

**“Supporting the integration of legal and legitimate domestic timber markets
into voluntary partnership agreements”**

Thematic programme for environment and sustainable management of natural
resources, including energy

Tarkwa District Sensitization Meeting

Minutes



Date: 23rd August, 2011

Venue: Community Centre, Tarkwa

by James Parker and Emmanuel Fosu

Stakeholders Present

Name

Stakeholder Group

1. A. K Cudjoe	TA, Bamiankor
2. Akua Maala	NTFP Collector, Bamiankor
3. Evans Toku	Chainsaw Operator, Bamiankor
4. Godfred Kwofie	Farmer, Bamiankor
5. Isaac Armoh	Carrier, Bamiankor
6. Nana Kwamena Badu	TA, Pieso
7. George A. Peprah	TA, ieso
8. David Ansah	Farmer, Pieso
9. Charles Amanekey	Hunter, Pieso
10. Isaac Mensah	Chainsaw Operator, Pieso
11. Joseph Akomani	Carrier, Pieso
12. Rose Amanekey,	NTFP Collector, Pieso
13. Dabaus Faustini	Municipal Assembly, Tarkwa
14. Samuel Antwi	Chainsaw Operator
15. Gomen Ocran	Chainsaw Operator, Mile 7
16. Paul Nsiah	Tree grower, Abompienso
17. Nana Sampson Cudjoe	TA, Adayie Mile 8
18. Stephen Tetteh	Chainsaw Operator
19. John Justice Abban	Environmental Sub-Committee, Municipal Assembly
20. Daniel B. Essel	MOFA, Tarkwa
21. Nana Kwabena Ango II	Traditional Authority
22. Kingsford Otoo	Lumber Dealer, Tarkwa
23. Eric Larbi	Chainsaw Operator, Mile 7
24. Kobena Tawiah	Chainsaw Operator, Pieso
25. Joseph Opare	Lumber Dealer, Bogoso
26. David Tsikata	Table Saw Miller
27. Ernest Otoo	Lumber Dealer, Tarkwa
28. K.A Ameyaw	FSD, Tarkwa
29. Kweku Anderson	FSD, Tarkwa
30. Anthony Otoo	Lumber Dealer, Tarkwa
31. Ameyaw Akumfi Mensah	FSD, Tarkwa
32. Samuel K. Osei	TNMA, Tarkwa
33. Benjamin K. Ocran	Lumber Dealer, Tarkwa
34. Vida Teye	Lumber Dealer, Bogoso

Project Team

James Parker	NPC, EU, CSM Project
Mercy O. Ansah	NF, EU, CSM Project
Emmanuel Fosu	PA, EU, CSM Project
Nana Adjoa Hodibert	CFW, EU, CSM Project

Acronyms

CFC	Community Forestry Committee
CSM	Chainsaw Milling
CFW	Community Forestry Worker
EU	European Union
FSD	Forest Service Division
DLMSD	District Level Multi-stakeholder Dialogue
MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
NF	National Facilitator
NTFP	Non-Timber Forest Products
NPC	National Project Coordinator
PA	Project Assistant
TNMA	Tarkwa Nsuaem Municipal Assembly
TA	Traditional Authority
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement

Agenda:

The agreed agenda for the meeting were:

- introduction of project team, and,
- presentation on project activities carried out in the past 4 years.

Proceedings	Action
<p>1.0 Opening The CFW called the meeting to order at 10:15 pm. Mr David Ansah, a farmer from Pieso prayed for the commencement of the meeting.</p> <p>2.0 Introduction The CFW introduced the project team to stakeholders. This was followed by self introduction of all stakeholders present. The chairman for the meeting, Nana Kwabena Ango, Omanhene of Apinto traditional area and the president of the Tarkwa district forest forum was also introduced.</p> <p>3.0 Purpose of the meeting The NF presented the purpose of the meeting as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• to introduce the project to stakeholders in the district, and,• present to stakeholders activities carried out since 2007. <p>The NF said Ghana has signed a VPA with the EU which makes it necessary for Ghana to ensure that only legal timber and other timber products from Ghana arrive in the EU. She said this agreement includes timber products supplied to the domestic market of which over 84% is illegal. According to her, implementing this agreement under the current forest policies and laws will mean crushing illegal</p>	

CSM which employs about 97,000 people directly and supports livelihoods of about 650,000 people. With this, she said it is important to safeguard livelihoods as the VPA is being implemented especially, the domestic market component. The NF added that the first phase of the project aimed at developing alternatives for illegal CSM through MSD. The second phase, according to her, will build on the first phase by supporting the integration of legal and legitimate domestic markets into the VPA.

4.0 Welcome Address

The district forest manager in his welcome address said, many people depend on forest resources for their survival and development hence, forest laws and policies are there to ensure that these resources are managed sustainably. The manager said many people especially chainsaw operators, lumber traders etc are flouting these laws with the forest being degraded at an alarming rate. He added that if nothing is done to halt deforestation; there will be no natural forest in the next ten years. He said the EU Chainsaw project is timely and thanked stakeholders for showing interest and assured the project team his support to make the project a success in his district.

4.1 Chairman's Remarks

The chairman in his opening remarks expressed his joy about Tarkwa forest district being part of the project. He said all stakeholders in the forestry sector have to be blamed for the problems of illegal CSM. He therefore asked stakeholders who will be part of the DLMSD to participate effectively in discussions to find a lasting solution to the problem.

5.0 Presentation on the Project

The NF presented activities carried out so far since the commencement of the project. This focused on the MSD process, successes, challenges and current status of the project. The NPC presented the objectives, planned activities, expected results, target groups, partners and funding sources of project phase II (Annex A).

Key comments and question on presentation

- 'There is the need to ban export of lumber since the domestic market can consume the total lumber produced in Ghana. Ghana should seriously consider exporting only tertiary timber products'.
- 'The policy option selected (sawmills and other players to supply the domestic market with legal lumber) is the best, but it is important to expedite action on introducing artisanal milling. Delaying the implementation may put pressure on the forest and there may be no timber resources for artisanal millers to work with'.
- 'It is important to also to focus on educating people on what Ghana is doing to address illegal CSM and also encourage farmers, community members and investors to plant trees to sustain the resources'.
- 'The CFCs were established by the FC to support forest management, but the FC is not encouraging the CFC to work as it should. Some FC officials are deliberately killing the CFCs for reasons better known to them. It is

important that the CFCs are revived to support the implementation of the VPA at the community level'.


- How would the transformation of chainsaw miller into an artisanal miller be implemented? **RESP:** This will be discussed in subsequent DLMSD meeting for stakeholder inputs. But first as stakeholders, we need to agree on the definition and together develop the concept and how it should be implemented. We may also need to pilot the concept to test models of artisanal milling before implementing it.

8.0 Closing

In his closing remarks, the chairman thanked stakeholders for coming and said the enthusiasm generated at the meeting should continue. The CFW thanked the chairman and all stakeholders for coming. She asked stakeholders to send feedback of what transpired at the meeting to their groups and communities. She also entreated stakeholders to help in educating all about the importance of protecting the forest.

The meeting ended at 3:45 pm, with a prayer by Mr Ernest Otoo, a lumber dealer from Tarkwa.


Signed
Emmanuel Fosu (Recorder)


Signed
James Parker Mckeown (NPC)

Annex A – Nature of the Project

Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana

Implemented by TBI
Partners in Ghana :FC & FORIG
Partners in Guyana: Iwokrama & FTCI
Financed by EU


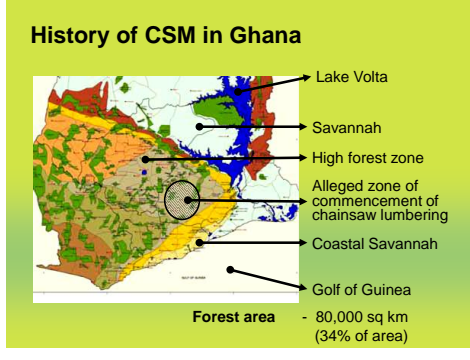


Contents of Presentation

1. History of CSM in Ghana
2. The ban, reasons and measures put in place
3. Results of the ban, CSM drivers and current situation
4. Project Strategies
5. Project phase II objectives and results areas
6. Project duration and funding source

What is Chainsaw milling?

Chainsaw Milling refers to the use of chainsaw to convert timber into lumber for commercial purposes

History of CSM in Ghana

- 1960s**
 - Chainsaw machines were introduced in Ghana to replace the long manual blade and improve felling of trees during logging and land preparation for plantation farming. (FAO, 1974).
- Late 1970s**
 - Chainsaw machine operators were introduced to the techniques of converting logs to lumber using the free hand method to replace pit-sawing.
- Early 1980s**
 - In the early 1980s, use of chainsaw to produce lumber on commercial bases became widespread as a result of decline in sawmill operations due to downward economic trend in Ghana

History of CSM in Ghana

- Early 1990s**
 - The government recognized the socio-economic importance of the chainsaw lumbering enterprise and promulgated the Trees and Timber (chainsaw operations) Regulation 1991 (L.I. 1518) to regulate chainsaw activities .
- b/n 1996-97**
 - A major policy review of the chainsaw operation was carried out resulting in the promulgation of Timber Resources Management Regulation Act, 1997 (Act 547) and Timber Resources Management Regulation, 1998 (L.I 1647)
- 1998**
 - Chainsaw lumbering was officially ban in 1998

Reasons for the CSM ban

1. Public concern for environmental degradation
2. High level of waste and inefficiency associated with chainsaw lumbering
3. Decrease of tax-income; no stumpage paid
4. Unequal benefit sharing;
 - A. wood processors captured a big economical share at the expense of forest owners/local communities
 - B. financers of chainsaw operation directed products to the cities depriving rural folks of lumber supply

Enforcement measurements

Measures put in place to enforce the ban were:

- Educate the general public on the ban on CSM
- Supply lumber to the local market by identifying sawmills at strategic locations
- Demand 20% of lumber produced by sawmills to flow to the domestic market
- Establish a taskforce to control milling in forests and illegal lumber transport
- Prosecute offenders

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Results of the ban on CSM

1. Failed to address the problem. It has led to FSD staff spending a greater part of their time dealing with chainsaw operators sometimes in violent circumstances.
2. CSM continues and currently reported by the FSD to be on the increase.



Drivers of CSM

1. Domestic market demand (illegal chainsaw lumber supplies more than 80% of domestic market demand)
2. CSM provide employment to about 97,000 people. It also directly and indirectly supports the livelihoods of about 705,000 people
3. Weak institutions
4. Inequity in access and benefit sharing (tenure)
5. Corruption
6. Ambiguity in the law banning CSM
7. Easy entry into the trade

8. Lack of political will to enforce the ban
9. Political interference
10. Cross boarder trade
11. Lack of sustained public awareness creation
12. Appropriateness of CSM technology in areas where it is not economical for conventional logging
13. Lack of proper means for securing protected areas

Current situation

Estimations on wood harvest in Ghana:

CSM

□ 1.7 million m³.

Total timber harvest

□ 3.7 million m³

Annual allowable cut:

□ 2 million m³.



3.0 Objectives of the project

The specific objective is:

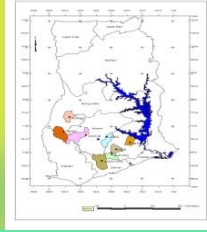
- Level of conflict and illegality related to CSM by local communities reduced.

The overall objectives are to:

- Reduce poverty and promote viable livelihoods in forest-dependent communities.
- Reduce the occurrence of illegal logging.
- Promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in developing countries.

5. Target Groups

Local Level



National Level:

- Government agencies dealing with forest
- Enforcement bodies
- District Assemblies
- Traditional rulers
- Chainsaw operators
- Lumber brokers,
- Sawmilling industry and
- Farmers
- Existing community forestry organizations
- NGOs

International Level:

Forestry decision makers and international policy makers (will be reached through European Tropical Forest Research Network (ETFRN))

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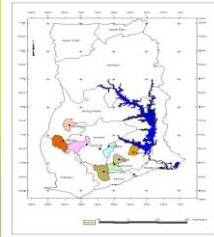
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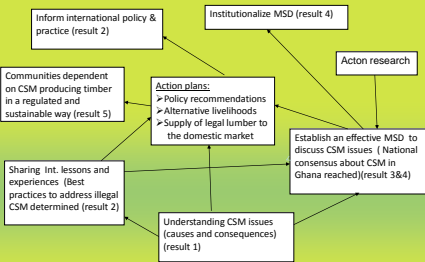
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3. Expected results

Five main results are expected under the project. These are:

1. Causes and consequences of chainsaw lumbering and its links with illegality understood (national level)
2. International best practice determined to address chainsaw lumbering (International Level)
3. Multi-stakeholder learning forums established to discuss chainsaw lumbering issues (National level)

Project Strategy



EU chainsaw milling project, phase II

- **Title:**
 - Supporting the integration of legal and legitimate domestic timber markets into Voluntary Partnership Agreements
- **Specific objective:**
 - Domestic market issues are effectively incorporated into FLEGT VPAs in Ghana, Guyana and other countries (in West & Central Africa and South America)

- **Partners in Ghana:** TBI-Ghana, Forestry Commission, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)
- **Partners in Guyana:** Forestry Training Centre (FTCI), Iwokrama



Objectives

Specific objective:

Domestic market issues are effectively incorporated into FLEGT VPAs in Ghana, Guyana and other countries

Overall objectives:

- to promote viable livelihoods in poor forest-dependent communities;
- to ensure adequate supply of legal timber on the domestic market in conformity with the sustainable production capacity of the forest resources and the socio-economic development of forest-dependent communities; and
- to improve consistency between the objectives of FLEGT VPAs and those of socio-economic development of actors dependent on timber production and trade.

Result areas

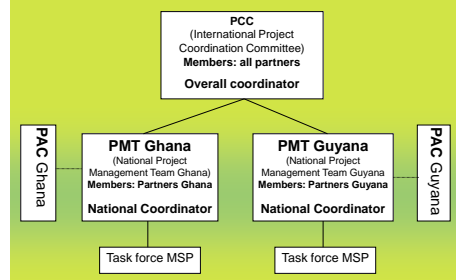
Results:

1. Broad-based agreement achieved in Ghana and Guyana about issues regarding CSM using an institutionalised mechanism for permanent dialogue between stakeholders
2. Communities dependent on CSM produce timber in a regulated and sustainable way
3. Fair, transparent and equitable framework for legal and sustainable domestic market supply in place
4. International and regional stakeholders promote inclusion of domestic market issues into VPAs

Duration & Funding

- Phase I 4 years (2007 – 2012)
- Phase II 4 years (2011- 2014)
- Funding from EU and contributions (20%) from TBI, FC and FORIG

6. Management of the project







Thank You


Website: www.chainsawmillino.org Email: euchainsawprojectghana@gmail.com


Annex B: Progress Report


<p>Progress Report January 2010 – December 2010 By James Parker</p>	<p>Content of Presentation</p> <p>Report on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Progress on result areas (1, 2 & 5) of the project 2. Management issues 	<p>Result 1: Causes and consequences of CSM and its links with illegality understood</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Planned Activity</th> <th>Updates</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> <p>1.6 Compile all information into case studies for Ghana and disseminate (Jan 2010) - FORIG</p> </td> <td> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The project published a 63 page report "chainsaw milling in Ghana – context, drivers and impacts" ➤ The publication summarizes the issues in a language that would be easily understood by all stakeholders. ➤ The Publication synthesizes various studies and discussions carried out on chainsaw milling in Ghana. ➤ Copies distributed to all stakeholders (local, national and international) </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Planned Activity	Updates	<p>1.6 Compile all information into case studies for Ghana and disseminate (Jan 2010) - FORIG</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The project published a 63 page report "chainsaw milling in Ghana – context, drivers and impacts" ➤ The publication summarizes the issues in a language that would be easily understood by all stakeholders. ➤ The Publication synthesizes various studies and discussions carried out on chainsaw milling in Ghana. ➤ Copies distributed to all stakeholders (local, national and international) 								
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Observations:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The capacity building ensured effective participation of most stakeholder in the MSD discussions at both national and district levels ➤ Few conflicts were observed during the MSD both at the district and national levels ➤ In project districts, relationship between FC staff and stakeholders such as chainsaw operators has improved ➤ There is the need to build selected stakeholders' capacity in facilitation to facilitate their meetings at the stakeholder/constituency level
	

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Analysis of progress (Result 5)	
Timing	➤ According to the workplan, this result area has suffered delays.
Observations:	➤ The training programme in June 2010 was timely. It has given the project direction on how to implement results 5 in the context of preferred policy option.
	

Project Management issues	
PMT	➤ The PMT meet bi-monthly. During the reporting period the PMT met 3 times to review project activities.
PAC	➤ The 3 rd PAC meeting was held on 31 st March 2010 at the conference hall of the FC in Accra. Key issues discussed were: Policy recommendations and way forward.
MSD "Task Force"	➤ The MSD "task force" met three times during the reporting period. The main agenda was evaluating previous MSD meetings and planning for the next meetings.
	

Planned activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Finalise CBA and second livelihood survey reports ➤ Prepare six info sheets ➤ Prepare newsletter ➤ Develop action plan with TIDD to implement agreement made at joint multi-stakeholder meeting in October 2010 ➤ Prepare Work plan and start implementation of project phase II 	

Acknowledgements	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Project partners: FORIG & FC (especially FSD & RMSC) for their commitment ➤ TIDD & NFF for the collaboration ➤ PAC for their keen interest in the project ➤ Task force (steering the MSD professionally) ➤ Technical committee for addressing technical addressing ➤ All Stakeholders (especially the illegal ones) 	
