



# THE GHANA-EU FLEGT EXPERIENCE: Tackling Illegal trade through governance reform

3<sup>rd</sup> POTOMAC FORUM ON  
ILLEGAL LOGGING &  
ASSOCIATED TRADE



# Civic Response

- National NGO - resource rights & policy advocacy
- “Forest Watch Ghana” – national governance advocacy coalition
- “Africa Community Rights Network” – Regional (central, east and west) network of national networks engaging FLEG(T) & REDD processes
- Collaborators with FME & RRI



# Outline

- The Ghana Governance & Trade Problem
- FLEGT Governance intervention
- FLEGT Trade intervention
- Some Lessons?



# The Ghana Problem I

- Strong elite consensus (Industry, politicians, bureaucrats, chiefs) tied up sector 70 years & ignored / paralysed
  - community rights
  - technical / legal logging restrictions
  - fiscal regime & benefits sharing



## The Governance Problem II

- Endless ineffective cycles of top-down (Industry & Bureaucracy) reforms
  - Technology upgrades
  - Management systems upgrades
  - Donor-funded credit lines



# The Governance Problem III

- Crisis of
  - Rapid resource depletion / degradation
  - Rapidly spreading rural poverty
  - Exploding corruption & Impunity
  - Loss of state credibility & growing conflict



# FLEGT Conceptualisation

- “Process” more important than “Agreement”
- Process remarkable for:
  - ongoing governance (stakeholder / production relations) transformation
  - policy recognition that trade mediates relationships between 2 communities - forests owners / stewards and product users
  - Policy recognition that illegality was symptom of governance crisis



# FLEGT Intervention I - Governance

- Mobilised powerful markets & donors behind fragmentation of old consensus
- Facilitated policy participation for CBOs / CSOs (real owners / stewards)
- Facilitated re-setting of sector agenda & primacy of rights in non-threatening context
- Facilitated policy & regulatory reform programme





# FLEGT Trade Product I

- FLEGT licensing system still WIP – framework for:
  - new rules (current area of engagement)
  - new effective compliance tracking system
  - (not-so-new) monitoring arrangements to be tested
  - independent Monitoring / auditing
  - joint monitoring by GOG & EU



# Lessons?

- “Illegality” is a symptom of global resource governance crisis
- Production relations reform is required
- Character of Producer country processes is crucial
- Rights-content are crucial



THANK YOU