



# Impacts and outcomes of FLEGT/VPAs in selected countries

A synthesis

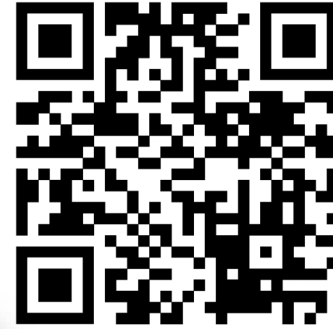
Washington – October 2022



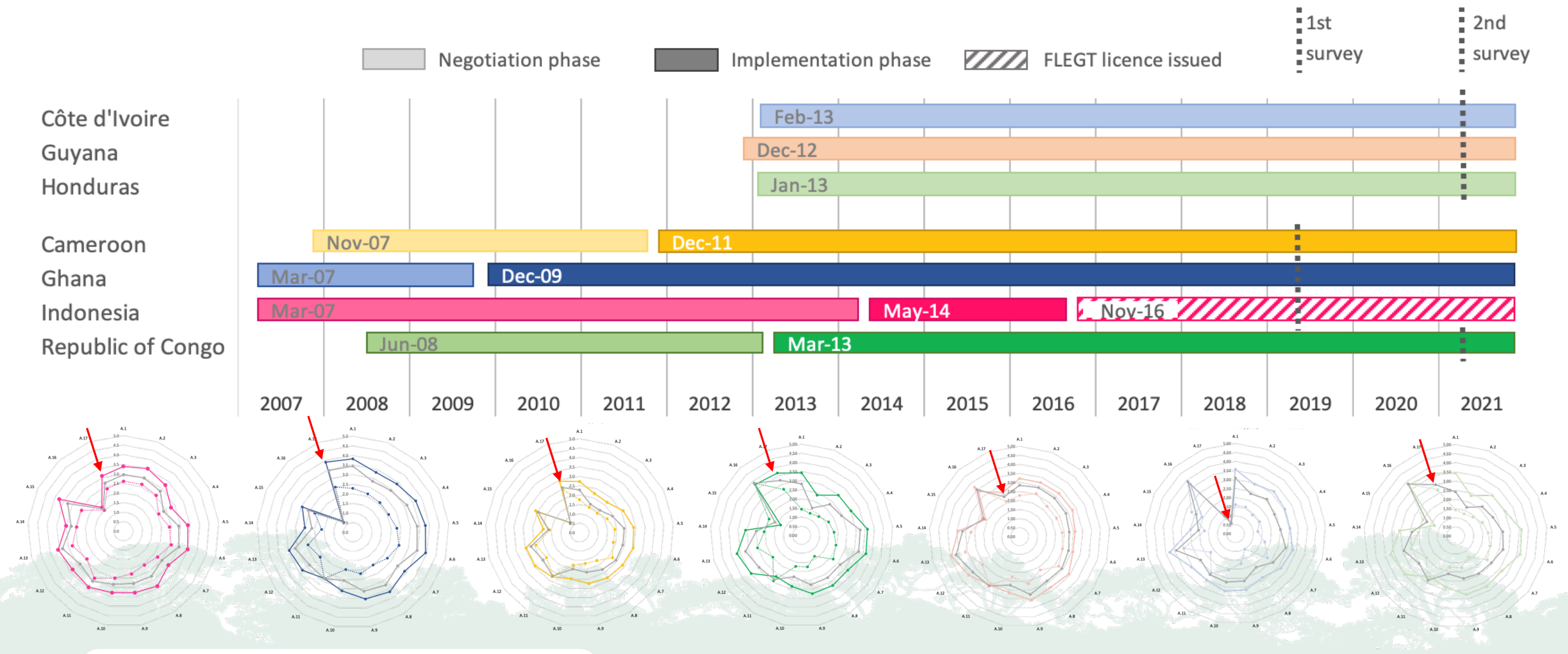


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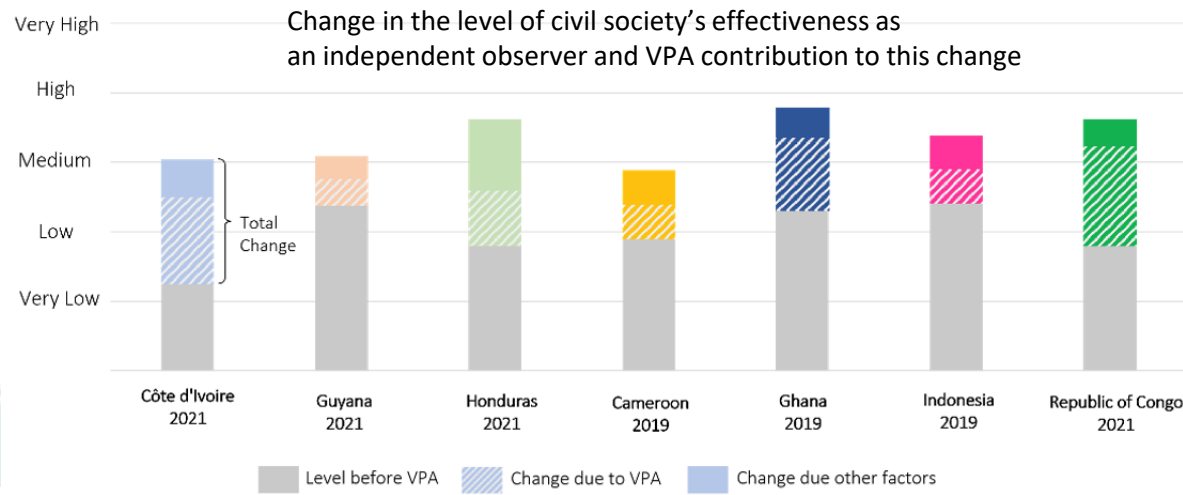


# Impacts: Speed, strength, context and time matter



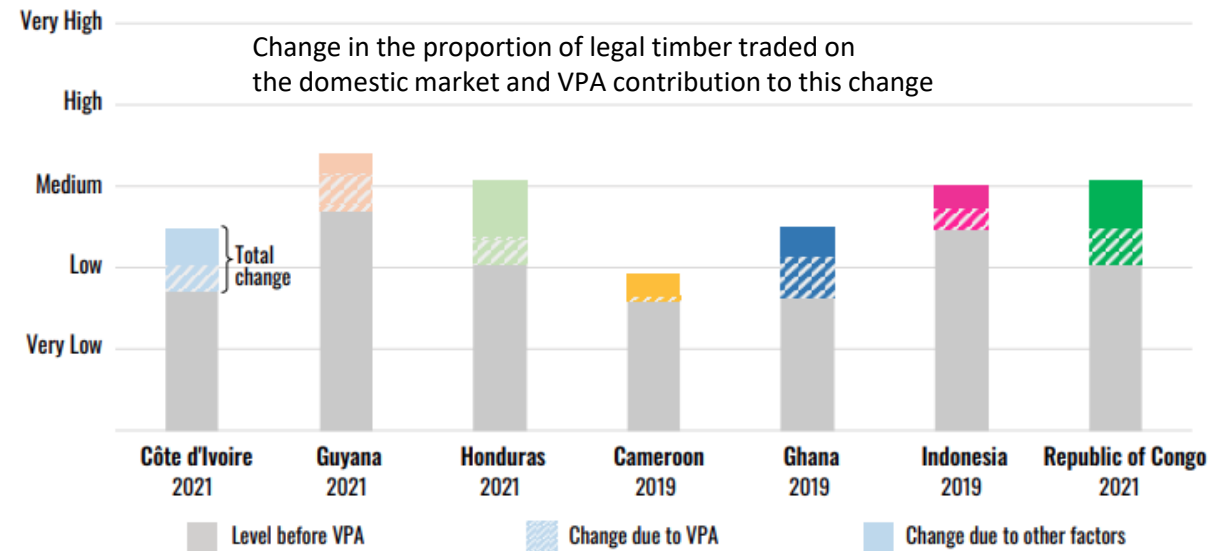
# Instrumental in the creation of patterns of power (re)distribution and promotion of democratic processes

- In some countries, systemic resistance to change remain strong: VPAs expose and challenge it
  - Long-term support of lead innovators
- Inter-agency inclusiveness and coordination: better but needs more (political) attention
  - Critical in a future with multiple commodities under scrutiny



# Timber value chains have been streamlined; national data collection and analysis must improve

- Export markets have benefited more than domestic ones from the regulatory focus on legality
- Mainstreaming among many SMEs (and CSOs) of a ‘traceability mindset’, where thorny issues are regularly discussed
  - In a future where more commodities will come under closer scrutiny, focus on avoiding market polarisation with negative effects on SMEs





# Better implementation of forest regulations and more sustainable forest practices

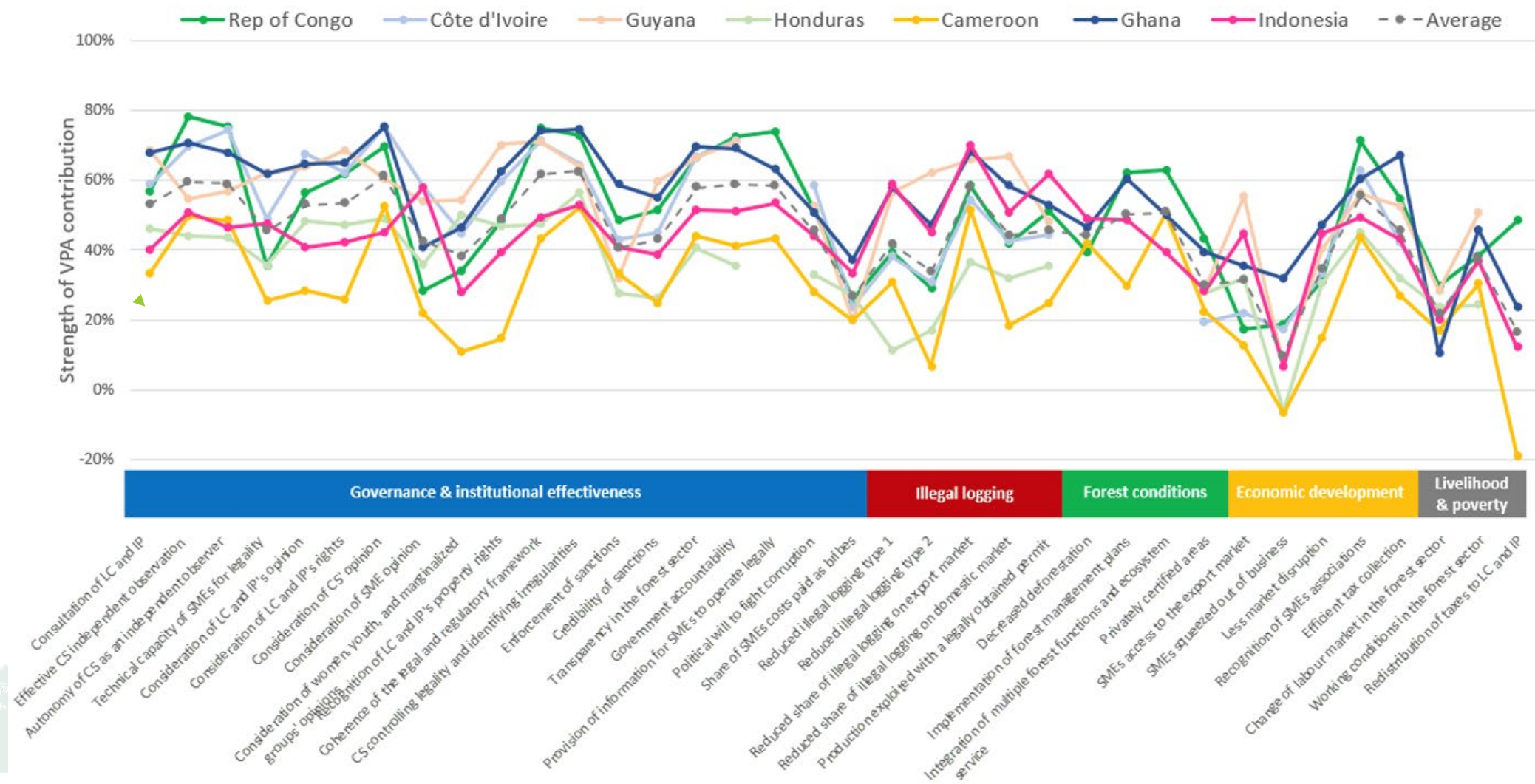
- Increased adoption and acknowledgment of the forest as an integrated set of functions and services
  - Very important for a multi-commodity focus in future programs/processes (with inter-agency coordination)

## Impact on local livelihoods remains very challenging to measure and it requires the longest time to materialize

- Tax collection and redistribution improved
- Increased job opportunities, including in the informal sector



# A continental drift more than a tik-tok



# A look beyond timber

- Complex processes should not be reduced to artificial, unique ‘deliverables’, with attached expiry date (e.g. FLEGT license)
  - This reduction risks leading to very poor policy decisions, especially when touching upon commodities which are largely produced by smallholders (e.g. coffee, cocoa...)
  - Impacts and outcomes can and should be expected both *before and after* artificial expiry dates, while more immaterial – yet hugely important – results (e.g. empowerment of smallholders) may grow throughout the process
  - **Question #1:** How can we ‘read’ them? National systems are fundamental (missing) pieces
- In MEL, the “L” is key
  - **Question #2:** How to learn better? Coordination and synergies between existing systems are fundamental (missing) pieces





# Thank you

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The work presented here is financed by the European Union, led by the Center for International Forestry Research (CIFOR), and conducted in partnership with *Aide à la Decision Economique* (ADE), through the Governing Multifunctional Landscapes' project (GML, [www.cifor.org/gml](http://www.cifor.org/gml)). The standard caveats apply. The content and opinions are the sole responsibility of the authors and can in no way be taken to reflect the position of the European Union, the Center for International Forestry Research or *Aide à la Decision Economique*.

