

“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

**Second District Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (DLMSD II) Minutes
Akyem Oda**

**Date: 25th February, 2010
Venue: Municipal Assembly Hall**



MSD Members Present:

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| 1. Abubakari Donko | Chainsaw mechanic, Akyem Oda |
| 2. Adwoa Serwa | Lumber broker, Akyem Oda |
| 3. Aikins R. Ababio | GNFS, Akyem Oda |
| 4. Alex Anim | Carrier, Aprade |
| 5. Anaafi Kwesi, | Chainsaw operator, Apoli, |
| 6. Boadi Frimpong | Carrier, Apoli Ningo |
| 7. Boniface Gayiri | BSDA, Akyem Swedru |
| 8. D/Insp Fabian Sallah | GPS, Akyem Oda |
| 9. Dada Alex Anim | Chainsaw operator, Aprade |
| 10. Ebenezer Frimpong | Lumber broker, Akyem Oda |
| 11. Francis Y. Amedzator | MOFA, Akyem Oda |
| 12. Franklin Kobblah | BNI, Akyem Oda |
| 13. Grace Asantewa | Sawmiller, Akyem Oda |
| 14. Hannah Quaison | Lumber broker, Akyem Oda |
| 15. Isaac Kwao | NTFP Collector, Aproxumasi |
| 16. Kofi Nyame | NTFP Collector, Aproxumasi |
| 17. Korankye Daniel | BCMA, Akyem Oda |
| 18. Kwame Asrifi Attafuah | Lumber broker, Akyem Oda |
| 19. Kwao Adams Mackenzie | Assemblyman, Apoli Ningo |
| 20. Kwesi Badu | Lumber broker, Aprade |
| 21. Layea Odei | Chainsaw operator, Apoli Ningo |
| 22. Nana Apagya Hene | TA, Kyereso |
| 23. Nana Oforu Kwabi III | TA, Kyereso |
| 24. Peter Bonzi | Wood broker, Akyem Oda |
| 25. Ransford Asomaning | Chainsaw operator, Aproxumasi |
| 26. Stephen Abed Amegatse | GIS, Akyem Oda |

Observers:

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| 1. Emit Ohene Djan | FSD, Akyem Oda |
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Project team

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| 1. Emmanuel Fosu | PA, EU CSM Project |
| 2. Samuel Forson | RA, FORIG |
| 3. Rebecca Banning Oppan | CFW, Akim Oda |

Absent:

- | | |
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| 1. Nana Oforu Aduamoah II | Sawmiller, Akyem Oda |
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Acronyms

BNI	Bureau of National Investigation
BSDA	Birim South District Assembly
BCMA	Birim Central Municipal Assembly
CFW	Community Forestry Worker
CSM	Chainsaw Milling
EU	European Union
DLMSD	District Level Multi-stakeholder Dialogue
DFM	District Forestry Manager
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FSD	Forestry Services Division
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service

GNFS	Ghana National Fire Service
GPS	Ghana Police Service
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MSD	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
NTFP	Non Timber Forestry Produce
PA	Project Assistant
RA	Research Assistant
SWOT	Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities and Threats
TA	Traditional Authority

Agenda:

The agreed agenda for the meeting are:

- Reading of previous minutes
- Feedback from national MSD 2
- Stakeholders preference of the three proposed policy options
- SWOT analysis
- National plantation programme

Proceedings	Action
<p>1.0 Opening The CFW called the meeting to order at 10:45 am. Mr Boniface Gayiri prayed for the commencement of the meeting.</p> <p>2.0 Introduction The CFW introduced members of the DLMSD and the staff from the project secretariat.</p> <p>3.0 Apologies The CFW announced the apologies from the DFM who was on official duty out of the district.</p> <p>4.0 Introduction of Chairman and Welcome Address Nana Osabarima Ofose Kwabi III, the Chairman of Eastern Region forest forum chaired the meeting. In his welcome address, he talked about the importance forests and impact of chainsaw milling. He advised that whiles the MSD process is ongoing, stakeholder should try to plant trees as their contribution to helping solve forest degradation. He urged all members to effectively participate in the MSD discussions.</p> <p>5.0 Purpose of the meeting The CFW presented the purpose of the meeting as to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Give feed back to district members who were not at the national MSD 2. ➤ Carry out SWOT analysis of the three recommended policy options ➤ Brief members on the national plantation programme <p>6.0 Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes After going through the minutes and correcting some typographical errors mainly names, Mr. Aikins Ababio moved for acceptance of the minutes and seconded by Mr Daniel Korankye.</p> <p>7.0 Feedback from MSD 2</p>	

Mr Isaac Kwao an NTFP collector and the CFW reported on the outcome of the national MSD 2. The report covered:

- Inauguration of the national MSD steering committee
- Speeches of encouragement
- Stakeholders preference of recommended policy options
- the SWOT analysis

8.0 Stakeholders preferred option before SWOT analysis

The PA explained the reason why information on stakeholders' preferred policy option is being collected prior to the SWOT analysis. Each member wrote secretly on papers his/her preferred policy option and the results collated by the RA from FORIG as follows:

Option 1 (Domestic lumber supplied by sawmills only) 1 = 4.5%
Option 2 (Domestic lumber supplied by sawmills and artisanal millers) 13 = 59.1%
Option 3 (Domestic lumber supplied by Artisanal Operators only) 8 = 36.4%

9.0 SWOT analysis

The PA explained the SWOT analysis tool to member after which they were groups into three with each group analysing one option.

9.1 Presentation of SWOT analysis result

Leaders of the various groups presented the outcome of the SWOT analysis. See annex for detailed report on SWOT analysis.

10.0 Stakeholders preferred option after SWOT analysis

A second Information on the preferred option after the SWOT analysis was collected. The aim was to find out whether members' perception of the option has changed after the SWOT analysis. The following were the results:

Option 1 (Domestic lumber supplied by sawmills only) 0 = 0%
Option 2 (Domestic lumber supplied by sawmills and artisanal millers) 15 = 68%
Option 3 (Domestic lumber supplied by Artisanal Operators only) 7 = 32%

11.0 Information about the National Plantation Programme


The CFW briefed members on the national plantation programme and the role the project is playing to involve stakeholders in the programme.


12.0 Date for Next Meeting

The date will be communicated to members after the third national meeting.

13.0 Closing

The CFW thanked members for coming. He advised the members to send feedback to their constituencies and stakeholder groups.

Signed: 
Emmanuel Fosu(PA) – Recorder

Signed for: 
Osabarima Ofosu Kwabi III – Chairman

Annexes

Outcome of Group Discussions (SWOT ANALYSIS)

Options	Strengths	Weaknesses	Opportunities	Threats
Domestic lumber supplied by sawmills only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sawmillers have logistics in terms of equipment and vehicles to operate. ➤ Have qualified and trained manpower to carry out activities. ➤ Sawmillers have legal access to the resource. ➤ Sawmillers are recognized by banks and can easily assess loans to supply required demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The earth moving equipment like skidders destroys a number of young trees and farm crops. ➤ The current technology cannot be used on high lands and valleys. ➤ Sawmillers have high interest in export than supplying lumber to the domestic market. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is ready market for lumber. ➤ It is an opportunity to expand production and hence business. ➤ It is a prospect to increase revenue generated for government. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Likelihood of higher imposition of tax due to probable high revenue from local supply. ➤ Influx of mushroom sawmills to produce low quality product
Domestic lumber supplied by sawmills and artisanal millers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There will be relatively low waste in lumber production. ➤ The two parties have skilled labour for production. ➤ Relatively high quality lumber will be produced. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Lack of cooperation between the sawmillers and artisanal millers. ➤ Most of artisanal millers use human beings to convey lumber to accessible place which is very risky. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Re-afforestation programmes in place to augment forest resources. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Likely fall in profit margin as a result of oversupply to the market. ➤ Depleting forest.
Domestic lumber supplied by Artisanal Operators only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Training on the use of artisanal mills is relatively easy. ➤ Needs relatively little capital to start operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Artisanal milling cannot meet the current local demand due to its small scale of production. ➤ Most artisanal millers lack education on safety standards which leads to harmful practices. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is available market for the lumber produced. ➤ Labour is readily available for operation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The limited availability of the resource is likely to compel sawmillers to sabotage artisanal milling. ➤ Lack of transparency in resource allocation will result in corrupt practices.

Questions that needs to be considered:

- i. Is the government ready to reduce taxes if sawmillers are to supply wholly to the domestic market?
- ii. Are sawmillers willing to supply to the domestic market?
- iii. Are consumers ready to patronize sawmill lumber even if the prices are relatively higher than chainsaw lumber?
- iv. What is the guarantee that there will be timber to saw into lumber always?
- v. Do the artisanal millers have the capacity to produce lumber for the whole country?
- vi. Can the artisanal millers supply all sizes of lumber to be needed by customers?
- vii. Will the government be able to enact and implement law(s) to regulate the activities of artisanal millers in such a way that their activities will not cause environmental degradation?