AN OVERVIEW OF WWF GFTN ACTIVITIES TO IMPROVE FOREST MANAGEMENT IN GHANA

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OUTLINE OF PRESENTATION

- Forest Mgt context and key issues in Ghana
- Looking for solutions: The GFTN Approach
- GFTN Achievements
- Challenges
- Emerging Opportunities
- EU FLEGT & VPA: Too little too late?
- The Way Forward
FOREST RESERVE MANAGEMENT
CONTEXT & ISSUES IN GHANA

Management Context
- Resource ownership
- Forest Mgt responsibilities and user rights
- Benefits sharing

Management Issues
- Poor forest mgt practices leading to conversions
- High levels of illegal harvesting and associated losses
- Weak Law enforcement and non-compliance
- Low technical capacity in certification & SFM
- High logging damage
- Poor relations between companies and communities
- High yield allocations and harvesting levels
- Inadequate systems for log tracking
LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS: THE GFTN APPROACH

- Promoting forest mgt and CoC certifications
- Improving the standards of forest mgt (RIL, HCVF etc)
- Providing technical support and guidance to companies to meet challenges of responsible forestry
- Improving forest governance at local level (SRA)
- Combating illegal logging (Wood sourcing policies, COC)
ACHIEVEMENTS

- Improved awareness and understanding on certification
- Improved capacity on certification and SFM
- Training on certification HCVF and RIL (ProForest and FORM Int.)
- Pre-assessments for 8 companies (FR 385,584 ha), action plans prepared.
- Guidelines on certification, RIL and HCVF produced and in use.
- Training of local auditors (SmartWood & ProForest)
- Development of CoC by the companies
- Institution of a third party annual visits
CHALLENGES

- Govt’s mgt practices as against requirements of certification & SFM
- FMP for many FMUs not yet developed/in use
- FMP development process not in compliance with requirements.
- Inconsistencies in timber rights allocations
- Current leases not conforming to laws and regulations
- Development of SRAs to include migrant communities
- Yield calculation not adequately adapted to forest conditions
CHALLENGES: Continue

- Tendency for a shift of attention from SFM and certification to legality.
- Low operational standards compared to SFM requirements.
- Addressing problems outside the control of TUC/Lease holders.
- Illegal chainsaw operations as a serious threat to sustainability.
Increasing concern about unsustainable forest mgt and illegal logging

Buyers and consumers demand for legal and certified wood products

Producers desire to maintain or access niche markets

Emerging international issues eg EU- FLEGT, VPA, regional FLEG issues

Increasing govt’s concern about loss of forest and revenue (The VLTP)

Adoption of certification in Ghana
EU FLEGT & VPA-Too little too late?

EU FLEGT & VPA might improve law enforcement and timber tracking in Ghana.

- Big gap between legality and sustainability requirements.
- Very little good forest left in Ghana.
- Many conversion options (cocoa, oil palm, tree plantations, mining etc).
- Need for additional measures now or no forest to produce legal timber.
THE WAY FORWARD

- Review of laws and regulations
- Enforcement of laws and regulations
- Increased national level commitment to legality, certification and SFM
- Increased buyers and consumers pressure for legal and certified wood products
- FLEGT, VPA etc are important but must be placed within the context of SFM
Favourable legal framework and incentives for supporters and practitioners of responsible forestry

Govt needs to evolve from being forest manager to regulator.

Institution of a Third Party Independent Monitoring system.

Certification & SFM could then be achieved with pressure from both within and outside

The need for all to recognise this reality
THANK YOU