The Ghana Experience:


‘Wale Adeleke
IUCN Project Office, Accra.
The VPA!

- Targets improvements in the governance environment
- An agreement based on EU FLEGT
- Drawn on multi-stakeholder participation
- Objective: Reduce illegal logging through the use of market levers
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

- Govt.
- NGOs/CBOs
- Forest Communities
- Informal Sector
- Industry
- Stool Land Owners
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
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
Implementation Structure