

“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

District Level Multi Stakeholder Dialogue Three Minutes

(DLMSD 3)

Date: 24th May, 2010

Venue: FSD Conference Room, Begoro



EU Chainsaw Project



This project is financed by the European Union

MSD Members Present:

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|------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Emmanuel Bempong | Machine Owner, Begoro |
| 2. Hon. Ntori Adjabeng | Farmer, Hemang |
| 3. Nana Adu Ofori | CBAG, Apapam |
| 4. Deborah Kwakyewa | Chainsaw Operator, Akwedum |
| 5. Dina Gyimah | Farmer, Ahwenease |
| 6. Thomas Yeboah | Machine Owner, Apapam |
| 7. Richmond Agyei | Chainsaw Operator, Begoro |
| 8. Margaret Amponsah | Farmer, Feyiase |
| 9. Stanley Siame | Machine Owner, Feyiase |
| 10. Andrews A. Bempong | Carpenter, Abasaase |
| 11. S.H. Amenyo | Carpenter, Begoro |
| 12. Benefo Antwi | Carpenter, Begoro |
| 13. P.E. Azidoku | MOFA, Begoro |
| 14. Kwame Ofori Attah | Chainsaw Operator, Begoro |
| 15. F.K. Asiedu | District Assembly, Fanteakwa |
| 16. Alex Owusu | Chainsaw Operator, Hemang |
| 17. Bellet Robert | Chainsaw Operator, Kwesi Komfo |
| 18. Kwabena Kusi | NTFP Collector, Apapam |
| 19. Kweku Appiah | Carpenter, Apapam |
| 20. Sefa Kwesi | Carpenter, Adadientem |
| 21. Dickson Adu | Chainsaw Operator, Akwedum |
| 22. Nana Kyei Boatey | Machine Owner, Begoro |

In Attendance:

- | | |
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| 1. Emmanuel Yeboah | District Forest Manager, Begoro |
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Project Team

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|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. James Parker Mckeown | NPC, EU Chainsaw Project |
| 2. Ben Opoku Asare | CFW, Begoro |
| 3. Emmanuel Fosu | PA, EU Chainsaw Project |
| 4. Samuel Forson | RA, FORIG |

Apology:

- | | |
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| 1. P.C. Appah | BNI, Begoro |
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Acronyms

- | | |
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| • BNI | Bureau of National Investigation |
| • CBAG | Community Biodiversity Advisory Group |
| • CFW | Community Forestry Worker |
| • CSM | Chainsaw Milling |
| • DFM | District Forest Manager |
| • DLMSD | District Level Multistakeholder Dialogue |
| • FC | Forestry Commission |
| • FDA | Fanteakwa District Assembly |
| • FSD | Forestry Services Division |
| • MOFA | Ministry of Food and Agriculture |
| • NPC | National Project Coordinator |

- NTFP Non Timber Forestry Produce
- PA Project Assistant
- RA Research Assistant
- SWOT Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Agenda:

The agreed agenda for the meeting are:

- Reading and acceptance of previous minutes
- Purpose of meeting
- Feedback from the national MSD 3
- Strategies to address weaknesses and threats of the 3 policy options

Proceedings	Action
<p>1.0 Opening The CFW called the meeting to order at 11:00 am. This was followed by prayer by Mr. S.H. Senyo.</p> <p>2.0 Introduction Members present made self introduction stating their names, stakeholder group and community.</p> <p>3.0 Apologies The CFW announced the apologies from members who were not able to attend the meeting.</p> <p>4.0 Chairman’s welcome address The chairman: the District Forest Manager thanked members for supporting the project and contributing effectively in the discussions to finding solution to the illegal CSM problem confronting the country. He urged members to contribute to the discussion and send feedback to their groups/constituencies when they go back. He finally welcomed all members to the DLMSD 3 meeting</p> <p>5.0 Purpose of the meeting The CFW presented to members purpose of the meeting as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To present feedback from the national MSD 3; and ➤ To discuss strategies to address the weaknesses and threats from the SWOT analysis of the 3 recommended policy options. <p>6.0 Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes The previous minutes was read and after making few corrections, Nana Adu Ofori of CBAG moved for acceptance of the meeting and it was seconded by Hon. Ntori Adjabeng.</p>	

7.0 Feedback from MSD 2

The CFW and members from the district who attended the national MSD 3 presented what took place at the meeting. Their presentations included:

- The SWOT analysis outcome from the districts;
- Discussion and acceptance of code of conduct for MSD meetings; and
- Developing strategies to address weaknesses and threats from the SWOT analysis outcomes.

They further explained that the presentation and discussion of the SWOT analysis outcome and the code of conduct were done in plenary whiles developing strategies to address the weakness and threats in the SWOT analysis outcome was carried out in group work. Prior to the group work, members were given the opportunity to choose their preference for the three policy options in the following order: most preferred, preferred and least preferred. Information on the preference was collected according to stakeholder groups.

8.0 Group Discussions: Strategies to Address Weaknesses and Threats from the SWOT analysis of the 3 recommended policy options

The CFW presented the threats and weaknesses from the SWOT analysis, after which he clarified and answered questions from members. Members went into 3 groups to discuss strategies to address threats and weaknesses from the three options. Group representatives presented their groups' outcome.(Detail in annex)

9.0 Choice of Option based on Stakeholder groups

After the presentations of the strategies to address weaknesses and threats from the SWOT analysis, stakeholders selected their preferred options by writing on a paper secretly. The result is as follows:


Stakeholder	No	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Chainsaw Operators	9	(0) 0%	(7) 78%	(2) 22%
Carpenters	5	(0) 0%	(5) 100%	(0) 0%
Farmers	3	(0) 0%	(3) 100%	(0) 0%
Institutions	2	(0) 0%	(2) 100%	(0) 0%
NTFP collectors	2	(0) 0%	(2) 100%	(0) 0%
Total	21	0	(19) 90%	(2) 10%

10.0 Date for Next Meeting

The date will be communicated to members after the 4th national MSD meeting.

10.1 Closing

The CFW thanked members for attending the meeting and advised them to make sure they send feedback to their groups.


 Signed
 Emmanuel Fosu(PA) – Recorder


 Signed
 James Parker Mckeown(NPC) – Chairman

Annex: Strategies for addressing threats and weakness of outcome of SWOT analysis

Option 1: Sawmillers only to Supply Domestic Lumber

Weakness	Strategy
High operational cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employ people from communities nearby • Procure up-to-date equipment and service equipment regularly
High prices for lumber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FC to regulate the prices of lumber
Inadequate financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Banks to be encouraged to offer low interest credit facilities to forest based industries.
Crop destruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFCs should be empowered to help the FC to check the extent of destruction of farms and young trees with the use of skidders. • Strengthen the monitoring role of forest guards to inspect trees fell by millers
High environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millers should be encouraged to use low impact equipments in removing trees
Difficulties in supplying local communities with lumber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC should make it a requirement for all sawmill to establish at least a specific number of sales outlets in an area before granted concession.
Small number of marketing and milling stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC should ensure sawmillers open specified number of selling outlets and feed them with lumber in order to continue to get concessions.
Lack of commitment to communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower CFCs to be effectively involved in forest management
Dwindling resource base	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should encourage the establishment of plantations/ or undertake massive afforestation programme to augment natural forest. • Sawmills should establish their own plantation • Farmers and community members should be encourage to plant trees in their farms and fallow lands
Low pricing in the local market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consumers should be educated on the need to pay for the right price for lumber
Influx of mushroom sawmills to produce low quality product	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish criteria for issuance of licence and permit.
Illegal chainsaw milling and logging in concessions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance the capacity of FC, communities and law enforcement agencies effectively carryout monitoring and enforcement.
Unwillingness of rural communities to cooperate with sawmills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmills and FC should pay royalties and other benefits to communities promptly.
High production cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saw mills should acquire efficient equipments Government should reduce taxes on sawmills

Option 2 – Sawmills and Artisanal Millers to Supply Domestic Lumber

Weakness	Strategy
Difficulty in monitoring the operations of the two parties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Liaise with community forest committees to help in monitoring of the activities.
Activities of timber contractors destroy farm crops and smaller trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The activities of sawmillers should be monitored closely.
Depletion of timber resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Millers and communities should do serious afforestation. ▪ Set up plantations.
The ban on chainsaw milling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The FC/Government should accept and work with the outcome of this project.
Under resourced monitoring agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Some taxes are set aside for monitoring.
The blend of saw and artisanal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offenders should be dealt with severely.

milling may lead to corrupt practices	
High cost of equipments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government to subsidise forest machines. ▪ Import machines and sell to millers on credit basis.
Elimination of some chainsaw operators from the system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Provide viable alternative livelihoods for chainsaw operators who are likely to be thrown out of job.
Inadequate support from traditional authorities and farmers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Pay SRA to win confidence and cooperation from traditional authorities.
Potential occurrence of conflicts between sawmillers and artisanal millers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FC/Government should be bold to discipline parties found guilty of any conflict.

Option 3: Artisanal Operators only to Supply Domestic Lumber

Weakness	Strategy
Increased cost of operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review operational practices to reduce avoidable cost of product ▪ Use of modern, improved and more efficient machinery and equipment.
Poor managerial skills of artisanal operators constitute a weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training and education in managerial skills.
Artisanal operators may face difficulties competing with saw millers for raw materials (timber concessions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mechanism to prevent undue take-over by the industry.
Possible lack of clarity on process of resource allocation will constitute a weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institute processes and procedures to acquire resources.
The current unorganised nature of artisanal operators constitutes a weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Well organised and registered groups should be a requirement for recognition and award of concession. By FC/FSD.
Dwindling of the forest resource base presents a threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artisanal operators should be made to replant forest they fell trees from and should be strictly enforced.
Possible environmental degradation since artisanal people can operate anywhere without effective regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institution of mechanisms to ensure that practices which will lead to environmental degradation should put in place and adhered to. ▪ CFCs should be formed; motivated and empowered to monitor activities of artisanal operators.
Increased cost of operation relative to the current free-hand chain sawing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artisanal operators could form groups to take loans to augment their operational costs. ▪ Government should subsidise the prices of the inputs.
Some people currently operating free-hand chain sawing may not have the finances to purchase the required attachments for artisanal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members in community and district associations can buy some few and rent out to members.
Saw millers could sabotage this arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The FC/FSD should be steadfast and not allow the industry take them for a ride.
Saw millers may decide to go into artisanal operations which will lead to competition with the people currently operating free hand chain sawing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institutionalization of standards for accepting an organisation as artisanal by FC.
Possible difficulty in obtaining credit finance for artisanal operations presents a challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formation of cooperatives to support members.