The Ghana Experience:

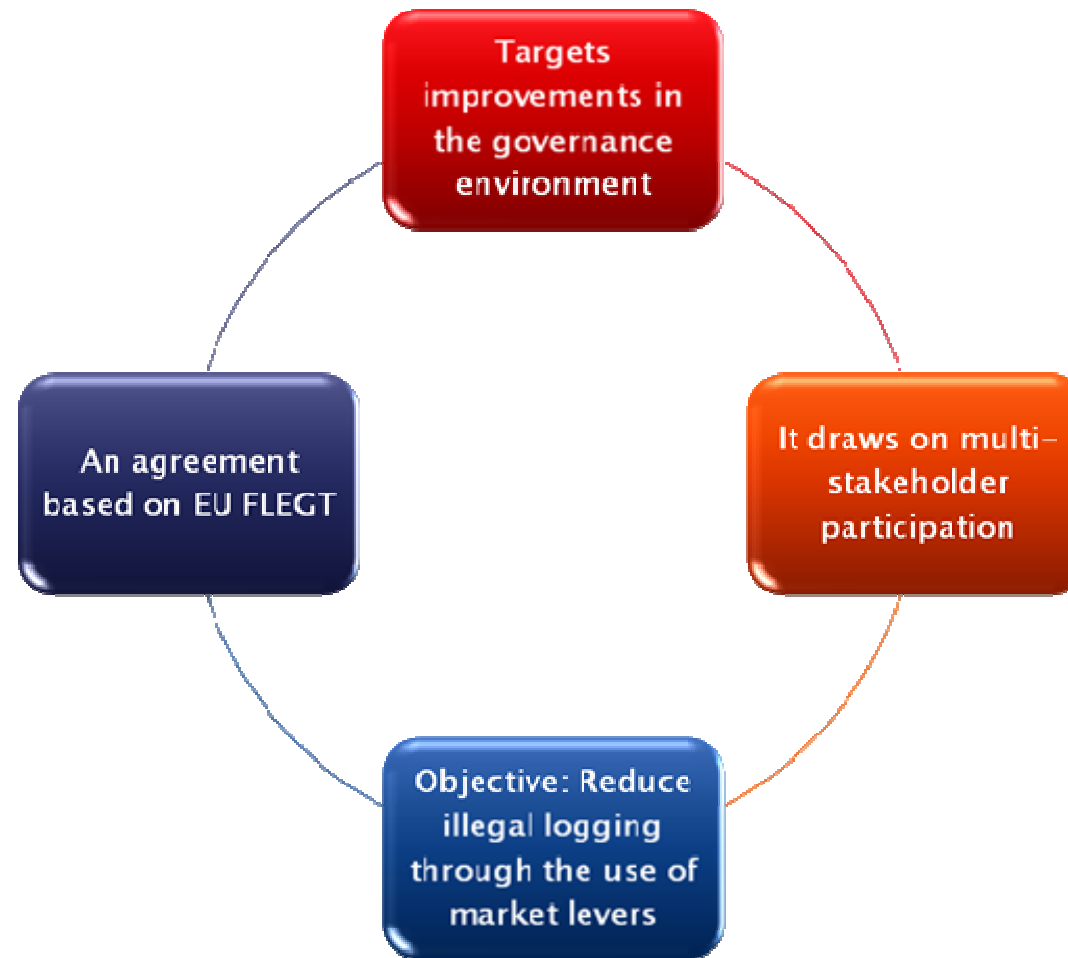## Defining Institutional Frameworks for Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) Implementation.

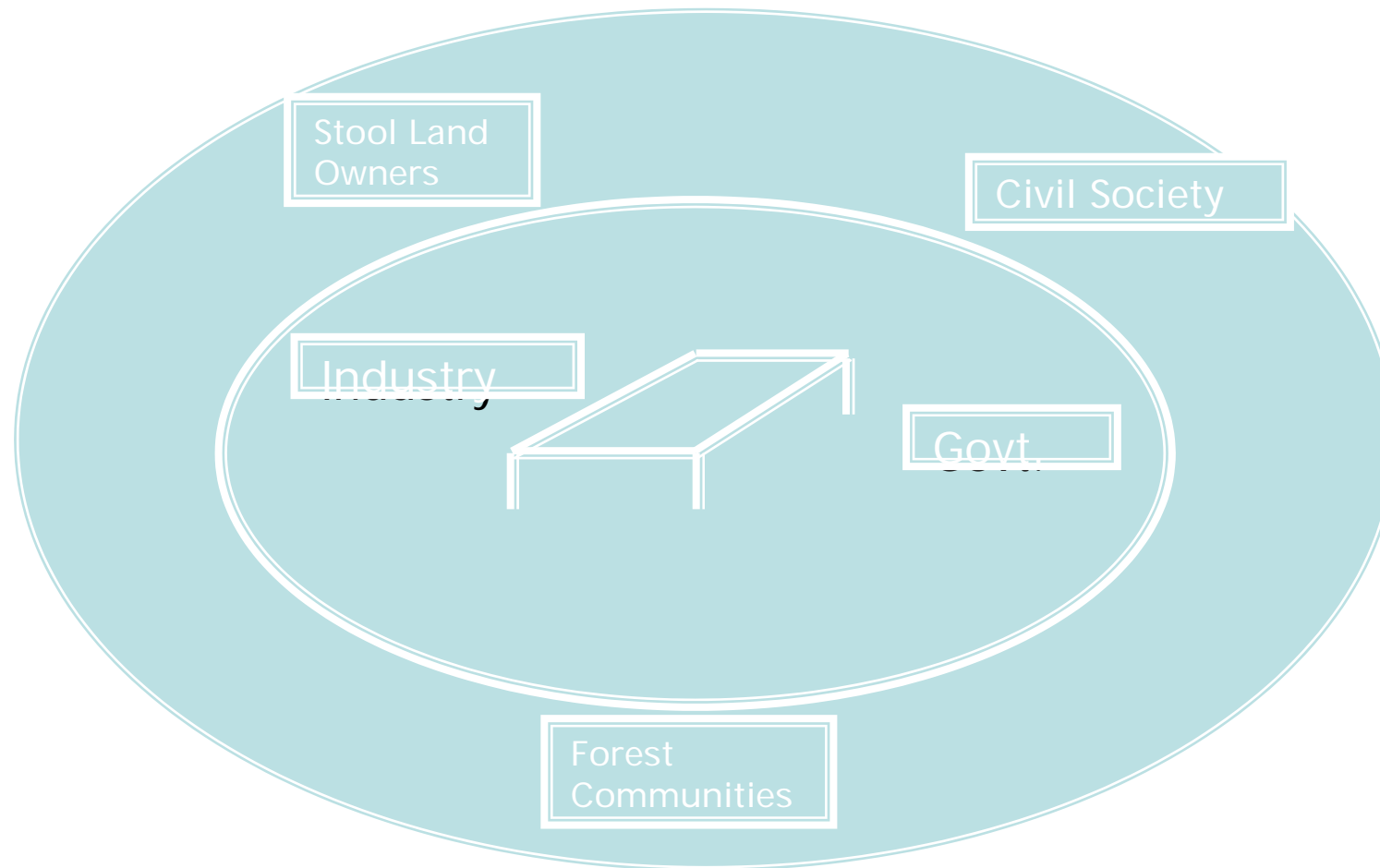'Wale Adeleke

IUCN Project Office, Accra.

The VPA!

The Perception before VPA

Governance Platform Laid Down by the VPA

MSDs – A sign of the times!

- Problems too big to be solved by governments alone
- It is not just policy formulation – its policy implementation!
- Trust is the key:
  - Stronger public confidence and interest in official decisions or actions taken
  - Better informed decisions
  - Improved prospects for effective follow-up
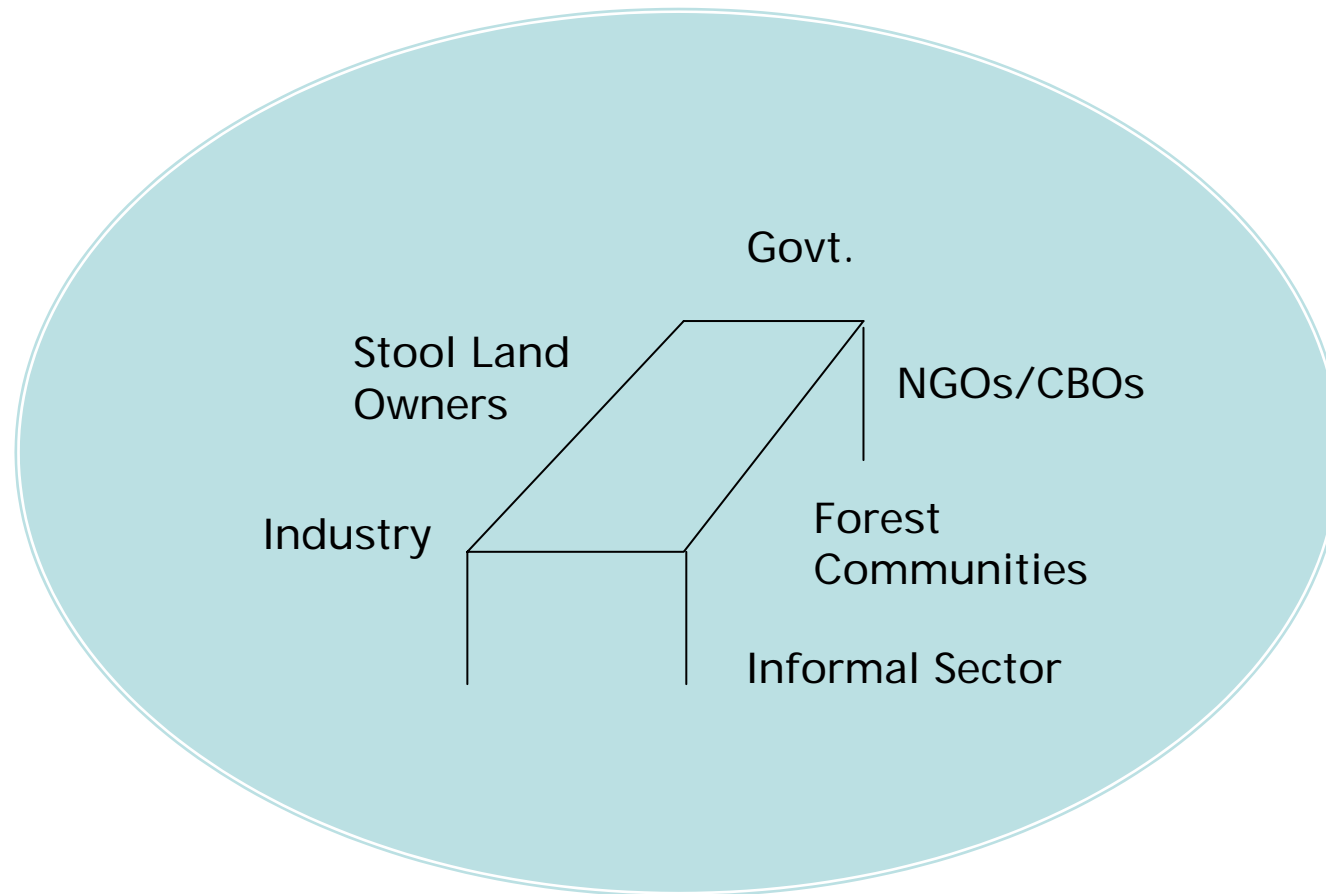
IUCN Involvement in the VPA in Ghana

- GoG requested IUCN to facilitate MSD in support of Voluntary Partnership Agreement negotiations

Lessons:

- Facilitator **has to work** to command confidence of all stakeholders
- Don't assume all the stakeholders have been recognised – e.g. chainsaw lumbers are key actors but not an organized group
- MSD more than organising meetings – implies additional activities
- Deep consultation mechanisms will be required – this goes beyond simple representation

Policy Formulation: During VPA Preparation

The VPA Vision of Ghana

- To create an environment that promotes sustainable forest management, improves rural livelihoods and equity as well as enabling industrial efficiency in a good governance environment

SFM, Poverty Reduction, Value Addition & a Sustainable Industry, Good Governance

Implementation Questions !!!

- *Determining the scope of Work*

  What are the commitments under the agreement?

  What time frames are applied?

  What is the best way to dis-aggregate the work for ease of implementation?

- *What kind of implementation structures are required to perform the work packages?*
- *How will synergy be ensured among the teams?*
- *What kind of body will be suitable to oversee the overall implementation?*

The Scope: What are the Main Output Areas?

- Institutional Reform / Adjustment
- Issuance of FLEGT License
- Development and Regulation of Domestic Market
- Legislative Review / Reform
- Restructuring of Industry

Components of Legality Assurance System

- Definition of a legally produced timber;

- Control of the supply chain;

- Verification

- Issuance of Licenses

- Independent Monitoring of the systems by a third party.

Definition of Legality

- This is a standard that sets out the laws which the Producer countries must abide with in the forest sector.

- The laws needs to come with criteria and indicators with which compliances can be tested.

FLEGT Licensing

- Who issues the licenses and how it is done;

- Requires the definition of legality, chain of custody, and means of verification;

- Can only be issued based on evidences provided to the Licensing Authority confirming that requirements are met.

Verification

- These are requirements for verifying both compliance with legality definition and control of supply chain.

- Must result in clear and credible evidence that can be presented to the Licensing Authority and Independent Monitor

Independent Monitoring

- A way of providing credibility through ensuring that all requirements of the Legal Assurance Systems are being implemented as prescribed.

Current Situation - FC, Ghana

- Currently, FC is playing the roles of Manager, Regulator, and Monitor
- Ineffective coordination and reconciliation of data by TIDD & FSD
- Absence of Independent Forest Monitoring

  Thus makes it impossible to issue any licenses that will have credibility on the international market

Institutional Review/Reform

- Operationalisation of new business process
    - Development of new protocols based on VPA LAS
    - Alignment of new processes with existing manuals of procedure
- Readjustment of FC institutional set-up to deliver the new policy direction
    - Staff orientation, training and re-training
    - FC Structural issues….
- Introduction of TVD and TVC
- Integrating the various lines of deliveries

Issuance of FLEGT License

- Procurement, installation and roll-out of wood tracking system.
  - Adapting of software to FC & Industry environment
  - Introduction and roll-out of new tagging devices (barcodes)
- Development of verification procedures/protocols.
- Establishment of Licensing Protocols.
- Baseline protocols – conversion ration, etc.
- Incorporation of Independent Monitor into LAS.

Domestic Market Development and Regulation

- Introduction of Timber Procurement Policy.
- Introduction of mobile recovery teams to:
  - Utilize "residual yield" of concessionaires
  - Systematically replace chainsaw operators from market niche
- Promotion of lesser used and technologically unknown species.
- Strategies for effective implementation (enforcement) of policies and regulations
- Alternative livelihood considerations

Trade Promotion

- **Promotion of FLEGT Licensed Timber from Ghana**
  - Branding Strategies, etc.
- **Promotion of Procurement Policy in Ghana**

Industry Restructuring

- Retooling of Industry
  - For value added (downstream) processing
  - For milling of small diameter (natural forest and plantation) logs
  - To become competitive on the new international timber market
- Research and promotion of lesser used species
- Creating the policy environment – Forestry Development Master Plan, Policy Review, etc
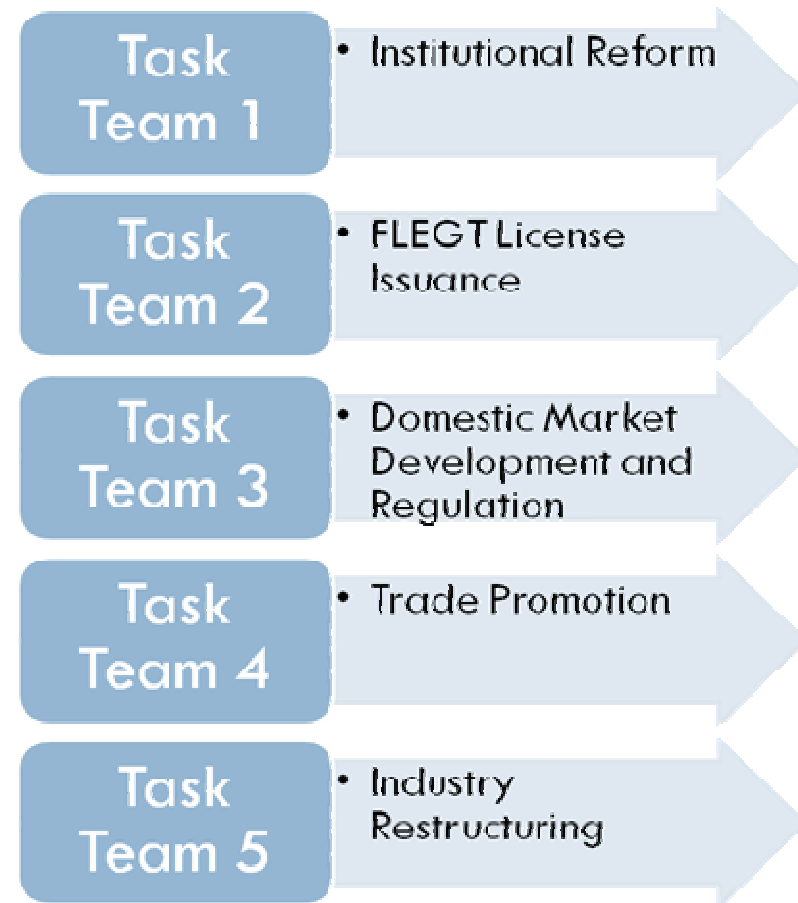
Legislative Review / Reform

- Creating the right legal environment for the aspired governance regime
  - Short Term: Legislative process which do not require extensive reform
  - Long Term: Areas that require extensive consultations, involvement of experts and considerable political reflections

The Task Team Option

Organise Cross Functioning Task Teams.

Task Team 1	• Institutional Reform
Task Team 2	• FLEGT License Issuance
Task Team 3	• Domestic Market Development and Regulation
Task Team 4	• Trade Promotion
Task Team 5	• Industry Restructuring

Other Task Areas

Legal Reform

Ratification Processes

Management of inter

phase

Oversight Body

- Exercise Oversight Responsibility and Coordination of Outputs towards achieving VPA and National Policy Objectives

Implementation Structure