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

3rd 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