

“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
Sunyani**

Date: 8th June, 2010

Venue: Bob Pierce Memorial Center



The logo for the EU Chainsaw Project is centered around a large, five-pointed yellow star with a 3D effect. Surrounding the star are several logos and text elements:

- Top Left:** The flag of the European Union, featuring a circle of twelve gold stars on a blue background.
- Top Right:** The logo for Tropenbos International Ghana, which consists of a green globe with a tree silhouette and the text "TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL" above and "GHANA" below.
- Center:** The text "EU Chainsaw Project" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font is superimposed on the star.
- Bottom Center:** The logo for the Forestry Commission (FC), featuring a green tree and the letters "FC" in a stylized font, with "Forestry Commission" written below.
- Bottom Left:** The logo for the Forestry Training Centre (FTC), featuring a green circle with a white sunburst and a yellow map of Ghana, with "FORESTRY TRAINING CENTRE (FTC)" written around the perimeter.
- Bottom Right:** The logo for the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), featuring a red circle with a blue gear and the letters "CSIR" in the center, with "COUNCIL FOR SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH" and "GHANA" written around the perimeter, and "FORIG" below.
- Bottom Center:** The text "IWOKRAMA" in a green, stylized font, with a small globe icon integrated into the letter "O".
- Bottom:** The text "This project is financed by the European Union" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

DLMSD Members Present:

Name	Stakeholder
Atta Yeboah	Member, Sunyani Forest Forum
E. C. Ansong	Member Sunyani Forest Forum
Adjei Anthony	Sunyani Municipal Asembly
Nana Owusu Obrepong	Traditional Authority
E. Amoh	Farmer
J. K. Mensah	Farmer
A. Boakye Akuoko	Sunyani Municipal Asembly
Dubong Abraham	Representative, Traditional Authority
Leonard Kuumile	Farmer
Mercy Yeboah	Ghana Timber Association
Afia Yeboah Bediako	Forest Service Division, Sunyani
Asubonteng Acheampong	Forest Service Division, Sunyani
Kofi Yeboah Gyan	Wood Workers Association
Nana Yaw Sakyi	Representative, Traditional Authority
J. K. Tawiah	Farmer, Asuakwa
Nana Akosua Bema	Firewood Collector
Akwesi Anane Yeboah	Chainsaw Operator
George Takyi	Carrier
Cecilia Adoma Yeboah	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
Bossmann Donkoh	Chainsaw Operator
Grace Mensah	Farmer
David Yeboah	Wood Sellers Association
Augustina Adoma	Traditional Council
Mahama D	Chainsaw Operator
Thomas Ofori	Chainsaw Operator
Prince Henneh Ofori	Taungya Farmers Association
Regina Adjei	Forest Service Division
J. Amankwaah-Okrah	Lumber Broker
Francis Mornah	Fire Service
Isaac Sintim Yabbey	Forest Service Division

Project Secretariat Team

Mercy Owusu Ansah	National Facilitator
Jane Aggrey	Assistant Communication Officer, TBI Ghana
Enerstina Osei	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
Kow Quaison	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
- 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: 50 am with a prayer by Nana Akosua Bema.</p> <p>2.0 Introduction The facilitator for the meeting was Mr Ansong, who represented the District Manager of the Forest Service Division, Sunyani. He welcomed all members to the meeting which was followed by self introduction of all present.</p> <p>3.0 Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes The Community Forestry Worker, Kow Quaison read out the minutes of DLMSD II to all members. On behalf of all members, Mr Anthony Adjei moved for the acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Nana Yaw Sakyi.</p> <p>4.0 Reports on and Feedback from MSD III Kow Quaison reported on national MSD III. He talked about the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• code of conduct for managing MSDs,• strategies developed to address the identified threats and weaknesses from the SWOT analysis and• ratings of stakeholders' preferred policy option. <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 option and to develop strategies to mitigate them. A presentation of group results was made by group representatives to all members. The details and results of the group work are appended to this minute.</p> <p>6.0 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 developed. This was administered to a majority of members present.</p> <p>7.0 Closing The facilitator, Mr Ansong thanked all members present and encouraged them to send feedback messages to members of their communities and associations. The meeting ended at 1:45pm</p> <p>Signed  Jane Aggrey (Recorder)</p> <p>Signed:  Mrs Mercy O. Ansah(Chairperson)</p>	

ANNEXES

GROUP 1: OPTION I Saw millers only to supply legal lumber to the domestic market

Weakness	Strategies
High operational cost	Encourage the use of efficient machinery and solar energy for operations
Higher prices for lumber	Encourage the sale of lumber on the domestic market
High environmental impact	Replacement of every tree felled
Temptation to supply the domestic market with low quality lumber	There should be an inspector at every sawmill to ensure that only good quality lumber is sent to the domestic market Discourage the exportation of lumber
Lack of good managerial skills	Train and employ qualified personnel to manage saw mills
Inadequate financial resources	Government should help the sawmills through financial institutions to help acquire efficient machines Reduction of government taxes on the timber industry
Inability to convey trees in valleys	Ban the felling of trees in valleys

Threats	Strategies
Illegal logging in concessions	Employ more forest guards
Bushfires	Encourage the recruitment of more community fire volunteers Educate communities on the consequences and sanctions associated with illegal setting of fires
Low pricing in the local market	Encourage low production cost through the use of efficient machines to minimize waste
Unstable electric power supply	Encourage the use of alternative power supplies such as solar energy
Problems associated with resource allocation	Involve communities in allocation of concessions to prevent disputes
High taxation costs	Government should reduce taxes in the timber industry
Machine breakdown	Train efficient and sufficient technicians to handle machinery
Influx of mushroom sawmills	The registration of sawmills should be based on an exhaustive eligibility criteria.

GROUP 2: OPTION II Saw millers and Artisanal millers to supply legal lumber to the domestic market

Weakness	Strategies
Under resourced monitoring agencies	Government should equip the Forestry Commission with all the needed resources to enable them undertake effective monitoring
Lack of expertise in the business	Forestry Commission (TIDD) should organize business advisory training for all the players in the industry to enable them operate efficiently
National data capturing system is weak	There should be statistical units at all the district forest offices to enable them capture all the trees in a particular compartment before awarding to a contract. This would help them to monitor abuses and illegalities.

Inability to pay for the cost of improvement	<p>Individuals, millers and artisans should come together to form groups and associations to enable them procure machinery</p> <p>The association can also lead individuals to seek for a loans at a lower rate from financial institutions</p>
Conflict between saw millers and artisanal millers	The two groups should form an umbrella association which would help them draw modalities, by-laws and their operational guidelines

Threats	Strategies
Depletion of timber resources	<p>There should be vigorous tree planting in all the degraded forest reserves</p> <p>Saw millers and artisanal millers should be encouraged to plant trees and replace the depleted areas as a criteria for awarding felling permits</p>
Bushfires	<p>The fire volunteers associations in the rural communities should be strengthened to enable them help control bushfires in the country.</p> <p>District Assemblies should apply punitive by-laws to serve as disincentives to those who set fires illegally</p>

GROUP 3: OPTION III Artisanal millers only to supply legal lumber to the domestic market

Weakness	Strategies
Dwindling timber resources	<p>Intensive tree planting/enrichment planting</p> <p>Laws governing individual plantations should be made favorable to individual owners</p> <p>Control bush fires</p> <p>Control tree pests and diseases</p>
Improvement in operations imply extra cost to artisanal millers	Artisanal millers should form cooperatives in order to get financial assistance from financial institutions
Legalizing artisanal milling may affect forest resources negatively	<p>There should be proper enforcement of laws banning illegal activities.</p> <p>Improve research into lesser known species.</p>

THREATS	STRATEGIES
Dwindling resource base	<p>Massive afforestation</p> <p>Educate forest stakeholders on proper forest management practices.</p>
Bush fires	Educate forest users on bush fire prevention and control.