

EXPERIENCE OF GHANA WITH FOREST GOVERNANCE AND TRACKING TECHNOLOGIES



Workshop on Tracking for forest Governance
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 15-17 May 2012

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Outline of Presentation

- STRUCTURE OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR
- CURRENT TIMBER TRACKING PRACTICES
- PROPOSED WOOD TRACKING SYSTEM OF THE GHANA VPA-LAS
- LESSONS LEARNT

STRUCTURE OF THE FORESTRY SECTOR IN GHANA

The forestry sector in Ghana comprises of

- Government Agencies
 - i. Forestry Commission – Regulators
 - ii. Ministry of lands and Natural Resources – Oversight responsibilities and provide policy directions.
- Private Operators (Loggers/Millers/wood processors/Trade associations etc.)



CURRENT PRACTICE



- Ghana is currently practicing paper based wood tracking. (Recently started issuing Electronic permits)
- The Forestry commission in its attempt to monitor the flow of timber has put in place various checks along the production chain from the forest to the point of export.

CONT'D

General Description of Timber Flows Identified under the VPA Legality Regime

The flow diagram in Fig.1 below depicts the different timber flows that have been identified under the supply chain which relate to the VPA Legality Assurance System.

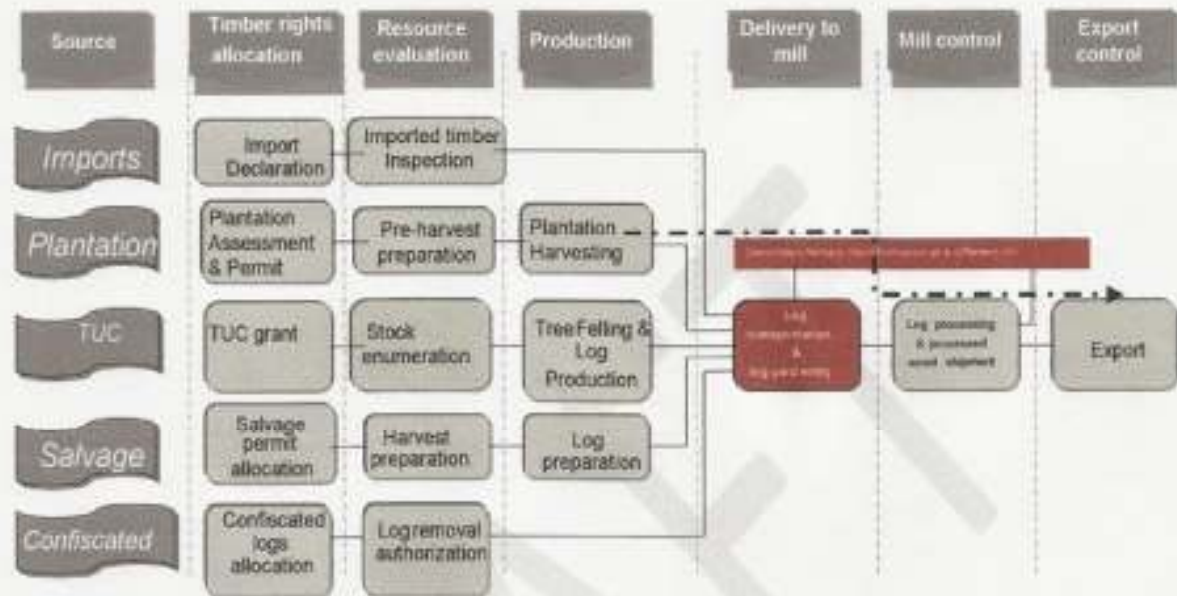


Figure 1: Schematic timber flow diagram of identifiable supply chains under the VPA-LAS

Current tracking practice cont.

- Sources of raw materials
 - Timber harvested from TUC's in on or off-reserve areas
 - Timber obtained from salvage permits
 - Timber from plantations in on or off-reserves.
 - Abandoned logs
 - Confiscated logs primarily through court order
 - Imported timber
 - Under water extraction. (Similar to salvage permit).



Current practice cont.

➤ TIMBER FLOW IN GHANA

1. Source of timber and allocation right
2. Stock enumeration
3. Yield selection
4. Tree felling and log production
 - I. Tree information form(TIF) preparation
 - II. Log information Form (LIF) preparation
 - III. Log measurement and conveyance certificate(LMCC) preparation and issuance.
5. Transportation
 - i. Mobile check points
 - ii. Permanent check points





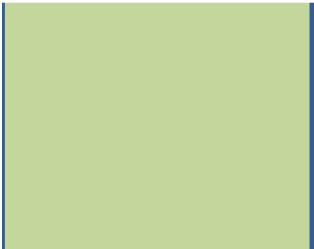
Current tracking practice cont.

6. Mill/Factory Gate/Log yard



7. Log processing

- I. Contract of sale
- II. Issuance of Inspection Certificates.



8. Export of logs/ processed wood

- I. Final Inspection
- II. Vetting and Issuance of Export permit (GCNET)





Proposed WOOD TRACKING SYSTEM OF THE GHANA VPA-LAS

- The Republic of Ghana signed a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU under the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade(FLEGT) in November 2009.
- The objective of the agreement is to Improve forest governance, addressing domestic market challenges, building institutional capacity and sustainably managing the forest, aimed at ensuring that only legally produced timber is produced, sold and exported from Ghana.

WTS cont.

- A key element of the VPA is the implementation of a Legality Assurance System(LAS).
- The LAS is expected to monitor, control and verify management and use of Ghana's Forest resources to ensure that only legal products are produced, sold and exported from Ghana.



WTS cont.

Element of a LAS

- A definition of legally produced timber through the use of a standard(check list of principles, criteria and indicators) that is country specific.
- Control of supply chain system to trace wood products through the production chain from harvesting to the point of sale.
- Verification of both the legality definition and control of the supply chain.
- Issuance of Licenses and how it will be done
- Independent monitoring of the system by a third party.



WTS cont.

- A major component of the LAS is a wood tracking system which will monitor timber movements throughout Ghana and provide its Forestry commission with the ability to track consignments of wood and wood products from point of export(or any intermediary point) back to their point of origin, ensuring the legal compliance for exportable timber.
- In July 2009, The Ghana MLNR awarded to a software provider a contract to pilot the national WTS. The initial contract was to pilot and test the service provider's baseline software in a small, medium and large scale enterprises of the Ghana timber industry.



WTS cont.

- The goal of the pilot was to develop an improved tracking system and test the effectiveness of such a system in delivering to the objectives of the VPA under the Ghana-EU FLEGT agreement.
- The pilot employed the use of tags and batch numbers through out the production chain from harvesting to the issuance of FLEGT License For export.
- The second phase is the award of a new contract to build on the lessons learnt from the pilot and deploy the system nationally across the country.



Lessons learnt from the LAS Development

- System development phase of LAS required more effort, expertise and resources than anticipated, For e.g. Introduction of a computerized WTS.
- Institutional(Government and private operators) readiness for LAS roll out very critical. More resources and capacity enhancement very critical.
- Industry players very sensitive about any extra cost burden for implementation of the LAS



Lessons learnt cont.

- A draft timber procurement policy for the domestic market is under preparation through stakeholder consultative process; a key target is the large government projects that will have to source wood from legal sources as defined under the VPA.
- The business case for the industry; the regulatory case for the government agencies; and the transparency/advocacy case for the civil society needs to be well communicated to these different stakeholders for their buy-in for the FLEGT/VPA process.





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Theodore Roosevelt once said that 'To exist as a nation, to prosper as a state and to live as people, we must have trees'

Thank You

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Alhassan Attah, 5/12/2012