



GHANA'S INSTITUTIONAL AND GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR REDD+

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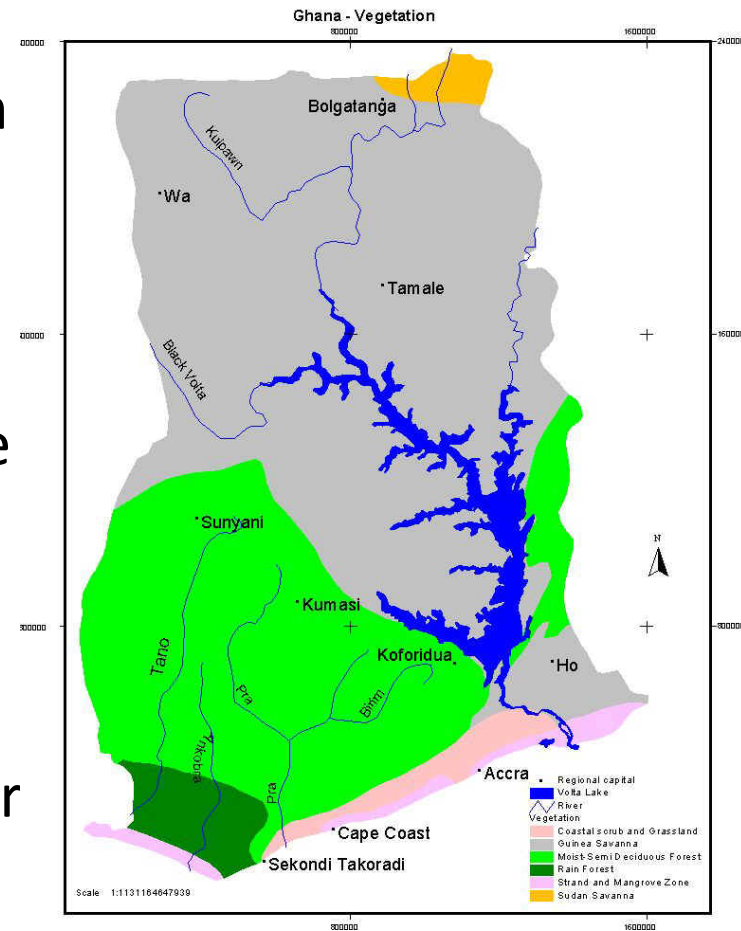
OUTLINE

- Background Country Information
- Ghana's REDD+ Readiness Process
- Towards Realizing REDD+
- REDD+ Governance: Context, Experiences and Challenges
- Key initiatives that seek to enhance transparency and good governance in Ghana
- Conclusion



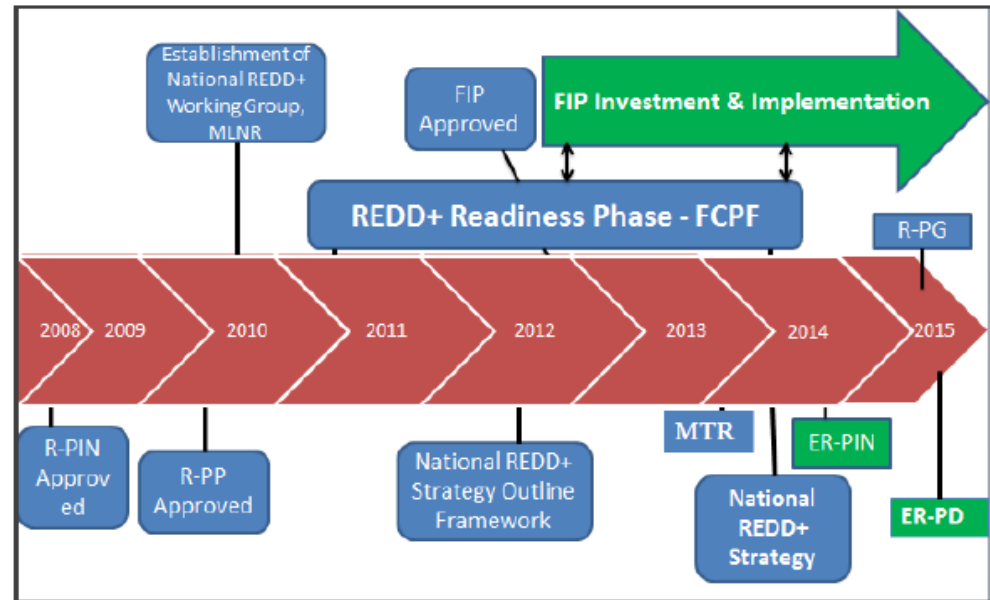
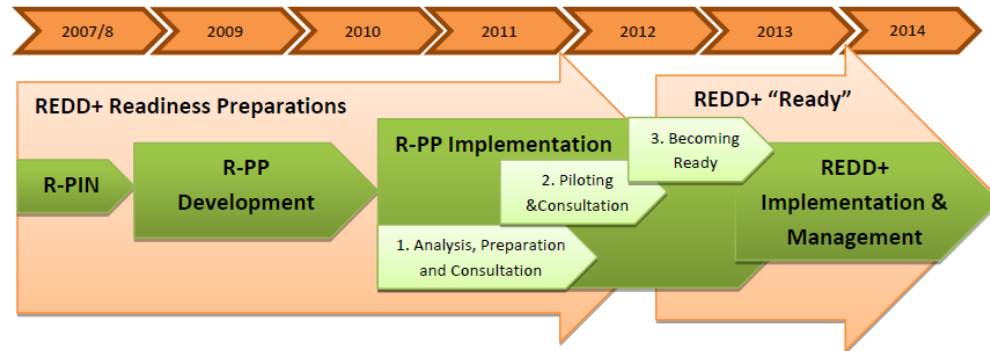
BACKGROUND COUNTRY INFO

- Ghana is a West African democratic state with a land area of 23.9 million ha. and a population of approximately 24 million people
- Largely agrarian economy, as well as key extractive industries i.e. minerals, timber and lately off-shore oil and gas
- Two broad ecological zones; High Forest and Savanna, and a fast-expanding Transition Zone
- 80% of Ghana's forest cover lost over a period of a century (1900-2000)



GHANA'S REDD+ READINESS PROCESS

- Ghana's REDD+ Readiness was formally launched in 2012 and is being supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility.
- First phase of REDD+ Readiness was successfully completed in 2014 and a second phase commences this year.
- Complementary initiatives for Ghana's REDD+ Readiness include VPA-FLEGT, FIP, NREG etc.
- Ghana is developing an Emissions Reduction programme that seeks to significantly curb carbon emissions from the cocoa sector in a programmatic approach

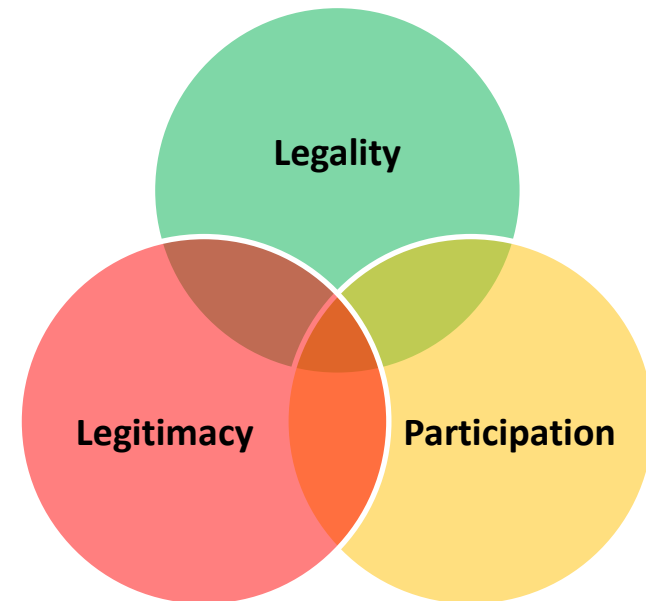


TOWARDS REALIZING REDD+

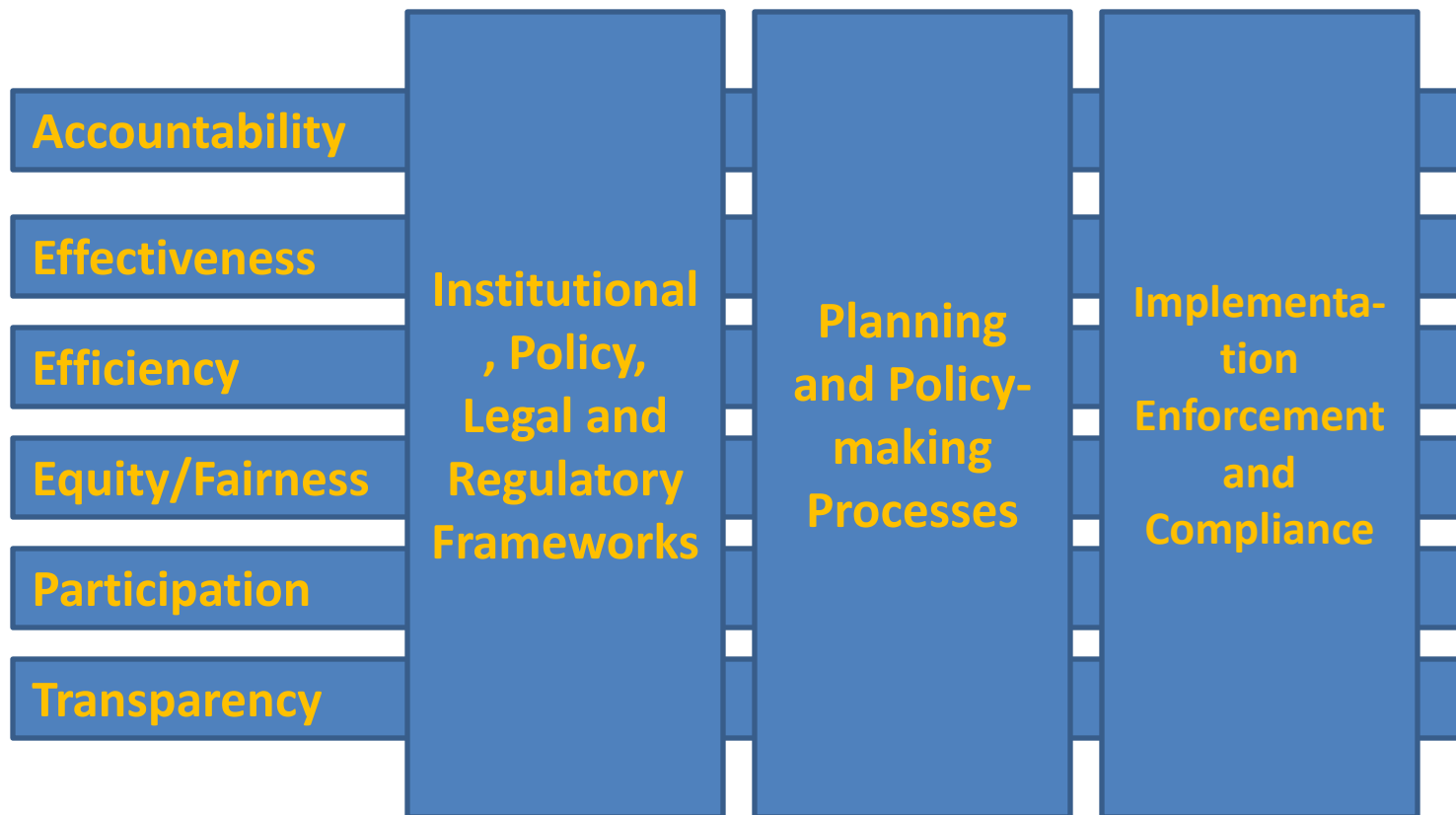
- Ghana's Vision for REDD+ is to significantly reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation by 40% over the next ten years, whilst at the same time addressing threats that undermine ecosystem services and environmental integrity
- This will be pursued through a 3-pronged strategy;
 - **Strategic Intervention 1:** Improving Land-use and socio-economic development in the High Forest Zone and cocoa growing areas.
 - **Strategic Intervention 2:** Addressing wood harvesting and agricultural practices in the 'transition' and savannah zone.
 - **Strategic Intervention 3:** Policy and legislative reforms to support REDD+ and a sustainable Forestry sector.

REDD+ GOVERNANCE

- Good governance is recognized as an important bedrock for critical for achieving REDD+.
- It encompasses **Legality** (rules to check abuses and resolve conflicts); **Legitimacy** (acceptance and trust by stakeholders that ensure accountability); and **Participation** (inclusiveness in decision-making)



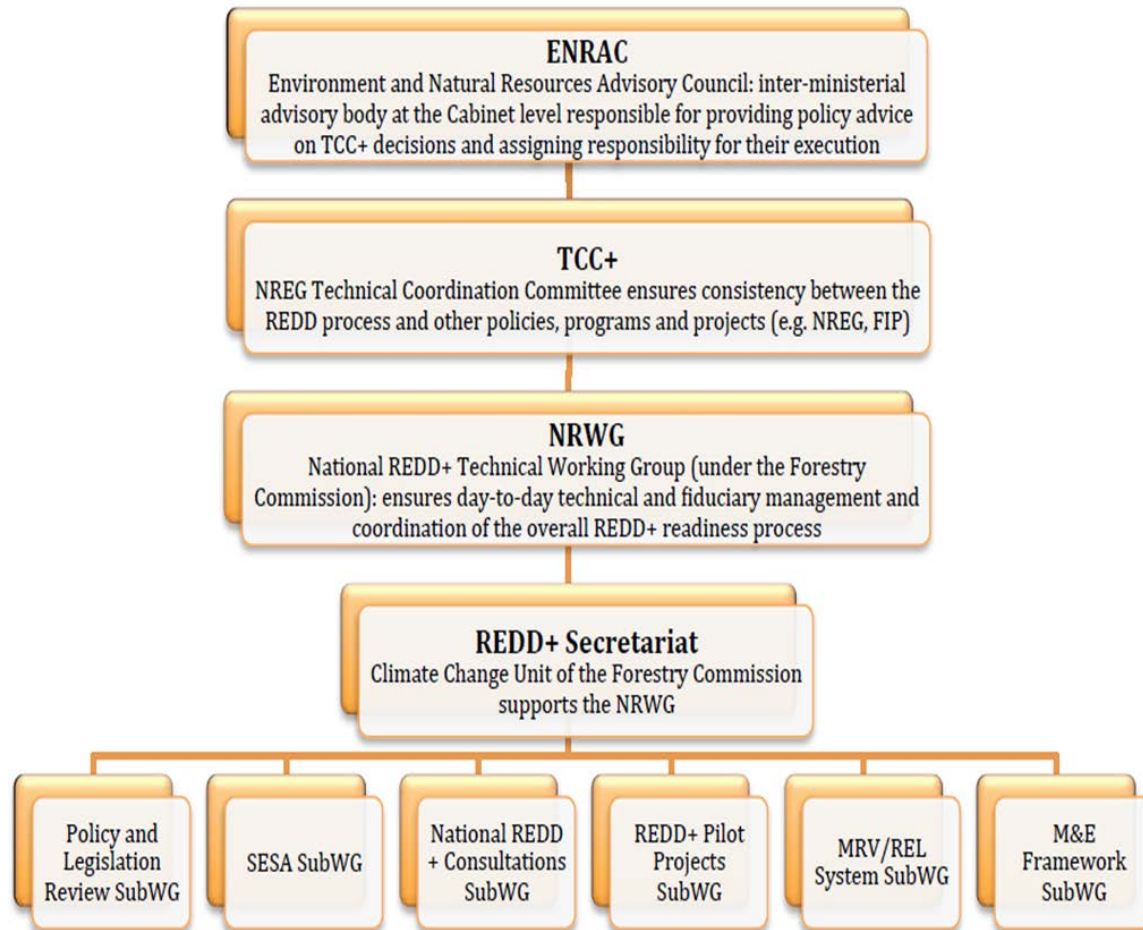
PRINCIPLES & ELEMENTS OF GOVERNANCE FOR REDD+



INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

Stakeholder engagement and participation has been very extensive during Ghana's REDD+ Readiness process.

The process has been guided by a Consultation and Participation Plan and a Communication Strategy that adopts a variety of approaches for enhanced awareness and action



POLICY ENVIRONMENT

- The existing national policy and strategy frameworks provide a good basis for implementation of environmental initiatives including REDD+.
- Ghana's current development blueprint, GSGDA, articulates the commitment of government to address climate change as a matter of priority.
- The revised Forest and Wildlife Policy (2012) recognise REDD+ as essential for Ghana's Low Carbon Growth and Sustainable Forest Management Agenda.
- The National Renewable Energy Policy has also been promulgated, aimed at sustainable fuelwood supply and consumption
- Two national policy documents—the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and the revised National Environment Policy were launched by the President in mid-2014



OTHER REDD+ POLICY ISSUES

- The frameworks dealing with Strategic Social and Environmental Assessment (SESA), Grievance Redress Mechanisms, Benefit Sharing and Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) have been developed and implementation initiated within the boundaries of the National REDD+ Strategy
- Grass-root participation in landuse planning and policy making processes is critical for broad stakeholder buy-in

LEGAL AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORKS

- Ghana has signed onto several international environmental treaties including CITES; UNFCCC, CBD etc. and has consequently put in place national policies and legislation to meet these commitments.
- It is well acknowledged that the legal regime for REDD+ is inadequate and this deficiency will be addressed as the mechanism evolves over time. Particularly carbon property rights will need to be clearly established.
- Robust legal measures will be needed to ensure accountability with future cash inflows from REDD activities
- In 2015, preliminary studies on financial management arrangements for REDD+ and Alternative Dispute Resolution will be commissioned as a step toward enactment of REDD-related laws in the near future.
- Steps are being taken to strengthen Law enforcement in the land use sector to check illegal logging and mining activities

SOME KEY POINTS

ENABLERS

- Strong democratic culture
- Vibrant civil society
- Incentives and sanctions for compliance
- Political will and commitment
- Capacity building
- Sound information/data management (REDD+ Registry etc.)

BARRIERS

- Resistance to change
- Low levels of awareness
- Civic indifference
- Lack of institutional capacity at different levels
- Absence of third party performance audits
- Poor expectation management

KEY INITIATIVES THAT SEEKS ENHANCE TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE IN GHANA'S REDD+ PROCESS

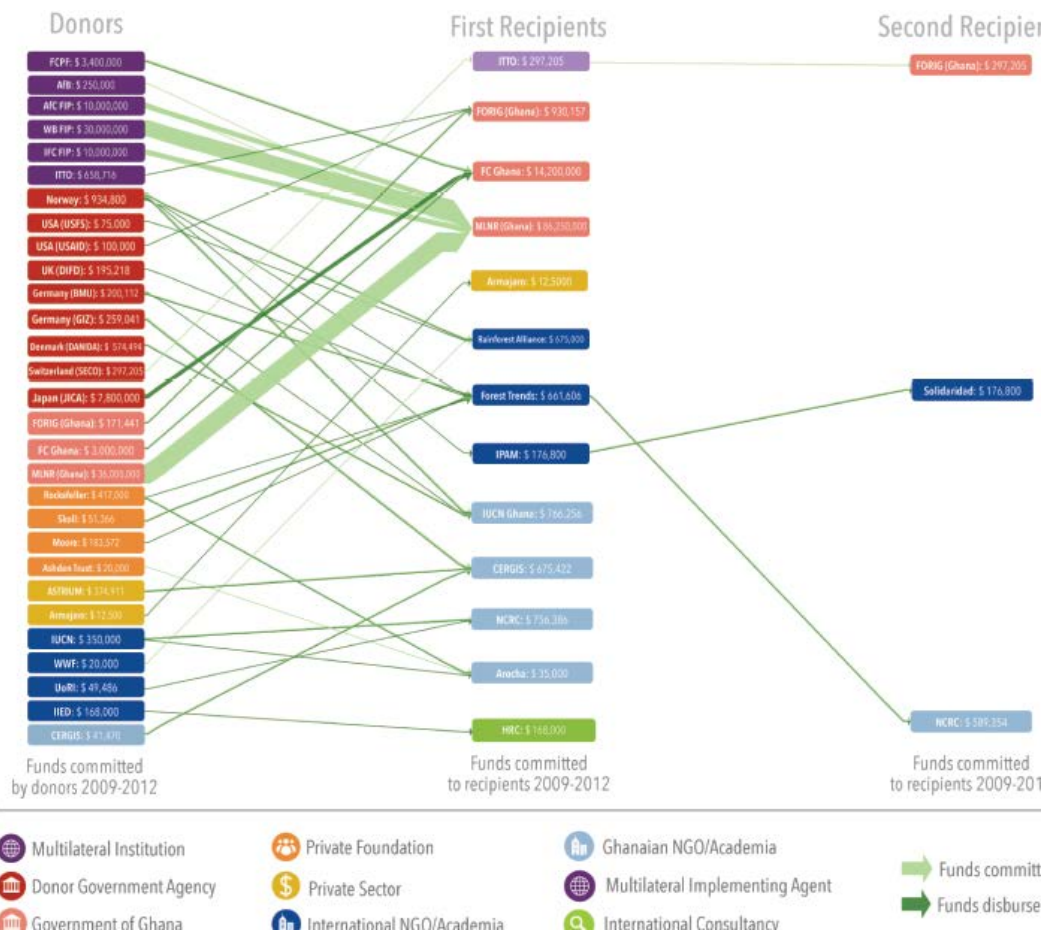
REDDX

- REDDX – REDD+ eXpenditures

- Annual Initiative undertaken by NCRC and Forestry Commission since 2011

- Purpose is to provide transparent and reliable information on financial flows for REDD+ activities in Ghana

- Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative



CONCLUSION

- Good governance practice engenders trust, broad stakeholder acceptance and sense of ownership among different stakeholders, and reduces the risks of conflict or failure of REDD+ projects.
- Ghana has made modest progress in REDD+ Readiness particularly on issues related to forest/ REDD+ Governance and will continue to count on our international partners for support in this pursuit.



Republic of Ghana



THANK YOU

