Amsterdam Partnership Multi-Stakeholder Meeting #4

Muntgebouw, Utrecht

Lessons from FLEGT

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Outline

• Illegal logging and associated trade as a driver of deforestation
  • Problem appreciation
• Addressing the Problem: The FLEGT Mechanism
• Early Indications
• Lessons
Trade in Illegal Timber as a Driver of Deforestation

Other Drivers of Deforestation
• Farming/Shifting Cultivation
• Bushfires
• Mining (Illegal)
• Fuel wood harvesting/ Charcoal
• Infrastructural development
Legality of Timber – A Shared Narrative

• Clarity around the following areas
  • Legality of source (production vs convalescence & protection)
  • Legality of rights to access – harvesting/removal
  • Legality of mode of transport and processing
  • Compliance to tax regime

• A widely shared understanding/narrative among stakeholders of what constitutes legality
  • Legality standard has been collectively arrived at through multi-stakeholder deliberations
Effective Multi-Actor Participation

• An open space for multi-actor participation in:
  • policy formulation (government, private sector, civil society & other interest bearing stakeholders) – no junior partner at the table
  • monitoring of implementation of policy and regulation – independent forest monitoring

• Functioning platform that enables deliberation on identified bottlenecks in law enforcement and implementation of policy in general

• There is the capacity on the side of the non-state actors to march that of the State

• ... There should be a reason/stimuli for a change from a sole steering (technocratic approach) in policy making to a multi-actor approach (participatory)
Technical Systems that Deliver Legality

- There is a robust mechanism to ascertain compliance to the legal standard at defined points in the process chain (critical control points)
  - Reconciliation of wood flows along the process chain
- There is routine auditing as an additional layer of controls to make the application of management prescriptions more transparent and measurable
- There is a mechanism to exercise control at export/exit point to ensure that only compliant consignments exit to the market
A market that will act responsibly – that will be a lever

- There is a willing market/demand side that is able to act as a lever to stimulate compliance to agreed legal standard
- Demand source documentation as well as legality compliance on consignments [FLEGT Licenses, Due Diligence by Operators]
Institutional and Legal Framework

- There is an Institutional arrangement and legal framework to give effect to the operation of the legality assurance system
  - Verification authority, Licensing authority and Independent Monitor working in the traditional regulatory system
- There is a shared vision for governance reforms that can inspire continuous improvement
The Early indications

- Greater awareness among frontlines (field) staff and private operators alike that there is a greater searchlight on forest operations
  - Better application of management prescriptions (greater application of best practice)
- Lower forest infractions as evidenced by recorded number of non-compliance in routine audit
  - Improved operator compliance
  - Improved supervision by regulatory staff
- Transparency in application of Regulatory Controls
  - Improved monitoring of staff performance
- Multi-actor (stakeholder) deliberations is now an accepted approach to policy formulation
The (Dreamer’s) Guide to Implementing FLEGT-like Systems

• Governance reforms such as FLEGT-VPA takes time, tact, resources and enduring political will
  • The initial timeframe anticipated to deliver timber legality licenses to the market was two (2) years
  • Took 7 years from initiation of discussion to deliver the first FLEGT license
• The losers and winners effect must be carefully thought through from the onset
  • This should shape the style of messaging throughout the process
• A corps of well informed stakeholders is necessary to give meaningful effect to reforms
• With governance reforms of this nature, one single deliverable cannot be sole success determinant
  • Opened up policy-making environment, clear policy on cocoa land use, reduced deforestation, legality of commodity etc.
Thank You
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