

VPA Process/Final Joint Assessment in Ghana

IMM Trade Consultation Barcelona

7th October, 2019

Chris Beeko
Ghana Forestry Commission

Outline



- The Assessment
- Highlight of findings and next steps
- Emerging concerns about FLEGT Licenses

Purpose of Final Joint Assessment



- Determine whether, in practice, GhLAS delivers the intended results
- Relevant actors have sufficient capacity to implement the GhLAS effectively and;
- Examine revisions made to the GhLAS after the first technical evaluation - consider all amendments to VPA annexes since signature.

Assessment of Consistency and Compliance I



- Consistency or inconsistency between the GhLAS and the Ghana-EU VPA (Annexes I, II, III, V)
- Possible changes that have:
 - ✓ strengthened or weakened GhLAS capacity to deliver Legality
 - ✓ altered the principles agreed upon in the original text of the VPA

Stronger	
Equal	
Weaker	

Assessment of Consistency and Compliance II



- Systemic compliance/non-compliance:
 - ✓ expresses how the definitions of the GhLAS comply with the evaluation criteria,
- Implementation compliance/non-compliance:
 - ✓ expresses how the system components have been applied in practice

Compliance	
Minor Non-Compliance	
Major Non-Compliance	

Highlight of Findings

Category	
I	Relate to issues that can be fixed with modification of tracking system (GWTS)
II	Relate to issues that can be fixed with the provision text to clarify practice and/or update description in Annexes and procedures/practice in manuals of operation
III	Relate to capacity of public and private sector to apply FLEGT Licenses
IV	Relate to Ministerial/Parliamentary processes to align extant timber right holdings with current legal regime (definition of legality)
V	Relate to ensuring that timber harvesting is done under valid forest management prescription – update forest management plans in production areas

Next Steps

1. Complete remedial actions for non-consistent and non-compliant findings
2. Assessment of remedial actions by Team
 - ✓ Whether actions are adequate or additional measures required
 - ✓ Submitted report to JMRRM
3. JMRRM meets to communicate Ghana's readiness for Licensing
 - ✓ Contingent on outcome of report by assessment team
4. Listing of Ghana's FLEGT License in EU Systems

Some Concerns I

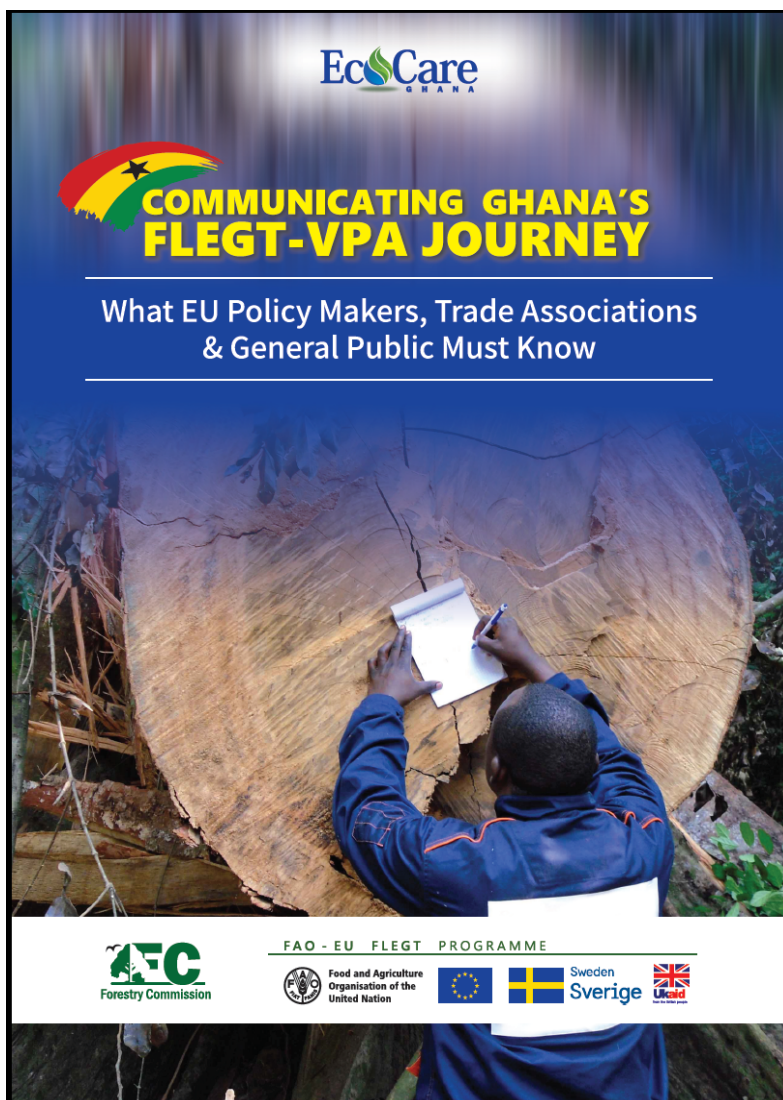


- There is a “myth” about certified timber
 - FLEGT has brought national level governance transformation – not so for certification
 - FLEGT is strengthening the underlying processes and documentation upon which forest audit is done – Certification will benefit from this
- There is still a lack of appreciation as well as miscommunication about FLEGT Licence
 - “**its main weakness being lack of chain of custody**” [PEFC Study]
 - The hard line between FLEGT’s Legality and Certification’s ***Sustainability?***

Some Concerns II



- FLEGT License plays “second fiddle” to certified timber in majority of Member State Procurement Policies
 - **green lane** with a **dead end**?
- There is an urgent need to refocus policy if the objective of the FLEGT initiative is to be realised
 - Best incentive for partner countries to make the effort is an assurance that there is actually a green lane that leads to the market



“FLEGT License is much more than just a piece of paper attesting to legality. It is a product of painstaking multi-stakeholder processes and technical systems development”

Thank You

cabeeko@yahoo.com