



# TIMBER LEGALITY ASSURANCE SYSTEMS

## Implementing TLAS – The countdown for FLEGT licensed timber

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# STRUCTURE OF PRESENTATION



## Introduction

- Objectives (from government perspective)
- Ghana's Key Commitment under the VPA



## Implementation of the VPA

- Implementation Phases
- Achievements
- Verification Processes
- Management of infractions



## Challenges



## Way Forward



# Introduction

VPA was concluded in September, 2008

- ❖ Ratified in Ghana Parliament in June, 2009
- ❖ Ratified in the EU in November, 2009

## Objectives (from government perspective)

- Improve on law enforcement and overall governance regime in the Forest sector in Ghana
- Make progress towards sustainable Forest Management
- Maintain Ghana access to the EU market

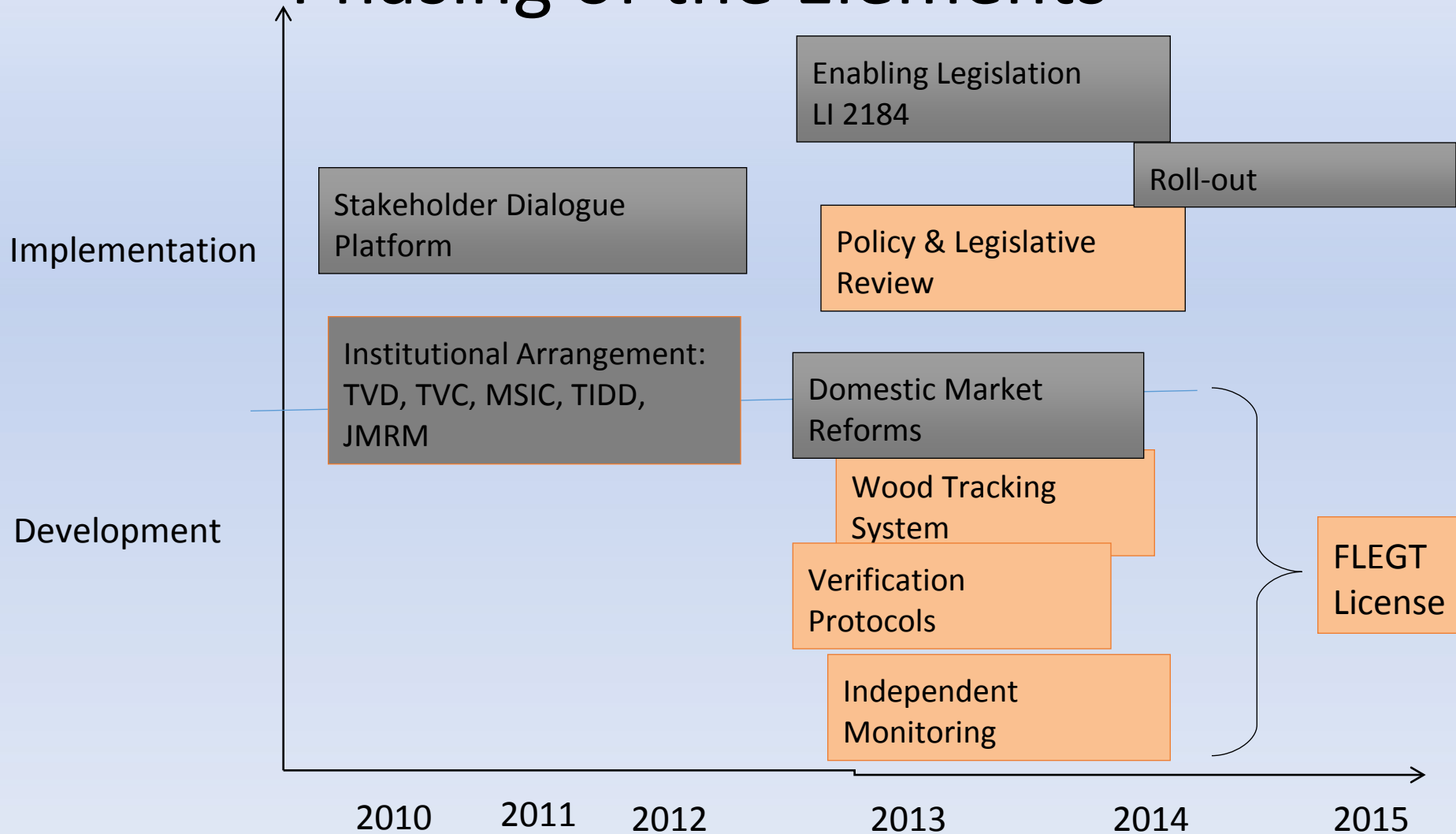


# Ghana's Key Commitment under the VPA

- Deliver FLEGT license two years after signing the agreement
- Enact VPA enabling legislation two years after signing the agreement
- Review Policy and laws to align with governance aspirations with five years
- Develop and restructure Ghana's domestic Timber Market.



# The Ghana VPA Implementation: Phasing of the Elements





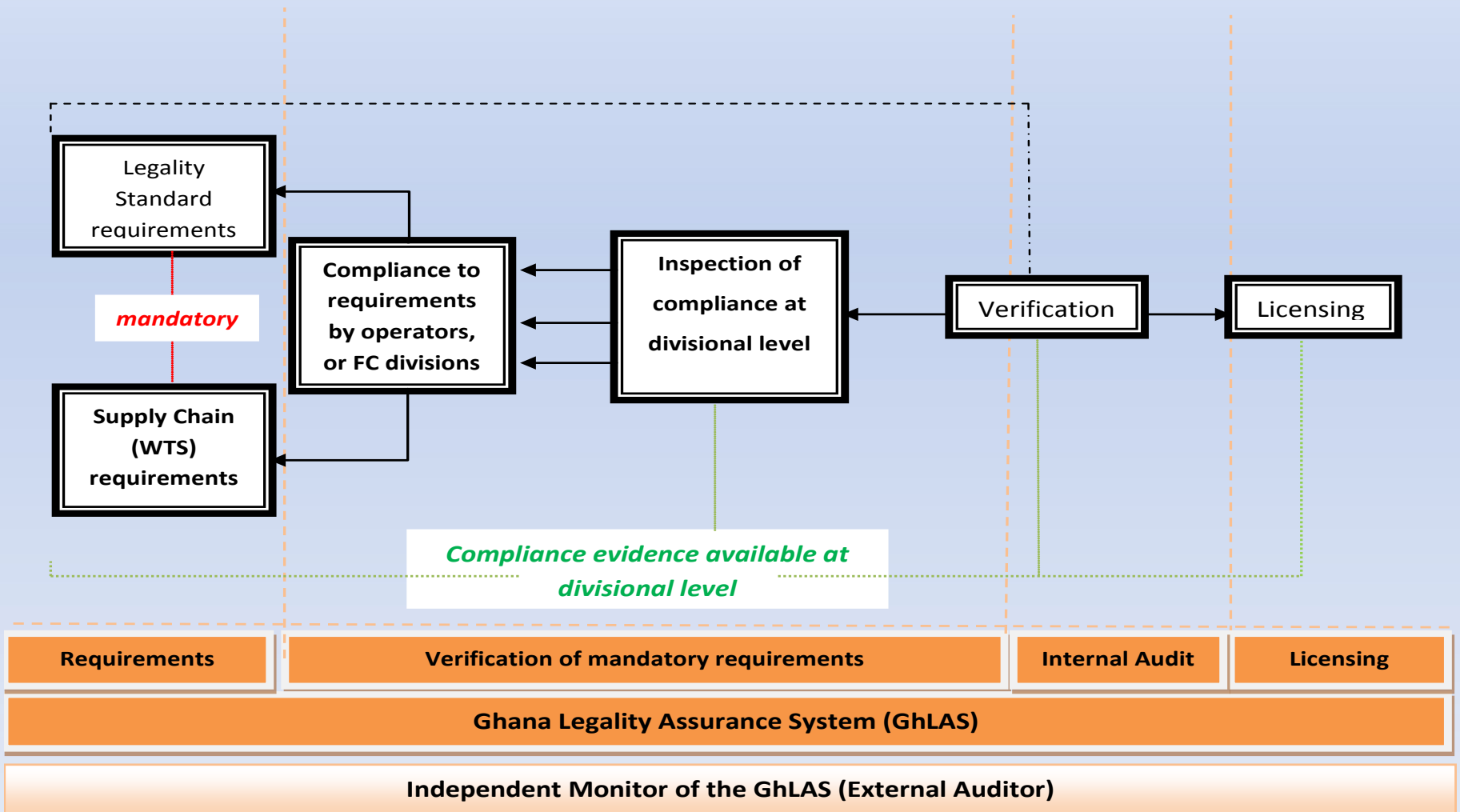
# Achievements of Key Activities

Key VPA Implementation Activities	Remarks
I Legality Definition Review/Enact laws to implement the VPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Multi-stakeholder product and remain unchanged</li> <li>• Legislative instrument in place to implement VPA</li> <li>• Review of forest Policy concluded</li> <li>• Policies on domestic market in place</li> </ul>
ii. Develop Wood Tracking System (WTS) Control of Chain of custody	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• System, structure and control measures largely consistent with VPA</li> <li>• System report compliance with the legality standard</li> </ul>
iii. Establish field audit verification systems and protocols	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protocols and compliance report for verification audit</li> <li>• Procedure for handling infractions in place</li> </ul>
iv. FLEGT Licensing Procedure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Licensing procedure of the GhLAS consistent with VPA</li> <li>• TIDD the licensing authority</li> <li>• TVD confirms the legal compliance to TIDD</li> <li>• Data reconciliation at various critical control points</li> </ul>
v. Operationalize independent Monitoring (IM)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Has contracted SCS on competitive basis for external valuation of systems.</li> <li>• SCS work plan evaluated</li> </ul>



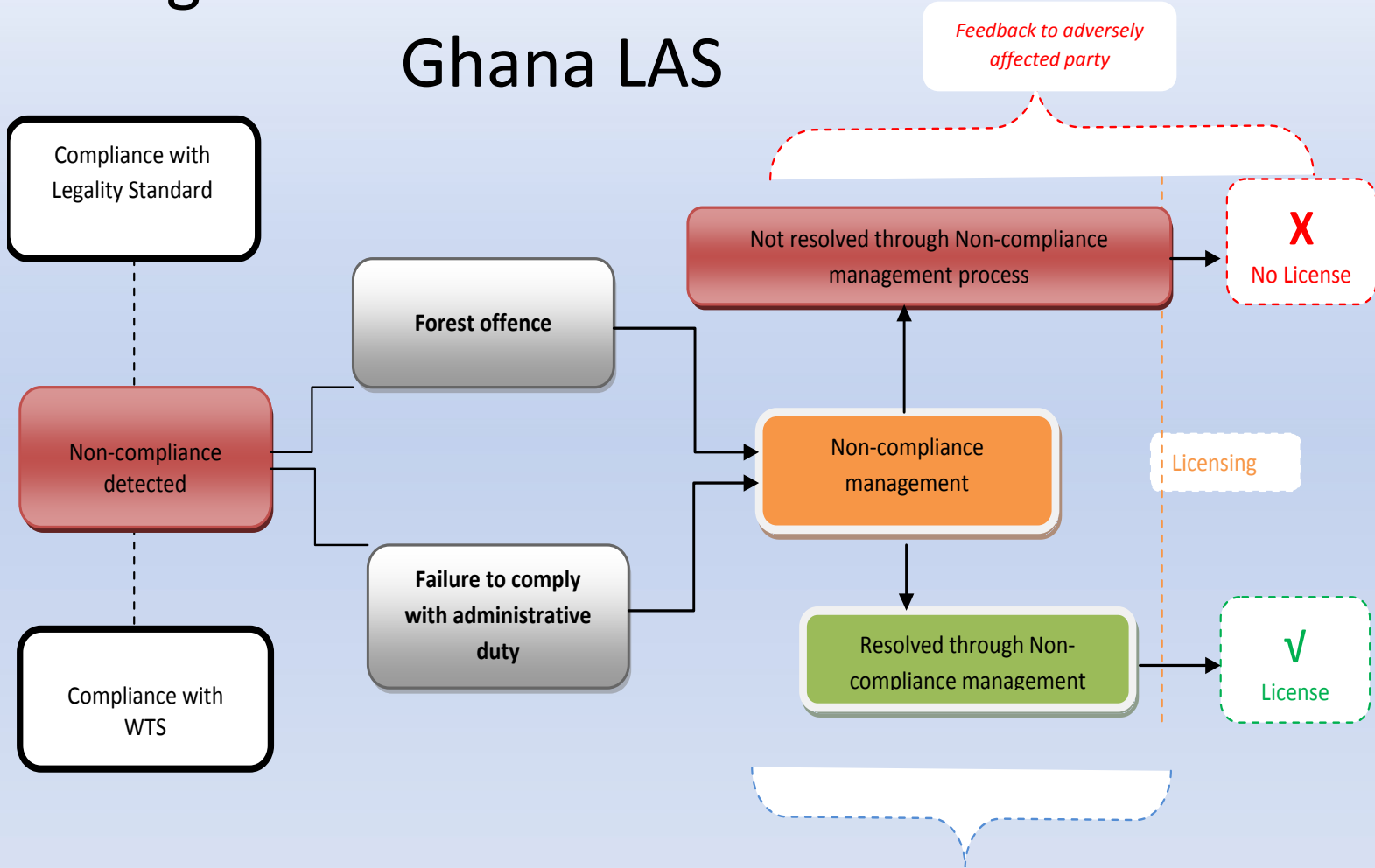


# Schematic Illustration of Ghana's Verification Approach





# Management of infractions under the Ghana LAS








TVD will, as internal auditor, also systematically monitor the administration of such infractions and find out whether remedial action was taken or implemented





# CHALLENGES

-  Changes in business process and training of staff on use of new technical implements
-  Finding the right balance between regulation and business flow (over engineering)
-  Managing the multiple interest/perspectives in establishing a legality assurance regime
-  Inadequate Logistics – i.e. (Field equipment, internet connectivity, intermittent power supply)
-  Carrying along key stakeholders / sustaining participation (politicians, civil society, industries etc.)



# WAY FORWARD

Ghana implemented joint assessment of LAS from April – September, 2014 which identified areas requiring further works before issue FLEGT Licenses. These are being addressed;

- System development on main module
- System connectivity challenge

VPA GhLAS is subjected to another independent evaluation before the licensing scheme becomes fully operational

Messrs. Scientific Certification Services (SCS) work plan will be developed with EU and undertake a trial audit prior to FLEGT LICENSE issuance

Undertake strategic communication with other VPA countries on VPA.

EUTR should be implemented at an accelerated rate to motivate countries with VPA FLEGT licenses in sight (Ghana and Indonesia).

End

**THANK YOU**

