

“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

Date: 21st July, 2010

Venue: Forest Service Division, Goaso



The logo for the EU Chainsaw Project is centered around a large, five-pointed yellow star. At the top left of the star is the flag of the European Union. At the top right is the logo for Tropenbos International Ghana, which features a green tree silhouette over a globe. In the center of the star, the text "EU Chainsaw Project" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. Below this text, the logo for the Forestry Commission (AFC) is displayed, consisting of the letters "AFC" in green with a tree silhouette and the words "Forestry Commission" underneath. At the bottom left of the star is the logo for the Forestry Training Centre (DSC), which shows a stylized tree and the text "FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE DSC". At the bottom center is the logo for IWOKRAMA, featuring the word "IWOKRAMA" in green with a globe icon. At the bottom right is the logo for the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) For IG, which is a circular emblem with the text "FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH" and "FOR IG" around the perimeter. Below the star, the text "This project is financed by the European Union" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

DLMSD Members Present:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stakeholder Group</u>
1. Joseph Gyedu	Carrier, Goaso
2. Nana Asare Baffour	TA, Nyamebekyere
3. Agyei Augustine	Carpenter, Goaso
4. Francis K. Agbokli	Lumber broker, Kukuom
5. Daniel Nketiah	Carpenter, Asumura
6. Nicholas Attah	Chainsaw Operator, Goaso
7. Afia Dansoa	Lumber broker, Akrodie
8. James Oppong	WD, Goaso
9. Joseph Gyedu	Carrier, Goaso
10. Kwasi Kobia T.	NGO, Goaso/Kumasi
11. Mohammed Issah	Chainsaw Operator, Goaso
12. Kofi Mensah	Carrier, Sankore
13. George Baryeh	Lumber broker, Goaso
14. Eric Agyapong	Chainsaw Operator, Goaso
15. Kwasi Boakyi	Carrier, Goaso
16. Koranteng C. Acheampong	Lumber broker, Goaso
17. John Asare	Chainsaw Operator, Goaso
18. Kofi Nartey	Chainsaw Operator, Goaso
19. Kontoh Frank	Carrier, Kukuom
20. Duori Thomas More	Lumber Broker, Akrodie
21. Charles Sarpong Duah	Chainsaw Operator, Goaso
22. Donkor Tweneboah	Chainsaw operator, Kukuom

Project Secretariat Team

Mercy Owusu Mensah	National Facilitator
Jane Aggrey	Assistant Communication Officer, TBI Ghana
Enerstina Osei	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
Dorothy Dampson	Community Forestry Worker



Acronyms

CSM	Chainsaw Milling
CFW	Community Forestry Worker
DLMSD	District Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
EU	European Union
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FSD	Forest Service Division
MSD	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
SWOT	Strength, Weakness, Opportunity, Threat
TBI	Tropenbos International

Agenda:

The agreed agenda for the meeting were:

- reading and acceptance of previous minutes
- reports on and feedback from national MSD III
- livelihood survey
- discussions to develop strategies to mitigate weakness and threats identified in the SWOT analysis
- Questionnaire administration on 'Perceptions'.

Proceedings	Action																																								
<p>1.0 Opening The meeting started at 09: 30 am.</p> <p>2.0 Introduction An introduction of all present was done which was followed by a welcome statement from the Assistant District Manager of the Forest Service Division. The meeting was facilitated by the Community Forestry Worker, Dorothy Dampson.</p> <p>3.0 Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes Due to time constraints, minutes of the previous meeting was not read.</p> <p>4.0 Livelihood Survey As part of finding alternative livelihoods for people involved in chainsaw operation and its related activities, the livelihood team was present at the meeting to explain to members the importance of alternative livelihoods. This was also to seek the opinion of members on potential alternative livelihoods, their preferences and feasibility of implementation.</p> <p>5.0 Group Work: Strategies to mitigate weakness and threats from SWOT analysis Members were put into three groups and asked to prioritise the weaknesses and threats from the SWOT analysis for each selected option and to develop strategies to mitigate them. A presentation of group results was made by group representatives to all members followed by a time for questions and answers. The details and results of the group work are appended to this minute.</p> <p>6.0 Choice of Option based on Stakeholder group 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:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="169 1160 1238 1473"> <thead> <tr> <th>Stakeholder</th> <th>No</th> <th>Option 1</th> <th>Option 2</th> <th>Option 3</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Saw millers</td> <td>5</td> <td>(1) 20%</td> <td>(4) 80%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Farmers</td> <td>1</td> <td>-</td> <td>(1)100%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Government Institution</td> <td>7</td> <td>(1)14%</td> <td>(6)86%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NGOs</td> <td>2</td> <td>-</td> <td>(2)100%</td> <td>-</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wood workers</td> <td>3</td> <td>-</td> <td>(2)66.6%</td> <td>(1)33.3%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chainsaw operators</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>(2)50%</td> <td>(2)50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>22</td> <td>(2) 9.2%</td> <td>(17) 77.2%</td> <td>(3)13.6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>7.0 Questionnaire administration on ‘Perceptions’. As a way of tracking changes in the perception of stakeholders to chainsaw milling in light of the project and their preferences for a particular policy option, a questionnaire on stakeholder perception was administered to a majority of members present.</p> <p>Also members were asked to select their preferred option and to give reasons for their choice. A collated result of their preference is attached to this minute.</p> <p>8.0 Closing The Community Forestry Worker thanked all members present. She said the contributions from the members are quite substantial and encouraged them to send feedback messages to members of their communities and associations. The meeting ended at 1:45pm with a prayer by</p> <p>Signed  Jane Aggrey (Recorder)</p> <p>Signed:  Mercy Owusu Ansah (Chairperson)</p>	Stakeholder	No	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3	Saw millers	5	(1) 20%	(4) 80%	-	Farmers	1	-	(1)100%	-	Government Institution	7	(1)14%	(6)86%	-	NGOs	2	-	(2)100%	-	Wood workers	3	-	(2)66.6%	(1)33.3%	Chainsaw operators	4	-	(2)50%	(2)50%	Total	22	(2) 9.2%	(17) 77.2%	(3)13.6%	
Stakeholder	No	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3																																					
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ANNEXES POLICY OPTION 1 Saw millers only to supply legal lumber to the domestic market

WEAKNESSES	STRATEGIES
High operational cost	Government should provide support in the form of subsidies. Production waste should be used to produce energy to supplement the national grid.
High price of lumber produces	Reduction in the stumpage fees by the government. Improve wood processing efficiency to reduce waste.
Adverse environmental impact which includes the destruction of young trees and food crops during operation	Replanting of trees logged by saw millers. Proper and effective monitoring of activities of saw millers by the FSD. Payment of compensation to farmers.
Increase in waste during logging and processing	The use of improved processing methods to reduce waste should be encouraged.
Temptation to supply the local market with low quality lumber with a strong desire for export	A quality control board should be established to monitor lumber supply to the domestic market. High quota should be allocated to the domestic market.
Difficulties to supplying rural communities with lumber	Marketing outlets/depots should be established in rural communities. Saw millers should be encouraged to site stations close to the resource and hence rural communities.
Lack of good managerial skills	Capacity building in proper managerial skills.
Difficulty in operating in valleys and mountainous places	Morden technology of harvesting should be employed.
THREATS	STRATEGIES
Dwindling resource base	Saw millers should be encouraged to establish more tree plantation. The use of lesser known species should be investigated and encouraged. The use of wood substitutes should be promoted.
Illegal logging in their concessions	Build camps along forest boundaries for forest guards. Empower and motivate unit committees to help in monitoring.
Bush fires	Fire fighting volunteers should be empowered and motivated.
Problems associated with resource allocation	There is the need for an independent body to review and monitor how resources are allocated to ensure equity.
Incidental fire out breaks	Frequent education of saw mill workers on fire preventing and fighting.
High taxation	Government should reduce taxes on timber products and machine import.
Breakdown of equipments	Routine maintenance of machines.
Unhealthy competition	Government should regularise saw mill activities by fixing fair prices.
Influx of mushroom saw mills	There should be guidelines and standards for establishing saw mills.
Persistence of chainsaw milling	People employed by chainsaw milling should be absorbed into saw milling companies.

POLICY OPTION 2 Saw millers and Artisanal millers to supply legal lumber to the domestic market

WEAKNESSES	STRATEGIES
Unit committees are not functional	Unit committees should be empowered and well motivated to carry out their duties.
National data capturing system is weak	Current systems should be updates to match with modern technology.
Lack of expertise on the part of artisanal miller	Personnel should be trained and proper equipments introduced.
Obsolete machinery	Government should assist millers in terms of reduced taxes on the importation of modern machinery.
Conflicts between saw millers and artisanal millers	Government to enact policy to provide permits to artisanal millers to operate.
THREATS	STRATEGIES
Depleting resource base	Technologies that make use of wastes from processing timber should be encouraged. Reforestation of degraded forest areas.
Difficulty in monitoring the operations of the two parties	An independent body should be employed to monitor their activities.

POLICY OPTION 3 Artisanal millers only to supply legal lumber to the domestic market

WEAKNESSES	STRATEGIES
Improvement in operations mean extra cost	Government should subsidise the cost for improvements. Artisanal millers should be trained on proper financial management.
Increased conflict and competition	Artisanal millers should be registered and given concessions.
Possibility of illegal operations	Proper monitoring.
Lack of registration for artisanal milling	Improve upon current legislation. Re-enforce current laws and monitor the activities of artisanal millers
Lack of machinery and technical know-how for improved artisanal milling	Government should assist artisanal millers in the acquisition of machinery. Artisanal millers should be trained in the use of technologies for improvements.
Potential abuse of permits	There should be transparency and proper monitoring.
Refusal to pay royalties and taxes	Proper monitoring and the use of stiffer punishments.
Poor managerial skills	Management training for artisanal millers.
Have no capacity to form cooperatives	Artisanal millers should be assisted to form associations and registered.
Indiscriminate felling of trees and problems associated with the payment of compensations	Proper monitoring and the use of stiffer punishments.

THREATS	STRATEGIES
Dwindling resource base	Afforestation and education on proper forest management practices.
Difficulty in enforcing laws	Increase the number of well trained and motivated law enforcement officials.
Serious environmental effects	Improve monitoring.
Bush fires	Establishment of fire volunteers and community by-laws against indiscriminate burning.
Non availability of credit facilities	Donations from other countries. Government should assist artisanal millers in obtaining financial assistance. Artisanal millers should form associations to help access loans from banks.