



The GhLAS – Ghana’s Road to Legally backed Sustainable Practices at Scale

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The Ghana Legality Assurance System (GhLAS)

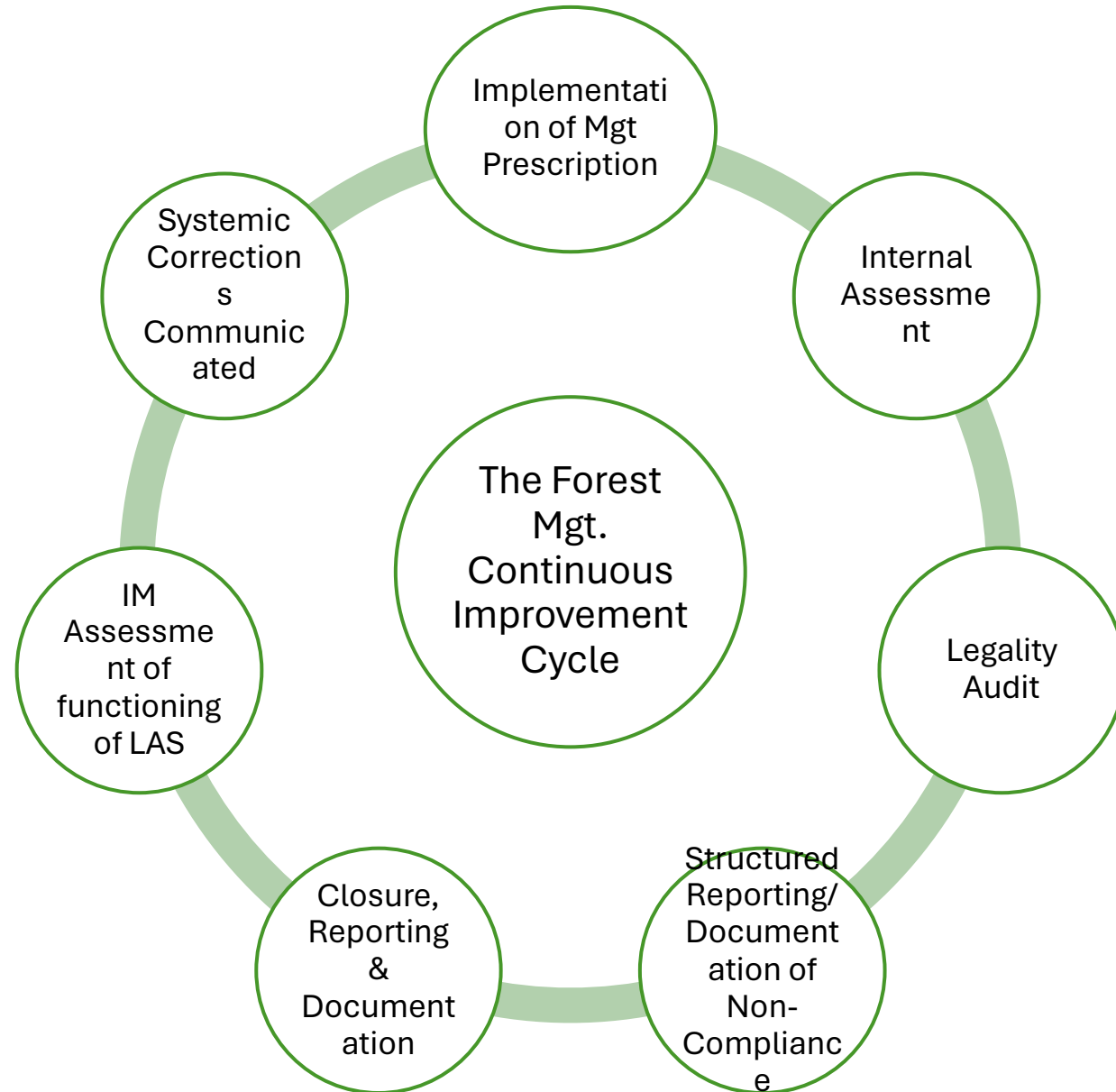
Legal Standard | Verification System | Chain of Custody | Licensing Authority | Independent Audit

**Legal
definition:
Scope of
Timber
Legality
Verification**

Principle	Subject Area	No. of Criteria	Criterion
1	Source of Timber	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Management plans, Boundary delineation ii. Landowner, individual or group written consent.
2	Timber Rights Allocation	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Natural Forest and Plantation TUCs; ii. Salvage permit iii. Confiscated Timber
3	Timber Harvesting Operations	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Stock survey/pre-felling inspection ii. Logs accurately measured & recorded iii. Timber harvested corresponded (species, volumes, numbers) iv. Stumps & logs marked according to logging manual v. Compliance with relevant SRA vi. Payment of crop compensation
4	Transportation	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Timber transported with official documentation (origin and corresponding with physical identification of the timber) ii. Timber was transported within the time periods permitted by law.

**Legal
definition:
Scope of
Timber
Legality
Verification**

Principle	Subject Area	No. of Criteria	Criterion
5	Processing	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Timber processing facilities have valid licenses and registration with FC and complied with all legal requirements ii. Industrial relation practices conform to legal standards.
6	Trade	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Exporters have acquired FC permit. ii. Domestic Vendors have FC registration.
7	Fiscal Obligation	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Logger was not in default of stumpage fees or any other fees payable by loggers in Ghana ii. Logger was not in default of ground rents iii. Exporter was not in default of export levies iv. Neither Logger nor exporter was in default of corporate income tax.



The Loop for Continuous Learning under the GhLAS

- Near real-time identification of discrepancies
- Civil Society Participation in Legality Audit
- Effective Identification of Systemic Issues

Verification System



System that checks that that all the requirements of the LD have been met by all actors in the supply chain operators, suppliers as well as regulators



Provides objectively verifiable evidence that timber products and related activities comply with the requirements set out in the LD



Based on audit (field and documentary) conducted using set of Principles, Criteria and Indicators drawn from the LD

Reporting structure under GhLAS

GFC legality audit (Forest operations under scrutiny)

- Reports to Timber Validation Committee
 - Annual Report to the Minister
- GFC Audit Committee (Different stakeholder representations)
 - Public Accounts Committee (Reports to Parliament)

Independent Monitor

- Report to The Joint Monitoring and Review Mechanism (Represented by parties of the FLEGT-VPA)

Chain of Custody System (CoC)

- System that enables the tracking of timber and timber products from a forest or point of import to a point of export (and vice versa)
- Systematically enables the identification and reconciliation of wood flows accompanied by the relevant documentation throughout the supply chain
- The CoC is based on existing business process and procedures
 - Some tweaking may become necessary during automation

GWTS 1.2.6 LIVE

DASHBOARDS

- Forestry Dashboard
- Managers Dashboard
- Trade & Export Dashboard

FOREST ADMINISTRATION

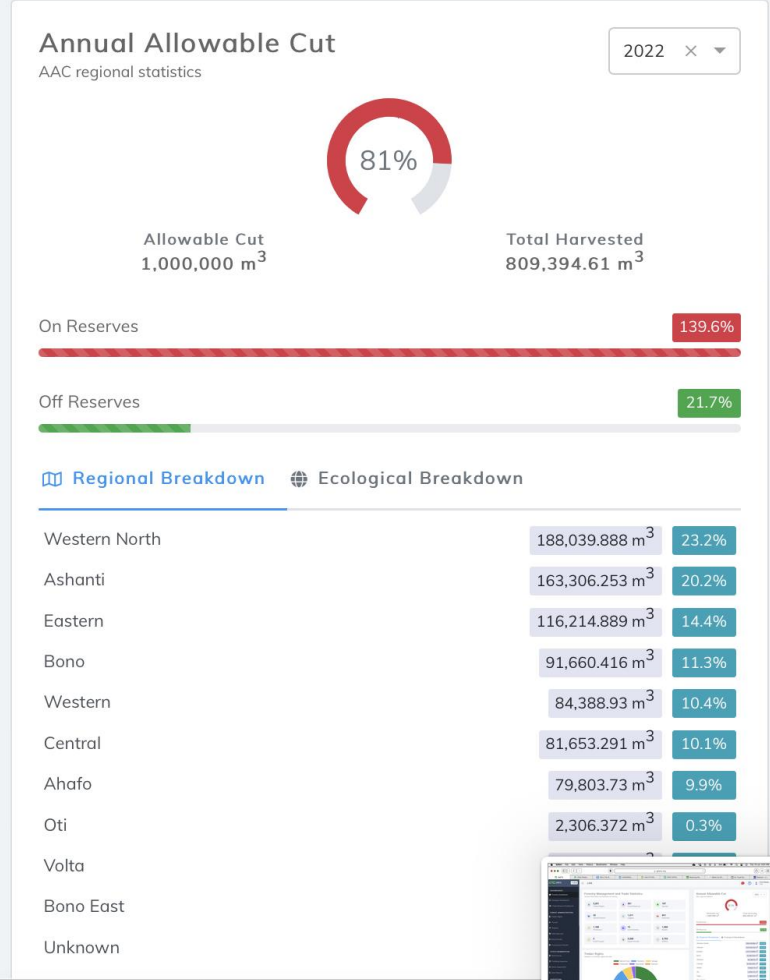
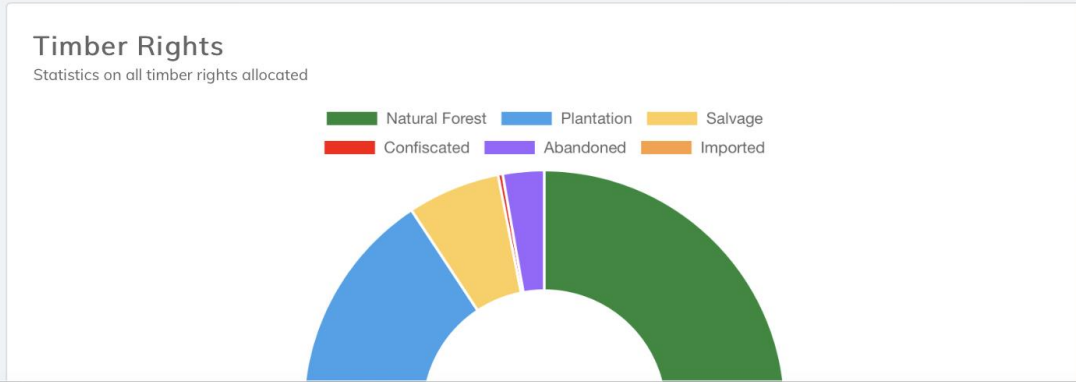
- Timber Rights
- Forests
- Registry
- Yield Approval
- Entry Permits
- Conveyance Permits

STOCK ENUMERATION

- Stock Survey
- Prefelling Inspection
- Stock Assessment
- Seize Reports

HARVESTING

- Tree Information (TIF)




FLEGT Licensing/ Licensing Authority

- Licenses – the targeted end product of the TLAS technical systems
- Licenses – Guarantees that timber from a country has been harvested, processed and exported in accordance with national laws
- A designated licensing authority issues licenses acting on the reports of the verification of legality
- Ghana's approach is shipment-based licensing

Independent Auditing

- To review and provide independent reports on the TLAS and check that components of the system function as purposed in the agreement
- Contributes to the credibility of the country systems (and licenses)
- Appointed by government of partner country in consultation with the EU



The Legality Assurance System (LAS) – Our Lessons

- An enabler of the application of forest management standards across the board → at the national level
- Keeps in focus compliance with social, environmental and economic standards as enshrined in national laws (routine legality verification audit & independent audit)
- Embedded in national multi-stakeholder process which improves legitimacy and buy-in across the board
- Principles of the LAS sets up the national system for continuous improvement

Qualities of GhLAS – Beyond the name

No.	Certification	GhLAS
1	Compliance with Laws	Legality definition (First component of the GhLAS) Contained in Article 7 and Annex II of the Ghana VPA agreement
2	Workers Rights and Employment Conditions	Principle 5, criteria 5.2 ensures that forest and industrial relation practices conform to ILO code of practice on occupational safety and Health in Forestry work (Act 651) of 2003, section 118-124
3	Indigenous Peoples' Rights [...]	
4	Community Relations	Article 26, section 1 & 2 of LI 2254 -Timber resource management and legality licensing regulation, 2017 on Social Responsibility Agreement (SRA). Principle 3, Criterion 3.6 of Ghana's legality checklist
5	Benefits from the Forest	Annex II of Ghana's VPA. Principle 2, criterion 2.1 of Protocol 01, Ghana VPA audit checklist SD 01C.

Qualities of GhLAS – Beyond the name

No.	Certification	GhLAS
6	Environmental Values and Impacts	Principle 3, criterion 3.2.3 of Audit Protocol 01. Logging manual section 3 (Timber harvesting standards and specifications) (Section 10 of Act 547)
7	Management Planning	Annex II of Ghana's VPA, Principle 1, criterion 1.1 MoP section A (MoP's are output of requirement in section 18 of Timber Resource Management Regulation Act 547 of 1997)
8	Monitoring and Assessment	Legality Audit Mechanism/Independent Monitoring plus JMRRM deliberation on reports provide multi-layered oversight
9	High Conservation Values	Principle 1, criterion 1.1.2 SD 01B-02 & Principle 3, criterion 3.1.2 ensures the delineation of cultural and environmental sensitive areas from timber utilization contract (TUC) and excluded from harvesting.

Emerging impacts of operating the Ghana Legality Assurance System (GhLAS)



- Opportunity to better **detect and correct areas of weakness (prompt reviews)** in the application of forest management prescriptions
- Opportunity to better **monitor and control the supply chain**
 - Better combat illegalities along the supply chain
- Accumulation of forest management data for informed strategic decision-making
 - Improved business analytics

Conclusion

The benefits of an effective timber legality assurance system (TLAS) goes way beyond the delivery of legality licenses.

When well implemented, it addresses key forest management, sustainability and governance challenges.

Thank You
