SYNERGIES BETWEEN FLEGT-VPA AND THE COCOA & FOREST INITIATIVE

POLITICAL PROCESSES, CONTENT DEVELOPMENT, MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT & IMPLEMENTATION PROCESSES

(The Case of Ghana)

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“Making Forest and Natural Resource Policies Address the Needs of People”
Talking points:

• Setting the Context
• The Political Economy of FLEGT-VPA and CFI within the context of Ghana
• Drawing comparison between FLEGT-VPA and CFI
  • Political Processes
  • Content Development
  • Multi-stakeholder engagement
  • Implementation processes
• Key learnings for CFI from FLEGT-VPA process
• Way forward

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Context:

- The FLEGT-VPA is not perfect, but it’s definitely not a ‘FAD’ as claimed by some recent academic publication.
- It is also not “business as usual”, it has been transformational in the Ghanaian forestry sector.
- The Ghana FLEGT-VPA process has received widespread admiration for its governance reform successes (both locally & internationally) that its become a great learning point for other initiatives.
- One such sector process is the CFI being facilitated by IDH and WCF.
- There are areas that the two programmes can learn from each other, especially in Ghana and to a large extent Cote D’Ivoire.

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Political Economy of FLEGT-VPA & CFI:

• FLEGT-VPA
  - Shared government/private sector interest
    - Fear of losing market access in the EU
    - Potential to increase government revenue
    - Reputation pressures
  - Legality not sustainability, to be defined locally
  - Based on inclusive deliberative Multi-stakeholder engagement process
  - Voluntary but once signed becomes legally binding
  - Became the medium for strategic use of aid in the forestry sector

• CFI
  - Private sector attempt at redemption from their role in tropical deforestation and child labour
  - Governments securing commitments from private sector to support “surgical” policy issues
  - Purely noncommittal voluntary statement of intent and joint framework of action
  - Private sector securing their long-term sources of raw materials
  - Public/private collaboration to address challenges in cocoa supply chain

Sector Governance is the underlying problem of both the Forest and Cocoa sectors – illegal logging, child labour and deforestation are only symptoms of the problem

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Complementarity & diversity between FLEGT-VPA and CFI:

• Political Processes:
  • Both the FLEGT-VPA and CFI have enjoyed tremendous government/private sector support
  • FLEGT-VPA process has been bold enough to challenge and attempt to reconstruct political structures in forest governance
    • Creation of new departments
    • Establishment of governance structures with real influence in forest management and governance
    • Enactment of new legislative framework and realignment of existing ones in accordance with a mutually agreed legality definition
  • CFI activities are all within the framework of existing governance structures

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Complementarity & diversity between FLEGT-VPA and CFI:

- Content Development (TLAS/JFA):
  - Time frame – FLEGT-VPA 3-5 years; CFI less than a year (March-November, 2017)
  - TLAS very detailed and overwhelmingly endorsed by stakeholders
  - JFA full of “wishful intents” put together by WCF/IDH and validated by private sector and Government
  - No meaningful participation of local CSOs and cocoa farmers in JFA development. TLAS was owned by all stakeholders
  - Both CFI and FLEGT-VPA focuses on forest protection and restoration

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Complementarity & diversity between FLEGT-VPA and CFI:

- Multi-stakeholder Engagement:
  - Both processes had multi-stakeholder engagement as key requirement
  - But FLEGT-VPA actualized the intent compared to CFI process
    - Provided space (representation)
    - Provided capacity/resources to engage
    - Stakeholder inputs reflected in the programme design and output
  - Local CSOs have had “go-to-town” to get WCF/IDH to open the channel of engagement
  - There are several lessons that CFI could learn from FLEGT-VPA process on this front

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Complementarity & diversity between FLEGT-VPA and CFI:

• Implementation Process:
  • FLEGT-VPA took a national approach whiles CFI took a targeted approach – using existing Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs)
  • CFI has an implementation plan that assign specific activities to stakeholders without providing budget
  • FLEGT-VPA has been integrated into the management and governance system
  • CFI has created a framework and its aligning projects/programmes of private sector into that framework

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Key learnings for CFI from FLEGT-VPA process:

• Importance of inclusive multi-stakeholder deliberative processes

• Value of national-level Civil Society

• Reform processes takes time, tactfulness, resources and enduring political will

• Legality and sustainability are not mutually exclusive

• Credibility of the process hugely depends on how facilitators are able to manage the opposing interest of stakeholders

• Manuals, Procedures and Guidelines are Important, but Legislation gets things done

• Voluntary commitments needs to align with national laws and policies

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Way forward:

• The CFI can better address the underlying challenges in the cocoa and forest sector by:
  • Commencing a governance reform discussion underpinned by a genuine deliberative multi-stakeholder process
    • Provide space (local NGOs select their own representatives)
    • Provide capacity/resources to mobilize and gather inputs from grassroots stakeholders
    • Local stakeholders own and attest to the credibility of the process
    • Stakeholder inputs reflected in the programme design and output
  • Taking a second look at the implementation structure of the CFI and include more local NGOs in the steering committee and other structures
  • Appointing an independent facilitator to oversee the whole process (WCF can not be the facilitators of governance reform in the cocoa sector)