



Experiences & Lessons from Implementing a Timber Industry Based Project

focus on small and medium scale forest enterprises

FAO - EU FLEGT PROGRAMME



Food and Agriculture
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F A O - E U F L E G T P R O G R A M M E



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Foreword

Forest is a dynamic and invaluable resource whose immeasurable benefits are so difficult to appreciate by many people beyond the timber. Ghana as a country was once blessed with this invaluable resource. It was the foundation of industrial development in the forest regions of Ghana. However, with the changing patterns of forest businesses and the rapid decline of the forest estate of the country, majority of these forest dependent businesses have collapsed. The industrial enclaves of Kumasi and Takoradi which were once dominated by timber industries is now a 'dead' space showing old cranes and band saws. Although this phenomenon is not different from the general performance of industry in the country, it is a worrying trend because of the denial of the legitimate expectations of local people and landowners of returns from the forest they have ceded to government to manage in trust for them.

In the context of commitment to enforce laws governing the forest sector, Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) represents the single most ambitious international regulation aimed at eliminating illegal timber from the market. The decision of the government of Ghana to enter the bilateral Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union (EU) to implement a robust system that guarantees legal timber is undoubtedly a good initiative. It has the potential to put breaks on the downward decline of the forest estate of Ghana and bring some hope to businesses, local people and communities who depend on forests for their livelihoods.

This report on Experiences and Lessons from Implementing Timber Industry Based Project provides an understanding and the necessity of building capacity of industry for effective implementation of FLEGT/VPA. There is considerable dynamism in the

timber sector at the moment. Changes in the industry has been very rapid. Many known large companies either do not exist anymore or only exist by name on record. While some known companies are folding up, others are springing up that sometimes exist for very brief periods. Many companies have metamorphosed into smaller companies feeding on old concessions with much smaller machines such as wood mizers.

The report brought out the benefits and experiences of cross-border exchanges with timber industries in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia particularly on the implementation of the VPA since all three countries are implementing it. It particularly focused on the effort of Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) and partners to give direction to the discussions on domestic timber market. Considerable effort has been made to support the development and approval of the Public Procurement Policy on timber and timber products (PPP). This policy, if approved, has the potential to drastically reduce the consumption of illegal timber by government with the advantage of a domino effect on private and individual purchase of timber. The report highlights recommendations that should be implemented before a third attempt at laying the document before Cabinet.

The report drew public attention to the core issues affecting the industry and help inform key stakeholders about developments in the industry. The experiences and lessons are good reference material for civil society organizations that wish to work with industry to provide solutions to common problem. As forest remains a common good, it remains our common effort to support and hold others to check. As we say it: **"be part of the solution."**



Mr. Mustapha Seidu,
Director, NDF

Introduction

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Illegal logging is estimated to cost between 30 to 100 billion USD globally according to the United Nations Environment Programme and Interpol. In Ghana, the total economic cost of natural resource degradation and poor environmental management including poor sanitation has been estimated at, at least 10% of Gross Domestic Products (GDP). Available estimates indicate that Ghana's forest cover declined from 32.7% of the total land surface area in 1990 to 21.7% in 2010. This represents an average annual decline of 1.96% between 1990 and 2010, with the highest rate of decline of 2.24% occurring between 2005 and 2010. Of the 266 gazetted forest estates in Ghana, only 16% of them are considered to be in good state. Close to 60% of timber harvesting in Ghana is considered illegal.

Deforestation, biodiversity loss and deepening poverty among forest-fringed communities in West Africa are partly attributed to almost a century of unsustainable timber business that was less mindful of legality and sustainability requirements. In recent times however, there have been changing legal regimes with respect to international timber trade. One of such

is the EU Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan, in pursuant of which many countries, including Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia have entered into negotiation or have already agreed to export only legal timber to the EU under the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA). It is recognized that one of the major bottlenecks to the smooth negotiation and implementation of FLEGT and the subsequent issuance of FLEGT Licensed Timber is the less inclusive and less active involvement of timber industry in FLEGT VPA processes. Consequently, a section of timber industries in these three countries do not fully understand FLEGT requirements and have inadequate capacity to meet legality requirements and thus are apprehensive of the outcome of FLEGT on their businesses.

The desired output of an inclusive process involving industry that understands, anticipates and have capacity to comply with FLEGT requirements will be achieved through implementation of dedicated activities. Considering that, the three countries are at different

levels of FLEGT VPA processes with unique intervening national realities, engagement with the private sector requires further consultation to design targeted communication and tailored training on FLEGT suitable for industry in a particular country.

This project was designed to respond and provide innovative solutions to the issues of inclusiveness and capacity of industry in respect of FLEGT/VPA actions in Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia taking into cognizance the stage of VPA; engage government and other stakeholders and advocate for the passage of the Public Procurement Policy on timber and timber products (PPP) while stimulating private sector procurement of legal timber in Ghana. In addition, the project sought to design activities that seek to promote the availability of legal timber in the domestic market in Ghana.

The objective of the project was to increase capacity of industry while promoting market transformation that increases the supply of and demand for legal timber through procurement initiatives, business-to-business engagement and support measures to increase supply of legal timber.

The FAO FLEGT Programme promotes the implementation of the FLEGT Action Plan by improving forest governance, providing technical assistance, and building capacity through funding

projects in eligible countries. In pursuit of these objectives, the FAO FLEGT Programme supported the project entitled **Innovation for improved forest governance in West Africa; Demand and Supply side solutions in a changing landscape**. This book highlights key lessons and experiences obtained during the implementation of this project by Nature and Development Foundation (NDF).

The project was managed and implemented by Nature & Development Foundation (NDF) in collaboration with Volunteers for Sustainable Development in Africa (VOSIEDA) Incorporated - Liberia and Groupe National de Travail pour la Gestion durable des forêts et la certification forestière en Côte d'Ivoire (GNT - CI). NDF had overall responsibility to ensure and enhance efficiency in the project implementation while providing regular monitoring and internal reflection in the form of timely reports to the FAO. Both VOSIEDA and GNT-CI were engaged to organize the workshops on the dialogue on domestic timber issues. They were also engaged to organize participants and logistics for the effective participation of representatives from these countries in the numerous study tours organized during the project period. This was achieved through memorandum of understanding (MOU) or sub-contracts signed between NDF and all Implementation partners with clearly spelt out terms of reference.

Working with Partners

The project had similar activities implemented by the Ghana Timber Millers Organization (GTMO) and the Kumasi Wood Cluster Association (KWC). To combine effort and resources and to avoid duplication, the project organized a joint inception meeting with these two partners. Other organizations including the Forestry Commission

and the Labour Department played significant roles in the successful implementation of the project. Where it became necessary, resource persons were invited from other non-governmental organizations such as Civic Response, Ecocare and COLANDEF to support project implementation.



Group photo after joint project inception organized between Ghana Timber Millers Organization, Kumasi Wood Cluster and Nature and Development Foundation

Challenges working with companies

Perhaps the biggest challenge in implementing this project was the identification of the right companies to work with. At project inception, no individual person or institution had a complete list of all active companies in Ghana. There is a lot of dynamism in the timber sector at the moment. Changes in the industry has been very rapid. Many known large companies either do not exist anymore or only exist by name on record. While some known companies are folding up, others are springing up that sometimes exist for very brief periods. Many companies have metamorphosed into smaller companies feeding on old concessions with much smaller machines such as wood mizers.

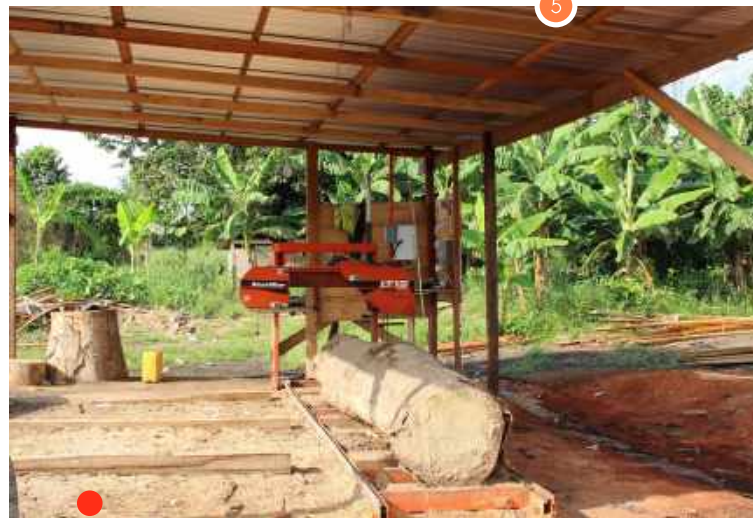
Capacity Building

Company preselection

- The Timber Validation Department (TVD) and the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission of Ghana were identified among the key stakeholders for the timber industry capacity building component of the project. Several meetings were therefore held to seek their inputs and commitments.
 - A list was acquired from TIDD of all registered companies in Ghana. This TIDD list was not very helpful, partly because not all processing companies are registered, many companies listed do not export or sell directly, other companies only produce and supply exporters who are registered with the TIDD.
 - Visits were paid to companies to know who is still active.
- The project adopted the use of a questionnaire to gather information on companies as well as to identify major issues of concern with FLEGT implementation and to situate their concerns within the project's outputs
- The people to attend the training were selected and their appropriateness assessed, contacts provided etc.
- Analysis were carried out in order to identify the best companies to be invited for training

A stack of logs ready to be processed





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- Very basic equipment such as the wood mizer, are utilised in many small mills
- Many once vibrant mills no longer active
- Governance - meeting of project steering committee
- Forestry Commission officials served as resource persons for training
- Tractor moving logs for milling



Sixty companies from the six forest regions, Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Central, Eastern, Volta and Western Regions benefited from the wider sector training.

A Wider sector engagement

This involved three sets of training sessions of 20 companies each for three zones. The zones were made up of companies from Central/Western, Ashanti/Brong Ahafo and Eastern/Volta.



Small sized (average of 20 persons) classes were adopted to ensure effective communication and exchanges between participants and resource persons





Wider Sector engagement training sessions

Topics taught by the various experts included Identified Non-Conformances in the Wood Tracking System (WTS) and how to address them.



Staff of the Labour Department of Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations provided health and safety training for participating companies



Health and safety



Gender in forestry

Staff of COLANDEF provided training to benefiting companies on gender in the forestry sector





Companies were taken through how to calculate and complete input - output forms provided by the Timber Industry Development Division. This is a key requirement which many small companies have not been able to complete on their own.

Practical input-output calculations



Key lessons from wider sector engagement:

- Companies' acceptance of the project was challenging in the first round
- The companies became more participatory with time
- Number of participants increased from 50 to 80 in the final round
- Venue changed to get training sessions closer to selected participants
- Companies found it difficult leaving work for a day or two largely because of the nature of work – most companies are one-man operated
- Sometimes low level personnel were selected for the training

B One-on-one (direct company support)

Based on interest and with the knowledge of limited resources available to the project, 30 out of the 60 companies were identified to benefit from the direct company support – one-on-one engagement. Here benefiting companies were visited onsite.



- The Timber Validation Department's Audit checklist was adopted for this exercise



- Every company dedicated a staff to serve as the VPA compliance officer.
- The NDF visiting team together with the assigned company personnel go through the companies' procedures including record keeping methods and documentation

Companies are visited on site

- Corrective Action Plans were developed together with the companies
- The Action plans were updated on subsequent visits based on what is achieved and what is outstanding



**SAMPLE ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED WITH A COMPANY
FLEGT – VPA CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUEST (CAR) AND GAP ANALYSIS - GLEN WOOD PROCESSING LTD., ASSIN FOSO
Gap Analysis and Action Plan for Transport, Processing, Trade and Export
Principle 4 – Transportation**

Transportation							Responsible Person	
Ref. No	Identified Gap	Observation	Corrective Action Request (CAR)	Timelines				
				Q1 Oct- Dec17	Q2 Jan- Mar18	Q3 Apr- Jun18		Q4 Jul- Sep18
4.1.1	TIF and LIF	Not all LIF and TIF documents are filed.	Collect and keep copies of TIF and LIF on file				Mr. H. Appiah	
	LMCC	Not all LMCC documents are readily available	Always collect and keep endorsed LMCC copies on file				Mr. Kyeremeh	
	Mill log book	Records have been kept on separate sheets of paper	Dedicate a note book as a mill/yard log book and record stock as they arrive in the yard/mill				Mr. Kyeremeh	
	Way bill	Not all way bills can be accounted for	Proper record keeping of way bills				Mr. Obese	
4.2.1	Weekend timber transport permit	No records on weekend transport permit	Keep copies of weekend permit on file				Mr. H. Appiah	

FLEGT – VPA CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUEST (CAR) AND GAP ANALYSIS – GLEN WOOD PROCESSING LTD., ASSIN FOSO

Principle 5 – Processing

Processing							Responsible Person	
Ref. No	Identified Gap	Observation	Corrective Action Request (CAR)	Timelines				
				Q1 Oct- Dec17	Q2 Jan- Mar18	Q3 Apr- Jun18		Q4 Jul- Sep18
5.1.2	Annual license	Documents are available at main office	Keep copies on file				Mr. Kyeremeh	
5.1.3	Wood traceability	Records of material source not available	Assign a dedicated foolscap notebook to record all materials received.				Mr. Kyeremeh	
		Records of material input and product output not available	Develop a system of recording materials input and product output with species, number of logs that feed the different mills, etc. * NDF to submit samples Keep copies of records/ documents on file					

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			Work instruction not available	Company to develop work instructions in the mills Print out, laminate and paste on walls for all to see				Mr. Kyeremeh
			Health and Safety work instructions not available	Produce and keep all copies in a readily available file *NDF to assist in producing work instructions/ template				Mr. Kyeremeh/ Mr. Obese
			Health and safety equipment	Company to procure outstanding health and safety equipment to all staff as appropriate				Mr. Kyeremeh/ Mr. Obese
5.2	Health and Safety		Health and Safety training records	Company to obtain Health and Safety records/certificates based on Health and Safety trainings conducted. Resource person: TIDD/ Fire Service				Mr. Kyeremeh/ Mr. Obese
			Accident records not readily available	Record accidents as they happen and keep copies on files				Mr Obese
			Health and Safety training	Company to organize Health and Safety training for all staff				Mr Obese

FLEGT – VPA CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUEST (CAR) AND GAP ANALYSIS – GLEN WOOD PROCESSING LTD., ASSIN FOSO

Principle 6 – Trade & Export

Ref. No	Identified Gap	Observation	Corrective Action Request (CAR)	Timelines				Responsible Person
				Q1 Oct- Dec17	Q2 Jan- Mar18	Q3 Apr- Jun18	Q4 Jul- Sep18	
6.1.1	Export permit	Contracts are available with Export rep in Takoradi	Keep copies of contracts on files					Mr. Kyeremeh/Mr. Gyasi
	Export permit	Some of the required documents (E.g Export Permit) are available with Export rep in Takoradi	Get copies of documents from Takoradi and keep such copies on file					
6.2.1	Domestic permit/ FC Registration	Vendor's application documents not available	Register with TIDD to obtain vendor's application form					Mr. Kyeremeh
			Apply and obtain certificate to sell timber to the local domestic market					

The following key findings and recommendations were observed after the first round of direct company engagements.

Some key findings after first round of direct company site visits were:

- Companies did not have available to them TIDD issued reports on monthly supply to the domestic market of processed timber products for each vendor.
- Some operators wondered why Log Measurement and Conveyance Certificates (LMCCs) could not be issued electronically with the introduction of the wood tracking system.
- No health and safety inspection had been provided by the Factory Inspectorate Division of the Department of Labour as is required under the verification manuals.
- Some of the companies were not correctly recording input-output volumes.
- Companies were not cutting the right dimensions of lumber for the local market. Example 2 x 6 is probably 1.6 x 5.2 etc. Recommendations by project team after initial round of direct company support
- TIDD should collaborate with the timber companies to train workers on input-volume analysis recording.
- The timber companies should have working instructions for reference by future employees since employee turnover is quite high within the timber sector.



Companies are making effort to improve the safety of their staff through the provision of basic personal protective equipment



- Timber Companies should keep duplicates of both wood product inspection certificates and domestic vendor application forms and all other certificates and make photocopies of the original for TIDD checkpoints.
- Measures and sanctions should be enforced within timber companies for workers to make use of their protective gadgets.
- Companies should liaise with TIDD and other agencies to conduct regular training on health and safety for workers.

These findings and recommendations influenced the implementation of the remaining activities under the project.

Key results and lessons from direct company support–

- Almost all companies had some knowledge about FLEGT but did not know how it affected them or what to do
- Documentation of supported companies increased
- Actions taken by companies depended largely on the national FLEGT process
- Companies took training more seriously as TVD audits were conducted on them and WTS started biting
- Some companies took health and safety seriously
- Some bought all the PPEs for the staff
- Another got the Factory Inspectorate Division to conduct an audit for certification
- One company bought all files immediately to start filing
- Others did not get the support of senior management to put actions in place
- Some felt it was a waste of time
- Misplaced action plans developed for example– Many did not see the importance of the support provided



Finding Solutions to Domestic Market Challenges-Cote D'Ivoire Ghana and Liberia

Illegal logging and trade remain a formidable challenge in West Africa. The supply of illegal timber to the domestic markets is a noted problem not only in Ghana but in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia as well. Not only does the practice undermine the efforts of resource managers, but it also dampens competitive timber prices at the local market and discourages best operational practices by responsible private sector operators. The seemingly higher prices of legal timber and the seemingly lax enforcement regime on perpetrators of illegal logging has indirectly emboldened illegal operators, expanded the market of illegally harvested timber and de-motivated the placement of legal timber on the domestic market. In

each of the targeted countries of Cote d'Ivoire, Ghana and Liberia, the project implementers and its partners organized a one-day dialogue meeting among key stakeholders and actors, government, industry association and players, civil society organizations among others as a step to exchange ideas of addressing the challenges with the domestic market in relation to demand and supply of legal timber. The conclusions of the dialogue meeting was meant to serve as the basis to trigger other actions for a sustainable solution in the long term. The outcomes and key actions from the workshops as well as other actions geared towards a more sustainable domestic market regime. in the three countries are presented in this chapter.





STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TO SUPPLY OF LEGAL TIMBER PRODUCTS TO THE DOMESTIC MARKET IN GHANA

A cross section of participants at the Ghana Domestic Market Dialogue Meeting.

There have been several attempts in the past to restructure and ensure legal supply of timber products to the domestic market. The inception of Ghana's VPA FLEGT discussions with the EU renewed that commitment with a dedicated working group assigned to the issues of the

domestic market. An EU sponsored Tropenbos International Project supported the development of a domestic market focused document which proposed several policy options. The challenge has been that most of these policy recommendations require the necessary regulation to



constructively implement them in order to find solutions to these nagging domestic market challenges. Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) organized a one-day stakeholder workshop to dialogue on how to overcome the bottlenecks associated with some of the

strategies that have been proposed to address the domestic market challenge. The next section which is an output from that workshop, seeks to bring clarity to the main strategies, identify the challenges and propose actionable solutions to these problems.

1. PUBLIC PROCUREMENT POLICY ON TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS (PPP):

To meet the obligations enshrined in Ghana's Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the EU, and to realize the aim for signing the agreement, the government, through the Forestry Commission and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has developed a draft Public Procurement Policy

on timber and timber products to support the development and efficient management of timber resources for the domestic market. The aim is to use the purchasing power of government procurement to signal the market in favour of legally and sustainably produced timber and timber products.





Procurement officers from the districts are trained in anticipation of the passage of the policy

When this becomes law, it will provide the framework for the development and regulation of the domestic market while addressing the drivers of illegal chainsaw operations, deforestation and forest degradation. Implementation guidelines for the policy have been developed by the Nature and Development Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission with Financial support from the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Public procurement officers from six regions of Ghana have been trained on the procurement policy.

The PPP is very necessary even in the mist of other options of making legal


timber available on the domestic market because it is a demand-side solution that shows government's commitment to the fight against the menace of illegal timber trade and use.

Current Status of the Policy:

With the objective of getting a legal regime to back the policy, a cabinet memo for the PPP was resubmitted to the current cabinet but it was returned with some directives:

To engage with cabinet sub-committee by providing clarification of available options for addressing the challenge without the PPP;

Several other options presented to cabinet included:



*(Ghana
Districts a
repository of
all local
assemblies
in Ghana)*

- 100% yield removal
- Log importation
- Sawmills supplying 100% of domestic market requirement

The PPP is a demand-side measure and the VPA can provide options for legal sourcing of timber products, so why is it a priority if VPA is already in force

Challenges and Concerns:

- Price disparity between sawmill products and illegally acquired chain sawn products makes it attractive to source from the local market of unknown legality status and origin
- Difficulty in tracking overland exports encourages products meant for the domestic market to be exported to other inland countries
- The requirement for Free zones companies to impose import duties on products before selling them on the domestic market makes the prices uncompetitive.

Proposed Action Point(s):

- Proper survey should be conducted to establish the actual percentages of government versus private sector consumption of timber products domestically
- FC to make proposals for implementing sections of the Domestic market administratively in order to avoid the long process of seeking government and political approval before implementation
- MLNR to resubmit cabinet memo for consideration with other options (consultation needs to take place)
- Tariff on products from free

zones companies should be taken a second look at – FC should leverage the contributions of users of such wood (carpenters and other wood transformers)

to the economy to secure tariff exemption on timber products when sold in-country by free zones companies.



Initiatives towards a Public Procurement Policy on Timber and Timber Products in Ghana

To support the Government of Ghana's effort, and with funding from FAO-EU FLEGT PROGRAMME, Nature & Development Foundation has supported the implementation process of the Public

Procurement Policy on Timber and Timber Products for the domestic market in Ghana through the development of implementation guidelines and capacity building of procurement officers from the districts.

Development of Implementation Guidelines for the Public Procurement Policy on Timber and Timber Products



Implementation Guidelines
on Public Procurement Policy
for Procurement of Timber
and Timber Products on the
Domestic Market

The guidelines

Nature & Development Foundation (NDF) in collaboration with the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), the Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) of the Forestry Commission, has developed implementation guidelines for the Public Procurement Policy on Timber and Timber Products.

Consultations for the development of guidelines

A nationwide consultation with relevant stakeholder was conducted in the development of the guidelines. The consultations were held in three zones; Northern zone (Brong-Ahafo, Northern, Upper East and Uppers west regions), Middle zone (Ashanti, Eastern and Western) and the southern zone (Greater Accra, Central and, Volta regions)



*Southern zone
consultation
held at Ada*



Consultations for the middle zone; held at Kumasi



Consultations for northern zone; held at Tamale

Training of Public Procurement Officers

With the guidelines completed, NDF proceeded to provide training for selected public procurement officers as trainers with the idea that, when the policy is eventually passed, there would be human resource capacity to train the wider section of public procurement officers using the guidelines.



Training of Trainers



Members from this group will later on become trainers for their colleagues.



Training District Procurement officers

Beneficiary procurement officers from the Eastern Region

Still with funding support from FAO, NDF has provided hands on training on the use of the implementation guidelines for procurement officers in the public sector from six (6) administrative regions in Ghana (Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, Eastern, Northern and Western Regions) using some beneficiaries of the Trainer of trainers as resource persons to deliver the training.

The purpose of the training was to:

- Give participants an exposure to the impending public procurement policy on timber & timber products
- Enhance understanding of the policy and the guidelines

- Build capacity for implementation of the impending public procurement policy on timber and timber products



Beneficiary procurement officers from the Western Region



Brong Ahafo Region procurement officers training

Training District Procurement officers



2. 100% YIELD REMOVAL STRATEGY:

This strategy is borne out of the realization that the safety of residual stands after logging in a compartment cannot be guaranteed due to the activities of chainsaw millers. Again, due to logging companies' preference for certain species as compared to others, the quality of forest reserves are dramatically being reduced and composition of the forest is changing because only the desirable species are removed at the expense of Lesser Used Species. This situation is also a

factor of demand from buyers.

Several other considerations are being made in addition to enforcing 100% yield removal, they include:

- Revising yield formula
- Reducing girth limits of species
- Retooling industry to make use of smaller diameter logs
- Using Mobile Recovery Teams (MRT) to make use of residual stand

Challenges and Concerns:

- The proposal for 100% removal



Good forests management permits the removal of some mature trees to allow for regeneration

is not based on any existing law and could face legal challenges

- The use of Mobile Recovery Teams (MRT) falls outside the mandate or control of FSD and hence it needs to be carefully considered before enforcing it administratively.
 - Timber Right Fees and TUC rent are currently based on total TUC area which makes it challenging to enforce partnership formation between MRTs and TUC holders
- Proposed Action Point(s):**
- There is the need for further knowledge generation on 100% yield removal and the practicalities of its implementation
- FSD should base the 100% yield removal on scientific footing before its enforcement
 - The proposal for 100% removal is not based on any existing law, hence, FC should consider making this strategy part of the original TUC contract to facilitate its implementation.
 - FC should consider revision for TUC holders to rather pay TRF and TUC rent on 5 year harvesting coupes so that the FC can have some room to administratively manage the TUC area without any legal challenges.





3. IMPORTATION OF TIMBER AND TIMBER PRODUCTS:

There is no doubt about the need to find alternative sources of legal timber for the domestic market since Ghana's current timber production levels cannot satisfy both the export and domestic needs. DOLTA has undertaken some scoping work to explore the option of importing timber and timber products from Liberia, Guyana and Cameroon.

Challenges and Concerns:

- The main challenge has been issues of tax waiver from Ministry of Trade and Industry (MoTI) and Ghana Revenue Authority (GRA).
- The cost effectiveness of importing logs (as was initially conceptualized) from Liberia

and the subsequent processing in Ghana needs to be properly explored

- DOLTA as an association leading this process requires huge capital to be able to establish processing mills in Liberia that will produce lumber to feed Ghana's domestic market.

Proposed Action Point(s):

- Domestic Lumber Traders Association (DOLTA) must liaise with Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources to secure tax waiver from Ministry of Trade and Industry and Ghana Revenue Authority
- Proper Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) should be done to ensure that the venture is profitable

Importation of logs from neighbouring countries is strongly being considered as an option to increase local supply

4. ARTISANAL MILLING:

The artisanal milling concept has been developed, tested and the lessons have been shared. A very compelling business and sustainability case has been made for the Artisanal Milling concept. Tropenbos Ghana has piloted formation of business partnerships between artisanal millers and some Timber Utilization Contract (TUC) holders. Many of the mills supplying the domestic market now have taken inspiration and set up mills based on the artisanal milling concept. Most mills in Ghana use wood mizers and Lucas mill to process timber.



Challenges and Concerns:

- Access to raw materials for artisanal mills is the biggest concern.
- TUC holders feel they are not under any obligation to remove all allocated yield (100% removal) hence they are a bit hesitant and not committed to partnership formation
- Implementation modalities need government adoption to materialize, and that is yet to officially happen
- In collaboration with Forestry Commission Training Centre (FCTC) & TIDD, facilitate training, licensing and certification of all ATM operators
- Artisanal Timber Millers should liaise with RMSC to facilitate their access to raw materials – use of small-scale TUC in the new LI2254 will be a good starting point.
- Forestry Commission should devise a framework to motivate millers to supply the bulk of their production to the domestic market
- If 100% yield removal is operationalized, TUC holders should be compelled to form partnerships with artisanal millers/MRTs – however, these partnerships should provide business value for TUC holders before they will be willing to get involved

Proposed Action Point(s):

- Government should support all small-scale millers (chainsaw millers) to transition into ATM and then encourage them to join domestic millers association to ensure monitoring
- To overcome the seeming inertia in the artisanal milling concept discussion, civil society is asked to take a step back and allow business to business discussions to promote the idea to policy makers

Chainsaw millers with support and capacity building can progress to become Artisanal millers.



5. DOMESTIC TIMBER TRADE NETWORK (DOTTNET):

The Domestic Timber Trade Network (also known as the DoTTNet), is a TIDD initiative to restructure the domestic timber trade and industry to promote trade in legal timber on the domestic market. The process is aimed at creating synergies along the timber value chain:

Suppliers of raw materials: (GTA/GTMO), Millers (GTMO/DoLMAG), Traders (DoLTA/GSTA) and end-users (FAWAG/WAG/GREDA/Contractors). The DoTTNet concept has very good potential to address issues of supply of timber to the domestic market through a business approach.

Challenges and Concerns:

- One key challenge will be delivering on contracts, which have in the past proven to be difficult, especially, from TUC holders.
- DoTTNet is relatively very new to most industry players and there is the need to publicize it.

Proposed Action Point(s):

- Structure five (5) existing timber markets in partnership with private sector and pilot the strategy.
- A lot of awareness creation on DoTTNet needs to be done to



Cote d'Ivoire Dialogue



A workshop on legal supply and demand solutions for timber on the national market in a changing landscape in Côte d'Ivoire was held on 14th September 2018 at the Manhattan Suites hotel in Abidjan.

Participants at the workshop came from the state actor of forestry administration, the private wood sector, loggers, small and medium forest companies, carpenters, charcoal burners, artisanal saw millers and civil society organizations from Abidjan, Affery, Abengourou and San Pedro.





Ghana has made progress on the issue of national timber market in particular and public timber procurement policy. However, Ivorian timber market is specific, as well as are the stakeholders.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that the stakeholders involved in this issue include actors such as the government, associations, stakeholders in the timber industry, small and medium-sized forestry companies and civil society organizations.

Deforestation, bio-diversity loss and increasing poverty among communities in West Africa are partly due to nearly a century of unsustainable timber trade, less concerned about legality and sustainability requirements than in recent times.

With the aim of facilitating legally sourced timber supply

mechanisms in the national market of the three countries (Ghana, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire), and to lay the groundwork of a framework for discussion between the government and stakeholders in the wood sector, GNT-CI organized for the Côte d'Ivoire side, a workshop on the main challenges of the national timber market in Côte d'Ivoire. The conclusions are meant to serve as a basis to trigger other actions for a long-term sustainable solution in the national market.

The project, which brought together stakeholders around the same discussion table, aimed to increase the capacity of the timber industry while promoting the transformation of the domestic market to increase the supply and demand of legal timber; the push for supply initiatives, inter-company commitment and

to increase the supply of legal timber; but also, to establish a dialogue between the private timber sector as a whole and the government of the partner countries on the issues of the national market; encourage the import of wood to reduce the pressure on the forest and meet the demands for legal timber, especially on the domestic market; strengthen the existing

regulatory framework; adapt the regulations to the actors; secure supplies through appropriate and targeted reforestation. Developing independent observation at the national market level were some of the recommendations that could provide a sustainable solution for legal timber in the domestic market and ensure good forest governance and improvement of the national tracking system.





The second was that of Cne. Cheick Tidiane, the focal point of the VPA FLEGT process, who made a presentation on the context and challenges of the national market.

METHODOLOGY

The workshop took place in two stages. The first consisted of the presentations and the second, a constituted panel where discussions were moderated between the stakeholders by a facilitator.

With Prof. Hilaire YAOKOKORE of the National Working Group for Sustainable Management of Forests and Forest Certification (GNT-CI) as the host, the event was facilitated by Lt. Col. KOUDOU epe GNAHOUE. The Ministry of Water and Forests Wildlife and Flora was represented by Col Zouzou, Deputy Director General. Presentations were made by Ms. Abena Woode of NDF who focused on the context and the axes of the project.

The industrial timber sector in Cote d'Ivoire is export oriented. The domestic market is largely supplied by chainsaw milling because the demand from the domestic market is increasing. To overcome this, several initiatives are under way and for which Côte d'Ivoire is committed. These include the REDD + mechanism in 2011 and the

VPA negotiations in 2013. To reinforce the instruments to improve the control and strengthen the governance of the actions, the law N° 2014-427 of 14 July 2014 on the Forest Code was promulgated, the general state of the forests, the adoption of the national REDD + strategy and the national policy of preservation, rehabilitation and extension of forests in 2018 (Strategy in course of preparation)

Figure 4: VPA Representative, Cne Cheick Sylla (Present context and Challenges of domestic market) ▼



and at the moment the coherence of the Forest Code with the National Policy.

In Côte d'Ivoire, Decree No. 73-490 of 11 September 1973 recognizes the existence of a local timber market and provisions for its supply have been made and Order No. 00624 MINEF / DGEF / DPIF of November 24, 2011 modifying the order No. 0005MINEF / DGEF / DPIF of September 15, 2011 marks a beginning of organization and operation of the local market (opening of sales depots of wood, installation and operation of joinery). However, these texts, which still govern the national timber market, prove to be insufficient for its full formalization. In Cote d'Ivoire, between 2015 and 2016, consumption was estimated at 1.9

million cubic meters (m³) of sawn wood and 167,019.80 m³ of processed and sold wood. In addition, the volume of land-based exports was estimated at 113 000m³ of sawn timber.

However, to ensure a legal supply of timber in the national market, challenges still need to be addressed at the institutional, economic, and fiscal and control levels. It will be a question of:

- strengthening the existing regulatory framework,
- of adapting the regulation to the actors through accreditation by category of actors,
- to launch the discussions on the decree fixing the supply quota of the national market,
- to carry out studies to know the national demand,
- to help the professionalization of the actors and
- to ensure the application of the regulatory texts
- to implement Independent forest monitoring

All these will be possible only if the actors have been sensitized, trained, supervised and supported. For this, it will trigger immediate action to have impact.



*Mr. Gueu Gilles Dienot
of Private Sector during
his presentation*

Mr. Gilles Dienot Gueu spoke about the Context and challenges of the National Wood Market in Côte d'Ivoire, State of play of national timber market and the mechanisms for a legally sourced timber supply in the national market

Mr. Gueu Gilles Dienot of Private Sector during his presentation



A participant making a contribution

Conclusions and Recommendations from the workshop

At the end of the "workshop on solutions to offer and demand for legal wood on the national market in a changing landscape in Cote d'Ivoire" the following recommendations were made:

At the level of the Government:

1. Improve the visibility of the state on the "political will" to supply the national market with legal timber;
2. Strengthen the regulatory framework of the national market;
3. Pursue ongoing initiatives to promote legal timber on the national market;
4. Encourage import of wood to reduce the pressure on the forest and meet the demands

- of legal timber, especially on the national market;
5. Define wood needs at the national market level;
6. Facilitate market access and installation of new artisans and SMEs;
7. Continue thinking about efficient and effective forest control;
8. Decentralize the issuance of timber approvals at the regional level;

At the private sector level:

1. Secure supplies through appropriate and targeted reforestation;
2. Professionalize SMEs and wood craftsmen.

At the level of civil society:

1. Develop independent observation at the national market level.

The Liberian Dialogue

In Liberia, the private and public sectors are increasingly working together with civil society to find solutions to complex challenges arising from interdependent forest sector problems and conflicts. Experience from other regions of the world also shows that long-term successes are achieved when joint efforts are undertaken to get solutions underway. That is why stakeholder dialogues, such as the dialogues that took place above among Liberian stakeholders concerned with the issues of domestic timber was a very important approach to promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forests in Liberia.



INTRODUCTION

The one-day private sector and government dialogue on domestic timber market issues in Liberia was organized by VOSIEDA in partnership with NDF (Nature and Development Foundation of Ghana) on July 20th 2018 at the Corina Hotel in Monrovia, Liberia.

Participants for the dialogue included actors in government, industry associations, and civil society organizations among others as the first step in exchanging ideas about how to address the urgent challenge of accessing and utilizing legally produced timber in Liberia's domestic markets under the VPA regime.

Also present were representatives of multinational institutions including the European Union and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Thirty-five persons participated in the meeting. We are hopeful that these policy opinions and recommendations will serve as basis to trigger other actions for a sustainable solution in accessing and utilizing legally produced timber in Liberia's domestic markets in the long term under the FLEGT VPA regime. The dialogue

was facilitated by Mr. Andrew Tehmeh, Executive Director of VOICE Liberia, and an independent moderator, who successfully steered the dialogue to its thriving conclusions.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES:

- To gather policy opinion and recommendations to enable Liberia meet her voluntary partnership agreement (VPA) obligations through improved integration of domestic timber markets under the VPA regime.



- To forward policy opinions and recommendations to VPA policy makers to guide the crafting of Liberia's VPA safeguards;
- To trigger other actions for a sustainable long-term solution to Liberia domestic timber markets under the VPA.

METHODOLOGY

A similar methodology as Ghana was adopted for Liberia. The Liberian dialogue was made up of presentations to introduce the topics from various experts which were mostly followed by discussions. Different experts were then empaneled to discuss specific topics. Discussion was facilitated and other participants present invited to make inputs periodically.

Conclusions and recommendations from the dialogue modelled for the different actors in the Liberian forestry space are presented in the next section.

A panel discusses measures to make Liberia's domestic Timber market more sustainable



CONCLUSIONS AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS:

Liberia has made significant efforts in recent years to tackle illegal logging. The policy assessment demonstrates that progress has been made in the majority of the policy areas discussed; and the hope is that such progress will continue as Liberia implements its VPA with the EU. The establishment of Liberia's legality assurance system will be another step forward, and one that should give further impetus to efforts to tackle illegal activities in the forest sector. However, there remain many challenges. Enforcement of legislation remains poor especially in tackling chainsaw milling.

During the various exchanges from the dialogue, it became clear that the roles and contribution of Forests to Liberia's economy and environment have not been fully realized by stakeholders particularly government. Therefore, the need to avoid poor forest governance by banning or immediately regulating chain saw milling, stop forest conversions, inadequate resource allocation and neglect of the forest subsector is still problematic, which have greater implication for the VPA implementation.

Research including scientific and socio-economic evidences based information for example on the roles and contributions of forest sub-sector to national development and environmental well-being is low among stakeholders. Therefore, future consequences of deforestation and forest degradation; models of best forest management practices; forest management plans are still not being discussed at the national level.

During the dialogue, it was evident that there is still a lack of





mass pressure to elicit supportive environment and government actions on policy implementation and law enforcement (to curb illegal activities such as deforestation and forest degradation, resource user conflicts etc.). There was serious lamentation from all stakeholders about low resource allocation to the FDA and prioritization of the Forestry subsector in National Development and planning, or even stop political interference in matters of forest governance.

Considerable effort has been made to tackle the issue of illegal chainsaw milling, and this

should remain a priority. At the same time, given the continued over-harvesting of the country's forest resources, the question of how to establish a sustainable as well as legal forest sector demands serious consideration. Forestry stakeholders such as Liberia Timber Association, Forestry Development Authority, Chainsaw millers, most Civil Society Organizations, etc. do not have required technical and financial capacity to actively gather information and data and to train communities in VPA LAS, etc.

Recommendations:

The dialogue ended with the following recommendations/policy options for the different stakeholders:

- a) Communities: Communities, especially farming communities, community forestry committees, etc. must be helped to get better organized and awareness raised about the benefit of sustainable forest management, and the VPA . In this way they help to fight illegal chainsaw milling and demand to improve the domestic timber markets.
- b) SMEs/local wood processing businesses: Government and her development partners must enforce the small business empowerment law to provide support to small social entrepreneurs as was the case

with Ghana especially in wood process sectors; empowering them both financially and technically.

Chainsaw millers will benefit most from forming a national association to represent their interests and establishing a channel of communication to their constituents. Therefore, grassroot chainsaw millers must not only wait for donor funding but must make efforts to get better organized, registered with government and present themselves as an accountable organization. In this way, they can be very relevant in influencing policy development and implementation. As one of the dialogues brought it out, chainsaw operation would be easily modernized to artisanal

milling to enable the millers secure the future. As seen in Ghana's case, artisanal milling is small-medium scale milling of timber from specified legal sources by a trained, certified, registered and licensed local artisan, using licensed portable sawmilling equipment, which excludes any form of chainsaw machines, capable of recovering at least 50% of dimension lumber from logs for the domestic market only.

- c) **Civil Society Organization (CSOs):** CSOs are demonstrating interest, commitment and willingness to work in the forestry sector. However, the whole spectrum of civil society organizations in Liberia, from advocacy and lobbying groups to research and development organizations depends largely on foreign donor funds. Given the clear trend of reduced international aid worldwide and especially for Liberia, Liberian NGOs must now change their business model. Organizations that can

play a more "neutral" role in forest governance processes must become more proactive in obtaining funds from industry and government. Civil society and academic institutions need to take up the courage to approach the management of FDA on issues of concerns including timber legality on the domestic markets.

- d) **Government/FDA:** Government must become more proactive in creating enabling conditions to meet the demand for timber for the domestic market from legal sources. This would be accomplished in two ways: a) by immediately regulating chainsaw milling – government current efforts to address the problem is too slow and ineffective; b) By honouring her own commitments and comparing large timber concessions to establish saw mills as enshrined in their concession agreements.





Government must eliminate illegal timber production and trade and promote good governance in the supply of timber for the domestic market through promoting modernization and retooling of local chainsaw milling industries; and by promoting community-based enterprises as alternative livelihoods for forest-adjacent communities.

e) **EU, World Bank and other Development Partners Provide** direct funding support in the form of cheap loans for local industry development. Too much funding to international NGOs for development projects and the Liberian government for capacity building will not practically address the problem of illegal domestic timber. Without improvement in local timber harvesting practices, local people will still use chainsaws

indiscriminately no matter the amount of resources given to government or international development organizations for research projects.

EU, World Bank, FAO, etc. to set aside small grants under special arrangement to enable and allow as many indigenous CSOs and communities to engage and participate in the VPA process. This fund would be managed by the EU directly or by a CSO or by an independent committee. The fund could be managed, for example at a 25% management fee and hire an expert that oversees and monitors the implementation of the different smaller projects by wide range of community groups and CSOs in forest communities/counties of Liberia for wider engagement and awareness on the issues of chainsaw milling and illegal logging.

Media Training and Tour of Timber Production in Ghana

Media Tour On The Public Procurement Policy On Timber & Timber Products

Being the fourth estate of realm, the role of the media demanding accountability is recognized. Nature & Development Foundation (NDF) in recognizing this role decided to partner the media to demand accountability in respect of the Public Procurement Policy on Timber and Timber products. As

part of the project, representatives from ten (10) selected media houses in Ghana were exposed to and enlightened on the policy, its processes and current state. The journalists were taken through a two-day classroom session to understand the policy document. This was followed by a three-day tour to selected timber markets, a timber processing factory and a forest reserve to experience both the good and bad practices of forestry in Ghana.

The training was facilitated by Mr. Kojo Akoto Boateng, a media expert with hands-on-skills and great wealth of experience and a passion for the environment.



The classroom session introduced participants to the elements of forestry as it is practiced in Ghana. The realities and challenges that forestry managers encounter were explained in detail.

The training

- gave participants an exposure to the impending public procurement policy on timber & timber products
- built capacity of journalists to follow up appropriate authorities and write articles on the public procurement policy on timber and timber products
- expanded the pool of journalists who write on environmental and forestry issues



Beneficiary media participants in a class room training



Tour to Timber Markets



Tour to Processing Companies



Mr. Segbedoh takes participants through the process of log tracking in the company. Health and safety is not compromised on the company's premises.

Opportunity for questions and answers with the media at the log yard



Following the right procedure of forestry practice ensures good utilization of timber which avoids waste, promotes efficient use and sustains the resource base

Tour to Forest Reserves



Participants are taken through forestry process from permitting through yield allocation and harvesting at the office of the District Manager for Nkawie, Nana Bosompim

Participants visit a log yard in a forest





Tour of high volume timber users including participants from Liberia + Cote d'Ivoire

The demand and supply of legal timber within Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia is still a challenge. The first tour was held for mainly high volume timber consumers from Ghana with a few delegates from the different stakeholder groups from Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia. With an objective to show participants how and where to access legal timber, the tour was made to both large and small timber producers in Ghana who have capacity to supply different

quantities. The overall goal of the tour was to facilitate and lessen the burden of purchasing legal timber in the domestic market especially by private allied entities. Five representatives each from Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia from various industries and sectors joined in the tour.

Participants from Ghana came from the Chartered Institute of Builders (CIOB), Association of Building and

Civil Engineering contractors of Ghana (A.B.C.E.C.G.), and Association of Ghana Industries (AGI) and the Kumasi Wood Cluster Association.

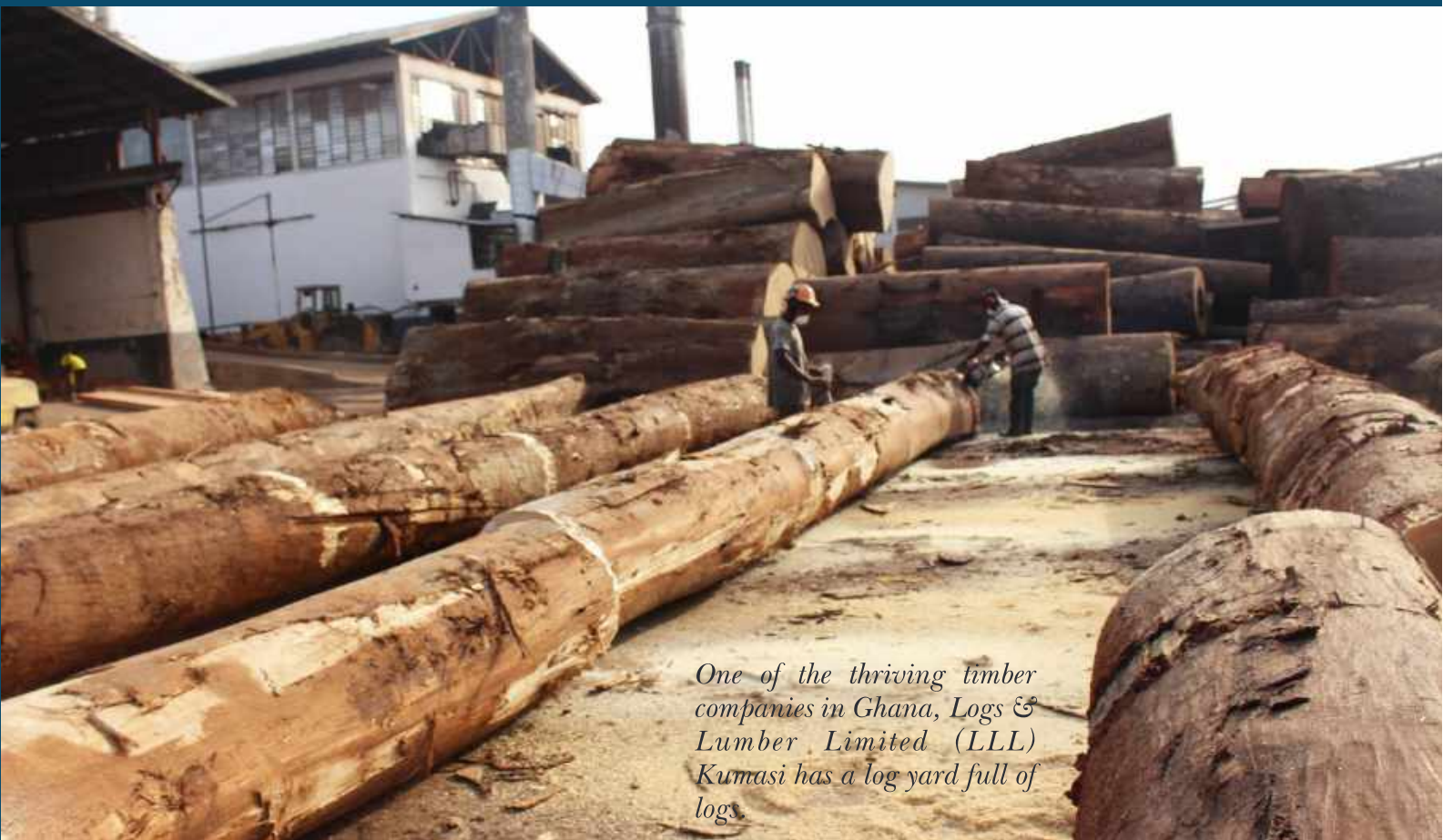
The wood processing companies visited were:

- Mondial Veneer Limited - ⁽⁵⁷⁾ Takoradi
- John Bitar & Co. Limited - Takoradi
- PAYAB Wood Processing

- Woodlow Company Limited- Assin Fosu
- Sir Charles Wood Processing Company- New Edubiase
- Logs & Lumber Limited- Kumasi.

The tour culminated in a day's dialogue among all participants to fashion out solutions to some of the identified problems.

Timber Processing



One of the thriving timber companies in Ghana, Logs & Lumber Limited (LLL) Kumasi has a log yard full of logs.

Felled logs are brought to the central log yard of the sawmill. At this log yard, Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) personnel inspect the logs that have come in for the day. The personnel obtains the LMCC and cross checks for corresponding details on logs with details on the LMCC.

TIDD personnel employ the use of handheld tablets to grade logs for checks of defects. Once all the checks are conducted and measurements are verified, logs are certified for milling.

Rotary Veneer Processing



Ecological and zero waste Veneer production at Logs & Lumber Limited (LLL) in Kumasi.

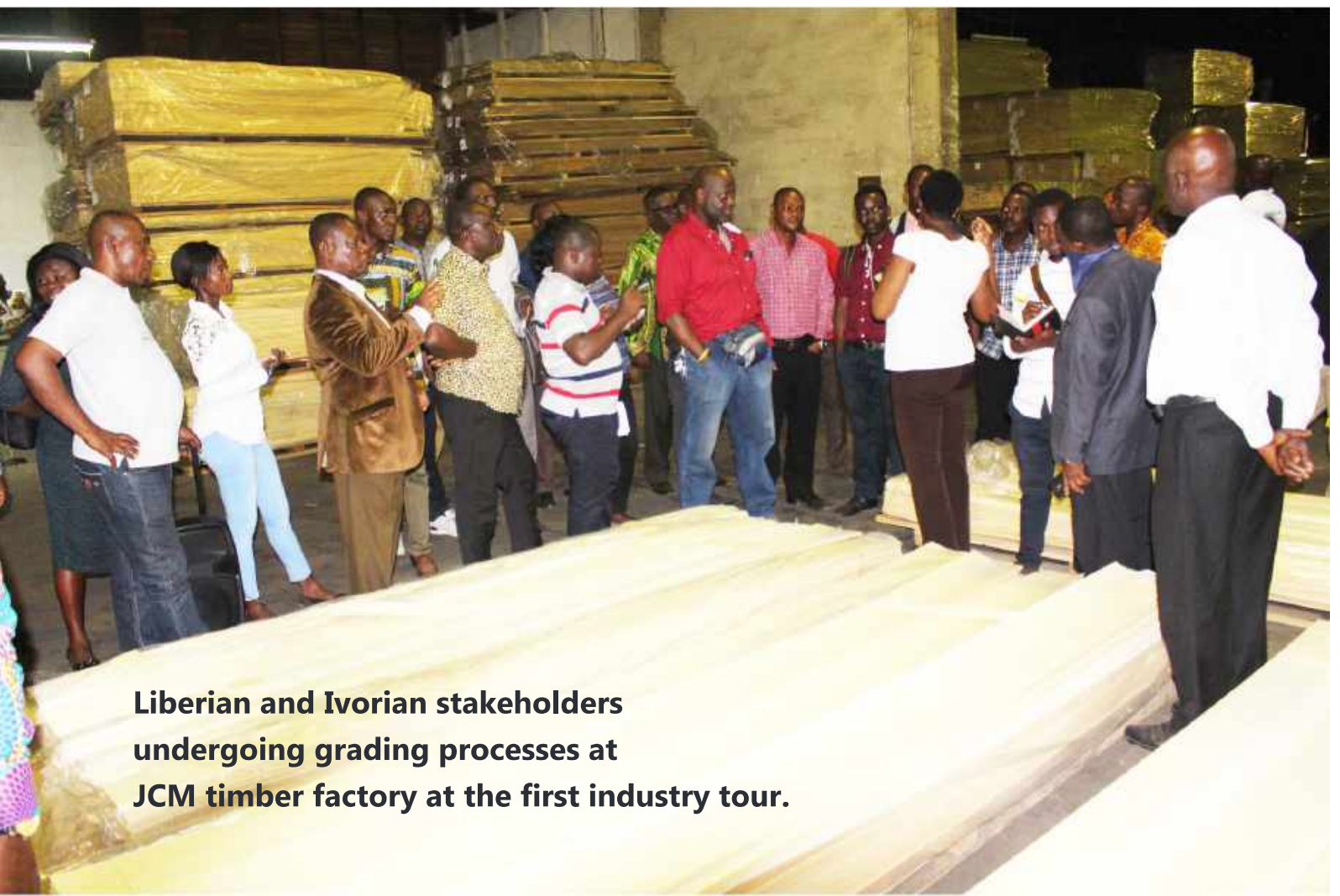
The Rotary Veneer section is a much-automated section. Peeled veneer that are produced in this section have unified dimensions. Logs at this section are sometimes boiled or steamed.

Boiling of logs depend on the tree species and or the contract specification. Boiling or steaming logs aids in the smooth peeling of log that generate

veneer products.

After boiling, logs undergo debarking and continuous rotated peeling. Veneer of thickness from 0.8mm to 4.2mm can be produced from this section.

Waste from this section feeds the boiler and generates heat. Sheets with wormholes and other defects usually feed the local market.



Liberian and Ivorian stakeholders undergoing grading processes at JCM timber factory at the first industry tour.



Many timber companies in Ghana have folded up while others have scaled down. Log yards like this is a common occurrence throughout the country. The passage of the public procurement policy on timber and timber products will provide some protection to legally operated forest enterprises and arrest illegal logging.

Key messages and lessons from the tour and dialogue

- Some participants in the past bought timber from the larger sawmills which are now free zones companies
- In bidding for contracts, the lowest price wins most of the time so contractors are forced to quote low prices for wood for projects
- The quoted prices can only allow the use of cheap timber which is sometimes illegal
- Quality of such timber is low and makes working with difficult
- Three of the companies visited are Free Zones Companies
- At least 70% of timber from all free zones companies exported
- The Ghana Standards Authority has introduced/reintroduced new requirements for wood for projects
- Such wood can only be acquired from sawmills where standards are high (MC, dimensions etc.)
- The prices of these products are however very expensive
- The free zones companies are willing to sell to participants if they can afford
- Those sold locally still come with about 45% duties making the price very expensive in Ghana

Recommendations coming out of the tour

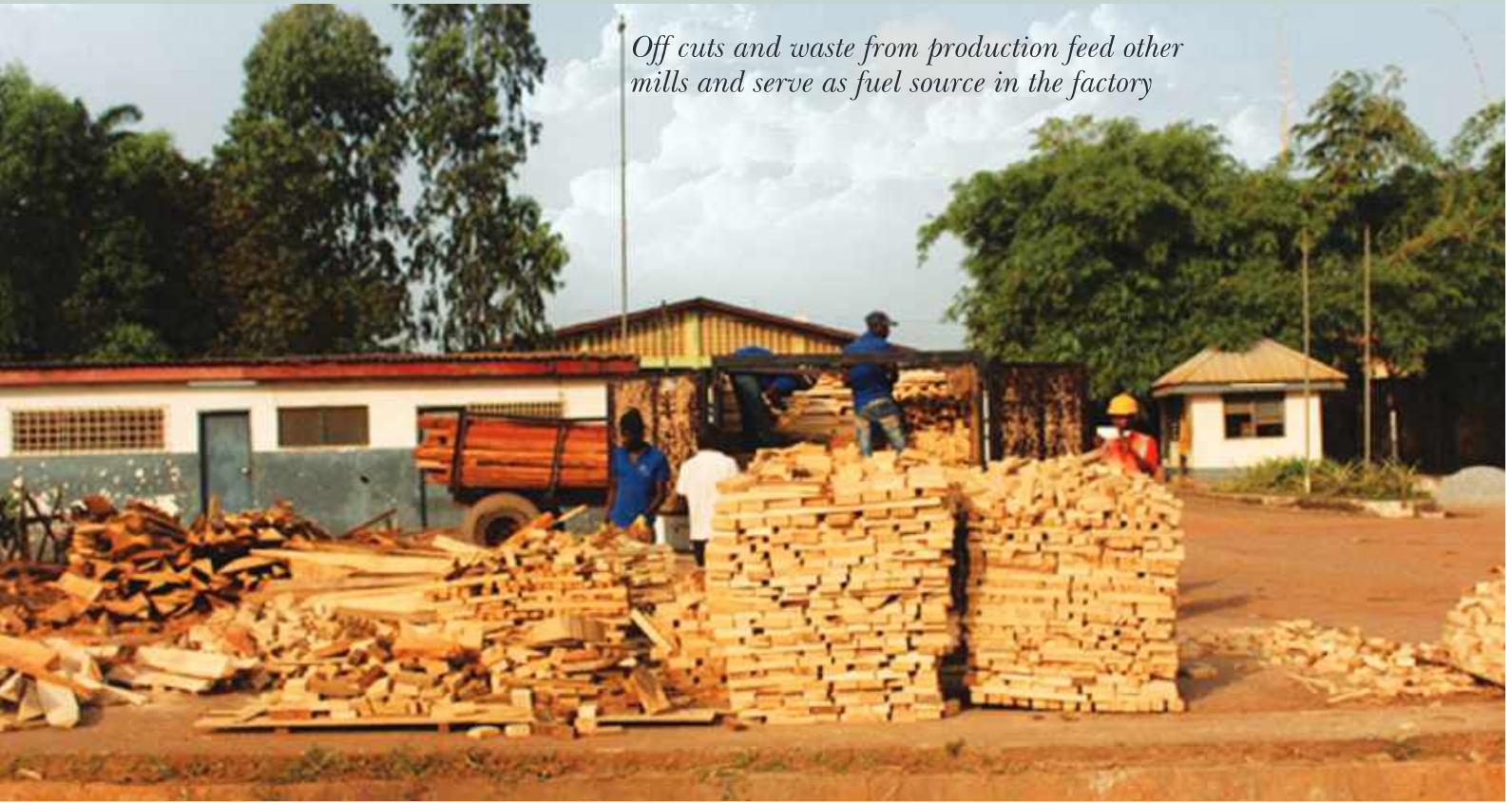
- There is a call for the passage of the policy on timber and timber products (PPP) that ensures the use of only legal timber in projects in Ghana – this will restrict price quotations are restricted to only legal timber
- Government requested to remove import duties for local consumers for Free zones timber producing companies
- Enforce standards and specifications for all other smaller sawmills
- Further engagement of the high volume consumers is recommended

The passage of the Public Procurement Policy on timber and timber products will ensure enough legal wood are supplied to the domestic market for use





Safety at production site is one of the requirements of operating a FLEGT License and LLL in Kumasi has a policy to ensure workers and visitors alike adhere to this safety regulation.



Off cuts and waste from production feed other mills and serve as fuel source in the factory

Tour on Ghana's Wood Tracking System

A tour was organized to introduce relevant stakeholders to the Wood Tracking System (WTS) of Ghana. Ghana, far advanced in VPA implementation is expected to issue FLEGT licenses soon. Ghana's success status is expected to serve as case study for Cote D'Ivoire and Liberia through this two (2) day tour to John Bitar Company Ltd and Suhuma Forest Reserve all in the Western Region.

The Wood Tracking System (WTS) is a system developed by The Forestry Commission of Ghana as part of FLEGT VPA

negotiations of Ghana. The WTS ensures a correlation between the forest, trees logged and logs converted to lumber and other products.

Ghana's WTS utilizes handheld devices equipped with survey apps in real-time. Survey data from these devices generate reports, maps and other relevant information needed in real time.

Under Ghana's Wood Tracking System (WTS), handheld devices are deployed for

all surveys and activities that were otherwise manual. The devices are fitted with an app which records all details in real-time. From the stock survey and yield survey processes, the system generates the stock map and the yield map. WTS starts from Forest Reserve, locality/ jurisdiction and tracks logs that have arrived at the mill, goes through all mill processes up to export.



At the factory, logs are given Factory numbers in the mill. Each batch of logs/ wood that goes through each section of the mill processes (sawmill, Kiln drying, moulding, rotary, slicing) is given a Batch number refer to the factory numbers.





Women in Timber industry

A number of women are employed at JCM. These women work same time shifts as men and receive equal pay for their labour.



FLEGT-VPA (Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade – Voluntary Partnership Agreement) once started is ticked to sanitise the exportation of timber. The main challenge is however with the domestic market and domestic consumption. The domestic market of Ghana is estimated to

consume substantial volumes of timber. Although the specific volumes consumed by governments and private allied entities (including construction, real estate and furniture industries) are not known, it is submitted that, domestic timber consumption in Ghana is about 50-60% of the total production.

The Suhuma Forest Reserve in the Western region. Suhuma Forest Reserve is one of FSC Certified Wood reserves. FSC Certification follows that the forest reserve is operated in an environmentally, economically and socially responsible manner.




The Wood Tracking System (WTS) is a system developed by The Forestry Commission of Ghana as part of FLEGT VPA negotiations which Ghana signed on to in 2009. The WTS

ensures that there is a correlation between the tree in the forest, logged and converted from a log to lumber or a specific product.

Before logging in a forest reserve is allowed, management plans for the forest reserve are consulted to determine the compartment which is ready for harvesting. The stock survey exercise is undertaken in the compartment demarcated for harvesting. 30cm strips at 15cm apart are created for easy access and identification of tree location and species during the tree/stock survey exercise.

Where logging companies and loggers continue infractions the company can be suspended from operations and or their permit can be revoked.

A person wearing a yellow safety vest and a white long-sleeved shirt is inspecting a large log. The log has white markings on its surface, including the number '123456789'. The person is looking down at the log. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Felled logs are indicated with the following details in indelible ink on the main cross sectional area of the log: -

Species

- Locality Mark
- Company Name
- Stock Number
- Contactor number
- Forest Reserve

Code

- Compartment number
- This information is also transferred onto the TIF, LIF, LMCC and all other necessary documents. When all details are correct, a Lumber Inspection Certificate (LIC) issued from mill to port for the lumber to be exported. At the port, a Mock FLEGT licence is awarded.



Nature and Development Foundation's mission is to help build a society in which human development and nature conservation complement each other. NDF believes we can realise our vision, which we believe others share, through the pursuit of the following key approaches:

- Mobilising key players, such as industry, local communities, consumer markets and governments in relevant countries in West Africa to create the conditions and solutions that can drive sustainable natural resource utilization on the ground.
- Creating partnerships with key organisations, such as industry and governments in relevant countries in West Africa plus other strategic civil society organizations in policy dialogue and developing market mechanisms to act as stimuli for positive change.
- Engaging in activities around other land-uses impacting the forest landscape in West Africa, focusing on sustainable forms of land use in appropriate locations.

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