

“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

(DLMSD 4)

Date: 16th February, 2011

Venue: FSD Conference Room, Begoro



By James Parker & Emmanuel Fosu

MSD Members Present:

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| 1. Emmanuel Bempong Kwakye | Machine Owner, Begoro |
| 2. Hon. Ntori Adjabeng | Farmer, Hemang |
| 3. Nana Adu Ofori | CBAG, Apapam |
| 4. Dina Gyimah | Farmer, Ahwenease |
| 5. Thomas Yeboah | Machine Owner, Apapam |
| 6. Richmond Agyei | Chainsaw Operator, Begoro |
| 7. Amanor Samuel | Farmer, Feyiase |
| 8. Margaret Amponsah | Farmer, Feyiase |
| 9. Helina Narh | Farmer, Feyiase |
| 10. Tettey Kwame | Carpenter, Feyiase |
| 11. Nartey Kofi | Operator, Feyiase |
| 12. George Mathiase | GAM Timbers, Begoro |
| 13. Stanley Siame | Machine Owner, Feyiase |
| 14. Collins Owusu | S.K.O Timbers, Begoro |
| 15. Andrews A. Bempong | Carpenter, Abasaase |
| 16. Achorli Michael | MOFA, Begoro |
| 17. Kwame Ofori Attah | Machine Owner, Begoro |
| 18. Pius Kwame Appah | BNI, Begoro |
| 19. M. Asiedu Danso | Lumber Dealer, Kibi |
| 20. Isaac Gyekye | FSD, Begoro |
| 21. Yaw Asante | Carpenter, Begoro |
| 22. Isaac Abogyee | Farmer, Akwanserem |
| 23. Joel Seidu | District Planning, Begoro |
| 24. James Ofoe | Operator, Begoro |
| 25. Alex Owusu | Chainsaw Operator, Hemang |
| 26. Bellet Robert | Chainsaw Operator, Kwesi Komfo |
| 27. Kwabena Kusi | NTFP Collector, Apapam |
| 28. Kweku Appiah | Carpenter, Apapam |
| 29. Kofi Amoako | Carpenter, Apapam |
| 30. Nana Kyei Boatey | Machine Owner, Begoro |
| 31. G.B. Hayford | Lumber Dealer, Odumase |
| 32. Alex Afrankwa | Chainsaw Operator, Akwedum |

In Attendance:

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|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Mr Paul Akraasi | District Forest Manager, Begoro |
| 2. Honourable Simon Peter Asirifi | MCE, Kibi |
| 3. ASP R.K. Dzogbeti | Ghana Police Service, Begoro |

Project Team

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|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. James Parker Mckeown | National Project Coordinator, |
| 2. Ben Opoku Asare | Community Forestry Worker, |
| 3. Emmanuel Fosu | Project Assistant, |

Acronyms

BNI	Bureau of National Investigation
CBAG	Community Biodiversity Advisory Group
CFW	Community Forestry Worker
CSM	Chainsaw Milling
DFM	District Forest Manager
DLMSD	District Level Multistakeholder Dialogue
FC	Forestry Commission
FDA	Fanteakwa District Assembly
FSD	Forest Service Division
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NPC	National Project Coordinator
NTFP	Non Timber Forestry Product
PA	Project Assistant
RA	Research Assistant
SWOT	Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats

Agenda:

The agreed agenda for the meeting were:

- Reading and acceptance of previous minutes
- Feedback from the national MSD 4
- Discussion on livelihood survey and community activities

Proceedings	Action
<p>1.0 Opening The meeting started at 10:15 am with a prayer by Mr Stanley Siame a chainsaw operator. .</p> <p>2.0 Introduction The CFW introduced the new district manager Mr Akraasi, the new and first police commander in the district ASP R.K. Dzogbeti and the Municipal Chief Executive of Kyebi Hon. Simon Peter Asirifi. He also introduced Mr James Parker Mckeown the National Project Coordinator and Emmanuel Fosu, the Project Assistant. The participants also took turns to introduce themselves. .</p> <p>3.0 Chairman's Welcome Address The district manager, in his welcome address said, the use of the chainsaw machine to saw lumber was legitimate. But, the abuse of the practice led to the ban as a measure to help restore our forest which is degrading at a very fast rate. Unfortunately, the ban has brought problems to stakeholders, especially the FC. Apart from the alarming rate of destruction, the nation loses a great deal in terms of revenue loss.</p> <p>This project with sponsorship from the European Union is to help find lasting alternatives to problems associated with the use of chainsaw for lumbering. He said this meeting, as usual, is one of the lots to disseminate information from the national level and entreated</p>	

everyone to participate freely with out fear or intimidation.

4.0 Reading and Acceptance of Previous Minutes

The minutes were distributed to the participants. The Project Assistant read the minutes aloud to members. Some few corrections were made. Mr Stanley Siame moved for the acceptance of the minutes and was seconded by Ms Diana Gyimah.

5.0 Reports from National MSD4 and Joint MSD Meetings

Mr Appah, a BNI Officer and Nana Adu of CBAG gave account of the key issues which were discussed at national MSD 4. These included: the artisanal milling concept, decision on the option to move forward with, acceptance of the TIDD as members of the MSD, presentation on the cost-benefit analysis and the presentation on the logosol and the wood mizer.

On the joint meeting with the TIDD, the NPC reported that the meeting was very fruitful, though not without differences from stakeholders like the GTMO. He said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss how to build the capacities of the stakeholders in terms of the option two and the way forward. The issue about resource availability featured prominently during the meeting. The GTMO strongly accused the project and the organisers for ignoring them as a major player in the timber industry.

6.0 Comments and Questions

- The MCE, Hon. Essilifi, enquired about the legality of chainsaw machine in the country as officials of FSD ceased a chainsaw machine sitting on somebody's veranda.

The District manager responded that the LI requires all chainsaw machines to be registered after 14 days of acquisition irrespective of the purpose for which it was acquired and is subject to annual renewal. So if the machine is not registered or the licence is expired the owner could be arrested and the machine seized for the necessary sanctions to be meted unto the owner.

- Why is the FC not giving out benefits early enough after trees are grown, since trees take too long a time to mature by which time the grower might have passed out.

The manager responded that, it is better to grow trees with posterity in mind. On the giving of benefit or payments the manager said the documentation alone takes a very long time and it is the policy of the FC.

7.0 Livelihood Survey

The NPC explained that the transformation from chainsaw to artisanal milling will definitely result in some stakeholders falling out of business. This calls for the need for alternative livelihoods, so that those who leave the chainsaw and chainsaw related business do not indulge in illegal activities to earn a living. The NPC said research has been conducted in the entire district to find out the most appropriate alternative livelihood for stakeholders in the district.

He said the following were the livelihoods suggested by stakeholders from the district: petty trading, crop farming (maize, cassava etc), vegetable farming, fish farming, mushroom farming, modified taungya system, cracking of palm kernel and cassava dough (abelema) production.

8.0 Community Activities

The CFW briefed the meeting that, the livelihood survey is a community activity. He said some communities and institutions have been selected to collaborate with the project in piloting selected alternative livelihoods. The CFW led the participants a list to confirm institutions the district will collaborate with.

The CFW explained the criteria used in selecting Feyiase as the pilot community. The NPC informed the participants that though the piloting will be done in one community stakeholders interested in any programme will be invited to take part in the training.

9.0 Closing Remarks by the MCE

The MCE said he was grateful for the project and the organisers of the meeting. He said it saddens his heart to see the rate at which the forest is being destroyed and expressed his disgust at how some FSD officers collaborate with chainsaw operators to illegally fell trees from forest reserves, “the forest guards are not helping at all, you see trucks entering and coming out of a forest reserve which has an entrance under lock and key”. He said the country is loosing a lot in terms of revenue, not to talk about the environmental effect of the destruction. He stressed, it is the responsibility of all stakeholders to help protect the forest, and charged the representatives to share the rich information from such meeting with their friends and relatives at any platform.

10.0 Closing

On behalf of the project, the PA thanked all stakeholders for coming. Ms Diana Gyimah prayed for the meeting to end at 2:30 pm.



Signed:
Emmanuel Fosu (PA) – Recorder



Signed: **for**
Mr Paul Akraasi (DM) – Chairman