

EXCERPTS FROM COMMUNITY CONSULTATIONS

A series of community stakeholder consultations were organized to solicit inputs from forest fringe communities on advancing REDD+ in Ghana



EXCERPTS FROM MULTISTAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS

Multistakeholder consultations were organized on REDD+ to get the political buy in from high level and private sector actors in Ghana.



“REDD EYE” CAMPAIGN

The REDD EYE” campaign is to enhance awareness amongst the youth of Ghana on the need to address deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana as part of national efforts aimed at addressing climate change.



EXCERPTS FROM SOUTH-SOUTH KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE



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GHANA'S REDD+ STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS



INTRODUCTION

Due to the complexities of issues relating to Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD+) including land tenure, tree and carbon rights, diversity of stakeholders and stakeholder interests, communication has played a major role right from the formulation stages of Ghana's Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in 2008 to date. The REDD+ Secretariat has been spearheading the communication process ever since the preparatory process begun in 2008, as documented in the R-PP document. The communication process led by the National REDD+ secre-

tarait (NRS) of the Forestry Commission (FC) has been/is being done through information sharing in stakeholder consultations, participation and engagement through workshops, seminars and focus group discussions. Zonal meetings have been organised on REDD+ to consult segmented stakeholders and where the NRS lacked capacity, it involved capable Community and National based organisations who facilitated the engagement on REDD+ particularly at the local community level. Ghana's Emission Reductions Programmes (ERP) targets large scale commodity based sub-national jurisdictions or landscape.



Excerpts from REDD+ Roadshow 2014

DESCRIPTION OF GHANA'S REDD+ CONSULTATION PROCESS

- Consultation Plan was develop during the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) stage in 2008.
- Over 200 stakeholder representatives encompassing the main stakeholder groups (communities, farmers, private sector, academia, CSOs/NGOs, traditional authorites, government agencies, donor etc.) were engaged during the R-PP formulation stage.
- 3 multi-stakeholder working groups were formed during R-PP development (Technical working group, Strategy development group, Consultation and participation group)
- Ghana REDD+ Communication Strategy was developed in 2013 to enhance communication with different stakeholders to raise awareness and manage knowledge on climate change and REDD+ issues in the country.
- Consultations were undertaken to design a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) framework in 2014.
- Further consultations in the development of the REDD+ Strategy which was launched in 2016.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAMME STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

During the planning and design of the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ programme (GCFRP), a wide range of stakeholders were targeted and consulted to contribute and participate in the process. This information sharing has been done through cross-sectoral meetings, workshops, sensitization, capacity building, durbars conferences and training programmes. The purpose of these interactions were to disseminate information and seek feedback, enhance capacity and build knowledge and expertise on REDD+. Over forty (40) institutions from government, local communities, NGO, the private sector, civil society, research and academia and the donor communities participated in consultations on a regular basis. Also community representatives from across the various regions within the ERP were consulted. Besides the widely discussed financial carbon benefits, the issues in the agenda for discussion during stakeholder consultations also focused on several non-carbon benefits that include; sustainable agriculture, ecotourism, biodiversity conservation and management of ecosystem services, social infrastructural development, provision of alternative livelihoods, sustainable utilization of non-timber forest products and food crop benefits. The NRS as much as possible includes a good representation of women (at least 30%) on all consultative meetings to ensure gender equity, and gender considerations have been mainstreamed into all elements of the GCFRP. The participation and feedback that the GCFRP process generated, has gone a long way to improve the Program design and ensure that it is realistic and achievable.

DESCRIPTION OF THE GHANA SHEA LANDSCAPE REDD+ PROGRAMME STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION PROCESS

The initial Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Programme (GSLRP) idea stems from the Ghana REDD+ Strategy which benefited from several rounds of multi-stakeholder reviews and engagements under the REDD+ Readiness Phase. On 22 November 2016, the FC officially requested UNDP to support the development of a Green Climate Fund (GCF) project proposal to implement the Shea Landscape Programme of the REDD+ Strategy.

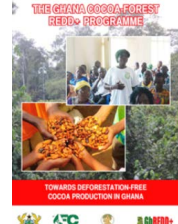
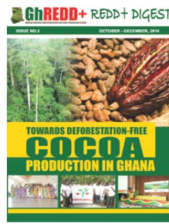
Subsequently, a concept note was developed by the FC with support from UNDP. The document was reviewed by the multi-stakeholder National REDD+ Working Group constituted by the FC during the preparation of the REDD+ Readiness Phase. The concept note was also reviewed and accepted by the National Designated Authority (NDA) Technical Advisory.

The concept note was further elaborated into a full project proposal by FC and UNDP following the comments received from the GCF Secretariat in April 2017. The FC established a multi-stakeholder task force composed of government and non-government partners including the NDA, Ghana Cocoa Board, Northern Development Authority, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and A Rocha Ghana, to provide technical inputs and advisory support at each stage of the project proposal development. The FC selected these stakeholders based on their relevance and/or experience in the sector and in the target area.

The participation and feedback that this process has generated, has gone a long way to improve the GSLRP design and ensure that it is realistic and achievable. Areas in which the programme received valuable and important feedback include issues relating to the following: engagement of all stakeholders at all levels across the landscape with particular role of traditional authorities; addressing land use planning with the integration of REDD+ intervention into the District Assembly development plans; sustainability of the programme; source of funding with particularly attention to domestic sources; improving the livelihoods of farmers/communities; mainstreaming gender considerations into the REDD+ process and addressing challenges associated with deforestation and degradation in the shea landscape.

REDD+ INFORMATION SHARING

Ghana's REDD+ publications are information sharing materials which aim to create awareness and educate the Ghanaian on REDD+ and Emission Reductions Program. The REDD+ publications are strictly not for sale and copies are available online and all Forestry Commission and partner offices nationwide. Dedicated website (www.fcghana.org/nrs) ,Facebook (Friends of GHREDD), Twitter (@GH_REDD) Instagram (GHREDD)



NATIONAL REDD+ FORUM

As part of efforts to garner broad level stakeholder buy-in and political support for Ghana's REDD+ process, the NRS instituted the biennial National REDD+ Forum which brings together all relevant actors in the REDD+ space to create more awareness, showcase on-going national and international actions on REDD+ and also to collect feedback for future actions. The maiden event was held in November 2015. H. E. Ex. President John Agyekum Kufuor was the Special Guest of Honour in his capacity as the UN Special Envoy on Climate Change delivered the Key-

note Address on the theme "Conserving our forests for better lives and a better climate". The 2nd National REDD+ Forum was held on October, 2017. The Special Guest of Honour was His Excellency Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo; President of the Republic of Ghana, who delivered the Keynote Address on the theme "STRENGTHENING LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR EFFECTIVE REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION", to highlight the critical role that law enforcement plays in the management of forest and wildlife resources.



The President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo at the 2nd National Forum



The Chief Executive of Forestry Commission , Mr Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie presenting an award to a Community Leader



The President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo together with the current and former Chief Justice of Ghana



The President of Ghana, H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo together with some selected participants