

GHANA LAND USE DIALOGUE
Wassa Amenfi Landscape

CONCEPT NOTE

The Land Use Dialogue (LUD) is a multi-stakeholder engagement learning platform for gathering knowledge and leading processes for enabling responsible business, improved governance and inclusive development through a landscape approach.

1. The Challenge

Competing land uses in Wassa Amenfi mainly due to complicated land tenure systems and risk of forest conversion for cocoa production and mineral extraction has put the landscape at risk. A participatory and integrated approach is a key tool to reconcile the different perspectives and interests at stake, reduce deforestation and increase land productivity in the region in the pursuit of sustainable landscapes and economic growth.

2. The Land Use Dialogue

The Land Use Dialogue (LUD) is a global initiative coordinated by The Forests Dialogue secretariat and steering committee members in collaboration with local and global partners. The LUD initiative maps, applies and evaluates the practical “landscape approach” to provide tangible improvements on the ground. The landscape approach is a conceptual framework that seeks to develop an integrated and holistic view of the landscape, balancing multiple objectives through engaging private and public stakeholders. Efficient use and development of resources can be established through a dialogue platform where stakeholders collaborate to align their objectives, identify common risks and opportunities, and support shared decision making and collective action. The LUD initiative is modeled on TFD’s experience as a neutral multi-stakeholder platform adopted to meet local contexts and landscape needs.

The LUD Ghana is supported by the IUCN’s Stabilizing Land Use Project (PLUS), which intends to improve landscape governance of forest ecosystems, in turn influencing decision making at the landscape and national level. The PLUS project includes the establishment of a governance working group (GWG) at the landscape level, made up of landscape stakeholders across interest groups. The LUD will synthesize the goals of the GWG for integration at the national level. The overall objective of the Wassa Amenfi Land Use Dialogue is to promote effective natural resources governance within the landscape and to validate a draft Landscape Management Strategy (LMS) which would provide a broader vision for natural resources management and guide each district’s strategies towards achievement of this broader vision. The LMS would also build synergies with other landscape and national policies such as the Medium Term Development Plans, a four year plan designed to use a bottom-up approach to respond to community needs as well as following national policy objectives.

3. The Context

The dialogue entry point in Wassa Amenfi will center around integrating natural resources issues in the District Landscape Strategies and feed into processes around Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and cocoa production at the landscape and national levels. The Wassa Amenfi Landscape of southwestern Ghana is dominated by cocoa production. While 24% of the landscape is forest reserve, including two Globally Significant Biodiversity Area (GSBAs), cocoa production in the region continues to drive forest degradation. New initiatives, including REDD+ benefits and government sponsored Community Resource Management Areas, offer solutions that could both benefit the local community and stabilize the surrounding environment. Yet, complicated tree and land tenure systems and risk of forest conversion for mineral extraction pose additional threats. A landscape approach is needed to diversify local community income, clarify land

tenure systems, and prevent further land conversion by local large-scale landowners and the government. A landscape approach would also enhance integration of climate smart agricultural practices / agroforestry which promotes environmental conservation, sustainability of production value chains and sustainable development as a whole.

4. Expected Dialogue Outcomes

The Wassa Amenfi LUD and associated meetings will take place between 1st-7th December of 2018 to build on knowledge sharing with a focus on priority actions previously identified.

The expected outcomes of the Ghana Land-Use Dialogue in Wassa Amenfi are as follows:

- Identify synergies and challenges between various stakeholder's natural resource priorities and management plans, including Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs);
- Explore roles and ways to engage private sector in sustainable landscape management, particularly in cocoa sector;
- Promote effective Natural Resources governance;
- Foster community participation and leadership in conserving forest, reducing deforestation and forest degradation, and sustainable management efforts in support of REDD+ goals;
- Develop a Landscape Strategy to guide district natural resource management;
- Support learnings around a landscape approach to natural resource management;
- Enhance trust and collaboration across sectors and actors.

Additionally, the LUD platform outcomes are designed to support landscape learnings including: direct actions within specific knowledge/communication actions, such as policy briefs; learning processes, such as case studies and exchange events that will benefit a global community of practice; and facilitate Land Use Dialogue actions in other priority landscapes.

5. Partners

Codesult Network

<http://www.codesultnetwork.org/>

Community Development Consult Network (CODESULT) is a Non-Governmental and non-profit capacity building focus organization and has been in operation for the past thirteen years. It has its head office at Asankrangwa., Ghana West Africa. The main objective of Codesult is to promote participatory actions of the rural set up, sustainability of projects and programmes through education, training, facilitation, advocacy and research. Team work and active participation of all, from the elite to the vulnerable, has been their hallmark.

Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources

<http://www.mlnr.gov.gh/index.php>

The Ministry is mandated to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of the nation's lands, forests and wildlife resources as well as the efficient management of the mineral resources for socio-economic growth and development. The Ministry consists of three sub-sectors; Lands, Forestry and Mining.

Forestry Commission of Ghana

<http://www.fcghana.org/page.php?page=46§ion=22&typ=1>

The Forestry Commission of Ghana is responsible for the regulation of utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources and the coordination of policies related to them. The Commission embodies the various public bodies and agencies that were individually implementing the functions of protection, management, the regulation of forest and wildlife resources

International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

<https://www.iucn.org/>

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. IUCN's current programme of work is centred around 3 broad areas: Valuing and conserving nature; Promoting and supporting effective and equitable governance of natural resources; and Deploying nature-based solutions to address societal challenges including climate change, food security and economic and social development.

The Forests Dialogue

<http://theforestsdialogue.org>

The Forests Dialogue (TFD) is a neutral, international, multi-stakeholder platform established in 2000 to help address conflicts and challenges about important forest-related issues. TFD is governed by an international Steering Committee reflecting the breadth of interests in forests, and its secretariat is hosted by Yale University. TFD has developed and facilitated 15 dialogue initiatives, comprising more than 60 country-level and international dialogues involving over 3,000 individuals during its 15 years of work. Half of the dialogue initiatives have focused on what would now be called 'landscape' topics.

