



GWTS PUBLIC PORTAL AND PARTICIPATION OF NON-STATE ACTORS IN TVD AUDITS AS OBSERVERS

TWO POTENTIAL CASES OF BREAKTHROUGH IN INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING IN GHANA

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Outline

- Setting the context
- The concept of GWTS public portal
- Provision in the TVD verification protocols for “observers” in the Audit process
- Concluding remarks



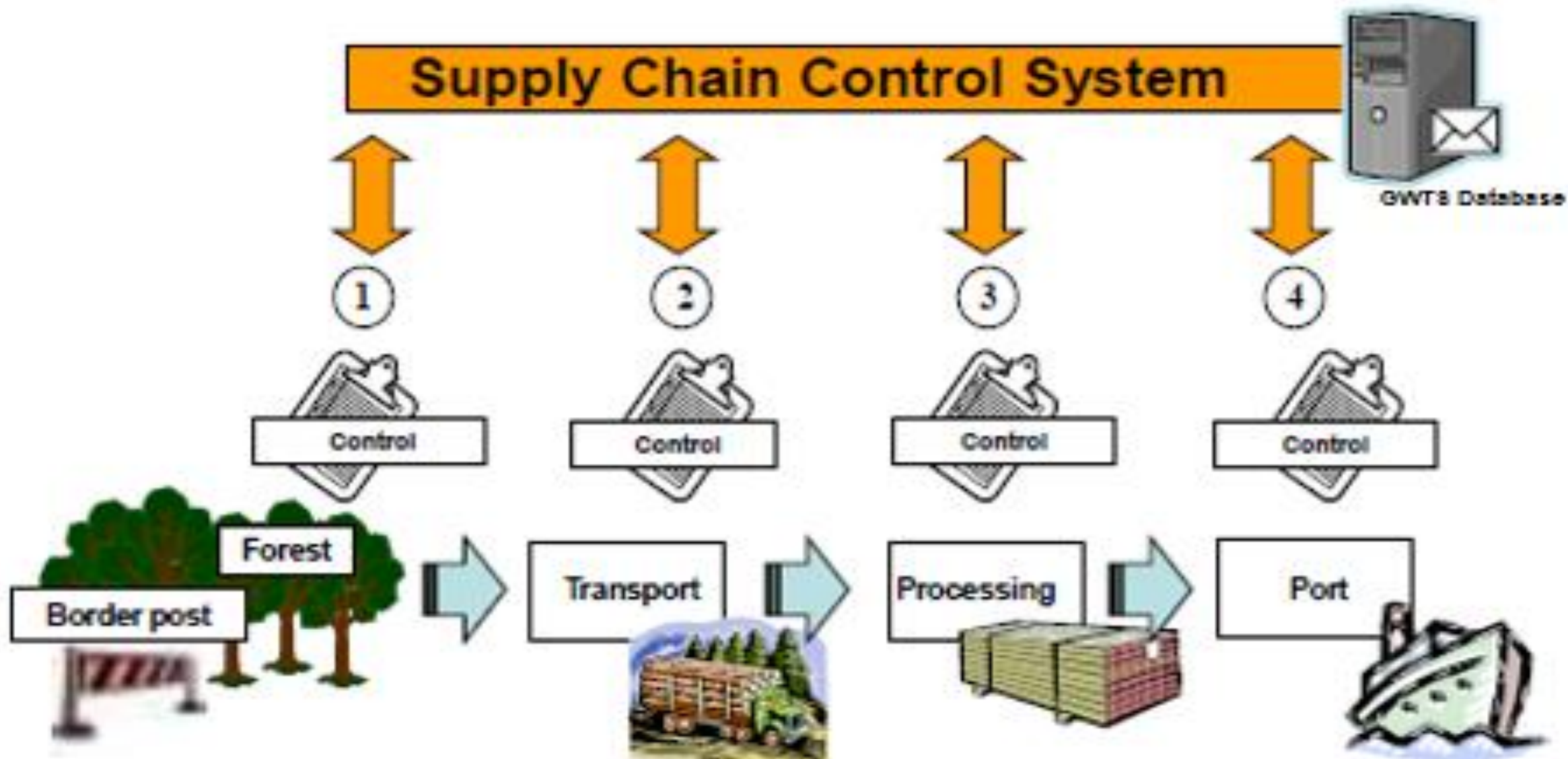
Setting the context

- The FLEGT-VPA process provided the vehicle for Ghana to improve on existing weak forest governance, which had been identified as one of the major underlying causes of illegal logging in the country.
- Hence, while the FLEGT-VPA provided industry the opportunity to access EU market; Civil Society saw the VPA as a chance to ensure reforms in forest governance (including active participation of stakeholders in the governance process)
- The VPA also entrenched the long held understanding that non-state actors are the gate keepers of credible governance environment

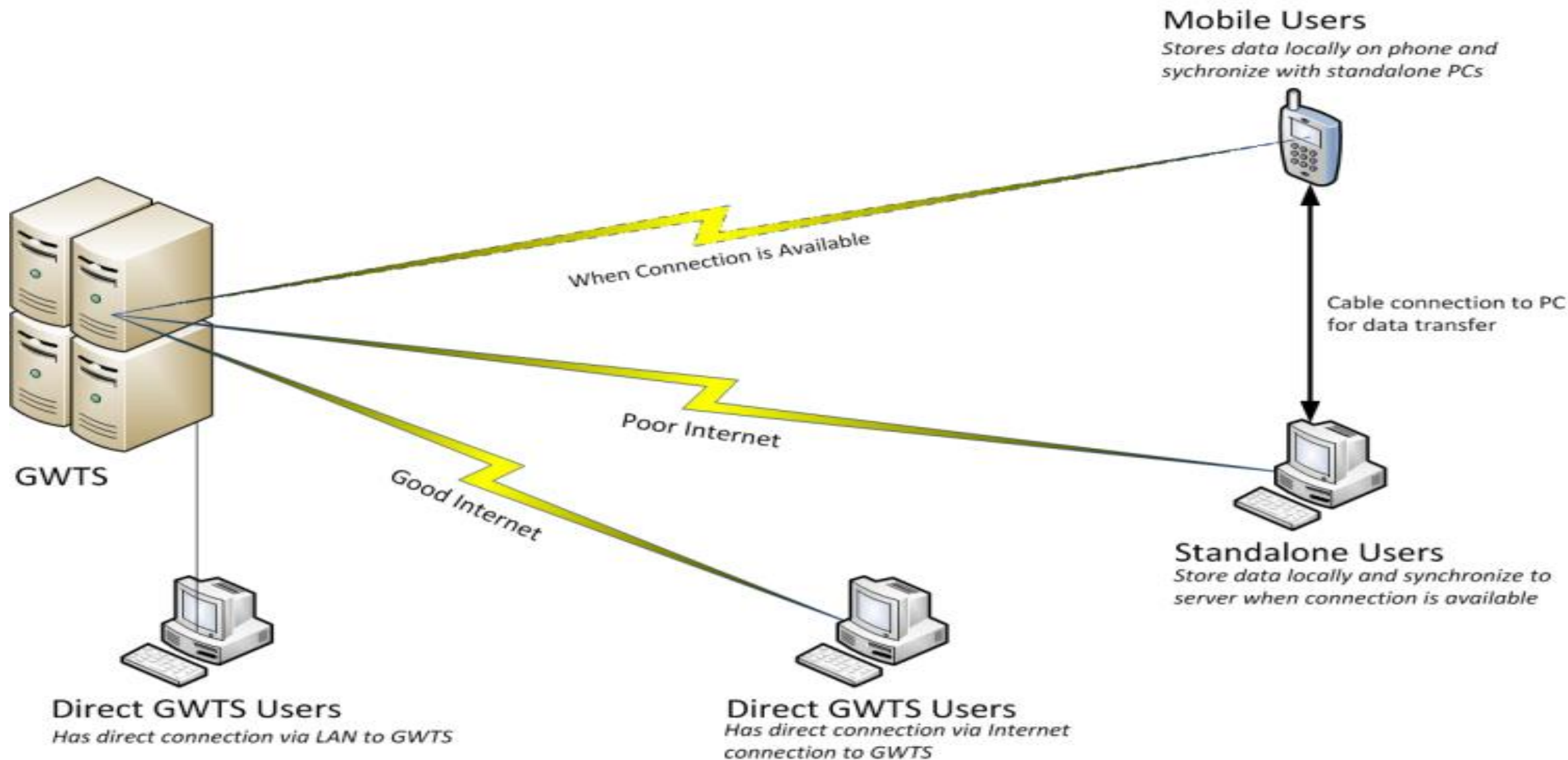


- Ghana's VPA also highlighted the need for effective monitoring (both by NSA and state institutions) to provide the check and balances to ensure effective law enforcement and compliance to legality standards
- Hence, access to timely and credible information is key to effective stakeholder monitoring of legality compliance, and so is the creation of 'space' for NSA to participate in the technical processes enhancing the credibility of the governance process
- We believe that these two indicative themes are being addressed through the development of the GWTS public portal and the creation of 'space' for non-state actors to participate in TVD audits as observers.

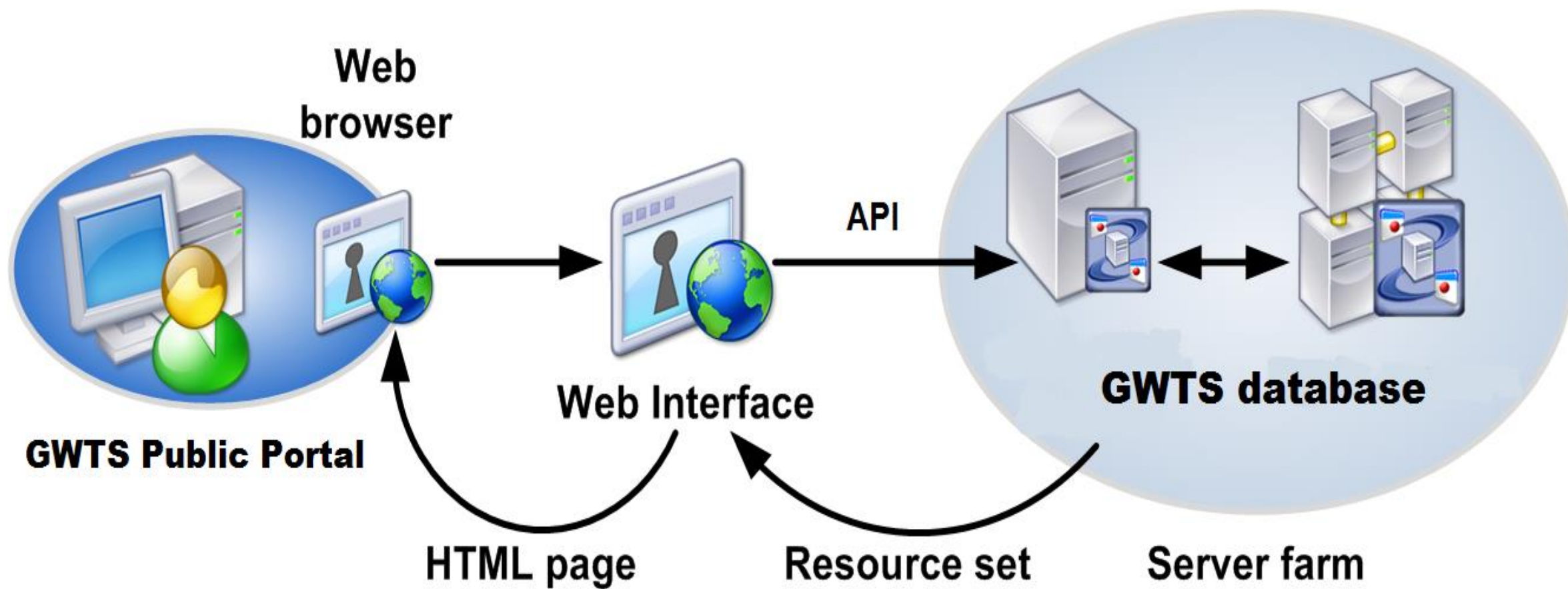
The GWTS

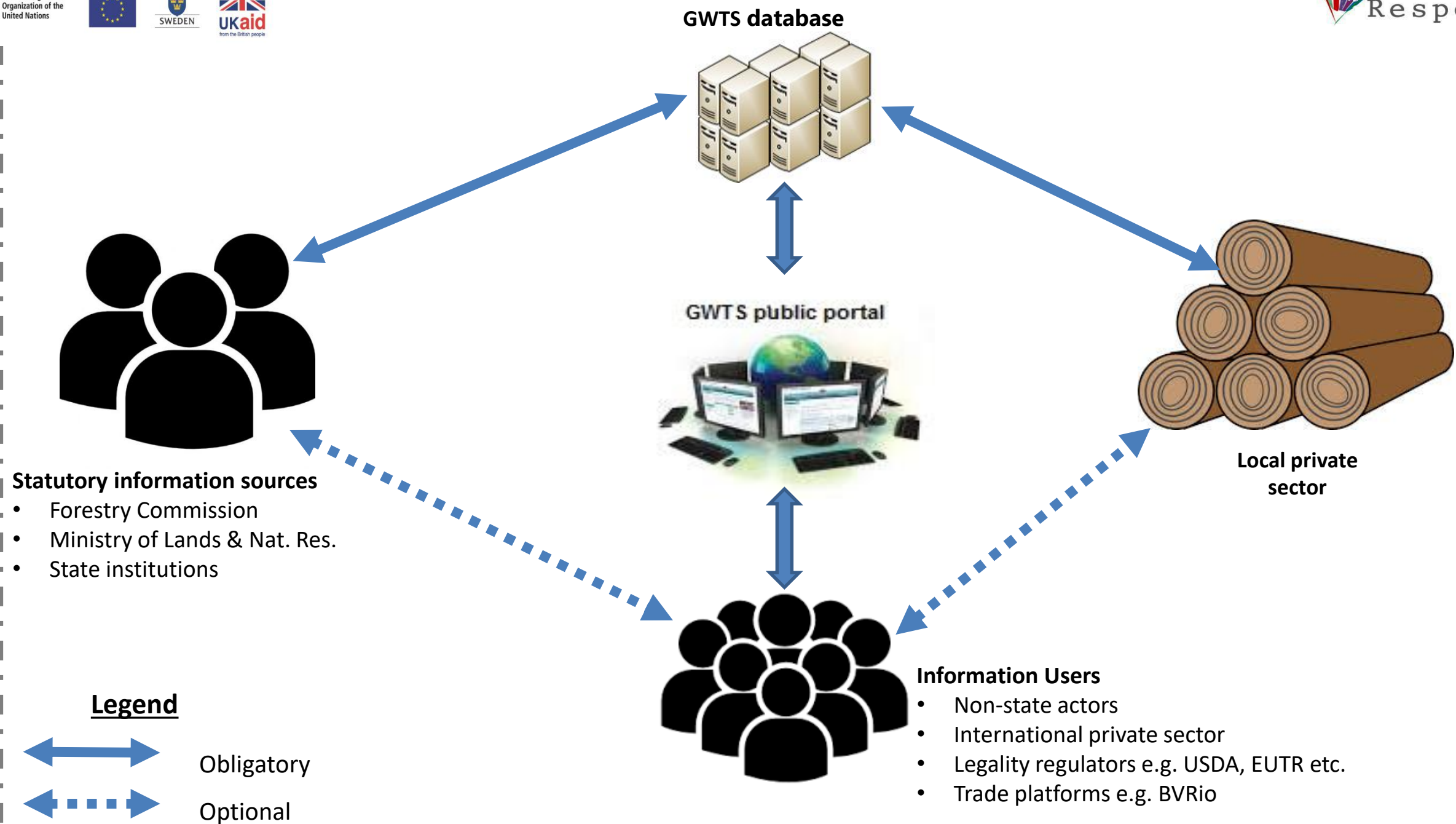


The GWTS:



The Concept





Provisions for NSA to participate in TVD audits as observers

- The TVD as the ‘internal technical auditors’ of the sector undertake periodic audits based on agreed annual schedule
- The TVD legality verification protocols (CD 03) dictates that any interested person can apply to the TVD director to participate as ‘observers’ in these technical audits.
- The caveat however, is that the TVD Director needs to satisfy himself that you qualify and have the requisite capacity to an observer and that there are no conflict of interest situations at play

Concluding Remarks

- One of the main selling point for the FLEGT licensed timber is multi-stakeholder process that was used to arrive at individual country definition of legality
- This selling point is better served if timber consumers can convince themselves of the credibility of multi-stakeholder process and acceptance of the license by in-country stakeholders .
- For us as Civil Society, one way of attesting to the credibility of the system and to be able to defend it is to among other things – independently verify through access to timely information and IFM provides us that opportunity.



THANK YOU