Private Sector Capacity to be Built in FLEGT Implementation

Low capacity of the private sector, especially Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the forest sector, is perceived as one of the constraints hindering Ghana from issuing the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) licenses.

According to the Programme Coordinator of the Kumasi Wood Cluster Association (KWC), Mr. Gustav Adu, assessments made on various stakeholders as far as the FLEGT implementation is concerned revealed that the capacity of industry needs to be built up quickly as it would affect the whole implementation if not done.

Mr. Gustav Adu explained this at the launch of three projects jointly organized by the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), the Ghana Timber Millers Organisation (GTMO) and the Kumasi Wood Cluster Association (KWC) in Kumasi.

The three projects, which are funded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) FLEGT Programme, are geared towards building capacity of the private sector to participate in the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) process. It is also to enable SMEs acquire adequate knowledge and understanding of their roles and responsibilities to ensuring trade in legal timber.

In a presentation, the FAO/FLEGT Programme Officer, Mr. Godwin Phylx Cudjoe, said, the private sector is the key driver of the FLEGT implementation and “if not seen taking the lead role, then there would be issues of moving forward which could affect the success of the issuance of the license”.

Director of the Timber Validation Department (TVD) of the Forestry Commission (FC), Mr. Chris Beeko made it clear in an interview that the Wood Tracking System (WTS) is one of the key determinants that technically remains to be worked on in completing the process that leads to issuing the FLEGT license.

He explained that an independent assessment would be conducted by an external assessor on all the systems that have been put in place, a report would be issued afterwards and based on the successful report, the European Union (EU) will then start the process of enlisting Ghana’s system with the accompanied authorities before one can say everything is over to issue the FLEGT license.

Mr. Beeko, however, promised that by end of

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Sawmills facilitating illegal logging near forest reserves at Goaso

The siting of sawmills near forest reserves in Goaso and Nkwai forest districts is facilitating the activities of illegal loggers, Mr. Owusu Asare, a member of Forest Watch Ghana, has disclosed.

Speaking during Forest Watch Ghana’s 2016 3rd General Meeting held in Larhe in the Eastern Region, Mr. Owusu Asare revealed that sawmills had begun springing up near forest reserves in Goaso and Nkwai forest districts, paving the way for the booming of illegal activities.

According to him, the availability of sawmills near the reserves makes it easier for illegal loggers to transport wood without any interrogation from authorities mainly because they are able to mill the logs into lumber before transporting them, “he said.

He noted that, as a result of the development, chainsaw business is booming in Goaso and Nkwai forest districts and foreigners, including Burkinafas had allegedly joined in the business and are even suspected to be the financiers.

“Chainsaw milling is considered environmentally unfriendly and contributes significantly to deforestation in the country and also results in loss of huge tax revenues annually in Ghana.

Due to these reasons, in 1997 (Act 547 of 199) and 1998 (and L.I. 1649) the government banned the use of chainsaw for lumber production as well as the sale and use of chainsaw lumber in Ghana after the failure of the Trees and Timber (Chainsaw Operations) Regulations, 1991 legislative instrument 1518.

Under these regulations (the 1991 regulations), the chainsaw operators were legally recognised and their activities were supposed to be regulated by the District Assemblies and District Forestry Officers at the local level. The system led to indiscriminate felling of trees raising concerns about resource depletion and environmental degradation. This brought about the imposition of a ban on chainsaw lumber production and trade.

Source: Civic Response

Second EU-CISOPFLEG Regional Field Exchange

As part of EU funded initiatives to reinforce forest governance, combat illegal logging among timber exporter countries, a regional field exchange visit was organized through the CISOPFLEG Project to facilitate exchange of learning experiences within and among countries in the sub-region.

The visit brought together CSOs, VPA Focal Persons, media, communities members, SME, government officials, the EU delegation and other sector representatives from Ghana, Cameroun, DRC and Cote d’Ivoire. The activity which marked the second south-south cooperation under the CISOPFLEG project took place in Cameroun between the 27th November and 5th December 2016.

This activity known as the ‘FLEG Field Exchange Programme’ (FFEP) covered hands-on practical experiences gained in the field and meetings with industry and forest fringe communities. Participants visited the SEFECCAM forest logging site in Yingui, the Alpicam wood processing company in Bonaberie, the break-bulk yard of the Douala port (SEPBC, Veritas office), the Bepanda carpenters’ associations, Service in charge of the implementation of VPA-FLEG (SIGF) Nkolbisson among others.

This field exchange mainly highlighted policy and operational issues relating to legal logging but also country-specific FLEGT/VPA negotiation and implementation processes including: Emerging trends in timber legality compliance and existing capacity gaps among key stakeholders, Domestic market reform processes and expanding overlaid timber export in the sub-region, Sub-regional applicability of public procurement policies for wood and wood products, Emerging media attention in forest governance and its relevance to VPA negotiation and implementation, Trends in civil society-led/community-based independent forest monitoring and socio-technical systems thinking.

The other main concern for participating countries was, how to meet the demand for timber in the future as forest cover within the sub-region continue to disappear in the midst of a rapidly expanding domestic demand.

In this regard, the Ghana Government’s proposals include importing timber from Cameroon, Gabon or Guyana was cited as a practicable option. Industry participants were against log imports for various reasons. These included high cost of timber, transportation quality of timber. Large-scale investment in forest plantations is considered by many governments as a viable solution.

However, industry also mentioned that in such commercial ventures as tree planting, timber companies are not able to access bank credit as financial institutions have not presented a natural affinity to the forest sector. Multi-stakeholder participation for partnerships and collaboration on different aspects of the FLEGT/VPA process is central to its success. The exchange fostered excellent opportunities for building partnerships in the sub-region to mobilize resources for sustainable forest restoration and/or protection, sustainable timber procurement policies and responsible forest investment. It highlighted the fact that the involvement of sector ministries in exercises like this is highly indispensable.

An outstanding question for FLEGT/VPA negotiation and implantation is how do VPA countries overlay informal timber operations with formal structures in order to ensure system-wide legality compliance. Whereas CSOs are making significant efforts to reduce existing capacity asymmetries at the national level, local economic restraints as well as social and political support structures remains.
Tropenbos International (TBI) Ghana has been advised to hand over to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and the Forestry Commission (FC) a synthesis of all research findings and recommendations emanating from research, stakeholder meetings and other activities conducted under the Landscape Restoration Project (LRP) to solicit information about the challenges confronting Smallholder Tree Plantation Developers in Ghana.

This is because the insight into problems confronting Smallholder Tree Plantation Developers provided by the synthesis can be fed into current programmes and actions being implemented by the two institutions to achieve policy goals and strategic objectives of the National Plantation Strategy.

The advice was given by Mrs Valerie Fumey Nassah of the Resource Management and Support Centre (RMSC) of the FC, at a symposium to mark the end of TBI Ghana’s five year phase (2011-2016) during which she touched on ‘The Way Forward’ for the project which ends in December 2016.

The symposium brought together 70 participants made up of members of beneficiary communities of projects implemented by TBI Ghana, traditional authorities, researchers, academics, Civil Society Organisations, farmers, people in industry, policy makers, representatives of the FC, MLNR, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and other governmental agencies.

Mrs Nassah pointed out that there is the need for inter-sectoral dialogue and coordination to address the prevailing drivers of deforestation and degradation in addition to the protection and management of natural forests through the prevention of wildfires, and the promotion of natural regeneration through carefully planned harvesting.

She also suggested that the project could look into the restoration of legal and illegal mining sites, the creation of an enabling environment for small and medium scale reforestation schemes through funding and marketing avenues and strategies to secure land banks for restoration initiatives as areas for further research.

**Story by: Tropenbos International Ghana**

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**Programme In West And Central Africa**

In the closing session, it was concluded that domestic reforms are crucial to VPA implementation.

From a sub-regional perspective, domestic reforms will require both the systems and commodity approach, involving all key actors along the commodity value chain, including small and medium forest enterprises (SMEs), artisanal millers, timber traders, domestic wood producers, financial institutions, policy makers, regulators and research centers to interact and volunteer joint solutions to market constraints.

It will also require strong interaction between media, consumers (values, behaviours, attitudes, perceptions) and timber market systems. Compelling interaction between these actors is considered essential in addressing the prevailing policy rigidities, legality ambiguity and conflicting interests within the forest sector.

The project partners include FODER, RRN, ICED, SOS Forests and Friends of the Earth-Ghana with funding from the EU.

The full report on the FFEP will be circulated widely and also made available
CSOs Review 2016 Activities

He disclosed that, another issue that engaged CSOs in 2016 was the menace of mining in Forest Reserves, with specific instances in the Tano-Offin, Upper Wassaw, Fure Headwaters, Bowliye and Subiri River Forest Reserves.

According to Mr. Owusu-Addai, investigations revealed that prospecting licenses had been granted to some mining companies. Therefore, a coalition of CSOs made up of NFF-GH, FWG, WACAM, CR, KASA initiative and some journalists undertook advocacy and media war against the invasion and International and national advocacy campaigns are still on-going.

On the FLEGT-VPA implementation, he stated that, in order to ensure transparency, CSOs are calling for development of protocols and a public portal for the Ghana Wood Tracking System (GWTS) as well as development of Social Responsibility Agreements database to enhance access to information.

He also stated that CSOs were also working with Forestry Commission to develop forest management plans. On the issue of transparency, He indicated that the Forestry Commission has released a list of all SPECIAL Permits issued and there are plans of transmogrifying them into small-scale TUCs in the new Legislative Instrument that is expected to be passed in first quarter of 2017. Additionally, there are on-going efforts to streamline compensations in off-reserve logging which will support a functioning FLEGT-VPA in Ghana.

On the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM), Mr. Owusu-Addai said though there had been difficulties in constituting a National Steering Committee, it has been inaugurated and processes were underway to select National Executing Agency (NEA).

Mr. Owusu-Addai mentioned some challenges encountered such as funding. He indicated that most funding for CSOs are project specific funds with limited flexibility for emerging advocacy campaigns. Adding that the slow pace of government to respond to issues (letters and requests) makes it difficult to develop and embark on effective advocacy campaigns. The lack of legal clarity in mining laws and difficulty in accessing information as well as inertia on the part of CSOs makes campaign on mining very difficult to execute. The meeting walked participants through some forest laws, and how conflicts between laws passed by parliament are resolved by the courts. They were also taken through the legal regime that governs Natural resources specifically the forests and timber industry in Ghana as a way of refreshing their minds on previous training session.

It was organised by Taylor Crabbe Initiative and ClientEarth with funding from UKAid and the European Union.

Source: ClientEarth

CSIFM-Ghana Project Launched

A Civil Society-led Independent Forest Monitoring in Ghana (CSIFM-Ghana) project has been launched in Accra to tackle the problem of difficulty in accessing timely and credible information by Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to enhance their effective monitoring of the FLEGT/VPA process in Ghana.

The project, to be implemented by Civic Response, a CSO, also seeks to strongly involve the participation of civil society in the VPA implementation by recruiting, training and equipping CSOs and other non-state actors in the Timber Validation Department (TVD) legality verification standards to be able to participate in the TVD audits as observers.

It has been observed that, though government has expressed willingness to make information available to CSOs and other Non-State Actors (NSA), lack of funds and a system to make information easily accessible to stakeholders have hindered this commitment. This has necessitated the development of a web-interface for the Ghana Wood Tracking System (GWTS) which would contain every necessary information about the system for a wider audience including the international world.

Presenting details of the project, the Programme Officer, Mr. Obed Owusu-Addai, explained that as part of the expected outputs to be achieved by the project, all the various forest monitoring information systems put in place by other CSOs would be culminated into one piece and a data base developed for it.

This would be done through the development of a web-interface for the Ghana Wood Tracking System (GWTS) which would contain every necessary information about the system for a wider audience including the international world.

He added that teams would be set up to verify the reports gathered from the monitoring activities after which a report would be prepared and shared with stakeholders and the public.

©CR Cross Section of Participants at the Project Launch Monitor's (IM) work.

Mr. Owusu-Addai was hopeful that baring any hitches, the project would be able to achieve its overall objective of enhancing effective CSO participation in the issuance of a transparent, credible and acceptable FLEGT license.
Non-Timber Forest Products Could Alleviate Rural Poverty-Lecturer

A critical analysis of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs) within the context of Ghana has revealed that they can play an important role in rural poverty alleviation instead of merely serving as a safety net for rural farmers as they are presently being utilised.

However, this feat can only be made possible if a premium is placed on NTFPs by promoting co-governance in products such as the bush meat trade.

There is, therefore, the need to research into NTFPs’ value chains such as their production, collection, processing, storage, transport, marketing, and sale to tap into their full potential as a sustainable livelihood venture.

This was contained in a presentation delivered by Dr. Mrs Mercy Derkyi, a lecturer at the University of Energy and Natural Resources and a beneficiary of Tropenbos International (TBI) Ghana’s scholarships for professionals in the forestry sector to further their education.

The presentation sought among other things to identify prevailing gaps in forest livelihood research.

Dr. Derkyi said globally, NTFPs such as food items, medicinal plants, bush meat, forage and fibre, play an important socio-economic role at subsistence and commercial levels as well as for their cultural and spiritual values.

However, in Ghana, while they do provide cash and non-cash income for forest fringe communities, they function merely as safety nets and gap fillers in times of emergency and low agricultural productivity, instead of as a potential route out of poverty.

Dr. Derkyi noted that forest resources in Ghana are plagued by a myriad of problems that militate against their effective governance and undermine their contribution to the country’s development.

These problems include inadequate incentives for forest communities engaged in forest resource management, inadequate exploration of opportunities for improving forest employment, and more importantly, a lack of proper analysis of forest-dependent livelihoods resulting in deficient decision making which has resulted in the inefficient use of NTFPs.

This hinders their promotion as assets for livelihood improvement.

Furthermore, inherent conflicts in livelihood activities relating to forest and tree resources, illicit use of forest resources, restricted access coupled with competing claims that undermine their importance to forest dwellers and the nation have created an unfavourable governing system that poses serious challenges to the forestry sector.

Source: Tropenbos International Ghana

Group Calls For A Halt In Mining In Forest Reserves

A group of civil society organisations has called on the President and the National Security Council to take urgent steps to halt mining in forest reserves.

The group made up of WACAM, Forest Watch Ghana, Kasa initiative Ghana, and 76 other NGOs, in a joint statement, indicated that forest reserves including Upper Wassa, Fure River, Subri and Tonton are currently under the threat of large scale illegal mining.

According to the statement signed by the Co-ordinator of Forest Watch Ghana, Samuel Mawutor, this comes a few months after a company, which had been given entry permit for prospecting in the Tano-Offin Forest Reserve, had vacated the site after much protest from the group.

The group bemoaned the rate at which the Minerals Commission had been giving out prospecting licenses to mining companies into pristine forest reserves, particularly Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs), which Ghana committed to protecting under the 1992 United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

“These companies take advantage of these permits to undertake full scale surface mining,” the statement said.

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WHAT IS THE STATE OF GHANA’S FORESTS?
By Theodore M.K. Viwotor

Any time the State of the Nation Address (SONA) is read in parliament by the President of the Republic, those in or interested in the forestry sector look forward to getting some information on the status of Ghana’s forests.

A cursory look at the state of affairs in recent time shows that very little or nothing is said of the sector in the address, leaving many to wonder if the sector is of as much importance as the other sectors of the economy.

Perhaps in a more direct way, the forests do not meet the bread and butter needs of the people so can be relegated to the background to make way for other sectors with much better prospects of enhancing the livelihood of the masses who vote.

Do governments care at all about the state of our forests and their impact on Ghanaians? According to the Forestry Commission (FC), “the current contribution of forest to the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is estimated at 4% having fallen from a previous high of 8% a decade ago. Forest accounts for 9-12% of export earnings and support (sic) the livelihoods of nearly 15% of the population” (Forestry Commission, 2012).

The statistics show that the forestry sector is very important in the economy of Ghana but the attitude of our leaders towards it leaves much to be desired, thus the scanty or less information about it in most of the SONAs we have had in the past years. By sidelining the sector in their address to Parliament, our presidents could simply be telling Ghanaians they have no idea what the state of the forests is. Maybe that is the work of the FC so anyone interested could find out from them, in their opinion.

Significantly, there is a dangerous trend about the forests in the country that should catch the attention of anyone interested in the environment and climate change. In just a decade, Ghana lost as much as 50% of what comes from forests to its GDP. This is jaw-dropping!!!

This is happening to an economy that has 15% of its population earning their livelihoods from forests and no one seems to care much about it, to the extent that our political leaders are not talking about it or acting swiftly to curtail the failing trend.

Official deforestation-rate estimates, according to the FC, are in the region of 2% per year since 1990. From the layman’s point of view, this implies that as the years go by Ghana would lose all its forests in some twenty-five (25) years, having already lost over 50% in the last decade.

Well, by that time, many adults of today might have left planet earth to the world of the dead and that means they have no business worrying about what would happen behind them. However, the coming generations would question our indifference towards the forests that are supposed to make life better. They would question our leaders’ failure to see beyond their noses and their lack of seriousness towards the most important things of lives.

This is the state of our forests-gloomy and hopeless in the face of constant harvesting but less planting. This is the State of the Nation Address the people must hear to encourage them to wake up to reality and save our forests.

What is the state of our forests and who cares about it? Food for thought.
Email: mviwotor@yahoo.com

Strange Forest News — The Crooked Forest

The Crooked Forest is a grove of oddly shaped pine trees located outside the village of Nowe Czarnowo, in western Poland.

The forest contains about 400 pine trees that grow with a 90 degree bend at the base of northward and surrounded by a larger forest of straight-growing pine trees.

The crooked trees were planted around 1930 when the area was inside the German province of Pomerania.

It is thought that the trees were formed with a human tool, but the method and motive for creating the grove is not currently known.

It appears that the trees were allowed to grow for seven to ten years before being held down and warped by a device, http://11.wp.com/listverse.com/

The exact reason why the Germans would want to make crooked trees is unknown, but many people have speculated that they were going to be harvested for bent-wood furniture, the ribs of boat hulls, or yokes for ox-drawn plows. It is a bizarre case that still can’t explain.

Strange Forest News — The Crooked Forest

http://11.wp.com/listverse.com/
EU and Indonesia hail milestone in partnership against illegal logging

Representatives of the EU and Indonesia have celebrated the start of Indonesia’s FLEGT licensing scheme for exports of verified legal timber.

The FLEGT licensing scheme, which began operation on 15 November, is the result of a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Indonesia and the EU. It is expected to boost confidence in the legality of Indonesian timber exports to the EU and contribute to a better protection of Indonesian tropical forests, the third largest in the world.

VPAs are one of several measures in the EU Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan of 2003. Fifteen countries are negotiating or implementing VPAs with the EU, and Indonesia is the first to begin issuing FLEGT licences to export timber products that have been verified legal.

To mark the milestone, Retno L.P. Marsudi, Indonesia’s Minister of Foreign Affairs presented a symbolic gift made from verified legal timber to Karmenu Vella, the EU Commissioner for Environment, Fisheries and Maritime Affairs, in the presence of EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini.

"Today we celebrate a turning point in the global fight to end illegal logging," said Vella. "By tackling illegality at both the supply and demand sides of the trade we have closed the EU market to illegal timber from one of the world’s biggest producers."

All timber products of types listed in the EU-Indonesia VPA must now be accompanied by FLEGT licences that attest to the legality of the products. Authorities in EU member states will deny entry to such products if they lack FLEGT licences.

FLEGT licensed products are automatically deemed to comply with the EU Timber Regulation, which prohibits EU operators from placing illegally-harvested wood on the market and requires them to use due diligence to avoid doing so.

Source: European Commission

Honduras and the EU test the VPA on the ground

Honduras has moved a step closer towards concluding a Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU) after completing a significant milestone in the negotiation process. Known as field testing, this phase enables stakeholders to evaluate progress and make recommendations for the successful completion of the Agreement.

Representatives from government, civil society organisations, indigenous peoples’ groups and the private sector travelled to different regions across the country. They gathered views of approximately 200 stakeholders, who assessed the main sections of the VPA.

These include the agreed definition of legal timber and the proposed timber legality assurance system, which verify that timber products conform with national and international laws. Following the field testing phase, Honduras stakeholders are now working to incorporate the evidence gathered and further enhance the VPA.

Honduras has made substantial progress on its VPA since negotiations began in 2013. The VPA aims to address the illegal trade of timber. Once signed, the Agreement will commit both parties to ensure that only legal timber can be traded domestically in Honduras and imported into the EU market.

Articles, Stories and Contributions can be sent to stefeh@ndwestafrica.org
Group Calls For A Halt In Mining In Forest Reserves

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The group questioned why the Minerals Commission is giving out prospecting licenses for mining in forest reserves when even the problem of illegal mining outside forest reserves has still not been solved.

The group also stated that these illegal mining activities are carried out under the protection of well-armed, muscle-bound men who obstruct and thwart the work of the Forestry Commission and the Military.

Some mining companies like C&G Aleska Mining Company and Gye Nyame Mining Limited, for instance, have deployed private armed security persons into the Upper Wassa and Fure River Forest Reserves, respectively. These private armed security persons obstruct and prevent law enforcement authorities from monitoring their activities in the forests and, furthermore, intimidate local communities living on the fringes of these forests,” the statement added.

The group noted in the statement that urgent steps must be taken to stop this menace to ensure the security of the nation is intact.

Source: Civic Response

Private Sector Capacity to be Built in FLEGT Implementation

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the first quarter of 2017, the TVD will finish with all technical and policy matters to give way for the assessment of the system. He also assured that though 245 red flags have been raised in the reconciliation of data on the process chain, there is no cause for alarm as those discrepancies can easily be worked on or removed.

Participants at the launch called on forestry officials to be up and doing to ensure the successful implementation of the license.

Though Ghana agreed on the FLEGT/VPA ahead of Indonesia, the latter has taken the lead in issuing the FLEGT license. Stakeholders are therefore keen on ensuring that Ghana is placed second in the world and first in Africa to issue the FLEGT licenses.

Source: 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

Or call TEL: +233-302-518-710

ABOUT ClientEarth

“ClientEarth is a public interest environmental law organisation, founded in 2007. Their work combines legal approaches with scientific and policy analysis to create practical solutions to the most pressing environmental problems (www.clientearth.org).

ClientEarth’s Climate & Forests programme works to influence the development, implementation and enforcement of legal frameworks and policies. They seek to improve the operation and effectiveness of law in the EU and in non-EU focus countries with a view to minimising the impacts of agriculture, extractive industries and illegal logging on forests. They focus both on the substance and procedure of laws so that they become effective and equitable mechanisms to protect forests. Improved use and management of forests can contribute to a reduction in inequality and to tackling poverty, particularly for forest dependent communities.

Since 2012, ClientEarth has been working with national lawyers in Ghana, Gabon and the Republic of Congo to empower civil society organisations (CSOs) for them to take part in processes of law reform and implementation. Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) contribute to those processes and are therefore been an integral part of the focus of their work in country. This body of work is by the UK government under a DFID-FGMC (Forest Governance, Markets and Climate) grant.”

ABOUT FOE-GHANA

FoE Ghana is a member of Friends of the Earth International, a federation of 76 autonomous environmental organizations from all over the world.

Our vision is that Ghana should become an ecologically and economically sustainable society based on equitable distribution of resources to both men and women and the highest achievable standard of living for all. We promote solutions that will help to create environmentally sustainable and socially just societies.

Our mission is to work with others to build a movement for environmental change that spans from local to global levels. Our core activities cover natural resource management, policy and legislation issues including forest and biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, sustainable land management, extractive sector advocacy, watershed conservation management, livelihoods support and women and youth empowerment.


This Newsletter was prepared by Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) in collaboration with Friends of the Earth Ghana and Client Earth with funds from the European Union and DFID. The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Nature and Development Foundation.