



Amsterdam Partnership Multi- Stakeholder Meeting #4

Muntgebouw, Utrecht

Lessons from FLEGT

13th June, 2019

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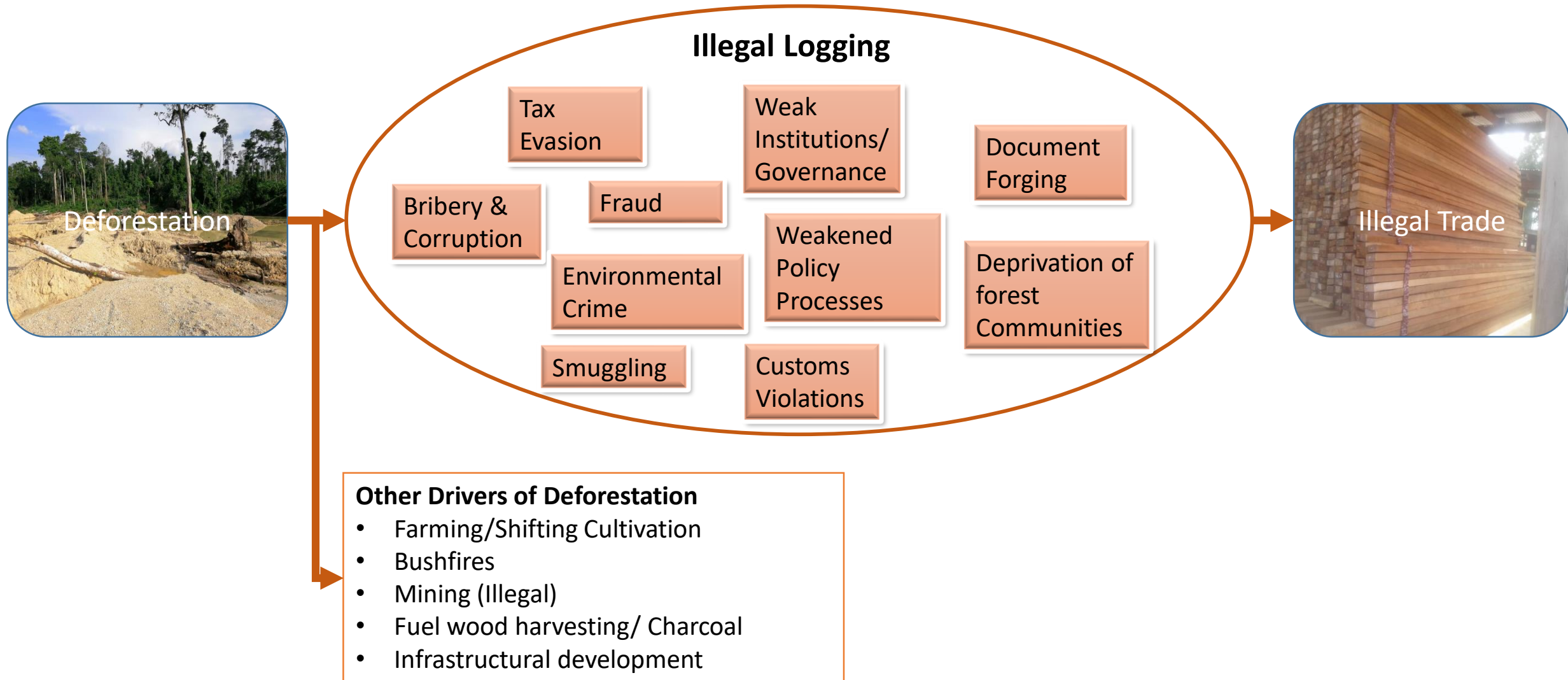
Ghana Forestry Commission

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



Legality of Timber – A Shared Narrative



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- 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



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- 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

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- 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



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- 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



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- 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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