Leveraging Ghana's FLEGT Licensing System for Sustainable Forest Management & Thriving Timber Industry

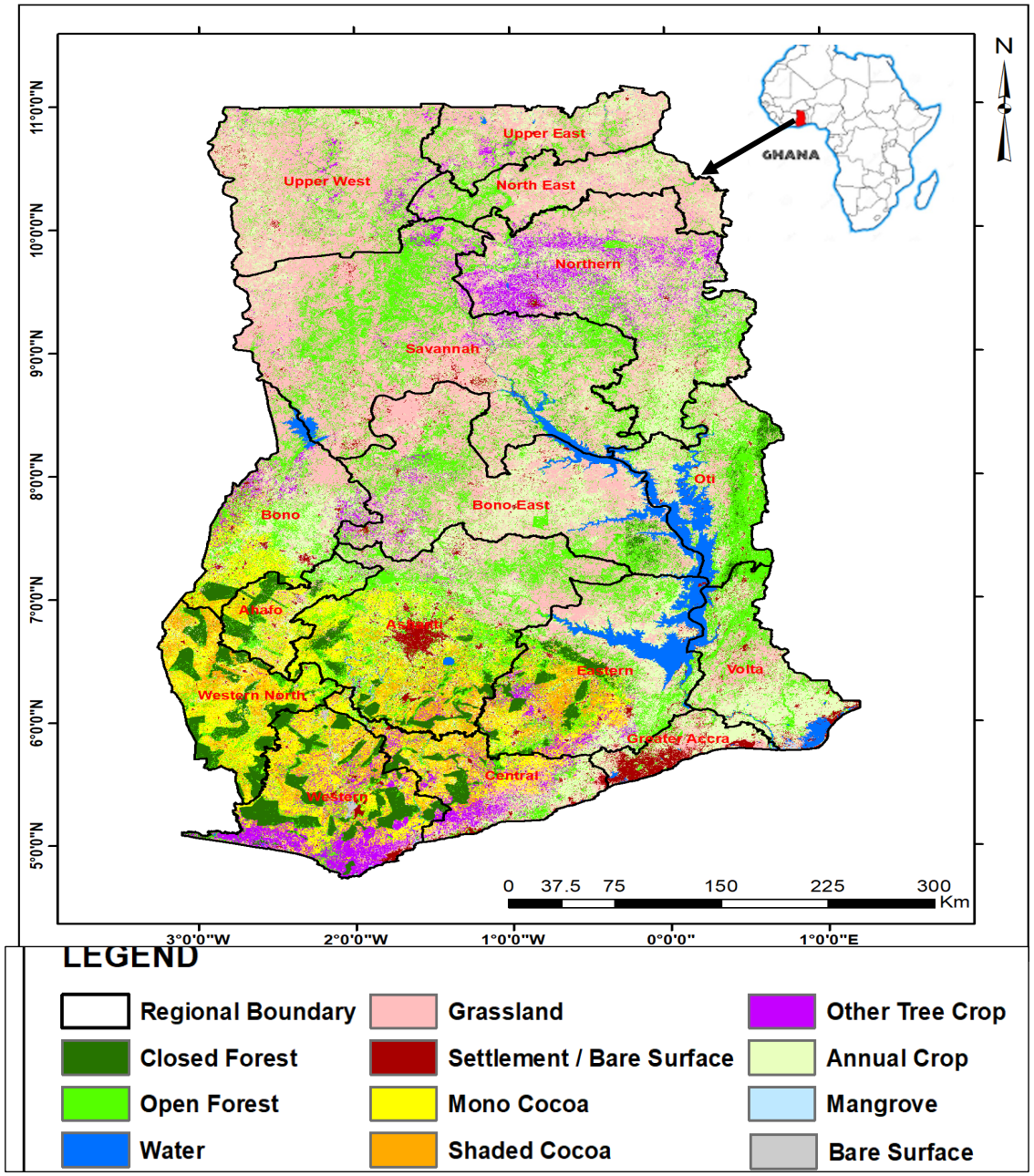
R. Gyimah- Forestry Commission, Ghana

International Hardwood Conference
November 6, 2026, Antwerp, Belgium

Presentation Outline

01	Country Context/ Importance of the Ghana forestry sector
02	Ghana's Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) and how it responds to Sustainable Forest Management & Thriving Timber Industry
03	Attributes of FLEGT License to meet Global Market Requirements for Timber Trade
04	What needs to be done to consolidate the gains and expand the benefits of FLEGT Licensing System

Ghana's Key Land Cover Types and Timber Production Statistics



PARAMETER OF INTEREST	UNIT OF MEASURE
Closed Forest	1.2 million ha
Open Forest	5.4 million ha
The total area of Forest Reserves within the High Forest Zone	1,63 million ha
Timber production areas in Forest Reserves in the HFZ	715,000 ha
Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) from production forest reserves and off-reserve areas (natural timber)	2 million cubic meters
Annual average Plantation timber production (on- and off-reserve; 2023-2025)	≈328,500 m^3
Total Plantation Area (Public≈340,00 ha and Private ≈ 60,000 ha)	≈400,000 ha
Total Wildlife Protected Areas	1.3 million ha

Contribution of Forestry to Socio- Economy & Environmental Services

- Under Ghana's economic development path (1995-2020), forest resource was one of the sources for the economic transformation. The timber industry has been a major contributor to the national GDP (4-6%) for the period (2000-2010). Currently, its contribution to GDP is about 1.5 %.

- In 2023, the export of timber and other forest products accounted for about 1.0% of Ghana's total export earnings. Timber Export Earnings (2024) - **€123.4 million**

- In 2021, the Ghanaian forestry sector employed approximately 100,000 people. This includes formal employment within the Forestry Commission and other forestry-related businesses. The sector also supports a significant number of people through informal activities like small-scale carpentry, woodcarving, and chainsaw milling, bush meat trade, etc.- estimated to be around 3 million people in entire value chain

- Forests provides environmental and provisioning services such as protection of water bodies, biodiversity, micro climate creation for cocoa production, energy needs (wood fuel and charcoal), climate change mitigation (emission reduction), etc.

Ghana's Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) and how it responds to Sustainable Forest Management

Legal Standard | Chain of Custody | Verification System | Licensing Authority | Independent Audit

LEGAL TIMBER STANDARD



Legality Definition aggregated into 7 Principles with corresponding Criteria and Indicators

Principle	Subject Area	No. of Criteria	Criterion
1	Source of Timber	2	i. Management plans, Boundary delineation ii. Landowner, individual or group written consent.
2	Timber Rights Allocation	3	i. Natural Forest and Plantation TUCs; ii. Salvage permit iii. Confiscated Timber
3	Timber Harvesting Operations	7	i. Stock survey/pre-felling inspection ii. Logging was carried out in areas designated for timber production iii. Logs accurately measured & recorded iv. Timber harvested corresponded (species, volumes, numbers) v. Stumps & logs marked according to logging manual vi. Compliance with relevant SRA vii. Payment of crop compensation

LEGAL TIMBER STANDARD

Principle	Subject Area	No. of Criteria	Criterion
4	Transportation	2	i. Timber transported with official documentation (origin and corresponding with physical identification of the timber) ii. Timber was transported within the time periods permitted by law.
5	Processing	2	i. Timber processing facilities have valid licenses and registration with FC and complied with all legal requirements ii. Industrial relation practices conform to legal standards.
6	Trade	2	i. Exporters have acquired FC permit. ii. Domestic Vendors have FC registration.
7	Fiscal Obligation	4	i. Logger was not in default of stumpage fees or any other fees payable by loggers in Ghana ii. Logger was not in default of ground rents iii. Exporter was not in default of export levies iv. Neither Logger nor exporter was in default of corporate income tax.

Chain of Custody System (CoC)

Enabled by Electronic Wood Tracking System

- System that enables the tracking of timber and timber products from a forest or point of import to a point of export & domestic market (and vice versa)
- Systematically enables the identification and reconciliation of wood flows accompanied by the relevant documentation throughout the supply chain
- Decision support system to inform sustainable forest management and legal timber trade (country-wide database on producer compliance with legality definition)
- The CoC is based on existing business processes and procedures

Internal Audit, Legality Licensing & Third Party Independent Monitor

- Licenses – the targeted end product of the GhTLAS technical systems
- Licenses – Guarantees that timber from a country has been harvested, processed, and exported in accordance with national laws
- Outputs/reports from internal audits inform licensing decision
- The designated licensing authority (TIDD) issues licenses acting on the reports of the verification of legality (internal audits)
- Ghana's approach is shipment-based licensing
- Third Party Independent Monitor recruited by Ghana and the EU provides assurance to the entire GhTLAS and maintains credibility of the system

Ghana's Timber Legality Assurance System (TLAS) and how it contributes to a Thriving & Resilient Industry

Meets Domestic Market Requirements | Meets Export Market Requirements | Potentially meets EUDR Requirements as Ghana is categorized as low-risk country



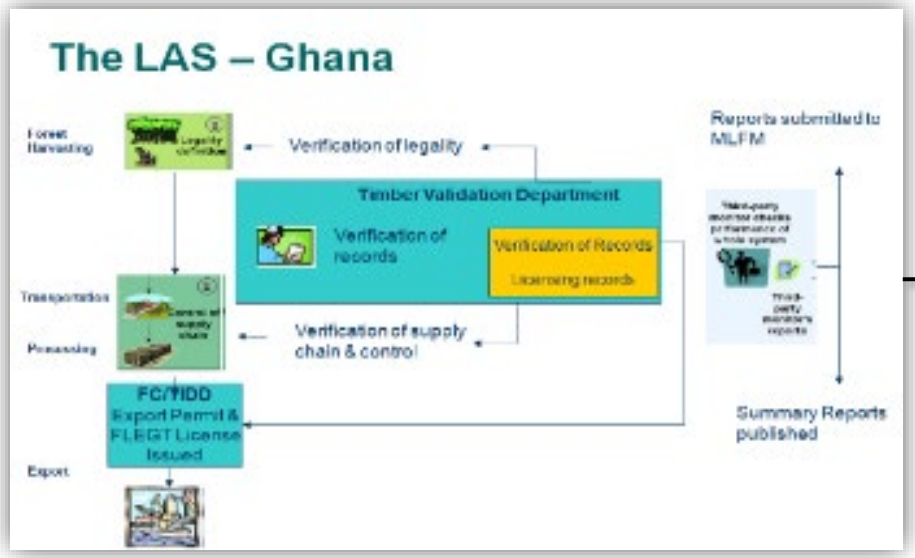
Flegt license "Go-Live"
August 15, 2025



Flegt license Launch, Brussels
November 4, 2025

First in Africa, Second in the world

Types of Licensing Issued under the TLAS of Ghana



EU Destinations

FLEGT License

Other Export Destinations

EXPORT PERMIT

Timber Sales

Exports

Domestic

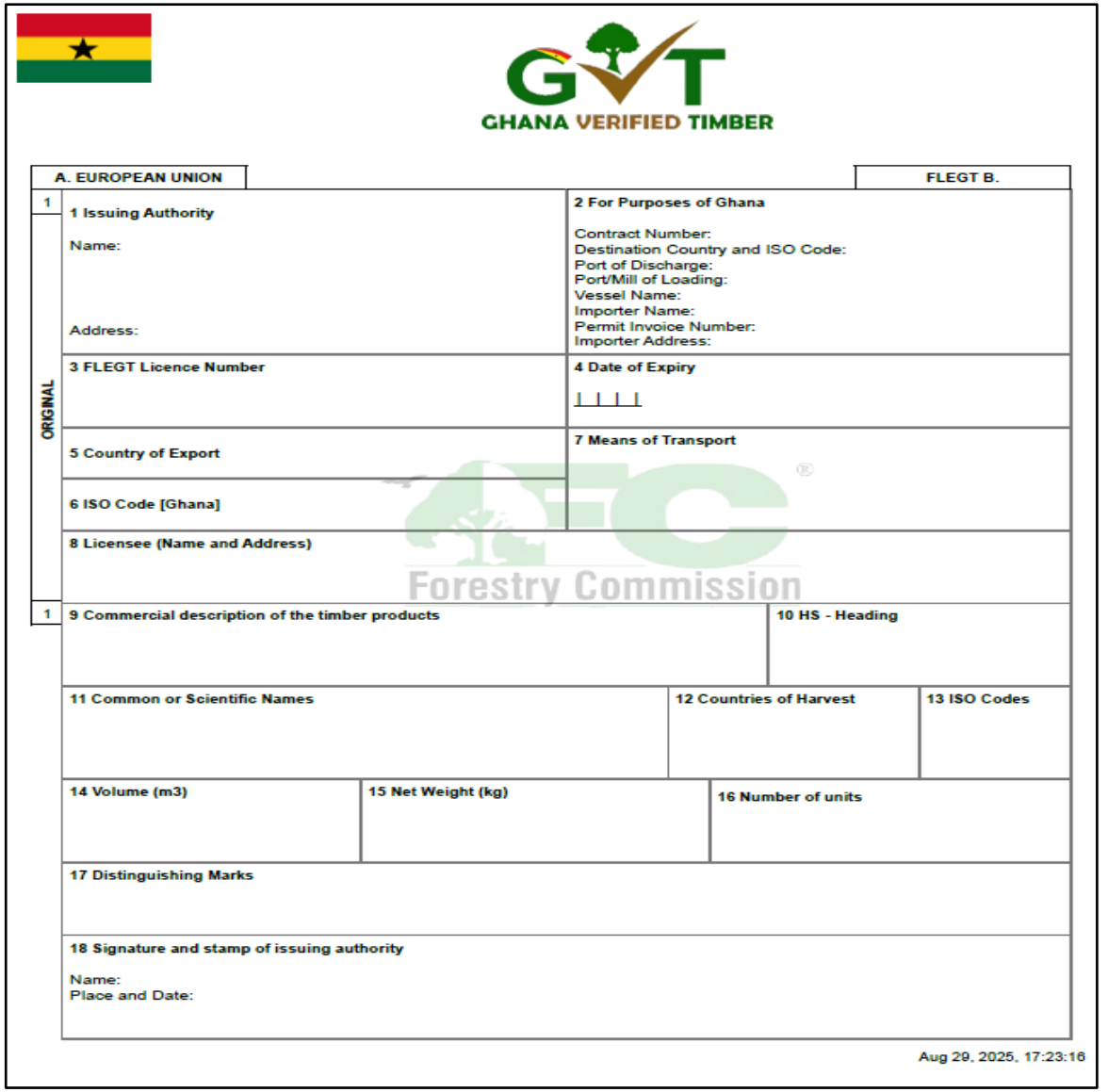
DOMESTIC TIMBER INSPECTION CERTIFICATE

ALL destinations must satisfy full legality qualities

GHANA'S FLEGT LICENSE - ATTRIBUTES TO MEET GLOBAL MARKET REQUIREMENTS

Attributes on the Ghana FLEGT License include:

- ❑ Security features (Forestry Commission's watermark logo, system generated license number, seal & stamp)
- ❑ Trade information (HS Code, product description, volume, weight, name & address of importer, etc.)
- ❑ CITES-listed species are checked/validated alongside FLEGT License
- ❑ Ghana is in a pole position to meet the EUDR requirements:
  - ❑ Ghana is classified as a low-risk country for EUDR implementation because of its credible GhTLAS
  - ❑ There is a functional Ghana Wood Tracking & Decision Support System that can satisfy EUDR requirements:
    - ❑ Geolocation of timber trees
    - ❑ Deforestation-free validation



GHANA VERIFIED TIMBER

A. EUROPEAN UNION — FLEGT B.

ORIGINAL

1 Issuing Authority
Name:
Address:

2 For Purposes of Ghana
Contract Number:
Destination Country and ISO Code:
Port of Discharge:
Port/Mill of Loading:
Vessel Name:
Importer Name:
Permit Invoice Number:
Importer Address:

3 FLEGT Licence Number

4 Date of Expiry
| | | | |

5 Country of Export

6 ISO Code [Ghana]

7 Means of Transport

8 Licensee (Name and Address)

9 Commercial description of the timber products

10 HS - Heading

11 Common or Scientific Names

12 Countries of Harvest

13 ISO Codes

14 Volume (m3)

15 Net Weight (kg)

16 Number of units

17 Distinguishing Marks

18 Signature and stamp of issuing authority
Name:
Place and Date:

Forestry Commission

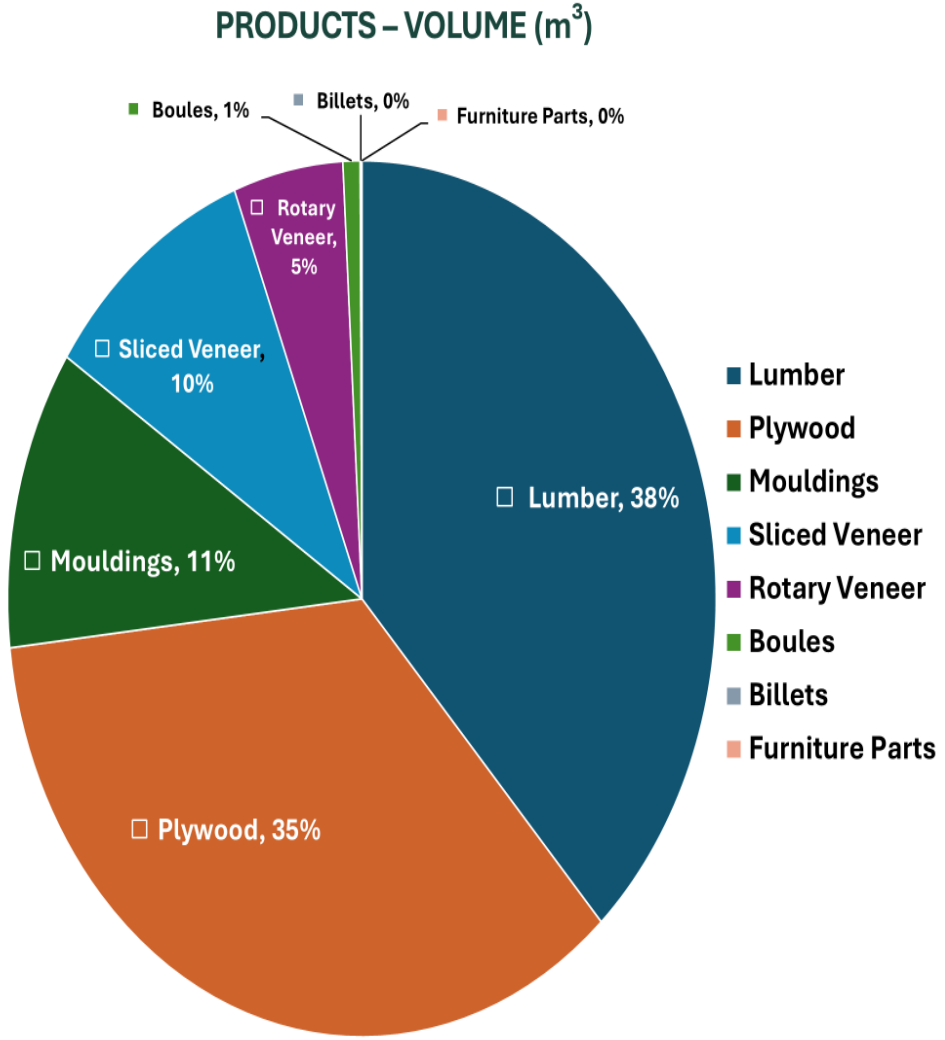
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FLEGT LICENCES

Destination Country Analysis (AUGUST 15, 2025 – OCTOBER 28, 2026)

1,004	19	47,168 m^3	€29.41 M
TOTAL LICENSES	COUNTRIES	TOTAL VOLUME	TOTAL VALUE

#	COUNTRY	LICENCES	VOLUME	TOTAL VALUE (€)
1	Belgium	260	8,381.63	5,459,404.87
2	Germany	225	9,195.63	5,892,390.31
3	Italy	101	4,386.42	4,674,051.63
4	Greece	94	5,295.71	3,068,968.48
5	Estonia	45	1,933.93	1,100,555.08
6	France	41	3,381.66	1,650,653.78
7	Ireland	41	1,815.71	968,442.74
8	Spain	39	1,411.65	1,105,499.36
9	Denmark	32	1,175.94	851,018.89
10	Portugal	25	1,173.16	589,994.05
11	Cyprus	24	2,764.91	1,149,966.30
12	Netherlands	17	2,067.96	1,012,162.17
13	Croatia	15	778.07	404,063.07
14	Lithuania	11	648.59	293,798.69
15	Poland	10	1,152.66	455,964.03
16	Bulgaria	8	300.95	158,497.80
17	Finland	7	536.60	292,727.42
18	Romania	5	279.32	92,107.28
19	Latvia	4	488.06	189,120.00
	TOTAL	1,004	47,168.57	29,409,385.95



WHAT DOES GHANA HAVE TO OFFER

From quality sawn timber to value-added wood products

PROUDLY GHANAIAN

Forestry Commission



Plywood



Rotary Veneer



Sliced Veneer



Artisan Walnut Tabletops



Lumber



Tongue & Groove (T&G)



Decking Tiles



Handcrafted Walnut Lounge Set

QUALITY • CRAFTSMANSHIP • SUSTAINABLE VALUE ADDITION

What needs to be done to Consolidate the gains and Expand the Benefits of FLEGT Licensing System - Lessons learnt

Secure raw material supply | Strengthen SFM practices | Supply Chain Resilience | Collaboration with international buyers, investors & Development Partners

What is needed to consolidate and expand the gains of FLEGT Licensing

1. Secure raw material supply:

- ❑ Investment in high-quality forest and landscape restoration for industrial timber supply, environmental recovery and resilient livelihoods.
- ❑ Undertake Public Private Partnership approaches for plantation development
- ❑ Application of “smart” forestry for plantation establishment and management
- ❑ Application of R & D in plantation development to obtain the most appropriate planting materials for quality products

2. Strengthen SFM practices through provision of technical and financial support for:

- ❑ Effective forest protection and law enforcement
- ❑ Reduced impact logging and biodiversity conservation
- ❑ Ensure effective and inclusive benefit-sharing arrangements for forest communities

3. Timber Supply Chain Resilience:

- ❑ Apply innovation and adaptive systems to meet emerging global market requirements for timber trade
- ❑ Market and Product diversification including the utilization of lesser-known/lesser-used wood species
- ❑ Industry retooling for operational efficiency and downstream processing for value addition
- ❑ Stakeholder engagements and Capacity building
- ❑ Ensure cost-effective supply chain management
- ❑ Explore opportunities for assessing green finance for efficient energy systems at timber processing facilities

4. Collaboration & Partnerships:

- ❑ Ghana invites international buyers, development partners, investors and other stakeholders to support Ghana’s path towards sustainability and supply chain resilience in this changing global trade period

THANK YOU

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