

The Flegt

Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade

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Newsletter

CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS

• *Women, Children, More Vulnerable*

The Regional Director of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the Western North Region of Ghana, Mr. Kwesi Eyiah-Mensah, is calling for concerted efforts to fight climate change to save women and children from its devastating effect.

Mr. Eyiah-Mensah, who was speaking at a workshop for 'Women in Forestry', organized by the Rights and Advocacy Initiatives Networks (RAIN), a not for profit organization based in Kumasi, in collaboration with Client Earth (a UK based Charity organization), noted that, though everybody is at the receiving end of climate change, women and children, per their nature and activities, are more susceptible to its effects.

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DON'T USE LEAVE FOR SIDE JOBS - Women in forestry warned

A Mental Health Expert has warned women in the forestry sector and Ghanaians in general, against using their leave period for side jobs instead of rest, disclosing that the practice is inimical to their mental health.

According to Dr. Pearl Adu-Nyarko of the Komfo Anokye Hospital's Department of Psychiatry, rest is vital to the maintenance of a good mental

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SAFETY AND HEALTH NEGLIGENCE DETECTED AMONG TIMBER SMES



A mock auditing exercise carried out by the Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), a Civil Society Organization (CSO) in forestry, has unveiled negligence of safety and health measures in companies in some parts of the country.

During the exercise, it was noticed that most of the companies engaged

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FAST-TRACK TREE TENURE, BENEFIT SHARING FRAMEWORK - EcoCare charges stakeholders



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Nana Apenten of Afrancho, planting a commemorative seedling at the launch

Mr. Obed Owusu Addai, the managing campaigner for EcoCare Ghana, has charged stakeholders to fast-track the conclusion of the Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Framework to motivate communities and farmers to plant and conserve trees.

He noted that, due to the unfavorable nature of existing benefit-sharing arrangements on naturally occurring and nurtured trees, farmers are not motivated to keep them on their farmlands. This situation, he observes, has led to the loss of biodiversity and defeats the government's efforts of restoring degraded landscapes outside forest reserves.

He made the call at the launching of EcoCare Ghana's Community-led Restoration Project (CRP) at Akomandan, in the Ashanti Region of Ghana. The CRP is a 5-year landscape restoration Initiative being implemented by EcoCare Ghana in the Transition Landscape of Ghana.

It is funded by One Tree Planted through the flagship African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100) which seeks to restore 100 million hectares of degraded land by 2030.

The project seeks to collaborate with communities, smallholder farmers and key stakeholders to grow and nurture an estimated 300,000 seedlings.

Speaking at the launch of the project, the District Chief Executive of Offinso North District, Mr. David Kwasi Asare was overjoyed that the Offinso Districts have been selected as beneficiaries.

He bemoaned that, the districts have lost their thick forest that is gradually turning into a grassland.

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Let's Form More Governance Structures To Curb Forest Depletion - Tropenbos Urges

As Project Manager of Tropenbos Ghana, an organization working to increase forest cover and promote climate-resilient practices, Mr. Daniel Kofi Abu, has suggested the formation of more governance structures to help curb the challenges of forest depletion and climate change in Ghana.

According to him, Ghana is fast becoming vulnerable to climate impacts, making it critical to adopt smart measures to avert future disasters. Mr. Abu made these observations at Nkoranza, where his outfit was inaugurating a board to manage landscape challenges within the transitional area.

The board christened 'Landscape Management Board' (LMB) targets biodiversity conservation, building climate resilience, and reducing emissions from land-use changes in Ghana.

In his remarks during the inauguration of the board in Nkoranza, Mr. Abu indicated that the transition landscape in Ghana faces exponential damage posing serious risks to its ecosystem. He called for immediate measures to address the issue.

"We believe that the way forward is to develop smart landscape governance, and that is why we are forming a landscape board to execute some of these development initiatives," he disclosed. Mr. Daniel Abu also said, "key among the objectives of the LEAN project is

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CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS

Women, Children More Vulnerable

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“In our rural areas, more women are involved in agriculture thus depend on regular rains to ensure good harvest to support their livelihood and that of their children. So you can imagine what happens when we experience drought.”

He indicated that, as care takers of children, women in the rural areas use a lot of water for cooking, washing and other purposes, and they travel distances to fetch

water from streams, riversides and other sources.

“When there is water shortages as a result of climate change, these women would have to travel longer distances to get this vital resource for their households and one can imagine the stress and impact on their health,” he pointed out.

In the area of sanitation and hygiene, he reiterated the role water plays in maintaining sanitation in homes, schools and even offices, stating that areas where

water shortages are rampant are more prone to sanitation-related diseases.

“We are all affected by climate change one way or another but women and children, by their vulnerable nature are more at risk of being hit by the devastating effects of climate change.”

Calling for immediate action on climate change at all levels, Mr. Eyah-Mensah implored women to get involved in tree-planting and desist from burning materials that generate more fumes such as plastics

and car tires.

“Though such actions might appear insignificant, they collectively contribute to changing the current situation the world finds itself in,” he advised, adding that inhaling of smoke from such materials could also impact their health.

He called for more education on climate change, urging women to be guided by images of devastation in countries like Pakistan and the others, to work together to fight climate change.

‘Women in Forestry’ is a platform for women from various units of the forestry sector including the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the media, academia, government and industry scattered across the country.

The platform provides opportunity for these women to periodically come together to build their capacities on legal and contemporary issues pertaining to the forestry sector, share lessons and network amongst themselves as professionals.

This workshop which was aimed at addressing issues affecting their mental health and pensions was organized with funding support from UKaid through the Forest Governance Market and Climate (FGMC) grant.

Story by Communication Team



© RAIN **Cross-section of women in Forestry at the training workshop in Kumasi**



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DON'T USE LEAVE FOR SIDE JOBS

-Women in forestry warned

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health and workers' leave provides the rare opportunity for them to help the body make up for mental fatigue.

Dr. Adu-Nyarko, who was speaking at a workshop on Mental Health in Kumasi for Women in Forestry, organized by the Rights and Advocacy Initiatives Networks (RAIN) in collaboration with Client Earth Ghana, regretted that many workers choose to do side works instead of taking enough rest.

"I have observed from many brain scans conducted that, the state of the brains of many 35-45 year-olds have developed signs of those of persons aged above 65 years," she revealed, attributing it to overworking of the brain.

She cautioned that, if the practice is not stopped among workers, especially women, they risk developing dementia at an earlier age than normal.

She explained that the idea of leave was borne out of the need to give the body and especially the brain to rest and repair themselves of the wear associated with continuous work, thus workers must use it as such.



© RAIN Participants at the women in Forestry meeting being educated by Dr. Pearl Adu-Nyarko, Komfo Anokye, on stress management and mental health

She advised women to train their children to do some of the menial jobs at home to help them reduce the stress that emanates from domestic chores and pressures.

"Train the children to learn some of the menial jobs such as arranging shoes, washing their plates and putting a few things in order to reduce the pressure and stress at home," she suggested, adding that the children would grow into the practice, thus taking off some of the burden off their shoulders.

Women in Forestry is a group of women in various areas of the forest and timber industry ranging from the Forestry Commission, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the media and academia.

The group periodically comes together to build their capacities

and refresh their understanding on the issues pertaining to the industry. This workshop was aimed at addressing issues affecting their mental health and pensions.

Story by Communication Team

them, dying later from the injuries.

Till now, it is not known why a sound person would venture into the cage of a lion, but speculations are rife on possible motives behind this bizarre act.

Whereas some suspect he might have been killed and dumped there to cover a heinous crime, others are of the belief the victim could be one of those daring pastors trying to re-enact the miraculous feat of Daniel, famously known as Daniel

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LION 'KILLS' IN ACHIMOTA FOREST DEN?

Investigations are ongoing to unravel the mystery surrounding the killing of a man by a lion in the Achimota Forest.

The victim, identified only as a middle aged man, was found in the

firm grips of a lion's teeth, raising concerns over safety of visitors to the Accra zoo in the Achimota Forest.

The man was said to have broken into the lions' cage, after which he was attacked and injured by one of



LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT BOARDS INAUGURATED

The conversion of landscapes for human habitation and other land-use activities have led to the alteration of ecosystems, loss of biodiversity, and an acceleration in the rate of climate change.

In order to mitigate the effects of climate change, it is important to restore and protect the landscape's original vegetation and to encourage sustainable land use.



© ECG Elected Executives of Nkoranza 'Landscape Management Board' (LMB)

Through the European Union-funded Landscapes and Environmental Agility across the Nations (LEAN) Project, Tropenbos Ghana and EcoCare Ghana have established three Landscape Management Boards (LMB) in the Transition Landscape to serve the sixty project communities in Techiman Municipal and North, Nkoranza North and South, as well as Offinso North and South District Assemblies.

Project Manager at Tropenbos Ghana, Mr. Daniel Abu, who spoke at the inauguration of the Nkoranza LMB, said the boards were established as part of efforts to institute landscape governance structures across the nation to ensure community ownership of the LEAN Project and other restoration and conservation projects, adding that the boards will be crucial in developing integrated landscape management as a solution to building community resilience to climate change.

The Nifa-Hene of Techiman, Nana Boakye Ameyaw II, acknowledged that despite being in the transition landscape,

due to an increase in population. He lauded the LEAN Project as timely, describing the establishment of the LMB as a great intervention to support the government's efforts to conserve biodiversity.

He entreated the elected executives to take their role seriously since the environmental sustainability of the landscape and their community's development had been entrusted into their care.

In his acceptance speech as the Chairperson for the Techiman LMB, Mr. Gyau Peprah said "we will work assiduously to protect the environment, promote farmers' welfare and ensure trees planted as part of the project are nurtured to grow into maturity".

He emphasized that the Board will develop a landscape sustainability plan in collaboration with ex-officio members to restore and conserve the biodiversity of the landscape beyond the LEAN Project.

The ex-officio members who will support the LMBs to ensure that the project objectives are achieved include representatives from, the Forestry Commission, District Planning Offices, Department of Agriculture, Environmental Protection Agency, Traditional Councils, Department of Social Welfare, and Lands Commission, among others.

Source: *Ecocare Ghana*

Fast-Track Tree Tenure, Benefit Sharing Framework - EcoCare Charges Stakeholders

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According to him this has led to the loss of most of the biodiversity and reduced soil fertility, therefore impeding organic farming. He emphasized that the project can augment Government's Green Ghana Agenda, which is aimed at increasing the country's forest cover, if well embraced.

He alluded that the negative impacts of climate change on agriculture are visible and affirmed that "a green future is necessary for the survival of our planet, and we must do all we can to bequeath the next generation with a greener and better future".

Nana Apenteng Gyiabour of Afrancho, who chaired the occasion called on Traditional Rulers to make land available for such restoration projects to ensure environmental sustainability in their communities.

He entreated the government to heed the call for the quick conclusion of the Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Framework to motivate communities to invest in tree planting and conservation.

He also admonished the Forestry Commission to make it a priority to stop the activities of illegal chain-saw operators in the District.

Stakeholders present at the launch planted trees in front of the Offinso North District Assembly to commemorate the commencement of the Community-led Restoration Project.

Source: *EcoCare Ghana*

SAFETY AND HEALTH NEGLIGENCE DETECTED AMONG TIMBER SMEs

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under the phase II of their project, “Building the Capacities of Small-Medium Forest Enterprises (SMFEs) in Ghana and Liberia to Supply and Trade in Legal Timber” were not complying with the safety and health requirements at the workplace as employees were seen working without any Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

The mock exercise, according to officials of NDF, was carried out on companies in the Takoradi, Asankragua, Assin Fosu, Dunkaw, Obuasi, Sefwi Wiawso, Goaso, Dorma and Techiman environs to build their capacity on FLEGT compliance.

Workers of most small and medium timber companies in Ghana, who harvest and process timber into finished goods do not fully comply with health and safety requirements at the workplace, it has been observed. This is due to the fact that the management of these small and medium-sized timber companies do not strictly enforce the compliance of safety and health measures at the workplace.

Ideally, safety and health requirement is applicable to all businesses whether small or big-sized. Safety and health is a practical step that protects workers from harm or injury which contributes to the success and growth of the business. Nevertheless, some companies overlook their responsibilities of safety and health to operate their business.



© NDF

Some workers display PPE received

Ensuring the safety and health of workers at the workplace is one of the requirements under the FLEGT/VPA programme; the observations have raised concerns among officials of the Civil Society Organization (CSO).

The Nature and Development Foundation (NDF) has therefore presented Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to timber companies engaged in the project.

The beneficiary companies have now been provided with safety helmets, dust masks, ear plugs, safety reflective jackets, safety overalls, safety eye goggles, safety hand gloves and safety wellington boots.

Arc files were also distributed to the companies to support their filing and records-keeping system at the office of the mill.

A Perspex sign branded with the name of the company and the logos of the donor and project implementer was given to the companies as a way of promoting visibility for the project.

The support with PPE was made important during the mock audit exercise to build the capacity of the timber companies to comply with Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

The mock audit exercise was conducted using the Timber Validation Department (TVD) of the Forestry Commission's (FC's) checklist.

Beneficiaries of the support expressed their gratitude and enthusiasm to practise safety and health precautions at the workplace and adhere to the right procedures in their operations.

This action is funded by the UKaid under their Forest and Governance Market and Climate (FGMC) programme.

Source: Nature and Development Foundation

inner fencing of the enclosure where he was attacked and injured by the lion, leading to his death. He also assured that all the lions were in good condition.

Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, Benito Owusu-Bio, dispelled rumours that the lion might have gone after the victim out of hunger, insisting that, the lions were well fed to want to attack someone for prey.

“They are not left hungry. For that I will applaud the zoo officials” Mr. Owusu-Bio said confidently. Meanwhile, the deputy Minister has assured the public that the zoo would be opened soon.

So, what actually happened to the middle-aged man? Time will tell.

Story by Communication Team

LION ‘KILLS’ IN ACHIMOTA FOREST DEN?

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famously known as 'Daniel in the Lion's Den'.

Earlier reports had it that the man entered the inner perimeter to steal one of the cubs, but this rumour proved to be too wild a speculation to be relied upon.

In the midst of the allegations and earlier fears that the lion had escaped from the cage to attack its victim, the Chief Executive Officer of the Forestry Commission (FC), Mr. John Allotey, has

assured the public that the zoo is safe and that no lion had escaped as speculated earlier.

“Forestry Commission wishes to assure the general public that no lion has escaped from the Accra Zoo,” he added.

He narrated that, officials of the Accra Zoo on a routine patrol, noticed a middle-aged man, he referred to as an intruder, had jumped the security fences and entered the lions' enclosure of the Zoo.

He disclosed that the man had entered the

EU, Honduras begin VPA implementation at first meeting

The first meeting of the Joint Implementation Committee has been held in Tegucigalpa, Honduras to start overseeing the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT).

During the meeting the EU and Honduras signed the first act of the Aide Memoire of the CCA. This marked the official start of the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement.

The CCA also agreed to prioritise actions that will yield concrete results in the short term. This includes the development and implementation of a robust traceability system for the transport of timber.

With the help of technology it will be possible to address the falsification of transport documents.

The CCA also agreed to accelerate the development and implementation of simplified procedures for the approval of forest management plans and the harvest of forest products.

The proceedings of the meeting are available publicly in the Aide Memoire.

The CCA oversees the VPA and is co-chaired by the National Institute for Forest Conservation and Development, Protected Areas and Wildlife and the European Union. The CCA includes the participation of various Government ministries and



The first CCA meeting marked the official start of the implementation of the VPA between Honduras and the European Union

institutions, the private sector, including small forest owners, civil society organizations, indigenous and Afro-descendant peoples, and donor partners that support the implementation of the agreement.

Source: flegtupafacility.org



Director general of sustainable forest management at the Environment and Forestry Ministry, Agus Justianto, speaking at the launch of a study on the implementation of FLEGT

The Indonesian government has published a study on the implementation of forest law enforcement, governance, and trade (FLEGT) as part of efforts to support the eradication of illegal logging and boost legal timber trade.

"This study is expected to provide an overview of market acceptance, recognition, perception, and incentives, particularly the European market for FLEGT-licensed timber," director general of sustainable forest management at the Environment and Forestry Ministry, Agus Justianto, said in a written received here on Saturday.

Indonesia signed an FLEGT Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) with the European Union in September 2013, and became the first country to fully implement a FLEGT VPA by issuing the world's first FLEGT license in November, he informed.

has initiated a study on the implementation of FLEGT and policy shifts in the global trade in forest products and other agricultural commodities related to aspects of deforestation and forest destruction, he said.

The study on FLEGT implementation is an important milestone in understanding global policies related to product legality and forest sustainability in forest products trade, he added.

The study provides an overview of developments in producing countries besides Indonesia on developing, negotiating, and implementing FLEGT VPA, especially in market country policies, he informed.

Justianto said the study is a follow-up to a high-level discussion between the Minister of Environment and Forestry and Indonesian ambassadors to European countries.

INDONESIA PUBLISHES FLEGT STUDY TO SUPPORT LEGAL TIMBER TRADE

According to Justianto, Indonesia and related parties have developed a national timber legality scheme since 2003, namely the Timber Legality Verification System (SVLK), in response to global market demands.

In this context, the Indonesian government

The study was carried out by a team from the University of Freiburg in Germany and the Sebijak Institute of Gajah Mada University, with financial support from the Indonesian Embassy for the Federal Republic of Germany and the United Kingdom government, he disclosed.

"The study is expected to provide information on how FLEGT VPA currently functions, particularly in Indonesia and Europe, what kind of steps in new demand-side policy measures (are) emerging in key markets, and what are the implications for producing countries such as Indonesia in the form of policies and frameworks in this new and evolving international law," he said.

Justianto further said he hopes that the FLEGT VPA can be implemented consistently by both producing and consuming countries.

"Producing countries need to provide wider market recognition of the national system through partnerships that apply the principles of mutual trust, mutual respect, and mutual benefit for the parties involved," he added.

Source: antaranews.com

Let's Form More Governance Structures To Curb Forest Depletion – Tropenbos Urges

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promoting climate-smart landscape by using governance structures.”

For her part, the Deputy Forestry Manager for Nkoranza North and South forest zones, Madam Hannah Marrie lauded the move by Tropenbos Ghana and EcoCare Ghana in setting up a board to assist them. She recounted government's effort to stem desertification in the country.

According to her, the Green Ghana project is a clear example of the government's commitment to restoring forest cover. She however bemoaned the activities of herdsmen and illegal chainsaw operators which poses a grave threat to their efforts.

Madam Hannah Marrie revealed that although her outfit has managed to chalk some successes

in the government's tree planting exercise in 2021, the activities of the new Landscape Management Board are earnestly needed.

“Last year, during the tree planting exercise, we were able to achieve a success rate of 85 percent out of the 52,000 trees planted. Our main challenge has been the lack of vehicles and the illegal activities of herdsmen. We believe our collaboration with the new LMB will help us to fight our course”, she said.

The Landscape Management Board is expected to achieve significant milestones in agriculture and the livelihoods of smallholder farmers within the transition landscape



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under the Landscapes and Environmental Agility across the Nation (LEAN) project. The project is funded by the European Union.

Source: Tropenbos Ghana

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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 TROPENBOS GHANA

Established in 2001 as a member of the Tropenbos International Network, Tropenbos Ghana was set up in response to sustainable landscape management challenges in Ghana. We seek to ensure that, knowledge is used effectively in the formulation of appropriate policies and managing forests for conservation and sustainable development.

Through Research, capacity building (individuals, communities, institutions, and relevant stakeholders), we provide platforms for informed dialogue on topical forestry issues and sharing of lessons and experiences at local, national, and international levels.

Tropenbos Ghana promotes sustainable use of forests and trees in climate-smart landscapes in the tropics in support of inclusive sustainable development. This requires significant progress on interrelated domains where we focus our efforts: Sustainable land-use, Inclusive governance, Landscape restoration, Responsible business and finance and Participatory independent forest monitoring.

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