

“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

**Fourth District Level Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Minutes
Akim Oda (DLMSD 4)**

Date: 1st March, 2011

Venue: District Assembly Hall, Akyem Oda



EU Chainsaw Project



This project is financed by the European Union

Members Present

<u>Name</u>	<u>Stakeholder Group</u>
1. Rockson Manu	District Assembly
2. Teye Abraham	National Disaster Management Organisation
3. Nana Owusu Aduamoah	Traditional Authority
4. Davis Osam Debrah	Chainsaw Operator
5. Nana Yeboah	Media
6. James K. Boadu	Chainsaw Operator
7. Victoria A. Kumi	National Disaster Management Organisation
8. Osei-Mansuoh Kofi	Forest Service Division
9. E. Menka Agyekum	Forest Service Division
10. Peter Bondzi	Wood Seller
11. Naana Fatima Mohammed	Ghana Immigration Service
12. Francis Y. Amedzrator	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
13. Asante Oduro	Farmer
14. Alfred Vicku	Forest Service Division
15. DSP Osei	Ghana Police Service
16. Gyeabour Samuel	Forest Service Division

Project Secretariat Team

1. Mercy Owusu Mensah	National Facilitator (NF)
2. Jane Aggrey	Communication Officer
3. Isaac Nketiah	Community Forestry Worker

Acronyms

CSM	Chainsaw Milling
FC	Forestry Commission
IOI	Illegal or Incompatible
MSD	Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
NF	National Facilitator
TIDD	Timber Industry Development Division

Agenda

The agreed agenda for the meeting were:

- Reading and acceptance of previous minutes
- Outcomes of consensus workshop
- Presentation on selected pilot community

Proceedings	Action
1.0 Opening The meeting started at 11:00 am with a prayer by Samuel Gyeabour.	
2.0 Introduction Participants present introduced themselves. This was followed by a welcome statement from the Community Forestry Worker. In his statement, he reminded participants that the project is here to bring some sanity into the forestry sector with regards to the current conflicts and associated problems with chainsaw milling. He urged all present to take active part in the project's activities and send feedback to their constituents.	

3.0 Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes

Minutes of the previous meeting was read by Samuel Gyeabour. With no corrections made, Mr Godson Osei moved for the acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Nana Yeboah.

4.0 Updates on the Project

The NF mentioned that the project has gone through the initial stage of creating awareness and understanding the chainsaw problem. From that emerged the three recommended policy options to help solve the problem. She added that these options have been analysed for their strengths, weakness, threats and opportunities. From that, the concept of artisanal milling was developed by a team of experts, who are part of the MSD, as not freehand but chainsaw with attachments among other things. With the idea of artisanal milling, she said the team also brainstormed on resource allocation. According to her, a consensus workshop (MSD IV) by the MSD steering committee has been organised for participants to choose the most preferred policy option based on platform discussions and analysis. The outcome of that workshop she said was the selection of option 2 (Saw millers and other players to supply the domestic market with legal lumber). She went ahead to say that TIDD has also organised similar workshop with another set of stakeholders with same results. The Project secretariat has linked up with the TIDD she added. She reminded participants of a meeting with the sector ministry which has not yet been organised due to the change of the sector minister. However, she said that will be done with TIDD in due time. The NF made participants aware that in November 2010, lumber sellers and chainsaw operators made a presentation to national and international participants on the problems of CSM and how they are positioning themselves at the closing workshop IOI project. She encouraged all stakeholders present to accept and be patient during the pilot stages of any option that will be selected and inculcate the habit of tree planting to increase the resource base. Finally, the NF mentioned that plans for this year is to train chainsaw operators on the use of logosol at the Adwenase Community Forest and added that further training can be sought from the Wood Industry Training Centre after the life span of the project

5.0 Validation of Results from the Livelihood Survey

The Communication Officer took participant through the results of a livelihood survey conducted in the district in 2010. Participants accepted the results as their collative view of preferred alternative livelihoods.

6.0 Selection of pilot community

The CFW made participants aware that Apoli has been selected as the pilot community for implementing selected alternative livelihoods. This he said was because the community is surrounded by all the major forest reserves in the district and is most affected by chainsaw activities.

7.0 Concern

Participants were concerned about the availability of lands for tree planting. Nana Aduamoah, Chief of Otwereso mentioned that the FC should consult chiefs for stool lands for such purposes.

8.0 Closing

The Community Forestry Worker thanked all members present. The meeting ended at 12:40 pm with a prayer by the District Chief Commander, Mr Osei.

Signed:

Jane Aggrey (Recorder)



Signed:

Mercy Owusu Ansah (NF)

