

“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

**Third District Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (DLMSD 3) Minutes
Juaso**

Date: 13th July, 2010

Venue: Catholic Hall



The logo for the EU Chainsaw Project is centered around a large, five-pointed yellow star. 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 (the letters "AFC" in green with a tree) in the center; the Forestry Training Centre logo (a green circle with a tree and sun) in the bottom left; the IWOKRAMA logo (the letters "IWOKRAMA" in green with a globe) in the bottom center; and the CSIR logo (a red circle with "CSIR" in blue) in the bottom right. Below the star, the text "This project is financed by the European Union" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Present

Name	Stakeholder
1. Abdel Mumuni	Sawmiller, Konogo
2. Lydia Kwadu	FSD
3. John Ababio	Machine Owner, Obogu
4. Nana Effah	Traditional Authority, Banso
5. Amoh Koranteng	MOFA, Juaso
6. Amoako Dankwa	Operator, Obogu
7. Agyapong Boadi	NADMO, Juaso
8. B. Adams	Buyer, Obogu
9. Ebenezer Agyarkwa	FSD, Juaso
10. Emmanuel Torsu	Small miller, Obogu
11. Eric Ankamah	Sawmiller, Obogu
12. J. O. Dickson	Sawmiller, Konogo
13. James Amoah	Farmer, Obogu
14. Lydia Kwadu	FSD, Juaso
15. Kwame Baah	Operator, Obogu
16. Kwame Sarpong	Operator, Juaso
17. Kwesi George	Operator, Juaso
18. Nana Effah	Traditional Authority, Banso
19. Nana Owusu Achaw	Traditional Authority, Obogu
20. Agyapong Boadu	NADMO, Juaso
21. Sampson Anpem	Farmer, Obogu
22. S. A, Darkwa	FSD, Juaso
23. S.O Abrokwa	FSD, Juaso
24. Dovi Thomas	Sawmiller, Obogu
25. Yussif Ibrahim	GNA, Juaso

In Attendance

1. Mr Sampson Akota	District Manager, FSD
2. E.V. Boadu	DCE's Representative, Juaso
3. Anthony Appiah	Police Commander, Juaso
4. Roderick Zagt	Coordinator, TBI International

Project Secretariat

1. James Parker	NPC, EU CSM project
2. Emmanuel Fosu	PA, EU CSM project
3. Patrick Opoku	Intern, TBI
4. Evan Sampene	Service Personnel, TBI
5. Jullia Almeida	Intern, Chainsaw Project

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>1.0 Opening The meeting started at 10:30 am with a prayer by Mr Emmanuel Torsu table saw miller.</p> <p>2.0 Introductions The CFW introduced the DCE of AASDA's representative and the Traditional Authorities. The NPC took also introduced the research team which undertook the livelihood and perception surveys and Roderick Zagt from the Head Office. The participants then took turns to introduce themselves stating their names, stakeholder group they represent.</p>	

2.1 Welcome Address by the DFM

In his welcome address the DFM noted that Juaso was noted for her forest in the past, but that can not be said of the district today. In terms of timber access, the Manager said the government was giving permit to saw lumber, but, this was abused and the government in a haste legislated against the use of the chainsaw machine to saw lumber for commercial use. Ironically, the legislation rather has worsened the plight of the Ghana forest. This project is an intervention to help salvage the forest. It is incumbent on all stakeholders to cooperate in respect to help the project bring about the best option for the country.

3.0 Purpose of the Meeting

The CFW outlined the purpose of the meeting as follows:

- i. To discuss strategies to avert the threats and weaknesses of the three options
- ii. To seek for the perception of the various stakeholders about the project
- iii. To seek for most preferred options by the various stakeholder groups
- iv. To find out the alternative livelihoods the stakeholders in the district opts for

4.0 Reading and Acceptance of the Previous Minutes

The previous minutes were distributed to all participants. The CFW read the minutes. Some typographical errors were corrected. Mr John Ababio a machine owner moved for the acceptance of the meeting and was seconded by Mr Sampson Anpem a farmer.

5.0 Advice By Police Commander

The Juaso District Police Commander advised the stakeholders that the police is never an enemy whose purpose is to prevent people from making a living, but to ensure that people do the right thing for the benefit of all citizens. He said it will be unjust for few people in a society embark on an illegal act to enrich themselves for the mass majority to suffer the consequences. He therefore advised the stakeholders to do the right thing and the police will be seen as a friend, brother, sister and a protector.

6.0 Choice of Option based on Stakeholdership

The CFW explained to the stakeholders that the essence of the exercise is to find out which is the most proffered option by each stakeholder group. Therefore the decision should be free of consultations-secret. The result is as follows:

Stakeholder	No	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
Farmers	3	0/3=0%	3/3=100%	0/3=0/3
Civil Society	3	0/1=0%	1/1=100%	0/1=0%
Traditional Authority	2	0/2=0%	2/2=100%	0/2=0%
Chainsaw Related Stakeholders	9	1/9=11.1%	7/9=77.8%	1/9=11.1%
Government Institution	5	2/5=40%	2/5=40%	1/5=20%
Carpenters	2	0/2=0%	2/2=100%	0/2=0%
Sawmillers	2	0/2=0%	2/2=100%	0/2=0%
Total	24	3/24=12.5%	19=79.2%	2/24=8.3%

7.0 Speech By MCE (Read on his Behalf)

The MCE apologized for not being able to attend the programme personally due to an emergency engagement by the minister. He said he has special interest in the project because of the problem it is trying to address. He stressed that farming activities has become try and error because farmers can no longer rely on the rains. This is because it now become every difficult to predict as a result of climatic change due to irresponsible forest practices. We all owe it a responsibility to help the project achieve objectives.

8.0 Group Discussions and Presentations

Members went into 3 groups to discuss strategies to avert the threats and weaknesses of the three options. The rapporteurs presented their groups' outcome.(Detail in annex)

9.0 Roderick's Observation

Roderick observed that TBI alone can not handle the forest issues and calls for all stakeholders to put in their efforts to contribute in one way or the other to help in the sustainable management of our forest resources.

10.0 Livelihood Survey

The livelihood survey team took turn to explain the rationale for the survey and collected their information.

11.0 Closing

The CFW on behalf of the project thanked all participants for attending the meeting.

Meeting ended at 3:20 pm.



Signed:
James Parker Mckeown (Chairman)



Signed:
Emmanuel Fosu (Recorder)

Annex
Option 1: Saw millers only to Supply Domestic Lumber
Weakness and Threats with Strategies to address them

Weakness	Strategy
High operational cost	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce expenditure on cheap inputs • Buy and use more efficient equipment
High prices for lumber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government to regulate prices of lumber
Inadequate financial resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Form associations to support members financially to run business.
Crop destruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC/FSD should ensure that loggers/sawmillers pay for crops they destroy.
High environmental impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EPA to embark on environmental assessment to determine whether it is economically viable to harvest lumber at a particular forest.
Difficulties in supplying local communities with lumber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish sales outlets in forest communities.
Small number of marketing and milling stations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC should ensure that all sawmillers set up sales points.
Lack of commitment to communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cooperate with traditional authorities and community associations to protect forests.
The earth moving equipment like skidders destroys a number of young trees and farm crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community associations and traditional authorities will support FC/FSD to ensure payment for crops damaged.
Threat	Strategy
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Dwindling resource base 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultivate plantations. • Embark on afforestation.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Low pricing in the local market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute price floor and ceilings.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Influx of mushroom sawmills to produce low quality product 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Put in place to measures to prevent influx of mushroom sawmills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Illegal logging in their concessions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay staff/guards well to withstand bribery temptations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ High production cost as a result of increase in tax 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek for tax reduction or exemption on forest machines.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Problems with resource allocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should fair allocation of resources.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unstable electric power supply causing damage to equipment's and reducing production 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millers should provide own power supply to augment government supply.

Option 2 – Sawmills and Artisanal Millers to Supply Domestic Lumber
Weakness and Threats with potential strategies to address them

Weakness	Strategy
Inadequate policy to support the option	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •
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.
Conflicts amongst artisanal millers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education and awareness creation on conflict mediation mechanisms
Activities of timber contractors destroy farm crops and smaller trees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The activities of sawmillers should be monitored closely.
Threat	Strategy
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 milling may lead to corrupt practices	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Offenders should be dealt with severely.
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
Weaknesses and Threats and Strategies to address them

Weakness	Strategy
Increased cost of operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Use more efficient equipment ▪
Poor managerial skills of artisanal operators constitute a weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The FC should organise management trainings for artisanal millers
Artisanal operators may face difficulties competing with saw millers for raw materials (timber concessions)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear allocation of timber concessions to both artisanal millers and sawmillers
Possible lack of clarity on process of resource allocation will constitute a weakness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There should be clearly defined regulations in resources allocation.
Limited formal education of artisanal operators constitutes a challenge to training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ They can undertake non-formal education in the evenings, after work.

Possibility to abuse permits issued under this arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Empower community associations and traditional authorities to inspect permit of any company or individual who deals with the forest.
This arrangement could lead to further loss of biodiversity since artisanal operators are mobile and could operate anywhere if regulation is not very effective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Motivate law enforcers to enforce the laws to the latter ▪ Involve communities and law enforcers in forest management.
<i>Threat</i>	<i>Strategy</i>
The generally weak law enforcement culture in Ghana could lead to abuse of the arrangement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enact new legislation to regulate the activities of artisanal millers
Dwindling of the forest resource base presents a threat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Stakeholders should embark on massive tree planting
Possible environmental degradation since artisanal people can operate anywhere without effective regulation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government should intensify its monitoring mechanisms. ▪ Form community forest watchdog associations to monitor activities of those who temper with forest without authority.
Increased cost of operation relative to the current free-hand chain sawing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The use of efficient equipment with high recovery rate relatively reduces the cost of production.
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"> ▪ They should form cooperatives to help members acquire equipment ▪ They should save with banks, so that they will in turn get access to loans. ▪ Government should subsidise the cost of the equipment ▪ Government to reduce the tax on forest equipment
Possible difficulty in obtaining credit finance for artisanal operations presents a challenge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Form partnerships. ▪ Form associations and apply for loans from the banks and government interventions. ▪ Employ professionals to help write good business plans to attract loans.