

The Flegt

Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade

Newsletter

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© CT Women in Forestry being briefed on log measurement and calculations

WOMEN IN FORESTRY GIVEN PRACTICAL FEEL OF FORESTRY SECTOR

A group of women in the forestry sector, known as Women in Forestry, have been given a comprehensive feel of the industry with a three-day trip to some important places in the Ashanti Region.

The women, drawn from academia, media, private and public sectors, visited the Logs and Lumber Limited (LLL) premises in Kumasi, where they were taken through the processes of

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BE DILIGENT WITH DOCUMENTATION - Forest Enterprises Urged

Small, Medium Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) have been urged to be diligent with documentation of their activities in order to meet the requirements of the supervising institutions.

Speaking at a workshop for Small, Medium-sized Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) on keeping legal documents, at

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SEFWI-BOPA RESIDENTS RELISH STATUS • As Forest Beneficiaries



© ECG Community Engagement

Members of Ghana's forest fringe communities are now heaving sighs of relieve following the revelations that they are legal beneficiaries of proceeds from Forest Reserves. This fact jolted them.

"Initially we thought the Forest Reserve belonged to the government, so we were not interested in what happens in there until some Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) came to educate us on the benefits of the Forest to the communities around it; so we started to protect it with all our hearts," says 59-

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© KWC Senior Project Officer, Madam Betty Abeyie, briefing participants on documentation processes

GHANA ASKED TO ADOPT 'GREEN DEAL' OR LOSE PROJECTS



© TBI

GHANA has been asked by The European Union (EU) to hook up to its Green Deal policy or lose out on future support.

According to Programme Officer of the European Union (EU) Delegation to Ghana, Mr. Chris Ackon, the decision of the EU is geared towards ensuring conservation of biodiversity as a means of fighting climate change.

Addressing the Inception meeting of the project, "Developing the capacity of Loggers without processing mills" organized by the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) in Accra, Mr. Ackon urged Ghana to latch onto the Policy to ensure biodiversity conservation in the country.

He reiterated that, "every action must have aspects of this Green Deal aimed at

biodiversity conservation," adding that, the EU would require the policy of its partners in future projects.

The **European Green Deal** aims to transform the 27-country bloc from a high- to a low-carbon economy, without reducing prosperity and while improving people's quality of life, through cleaner air and water, better health and a thriving natural world.

For her part, Ms Abena Woode, Capacity Building Expert of the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), disclosed that, the decision to develop the capacity of loggers without mills was borne out of the realization that, "many of them have little understanding of critical requirements of the sector."

She explained that, as initiators of harvesting operations in the timber supply chain, the actions of these loggers impact significantly on the Ghana Legality Assurance System (GhLAS), thus the need to train them to comply with the requirements of legality under the Forest Law Enforcement and Governance Trade (FLEGT) programme.

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SEFWI-BOPA RESIDENTS RELISH STATUS

• *As Forest Beneficiaries*

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year-old Bernard Fofie, farmer of Sefwi-Bopa, a forest fringe community in the Akontombra District of Ghana's Western North Region.

Sefwi-Bopa is a predominantly cocoa farming area with over 3,660 inhabitants and one of the communities bordering the Suhuma Forest Reserve.

Bernard's sentiments echo the resentment community members had been harbouring against forest reserves, the resources of which they are traditionally, the custodians.

Forest reserves are among the legacies Ghana inherited from the British colonial administration. They were created to basically protect the head waters of some of the country's major rivers and to serve as a reliable source of timber and lumber.

Following this action, local community members saw the reserves as government's property and so cared less about their state. But no more.

Community members are now playing active roles in protecting the forests. "There used to be a lot of illegal chainsaw activities in this forest some years back, but after we were made aware by the NGOs that we are part of the key stakeholders in the management of this

forest, we are now alert and do not allow anybody to enter the forest without permit," Bernard stated.

The interaction with the NGOs has obviously resulted in a paradigm shift leading to effective collaboration among the key stakeholders. According to Bernard; "there is now a very cordial relationship among the community, the Timber Contractors, Forestry Commission and the District Assembly, so we now ensure that the forest is well protected and we have done our best to push out all the illegal chain saw operators from this area."



Such collaboration would not have been possible in the past as forest fringe communities were completely marginalized and were not recognized as part of credible stakeholder group in a sector, described by many "as highly influenced by commercial interests and political power." The communities were stifled and thus never had access to equitable forest benefits.

Source: Ecocare Ghana

WOMEN IN FORESTRY GIVEN PRACTICAL FEEL OF FORESTRY SECTOR

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transforming logs from the forest into finished products.

Mr. Albert Baku, Assistant Certification Officer of Logs and Lumber Limited (LLL), disclosed that the company employs state-of-the-art equipment in processing the logs into finished products, ensuring that nothing goes to waste.

“In the timber industry there is nothing like waste. We make use of every part of timber from the time it gets to our log yard till we finally come out with the finished products”.

He said, when logs are debarked, the bark is either given to herbal medicine producers or converted into fuel for their wood dryers, adding that, “From that stage, the wood goes through a lot of processes with some transformed into sliced or rotary veneer, plywood or other materials, depending on the orders we get.”

The women, some of whom are nursing mothers, also went into the Jimira Forest

Reserve to observe how trees are felled, dragged to the log yard, measured and data entered into legality assurance documents before being transported to the yards of the concessionaires.

Prior to the visit, they were briefed at the Nkawie Forest District office by the District Manager, Mr. Chrisantus Nifasoyir.

Having gone through the forest experience, the group made a stop-over at a lumber checkpoint to see in real time, the act of checking documentation on logs in transit.

Feeling enlightened by the experience, the women called for more of such trips to deepen their knowledge and prepare those in school ahead of their actual resumption of work.



© CT Women in Forestry at the Jimira Forest Reserve

The visit of the Women in Forestry, funded by the UKaid, through Client Earth, an NGO, was part of efforts at encouraging and sensitizing women to take up key roles in the forestry sector, an area perceived to be predominantly occupied by their male counterparts.

Source: Communications Team

PRIVATE TIMBER FIRMS GET ACCESS TO WOOD TRACKING SYSTEM



© NDF Participants at the launch of the Portal

A web and mobile phone based portal that gives private timber firms access to the Ghana Wood Tracking System (GWTS), has been launched in Accra.

With this new portal, timber industries in Ghana can now publicly demonstrate their adherence to legality in sourcing wood by entering data on the products they have and

information on tracing such products to their sources.

According to Mr. Glen Asomaning, Operations Director of Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), the portal was developed in response to complaints from the private timber industries that, they were not given access to the GWTS.

The Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) in collaboration with the Timber Validation Department of the Forestry Commission took the initiative to develop the portal to resolve the matter and sought support from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) of the UK Government.

“So we sought funding from UKAid to develop this platform to enable private industries upload information and view information on the Wood Tracking System,” he said. “Work that would have taken them days to perform and to travel from the hinterlands to the city centre to do, can now be done in the comfort of their offices”

With input from all the major stakeholders, the portal was developed and hooked on to the GWTS, easing the work of the staff of the Forestry Commission, who had the sole prerogative to the system.

Mr. Asomaning urged the stakeholders to continue to contribute to the success of the portal and to make very good use of it in the discharge of their various jobs.

According to Margaret Appiah, Projects

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ADVOCATE PUSHES FOR GENDER BUDGETING IN FORESTRY PROJECTS



© CommsTeam Doreen Asumang-Yeboah, Natural Resource Consultant and Gender Advocate

A gender advocate, Mrs. Doreen Asumang-Yeboah, is appealing to state institutions, corporate bodies and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to consider gender budgeting when putting together projects and programmes, especially in the forestry sector.

She indicated that, making provision for

gender in project planning ensures inclusion and enhances the development process.

Mrs. Asumang-Yeboah, who was speaking at a forestry sector Legal Working Group Meeting organized by Client Earth and Taylor Crabbe

Initiative, in Accra, said when gender budgeting is considered in planning, “the perspective of diverse groups (men and women) are incorporated, different roles are played, and the differences in impact of interventions on their lives are felt”.

She noted that different groups make different contributions to interventions in society and organizations, thus the need to include them comprehensively in all projects.

Shedding more light on the need for gender budgeting, she narrated her own experience where, as a nursing mother, she had to travel along with her mother and carry along various baby care items to facilitate her participation in a programme away from her area. “But for the recognition of my needs and appropriate budgetary support, it would have been very difficult for me,” she recounted.

Mrs. Asumang-Yeboah defined gender budgeting as “an approach to budgeting to address gender inequality, through the structuring of fiscal policies and administrative procedures,” adding that, the overall objective is to increase gender responsive and transformation in interventions.

Gender issues have taken centre stage in many parts of the world with activists calling for greater inclusion of marginalised groups in society. Gender activists hold the view that changing perceptions about some groups would transform the world.

Gender, in some sectors, has been limited to feminism, relegating other equally disadvantaged groups struggling to gain their rightful place in society. Mrs. Asumang-Yeboah posits that gender budgeting ought not be limited to feminism but rather be given a more global outlook to be meaningful, noting that, some people have historically been excluded from a process due to gender, race and ability.

She proposed funding for the services of gender specialist support (consultants/staff) to design appropriate programmes to address gender imbalances and the allocation of funds for child care support, among others in projects and programmes. “Institutionalization of maternity, paternity and other family related leaves among staff, the existence of gender friendly facilities (eg. washrooms etc) are some of the necessary considerations to ensure gender equality.”

GHANA ASKED TO ADOPT 'GREEN DEAL' OR LOSE PROJECTS

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Ultimately, their lack of compliance with the laws affect the issuance of FLEGT License, Export Permit, Domestic Timber Inspection Certificate (DoTIC), wherever appropriate along the chain of custody, she stated.

Under the project, NDF, with funding from the EU, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, and the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom and Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) through the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme, will build the capacity of 40 concession holders without processing mills to comply with Ghana's timber legality definition.

The Organization will also develop the capacity of an additional 24 identified concession holders without processing mills to have knowledge and be able to comply with Health and Safety Standard requirements under the Ghana Legality Assurance system.

The project, a component of the EU FAO FLEGT Programme, has the Forestry Commission (FC), the Forest Services Division (FSD), the Ghana Timber Association (GTA), the Forest Industries Association of Ghana (FIAG) as well as the Factory Inspectorate Division (FID) of the Labour Commission as partners.

Source: Nature and Development Foundation

Story by Communications Team

Ghanaian loggers without processing mills targeted for FLEGT compliance capacity development



© KWC

Ghana's long and arduous journey towards issuing FLEGT (Forest Law Enforcement Governance Trade) licences is set to end in March 2021. Issuing FLEGT licence, is key in the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) between Ghana and European Union (EU) with the goal to trade only in legal timber products.

In other words, timber products must be from a verifiable source that complies with sector regulations. This was a key deciding factor for Ghana to pursue the VPA as a vehicle to address illegal logging that has plagued the country for decades.

Beyond addressing the causes of illegality by improving forest governance and law enforcement, VPA also considers development and environmental issues, and their effects on local populations.

While the entire nation stands to benefit from the process in terms of enhancing sustainable forest management, the main implementer and beneficiary of the FLEGT-VPA processes is the timber industry. The expectation is that timber industry operators comprising concession holders with processing facilities; concession holders without processing facilities; and owners of processing facilities without concessions, will follow the due process to ensure that their products meet the required standards for both international and domestic markets.

However, some observers are concerned

that the current posture of concession holders without processing facilities could affect the issuance of FLEGT Licence, Export Permit or Domestic Timber Inspection Certificate (DoTIC).

This is because as initiators of harvesting operations in the timber supply chain, this group has little understanding and appreciation of critical requirements and have issues with health and safety compliance. Besides, the weak tenacity of processing facilities without concessions to insist on evidence of FLEGT compliance, when receiving raw materials from this category of concession holders does not augur well for the FLEGT process.

Nevertheless, because of the significant role this group of concession holders' play in the timber supply chain, experts believe it is important to develop their capacity to enable them meet the legality requirements under the FLEGT-VPA process.

In the light of this, Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) is

implementing the "FLEGT Compliance in Ghana: Developing the capacity of Loggers without processing mill," with funding from the EU. The implementing partners are Forestry Commission (FC), Forest Services Division (FSD), Ghana Timber Association (GTA), Forest Industries Association of Ghana (FIAG), Factory Inspectorate Division (FID) and the Labour Commission in collaboration with FAO-EU FLEGT Project.

Beneficiary areas are: Bekwai and New Edubiase in Ashanti region; Oda, Kade and Mpraeso in Eastern region; Assin Fosu in Central region and Tarkwa in Western region. The project will build the capacity of 40 concession holders without processing mills to comply with private sector obligations under Principles 1, 2, 3 and 4 of Ghana's timber legality definition.

Principle 1 is on the source of timber and focuses on timber that originates from the prescribed sources, with the logger given a written consent from the concerned individuals, group and owners for the tree to be logged.

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PRIVATE TIMBER FIRMS GET ACCESS TO WOOD TRACKING SYSTEM

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Officer at the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), the application would ease the process of making input into the GWTS, since industries need not wait for the FC to do it on their behalf.

"With this portal, any registered timber company can log in to their page, and provide all the necessary documents and information required for legality verification unto the issuance of the appropriate license; DoTIC for the Domestic Market and Export Permit or FLEGT License without necessary travelling to Accra or the regional Offices of the Forestry commission.

The introduction of this Industry portal, will greatly contribute to making the GWTS more transparent and also facilitate the uptake of the operations of the legality assurance system by the Timber Industry" she stated.

For his part, Mr. Bright Owusu Sekyere, Assistant System and Verification

Manager, Timber Validation Division (TVD) of the Forestry Commission (FC) said hitherto, officers of the FC had to go through the tedious process of entering data of all registered industries. Now the industries can make their own input.

He stressed that, the need to involve the private sector in the Ghana Legality Assurance System (GhLAS) is aimed at ensuring that all timber and timber products are legally produced in line with measures to conserve the forests.

The portal gives opportunity to timber industries to declare the wood and wood products they have, the forest they harvested the tree from, among others, as a way of assuring stakeholders of a company's adherence to the Legality Assurance requirements.

This, it is believed, would eliminate the incidence of illegal sourcing of wood that has been a major reason behind the diminishing forests of the country.

Source: Nature and Development Foundation

Ghanaian loggers without processing mills targeted for FLEGT compliance capacity development



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Principle 2 on timber rights allocation enjoins the logger to have been issued with a Timber Utilisation Contract (TUC) by the Minister, and ratified by Parliament following the specified competitive process. Or the Logger should have been issued a Salvage Permit by the Forestry Commission (FC).

Principle 3 dwells on Timber Harvesting Operations and here the logger should have complied with the specified forest operation procedures and standards. They include conducting stock surveys to determine which tree should be felled as well as establish the technical appropriateness for a tree to be felled. For instance, trees within a buffer or protection area such as river banks and on slopes as well as trees marked as seed trees or earmarked for canoe production are excluded from being logged.

Principle 4 is on transportation of timber, which was to have been done at all times in accordance with standards prescribed by statutes such as L.I. 1649 - Timber Resources Management Regulations, 1998 Section 24. (1) says, "no timber shall be transferred or removed from any forest area unless there is carried with it a timber conveyance certificate." While, Timber Resource Management and Legality Licensing Regulations, 2017 (L.I. 2254), Section 57 (1) permits the transportation of timber products only between the hours of 6 am to 6 pm on a working day.

Aside receiving training on harvesting, social responsibility agreements (SRAs), operational plans and transport requirements, the beneficiaries will also be introduced to health and safety standards under the Ghana Legality Assurance System (GhLAS). The GhLAS comprises the country's definition of legal timber and chain of custody to track the movement of legal timber backed by the establishment of

the Ghana Wood Tracking System among other establishments.

NDF's Coordinator for the Project, Abena Woode says the implementing partners are hopeful that at the end of the 12-month project period, change will be evident in the ability of concession holders without processing facilities to comply with the GhLAS requirements. "This will ensure continual access to domestic

markets, generate livelihoods from the production and trade of legal timber and ensure compliance to FLEGT license when passed," she noted in an interview in Accra.

Since the VPA was signed in 2009, following two years of negotiations, Ghana's forestry sector has seen improved transparency, participation, capacity, accountability and other aspects of forest governance as required under the FLEGT programme. Prior to this, the sector was marked by internal weakness that frustrated efforts to attain the objective of sustainable forest management.

Story by Ama Kudom-Agyemang

TWO TIMBER ASSOCIATIONS OKAY LUMBER CHECKPOINTS DEMOLITION

The Ghana Timber Association (GTA) and the Domestic Lumber Traders Association (DOLTA) have commended the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission (FC) for demolishing some lumber checkpoints on the Accra-Kumasi road.

In separate statements in support of the action, the two associations urged him to further demolish unnecessary checkpoints that hinder their work and increase the cost of doing business.

In a statement signed by Mr. Alex Dadzie, President of GTA, the Association bemoaned the delays their members encounter in the hands of officers at the checkpoints leading to higher costs of transportation.

"Stopping and delaying trucks at numerous checkpoints, lead to rise in transportation costs and disappointing our clients. Drivers charge extra fees when they take longer than usual to convey our goods and we also end up failing to meet our clients' deadlines," Mr. Dadzie lamented

"The high number of checkpoints on our routes contributes to the rise in cost of doing business in the industry and this decision (by the Forestry Commission) to demolish some checkpoints along some routes is commendable," Mr. Dadzie said in the statement.

For his part, Mr. Kofi Afreh Boakye, who issued the statement on behalf of DOLTA, said, "The decision to demolish those checkpoints was in the right direction so we commend the Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission for his thoughtfulness. Indeed, it is a giant step towards the facilitation of the smooth trading in legal wood in the country,"

He said it was superfluous and frustrating to have high numbers of checkpoints on the



© graphiconline Mr. Opong Sasu, Executive Director of the Forestry Division, with Mrs. Joyce Ofori Kwafu, PRO of the Forestry Commission, at one of the checkpoints

roads since measures were already in place to check on legality, which, members of DOLTA adhere to.

"It is very frustrating to undergo numerous checks on the way to delivering wood from the production centres to the areas where there is demand for it. We engage in legitimate business and appreciate the need for checks to be conducted on the supply routes, but when they are superfluous, they become a source of concern" the statement reiterated.

They both supported the idea of having limited checkpoints on the roads with GTA proposing more rigorous and vigorous checks at production centres such as sawmills, urging the FC to train more Technical Officers for that purpose.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Forestry Commission, Mr. John Allotey, recently directed the immediate removal of the lumber checkpoints at Kwahu-Nsabaa and Bunso on the Accra-Kumasi Highway.

He explained that the move was to make it possible for genuine dealers in lumber to transport the product from the hinterland to market centres unhindered.

Story by Communication Team

Respecting indigenous culture improves forest management in Ghana



© LLL Community education on social responsibility agreements in Wruwru.

It's a quiet Thursday morning in Wruwru, a small village in the Akontombra District of the Western North region of Ghana. A little too quiet perhaps. No one is tending to the forest reserve, no children are playing under the trees and no community members are making use of the water from the river that flows through the forest.

This is because today is a so-called 'taboo day'. A day when the local community prays, rests and does not enter its forest.

People in this part of Ghana have observed the cultural practice for centuries, and it is a

tradition that helped protect forests through the ages. But not everyone has always respected the taboo. Some timber companies entitled to log the forest adjacent to the community would come in even on these sacred days.

Communities have reported seeing a change when Ghana started getting serious about the implementation of Social Responsibility Agreements (SRAs). These are binding contracts between timber companies and local communities.

They oblige companies to sit down with communities ahead of logging activities to agree on compensation and several other aspects. This was in part driven by Ghana's implementation of its Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the European Union.

As part of the Agreement, Ghana started paying extra attention to the implementation of laws and regulations applicable to forest operations, including those focusing on SRAs.

"The company came to us before they started logging," says Nana Nicholas Cobbina, Chief of Wruwru and Chief Farmer.

"We discussed a range of issues, such as the compensation we would get from the logging company, but also things that are of cultural significance to us: not only not entering the forest on taboo days, but also where sacred groves are, or which waterways we use for drinking and washing."

Timber companies benefit from working with communities

The people from Wruwru are not the only ones drawing benefits from the respect of their culture and rights. The company working in the area also started to see the advantage of building a positive relationship with the communities living in the areas where they operate.

"We realised that the more we engaged with communities, the easier our work became," says Stephen Kwame Paddy, Chain of Custody manager at 'Logs and Lumber Limited, one of Ghana's biggest timber companies.

Authors: EU FLEGT Facility

GHANA, IVORY COAST PUSH FOR BETTER INCOME FOR COCOA FARMERS

Stakeholders in the cocoa sector in Ghana and Ivory Coast are calling for a better Living Income Differential (LID) for cocoa farmers in the two countries to ensure the commodity's sustainability.

Taking turns to address the International Conference on Cocoa Pricing and Sustainability in Accra, the participants, drawn from NGOs, CSOs, Industry and farmer groups in the two countries, expressed concerns over the economic state of farmers, who are at the centre of the entire industry. They insisted that a good Living Income Differential, the amount of money per ton that goes to the farmer, would encourage them to produce more to sustain the industry to maintain the employment of all those along the supply chain.

Some propose additional action on the part of government to increase the benefits of the beans and ultimately a good LID for the farmer.

According to Mr. Obed Owusu-Addai, Managing Convener of Ecocare Ghana, organizers of the Conference, "The solution is that, farmers must get a fair share of the value of cocoa; not only the cocoa beans but the whole value and it is dependent on government. They need to start doing secondary and tertiary processing of cocoa."

He is of the view that, governments of the two

countries cannot continue exporting 80% of the beans and expect to get enough benefits to the farmer.

Currently, the LID is pegged at \$400 per ton, an amount considered still inadequate to meet the input of farmers in producing cocoa.

It was noted that, whenever the LID is increased by governments of the two countries, other costs go up significantly, thus eroding the gains the farmers are supposed to make. Labor, carriage and transportation, among others, rise along the LID.

Some farmers at the conference bemoaned the illegal activities of some Licensed Buying Companies (LBC), some of whom are accused of cheating them of some kilos of cocoa through adjusted scales.

In effect, a documentary, Missing Kilos, by a Ghanaian journalist, exposing this illegal act in Ghana, was shown at the conference but some participants raised issues over whether the LBCs weren't using those kilos as their share in the business.

Land tenure also featured prominently on the issues raised with stakeholders calling



Cross-section of participants at the International Cocoa Conference in Accra

for proper regulations to boost the confidence of farmers, especially those who do not have lands but are cultivating the produce on others' property.

On another hand, CSOs were advised to build the capacities of cocoa farmers to manage their finances well in order to live within their means to support their families' livelihood.

A participant from Ivory Coast recounted how some farmers started rejoicing over rise in LID because it would afford them the opportunity to marry more wives, instead of using the money to improve upon their living standards.

Ghana and Ivory Coast account for some 60% of the world's cocoa production but industry players believe much need to be done for them to truly benefit from their work.

Story by Communications Team

BE DILIGENT WITH DOCUMENTATION

- Forest Enterprises Urged

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Elmina, Madam Betty Abeyie, Project Officer of the Kumasi Wood Cluster (KWC), an NGO in the forest sector, said record keeping is crucial in Ghana's quest to ensure only legal wood is sold on the domestic and foreign markets.

She said in order to meet the requirements of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) license and to continue to do business without any problem with the Forestry Commission, proper documentation cannot be toyed with.

Madam Abeyie, emphasized that, keeping proper documentation isn't a choice but a legal requirement with consequences to their operations.

She reminded them that documents were necessary at the various critical points such as sourcing the timber, harvesting, log transportation, processing,

lumber transportation and at the point of sale.

"The SMFEs in the forestry sector stand to gain in the business if they keep proper records of their activities and are always ready to present such documents to auditors upon request. In effect, they need

not wait until they are asked to; rather they should prove their worth by presenting such documents voluntarily to officials," she said.

As Ghana seeks to get FLEGT License to tap the numerous trade opportunities on the European market, it has become

imperative for key players in the sector to be trained and equipped, especially at the lower levels to meet the demands of the licensing regime.

Ghana, just like any other country pursuing the license, is expected to build a strong legality system to prove to potential buyers that its wood is sourced legally for sustainable conservation of the forests. The Ghana Legality Assurance System (GhLAS), therefore, seeks to put in place the measures for that purpose.

Participants drawn from various areas within the Central region, were taken through Regulation 76-the Timber Resource Management and Legality Licensing, Regulations 2017, (LI 2254) which stipulates that industry players make available information (documents) on forest resource management.

Similar training programmes by the Kumasi Wood Cluster (KWC) were organized at Kumasi and Bibiani respectively with funding from the Department for International Development.

Source: Kumasi Wood Cluster Association



© KWC Staff of Timber company being educated on record keeping

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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 FCDO

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is a ministerial department supported by twelve agencies and public bodies.

The office pursues national interests and project the UK as a force for good in the world. FCDO promotes the interest of British citizens, safeguard the UK's security, defend their values, reduce poverty and tackle global challenges with international partners.

They unite development and diplomacy in one new department. FCDO brings together the best of Britain's international effort and demonstrates the UK acting as a force for good in the world.

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