

## Final draft

### “Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana”

European Commission programme on Tropical Forests and other Forests in Developing Countries

#### First District Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (DMSD 1) Minutes Akyem Oda

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2009  
Venue: Municipal Assembly Hall



The logo for the EU Chainsaw Project is centered on a large, five-pointed yellow star with a 3D effect. Surrounding the star are several logos: the European Union flag in the top left; Tropenbos International Ghana in the top right; the Forestry Commission logo in the center; the Forestry Training Centre (FTC) logo in the bottom left; the IWOKRAMA logo in the bottom center; and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) logo in the bottom right. Below the star, the text "EU Chainsaw Project" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. At the very bottom of the star, the text "This project is financed by the European Union" is written in a smaller, bold, blue, sans-serif font.

**EU Chainsaw Project**

**Forestry Commission**

**IWOKRAMA**

**CSIR**

**FORIG**

**Forestry Training Centre (FTC)**

**TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL**  
GHANA

**This project is financed by the European Union**

## **Present**

- |                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1. Ebenezer Frimpong          | Wood seller, Akyem Oda                          |
| 2. Nana Obiri Yeboah          | Chainsaw Operator, Otwereso                     |
| 3. Layea Odei                 | Chainsaw Operator, Apoli Ningo                  |
| 4. Nana Owusu Aduamoah        | Traditional Authority, Akyem Oda                |
| 5. C/Insp Samuel Osei         | Police Service, District Headquarters-Akyem Oda |
| 6. Francis Y. Amedrator       | MOFA, Akyem Oda                                 |
| 7. Osei-Manuoh Kofi           | FSD Akyem Oda                                   |
| 8. Georgina Okyere            | District Assembly, Akyem Swedru                 |
| 9. Emit Ohene Djan            | FSD, Akyem Oda                                  |
| 10. Korankye Daniel           | BCMA, Akyem Oda                                 |
| 11. Hon. Odeshyea Kwasi Nyame | Assemblyman, Otwereso                           |
| 12. Osabarima Ofosu Kwabi III | Traditional Authority, Otwereso                 |
| 13. Joseph Bonzy              | Wood seller, Akyem Swedru                       |
| 14. Faustina Annor            | FSD, Akyem Oda                                  |
| 15. Samuel Forson             | Wood Seller, Akyem Oda                          |
| 16. Obrempong Sintim Poku III | Traditional Authority, Manso                    |
| 17. Franklin Coysiah          | BNI, Akyem Oda                                  |
| 18. Ransford Asomaning        | Chainsaw Operator, Apoli Ningo                  |
| 19. Kofi Kwao                 | NTFP Collector, Aproxumasi                      |
| 20. Kofi Nyame                | NTFP Collector, Aproxumasi                      |
| 21. Ebenezer Quaye            | Lumber Buyer, Apoli Ningo                       |
| 22. Dada Alex Anim            | Chainsaw Operator, Aprade                       |
| 23. Gabriel Agyeman           | Obuoba FM, Nkawkaw                              |
| 24. Owusu Asare               | District Manager, FSD                           |
| 25. Charles Bimpong           | Chainsaw Operator, Apoli Ningo                  |
| 26. K.A .Boateng              | Chainsaw Mechanic, Akyem Oda                    |
| 27. Samuel K. Gyeabour        | Sawmiller, Akyem Oda                            |
| 28. Yeboah A. Mensah          | Wood seller, Akyem Oda                          |
| 29. Kwame Asrifi Attafuah     | Wood seller, Akyem Oda                          |
| 30. Adwoa Serwaa              | Wood seller, Akyem Oda                          |
| 31. Amoah Dacosta             | Wood seller, Akyem Oda                          |
| 32. Abubakri Donkor           | Chainsaw mechanic, Akyem Oda                    |
| 33. Grace A. Asantewa         | Sawmiller, Akyem Oda                            |
| 34. Boadi Frimpong            | Carrier, Akyem Oda                              |
| 35. Stephen Akofuh            | Carpenter, Akyem Oda                            |
| 36. Stephen Obeng             | Wood seller, Akyem Oda                          |

## **In Attendance**

- |                      |                          |
|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Mr. W Owusu Asare | District Forest Manager. |
|----------------------|--------------------------|

## **Project Secretariat**

- |                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Emmanuel Fosu        | PA, EU CSM project |
| 2. Rebecca Baning Oppan | CFW, Akyem Oda     |
| 3. Eric Nutakor         | Scientist, FORIG   |
| 4. Ernestina Osei       | Intern, FORIG      |

**Agenda:**

- Opening and introductions
- Objective of meeting
- Presentation of FORIG research findings
- Outcome first MSD minutes
- Group discussions
- Nomination of district management team members
- AOB

**Acronyms**

- BCMA Birim Central Municipal Assembly
- BNI Bureau of National Investigation
- CBAG Community Biodiversity Advisory Group
- CBUD Centre for Biodiversity and Utilization Development
- CFW Community Forestry Worker
- CSM Chainsaw Milling
- DLMSD District Level Multi-stakeholder Dialogue
- EU European Union
- FC Forestry Commission
- FORIG Forestry Research Institute
- FSD Forestry Services Division
- MOFA Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- MSD Multi-stakeholder Dialogue
- DFF District Forest Forum
- PA Project Assistant
- VPA Voluntary Partnership Agreement
- NTFP Non Timber Forestry Produce
- TIDD Timber Industry and Development Division

Proceedings	Action
<p><b>1.0 Opening</b> The CFW called the meeting to order at 10:30, after which Mr Gyeabour prayed for the commencement of the meeting.</p> <p><b>1.1 Introductions</b> The CFW introduced the project secretariat team after which each DLMSD member made self introduction stating their names, stakeholder group they represent and the community they are coming from.</p> <p><b>2.0 Objectives of the Meeting</b> The CFW outlined the objectives of the meeting as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To disseminate research findings and the three options.</li> <li>• To send feedback from the first MSD meeting and receive inputs into the MSD 2 meeting</li> <li>• To prioritize issues for MSD 2</li> <li>• To elect district level MSD management team</li> </ul> <p><b>2.1 District Manager’s Welcome Address</b> In his welcome address, the district manager explained the contribution of forest resources to national development and the negative impact of CSM on forest resources. He said it is important to consider any practice which is detrimental to the forest as a matter of national concern. He challenged all participants to take the issues of CSM seriously and discuss them with decorum taking into consideration the nation first.</p> <p><b>3.0 Presentation and Discussion of the FORIG Research Finding</b> Mr Eric Nutakor, a researcher from FORIG presented the research findings on chainsaw lumber production in Ghana. He touched on the following topics</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Evolution of chainsaw lumbering in the country</li> <li>ii. The policy and legal aspects of chainsaw milling</li> <li>iii. Why the law has been ineffective</li> <li>iv. Drivers of chainsaw milling</li> <li>v. Chainsaw milling and the domestic market</li> <li>vi. The impacts of chainsaw milling (social, economic, environmental)</li> <li>vii. Potential loss to the state</li> <li>viii. Beneficiaries of chainsaw revenue</li> <li>ix. Recovery efficiencies of the various technologies for sowing lumber</li> <li>x. The three options as emerged from the Technical Committee meeting</li> </ol> <p>The PA also briefly mentioned the outcome of the regional conference and the follow-up technical committee meeting. He explained the lessons learnt from countries like Nigeria, Kenya, Uganda and Liberia during the conference. He said the two meetings and the research findings formed the basis for the three proposed options for addressing the CSM problems.</p> <p><b>3.1 VPA (Voluntary Partnership Agreement)</b> The CFW and the PA explained VPA and its implications on domestic lumber supply and timber export and other forest dependent livelihood especially CSM.</p> <p><b>4.0 Presentation of National MSD 1 Outcome</b> Minutes of MSD 1 were distributed to participants to read. The PA, CFW and participants who</p>	

attended the national MSD 1 explained key outcomes of the meeting.

#### **4.1 Questions and Contributions**

The following were some of the issues and contributions raised by the participants:

- **Lumber Broker:** The chainsaw and its related problems were caused by the failure of the sawmillers to supply the 20% allocation to the domestic market. Given the chance, many will prefer sawmill lumber to chainsaw lumber because of the quality lumber.
- **Traditional Authority/Sawmiller:** If option one is selected (Sawmill supply 100% of domestic market demand), then sawmillers should be ready to open outlets very accessible to all communities in the country including those living very close to forests. Selling Lumber on sawmills' premises with all the bureaucracy and the presence of security personnel may intimidate people.
- **Lumber Broker:** Indiscriminate degradation of our forest will reduce drastically if domestic lumber supply is given to artisanal operators and sawmillers (Option 2).
- **Farmer:** Illegal CSM can be illuminated if sawmills supply enough domestic lumber and export as well, which eventually will generate revenue to the country.
- **Traditional Authority:** We have been agitating for lifting of the ban and issuance of permit to chainsaw millers, but ironically, no one has spoken of how and where to get the trees to fell. If the government gives permits today, only 100 machines can finish all matured timber trees in the country in the next six months. Where will we get trees to fell with our permit and machines? Rather, we should consider planting tress and not focus so much on the permits.
- **Chainsaw Operator:** It is unfortunate that while the blame is put on chainsaw operators for depleting the forest, foreigners keep establishing sawmills in the country. Where do the saw mills get the trees to fell? Seriously we are not helping ourselves as Ghanaians by denying Ghanaians what belong to us.
- **Chainsaw Operator:** We are worried about the trend of events. The government should create rural-based jobs so that those of us willing to quit the chainsaw business could get alternative livelihoods.
- **Farmer:** The law enforcers use their checks on operators as a means of enriching themselves and thus condone with the operators to fell the tress.
- **Chainsaw Operator:** I understand in the advanced countries for every tree felled, one is planted in its place, but, in Ghana when a tree is fell none is planted in its place. What is the commission doing in this regard?

**RESP (Law Enforcer):** The law enforcers only try to give the enforcement a human face. This is what people interpret as condoning. We shall advise ourselves then.

**RESP (DIST.MGR):** The commission has a number of tree planting projects in place: the modified taungya and the HIPC plantation are just a few of them and very soon another plantation programme will be put in place. Every law is subject to review with time. We are reviewing tour laws and whichever way the review goes it will be expected to be an improvement on the current situation to help manage the forest sustainably.

#### **5.0 Group Discussions**

Members were put into 3groups to discuss issues listed during MSD 1 meeting and prioritize them based on what is prevailing in the district. 13 issues were listed (annex) and the following were given high priority:

- Tree planting/Afforestation

- Alternative livelihood
- Developing lesser known species

### 6.0 Nomination of District MSD Management Team

The following were selected to form the district MSD management team:

- Kwame Asrifi Attafuah – Wood Seller
- Franklin Kobblah Coysiah – BNI(Law Enforcer)
- Dada Alex Anim – Chainsaw Operator
- Kwao Kofi – NTFP Collector
- Rebecca Baning Oppan - CFW

### 7.0 AOB

#### i. Structure of MSD and Feedback

The CFW explained to members the structure of the MSD. She said that, persons are selected to represent their stakeholder groups and so, it is therefore the responsibilities of those selected to send feedback to and from their groups/communities/constituencies to the MSDs.

### 8.0 Next Meeting


The date for the next meeting will be scheduled by the district MSD management.

### 9.0 Closing

The CFW thanked the participants for attending. She urged them to give feedback on proceedings to their stakeholders and community members.

Mr Kwame Asrifi Attafuah moved for closure of meeting and seconded by Franklin Kobblah  
The meeting ended at 3:15 pm.

Signed:   
Emmanuel Fosu (Recorder)

Signed:   
James P. Mckeown (Chairman)

### Issues listed at DMSD meeting-Akyem Oda

No.	Issues listed	Groups that listed the issue	Remarks
1	Tree Planting /afforestation	1,2,3	High Priority
2	Ban on exportation of timber	1,2	Priority
3	Alternative to timber species	2,3	Priority
4	Domestic market supply of lumber	1,3	priority
5	Alternative livelihoods	1,2,3	High Priority
7	Law enforcement	1,2	priority
9	Developing lesser known species	1,2,3	Low priority
10	Alternatives to supplying legal timber to the domestic market	1	Low priority
11	Transform CSM into a viable forest based enterprise	2,3	Priority
13	Improving monitoring systems	1,2	Priority