

CO-CHAIRS' SUMMARY REPORT

Ghana Land Use Dialogue (LUD)

Sustainable Land Use in Wassa Amenfi

DECEMBER 03-05, 2018 - GHANA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Challenge

The Wassa Amenfi Landscape located in the Western Region of Ghana, is dominated by cocoa production. While 24% of the landscape is forest reserve, including two Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs), cocoa production is a significant driver of forest degradation. In addition, complicated tree and land tenure systems and mining operations pose major challenges. The Ghana Land Use Dialogue (LUD) 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 levels.

Description and objectives

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 overall objective of the Wassa Amenfi Land Use Dialogue was to promote effective governance within the landscape, integrating local farmers, community members, regional and international NGOs and organizations, private companies and government institutions. It was also to provide input and data for the development of a 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 District Assembly Medium Term Development Plans, a four-year plan designed to use a bottom-up approach to respond to community needs and national priorities.

LUD components and phasing

The Dialogue was conducted over 3 days with field visits, plenary sessions and breakout groupwork. The field trips included visits to two local farms in Wassa Amenfi, and to Samartex Timber & Plywood Company Ltd located in Samreboi. 47 participants representing local farmers and community members, regional and international NGOs and organizations, private companies and government institutions joined the dialogue. The dialogue was divided into 4 phases:

1. Establishing baselines on each of the following 5 themes: Governance Systems and Frameworks, Inter Institutional and Cross-sectoral Collaboration, Existing Strategies, Policies, Regulations in Natural Resources Management, Gender, and Sustainable Nature-based Livelihood:
2. Identifying visions of a sustainable and thriving landscape in 10 years, according to the perspectives if the Government, Community, Civil Society, Private Sector and Traditional Authorities. Each group discussed the 5 themes outlined in the baseline section (see above item) and then reported back to the plenary.
3. Establishing a shared stakeholder vision for the future landscape, which included improving governance and achieving a resilient and sustainable Landscape, for example.
4. Identifying actions and strategies to achieve the envisioned landscape

Key outcomes

- **Improvement of private sector involvement in building sustainable landscapes to support small holder farmers and communities** to increase their productivity and livelihoods in an environmentally friendly way
- **Diversification and support of sustainable community livelihoods**, in a way that women and men are equally empowered to enter into other business ventures, and have diversified livelihood options to choose from
- **Conservation of natural resources in a multifunctional landscape** to allow for sustainable management and utilization of the natural resources of the landscape for improved livelihoods.
- **Reclamation and restoration of degraded areas** to ensure the eradication of galamsey activities, increase community awareness on issues of land degradation and reclamation, clearly

identify the uses of the land, ensure documentation of reclaimed sites/areas

- **Review compliance and enforcement of the Law** to create awareness on existing laws on natural resource management to minimize the operation of illegal activities. Although good laws exist in Ghana, compliance and enforcement are a problem
- **Reduction of bureaucracy and cost of tree commercialization**: streamline and simplify processes for the registration of trees and acquisition of permits for felling, conveyance and other processes.
- **Fully integrate s CREMAs and engage them in the District Assembly governance frameworks and processes** to harness their contribution sot sustainable management of natural resources. Establish incentives and benefits for farmers who are part of CREMAs
- **Capacity building for commercialization of alternative activities and livelihoods** such as a bee keeping, eco-tourism (camping) and charging fees to maintain agroforestry farms that serve as research and demonstration sites for students and researchers, engaging civil society and the private sector to support farmers with the development of business plans that could provide additional income sources.
- **Provision of the feedback from academic researchers/ projects** who use community members and/or their farms for research and data collection. Data generated from such projects should be reported back to farmers and packaged in a way that would be useful for them in improving their farming activities. Such exchanges between academia and local farmers is very important and therefore it is crucial to identify how academia can give back direct financial and technical support to local farmers in exchange for the data they provide.

Introduction

The Wassa Amenfi Landscape, located in the Western Region of Ghana is dominated by cocoa production. While 24% of the landscape is forest reserve, including two Globally Significant Biodiversity Area (GSBAs), cocoa production continues to drive forest degradation. New initiatives, including Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) and government sponsored Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAS), offer solutions that could both benefit the local community and stabilize the surrounding environment. Yet, complicated tree and land tenure systems and mining operations pose additional challenges. The Ghana Land Use Dialogue (LUD) goal was to provide a landscape approach to Wassa Amenfi Central District and Wassa Amenfi West Municipality integrating the several stakeholders present in the landscape, such as local farmers, cocoa buying companies and government agencies.



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 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 was to promote effective natural resources governance within the landscape. It was also to provide input and data for the

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development of a 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 District Assembly Medium Term Development Plans, a four year plan designed to use a bottom-up approach to respond to community needs and national priorities.

47 participants representing local farmers and community members, regional and international NGOs and organizations, private companies and government institutions joined the dialogue (see Annex A for the full list of participants), which was conducted over 3 days with field visits, plenary sessions, and break out group work. The field trips included visits to two local farms in Wassa Amenfi, and to Samartex Timber & Plywood Company Ltd. located in Samreboi. See Annex C for full description of the field sites.

This Co-Chair Summary is composed of an Executive Summary, the Co-Chair Report and the following Annexes: Annex A - Participant's list; Annex B - Baselines: breakout learning questions; Annex C - Field Visits Full Description and Reflections; Annex D - Stakeholder visions for a sustainable and thriving landscape in 10 years: breakout session; Annex E - Strategies to achieve landscape vision



Outcomes of the Field Visits and Plenary Discussions

The field visits, plenary sessions, and breakout groupwork provided an overview of the multiple land uses, successful and unsuccessful experiences, and main challenges that need to be addressed in order to achieve a more sustainable and inclusive landscape. The LUD process followed 4 phases, which are represented below:

1. Establishing **baselines** on each of the following 5 themes: Governance Systems and Frameworks, Inter Institutional and Cross-sectoral Collaboration, Existing Strategies, Policies, Regulations in Natural Resources Management, Gender, and Sustainable Nature-based Livelihood
2. Identifying **stakeholder visions** of a sustainable and thriving landscape in 10 years, according to the following stakeholder groups: Government (Natural Resource Management Institutions and Non-Natural Resource Management Institutions), Community (Amenfi West Municipal and Wassa Amenfi Central District), Civil Society + Private Sector, and Traditional Authority. Each group discussed the 5 themes outlined in the baseline section (see above item) and then reported back to the plenary
3. Establishing a **shared stakeholder vision** for the future landscape, which included improving governance systems and achieving a resilient and sustainable Landscape.
4. Identifying **actions and strategies** to achieve the envisioned landscape



Baselines

To establish the landscape baselines, 5 themes were selected, and participants were organized into groups to discuss questions on each theme. Highlights of the discussion are as follows (See list of all learning questions in Annex B):

Governance Systems and Frameworks: Governance was repeatedly referred to as one of the main obstacles to implement changes in the landscape. The discussion focused on three key Forest Reserves in Wassa Amenfi - Mamire, Bura and Totua -which were created both to protect the forest, rivers and wildlife for future use, as well as for economic purposes such as tourism and timber exploration. From the stakeholders' perspective, challenges of forest reserve governance include illegal hunting, illegal chainsaw operators and illegal mining; encroachment due to population growth and farming; and increasing community pressure to reduce the size of



the natural reserves, as conservation is often perceived as a barrier for agricultural development and other potentially profitable activities.

Inter Institutional and Cross-sectoral Collaboration: While the participants identified existing forms of collaboration between stakeholders in the landscape, the main perception is that much remains to be done to improve engagement among the various sectors, represented by farmers, timber companies, the forestry commission, cocoa buying companies, chainsaw operators, the District Assemblies, traditional authorities, CREMA, mining companies, charcoal burners, hunters and sand miners. The main existing forms of collaboration mentioned by the participants were collaboration among farmers, traditional tenural arrangements between traditional authorities and local tenant farmers, and provision of seedlings by COCOBOD and Sarmatex to farmers. Participants also mentioned collaboration between the District Assembly with traditional authorities, in the passing of bylaws.

Existing Strategies, Policies, Regulations in Natural Resources Management: The group discussed linkages between local regulations and national level policies initiated and implemented by national institutions. Centralized Governance, top down approach to policy implementation, and limited rights/access to permits for felling and transporting trees/ lumber were presented as major challenges imposed by existing policies and regulations. The participants emphasized the importance of assessing the capacity of each of these stakeholders to play their roles in order to improve the existing regulations.

Gender: Lack of ownership rights relating to land and natural resources were considered a key obstacle to gender equality in the landscape. An example is the existing customary practices/ laws preventing women from owning land. Stakeholders expressed the view that women are sensitive and more connected and passionate about nature and are also good receptors and vehicles of change. At the same time, women support men in planting crops, fetching firewood, and they provide additional income to households by engaging in supplementary livelihoods, such as snail and mushroom farming. The following were identified as the positive and negative impacts that natural resources management have on women:

- Positive impacts: improve food security, sustainable alternative livelihoods, and health lifestyle, provide access to food, and provide peace at home due to supplementary income sources
- Negative impacts: Not included in decision making processes, are not allowed to own land, and don't have control of natural resources and benefits from natural resources

Although it was pointed out by the plenary that any gender discussions should include both male and female issues, women were the focus since they are regarded as having a disadvantaged position within the landscape.

Sustainable Nature-based Livelihood: Landscape multifunctionality was recognized as an important aspect of developing a sustainable landscape. Developing alternative uses of the landscape strengthens farmers' independence from cocoa, which also benefits the government and private companies indirectly. There are a significant number of alternative

and additional livelihood activities currently taking place in the landscape such as bee keeping, snail farming, grass cutter rearing, mushroom gathering, fish farming and piggeries. However, lack of ownership, a top-down approach to needs assessment, lack of financial and technical capacity, and lack of institutional/state support all represent key challenges to the development and improvement of such activities. The participants also mentioned that major challenges to the landscape include: cultural barriers against establishment of piggeries, lack of culture of animal rearing, and defaulting on payment of loans from credit groups/institutions.



Future vision for a sustainable and thriving landscape in 10 years

a) Stakeholder vision

From the baseline discussion, the dialogue moved on to identify different stakeholder visions for a sustainable and thriving landscape in a 10-year timeframe. Participants formed 6 groups: Government, Community (Amenfi Central District + Amenfi Municipality), Civil Society + Private Sector, and Traditional Authority. Each group discussed the 5 themes outlined in the baseline section (see above item) and then reported back to the plenary.

Although it was clear that stakeholders have different values and approaches to the landscape, it was agreed that finding means of enforcing the laws and regulations, ensuring equal opportunities for men and women, engaging stakeholders in a more effective way, diversifying nature-based livelihood activities, and providing broader access to technical

expertise for the communities to enable efficient use of resources would benefit all. See Annex D for a full view on each stakeholder group's perspective.

b) Shared vision

Following the breakout session, the plenary reconvened and participants presented their visions for the landscape. Totally aligned objectives among different stakeholders is not an expected outcome; however, identifying common ground among several approaches to the landscape can be a powerful tool for stakeholders working together in innovative ways and creating new forms of collaboration such as:

- Achieving a resilient and sustainable Wassa Amenfi Landscape
- Creating a green revolution in Wassa Amenfi
- Having a landscape free from deforestation and forest degradation, improving yield leading to improved livelihoods, increasing biodiversity and improved forest cover to future generations
- Mainstreaming a transparent land use framework involving all stakeholders in District Assembly strategic management plan
- Improving governance systems and frameworks
- Developing a land use policy and mainstreaming into the DA's plan
- Developing a landscape which provides an enabling environment for stakeholders to preserve the forest through good practices
- Having a sustainably developed landscape with inclusive stakeholder participation, gender inclusion, transparency and accountability

Way Forward:

Key Strategies to Achieve a Future Vision of the Landscape

Through plenary dialogue and field visits, the following five key actions were identified as priorities to achieve a shared future vision for the landscape. This dialogue was an important step in establishing a shared vision including key issues and opportunities for collaboration between groups. Strategies were structured around actions, roles and responsibilities and potential sources of funding in acknowledgement that much work remains to achieve a future vision of a sustainable landscape in Wassa Amenfi.

1. Improvement of private sector support for sustainable landscapes

Objective: *to support small holder farmers and communities to increase their productivity and livelihoods in an environmentally sustainable way.*

The private sector is perceived as a major stakeholder in supporting small farmers in the landscape. Focus on Integration of the community needs into the private sector actions, in a way to avoid a top-down approach was considered a key topic during the discussions. It was also considered crucial to recognize that local institutions such as the CREMA often know and

understand community needs best and can serve as an entry point for private sector engagement, partnership and support to the communities. Other forms of private sector engagement were mentioned as follows:



- Improve farmer awareness of landscape management, implement climate smart agriculture and invest in irrigation to support year-round production
- Improve agroforestry practices and build farmers' capacity to scale up cocoa agroforestry
- Diversify agroforestry practices by integrating other activities such as bee keeping, mushrooms, snail, and fish farming
- Create more jobs for the community through value addition and processing as avenues for sustainable development of the landscape
- Collaborate with government institutions, like the Forest Commission and COCOBOD
- Deliver women's empowerment programs, provide access to finance and certification policies

Participants mentioned the following potential sources of funding: private companies, COCOBOD, NGOs, CBOs and farmers.

2. Diversification and support of sustainable community livelihoods:

Objective: *to equally empower women and men to enter into other business ventures, have diversified livelihood options to choose from.*

The identification of sustainable alternative livelihood options, and prioritization of identified actions were mentioned as key points to allow diversification of livelihoods, along with the following actions:

- Build capacity of local communities and give them the skills to develop innovative activities/business enterprises
- Create a market for alternative products, other than cocoa, such as mushrooms and onions
- Private sector to provide seedlings and other equipment
- Monitor and evaluate implemented

actions

Participants identified the following roles and responsibilities to achieve the diversification and support of sustainable livelihoods: Forestry Commission to supervise the implementation process; Traditional Authorities to release land for implementing the actions (e.g. woodlot plantations, nursery establishment); District assemblies (planning officers) to help monitor activities and build capacity; Unit committee to create awareness at clubs, bars, churches, etc.; farmers to implement actions effectively; CSO/NGOs to support capacity building programs and provide tree seedlings and other equipment.

3. Conservation of natural resources in a multifunctional landscape

Objective: *to achieve sustainable management and utilization of the natural resources of the landscape for improved livelihoods.*

It was noted that the interest to conserve areas should not be only a COCOBOD or a Forestry Commission issue, but a community-wide issue. All stakeholders should be involved in conservation, protection and sustainable management of the landscape, including sectors that have not been often represented in the discussions, such as small-scale mining. Other actions include:

- Engagement in sustainable management to improve livelihood, conservation, efficiency of natural resources, among others
- Improvement of incentives given to farmers to keep them from converting natural forests into farmlands
- Focusing on data collection
- Definition of roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder within the landscape
- Focusing on planning
- Development of ecotourism

4. Reclamation and restoration of degraded areas

Objective: *to ensure the eradication of galamsey activities, increase community awareness on issues of land degradation and reclamation, clearly identify the uses of the land and ensure documentation of reclaimed sites/areas.*

Small scale mining, both legal and illegal (galamsey), has become one of the main drivers of deforestation and degradation of natural resources in the landscape. Although the Minerals Commission issues permits with conditions that seek to ensure that mining is done in a sustainable way, lack of law enforcement and monitoring of compliance often results in severe land degradation. Other actions were presented as follows:

- Ensuring stakeholder participation in all decisions
- Incentivize people to undertake reclamation/restoration/tree planting on degraded lands
- Ensuring strict supervision of reclamation/restoration activities
- Designating areas solely for conservation

Participants identified the District Assembly as the main stakeholder to accomplish this strategy and also a potential source of funding.

5. Review compliance and enforcement of the Law

Objective: *to create awareness on existing laws on natural resource management to minimize the operation of illegal activities. Although good laws exist in Ghana, compliance and enforcement are a problem.*

Main actions mentioned were:

- Identifying gaps in existing laws and advocate for its enforcement
- Using participatory interpretation of the existing laws and providing the necessary review
- Utilization of the bottom-up approach where chiefs are consulted before permits given to contractors
- Empowering citizens to report on corruption cases

Participants identified the following potential sources of funding: Government, NGOs, donors, and international agencies.

Other strategies mentioned during the dialogue

- **Reducing bureaucracy** and cost for tree commercialization, streamline and simplify processes for the registration of trees and acquisition of permits for felling, conveyance and other processes.
- **Fully integrate s CREMAs and engage them in the District Assembly governance frameworks and processes** to harness their contribution sot sustainable management of natural resources. Establish incentives and benefits for farmers who are part of CREMAs.
- **Capacity building for commercialization of alternative activities and livelihoods** such as a bee keeping, eco-tourism (camping) and charging fees to maintain agroforestry farms that serve as research and demonstration sites for students and researchers, engaging civil society and the private sector to support farmers with the development of business plans that could provide additional income sources.
- **Provision of the feedback from academic researchers/ projects** who use community members and/or their farms for research and data collection. Data generated from such projects should be reported back to farmers and packaged in a way that would be useful for them in improving their farming activities. Such exchange between academia and local farmers is very important and therefore it is crucial to identify how academia can give back direct financial and technical support to local farmers in exchange for the data they provide.

Annex A – Participants List

Akoto Damian Brondy
 Alhaji Azuri
 Armstrong Buah
 Augustina Frimpong
 Augustina Pomaah
 Beatriz Granziera
 Bethany Linton
 Charlotte Essuman
 Comfort Madji
 Daniel Amofah
 Dorothy Ewusi
 Duker Bartholomew Bismark
 Ebenezer Twum Ampofo
 Edward Boateng
 Elvis Mensah
 Enoch Ashie
 Festus Courage Agya-Yao
 Gary Dunning
 George Nkrumah
 Godwin Evenyo Dzekoto
 Hilma Manan
 Isaac K. Ayepah
 Janet Essandoh
 John N. Teye
 Joyce Ocansey
 K. K. F Ghartey
 Kennedy Ntosu
 Liz Felker
 Monica Cobbina
 Nana Appia Dwaah
 Nana Essandoh
 Nana Okofo Asafo Adjei II
 Paul Cobbina
 Robert Ankrah
 Robert Obiri-Yeboah
 Saadia B. Owusu-Amofah
 Samuel Yeboah
 Sandawuriche Mary
 Solomon Arkoh
 Solomon Asoka
 D.B. Odoi Darku
 Susana Ampong
 Sylvester Quarm
 Tolodompewura Abdallah Ahmed
 Vida Brogya
 Vincent Damoah
 Yaa Habiba

Codesult Network
 Presiding Member
 Sureso CRMC
 ASP CREMA CEC Representative
 Teacher
 TFD
 TFD
 Gender Desk Officer
 ASP CREMA CEC Representative
 National Development Planning Commission
 Gender Sub Working Group Member/ GWG Member
 Municipal Planning Officer
 Commission of Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ)
 Supanso CRMC
 Amenfi Central District Assembly
 Park Manager-Kakum National Park
 Mole National Park
 TFD
 Sika Nti CRMC
 A Rocha Ghana
 Forestry Commission-Climate Change Department
 National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO)
 ASP CREMA CEC Representative
 Naptoman CREMA
 Gender Sub Working Group
 Samartex Timber Company
 OLAM
 TFD
 ASP CREMA CEC Representative
 Traditional Authority
 Chairperson Achichire-Sureso-Pebaseman (ASP) CREMA
 Chairperson, Governance Working Group/ Chief of Achichire
 ASP CREMA Secretary
 Nkrankrom CRMC
 Codesult Network
 IUCN
 Achichire CRMC
 Gender Sub Working Group
 Donkorkrom CRMC
 Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)
 Kamaso CRMC
 ASP CREMA CEC Representative
 Agroforester-Quarm Farms
 Chief
 Farmer
 Gonukrom CRMC
 ASP CREMA CEC Treasurer

Annex B – Baselines: breakout learning questions

The following learning questions were developed by IUCN, TFD and the co-chairs to stimulate thought around the landscape baselines and main current challenges throughout the dialogue meeting. The answers to the learning questions arose from discussion during breakout sessions and plenary sessions.

GROUP 1 - Governance Systems and Frameworks

a) What are the forest reserves in the landscape, how were they created, what was the purpose and are there unresolved issues and grievances about these forest reserves?

There are three forest reserves identified in the landscape: Mamire, Buro and Totua, which were created by the colonial administration laws, since 1900. The group identified two purposes for their creation:

- Protection: Protect the forest for future use. All of the reserves are named after rivers because they were created to protect the rivers. Also, important to protected endangered animals and plant species
- Economic use/tourism/trees: Created not only to protect, but also to produce and exploit

Unresolved issues:

- Unlawful entry - illegal hunting, illegal chainsaw operators, illegal mining
- Encroachment due to population growth and farming
- Pressure to reduce the size of forest reserves/people contesting size of large forest reserves
- Litigation issues

b) Do you have historic or cultural practices that were and/or are important for conservation, restoration and development within the landscape? (e.g. sacred forests, restoration or conservation practices)

c) What types of land ownership structures are in place in the landscape and how are land related conflicts resolved? The group identified 5 main ownership structures in place in the landscape: Individual ownership, clients, communal, government/state, families.

GROUP 2 - Inter Institutional and Cross-sectoral Collaboration

a) What are the main natural resource management institutions (Customary, State and others) within the landscape and what are their various roles to support natural resources management?

- Farmers: Tree plantations: for the protection of the landscape and for economic development; Livestock: reduce the dependency of the forest resources; Crops and fish: for consumption and economical gain
- Timber companies: local supply of timber for construction activities, economic gain. Tree seedling support (alternative livelihoods), payment of royalties.
- Forest Commission: state regulators for forest and wildlife
- Cocoa buying companies: purchase of cocoa products and increase competitiveness of the cocoa market. CocoBo: supply cocoa seedling and chemicals, provide extension services and set minimum cocoa prices. Olam: private cocoa buying company: provide incentives for farmers.
- Chainsaw operators, District Assembly, Traditional Authorities - extension services, security services, CREMA, mining companies, charcoal burnies, hunters, sand mining

b) What are the various ways in which these institutions collaborate with each other to support natural resource management in the landscape?

- District Assembly should improve collaboration with traditional Authorities
- CBC - Purchase cocoa products, provide seedling
- District Assembly provide bylaws for collaboration with traditional authorities (Land)
- Farmers acquire land from traditional authorities
- Farmers collaborate with each other - individually

c) Where do these institutions get funding for their activities? i.e. both internal and external sources of funding

- Farmers: self-financing
- TBC from their operational achievements
- FC: state development, partners, GF
- DA: members (ICF) government, developing partners
- CREMA: membership, development partners (IUCN)
- Traditional authorities: land sales, farmers, communes, government

GROUP 3 - Existing Strategies, Policies, Regulations in Natural Resources Management

a) List four key policies and regulations for natural resource management in the landscape and the institutions responsible for their implementation.

- CREMA, ASP/ CRMC/CEC/MMDA: Traditional land tenure policy/ Strategy/ Traditional authorities/ Administrator of stool lands
- Forest and Wildlife Policy FC + CREMA
- REDD+: Strategy - FC + CREMA
- Small scale mining and regulation: Mineral commission
- Buffer zone policy: water resources commission and CREMA

b) What are the existing projects or interventions on natural resource management in the landscape and what are the institutions responsible for their implementation?

Ghana forest investment Project, multilateral mining program MMIP, Planting for food and jobs MOFA MMDA CREMA, Afforestation and livelihoods projects, sensitization and awareness

c) Are there any linkages between these projects or interventions and national level policies or guidelines? e.g. National Development Planning Commission-NDPC guidelines etc. If so, what are the linkages? Projects initiated and implemented by national institutions, governance centralized at government level, top down approaching implementation, limited rights access grown trees

GROUP 4 - Stakeholder Representation and Inclusion

a) Who are the main stakeholders in natural resource management at the community level and what are their roles?

- Anybody who has an interest, a role, is a beneficiary, or has an activity or program
- Inclusion: bringing everybody onboard

b) Assess the capacity of each of these stakeholders to play their roles.

c) Are some stakeholders excluded or not willing to participate in decision-making on natural resource management? If so, why?

GROUP 5 - Sustainable Nature-based Livelihoods and Private Sector Role in Natural Resource Management

a) What are the natural resources-based livelihood projects in the landscape, who are the beneficiaries and how have they benefited? Bee keeping, snail farming, grass cutters, mushroom gathering, hunting game, fish farming, piggery (Business Advisory Center + Samartex - training). **Beneficiaries: woman groups, farmers, community as a whole, district government, companies involved in projects. **Benefits:** income growth, contribute to food security, strengthened capacities, enhance collaboration.**

- b) What are the challenges associated with the projects that were not successful?**
Lack of ownership, top-down approach to needs assessment, lack of capacity (financial + technical knowledge, lack of institutional/state support, lack of exit strategy, cultural challenges for piggery, no culture of animal rearing, defaulting on loans from fund.
- c) What role do private companies play in natural resource management in the landscape?**
Financial support, partnerships, technology, capacity building, representation/afforestation/plantation development, community engagement, supply planting materials/tree seedlings.

GROUP 6: Gender

- a) What are the roles of women in natural resource management in the landscape?**
- Women play dual roles: after planting food crops they support men in planting cash crops: snails farm, mushroom, fetch firewood to support livelihood, and tree planting in existing coca farms
 - Woman are not included in development projects
 - Woman are good receptors and vehicles to change
 - Woman influence man to support policies that support natural resources management
 - Woman are sensitive and more connected to nature and passionate about nature
- b) How does natural resource management impact women, both positively and negatively?**
- Positive: Improve income levels, access to food, healthy family (eat balance) diets, improve food security, and provide peace at home due to other income sources, engage in sustainable alternative livelihood
 - Negative: Not included in decision making, woman don't own land, don't have control of natural resources, water bodies polluted dried up, wildfires leading to loss of farms/lives, charcoal burning causes blindness and skin irritation
- c) Do women have access to and control over natural resources? What benefits do they get from natural resources?**
Fetch firewood, water etc., snails, mushrooms etc., improve individual and household income through sustainable natural resource management, improve food security, improve livelihoods, health lifestyle

Discussion: It was mentioned that the group focused only on woman issues, but gender discussion should include male and female aspects. **Saadia response:** Female is the group mostly in disadvantage in the landscape, as woman have access to natural resources, but not to ownership and control. For example, if a woman doesn't have children, she can't inherit



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land from her family.

Annex C – Field Visits Full Description and Reflections

The field visit covered two local farms and one Timber and Plywood Company in Wassa Amenfi. The farm provided an overview of the variable and multiple land uses, illustrating successful and unsuccessful land use planning. The key reflections from the field visits and plenary discussions were as follows:

NANA ESSANDOH'S FARM



Description

Nana Essandoh is a farmer with land size of 70 acres. He was the District's Best Farmer in the year 2015. 50 acres of the land is cocoa intercropped with different Timber Tree species. 6 acres of the land is Teak Plantation whilst the remaining 14 acres is for other economic trees species. Examples of these Trees species are *Milicia excels* (Odum), *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (Sapele), *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (Wawa), *Cedrela odorata* (Cedrela), *Khaya ivorensis* (Mahogany), *Terminalia superba* (Ofram), *Entandrophragma angolense* (Edinam),

among others. He has over 6000 individual trees - 3000 of which are registered within the Forest Commission - 14 acres of Rubber plantation, and substantial livestock.

Key Points

1. **Income diversification:** the field visit was focused on showing the participants the different products being produced such as cat fish and tilapia, rubber, Allanblackia (for cosmetics and margarine), Mohogany, and snails among others.
2. **Bureaucracy and cost for tree commercialization:** necessity of smoother and less expensive processes to commercialized trees (permits, certificates and conveyances).
3. **CREMA's power and decentralization:** Crema should be given more power by the DA to make process smoother. More incentives to plant trees, more benefits for farmers who are part of CREMAs.
4. **Fauna and wildlife:** What can farmers do to make sure the fauna survives in the landscape? Farmers tend to want fauna to move far from their farms, but fauna is a very important component of the landscape. Importance of farmers have to build habitats to wildlife.



QUARM FARMS

Description

Mr. Sylvester Quarm is a renowned farmer in the landscape. The J. Y Quarm farms is well known in the country as a model agroforestry farm which has been a huge resource for research and practical demonstrations for students in the country's tertiary institutions. Mr Quarm has won the Regional Best Farmer title for Western Region a number of times and winning the ultimate title of National Best Farmer is one of his ambitions. The farm is about 150 acres with mixed-use and timber tree plantations, cash crop plantations, food crops, livestock, etc. Some of the tree species including; *Milicia excels* (Odum), *Entandrophragma cylindricum* (Sapele), *Triplochiton scleroxylon* (Wawa), *Cedrela odorata* (Cedrela), *Khaya ivorensis* (Mahogany), *Terminalia superba* (Ofram), *Entandrophragma angolense* (Edinam), among others. The farm also has a rubber plantation, cocoa under shade trees, teak plantation, oranges, coconut, and food crops such as plantain, cassava, etc.



Key points

1. **Alternative agroforest model and diversification:** Cocoa planting & alternative agroforestry practices such as increased shade; traditionally its recommended 30% of shade for cocoa production, but the farm uses almost 100% and claim it achieves better results. Model/expertise replicable to other local farmers to improve cocoa production. Also, the farm is a very good example of which trees work for cocoa systems and which trees don't. The farm provides insights on what tree species private sector should be recommending to farmers. Opportunities of collaboration.
2. **Research:** The agroforestry practices developed by Quarm have been object of research projects for years, however, the information generate in such projects isn't reported back. Lots of opportunity to improve the farm's operation. Importance of exchange between the academy and local farmers and identify how academia can give back to local farmers in exchange of the data they provide.
3. **Business plan and commercialization of other products and services:** The farm could provide additional income sources if other activities were developed, such as a bee keeping, tourism (camping) and charging fees to visitors. Organizations like Codesult and the private sector could play an important role on supporting the development of a business a plan and sharing expertise to identify opportunities.
4. **Bureaucracy and lack of incentives:** Though Quarm borders forest reserve, most Farmers lack incentive to conserve the forest. If the land was converted into cassava plantation, that would generate income fast. Who pays for the cost of conserving the forest within private land?

SAMARTEX TIMBER AND PLYWOOD COMPANY





Description

Samartex Timber & Plywood Company limited is located in Samreboi western region. The company was known as African Timber & Plywood Company (AT&P) which had been in existence since 1947 under the UAC group of companies. Samartex Timber & Plywood Company Limited took over from AT&P in 1995. The company's **vision** is '*to become the leading sustainable and socially responsible wood processing firm in Africa through the optimum use of our natural resources*'. It has a work force of over 2000 employees, most of whom are resident within the company premises.

The company's operations extend beyond the Wassa Amenfi landscape to other districts and regions. It has offices in Accra and Takoradi. Samartex sources its raw materials from concessionary forests, to provide the best quality of tropical forest wood. Their modern veneer plant produces up to 1,000,000 m² veneers per month. The company also has its own plantation from which it sources other logs. Besides wood processing, Samartex is also involved in the regeneration of the natural resources through the establishment of plantation and agro-forestry schemes.

Samartex has evolved into the development of value-added products with non-timber forest products (NTFPs) like Thaumatin sweetener, as well as using low-volume wood pieces for carvings that would otherwise be considered waste. A very unique feature of Samartex is that the company generates its own electrical power and water. A boiler system is used to produce steam for powering a 1400kW capacity generator to produce power for wood processing and domestic use. The fuel used by this plant is wood waste and sawdust.

Key points: Private sector role is to open space for collaboration between the community and the private sector. For example, sharing expertise with local farmers on seedling techniques or supporting local farmers to develop timber production in their farms to diversify income.



Annex D – Stakeholder visions for a sustainable and thriving landscape in 10 years: breakout session

GOVERNMENT- NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS

Governance Systems and Frameworks

- Transparency, accountability, reduced corruption, increased participation across governance systems in the landscape

Inter-institutional Collaboration

- Identify key institutions in the NRM sector
- Engage them effectively to achieve the needed cross- sectoral NRM

Existing Policies and Regulations

- Harmonize key NRM approaches within the key institutions, including learning lessons
- Identify gaps and pass the necessary legislation to address the gaps

Stakeholder Representation

- Bring onboard all key actors in the landscape who play key roles in NRM

Sustainable Nature-based Livelihoods

- Explore all potential nature-based livelihood opportunities within the landscape and implement in partnership with the private sector
- Landscape to be adopted as part of the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP) Hotspot Intervention Area (HIA)

Gender

- Ensure equal opportunities for both men and women in the sustainable and thriving NRM (landscape) e.g. Decision making, participation, access and control of resources, benefit sharing

GOVERNMENT- NON-NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTIONS

Governance Systems and Frameworks

- Enhance collaboration /partnership between FSD and the DA
- Develop a comprehensive land use framework
- Mainstream CREMA activities in MTDP
- Reclamation of degraded forests
- Enforcement of existing laws on mining

Inter-institutional Collaboration

- Stakeholders engagement/forum/platform created and functional

- DA should play paramount role in SRA negotiations, implementation and planning

Existing Policies and Regulations

- Effective enforcement of laws
- Continuous review and updating of policies to meet international standards

Stakeholder Representation

- Involve stakeholders in the planning, budgeting, and related activities of the DA
- Continuous training /education /sensitization

Sustainable Nature-based Livelihoods

- Increase CSR
- Support maintenance of the environment in the landscape
- Train farmers on alternative livelihoods and provide startup
- Enactment of PPP laws (National by-laws etc.)
- Create employment
- Increase different types of animals

Gender

- Both men and women should take their roles serious
- Positions should be evenly distributed
- Existing law banning women from owning land should be reviewed

COMMUNITY- WASSA AMENFI WEST MUNICIPALITY

Governance Systems and Frameworks

- Plant more trees
- Stop illegal activities
- The law relating to such activities should be strengthened
- The DA should empower volunteers, community watchdogs. etc.

Inter-institutional Collaboration

- An organization like CREMA should own an office
- Schools, colleges, churches should be encouraged to plant more trees

Existing Policies and Regulations

- Authorities should not interfere when someone is found guilty of the law
- Stakeholders should be part of every decision made

Stakeholder Representation

- Miners, chainsaw operators, hunters, timber firms, charcoal business etc. should be represented
- Media should not be left out of the civil society groups

Sustainable Nature-based Livelihoods

- Consider implementing carbon credit for farmers to maintain their trees
- NTFP laws should be softened
- Increase livelihood opportunities
- Enhance income level

Gender

- Introduce women/men to smart agricultural practices
- Increase access in loans/credit facilities (men/women)
- Increase gender equity (fair representation of women in CREMA, planning etc.)

COMMUNITY- AMENFI CENTRAL DISTRICT

Governance Systems and Frameworks

- That a concerted effort be made to strengthen all natural resource governance policies and effective adherence and compliance by all citizens with defaulters not being spared.

Inter-institutional Collaboration

- To see a combined effort by both traditional, governmental and the citizenry collaborating for the sustenance, restoration and development of the landscape.

Existing Policies and Regulations

- That all old and outmoded statutes in natural resource be reviewed to match the current trend.

Stakeholder Representation

- That an all-inclusive action to sustain the landscape should be in place and a reward scheme instituted to incentivize the citizens.

Sustainable Nature-based Livelihoods

- The forest fringe communities must be supported for an improvement in their living standard by way of a livelihood enhancement program

Gender

- That both sexes will be equal and given adequate attention to take part in all the efforts on natural resource management and sustenance.

CIVIL SOCIETY AND PRIVATE SECTOR

Governance Systems and Frameworks

- Land use Policy- defines what land should be used for what/ zoning plan
- Enabling environment for private sector to invest in landscapes/ operate in an environmentally friendly way e.g. Incentives-tax waivers and provision of infrastructure

- Transparency/ accountability-private sector publishing financial reports and investments in environment; Government to publish studies/ expenditure on environment and contracts between private sector and government
- Re-investment of revenue back into communities producing timber, cocoa etc.
- Improved legal framework- make current laws work e.g. Tree ownership
- Wildlife Revenue Management Bill passed

Inter-institutional Collaboration

- Law enforcement Agencies effectively collaborating internally and externally with each other and communities
- Permanent dialogue process - civil society, private sector.
- Create database on environment and agriculture, and develop a platform to freely share it

Sustainable Nature-based Livelihoods

- Additional livelihoods beyond agriculture/cash crops (i.e. access to other markets)
- Deregulate cocoa so that farmers earn sustainable prices
- Increase production (1,000 kg /ha) of cocoa and facilitate certification
- Restore degraded forests (ensure zero deforestation policy enforcement)

Gender

- Child-labor free value chain
- Gender mainstreaming
- Inclusion (people with disability, youth, etc.)

TRADITIONAL AUTHORITY

Governance Systems and Frameworks

- Our traditional laws will be documented for easy reference
- Traditional authority will play a role to establish tourism to attract people

Inter-institutional Collaboration

- Traditional authority will play active roles in land management
- Traditional authority will contribute resources towards land management (i.e. we will fund projects)

Existing Policies and Regulations

- Traditional authority should motivate CREMA to bring out good policies to help protect our natural resources
- Traditional authority will give orders to restrict users of protected areas (taboos).

Stakeholder Representation

- Traditional authority will bring on board women, assembly men, unit committee etc.
- Traditional authority to rope in and link up with communities with best practices.

Sustainable Nature-based Livelihoods

- Traditional authority will create dialogue with private sector and users
- Traditional authority will create a fund for the restoration of the environment

Gender

- Traditional authority will ensure gender rules are understood within the community

Traditional authority will promote equity in gender

Annex E – Strategies to achieve landscape vision:

Entry point for private sector to support sustainable landscapes.

- A. define objective of strategy
- B. actions, roles and responsibilities, potential funding
- OBJECTIVE: to support small holder farmers and communities to increase their productivity and livelihoods in an environmentally sustainable way.

ACTION: (develop strategies)

1. Mainstreaming sustainability in business operations
 - a. Improve farmer awareness of landscape management.
 - b. Build farmer capacity on NRM
 - c. Improve farmer productivity (GAP)
 - d. Scale up cocoa agroforestry
 - e. Invest in irrigation to support year-round production
 - f. Implement climate smart agriculture
2. Sustainability data collection for reporting and communications
3. Research, development and innovation
4. Land tenure security
 - a. Access to finance
 - b. Deliver women's empowerment programs
 - c. Certification/premiums
5. Zero sourcing from deforested areas

Diversification and support of sustainable community livelihoods

- A. Define objective of strategy
- B. Actions, roles and responsibilities, potential funding
- *Government can support in small business enterprises (soap making, tie-dye, pastries, etc)

A. OBJECTIVE: women and men empowerment to enter into other business ventures, have diversified livelihood options for communities to choose from.

- B. actions, roles, responsibilities
 - identification of sustainable alternative livelihood options
 - Prioritize identified actions
 - Build capacity of local communities
 - Monitoring and evaluation of actions implemented

Roles and responsibilities

- FC to supervise the implementation process
- Traditional authority to release for implementing action (e.g. woodlot plantation, nursery establishment)
- District assembly (planning officers) to help monitor activities and build capacity.
- Unit committee to create awareness at clubs, bars, churches, etc.
- Farmers need to be active and implement actions effectively
- CSO/NGO's to support capacity building programs and provide tree seedlings and other equipment.
- Private sector provide seedlings and other equipment (utlasses, wellington boots).

Potential funding

- Government (FC, cocobod)
- Private sector (olam, armajaro, etc)
- CSO's/NGO's (IUCN, codesult, etc)
- District assembly
- Donors

Conservation of natural resources in a multi-functional landscape

- A. define objective of strategy
- B. actions, roles and responsibilities, potential funding

OBJECTIVE: sustainable management and utilization of the natural resources of the landscape for improved livelihood.

ACTION:

- Baseline study: data collection, analysis, categorize land uses
- Stakeholder analysis
- Define interventions:
 - o Education
 - o Ecotourism
 - o Generate bylaws
 - o Reducing consumption of certain resources
 - o Enforce existing laws
- Assign roles and responsibilities for implementation, monitoring and evaluation
- Partnership (Samatex)
- Potential funding:
 - o IUCN
 - o IGF. (ecotourism, levy on special products)

Reclamation and Restoration of Degraded Lands

- A. define objective of strategy
- B. actions, roles and responsibilities, potential funding

OBJECTIVE:

1. Provide livelihood for future operation
2. Reduce the incidence of flooding

ACTION: all, GEF, green chmoto, RENT, NAC, Bonn challenge

1. Objective: Ensure the eradication of glamsey activities.
 - a. Roles and responsibility: community members, traditional authorities, security services, CREMA, DA
 - b. Funding: culprits, TA, DA, MC
2. Objective: Increase community awareness on issues of land degradation and reclamation.
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: CREMA, DA, NGO's
 - b. Funding: CREMA, NGO'S, DA, schools, religious bodies
3. Objective: ensure strict enforcement of existing laws
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: security services, DA, TA
 - b. Funding: DA, CREMA
4. Objective: ensure stakeholder participation in all decisions
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: DA
 - b. Funding: DA, CREMA
5. Objective: Create alternative livelihoods for youth
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: DA, NGO's
 - b. Funding: industries/companies, DA, churches
6. Objective: create appropriate drainage systems
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: DA, community members, private sector
 - b. Funding: DA, companies
7. Objective: farmers should be banned from giving land to glamsey
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: CREMA, TA.
8. Objective: ensure all parts are covered
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: DA, TA
 - b. Funding: DA, NGO, CSO
9. Objective: incentivize people undertaken reclamation/restoration
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: DA, TA, private sector, REDD+, SRA
10. Objective: planting trees on reclaimed/restored lands
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: FC, individuals, PS, religious bodies
 - b. Funding: REDD+, community members, churches
11. Objective: ensure strict supervision of reclamation/restoration activities
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: DA, community members, CREMA,

- b. Funding: DA
- 12. Objective: designate area as conservation solely
 - a. Roles and responsibilities: DA
 - b. Funding: DA
- 13. Objective: clearly identify the uses of the land
 - a. Role: DA
 - b. Funding: da
- 14. Objective: ensure documentation of reclaimed sites/areas
 - a. Role: DA
 - b. Funding: DA, TA

Review, compliance, and enforcement of law

- A. define objective of strategy
- B. actions, roles and responsibilities, potential funding

OBJECTIVES:

- to create awareness on existing laws on natural resource management to minimize the operation of illegal activities.

ACTIONS:

- ID existing laws and their gaps
- Participatory interpretation of the existing laws and providing the necessary review
- Bottom-up approach where chiefs are consulted before permits given to contractors

Roles and responsibilities:

- Continuing advocacy on existing laws and compliance
- Empowering citizens to report on corruptions cases
- Capacity-building through sensitization.
- Individual and collective commitment
- Effective collaboration between the law enforcement agencies and stakeholders.

Potential funding: government, civil society orgs (NGO's), donors/international agencies, philanthropists.

1. Achieve a resilient and sustainable Wassa Amenfi Landscape.
2. To create green revolution of landscapes of Wassa Amenfi.
3. To have a landscape free from deforestation and forest degradation, improved yield leading to improved livelihoods, increased biodiversity and improved forest cover to future generations.
4. Mainstreaming a transparent land use framework involving all stakeholders in DA's strategic management plan

5. Governance systems and frameworks

- Develop a land use policy and mainstreaming into the DA's plan
 - Develop landscape with an enabling environment in which stakeholders are preserving the forest through good practices.
6. Have a sustainably developed landscape with key stakeholder participation, gender inclusion, transparency, and accountability.