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Towards Sustainable Chainsaw Milling in Ghana and Guyana

Stakeholder Analysis Report
2nd DRAFT



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Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana

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Stakeholder Analysis Report 2nd DRAFT



By James Parker Mckeown & Mercy Owusu Ansah

Tropenbos International Ghana
P.O. Box UP 982
Kumasi, Ghana
Tel. +2339(0)51 60310

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1. Background

'Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana' project focuses on the broad theme of forest governance in Ghana and Guyana which are countries with high incidence of chainsaw lumbering. In many local and indigenous forest dependent communities in these countries, chainsaw lumbering is an important component of livelihoods, yet generally the level of conflict and illegality associated with it are high.

The overall objectives of the project are to:

- Reduce poverty and promote viable livelihood in forest-dependent communities
- Reduce the occurrence of illegal logging
- Promote the conservation and sustainable management of tropical forest in developing countries

The specific objective is 'level of conflict and illegality related to chainsaw lumbering by local communities reduced'.

Chainsaw lumbering which refers to the use of a chainsaw machine to convert timber into lumber for commercial purpose is an important means of livelihood for many forest fringe communities where alternate livelihood opportunities are limited. It is estimated that chainsaw lumbering provides about 154,000 jobs directly and indirectly in Ghana.

The strength of chainsaw lumbering is that it pairs low capital requirements with high labour inputs. It therefore represents a cheaper alternative to the typical high capital, low labour intensive conventional milling. As a result, the price of chainsaw lumber is low. Chainsaw lumbering provides 70-85 percent of lumber needs in Ghana. The practise of chainsaw lumbering is banned in Ghana, but the implementation of the ban has not been successful. The practise continues and has been reported to be on the increase.

The existence of the illegal practise stimulates the development of exploitative business relations, eventually leading to low benefits for actors early in the production chain and large benefits for others usually financiers of operations who are located outside the communities. Illegal chainsaw lumbering leads to complains and conflicts between several stakeholder groups like chainsaw operators, lumber brokers, government, sawmill owners, resource owners, law enforcement agencies etc. Because of the different societal levels of the stakeholders, the conflicts assumes a political and sometimes racial dimension.

The expected results of the project are:

- Causes and consequences of chainsaw lumbering and links with illegality understood (National Level)
- Internationally best practice determined to address chainsaw lumbering (International Level)
- Multi-stakeholder learning platforms established to discuss chainsaw lumbering issues (National Level)
- National Consensus achieved in Ghana and Guyana about issues regarding chainsaw lumbering using an institutionalized mechanism for permanent dialogue between stakeholders (National Level)

- Communities dependent on chainsaw lumbering producing timber in a regulated and sustainable way (Local Level)

The project will be implemented in three communities in Guyana namely Ituni, Annai and Orealla and eight districts in Ghana namely Goaso, Sunyani, Juaso, Nkawie, Kade, Ayem Oda, Begoro, and Assin Foso. It will target stakeholders of chainsaw lumbering, particularly those directly involved and their representatives. These include: national government agencies dealing with forest, tax and law enforcement; regional and district governments; suppliers and downstream industry of chainsaw lumber; affected owners and right holders of forest resources; the “regular” sawmilling industry and community forestry organizations.

At the international level, forestry decision makers will also be targeted. The project partners are Forestry Training Centre Incorporated (FTCI) and Iwokrama International Center for Rain Forest Conservation and Development (Iwokrama) in Guyana and Forestry Commission (FC) and Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) in Ghana.

1.1 Introduction

Establishing multi-stakeholder learning platforms, also called multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) to discuss the chainsaw lumbering problem in Ghana is one of the expected results of the EU chainsaw milling project. The presence of such a mechanism for dialogue between stakeholders and a combination of adequate knowledge on chainsaw lumbering issues and livelihood alternatives will reduce the continued existence of mistrust and hostility between stakeholder groups. Thus, the success of the dialogue will reduce conflicts amongst chainsaw milling stakeholders in Ghana.

Participatory mechanisms to ensure mutual trust, discuss sensitive issues and produce credible information are important in reducing the barriers to identifying strategies to cope with the high level of conflict associated with chainsaw milling. The success of creating the multi-stakeholders’ platform will depend on the extent to which stakeholders believe in the role of such a mechanism to produce results and the willingness of stakeholders to accept the outcomes of the process, even if they represent a change away from fixed ideas and established positions.

The first stage for establishment of the MSD is the identification and analysis of relevant stakeholders to the platforms. Since the interested parties are widely distributed within the country and beyond getting the right stakeholder groups to constitute the MSD should be obtained after the identification and analysis of these stakeholders to ensure the successful establishment of the MSD.

To this end a stakeholder analysis was carried out to provide insight into who has a stake in chainsaw milling, and the ways in which these stakeholder groups may influence the MSD. This report provides the outcome of the stakeholder analysis and makes recommendations for the way forward.

1.2 Objectives of the Stakeholder Analysis

The objective of the stakeholder analysis was to present a general overview of the stakeholders, the contact persons, how to contact them, their influence in the chain (using ranking) and their capacity to participate in the multi-stakeholders learning platform. Specifically, the stakeholder analysis sought to present:

- A general overview of stakeholders and their stakes in the chainsaw milling enterprise.
- Their contact persons and how to contact them
- Their capacities to participate in the multi-stakeholder learning platform.
- Their capacities to influence/dominate the MSD process
- Their perception on the success or otherwise of the MSD
- Their relationship with other potential stakeholders and how that could influence the MSD

The expected outcome of the stakeholder analysis was to

- Provide a list of all stakeholders involved in chainsaw milling in Ghana by describing the chainsaw milling chain:
- Categorize the stakeholders identified in a table indicating their interest in relation to the MSD.
- Analyze relationship between stakeholders
- Assess stakeholder interests, importance and influence in the activity by developing a relationship matrix.

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2.0 Methodology and Approach

A list of forestry stakeholders from the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) and Collaborative Resource Management Unit (CFMU) of the Resources Management Support Centre (RMSC) of the Forestry Commission (FC) were studied. From the list, a number of stakeholders who were found to have direct stake in chainsaw lumbering were selected. Interviews were then conducted with these stakeholders in three forest districts, namely, Goaso, Assin Foso and Akim Oda. The interviews were conducted to assess the interest of the stakeholder groups, their levels of organisation and therefore capacity to participate in the MSD, how they could be represented at the multi-stakeholder dialogue, to find out if any of the stakeholders could dominate the MSD process, and to find out if there are any other stakeholders that have not been included. The checklist used for the interviews have been appended.

The following approach was used for the preliminary stakeholder analysis:

- Review the Collaborative Resource Management Unit (CRMU) and Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) chainsaw lumbering stakeholder list.
- Select stakeholders who have stake in the chainsaw lumbering enterprise
- Development of Checklist for each stakeholder group.
- Development of a questionnaire.
- Determination of sample size (Select districts where data would be collected and the number of stakeholder groups to be interviewed within each district).
- Determine logistics required to carry out the stakeholder's analysis.

2.1 Project Area

In Ghana, the project is being implemented in 8 forest districts namely; Goaso and Sunyani in Brong Ahafo Region, Nkawie and Juaso in Ashanti Region, Begoro, Akyem Oda and Kade in Eastern Region and Assin Fosu in Central Region. The forest districts have been demarcated in such a way that would be efficient to manage the forest resources and does not conform to political demarcations. It normally covers two or more political districts. The project area therefore covers more

than 8 political municipalities and 26 districts with a total area of about 64,414.9km². The total population of area is about 4 million of which more than 70% are Akan speaking people. About 68% of the people are engaged in agriculture and the rest in agro-processing, trading, industry and service provision. The project area falls within the moist semi-deciduous forest type with the highest elevation of about 500 meters above sea level around Begoro district. There are 68 forest reserves covering a total area of 5,124.48km² (about 8% of the total project area) in the project area. Fifty chainsaw prevalent communities (table 1) was identified in the project area. It is estimated that about 33,350 people (0.8% of the total population) are directly and indirectly involve in the illegal chainsaw milling activities.

Fig1: Map of Ghana showing project districts

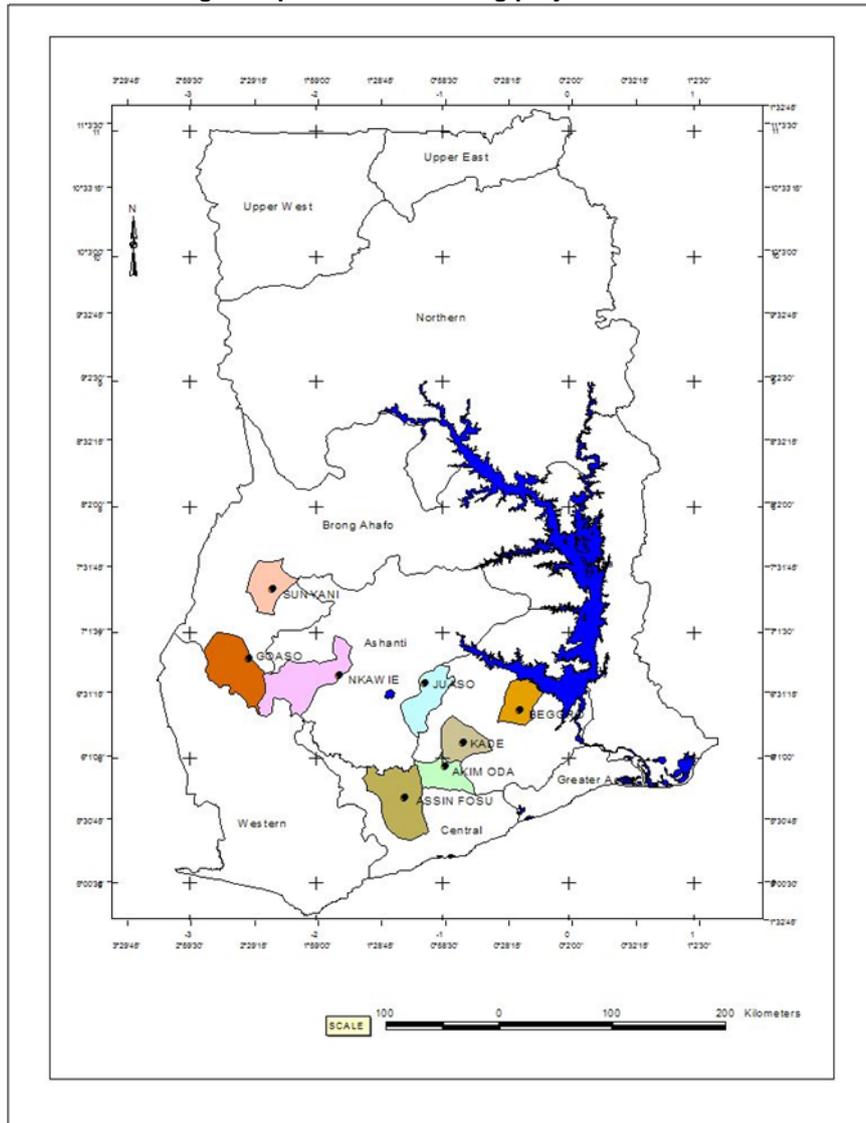


Table:1 Description of Project Area

Region	Project District	Total Area & Population and ethnicity	Political Area	Main occupation of the people	Vegetation type, topography and # of forest reserves	Chainsaw prone communities
Ashanti	Juaso	3,014.9 km ² with 360,171 people mainly Akans (80%)	3 administrative districts (Asante Akyem North & South municipalities and Ejisu-Juabeng district)	Agriculture (72%) & Agro-processing, industry, trading and service provision (28%)	Moist semi-deciduous forest with a general elevation of 200-300 meters above sea level. There are 8 forest reserves with a total area of 538.4km ²	2 communities (Breku Dadieso and Obogu) with about 120 people involved
	Nkawie	24,031 km ² with 440,489 people mainly Akan (77%)	7 administrative districts (Atwima Nwabeagya, Atwima Mponua, Ahafo Ano North, Ahafo Ano south, Atwima Bosomtwi, Atwima Kwanwoma and Asutifi South)	Agriculture (60%) & Agro-processing, industry, trading and service provision (40%)	Moist semi-deciduous forest. There are 6 forest reserves with a total area of 1019.72 km ²	3 communities (Akota, Apentimedi and kyekyewere) with about 850 people involved.
Brong Ahafo	Sunyani	15,425 km ² with 846,567 people mainly Akans (65%)	7 administrative districts (Sunyani, Techiman, Berekum and Wenchi municipalities and Tain, Asutifi North and Sunyani East districts)	Agriculture (70%) & Agro-processing, industry, trading and service provision (30%)	Moist and dry semi-deciduous forest. There are 7 forest reserves with a total area of 956.11 km ²	4 communities (Asuakwa, Abrefa, Nsagobesa and Yawsaa) with about 2,900 people involved
	Goaso	4,914 km ² with 255,345 people mainly Akans (80%)	3 administrative districts (Asunafo North, Asunafo South and Asutifi districts)	Agriculture (67%), trading, industry and service provision (33%)	Moist semi-deciduous forest. There are 8 forest reserves with a total area of 830.23Km ²	5 communities (Sankore, Akrodie, Ayumso, Mim and Kukuom) with about 19,000 people involved
Eastern	Begoro	3,701.0 km ² with 613,530 people mainly Akans (65%)	5 administrative districts (New Juabeng Municipality, Suhum-Kraboia_Kota, East Akyem, Fanteakwa and Atiwa districts)	Agriculture (60%), agro-processing, trading, industry and service provision (40%)	South East moist semi-deciduous forest with a hilly and rugged topography rising from 250-500 meters above sea level. There are 6 forest reserves with a total area of 606.40km ²	4 communities (Potrase, Begoro, Aseakwa and Obuoho) with about 4,500 people
	Akim Oda	5,359.0 km ² with 670,986 people mainly Akans (70%)	5 administrative districts (Birim South, West Akim, Asikuma Odoben Brakwa, Birim North and Asante Akim North districts)	Agriculture (70%), trading, industry and service provision (30%)	Moist semi-deciduous forest. There are 9 forest reserves with a total area of 395.32km ² .	10 communities (Anomabo, Ohiafo, Kwabenakenku, Newtown, Aprkomase, Sunsumawu, Aduosia, Apoli, Nigo and Oda township) with a about 3,500 people

	Kade	3,498.0km ² with 450,000 people mainly Akans (70%)	3 administrative districts (Kwaebibirem, Birim North and West Akim districts)	Agriculture (74%), trading and service provision (26%)	Moist semi-deciduous forest. There are 12 forest reserves with a total area of 390.32km ² .	4 communities (Takyiman, Pramkese, Adwafo and Obouho) with about 1,000 people
Central	Assin Foso	4,472.0 km ² with 396,226 people mainly Akans (75%)	4 administrative districts (Assin North municipality, Assin South, Assikuma Odobeng Brakwa and Twifo-Hemang-Lower Denkyira Districts)	Agriculture (70%), trading (30%)	Moist semi-deciduous forest. There are 12 forest reserves with a total area of 387.98km ² .	18 communities (Assin Juaso, Adiembra, Aworoso, Akropong, Sienkyem, Breku, Athinkensu, Wurakese, Bankyease, Gynawobrodie, Adadientem, Gyamera, Baako, Supong, Baadum, Denyase, Nuamahkrom and Tweaboso) with about 1,500 people

3.0 Findings

Chainsaw milling provides livelihoods for hundreds of thousands of people in Ghana (producers, consumers, law enforcers, etc.). The stakeholders found to have a direct stake in chainsaw lumbering, and thus in participating in the MSD have been listed below. A detailed description of the stakeholders, the relationship between stakeholders, a synthesis of stakeholders' perception on their main interest or stake in forest management, their views on the success or failure on the chainsaw ban and their expectations regarding the outcome of the MSD has been provided And finally an importance-influence matrix has been presented. Details of information given by the various stakeholders in all the three forest districts have been appended.

3.1 List of Stakeholders for MSD

During the field study, the following stakeholders were identified as having key roles in chainsaw milling.

1. Forestry Commission (FC) all levels, incl. FSD?
2. Farmers
3. Chainsaw Operators + Chainsaw carrier (CC)+ Loaders (CL)
4. Lumber brokers
5. Saw millers
6. District Assemblies
7. Large Timber Companies
8. Consumers (e.g. Carpenters)

9. Forest dependant people (NTFP Collectors, Hunters, communities etc)
10. Civil Society and NGO's + CBO's
11. Law enforcers (e.g. Police, Judiciaries, Customs)
12. Chiefs
13. Land owners
14. Chainsaw machine dealers / owners
15. Transporters
16. Politicians, incl. Parliamentary select committee on chainsaw lumbering
17. VPA?

3.2 Description of stakeholders

3.2.1 Producers of chainsaw Lumber

Two main groups of stakeholders directly engaged in producing chainsaw lumber were identified; Forest dependent people including farmers, and chainsaw operators. The table below outlines the key differences between these two groups with respect to their access to capital, market, and trees as well as their dependence on chainsaw lumber (Livelihood support and frequency of activities) and finally how far they are from the resource base (proximity)

Table 1: Characteristics of chainsaw lumbering producers

Characteristics	(1) forest-dependent people	(2) Chainsaw operators and farmers
Capital	Low capital: often mill with specific projects or market in mind	not time- or capital-limited
Frequency	they mill infrequently, on part-time and produce relatively low daily and annual volumes of timber	involved in milling as full time
Markets	Milling mainly but not exclusively for their own use and for local, district markets.	producing for large urban markets (district and regional)
Proximity	living in or near forests reserves	living in, near or outside forests reserves (sometimes in big cities)
Livelihood support	They do not mainly earn their living from lumber sales	they mainly earn their living from chainsaw lumbering and sales
Access to logs	Free access to trees either on their own farms or from neighbouring farms and forests for fuelwood but not timber. Trees could be felled by these group but can not be processed or converted to lumber using chainsaw.	they often have access to trees at very low cost through farmer

3.2.2 Chainsaw lumbering Consumers

Two types of consumers were identified.

A) The first is the private individual, perhaps a neighbour, extended family member or other person who requires lumber for a certain project such as building a house, who then hires a chainsaw operator alone or a chainsaw to convert the trees into the desired dimensions, which is relatively common in forest dependent communities. Also in this category are corporate users such as schools, hospitals, community centres or chief palaces which fell largely on farm. Wood workers such as carpenters

and construction workers who use sawn lumber to feed households and individuals in the community are also included in this category of consumers.

B) The second is the chainsaw lumber 'dealer' who negotiates for or hires chainsaw operators to negotiate for the standing tree and converts the tree on site with their own saw or hires one. He internally sells the lumber to end users or other dealers in timber markets.

3.3 Description of chainsaw lumbering chain

The chainsaw lumbering chain from the felling of trees, to the production and sale of lumber to the end user or consumer may follow one or more of a number of routes depending on the following:

- the flow of timber from stump to end-user (Consumer) is shown by the block arrows
- the flow of money from investor to beneficiaries/contractors is shown by the solid black arrows
- the regulatory mechanisms that influence these fluxes;

The chart below describes this chain in each of these categories. The oval shape represents the stakeholders involved in the product chain. The rectangular text box represents the regulatory stakeholders and also identifies their point of entry and intersection within the chain. The solid arrow describes the flow of money between the lumber broker, the chainsaw operator, the chiefs/landowners and the farmers. The common chain is shown by the blocked arrow.

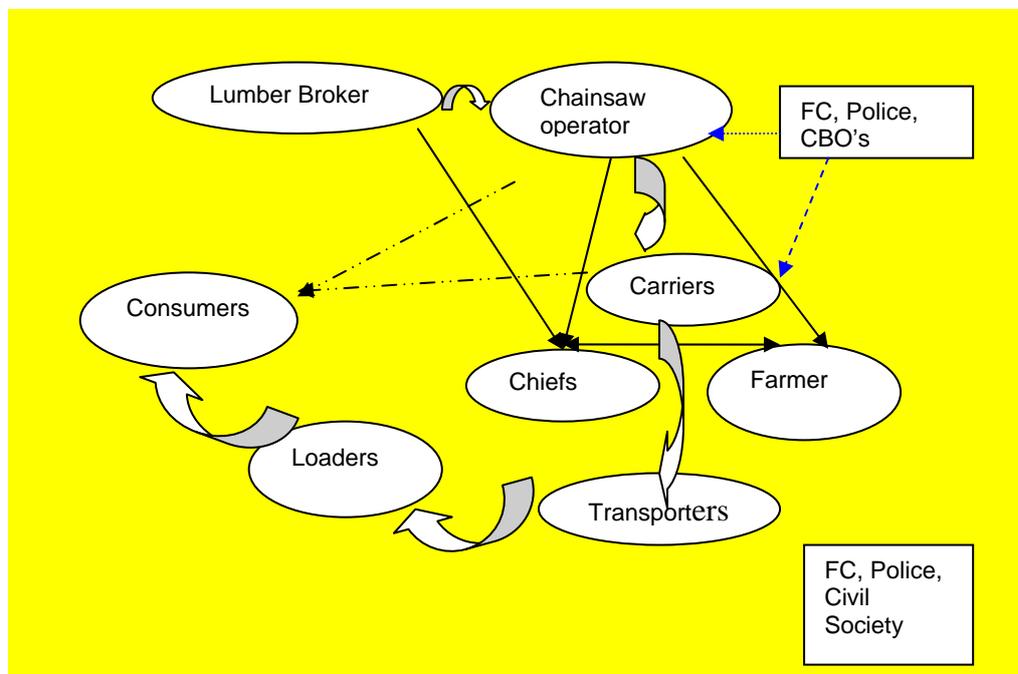


Figure 2: Description of chainsaw lumbering chain

3.4 Chainsaw lumbering Stakeholder Relationship

The existing relationships between stakeholders has been analysed with respect to conflict, negative and positive relationships that may influence the success of the multi-stakeholder dialogue as shown below.

Table 2: Description of chainsaw lumbering stakeholder relationships

Stakeholder	Conflicting stakeholders	Conflicts of interests	Positive relations	Negative relations
Consumers	Chainsaw operators		Regular supply of wood	Untimely payment
FSD	Chainsaw operators, Chiefs, farmers	Enforcement Monitoring	Consultation and educational programme	Destruction of trees, Non adherence of laws and regulations
District Assembly	FSD, chainsaw operators	Benefit sharing Supply of logs	Consultations	
Farmers	Chainsaw operators, FSD	Destruction of farms	Payment of fees (illegal)	Non-payment of compensations
Police	Chainsaw operators	Monitoring	Payment of bribes	Payment of bribes
Judiciary	FSD	Impoundment of logs	Availability of laws with penalties	Penalties not adhered to
NTFP Gatherers & Communities	Chainsaw operators	Destruction of NTFP	Provision of lumber for community development	Non-payment of compensation, destruction of streams and rivers
Small Scale saw Millers	Chainsaw Operator	Stealing of trees and logs	Use of chainsaw to fell trees	
Chainsaw operators	FSD, Farmers, Chiefs, Police	Monitoring	Provision of lumber	Payment of bribes

3.5 Summaries of Stakeholder Interest and Perceptions on Chainsaw ban and Multi-stakeholder Dialogue (MSD)

The table below provide a summary of stakeholder interest, perception on the chainsaw ban and how they expect the Multi-stakeholder Dialogue to function and be facilitated (based on the interviews).

Table 3: Summary of stakeholder interest and perceptions on Chainsaw ban and MSD

Stakeholder	Interest/Stake	Perception on CS ban	Perceptions on MSD
Wood Workers	access to affordable wood for their work		They stated that if facilitator is carefully chosen, none of the stakeholders can have excessive influence on the MSD. They are positive about the dialogue.
FSD	sustainable management of the nation's forests	impractical due to people's dependence on it as their source of livelihood, demand for wood for local use (which is not being met by saw millers) Farmer's preference of chainsaw operation. Enforcement has targeted only operators and brokers and not other areas like the market. Besides, the FSD is under-resourced.	They were positive about the MSD. A possible threat they identified is under-representation of stakeholders directly involved in chainsaw lumber production such as operators carriers and loaders who are considered as the trouble makers .
District Assembly	Sustainability of the district's forests Ability to obtain revenue from the	The ban has been difficult to enforce due to demand for affordable lumber for local use. The policy provision which gives farmers no control over trees they have nurtured on their lands.	

	forests.		
Farmers	Access to wood for local use To benefit from trees they have nurtured on their lands.	Preference for chainsaw operators to timber companies because the operators cause less damage to their crops and pay them money.	
Police	Enforcement of the laws	Ban not being enforced prefer the other stakeholders meet to take a decision on the chainsaw milling, after which they would enforce	was positive about the MSD but mention that one threat to a successful MSD is lack of transparency
Judiciary	Pass judgement on cases brought to them.	Ban is impracticable due to demand for lumber for local use. But concern about possible forest destruction should the ban be lifted,	The MSD will put things in place to ensure effective regulation, which will be better than the current situation.
NTFP Gatherers & Communities	Sustainability of the forest Access to affordable lumber for local use.	Positive about use of chainsaw because it saves time and energy in cutting a trunk into pieces for making mortar. It provides them with wood for local building.	
Small Scale saw Millers	Sustainability of the nation's forests so that they can remain in business several years to come.	Impracticable due to demand for lumber for local use.	Positive about the MSD and cautioned that we need bold people at the MSD.

Table 4: importance and Influence of chainsaw lumbering stakeholders

Stakeholder group	Importance of group**	Influence of group†
	Score of 1-5*	Score of 1-5
Chainsaw machine dealers / owners (CD/O)	2	1
Chainsaw operators (CO)	4	3
Chainsaw carrier (CC)	2	3
Loaders (CL)	3	2
Transporters (CT)	1	1
Lumber brokers (CLB)	4	4
Consumers/ Users (CU)	2	3
NGO's	3	3
Law Enforcers (CLE)	3	3
Sawmills (SM)	3	3
Forestry Commission (FC)	5	5
CBO's	3	3
Farmers (F)	4	2
Chiefs (TA)	4	3
Parliament Gov't)	4	4
District Assemblies (DA)	4	3
NTFP	2	2

* Score: 1 = very little importance or influence, to 5 = very great importance or influence.

** indicates importance to the issue of chainsaw lumbering (alt: interest)

† indicates importance and representation within local/national power structures and institutions (alt: power)

The Importance /Influence table has been used to develop the Importance/Influence Matrix as shown below. .

Table 5: importance/Influence Matrix for chainsaw lumbering stakeholders

High importance/ Low Influence	High Importance/ High Influence
A) Chainsaw operators, Chiefs, Farmers, Consumers, Carriers	B) FC Gov't, Lumber Brokers,
DA, NGOs	
C) NTFP, Loaders, chainsaw machine dealers/owners, Chainsaw transporters	D) CBO's, Law enforcers, Saw millers
Low Importance/ Low Influence	Low Importance/ High Influence

The key stakeholders of the chainsaw lumbering issues are indicated in Box A and B. Stakeholders of low importance but high influence in affecting the outcome of the multi-stakeholder dialogue are listed in box D. Stakeholders in Box A require special initiatives if their interests are to be protected. Those in Box B, are highly needed in developing and implementing any alternative. Those in box C may need limited monitoring. They are unlikely to be the focus of the activity because their livelihoods does not depend wholly on chainsaw lumber production. E.g. The loader is prepared to load and off-load any goods that is available so whether or not chainsaw is banned he will still survive. The transport owners and driver may use their vehicles for carrying goods other than chainsaw lumber.

3.6 Stakeholders interest in chainsaw milling

Each stakeholder group has an interest or stake in chainsaw milling driven by their livelihoods, needs and values. Whiles some of the interest compliments each other, a few of them are conflicting. The interests of twelve stakeholder groups are presented in this section.

3.6.1 Forest Services Division (FSD)

The main interest of the FSD as a stakeholder is sustainable management of the nation's forests. The FSD is seen by the other stakeholders as having a high capacity to influence the outcome of the MSD, since they have the overall mandate and control over the management of the nation's forests and forest resources. Of all stakeholders, the FSD has the highest potential to get the current policy/law on chainsaw lumbering amended. It could be represented at the MSD by forest managers at the district offices and the field-based technical officers.

3.6.2 Chainsaw Operators

Their main interest is freedom to do their work, which for most of them, is their main source of livelihood. They asserted that contrary to the widely held notion that they are destructive and criminals, they are also concerned about the sustainability of the nation's forests. With the exception of chainsaw operators in the Goaso Forest District, they are generally not organised. The respondents felt they could represent chainsaw operators in their respective districts. They gave the impression that they can actively participate in a dialogue on the issue.

3.6.3 Lumber Brokers

Their main interest is regular supply of affordable lumber. In view of their difficulty in obtaining lumber from the sawmills, they rely on chainsaw operators as their main source of lumber. They therefore have very positive relations with chainsaw operators. Some brokers have their own chainsaw machines and employ people to operate for them. Brokers are seen by the other stakeholders as being very influential in the chainsaw lumbering enterprise due to their funding roles and links with prominent personalities as a result of which they are able to play around with the law. They are generally organised. They could therefore be represented at the MSD by their executives.

3.6.4 Farmers

Their main interests are access to affordable lumber for housing in their small communities and desire to obtain financial benefits from trees they have nurtured on their farms. Until recently, tree on farms were owned by the state and supposedly managed by the Forestry Commission. Though in principle the ownership has shifted, policies, laws and regulations has not been amended in this direction. They have positive relations with chainsaw operators since unlike timber companies, chainsaw operators pay them money when they exploit trees on their lands and cause less damage to their crops. The operators also offer them very vital services in the form of splitting wood on their lands for them when they need wood for roofing their houses and for community projects. The respondents however expressed discontentment with chainsaw operators who operate in near-by forest reserves to supply brokers based in the cities. They see these operators very destructive. Farmers are generally not organised. However, all farming communities have unit committees who probably could represent farmers at the MSD.

3.6.5 Forest Dependent Communities

This stakeholder group includes people like pestle dealers, mortar makers, leaf collectors, hunters, etc. Being ordinary members of the small communities and sometimes also being farmers, their main interest is access to lumber for local use and sustainable management of the forest to supply their basic livelihood needs. They are generally not organised. However, the respondents gave the impression that they could represent their respective groups and could get their groups organised for meetings if that becomes necessary.

3.6.6 Carpenters

Their main interest is regular supply of wood for their work. They rely mostly on chain-sawn lumber since they have difficulty obtaining supplies from sawmills; besides the fact that sawmill wood is more expensive. With the exception of Carpenters at Kumasi Angloga, the small-scale carpenters are generally not organised.

3.6.7 District Assembly (DA)

Their main concern is sustainable management of forests in their respective districts. At Assin Fosu, it was suggested that any invitation to the DA be addressed to the District Chief Executive (DCE), instead of the District Planning Officer, whom the project intended using as DA contact. DAs could be represented at the MSD by the District Chief Executive, the District Planning Officer or anyone else from the District Assembly office.

3.6.8 Police

Their main interest is to enforce all laws of the land. Two out of four police stations visited felt no need to be involved in the MSD, their reason being that their job is to enforce the law and so would want the other stakeholder to take a decision on the issue, after which they would come in to enforce. For the stations that felt they could be involved in the MSD, they could be represented by any officer from the stations.

3.6.9 Judiciary

Their main interest is to try offenders in court and to pass judgements on them. The courts could be represented by any of the court officials.

3.6.10 Small Timber Companies

Their main interest is sustainability of our forests. They sometimes employ chainsaw operators to cut and split trees in their concession areas located within crop farms for them, because farmers would not allow them to use machines in such farms. It was mentioned that in the majority of cases where chainsaw operators work in the concession areas of these companies, it happens with their knowledge and consent. Some lumber from chainsaw operators sometimes end up at these small timber companies. Small timber companies therefore have quite positive relations with chainsaw operators. They are organised and could therefore be represented at the MSD by their executives.

3.6.11 Big Timber Companies

Their main interest is to have the current competition for trees they face with chainsaw operators taken away. They employ local people who live in or around their concession areas to check on illegal activities in their concession areas by chainsaw operators. They are organised and could therefore be represented at the MSD by their executives. Since both small timber companies and big timber companies belong to the same association (Ghana Timber Association [GTA]), it may be necessary to state that representatives of both the big timber companies and small timber companies are needed at the MSD in an invitation to the GTA, if both groups are to be represented.

3.6.12 Civil Society Groups and NGO's

At Goaso, it was suggested by the chainsaw operators that it would be good if a civil society group by name 'BUSAC' was involved in the MSD. BUSAC works closely with the chainsaw operators association in the district, offering assistance in the form of explaining the law to them and assisting them to get their association registered. The BUSAC representative in the district was present during the interaction with the chainsaw operators. In addition all forestry and environmental related NGO's were identified as stakeholders and shall be represented during the MSD.

3.6.13 Stakeholders' View of the MSD

The majority of respondents were very positive about the MSD since they see the chainsaw lumbering issue as one that needs to be looked at. Some however wondered how different the MSD will be from other such forums they have attended where nothing happened after all the nice talks. It was suggested that policy makers be actively involved in the platform so that they could take up consensus reached for possible policy review. + VPA?

3.7 Possible Threats to the MSD

Some possible threats to the effective execution of the MSD identified by the stakeholders include under-representation of some stakeholder groups, the possibility of some participants not being able to actively participate in the dialogue if representatives are not carefully selected and corruption. The possibility of some stakeholders like the FSD and lumber brokers having excessive influence on the MSD process was identified as a threat. Lack of organisation on the part of chainsaw operators was also mentioned as a threat. A concern was also expressed that chainsaw operators could get out of control and only make accusations without listening to what others have to say if their number at the MSD is not checked.

4.0 Recommendations and way forward

The following recommendations have been made for the way forward. It must be noted that most of these recommendations will be achieved during the focus group meeting which is the next stage of the MSD process.

- Examine why a particular group of stakeholders should be involved.
- Determine which stakeholders are key/critical to the success of the MSD to achieve expected outcome.
- Determine how best to enrol, influence and work with each stakeholder group.
- Develop a shared vision about the set-up and goal of the MSD
- Support stakeholders to develop criteria to select representatives from the various stakeholder groups as members of MSD (by determining how stakeholder groups could be represented best.
- Develop mechanisms on how these representatives would interact with their constituencies/parent stakeholder groups to have the right people who can speak for their organizations (formal/informal) at different levels
- Reach consensus about the “boundaries” and result areas of the Multi-stakeholder platforms
- Identify critical issues to be discussed at the MSD
- Agree and assign roles to each stakeholder group to ensure a meaningful dialogue (e.g. FC and judiciary may be responsible for educating participants to on the laws and policies governing chainsaw operations, while some NGO’s may be playing advocacy roles, and policy makers shall represent the MSD in discussing policy issues at appropriate levels)
- Analyse relationship between stakeholders i.e. conflict of interest which will influence the MSD, positive relations between stakeholders which can be built upon and negative relations which may affect the MSD
- Assess stakeholders interest, importance and how they can influence the MSD
- Identify risk and assumptions that may affect the setup and success of the MSD
- Identify appropriate approaches to stakeholders participation in the MSD
- Build capacity of stakeholders to participate effectively at the MSD
- Identify role of key stakeholders if the action is to work
- examine negative responses might be expected, given interests of particular stakeholders

Appendix 1: Stakeholder Analysis Field Work Notes

Field Report: Goaso

FSD

We talked to the Assistant District manager and the Customer Service Personnel. As a stakeholder, FSD's main interest is sustainable management of the nation's forests. They see brokers very influential due to their funding role. They mentioned that brokers sometimes have machines and employ operators to work for them. They see the ban on chainsaw lumbering impractical due to people's dependence on it as their source of livelihood, demand for wood for local use (which is not being met by saw millers) and farmer's preference of chainsaw operation to operation by timber companies. Also, enforcement has targeted only operators and brokers and not other areas like the market. Besides, the FSD is under-resourced. They see lifting of the ban, organisation of operators and rigorous regulation as the way forward. They were positive about the MSD. A possible threat they identified is under-representation of some stakeholders. From experience, they advised that the number of chainsaw operator at MSD be checked so that they do not get out of control.

The FSD could be represented by the District Manager, his assistant, the Customer Service Personnel or some range supervisors.

District Assembly

We talked to the Chief District Planner. As a stakeholder, its main interest is sustainability of the district's forests and to be able to obtain revenue from the forests. He sees brokers very influential because they finance chainsaw lumbering operations. He thinks the ban has been difficult to enforce due to demand for affordable lumber for local use. When asked about the way forward, he gave two options; either some sawmills are made to supply wood solely to the local market or chainsaw lumbering is legalised and regulated. He said there is something wrong with the policy provision which gives farmers no control over trees they have nurtured on their lands.

The District Assembly could be represented by the chief planner, his assistant, the DCE or the NBSSI.

*BNI: 0242267626: we took his number but could not have a talk with him because he was out of town.

The Police (Goaso)

We talked to the Divisional Chief Superintendent. Their main interest is enforcement of the laws of the country. He did not see any need of police involvement in the MSD. He would prefer the other stakeholders meet to take a decision on the chainsaw lumbering issue, after which they would come in with enforcement. He was bitter about the current provision which requires that the police hands over confiscated material to FSD when they make arrests, so that the FSD (which he has little trust in) would make prosecution.

The Circuit Court

We talked to the Court Registrar. Its main interest is to pass judgement on cases brought to them. He sees the ban impracticable due to demand for lumber for local use and sees brokers influential due to their financing roles.

The court could be represented by anybody apart from the judge, the reason being that people may feel intimidated by the presence of a judge.

The Police (Mim)

We talked to the Divisional Commander. Their main interest is to enforce the law. They therefore make arrests, confiscate lumber and equipments (which they hand over to the FSD) and make prosecutions. He complained that the FSD fails to brief the court on the seriousness of offences when prosecutions are made and suggested that training on court proceedings be given to the FSD. He mentioned that livelihood issues and demand for lumber for local use makes the ban impracticable. He was positive about the MSD but mentioned that one threat to a successful MSD is corruption. He wouldn't want the ban lifted because of possible forest destruction that could result, but said if things could be put in place to ensure effective regulation, that will be better than the current situation. The station could be represented by anybody.

Chainsaw operators

We talked to three operators and a BUSAC representative at the same time. Their main interest is freedom to do their work, which is their main source of livelihood. They highlighted several positive sides of their work, including supplying lumber for even government projects in the district. They are trying to organise themselves. They have executives and are in the process of putting up an office. Their main problem is getting all chainsaw operators in the forest district (which they estimated to be about 700) to get onboard so that they would have a bigger voice. Their motto is 'we build, but not destroy'. They were positive about the MSD. They could be represented by their executives. They suggested that we invite the BUSAC representative (who has been offering assistance in terms of explaining the law to them and assisting them to get their association registered) to the MSD.

Civil society group (BUSAC)

Contact: Mr. Mohammed Kwaku Doku: 0249917797. He works with the Centre for Empowerment of the Vulnerable (CEV), based at Sunyani, close to the Times Corporation office.

Forest dependant people (A pestle collector)

Pestle is the main NTFP collected in the area. Their main interest is sustainability of the forest and access to affordable lumber for local use. They are not organised as previous attempts at organisation failed. The contact person could get representatives for the pestle collectors and possibly for other NTFP collectors like:

Leaf collectors

Medicinal product collectors

Hunters

Local incense (ehye) collectors

Farmers

We talked to farmers in two communities (Adomakokrom and Kamirekrom). Their main interests are access to wood for local use and a desire to benefit from trees they have nurtured on their lands. They prefer chainsaw operators to timber companies because the operators cause less damage to their crops and pay them money. Farmers in both communities are not very organised, though the contact persons in both communities are unit committee members and therefore can get farmer representatives to attend the MSD.

Small-scale timber companies

We talked to the owner of Baryeh timber company (Mr. Baryeh), who also happens to be Regional GTA Chairman. Their main interest is sustainability of the nation's forests so that they can remain in business several years to come. Mr. Baryeh has interest in chainsaw issues. He was very open in telling us about the situation on the ground and what he thinks could be a way forward. He mentioned that the ban is

impracticable due to demand for lumber for local use. He was frank about the fact that in the majority of cases, chainsaw operators work in concessions with the knowledge and consent of the concession holders. He mentioned one instance where concession holders collaborate with chainsaw operators is when trees are located in crop farms such that a lot of damage will be caused if machines are used on the farms. In such cases, the concession holders sell out the trees to operators, who sometimes sell back the chain-sawn lumber to them. He was positive about the MSD and cautioned that we need bold people at the MSD.

Timber Company

We made attempts to talk to Ayum Timber Company at Mim, but we could not have a talk with them because we were not given audience.

Brokers

We made no contact with lumber brokers in the Goaso forest district. However, some known brokers in the district are Dauda, Dwete and Bogger, all at Mim.

Field Report: Assin Fosu

Lumber brokers

The town has a small group of lumber brokers, who own table-top saws for re-sawing chain-sawn lumber for sale locally. We talked to a group of four brokers. They have their own machines and operators who work for them. Their main interest is access to lumber for their business, which is their main source of livelihood. They highlighted several positive sides to chainsaw lumbering. They expressed their willingness to partake in tree planting and to learn and adopt better ways of sawing wood. They see the FSD very influential since they have the overall mandate over all forestry issues in Ghana. They were positive about the MSD. Though they do not have an association, they interact amongst themselves and therefore can get representatives to attend the MSD.

Forest dependent people (Mortar makers)

Mortar making is the main activity in the area. Their main concern is sustainability of our forests and affordable lumber for local use. They are positive about the use of chainsaw because it saves them a lot of time and energy in cutting tree trunks into pieces for making mortar. It also provides them with wood for local building purpose. They see the FSD very influential because they have the mandate and power over all forestry issues. They were positive about the MSD. Though they are not organised, the contact person could represent them and could get more representatives if necessary.

Carpenters

We talked to a group of two carpenters. Their main interest is access to affordable wood for their work. Sawmill wood is expensive and they cause unnecessary delay. They therefore buy wood from the town brokers. They stated that if the MSD facilitator is carefully chosen, none of the stakeholders can have excessive influence on the outcome of the MSD. They are positive about the dialogue. They are not organised, but the contact could get representatives to attend the dialogue.

Farmer

We talked to a farmer at Assin Domenase. He is a unit committee member. As stakeholders, farmers' main interests are lumber for local use and desire to benefit from trees they have nurtured on their lands. They are not happy with timber companies and commercial chainsaw operators who operate in a close-by forest reserve without their prior knowledge and consent. He was positive about the MSD. Since he is a unit committee member and a farmer, he could get farmer representatives from the community at the dialogue.

Chainsaw operators

We talked to an operator at Assin Dominase. His main interest is freedom to do his job, which is his main source of livelihood. He also has a farm though. He sees the FSD very influential since they control all issues concerning forestry. He will be happy if ban is lifted and their activities are regulated. He sees the MSD very important and mentioned that one threat could be lack of organisation on the part of chainsaw operators. Though operators in the area are not organised, he could get some representatives at the MSD.

The FSD

We talked to the District Manager. The main interest of the FSD is sustainable management of the district's forests. He thinks that ban has been difficult to enforce because of people's demand for affordable lumber locally and the fact that the court has not been of much help. He sees brokers very influential because of their money and links with prominent people. He was positive about the MSD. On the issue of facilitation, he thinks it will be good to have a neutral person from outside the district. The District office could be represented by an officer from the office and a technical officer.

The District Assembly

We talked to the DCE and the Planning Officer. Their main interest is sustainable management of their forests. They have doubts about the possibility of the MSD resulting in any change of the situation, but would attend if invited. They advised that any invitation should be addressed to the DCE.

The police

We talked to the Divisional Commander. Their main interest is to enforce the law. He felt no need of police involvement in the MSD, but would attend if invited. Invitation should be addressed to the Divisional Commander.

The court

We talked to the Court Registrar. There was very little time to talk as he was on his way for a court proceeding. The court would like to be part of the MSD.

Filed Report: Akim Oda

The police

We talked to Detective Inspector Kingsley Antwi (the police officer who takes up chain-saw related cases). The main interest of the police is to enforce the law. He thinks the ban has been difficult to enforce because offenders are not given punishments that are harsh enough to deter others. He also mentioned that the enforcers of the ban are under-resourced. Demand for lumber for local use and the fact that chainsaw lumbering serves as people's livelihood also makes the ban difficult to enforce. He was positive about the MSD and said it would be good if the police is invited. He said any invitation should be addressed to the Divisional Commander. He cautioned that chainsaw operators could put the MSD out of order through accusations of the FSD and police.

Brokers

We talked to the chairman of the lumber sellers (brokers) association. Their main interest is lumber supply. They have difficulty obtaining supplies from the sawmills (takes time and it is more expensive). Chainsaw lumbering is therefore their main supply. They were of the view that it will do the forest and the nation a lot of good if chainsaw operators are issued with permits to operate. They were positive about the MSD. They could be represented by their executives. They have no problem with FSD facilitation.

Chainsaw operators

We talked to one operator whom we met at the lumber market (with the brokers). Their main interest is freedom to do their work, which is their source of livelihood. He was positive about the MSD. Though organisation has been difficult, he is the leader of a group of about 15 operators. He has no problem with FSD facilitation.

Timber Company (Birim Wood Complex)

We talked to the General Manager. Their main interest is to have the existing competition they have with operators over trees taken away. He complained that the operators exploit the good timber species, forcing timber companies to resort to the less important timber species. He said that chainsaw operators work in concessions without concession holder's knowledge. He explained that collaboration between concession holders and chainsaw operators could happen only in the case of small timber contractors. He said chainsaw lumbering is everywhere because it is people's source of livelihood and the main source of lumber for local use. Also, there isn't enough political will to enforce the ban. He is fed up with forums and workshops that do that result in any change of the situation, thinks it is waste of time and money. He however said he will attend the MSD if invited, since it is a step in the right direction. He said invitation could be sent to the District GTA chairman. He sees the FSD influential since they control all forestry issues. He said the FSD or district assembly could facilitate.

Farmers (Oprokumase)

We talked to the chief, unit committee chairman and some farmers at the same time. Their main interest is affordable lumber for local housing. They prefer chainsaw operators because they are less destructive and pay them money. They are bitter about the current situation where the community is not being actively involved in forest management. They wished their young men were employed as forest guards. Their problem with government ownership of trees on their farms is discouraging

nurturing of trees on their farms. They are positive about the MSD and could be represented by the unit committee.

The Circuit Court (Akim Sweduro)

We talked to the Magistrate. Their main interest is to apply the law: to try offenders and pass judgement on them if found guilty. He has particular interest in forestry offence related issues and has been assisting the police to make prosecutions (by explaining the law to them and advising how prosecutions should be made). He thinks it has been difficult to wipe out chainsaw lumbering because of 'the human factor' on the part of the FSD and the police. He mentioned that brokers, with their money, are very influential and have links with important personalities. They are therefore able to influence the police, who even sometimes try to influence the court on behalf of the brokers. He explained why the court orders confiscated vehicles to be released to their owners. He was positive about the MSD. An invitation should be addressed to the Magistrate.

The District Assembly (Birim South)

The main interest of the DA is the sustainability of the district's forests. They are positive about the MSD and identified 'area committees' as another important stakeholder. They mentioned that it is important that all stakeholders are able to voice out their opinions about the situation and what they see as the way forward. The assembly could be represented by the DCE, Planning Officer or the District Coordinating Director.

Appendix 2: Checklist for Stakeholder Analysis

1. Which people/actors have direct stake in chainsaw lumbering in Ghana?
2. Which of the actors could have excessive influence on the MSD process?
3. Which of the actors are most important in terms of how their livelihoods depend on or are affected by chainsaw lumbering?
4. Do you think the MSD can help solve the problems associated with chainsaw lumbering and the overexploitation of timber resources?
5. What issue(s) do you think the MSD should address?
6. Do you have an Association or are you organised?
7. How would you like to be represented at the MSD?
8. What do you see as possible threats to the achievement of MSD goals?
9. How should the MSD be organised in order that you can actively participate?