

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 (DLMSD 1) Minutes Sunyani

Date: 10th November, 2009

Venue: Bob Pierce Memorial Center



Present

1. David Yeboah	Lumber Broker
2. E. C. Ansong	DFF
3. Adjei Anthony	Municipal Assembly
4. Osei Mensah G.	Carrier
5. Nana Owusu	Member, Atronie Community
6. Kofi Yeboah Gyan	Rep. Wood Workers Association
7. Kwesi Anane	Chairman, Chainsaw Operators Association
8. Kwadwo Yeboah	Chainsaw Operator
9. Nana Yaw Sakyi	Rep. Traditional Authority
10. J. K. Tawiah	Member. Asuakwaah Community
11. George Takyi	Carrier
12. Nana Akosua Bema	Member, Firewood Collectors Association
13. Donkor Bossman	Chainsaw Operator
14. Augustina Adoma	Member, Traditional Council
15. Mercy Yeboah	Ghana Timber Association
16. Adwoa A. Boadu	MOFA
17. Thomas Ofori	Chainsaw Carrier
18. Mahamadu Dera	Chainsaw Operator
19. J. K. Mensah	Farmer
20. Leonard Kuumile	Farmer

Project Secretariat

1. Mercy Owusu Ansa	NF/CFA, EU CSM Project
2. Jane Aggrey	Communication Assistance, TBI Ghana
3. Kow Quaison	CFW, EU CSM Project

Agenda

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

Acronyms

CFW	Community Forestry Worker
CSM	Chainsaw Milling
DFF	District Forest Forum
DLMSD	District Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission

FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MSD	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
MTS	Modified <i>Taungya</i> System
NF/CFA	National Facilitator/Community Forestry Advisor
SM	Saw Mill
TBI	Tropenbos International
TIDD	Timber Industry Development Division

Proceedings	Action
<p>1.0 Opening The DLMD in Sunyani Forest District was held on 10th November 2009. The CFW, Kow Quaison called the meeting to order at 9: 30 am. The EU Chainsaw team was welcomed by the assistant district manager and the meeting facilitated by Mr. Quaison.</p> <p>2.0 Introductions Brief introductions of all present was done by the CFW</p> <p>3.0 Objectives of the Meeting The NF/CFA outlined the purpose of the meeting which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dissemination of the research findings and the three options • Prioritize issues for the second MSD • Solicit feedback on the research findings and first MSD meeting • Elect/nominate members for the DL MSD management team <p>4.0 Presentation and Discussion of the FORIG Research Finding The NF/CFA presented the research findings covering the following areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Evolution of CSM in the country ii. The policy and legal aspects of CSM iii. Why the law has been ineffective iv. Drivers of CSM v. CSM and the domestic market vi. The impacts of CSM (social, economic, environmental) vii. Potential loss to the state viii. Beneficiaries of chainsaw revenue ix. Recovery efficiencies of the various technologies for sowing lumber x. The three options as emerged from the Technical Committee meeting <p>She added that, the TIDD conducted similar research and the findings are almost the same as that of the chainsaw project. This she stressed authenticates the findings of FORIG research. This also implies the information is credible to rely on for finding lasting solution to the CSM in Ghana.</p> <p>4.1 Questions and Contributions Question</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> A. Is the current decline in forest cover solely due to CSM activity? 	

- No, farming and bushfires are other contributing factors

Comments

- I. The reservation of forests in the past into forest reserves was done based on the country's population at that time, it is time to recall that and know that the current increase in population will affect the total land area put under forest reserves. It is time to revise this kind of forest management and protect these reserves not only in the light of CSM but also population increase and SM
- II. If the research has made it known that CSM is wasteful then the government should consider improving technology for CSM operations because it is not likely that CSM operators can be shifted to another livelihood.
- III. The displacement of people involved in CSM does not look feasible. CSM should be legalized with regulations to obtain revenue which can be used for country development projects. Also, engaging people involved in CSM in afforestation programmed will help solve the issue of forest decline in Ghana.
- IV. Currently, there are some schemes in place to help halt forest degradation in Ghana. An example is the MTS. This system in particular needs proper supervision because some lands under this scheme are turning into farmlands instead of forest plantations.
- V. Forest degradation is a problem being caused by CSM, SM operations and some other factors. However, CSM is seen as the primary factor responsible for forest degradation because CSM operators have no mouthpiece and has no cordial relationship with the FC as it exists between the SM and the FC.
- VI. People are not interested in tree planting because they do not know the importance and benefit of trees to human survival. Community members need education on the importance of trees and motivated to go into tree planting.
- VII. Human survival is directly linked to the existence of trees and hence, this should be the first thing to consider to motivate the country into tree planting than its economic benefits
- VIII. CSM has become a ganger and this is solely the fault of FC and the government because private plantation owners face problems when they want to harvest their own trees. The only option left at this stage is to employ Chainsaw operators. The situation also does not encourage people to go into private tree plantations
- IX. Forestry officials encourage chainsaw operations through bribery and would prefer to go chasing Chainsaw operators for money than do official duties.
- X. There is the notion that people involved in CSM cannot be shifted to another livelihood which is not totally true because Chainsaw operators are good and old farmers who can go back to their farming activities.
- XI. CSM in Ghana has two stands in the sense that its activity is illegal but the end product and its sale is not which almost all Ghanaians use. This is very unfortunate and it's the cause of this current dilemma.
- XII. It is time to halt the arrests of poor community member who want to earn a living through CSM. It is more feasible to enforce the CSM ban by collapsing the Chainsaw lumber market and meeting the local demand for lumber with legal timber.
- XIII. The other aspect to the CSM issue is the interpretation of the law which varies even within forestry officials.
- XIV. There is the need for a review in of the country's forest laws since Ghanaians have not been able to abide by the laws they have made.

XV. In the light of declining forest resources there is the need to consider alternatives to wood to reduce the pressure on wood and wood products.

XVI. It is time to review the 20% lumber from SM to the local market in light of increasing population and lumber demand even if we have to cut down exports to do this and also manage our forest sustainably.

5.0 Outcome of First MSD Meeting

Copies of minutes of the first MSD meeting were distributed to stakeholders. The NF and the CFW briefed the meeting of the key outcomes of the meeting in Accra.

6.0 Group Discussions

Participants of the meeting were put into three groups to study the three policy options and raise issues of concern under each option. Copies of the issues raised under the options will be given to the national representative for further study and presented during the second MSD.

7.0 Integration of DLMSD into DFF and Nomination of Steering Committee Members

The NF/CFA informed the meeting that since the National level MSD has been integrated into the NFF, it will be appropriate to do same for the DLMSD and the existing DFF where forestry issues in general will be discussed (chainsaw issues inclusive). The meeting therefore agreed that the DLMSD should be integrated into the Sunyani DFF. The meeting nominated the following persons in addition to the CFW to form the DLMSD management team:

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|--------------------|---------------------------|
| ➤ Kofi Yeboah-Gyan | Wood Worker |
| ➤ Donkor Bossmana | Chainsaw Operator |
| ➤ Anthony Adjei | Municipal Assembly |
| ➤ Kow Quaison | Community Forestry Worker |
| ➤ A DFF member | DFF |

8.0 AOB

Need for Feedback

The CFW informed the meetings that, persons nominated to represent the district at the national MSD are to report back to their colleague stakeholders. It is also their responsibility to present the views of the stakeholders they represent at any meeting when invited.

9.0 Next Meeting

The date for the next meeting was to be scheduled by the DLMSD steering committee after MSDII.

10.0 Closing

The CFW on behalf of the project thanked all participants for attending the meeting and urged them to send feedback to their respective stakeholder groups at the community levels.

The meeting ended at 12:50 pm.



Signed:
Mercy Owusu Ansah (Chairperson)



Signed:
Jane Aggrey (Recorder)