

## 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 Juaso

Date: 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2009

Venue: Catholic Hall



The logo for the EU Chainsaw Project is centered around a large, five-pointed yellow star with a 3D effect. Inside the star, the text "EU Chainsaw Project" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Surrounding the star are several logos: the European Union flag (a blue rectangle with twelve yellow stars) in the top left; the Tropenbos International Ghana logo (a green globe with a tree) in the top right; the Forestry Commission logo (a green tree and the letters "AFC") in the center; the Iwokrama logo (a globe with the letters "IWO" and "KRAMA") in the bottom center; the Forestry Training Centre logo (a green circle with a tree and the text "FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE D.F.S.") in the bottom left; and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) logo (a red circle with a gear and the text "CSIR COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH GHANA FORIG") in the bottom right.

**EU Chainsaw Project**

**AFC**  
Forestry Commission

**IWO**  **KRAMA**

**CSIR**  
COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH  
GHANA  
FORIG

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

## **Present**

- |                           |                                 |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Abdel Mumuni           | Sawmiller, Konogo               |
| 2. Adjei Joseph           | FSD, Juaso                      |
| 3. Adu Osei               | Wood Dealer, Konogo             |
| 4. Amoako Dankwa          | Operator, Obogu                 |
| 5. Appo Francis           | Farmer, Komeso                  |
| 6. Arko Tetey             | District Assembly, Juaso        |
| 7. B. Adams               | Buyer, Obogu                    |
| 8. Clement Dekyi          | Police, Juaso                   |
| 9. De-Graft Fokuo         | DCE, Juaso                      |
| 10. E.D. Smith            | GNFS, Konongo                   |
| 11. E.V. Boadu            | NCCE, Juaso                     |
| 12. Ebenezer Agyarkwa     | FSD, Juaso                      |
| 13. Emmanuel Owusu Peprah | Tree Growers Association, Juaso |
| 14. Emmanuel Torsu        | Small miller, Obogu             |
| 15. Eric Ankam            | Sawmiller, Obogu                |
| 16. Getrude Opoku         | Community Development, Juaso    |
| 17. J. O. Dickson         | Sawmiller, Konogo               |
| 18. James Yamoah          | Farmer, Bansa                   |
| 19. John Osei             | FSD, Juaso                      |
| 20. Kofi Manu             | Operator, Bansa                 |
| 21. Kwame Anpem           | Farmer, Komeso                  |
| 22. Kwame Sarpong         | Operator, Juaso                 |
| 23. Kweku Donkor          | Driver, Obogu                   |
| 24. Kwesi Badu            | Farmer, Obogu                   |
| 25. Kwesi Carpenter       | Carpenter, Bansa                |
| 26. Kwesi George          | Operator, Juaso                 |
| 27. Mawusi                | Carrier, Obogu                  |
| 28. Nana Kyei II          | Traditional Authority, Bansa    |
| 29. Nana Owusu Achaw      | Traditional Authority, Obogu    |
| 30. Ofosu Tawiah          | Operator, Juaso                 |
| 31. R. K. Ofori           | NADMO, Juaso                    |
| 32. Senior Anpem          | Farmer, Obogu                   |
| 33. Seth Ampofo           | Operator, Kumeso                |
| 34. Seth K Amponsah       | Radio, Juaso                    |
| 35. Stephen Sarkodie      | Farmer, Juaso                   |
| 36. Yaw Preko             | Operator, Obogu                 |
| 37. Yussif Ibrahim        | GNA, Juaso                      |

## **Project Secretariat**

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| 1. James Parker   | NPC, EU CSM project |
| 2. Emmanuel Fosu  | PA, EU CSM project  |
| 3. Ernestina Osei | Intern, FORIG       |

## **Agenda:**

The following items were agreed to be discussed at the meeting:

- Opening
- Introductions
- Objective of meeting
- Presentation of research findings
- Presentation on VPA and its implication on livelihoods of local people
- Outcome of first MSD meeting
- Discussions on the issues listed during MSD1
- Selection of District level Organizing/management team
- AOB

## **Acronyms**

- AASDA Asante Akyem South District Assembly
- CBUD Centre for Biodiversity and Utilization Development
- CFW Community Forestry Worker
- CSM Chainsaw Milling
- DCE District Chief Executive
- DFF District Forest Forum
- DFM District Finance Manager
- DLMSD District Level Multi-stakeholder Dialogue
- EU European Commission
- FC Forestry Commission
- FSD Forestry Services Division
- GNA Ghana New Agency
- GNFS Ghana National Fire Service
- HIPC Heavily Indebted Countries
- KNUST Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
- MOFA Ministry of Food and Agriculture
- MSD Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
- NADMO National Disaster Management Organisation
- NCCE National Commission for Civic Education
- NPC National Project Coordinator
- NPP National Plantation programme
- NTFP Non Timber Forestry Produce
- PA Project Assistant
- TIDD Timber Industry Development Division
- VPA Voluntary Partnership Agreement

Proceedings	Action
<p><b>1.0 Opening</b> The CFW called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. He then welcomed all participants to the meeting.</p> <p><b>2.0 Introductions</b> The CFW introduced the DCE of AASDA, the team from the project secretariat and the DFM, 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>2.1 Welcome Address by the DFM</b> In his welcome address the DFM outlined the evolution of CSM in Ghana and lamented on the problems associated with it and the threats to the forest resources and the nation. He stressed that, after 10 years, the policies and laws have not failed to produce desired results and the EU CSM project has come at the right time. He said the status quo cannot continue and that all stakeholders should put aside their personal interest to discuss the issues for the benefit of Ghana's forest.</p> <p><b>2.2 Address by the DCE of AASDA</b> In his address, the DCE emphasized on the importance of the forest and healthy environment to the nation. He said it is time people see government properties as theirs and help to protect them. The AASDA district spent a lot of money in hosting the forest task force for two weeks to curb illegal CSM in forest reserves in the district. He appealed to the project to disseminate the research findings to the general public for them to appreciate the harm CSM in causing to the nation. He finally advised stakeholders to discuss the issues devoid of personal interest.</p> <p><b>3.0 Objectives of the Meeting</b> The CFW outlined the purpose of the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dissemination of the research findings and the three options</li> <li>• Feedback from the national MSD 1 meeting and receive inputs into the MSD 2 meeting</li> <li>• Identify and prioritize district and community level concerns and issues that needs further discussion</li> <li>• Select district level MSD management team</li> </ul> <p><b>4.0 Presentation of Research Finding</b> The NPC presented the research findings covering the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolution of CSM in Ghana</li> <li>• The policy and legal aspects of CSM in Ghana</li> <li>• Why the law has been ineffective</li> <li>• Drivers of CSM</li> <li>• CSM and the domestic market</li> </ul>	

- The impacts of CSM (social, economic and environmental)
- Potential loss to the state
- Beneficiaries of chainsaw revenue
- Recovery efficiencies of the various technologies for sawing lumber
- The three options as emerged from the Technical Committee meeting
- Way forward

The NPC also touched on the outcomes of the regional workshop and the preceding technical committee meeting. He said the regional workshop provided an opportunity to learn a lot of lessons from other countries; Kenya, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda etc. which together with the research findings brought forth those options.

He added that, TIDD of FC also conducted a research on domestic wood supply and demand situation in Ghana and the findings are almost the same as that of the chainsaw project. This he stressed authenticates the findings and offers credible information to rely on for discussion and finding lasting solutions to the illegal CSM menace. He finally urged members to ask questions and make inputs based on what has been presented and also options to finding lasting solutions to the illegal CSM problems.

#### **5.0 Presentation on VPA and its implication on livelihoods of local people**

Verry Schaafsna, a Dutch student with KNUST undertaking her research in the AASAD on potential impact of VPA on the livelihood of local people was asked to brief the meeting on what VPA is about and her research findings on the implications of VPA on livelihood of local people.

#### **5.0 Outcome of first MSD meeting**

Minutes of MSD 1 was distributed to participants to read through. Two members who participated in the national MSD 1 were asked to report on the outcomes of the first MSD meeting. The NPC thank the two representatives for the accurate reportage and told members that their representatives are their mouthpiece at the national MSD and they should ensure their representatives take their views to the national MSDs and report back to them on return.

#### **5.1 Questions and Contributions**

The following were some of the questions and contributions from the participants:

- **Chainsaw Operator:** It was mentioned at the MSD 1 that a farmer can saw timber for community or personal use. What is the law's position on that?

**Response (NPC):** That is what the law says but because it has been abused by the community and local people, the FC in practice will not issue such permit. The NPC gave an instance in Assin Foso, where a farmer was issued with a permit to saw one tree, but he ended up sawing 19 trees.

- **Farmer:** I think options 2 and 3 are better, but in all cases the government should look at the benefit sharing policy on natural trees again. At the moment we do not benefit from trees we natured on our farms so we turn to sell them to chainsaw operators or destroy them before they reach maturity. Again the FC should collaborate with

agricultural extension officers to educate farmers to grow trees on their farms to replace the one destroyed by chainsaw operators.

- **Small scale Miller:** I am a very worried man today after hearing the research findings. This means the future of my business is not bright. I will plead with the government to initiate a massive afforestation programme so that we can also plant trees to save our business. I will plead with all of us to bury our differences and think about replenishing the tree resources in Ghana.
- **Saw Miller:** Some of us initially did not initially understand the objectives of the EU CSM project, but with these presentations I have come to understand the objectives. Now all of us talking about re-afforestation which I think is very urgent. What are the plans of the FC on re-planting our forests?

**Response (DFM):** I am very glad about the thinking of this meeting. Yes afforestation is the way forward whiles we address other issues. The FC started a massive afforestation programme during the NPP regime – the taungya farming and HIPC afforestation programmes - The FC has stopped the taungya system for a while because farmers were killing the trees so that they could farm longer in the reserves. I wish to announce to you all that early next year we will launch a new massive afforestation programme. I will urge you all to show keen interest in this programme.

## 6.0 Group Discussions

Members were put into 4 groups to discuss issues listed during MSD 1 meeting and prioritize them based on what is prevailing in the district. 14 issues were listed (annex) and the following were given high priority:

- Tree planting/afforestation
- Local demand over export
- Alternative livelihoods
- Transforming CSM into viable forest based enterprise
- Developing alternatives to lumber

## 7.0 Nomination of District MSD Organising/Management Team

The meeting selected the following persons to assist the CFW to organize and manage DMSD meetings in the district:

- Ebenezer Agyarkwa - FSD
- Getrude Opoku – Community Development
- Senior Anpem - Farmer
- Stephen Sarkodie - Farmer

## 8.0 AOB

### 8.1 Need for Feedback

The CFW advised representatives to send outcomes to their constituencies/group/communities they represent and feedback to the MSDs. He explained that the MSD is the mechanism adopted to discuss and agree on viable options to address the illegal CSM problem and for effective MSDs stakeholders must participate effectively and they can do that by receiving

outcomes and also sending feedbacks.

### 8.2 Integration of DMSD into DFF

The NPC informed meeting that the district MSD will be integrated into the existing DFF where forestry issues in general will be discussed (including CSM issues).

### 9.0 Next Meeting


The date for the next meeting will be scheduled by the DMSD organizing/management.


### 10.0 Closing

The CFW on behalf of the project thanked all participants for attending the first DMSD meeting and urged them to send outcomes to the constituencies and bring feedback.

Mr. S. K. Boafo moved for closure of meeting and was seconded by Yaw Barimah.

Meeting ended at 3:20 pm.

Signed:   
James Parker Mckeown (Chairman)

Signed:   
Emmanuel Fosu (Recorder)

## Annex

### Issues listed at DMSD meeting-Juaso

No.	Issues listed	Groups that listed the issue	Remarks
1	Creating public awareness on the research findings	2,3	Priority
2	Tree planting/afforestation	1,2,3,4	High priority
3	Tree ownership and tenure and Benefit sharing	1,2	Priority
4	Local demand and overland export	1,3,4	High priority
5	Alternative livelihoods	1,2,3,4	High priority
6	Transforming CSM into a viable forest based enterprise	1,2,3,4	High priority
7	Cost and benefit analysis of recommended options	1,	Low priority
8	VPA and its implication on livelihoods	1,4	Priority
9	Revenue lost to the state and local people	1,	Low priority
10	Negative impacts of CSM	1,3	Priority
11	Conflicts management	1,2	Priority
12	Developing alternatives to lumber	2,3,4	High priority
13	Annual allowable cut	3	Low priority
14	Developing lesser known species	3	Low priority