

# The Flegt

Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade

## Newsletter

| 18th Edition, July, 2020 |

# COVID-19 STRIKES

## ...Lumber Traders Appeal for Support

The Chief Executive Officer of the Domestic Lumber Traders Association (DOLTA), Mr. Kofi Afreh Boakye, is appealing to government and other organizations to come to the rescue of the Association's members as they struggle to float amidst Covid 19 challenges.

Mr. Afreh Boakye, who spoke in an interview, disclosed that, "our members are just managing to survive as a result of the restrictions imposed on the sector due to Covid 19".

>>> *Continue on Page 3*



© Tropenbos.org

## COVID 19 Hits Hard On Timber Export Values - TIDD Director



© [alternativeafrica.org](http://alternativeafrica.org)

The Director of Operations of the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission (FC), Dr. Nurudeen Iddrisu, has disclosed that the forestry sector has been seriously affected by the Corona Virus Disease (COVID - 19) as export values drop significantly.

>>> *Continue on Page 8*

## Government's Fears Allayed On Timber Procurement Policy



© [mordenghana.org](http://mordenghana.org)

The proposed Timber Procurement Policy which seeks to ensure all government contracts are executed with legal wood, has suffered some setbacks as cabinet raises issues for clarification.

At a Stakeholders' discussion programme in Accra, it came out that Cabinet wanted further clarifications on how

>>> *Continue on Page 2*

## CFI Implementation Challenges Tackled



© *Ecocare Ghana*

The implementation of the Cocoa Forest Initiative (CFI) appears to be facing some communication challenges as key stakeholders such as the Licensed Buying Companies (LBCs) fail to attend meetings organized to discuss related issues.

According to Mrs. Patience Olesu Adjei of Ecocare Ghana, the failure of LBCs to attend stakeholder meetings is the result of lack of information to them on such activities by their superiors in the cocoa sector.

“The LBCs are not adequately informed about the relationship between their activities and the Initiative, that is why they do not attend our meetings.”

Mrs. Adjei disclosed at a meeting of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), organized by EcoCare Ghana to update them on the project.

The governments of Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, together with over thirty (30) cocoa and chocolate companies have committed to working together to end deforestation and promoting forest

protection and restoration in the cocoa supply chain.

The Cocoa Forest Initiative (CFI), initiated in 2017 under the patronage of the Prince of Wales, has become a medium through which private sector and government are collaborating to achieve the commitments in the Joint Framework of Action and is facilitated by the World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and Sustainable Trade Initiative.

Another difficulty the initiative is facing, Mrs. Adjei observed, is the failure of staff of the Forest Services Division (FSD) to speak about CFI in their meetings.

She noted that, similarly, FSD staff aren't aware that their activities in forest areas fall under the CFI, thus, the missing link in their communication.

“We have intensified our sensitization and capacity-building on the CFI to these key stakeholders in order to overcome these hurdles delaying the smooth

>>> *Continue on Page 6*

## Government's Fears Allayed On Timber Procurement Policy

>>> *Continued from Front Page*

the policy could be effectively implemented without affecting the cost of public projects.

Another issue raised was whether the Policy was necessary when the forestry sector is renowned for having a lot of laws that could address the problems the policy seeks to cater for.

Giving an update on progress made so far on the policy, Mr. Musah Abu-Juam, Technical Director in charge of Forestry at the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), indicated that government was worried contract costs would rise if contractors were forced to execute projects with only legal wood.

Cabinet's fears that, contractors would factor in the rigorous process of getting legal wood in their contracts and that wouldn't help; also members of Cabinet believe the forestry sector is replete with laws that should be made to tackle the illegalities affecting sustainability of the forests.

In his presentation, a Principal Operations Officer of the Public Procurement Agency (PPA), Mr. Francis Ayithey, allayed the fears raised, insisting that, the long term benefits of the policy override the cost argument.



© *motherearthnews.org*

“The long-term advantages far outweigh the short-term disadvantages of rise in price. Environmental benefits to the country and the sustenance of the forest for future generation make the policy worth it,” he stated.

“Though prices may go higher as a result of the policy, it may end up being beneficial in the long term,” Mr. Ayithey reiterated, adding that, “all relevant sectors in the wood and timber industry must be roped in to understand the Procurement Policy.”

His views were supported by the stakeholders who called on government

to speed up the process to ensure the policy takes effect.

Industry players are of the view that, if government adopts this policy, it would then be feasible to impose it on the private sector, thus ensuring that Ghana's forests are sustained for the future generations.

Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), with support from the European Union (EU) and UK aid through the projects

“Strengthening the Capacity of Non State Actors (NSA) to improve FLEGT and REDD+ Processes in West Africa” and “Building Capacities of Small-Medium Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) in Ghana and Liberia to Supply and Trade in Legal Timber” respectively, is spearheading the campaign to get Cabinet to accept the Public Procurement Policy on Timber and Timber Products for onward enactment by Parliament.

The document is the outcome of consultation with various stakeholders in the wood and timber industry such as the Forestry Commission (FC), Domestic Lumber Traders Associations, among others.

*Source: Nature and Development Foundation*

# COVID-19 STRIKES

## ...Lumber Traders Appeal for Support



© Tropenbos.org

resorting to employing all manner of measures to stay alive.

He estimated the drop in sales to a whopping 65%, expressing fears that things might worsen if no support comes to them.

“We are forced to accept any price offered for our products just to get something for ourselves and families to eat because of very low patronage of wood products,” he lamented, warning that, the sector faces imminent collapse if nothing is done to save them from the current hardship.

>>> *Continued from Front Page*

He noted that, as a result of the pandemic, there has been a significant drop in the demand for timber and other wood products, leading to DOLTA members

He is, therefore, appealing to the government, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to help them sustain their businesses in these hard times.

The customers are more concerned about other things than building or undertaking projects that involve timber and wood products, he observed.

Asked if his members were not going to benefit from the Government's Stimulus Package, Mr. Afreh Boakye admitted that some of them had applied for support under that package but explained that they were part of the numerous applicants chasing after it.

“We are all going for the package meant for businesses across the country so you can imagine how this would go. What we need is a specific package to address our problems,” he clarified, adding that the sector institution that can help them is operating at half-strength.

President Akufo-Addo, on April 5, announced a soft loan scheme of up to GH¢600 million for SMEs, to sustain the country's affected industries and address the disruption in economic activities caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The soft loan scheme has a one-year moratorium and two-year repayment period for micro, small and medium scale businesses.

*Story by: Communication Team*

# Forestry Commission Loses Boss



**T**he Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission, Mr. Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, popularly known as Sir John, is dead.

He is reported to have died after succumbing to complications from the Covid-19 pandemic while undergoing treatment at the

Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Korle Bu Teaching Hospital.

It was believed that since he hailed from the forest zone of Ghana, he would be able to have a greater impact in that area. As CEO of the Forestry Commission, Mr. Afriyie's job was to oversee the various public agencies that form the divisions of the Commission.

The lawyer cum politician, who was a Former General Secretary of the governing New Patriotic Party (NPP), entered into private law practice in 1981. During Ex-President John Agyekum Kufuor's administration, he was appointed head of legal services at the Ghana National Petroleum Corporation (GNPC) and later made to act as the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the corporation.

Sir John was born in the Ashanti Region of Ghana and attended Seventh Day Adventist Secondary School in Bekwai from where he obtained his GCE Ordinary level certificate. He then proceeded to obtain his GCE Advanced level certificate from Konongo Odumase Secondary School in Konongo after which he was admitted to study political science at the University of Ghana.

The late Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie later enrolled at the Ghana School of Law where he graduated with a Bachelor of Laws, a certificate that earned him the position as a solicitor and counsel for the Supreme Court of Ghana.

The late CEO is expected to be laid to rest in March 2021.

## Motivating Farmers to Nurture Naturally Occurring Trees Gain Momentum

By Ama Kudom-Agyemang

The protracted discussions on how best to motivate farmers to nurture and not destroy trees on their farms has gained fresh momentum. This follows a strategic meeting at Aburi in the Eastern Region, of representatives of key stakeholder groups – government, industry/private sector and civil society who include farmers.

The practice of destroying naturally occurring trees by farmers, which is perpetrated by unclear tree tenure and benefits sharing arrangements, has been identified as a major contributing factor to forest loss in Ghana, which is said to be the fastest in the world. Therefore, if properly addressed, nurturing naturally occurring trees on farms could significantly enhance tree cover and reduce forest loss in the country.

Since the early 1980s, organisations and institutions including the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) and CARE International Ghana, have made various attempts to address the issue. Following that, discussions have been on-going to determine the exact way forward. Subsequently, in 2016, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) commissioned a study on the issue that led to the development of the Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Framework in Ghana.

The Framework among other things, highlights existing tree tenure and benefit sharing arrangements across the nation. It concludes that “the existing tree tenure should be reformed such that ownership of naturally occurring timber trees, are vested in persons or entities with management, exclusion and alienation rights to trees and land.” Since its development, the Framework has informed discussions on related issues.

The Aburi brainstorming session was to prepare the grounds to develop a general tree tenure and benefit sharing arrangements that would be motivating enough for farmers to protect naturally occurring trees.

The meeting touched on several critical issues including the Timber Tending Benefit (TTB) proposal submitted to the sector ministry, by a Committee setup a year ago to provide options for getting benefits to farmers aside the management fees.



© [worldagroforestry.org](http://worldagroforestry.org)

Earlier discussions on the proposal had raised two issues. The first was that suggested figures to compensate farmers were not lucrative enough to prevent them from destroying trees on their farms or even selling them to illegal loggers. While, the second was that funds for the TTB should rather come from management fees charged by Forestry Commission and not be an additional charge to industry/private sector.

During those discussions the FC rejected the suggestion that it should bear that cost. This was on the basis that it will be impossible to implement and enforce both legally and operationally.

The legal argument was that “the financial management regulation stipulates that all revenue accrued to stool lands be collected and disbursed by Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL). So, FC only collects stumpage fees based on an agreement with OASL and keeps the 50% management fees in consolidated accounts of government. Then operational wise, monies in consolidated accounts can only be spent by the Ministry of Finance through budgetary allocations.

Based on these considerations, the stakeholders at the Aburi meeting reached the consensus that industry/private sector should absorb the cost by paying an additional amount to the stumpage fees paid, whenever they log off reserve. Obviously this was seen as the option that best provides a

sustainable source of funding for the scheme.

While, the industry/private sector representatives accepted this proposal in principle, they have asked for time to further consult their members on two critical issues. First of all, are members willing to absorb the additional payment to the stumpage fees and secondly, what percentage of the stumpage fees are they willing to pay as extra charge to feed into the scheme.

The meeting concluded that in the interim, tree registration was still a necessary part of the tree tenure and benefits sharing agreement scheme. Therefore, the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the FC as well as interested parties should go ahead and initiate the process for registering trees on farms.

The purpose of the exercise in this situation, is to help farmers who nurture naturally occurring trees on their farms, secure proof of ownership from the FC.

## SRA to the Rescue of Forest Fringed Communities



©NDF Expansion of a clinic at Twifo Wamaso in Twifo Praso

Social Responsibility Agreement (SRA) has been a saviour to some forest-fringed communities by providing them with social amenities.

Through the intervention of the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), Timber companies have been coached to properly adhere to the signing and implementation of SRA subjected to owning a concession. The

>>> Continue on Page 5

# Tracing and Accounting for Legal Timber On the Domestic Market

“The challenges in getting information on domestic consumption of timber volumes will soon be over as the development of an App useful to traders and suppliers and easy to use is in the offing” said Mr Gustav Adu, Project Coordinator of the Kumasi Wood Cluster (KWC).



© KWC

According to Mr. Adu, this will give a better informed primary data at the national level and enable traders to also self-assess their sales accurately.

He explained, traders will be required to enter their stocks as per the waybill and as sales are made they enter the information on the App and then send to the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD).

Although documents for tracking the logs and timber products are inbuilt into the national wood tracking system (WTS), the Waybill that should cover timber products from vendors' warehouses to consumers is currently not provided for. This makes it impossible to fully account for legal timber distributed on the domestic market.

The Kumasi Wood Cluster Association under the project, “Tracing and accounting for legal timber distribution by artisanal millers, timber products distributors and traders on the domestic market of Ghana will assist TIDD in its mandate to track timber flow on the domestic market by devising a system to register timber waybills, invoices and receipts from domestic vendor warehouses to consumers.

The project, sponsored by the FAO-EU FLEGT programme will develop a simple material balancing on a mobile App to document the timber product or lumber delivery to the warehouse of a distributor (vendor); record sales made from the warehouse and the balance of stock at the warehouse.

The records of legality licenses or certificates associated with a transaction (DOTIC and waybill, among others) will be documented as well. Thus, the Waybills

issued by distributors and vendors to consumers will serve monitoring

purposes so as to complete the tracing of legal wood along the domestic supply chain (source to market).

Since most artisanal millers and distributors/vendors lack knowledge in the use of computers or internet on which the national wood tracking system is based, the Mobile App will address their handicap.

The project will contribute to the control of illegal timber and timber products placed on the domestic market as the traders will be registered and the timber products tracked and regulated.

A member of the Ghana Sawn Timber Sellers Association, Mohammed Ishaq

>>> *Continue on Page 6*

## SRA to the Rescue of Forest Fringed Communities

>>> *Continued from Page 4*

action is part of implementing the UK aid funded project, “Building the Capacities of Small-Medium Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) in Ghana and Liberia to Supply and Trade in Legal Timber in Ghana and Liberia”.

Developmental projects undertaken by these timber companies in forest fringe communities through the signing of SRAs were visited, verified and captured.

At the time of visit, projects such as bridges, community centers, roads, weighing centers, boreholes, public toilets, and schools were underway, an evidence of SRA benefits to these communities.

time to reach them. The joy expressed by the inhabitants of these fringe communities was worth witnessing.

Piloted in 1998 and formally accepted into law in 2004, the concept of the SRA is to make forest fringe communities feel the benefits of having the forest around them and also motivate the people to protect the forest from illegalities.

Technically, the SRA is a direct benefit of 5% of the stumpage fees paid to the forest fringe communities in the jurisdiction of the logger's felling operation. The signing and implementation of the SRAs help to promote a cordial relationship between loggers and the forest fringe communities to ensure smooth felling operations.



©NDF The bogya bridge at a community under Mim

Forest fringed communities around Twifo praso, Mim, Oda, Ateiku, Obuasi, Twifo Mampong among others have received developments that would have taken a long

Forest fringe communities want to see more of SRA signing and implementation soon to provide additional needed social amenities. Loggers are also happy to sign and implement the SRA and willing to do more because of the benefits derived from the communities, and vice versa. The communities are as well happy with loggers for the benefits they derive from the SRAs.

The Social Responsibility Agreement (SRA) has come to stay and develop these less privileged forest fringe communities.

Story by: *Nature and Development Foundation*

## CSOs collaborate to push for policy reforms in the natural resources sector



©ClientEarth.org

### A Legal Working Group Meeting

The era when civil society organisations (CSOs) in the forestry, cocoa, mining and environmental sector worked in isolation with its associated difficulties in doing effective advocacy has become a thing of the past.

Under the Green Livelihoods Alliance (GLA) programme, Tropenbos Ghana has supported and actively worked with CSOs' networks and coalitions in the sector to provide evidence, lobby and advocacy to influence policies that promote sustainable governance and practices.

CSOs now take collective responsibility for ensuring that the desired change happens in the forestry sector, both in the policy and operational space. There is enhanced awareness and improved knowledge among

CSOs, private sector, government and relevant agencies in issues related to sustainable land use, responsible business collective monitoring and inclusive governance of natural resources. There exists the basic understanding that it takes only a united front for them to catch the attention of government and for their policy-related issues to be addressed.

Explaining the efforts that went into this remarkable development, Project Co-ordinator of Friends of the Earth Ghana, Nehemiah Tettey Odjer-Bio, stated that Tropenbos Ghana supported the training of CSOs, including the media, in forest and mining laws. He said the media component highlighted challenges faced by farmers and the need for policy intervention.

The Legal Working Group made up of civil society representatives in the forest sector and organised through a collaboration between Taylor Crabbe Initiative, Tropenbos and ClientEarth, also benefited from training in forest laws. These have cumulatively empowered the CSOs' front to effectively contribute to advocacy and policy influencing in the forestry, cocoa, mining and environmental sectors.

Nehemiah indicated that these advocacy efforts have led to a recognition of the CSOs at the national and landscape levels. "Today, there is general acceptance of our views regarding forest

governance and the need to amend the Concession Act of 1962, an Act of Parliament related to tenure of naturally occurring timber tree resources. We have also put together a document, which contains critical issues for political consideration in managing our natural resources, for publication," said he.

According to Jonathan Gokah, Co-ordinator for KASA Initiative Ghana, a natural resource and environment civil society platform, in the recent past, CSOs in the forestry, cocoa and mining sectors worked as individual organisations in their advocacy efforts. This did not give their engagements with government and relevant agencies the driving force to bring about the needed policy change. He said there is a shift now which has brought several results.

"For instance, currently, we have more than 530 CSOs on an electronic Independent Forest Monitoring platform, working together through a synchronised approach to pursue policy influence and to bring an end to unsustainable and illegal practices in the forestry sector," said Jonathan.

The GLA is a programme implemented by Tropenbos Ghana in partnership with A Rocha Ghana and Friends of the Earth Ghana. It is aimed at promoting actions that will conserve the remaining forest of Ghana and also promoting international public goods across the globe.

*Story by: Tropenbos Ghana*

## CFI Implementation Challenges Tackled

>>> *Continued from Page 2*

implementation of the Initiative," she revealed.

EcoCare is currently mobilizing CSOs and farming communities to actively participate in the implementation of CFI at the national and landscape levels, while working with other partners to monitor its commitments.

*Source: Ecocare Ghana*

## Tracing and Accounting for Legal Timber On the Domestic Market

>>> *Continued from Page 5*

Kamil, was hopeful that "With the development of this application, we can conveniently receive and stock timber and also know the balance as we sell".

"This will be a great way to work with vendors in a participatory approach while ensuring legal distribution of lumber in the various markets. The project will surely support the ongoing process with waybills, as TIDD works to finalise the systems" an official of TIDD, Eric Abbeyquaye, explains.

*Story by: Kumasi Wood Cluster*

# Comprehensive Analysis Of Forest Resources Launched In An Innovative Format

The Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has launched the most comprehensive forestry assessment to date in an innovative and easy-to-use digital format.

Available for public viewing, the Global Forest Resources Assessment report (FRA 2020) and its first-ever online interactive dissemination platform contain detailed regional and global analyses for 236 countries and territories.



depend on forests for their food security and livelihoods. Protecting forests is also key to conserving natural resources, as they harbour most of the Earth's terrestrial biodiversity and help mitigate climate change impacts. According to the recently published the State of the World's Forests (SOFO) report, forests contain 60,000 different tree species, 80 percent of amphibian species, 75 percent of bird species, and 68 percent of the Earth's mammal species.

Users can now consult a comparable and consistent set of more than 60 forest indicators across countries and regions and download the requested data in a non-proprietary digital format. Monitoring of change over time is also possible in parameters such as forest area, management, ownership and use.

"The wealth of information on the world's forests is a valuable public good for the global community to help facilitate

evidence-based policy formulation, decision-making and sound investments in the forest sector," said Deputy Director-General, Maria Helena Semedo, at the launch. "These newly released tools will enable us to better respond to deforestation and forest degradation, prevent biodiversity loss and improve sustainable forest management."

Millions of people around the world

Therefore, it is crucial to turn the tide on deforestation and the loss of biodiversity which can be done by conserving and sustainably managing forests and trees within an integrated landscape approach - addressing forestry and food security challenges together. Reliable and comprehensive information on forests and other land-uses plays a vital role in this process, FAO says.

Source: [FAO.org](http://FAO.org)

## Effects of COVID-19 measures on rural communities

The COVID-19 crisis can affect communities in tropical forested landscapes in different ways. When measures to prevent the spread of the disease are restricting the movement of freight and people, farmers may no longer be able to buy and sell products at the market. It has also been suggested that the crisis can increase illegal extraction of natural resources, for example when companies try to take advantage of reduced monitoring and law enforcement.

To understand the various ways in which the crisis may affect people's lives and land-use in the landscapes where the Tropenbos International (TBI) Network is active, we decided to ask community-members directly. Interviews were done by phone, video conferencing software, or face to face (in cases where TBI staff lives in the community). They show that, in times of crisis, people tend to rely on the food they produce themselves. The pandemic poses a threat to food security for those who are specialized in non-food commodity

production, often for far-away markets, such as labourers in the oil palm plantations of West Kalimantan, and indigenous communities that are specialized in timber extraction in Guarayos, Bolivia.

The effect of the crisis on illegal resource extraction differs between the various landscapes. Communities in Bolivian indigenous territories have constructed roadblocks and checkpoints to restrict movement of people and goods in and out of the area. Although this is intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19, it also allows them to effectively prevent illegal activities.

It is different in Ketapang, West Kalimantan. There, several interviewees mentioned that illegal logging and mining have increased, ever since



© TBI Communities in Bolivian indigenous territories constructed roadblocks and checkpoints to restrict movement of people and goods in and out of the area.

COVID-19 measures were installed. This is not necessarily the work of opportunistic companies, as has been reported in other parts of the world. Instead, interviewees suggest that it is primary the result of people looking for alternative sources of cash income, after losing their employment as labourers on oil palm plantations.

Source: [Tropenbos International](http://Tropenbos International)

# COVID 19 Hits Hard On Timber Export Values

## - TIDD Director

>>> *Continued from Front Page*

In an exclusive interview with Ghana Television (GTV), Dr. Iddrisu disclosed that there has been about 50% fall in revenue accrued from exports in the country from January to April this year.

He indicated that there has also been a reduction in production as companies adhere to the protocols laid down to combat the global pandemic, reducing their production hours.

“Looking at January to April 2019, the total export value was USD72 Million; if you compare these values to January to April this year, we have exported only about USD36 Million. This means that we have a significant decline of about 50% in terms of export values.”

He explained that, the fall in revenue was as a result of the significant drop in demand

of wood and other related products, as countries observe COVID 19 protocols.

“Because of the global impact, we are not getting requests for export of wood. We trade a lot with Europe and the Far East. Currently, because of the global pandemic we are not getting requests from those areas and this has affected the industry,” he noted.

He warned that, if the situation persists, “there is going to be a complete shutdown

of the industry which is going to affect the economy of Ghana.”

He revealed that the situation has also affected job opportunities for those living in areas where the industry employs the youth, as a result of adjustments these industries have been compelled to make.

On the issue of the industry recovering from the effects of the pandemic, he noted that though some sectors of the economy were recovering, the figures available to the FSD do not point to the same case with the industry.

He attributed it to the buyers negotiating prices below the market prices, taking advantage of the desperation of the local timber traders.

He assured that the FC is working assiduously to execute its mandate by protecting the forests against illegal logging and embarking on massive afforestation projects across the country.

*Story by: Communication Team*



© [theghanareport.org](http://theghanareport.org)

Please send your Feedbacks, Articles, Stories and Contributions to [tettehsally@yahoo.com](mailto:tettehsally@yahoo.com) OR [sallyviwotor@gmail.com](mailto:sallyviwotor@gmail.com)  
Contact: 024 936 7890 OR 050 919 9465  
Compiled and Produced by Salomey Tetteh-Viwotor



**Nature & Development Foundation**

### ABOUT NDF

The Nature & Development Foundation (NDF) was legally established in November 2013 in Ghana. It was born out of the long presence of WWF in Ghana and across the West African region as a non-profit organization, limited by guarantee.

The foundation has a mission to help build a society in which human development and nature conservation complement each other. It also believes that, ways exist to balance the needs of development with sustainable land uses that do not threaten forest biodiversity and forest dependent livelihoods of the region.

NDF understands that it must not limit itself to working only with those in the forest industries itself, but must engage more widely in multiple sectors and processes if it is to achieve its mission.

Though currently active in Ghana, it aims to increase its activities in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia in the future. For more information visit [www.ndfwestafrica.org](http://www.ndfwestafrica.org) Or call TEL: +233-302-518-710

**Supporters**



### ABOUT Ukaid

The Department for International Development (DFID) was set up in 1997 and leads the UK's work to end extreme poverty. DFID tackles global challenges including poverty and disease, mass migration, insecurity and conflict. It works to building a safer, healthier, more prosperous world for people in developing countries and in the UK too. It employs around 2,700 staff who work in offices in London, East Kilbride and globally. DFID is responsible for

- honouring the UK's international commitments and taking action to achieve the United Nations' Global Goals
- making British aid more effective by improving transparency, openness and value for money
- targeting British international development policy on economic growth and wealth creation
- improving the coherence and performance of British international development policy in fragile and conflict-affected countries
- roving the lives of girls and women through better education and a greater choice on family planning
- preventing violence against girls and women in the developing world
- helping to prevent climate change and encouraging adaptation and low-carbon growth in developing countries



### ABOUT TROPENBOS GHANA

Tropenbos International has been operational in Ghana since 2000. In 2017, Tropenbos Ghana became a legal national entity of Ghana and a member of the Tropenbos International network.

In recent years TBI in Ghana has contributed to the successful implementation of the VPA with the EU, by focusing on the issue of the supply of legal lumber to the domestic market.

TBI helped to establish and facilitated the Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue (MSD). The MSD contributed to the development of a domestic timber policy and a revised set of legal instruments that spell out ways in which artisanal milling can be integrated into the formal economy.

In 2015, the successful MSD platform on domestic timber trade was formally institutionalised through its inclusion in the National Forest Forum-Ghana.

To continue contributing to the sustainable management of forest landscapes in Ghana, Tropenbos Ghana with support from the Dutch Government is implementing the Green Livelihoods Alliance Programme.

This programme uses capacity building, evidence gathering, lobby and advocacy towards changing behaviours that are detrimental to the sustainability of forest and promote reasonable practices in the natural resources sector.

