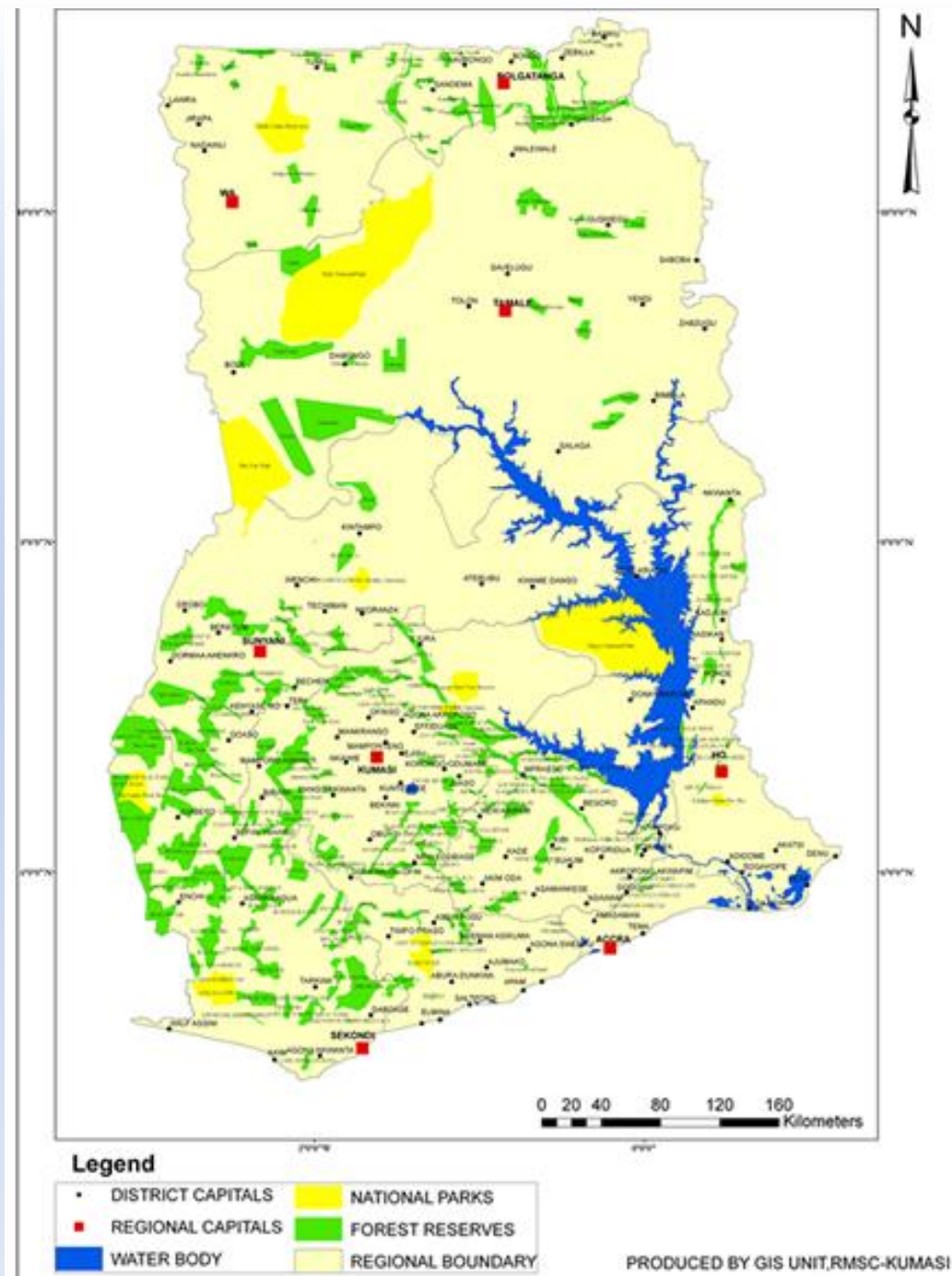
Structure of Presentation

-  Existing Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) Practices
-  Re-inforcement of SFM from FLEGT-VPA
-  Conclusion/Reflections

A Forest Reserve Map of Ghana

Forest Types

- Production
- Protection
- Convalescing



Sources of timber supply



Gazetted forest areas



Off-reserve areas



Plantation forests



Submerged forests

Wood Harvest Safeguards for SFM

- Enforcement of Tree Girth limits
- Selective harvesting
 - (3 trees per ha removal rate)
- Felling cycle (40 years) to allow for recuperation
- Protecting sensitive ecological areas
 - Enforced distances from rivers, streams, hill sanctuaries etc.
 - Prohibition of Harvesting from designated protected Areas (Biodiversity Conservation Areas etc.)
- Annual limits for tree harvesting
 - annual allowable cuts (removals)

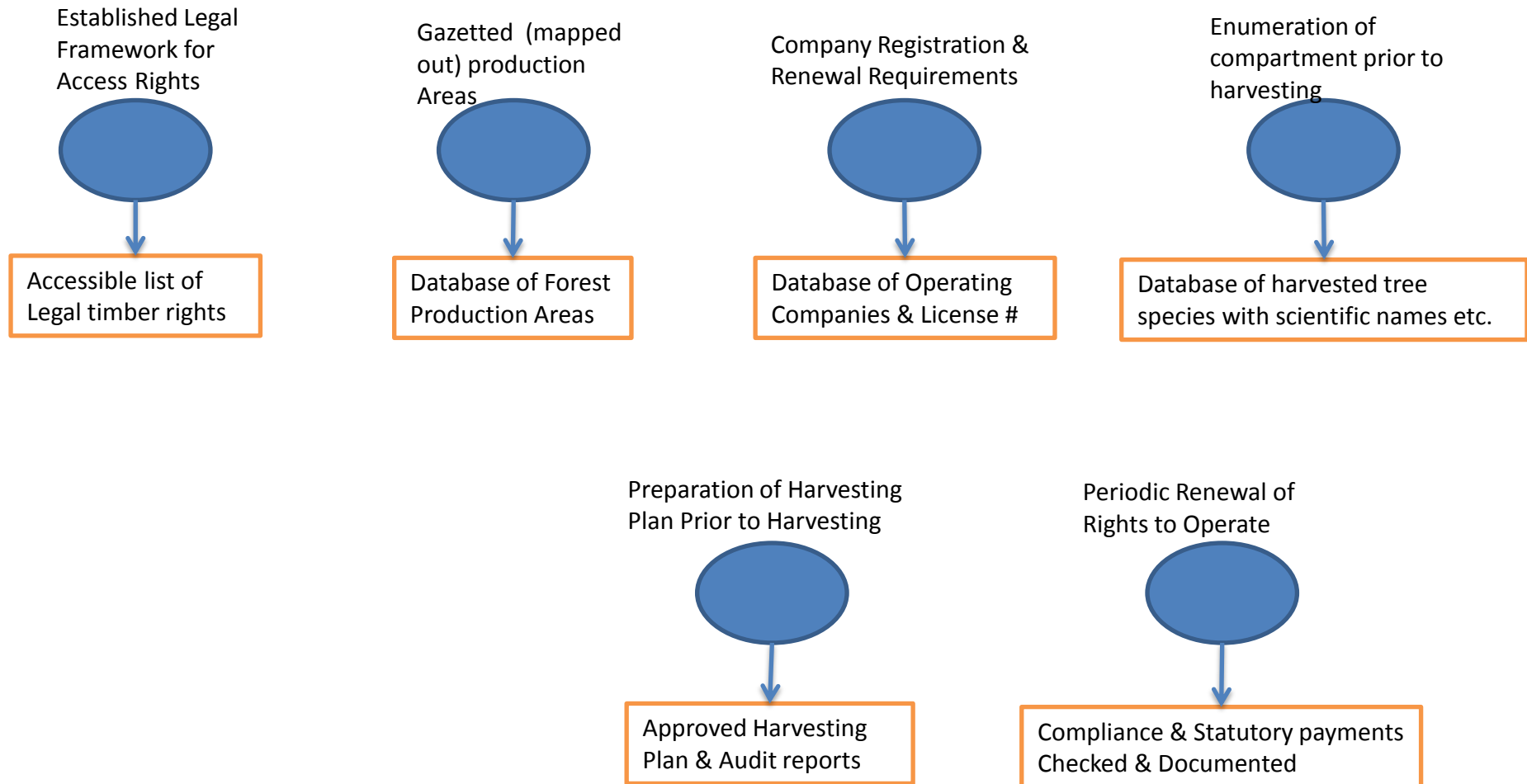
Highlights of Legality Requirements

(Timber harvesting & processing)

- timber originated from prescribed **sources** and received consent from owners;
- the logger, at the time of felling, held a **valid contract (TUC)**, issued by the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources and ratified by Parliament ... **or other legal access right**;
- at the time of sale or export, no accrued fees, rents or taxes, prescribed by statute were owing to the State
- the logger complied with forest **operation procedures** and standards prescribed by statute



Existing Control Interventions/Requirements and Outputs





Towards demonstrating commitment to international best practice in timber trade...

Ghana was the first Country to conclude a Timber Licensing Agreement with the EU – Under the VPA





SFM Re-inforcing Measures

- Legality Assurance System (LAS) under the EU FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA)
 - Application/Enforcement of a Legal Standard
 - Credible chain of custody system
 - Participation of Independent Monitor
 - System of issuing Legality Licenses ...
- The use of market levers to induce compliance

Participation & Transparency

(Stakeholder Participation)

Elements Forest Governance

Access to Forest Resources and Associated Benefits Flow

Participation and transparency in the policy making process

Quality of Management Principles applied to the Forest

Legality of Trade – Law Enforcement

Product Traceability

Pre-VPA forest sector dialogue platforms

- ✓ Regional & District Forest Fora
- ✓ Community Resource Mgt. Committees...

Operates/Interacts at the Strategic & Normative Level

VPA & Post-VPA forest sector dialogue platforms

- ✓ Multi-Stakeholder Implementation Committee (M-SIC)
- ✓ REDD+ Steering Committee
- ✓ Regional & District Forest Fora
- ✓ Specialised/Issue specific platforms

Operates/Interacts at all levels of Policy making

Impacts

- Ghana VPA Legal Standard: a multi-stakeholder product (participation)
- Implementation of *resource allocation laws* under continuous searchlight
- Continuous & productive interaction of non-state actors with high level policy actors (transparency)
- Upsurge in capacity of non-state actors

Law Enforcement

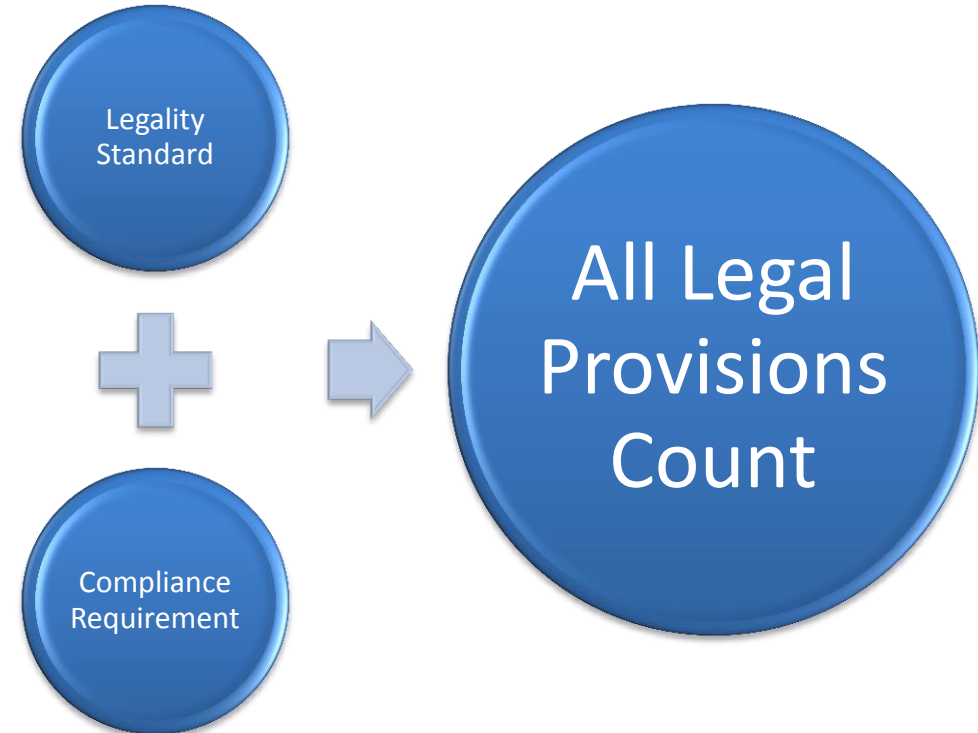
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Impacts

- All legal requirements consolidated into Principles, Criteria and Indicators
- Verification protocols developed and ready to monitor and report compliance
- Licensing of export consignment contingent upon legality clearance
- Domestic timber trade equally impacted by application of legal standard
- Legislative review underway to remove disjointed and obsolete legislation



Trade in Legal Timber: What has been done so far?

- Improved Wood Tracking System (WTS) developed tested and under deployment country-wide
- System of legal compliance monitoring developed (audit standards) and under deployment
- Institutional arrangement in place for the issuance of legality licenses
- Legislation requirement for implementing legality licensing in place
- Independent Monitor/Auditor contracted
- Multi-Stakeholder Platforms active

... Ghana on course to issue licenses

Concluding Remarks

- No legality licenses have been issued yet
 - Work involved in establishing legality assurance systems under-estimated?
- However, there are notable movements in the policy environment signalling the possible impacts of the FLEGT-VPA initiative
 - Improved stakeholder participation in policy making
 - Increase in capacity of the non-state actors to contribute to policy
 - Strengthening of regulatory/control systems
- The dynamics of direction of trade have however not remained the same
 - Notably less volumes are heading towards the EU
- FLEGT-VPA must be pursued to its logical conclusion

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THANK YOU

