FOREST GOVERNANCE AND ILLEGAL LOGGING IN VIETNAM

PERSPECTIVES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

World Resource Institute

Forest Legality Week, 22-24/06/2020

Vũ Thị Bích Hợp (hop@srd.org.vn)

Executive Director, SRD

CONTENTS

1. **Overview- Legal framework related to Forest Governance (FG) and illegal logging (IL);**

2. **Progress implementation of VPA-FLEGT regarding FG and IL**

3. **The role of CSOs in the VPA/FLEGT M&E Framework**

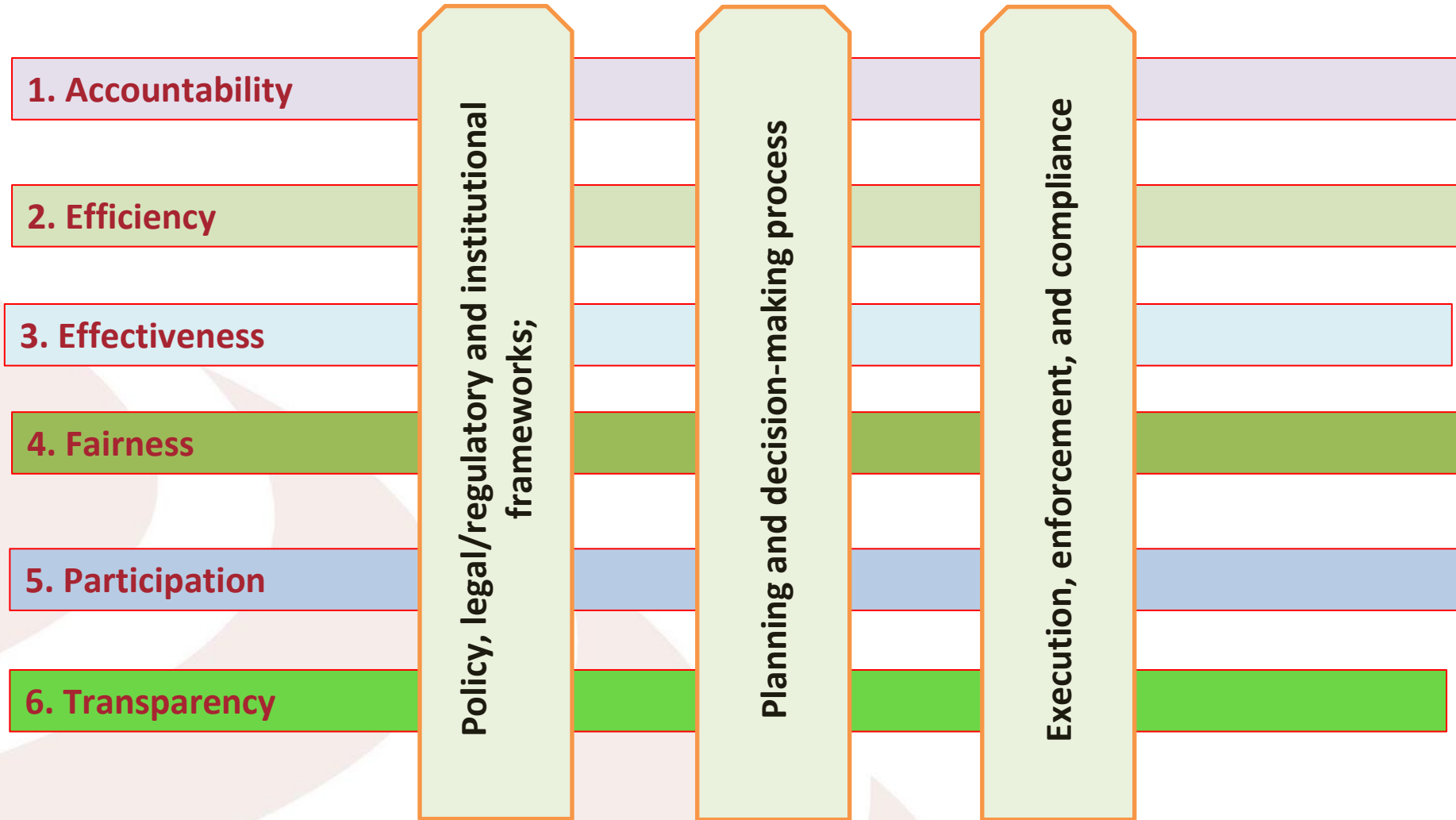4. **Recommendations and conclusion.**

1. Legal framework related to Forest Governance and illegal logging

- **Forestry Law** valid from 1/01/2019;

- **Circular** on **management and tracing of forest products, 2018**

- **Land Law** 2013

- **Environmental Protection Law, 2020**

- **Decree** 102 on Vietnam Timber Legality Assurance System **(VNTLAS),** 2020

- **VPA FLEGT M&E Framework approved by Joint Implementation Committee (JIC)** (focusing on impact monitoring) Nov, 2020

Cắt băng khánh thành nhà máy chế biến gỗ SAHABAK

Forest governance pillars and principles

1. Accountability

2. Efficiency

3. Effectiveness

4. Fairness

5. Participation

6. Transparency

Policy, legal/regulatory and institutional frameworks;

Planning and decision-making process

Execution, enforcement, and compliance

2- **Forest Governance : progress and issues**

+ Forest governance has improved through two initiatives: 1- the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Forest Governance and Trade (VPA/FLEGT) and 2- Participation Governance Assessment (PGA) under the support of the UNREDD program.

+ Issues on public Information disclosure, Transparency and information accessibility.

+ The tradition of communities in using and owning forests has not been clearly institutionalized

+ Sharing benefits from forests between companies and local people is in an asking and giving manner, but not transparent and fair in legality and in practicality,

+ Superficial consultations with forest-dependent HHs and communities in policy making creates social instability and conflicts unsustainability in the long term

+ Wood imported from Laos and Cambodia decreased significantly

+ Wood imported from Africa slightly decreased

2. SRD and VNGO-FLEGT Network established 2012 of more than 60 CSOs
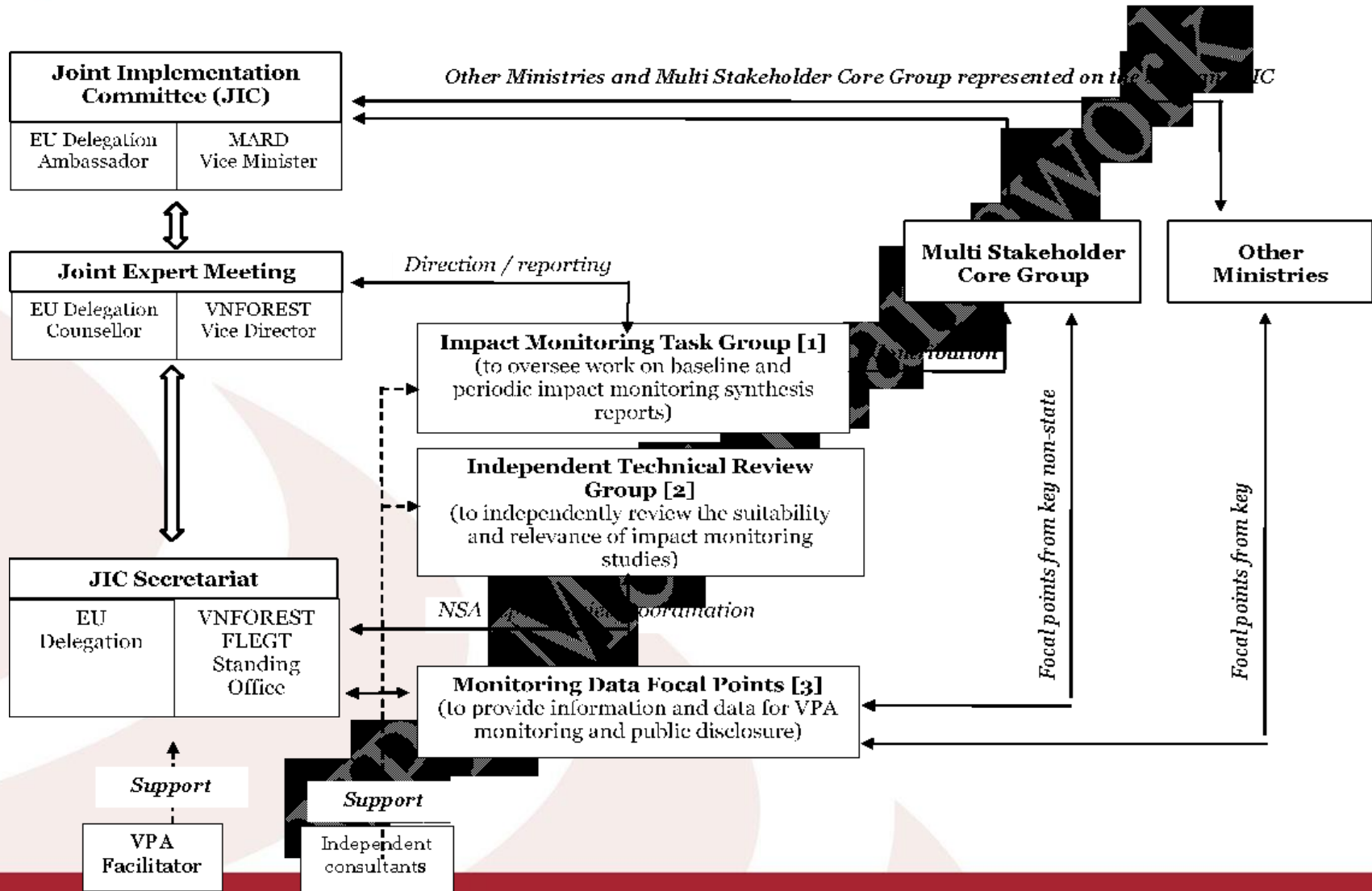
Objectives:

1-Undertake evidence-based research to identify important issues providing for policy dialogue;

2- Build capacity, improve understanding and change attitudes of authorities and stakeholders, communities, on forest governance issues and policies;

3- Alliances, cooperation for a greater voice and position.

4- Develop close relations with local communities and assist them in building or strengthening communities to become a partner, a stakeholder in the right position;

5- Develop and build relations with forest agencies as well as other stakeholders to be able to fulfill CSO role

6- Develop policy briefs and other communications on VPA from CSO perspectives

2. SRD and VNGO-FLEGT Network est. 2012 of 60 CSOs

+Conduct a number of studies (2012-2017) : VPA and Livelihood Impact Assessment (LIA); Readiness of households (HHs) and Timber processing villages for VPA; REDD+ and VPA Linkage and some others.

+ Conduct the survey in 4 provinces and Develop Manual for CSOs to assess the impact of VPA/FLEGT on forest dependent HHs, micro in planting, harvesting, transporting and processing forest timber (2018-2019)

+ Article on Voluntary Partnership Agreement VPA-FLEGT and Transparency in Forestry sector (2020); Paper on Forest Governance (2020)

+Study "NDC Việt Nam: Improve forest governance for successful forest restoration" (2020)

+ Study "Challenges and opportunity for CSO and Women engagement in VPA FLEGT implementation" (2020

+ Article on gender and forestry sector (2020)

+ Research on land rights and mechanisms for benefit sharing in the VPA-FLEGT & REDD+ context (2020)

+ Develop a pilot set of indicators to assess the impact of VPA/FLEGT on timber SME

Figure 2.2: **Impact Monitoring** as part of the VPA Mechanism (Note MSCG and Other Ministries are included in the JEM membership)

3. VPA/FLEGT M&E Frame work and opportunity for CSOs in implementation VPA/FLEGT

➢ VPA Impact Monitoring on households and micro, small enterprises

➢ Regular assessment/updates of Forest governance progress

➢ VPA Implementation Monitoring (yet not clear mechanism)

➢ Be informed/updated the VPA implementation progress via Bi-annual Core Group Meetings (CGM)

➢ Reflect concerns/voices from households and micro, small enterprises through CGM

➢ Assess capability of households and micro, small enterprises in implementing VPA

4. Some key recommendations

➢ Role of CSO must be included in TLAS

➢ Independent monitoring and auditing of CSOs must be defined in the M&E VPA framework

➢ Access to GOV funding for CSO to engage in the VPA implementation

➢ GOV to have road map to resolve issue: more than millions HHs are planting forests, a big number are not granted land use right certificates (LURCs), to comply with VPA as far as legal timber is concerned

➢ GOV to improve and enforce mechanism to support forest and forest land conflicts resolutions

➢ GOV and CSOs: Capacity building for HHs and community about VPA so they can comply with VPA regulations

➢ GOV and CSOs: strengthen community consultations on forest management, protection and development.

➢ GOV Set up implementation process to engage CSO in VPA M&E

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION!

The Center for Sustainable Rural Development (SRD)
56 lane 19/9, Kim Dong street, Ha Noi
Tel: 04 39436676/78   Fax: 04 39436449
Email: info@srd.org.vn
Website: www.srd.org.vn