

Standards & Conformance Infrastructure for FLEGT VPA

Clark, 24 February 2016



What is a VPA?

- Legally-binding agreement between EU & Partner Country
- Objectives:
 - At least **all timber** (per product scope of the VPA) **exported to EU** from the partner country **verified** as **legally** compliant
 - **Clear legal framework**
 - Improved **governance** and **transparency**

What is negotiated?

- A timber legality assurance system (**TLAS**)
- Commitments to improve **transparency** and other aspects of forest governance
- **Framework** for **monitoring** and evaluating **implementation**

VPA text and annexes ›

Product scope

Legality definition

Legality assurance system

EU procedures for imports of FLEGT-licensed timber

FLEGT licences

Independent auditing

Legality assurance system assessment criteria

Implementation schedule

Accompanying measures

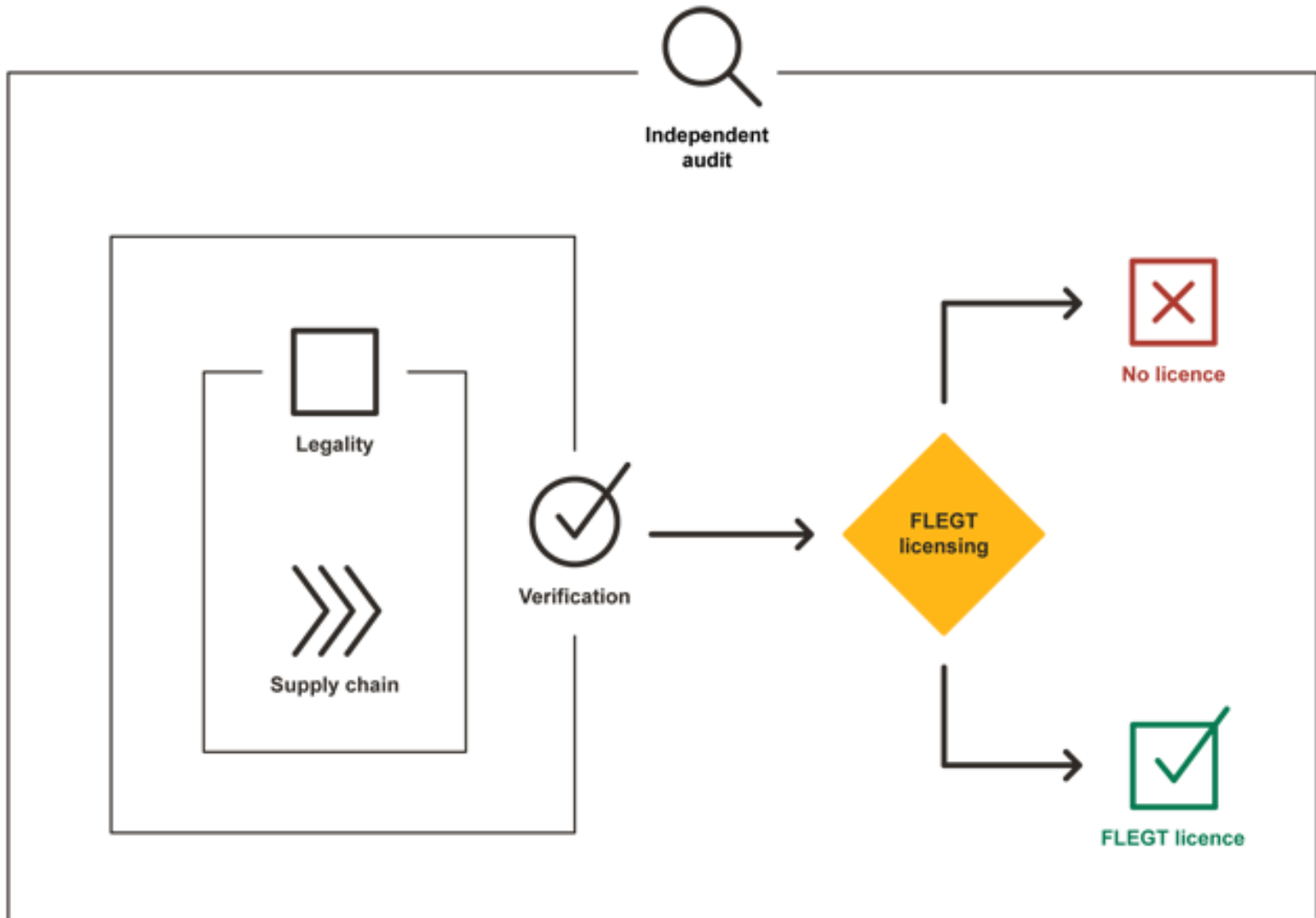
Public information

Joint implementation committee

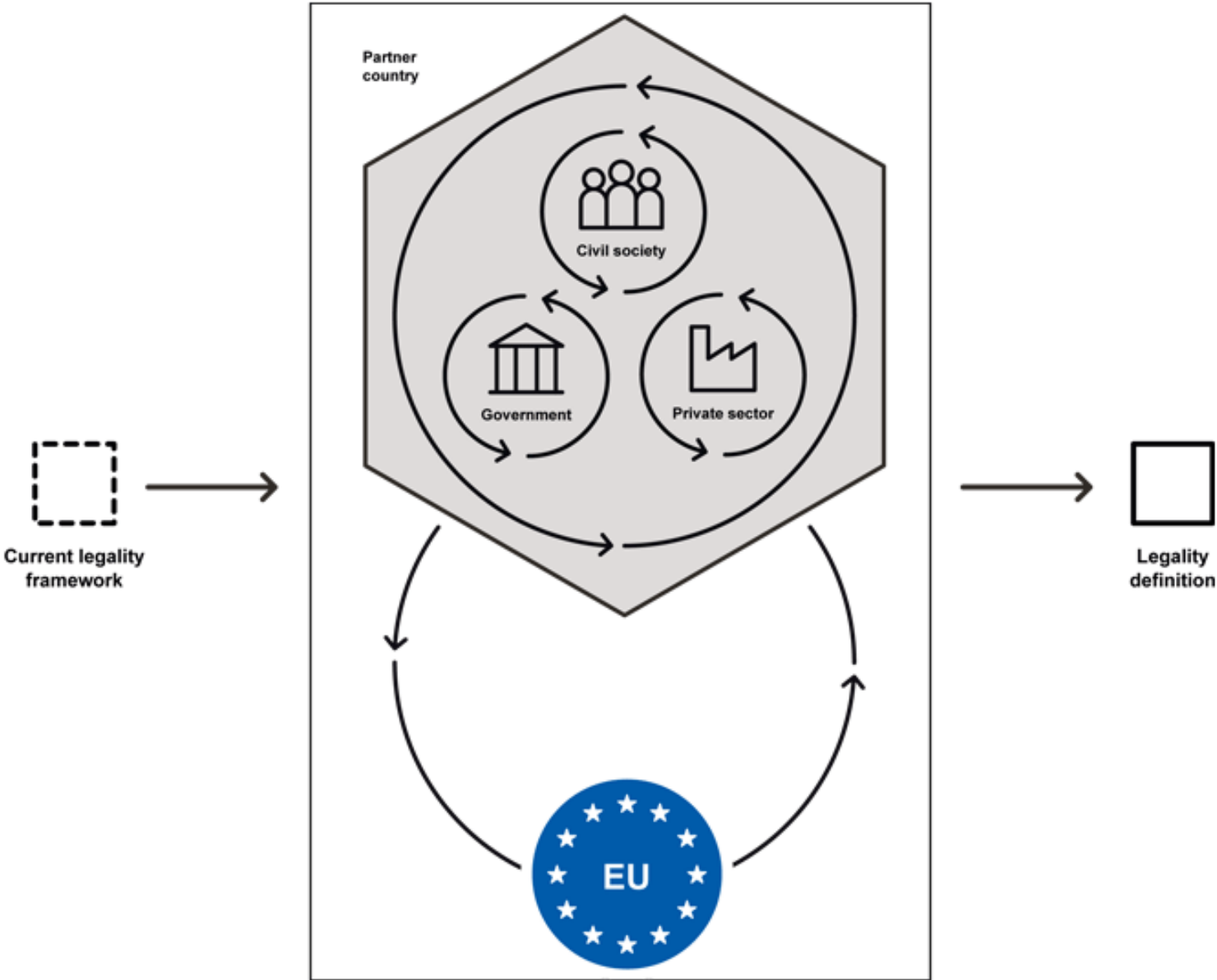
What does a TLAS comprise?

- 1. Legality definition**
- 2. Supply chain control**
- 3. Verification of compliance**
- 4. FLEGT licensing**
- 5. Independent audit**

TLAS – an integrated system



Legality Definition

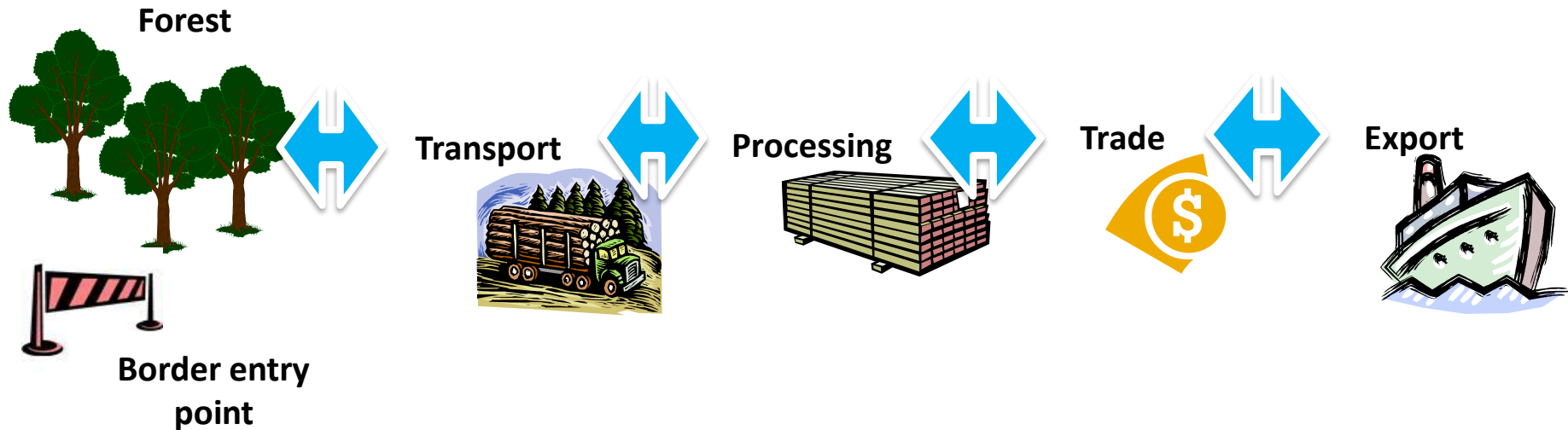


Similarities and differences with certification

- Developed through iterative multi-stakeholder process
- Engages stakeholders in dialogue that can inform policy reforms
- Reflects aspects of legislation related to the three pillars of sustainability
- Promotes understanding of the essential legal requirements for managing forests sustainably
- Makes clear the compliance requirements for both operators and regulators

Supply chain control system

- Ensures the integrity of timber product flows from the stump or the point of import to the point of export using traceability technologies, and reconciliation & validation of data



Similarities and differences with certification

- Provides for a system of control that applies to the whole sector - not just individual operators
- Ensures that unverified or illegal material does not enter the supply chain
- Makes clear the responsibilities of operators and regulators
- System tailored to each country - building on and strengthening existing controls
- Supports better collection of government revenues & can contribute to business efficiency for operators

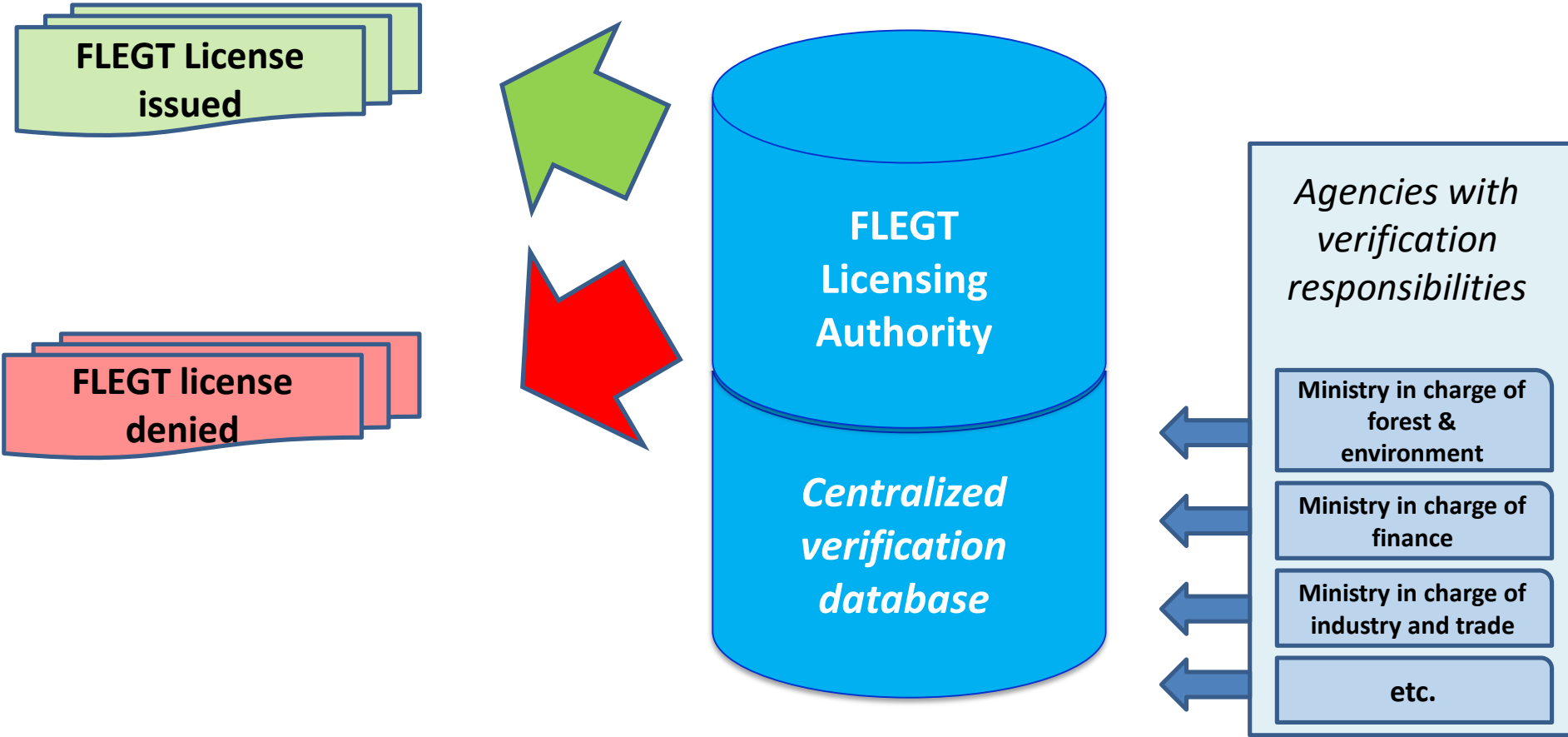
Verification procedures

- Verification system **ensures compliance with:**
 - the elements of the Legality Definition, and
 - the supply chain control system
- Verification is **based on documented procedures & protocols** defining verification methodologies, frequencies & different people/administrations involved for cross-checking and verifying compliance
- Supports **clarification of institutional responsibilities** in verification

Similarities and differences with certification

- Demonstrates that requirements for legal compliance and supply chain control are met
- Broad based approach (according to scope of TLAS) helps strengthen national systems
- TLAS verification functions **can be organized through different configurations**, involving government agencies & the private sector
- Can accommodate certification schemes, but **certification standard must be compliant with TLAS standards** (up to each country to determine)
 - *Complementary verification measures must be envisaged in case the scope of certification schemes does not entirely covers TLAS*

FLEGT Licensing



Potential synergies with timber certification initiatives

- Licensing system based on verification of compliance with the legality and supply chain controls
- Licence provides credible evidence of compliance of export consignment
- Will be immediately recognised on the EU market – no further EUTR requirements necessary
- Provides a basis for making known the achievement of a country's forest sector – not just individual operator

Similarities and differences with certification

- Independent audit demonstrates that system is functioning as intended - **gives credibility** to the system
- Conducted periodically
- Can take account of information from all stakeholders – those managing, subject to and monitoring the system
- Complaints mechanism to ensure that auditing is carried out as intended
- **Summary** report which is **publicly available**

Summary of potential synergies with timber certification initiatives

- Builds-in stakeholder participation
- Promotes dialogue towards consensus on what is necessary to demonstrate legality
- Improves awareness on aspects of the legal framework required for managing forest sustainability
- Promotes compliance throughout supply chains
- Provides credible demonstration of compliance
- Improve image of forest and timber industry
- Promotes accountability and transparency in the forest sector

Thank You

