

**“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

Nkwanta District Sensitization Meeting

Minutes



Date: 29th August, 2011

Venue: Kyabobo Recreational Centre Conference Hall

by James Parker and Emmanuel Foso

Members Present

Name

Stakeholder Group

1. Azuwieh Thomas	GNFS, Nkwanta
2. Stephen Sunkwa	Farmer, Kechiebi
3. Charles Kofi	Farmer, Kechiebi
4. Anthony Gyimah	Machine Owner, Kechiebi
5. Yakubu Salifu	Chainsaw Operator, Kechiebi
6. Mamudu Seidu	Lumber Dealer, Nkwanta
7. Daniel Asempah	MOFA, Nkwanta
8. Seth K. Yekple	Lumber Dealer, Brewaniase
9. Benard Attah	Chainsaw Operator, Kechiebi
10. Yussif Iddrisu	Machine Owner, Kechiebi
11. Charles Agbemade	Machine Owner, Nkwanta
12. John Frico	Machine Owner, Nkwanta
13. John Nayo	Machine Owner, Salifu
14. Ohnson Nayo	Machine Owner, Salifu
15. Kwasi Asiwornu	Machine Owner, Salifu
16. Folivi Moses	Carpenter, Nkwanta
17. Joseph Sakyi	WVI, Nkwanta
18. Samuel Kumah	Carrier, Kechiebi
19. Ali Antoinette	Carrier, Kechiebi
20. Ayivor Etse	Chainsaw Operator, Brewaniase
21. John Pieu	Carrier, Kechiebi
22. ASP Samuel Yeboah	GPS, Nkwanta
23. Stephen Akortia	District Court, Nkwanta
24. Sampson Amenyoo	Chainsaw Operator, Salifu
25. David Owusu	Chainsaw Operator, Salifu
26. Stephen Amoako	Farmer, Brewaniase
27. Seth Sowu	Lumber Dealer, Nkwanta
28. Torkpo Mensah	Carrier, Brewaniase
29. Torkpo Kojo	Farmer, Brewaniase
30. Thomas Korsivi	Chainsaw Operator, Brewaniase

Project Team

James Parker Mckeown	NPC, EU CSM Project
Emmanuel Fosu	PA, EU CSM Project
Benard Wiredu	CFW, EU CSM Project, Nkwanta

Acronyms

CSM	Chainsaw Milling
CFW	Community Forestry Worker
EU	European Union
FC	Forestry Commission
FMC	Forestry Management Committee
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FSD	Forest Service Division
GNFS	Ghana National Fire Service
GPS	Ghana Police Service

MOFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MSD	multi-Stakeholder Dialogue
NPC	National Project Coordinator
PA	Project Assistant
TBI	Tropenbos International
VPA	Voluntary Partnership Agreement
WVI	World Vision International

Agenda:

The agreed agenda for the meeting were:

- introduction of EU CSM Project, and,
- update on activities carried out for the past 4 years

Proceedings	Action
<p>1.0 Opening The meeting started at 10:00 am after a short prayer by Mr Thomas Azuwieh of GNFS.</p> <p>2.0 Introduction The CFW introduced the project team, the District Police Commander and the District Magistrate to stakeholders present. Stakeholders then took turns to introduce themselves mentioning their names, stakeholder group and community they represent.</p> <p>3.0 Purpose of the Meeting The NPC presented the purpose of the meeting as follows.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To introduce and sensitize stakeholders in the district on the EU CSM Project; and • Present activities carried out under the project since 2007, successes and challenges <p>The NPC explained that the VPA signed with the EU is to ensure that only legal timber from Ghana arrives in the EU. He said that under the agreement, Ghana included timber products supplied to the domestic market of which over 84% is illegal lumber. According to him, implementing the domestic market component of the agreement under the current forest laws will mean crushing out illegal CSM which currently employs about 97,000 people directly and supports livelihoods of about 650,000 people. He said the first phase of the project worked with stakeholders to develop alternatives for illegal CSM through MSD. The second phase of the project is expected to build upon the first phase with the aim of supporting the integration of legal and legitimate domestic markets into the VPA.</p> <p>4.0 Welcome Address by the CFW The CFW thanked all stakeholders for attending the district meeting. He said the ban on chainsaw milling has been a problem confronting the country since 1998 despite measures put in place to enforce the ban. He mentioned that the FC has not been able to effectively deal with the problem which has resulted in forest degradation at an alarming rate. It is therefore heart-warming that TBI and its partners (FC and FORIG) have taken a bold step to tackle this problem that is threatening the forestry sector. He added that the MSD although slow is proving to be an effective process for addressing the problem. The CFW</p>	

expressed his joy that Nkwanta district have been added to the project and entreated stakeholders to support the process by participating effectively in MSD discussions.

5.0 Presentation on the Project

The NPC made a presentation on phase I and II of the EU chainsaw project. The presentations focused on the forestry situation in Ghana, history of CSM, reasons for the ban, consequences of the ban, the objectives of project phase I and II, activities carried out so far, project outputs, successes, challenges and activities yet to be implemented.

5.1 Key questions on the presentation

- If the ban forbids the use of chainsaw to mill timber into lumber for commercial purposes, how does areas like Nkwanta and the rest of Northern Volta where there are no sawmills get lumber to use?

Resp by NPC: That is one of the pitfalls of the ban. This issue has come up during the discussions at the MSD and the policy proposal for supply of legal lumber to the domestic market has strategy to address this. But until that is resolved the ban is still in force.

- Assuming one gets permit to fell a tree for non-commercial purpose, will the forestry officer supervise the felling or leave the person by himself?

Resp by CFW: The field officer makes sure the tree is in good condition before the permit is given but does not supervise the felling. In all situations the one felling the tree needs to be truthful.

- The forest is so important that we need to protect it for generations to come. It is therefore important for FSD to ensure that trees logged are replaced, but what we see is that there are not replaced?

Resp by CFW: The FSD is ensuring that the forest is exploited in a sustainable manner by applying different management principles depending on the type of forest and planting is one of them. A number of activities including illegal CSM are degrading the forest at a faster rate, so what the FSD is doing is not yielding significant results. With the VPA, it is hoped that these activities will be eliminated.

- The proposal to transform illegal chainsaw millers into artisanal millers is a brilliant strategy, but how will the latter acquire artisanal milling equipment?

Resp by the NPC: The policy proposal developed by stakeholders and sent to government has strategies. The MSD will discuss and develop actions for each strategy. The issues of how artisanal millers will be able to acquire artisanal milling equipment will be discussed by stakeholders and recommendation/suggestions made.

- What is the project planning for FMC personnel in terms of capacity building since they are important stakeholders and will be key in the implementation of the strategies.

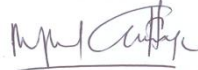
Resp by the NPC: It is true that the FMCs will be key in implementing any forest policy including the VPA. We are planning to start their capacity building next year so that they can play effect role at the community level.

6.0 Closing

The CFW thanked stakeholders for attending the meeting. He entreated them to help sustain the forest resource by educating their constituents on issues that come out from the meeting. The meeting ended at 3:45 pm, with a prayer from Mr John Frico, a machine owner.



Signed:
Emmanuel Fosu (Recorder)



Signed:
James Parker (Chairman)

Annex A– The EU CSM Project

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

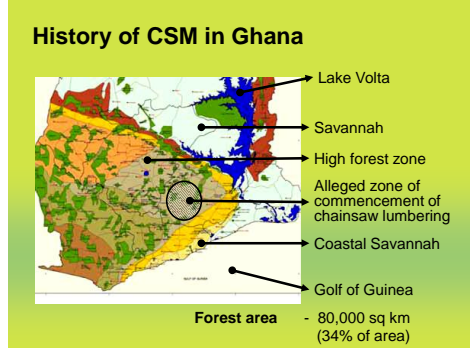
Implemented by TBI
Partners in Ghana: FOC & FORIG
Partners in Guyana: Iwokrama & FTCI
Financed by EU

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:

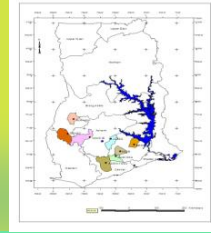
- Level of conflict and illegality related to CSM by local communities reduced.

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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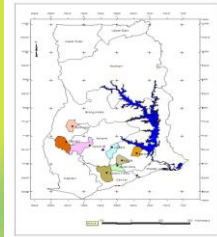
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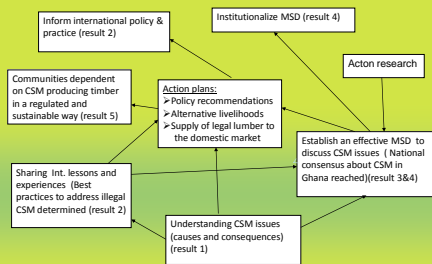
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3. Expected results

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

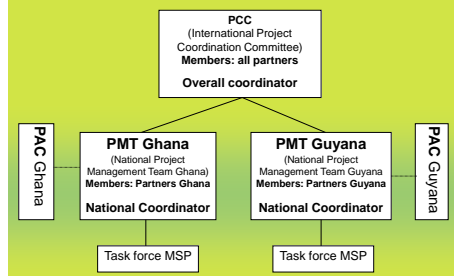
• Results:

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





Annex B: Progress made

	<p style="text-align: center;">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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<p>Analysis of progress (Result 5)</p> <p>Timing ➤ According to the workplan, this result area has suffered delays.</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p>Project Management issues</p> <p>PMT ➤ The PMT meet bi-monthly. During the reporting period the PMT met 3 times to review project activities.</p> <p>PAC ➤ The 3rd PAC meeting was held on 31st March 2010 at the conference hall of the FC in Accra. Key issues discussed were: Policy recommendations and way forward.</p> <p>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.</p> 	<p>Planned activities</p> <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
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<p>Acknowledgements</p> <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) 		
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