

“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: 8th June, 2010



The logo for the EU Chainsaw Project is centered around a large, 3D-style yellow five-pointed 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 and the text "TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL" and "GHANA". In the center of the star, the text "EU Chainsaw Project" is written in a large, bold, blue font. Below this, the logo for the Forestry Commission (AFC) is displayed, consisting of a green tree silhouette and the letters "AFC" in a bold, green font, with "Forestry Commission" written below it. At the bottom left of the star is the logo for the Forestry Training Centre (FTC), which features a green circle with a white sunburst and a yellow silhouette of a person, with the text "FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE (FTC)" around the top. At the bottom center of the star is the logo for IWOKRAMA, which features a globe and the text "IWOKRAMA" in a green, stylized font. At the bottom right of the star is the logo for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Forintech, which is a circular logo with a red border, a blue center, and the text "COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH" and "FORINTECH" around the perimeter, with "GHANA" and "FORIG" at the bottom. Below the star, the text "This project is financed by the European Union" is written in a bold, black font.

MSD Members Present:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Seth Queney | Chainsaw Operator, Pramkese |
| 2. Eric Kofi Baisey | Farmer, Pramkese |
| 3. Richard Gyan | Machine Owner, Pramkese |
| 4. Kwesi Asare | Lumber Dealer, Pramkese |
| 5. Francis Kofi | Carrier, Pramkese |
| 6. Kofi Nyarko | Carrier Pramkese |
| 7. Richard Sabali | Chainsaw Operator, Tekyiman |
| 8. Kwabena Asamoah | C.F.C, Akokoaso |
| 9. Emmanuel Boafo | C.F.C, Akokoaso |
| 10. K. Gyimah | Chainsaw Operator, Tekyiman |
| 11. George Asamoah | Carrier, Tekyiman |
| 12. Isaac Anobil | Chainsaw Operator, Pramkese |
| 13. Ninson Kofi Boakye | MOFA, Kade |
| 14. Osafo Frank Mintah | Machine Owner, Pramkese |
| 15. Barima Sarpong Kumankuma II | Traditional Authority / D.F.F, Kwaebibirem |
| 16. Samuel Otu Adjei | Fire Service, Kade |
| 17. Emmanuel Mensah | Lumber Dealer, Kade |
| 18. Kwabena Gyasi | Table Top Sawmiller, Kade |
| 19. Yaw Adjei | Asuom, Machine Owner |
| 20. Konneh Williams | Ghana Police, Kade |
| 21. Nana Owusu Konadu II | Traditional Authority, Boadua |
| 22. Isaac Adjei | Lumber Dealer, Adonkrono |
| 23. Joseph Mfum | Farmer, Adonkrono |
| 24. Twum Sampson | Farmer, Kade |

Observers

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Effah Adarkwah | FSD, Akyem |
| 2. P.G. Osei | Asst. District Manager, Kade |

Apology:

- | | |
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| 1. William Koranteng | CFW, Out of town on Official Assignment |
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Agenda:

The agreed agenda for the meeting are:

- Purpose of the meeting
- Reports/feedback on the national MSD 3
- Choice of options based on stakeholder ship
- Strategies to mitigate weaknesses and threats of 3 options
- Stakeholder perception survey

| Proceedings | Action |
|---|--------|
| <p>1.0 Opening The CFW called the meeting to order at 11:00 am Mr. Yaw Adjei, a Machine Owner prayed for God’s guidance throughout the meeting.</p> <p>2.0 Introduction The Project Assistant introduced the NPC to the members as that was the first time the NPC was visiting the district and attending the DLMSD meeting. Members then took turns to introduce themselves.</p> <p>3.0 Apologies The Chairman (District Forest Manager) announced the apology from Mr William Koranteng who was on national assignment out of the district.</p> <p>4.0 Chairman’s welcome address The District Forest Manager, who chaired the meeting, congratulated the members for keeping faith with the project and contributing effectively to finding a solution to the lumber problem confronting the country. He formerly welcomed the participants and urged them to contribute to discussions at the meeting.</p> <p>5.0 Purpose of the meeting The NPC outlined the purpose of the meeting as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ To give feed back to district members who were not at the national MSD 3. ➤ To assess the choice of options based on stakeholderhip. ➤ To discuss strategies to mitigate the weaknesses and threats of the 3 options. ➤ Conduct survey of stakeholders on their perception about the project. <p>6.0 Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes The previous minutes was distributed to members. After making some few corrections, Mr. Ninson Kofi Boakye of MOFA moved and was seconded by Mr Kofi Nyarko, Lumber Dealer for the minutes to be accepted as a true reflection of proceedings.</p> <p>7.0 Feedback from MSD 2 Mr Isaac Anobil, Chainsaw Operator reported on national MSD 3on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion and acceptance of code of conduct for the national MSD ➤ Ratings of options by stakeholderhip ➤ Group work to find strategies to mitigate the weaknesses and threats to the 3 options <p>8.0 Ratings and SWOT Analysis/Stakeholder Perception about Options The PA explained to the members the essence to seek the perception of the various stakeholders’ on the three options. This will help the project understand the dynamics of the options which stakeholders opt for in relation to their source of livelihood in order to harmonise them for a common objective. The perceptions were sought free of consultations and through a secrete ballot.</p> <p>The ballot revealed the results in the table below:</p> | |

| Stakeholders | Options and Percentages | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
| Chainsaw Operators | 0/11=0% | 10/11=90.9% | 1/11=9.1% |
| Farmers | 0/2=0% | 2/2=100% | 0/2=0% |
| Government Institutions | 0/3=0% | 3/3=100% | 0/3=0% |
| CFCs | 0/2=0% | 2/2=100% | 0/2=0% |
| Traditional Authorities | 0/3=0% | 3/3=100% | 0/3=0% |
| Lumber Dealers | 0/2=0% | 2/2=100% | 0/2=0% |
| SUMMARY | 0/23=0% | 22/23=96% | 1/23=4% |

9.0 Strategies to Address Weaknesses and Threats of the 3 Options

The PA explained the need to find strategies to address the weaknesses and threats of the various options. Members agreed to go into three groups with each group taking one option to address the weaknesses and threats. (Details in annex).

9.1 Presentation of Strategies to Address Weaknesses and Threats

Each member from the three groups presented the outcome of the strategies, after which members give their comments and ask questions.

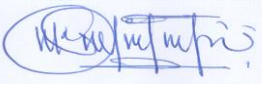
10.0 Date for Next Meeting

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

10.1 Closing

The Chairman thanked members for honouring the invitation at a short notice. He advised the members to make sure they meet at regular intervals to discuss issues pertaining to the project and make sure they relay what took place to other members who were not present.

Signed: 
Emmanuel Fosu(PA) – Recorder

Signed: for 
(ADM) – Chairman

Option 1: Sawmillers only to Supply Domestic Lumber
Weakness and Threats with Strategies to address them

| Weakness | Strategy |
|--|--|
| High operational cost | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmillers should be encouraged to site their mills close to forest to reduce some of the cost incurred on hauling sawn timber. • Reduction of taxes on timer products in order to make lumber affordable. • As much as practicable sawmillers should be encouraged to employ persons within operational areas. • Subsidies on timber machinery and other inputs. • Sawmillers should use more efficient machines to reduce wastage. |
| High prices for lumber | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FC to regulate the prices of lumber. • Subsidies on timber machinery and other inputs. • Reduction of taxes on timer products in order to make lumber affordable. |
| Inadequate financial resources | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The banks and other financial institutions should be encouraged to grant low interest loans to sawmillers. • Bank of Ghana to reduce lending rates so that businesses can assess loans to expand their businesses. |
| Crop destruction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CFCs should be empowered to check the extent of destruction of farms and young trees with the use of skidders and help to ensure appropriate compensation is paid to farm owners. • Strengthen the monitoring role of forest guards to inspect trees fell by millers |
| High environmental impact | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmillers should be given training on the impact of their activities on the environment and how to minimize them. • Stringent enforcement of afforestation after felling policy. • Felling as a matter of policy should be done during the dry season. |
| Difficulties in supplying local communities with lumber | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government should tie award of concession to the amount of lumber supplied on the local market. |
| Small number of marketing and milling stations | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FC to ensure that sawmillers open specified number of selling outlets and feed them with required minimum lumber as requirement to continuously getting concessions. |
| Lack of commitment to communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmills as part of their social responsibilities should embark on projects beneficial to fringe communities. E.g. schools, water etc. • Employ persons from localities. |
| The earth moving equipment like skidders destroys a number of young trees and farm crops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There should be unambiguous law on how to compensate farmers whose farms are destroyed and the right compensation awarded to farmers. |
| Threat | Strategy |
| Dwindling resource base | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmillers should be encouraged to establish their own plantations. |
| Low pricing in the local market | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FC should regulate the prices for lumber and lumber products on the domestic market. |

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| Influx of mushroom sawmills to produce low quality product | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific criteria to be met before licence and permit are issued. |
| Illegal logging in their concessions | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest guards/ring supervisors' conditions of service should be enhanced to prevent them from being corrupted during inspection. |
| Existence of chainsaw associations to supply rural and urban communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmillers to establish outlets in rural communities to sell higher quality lumber to local people. |
| Unwillingness of rural communities to cooperate with sawmills | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate rural communities to cooperate with sawmillers so that together they can manage the forest better. |
| High production cost as a result of increase in tax | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tax reduction for forest based industries |
| Problems with resource allocation | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sawmillers to establishment their own plantations. • Sawmillers to embark on serious afforestation programmes. • Sawmillers to involve themselves in government plantation programmes. |
| Unstable electric power supply causing damage to equipment's and reducing production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide back-up plants to provide power supply in times of power outage. |

Option 2 – Sawmills and Artisanal Millers to Supply Domestic Lumber
Weakness in order of importance with potential strategies to address them

| Weakness | Strategy |
|---|--|
| Inadequate policy to support the option | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of policy to support the option |
| Difficulty in monitoring the operations of the two parties | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Institute measures to be followed by the parties. ▪ Increase the number monitoring staff. |
| Obsolete machinery on the part of sawmillers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Educate the sawmillers on the profit of using more efficient machines. |
| Conflicts amongst artisanal millers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Create awareness and education on conflict mediation mechanisms |
| Most artisanal millers use human beings to convey lumber to accessible places which can be very risky | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education on the dangers in the use of human beings in conveying lumber. ▪ Education in occupational hazards and work safety. |
| Activities of timber contractors destroy farm crops and smaller trees | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Timber contractors should pay their compensations and royalties to the victims |
| Threat | Strategy – could not do |
| Depletion of timber resource | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Replanting of trees ▪ Training on project planning and management. ▪ Individual tree planting initiatives ▪ Education and training on sustainable management of forests |
| Lack of political will | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Enforcement of laws by the government |
| Under resourced monitoring agencies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Resource monitoring agencies to be more efficient. |
| National data capturing system is weak | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ There would be a software programme for collecting data in all regional and district office with a central base at the national head office where |

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| | data from any of the office can assessed online. |
| The blend of saw and artisanal milling may lead to corrupt practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strict law enforcement |
| Elimination of some chainsaw operators from the system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Formation of associations. |
| Inadequate support from traditional authorities and farmers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Respect traditional authorities as partners who can help in forest management. |
| Potential occurrence of conflicts between sawmillers and artisanal millers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Both artisanal operators and sawmillers should be given training in group dynamics. ▪ Establish alternative conflict resolution mechanism to deal with possible conflicts and conflicts that may arise. |

Option 3: Artisanal Operators only to Supply Domestic Lumber
Threats in order of Importance and Strategies to address them

| Weakness | Strategy |
|---|---|
| Poor managerial skills of artisanal operators constitute a weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training in managerial skills. |
| Artisanal operators may face difficulties competing with saw millers for raw materials (timber concessions) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Review of resource allocation to cater for artisanal millers |
| Possible lack of clarity on process of resource allocation will constitute a weakness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fair and unbiased allocation of resources to both artisanal millers and sawmillers. |
| Possibility to abuse permits issued under this arrangement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Education of permit acquisition and use ▪ Non-bureaucratic permit acquisition process |
| 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. |
| 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"> ▪ Strict law enforcement |
| Threat | Strategy |
| 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 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Government should import machine and sold to |

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| chain sawing may not have the finances to purchase the required attachments for artisanal | artisanal millers on credit. |
| Saw millers could sabotage this arrangement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ FC should support the arrangement. |
| 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"> ▪ Set u p modalities to prevent take over by sawmillers |