

TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL GHANA

Editing

Bossmān Owusu

K. S. Nketiah

Marieke Wit

Juanita Franco

Photos

TBI Ghana

Layout and Design

Bossmān Owusu

Text

Bossmān Owusu

K. S. Nketiah

Jane Aggrey

Paul Osei Tutu

Emmanuel Fosu

Patrick Opoku

Olivia Ansu Amponsah

Printing

JEB Solutions, Accra

Contact Us

The offices of TBI Ghana are at the International Forestry Research Centre, located on the campus of the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG) in Kumasi, about 270 km north of Accra.

Address

Tropenbos International Ghana

P.O. Box UP 982

KNUST, Kumasi

Tel: +233 51 60310/61361

Fax: +233 51 61376

E-mail: info@tropenbosghana.com

www.tropenbos.org

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FROM THE PROGRAMME DIRECTOR



It is exactly ten years when the Tropenbos Ghana Programme first made its debut in Ghana. From very small imperceptible beginnings, the Programme like the proverbial mustard seed has grown into a very formidable player in the forestry sector of the country. It has made significant contributions in the generation of relevant knowledge, training of personnel in crucial disciplines and promoting uptake and application of research results. During the first 5-year phase, the Programme trained 5 PhDs, 24 MScs and 15 people in Diploma or Certificate courses and supported the fieldwork for 17 B.Sc. students; 34 others were supported for short-term training courses.

For the current phase, there are 7 PhD candidates and 15 MSc students affiliated to the Programme. Already, over 30 students have been supported to carry out field work for their theses and several others supported to attend international conferences and workshops. TBI Ghana however, is not a funding agency; we operate in partnerships.

Tropenbos is very well acknowledged as an honest knowledge broker when it comes to providing platform for informed discussions of topical forestry issues. Over the years, issues discussed have included equitable benefit sharing, management of off-reserve forest resources, alternative livelihoods and moving from policy to legislation. The target groups for such discussions have included the Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands and Natural Resources, past and present sector ministers and other key forestry stakeholders, including resource managers, researchers as well as community members. TBI Ghana is currently leading a project to develop alternatives to illegal chainsaw milling in Ghana and coordinating another one that seeks to unveil the potential of small and medium forest

enterprises in reducing poverty. The programme has already made useful contributions to policy discussions. In this brief report, we particularly share with you highlights of our activities, achievements and challenges for the just-ended year (2009).

We began the year with a retreat on ‘Personal Development and Performance Improvement’ for key programme staff to prepare the staff for optimal performance. The first PhD candidate of the current phase completed his study, whilst two new ones registered for their PhD studies. Three students completed their M.Sc. programmes, and twenty-one undergraduate, and two graduate students received small grants to carry out fieldwork for their theses.

Under two externally funded projects, we were able to make inputs into the on-going policy review process and propose policy directions for taking discussions on the thorny chainsaw issue a step forward. On behalf of civil society, we were privileged to contribute to initiatives like the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD). Much progress was also made in our efforts to get multi-stakeholder dialogues (MSD) embedded in national policy discussions.

In attempts to link national and international forestry agendas, TBI Ghana hosted two international workshops respectively on best practices in chainsaw milling and social safeguards under the voluntary partnership agreement. Outputs from these meetings together with other outputs from the programme are available at our website.

Samuel K. Nketiah, Programme Director

GETTING ACQUAINTED WITH TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL

Millions of people in the tropics depend on forests for their livelihoods, and yet these resources remain undervalued and threatened. Over the years, Tropenbos International (TBI) has established itself as an important platform supporting the forest and development agenda in developing countries. We have built a reputation for generating knowledge and building personal and institutional capacity, facilitating dialogue, and strengthening the links between national and international forest debates. These are necessary to successfully introduce knowledge and evidence into major policy and management decisions. They also define TBI's role as an intermediary between the policy and management communities and the research community. Our ultimate goal is better governance and management of tropical forest resources.

TBI addresses problems by developing and managing multiple research and capacity building programmes. The research projects in each TBI country programme address locally articulated forest sector issues, while creating individual and organisational capacity to generate and apply knowledge. The international agenda co-determines the selection of issues to be included in each programme; the outcomes of each programme help feed the international forest debate with cases, experiences and lessons learned.

Our programmes are implemented through partnerships of organisations with varying interests and responsibilities relating to forests and forestry. Universities and research and training institutions are responsible for research and training, while partners representing forest policy and forest use define the issues and guide the direction of each project. Local partners assume a leading role in the implementation of each programme. Dutch and other Northern partners play an important supporting

role. TBI itself facilitates the partnerships and resulting activities, and translates outcomes into information that is useful for decision makers and forest managers.

Over the years, we have evolved into an organisation that makes knowledge work for forests and people by enabling well-informed decision making for improved management and governance of tropical forests. Our longstanding local presence and ability to bring together local, national and international partners make us a trusted partner in sustainable development.

In 2009 there were five operational country programmes in Colombia, Suriname, Ghana, Vietnam and Indonesia and a regional programme in the Congo Basin (Cameroon and DR Congo). TBI was also involved as a partner in projects in Bolivia and Guyana.

For more information on our different programmes and projects please visit our website:

www.tropenbos.org

THE TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL GHANA PROGRAMME

Tropenbos International Ghana (TBI Ghana) begun in May 2000 with a partnership agreement between Tropenbos International and the Government of Ghana. TBI Ghana aims at bridging the gap between forest policy, management and science; providing a forum for discussing rain forest issues; and carrying out relevant research and training. Its mission is to promote distinctive scientific input into sustainable forest management in Ghana through local and international cooperation. The objective of the programme is that forestry actors in Ghana deploy sound and adequate information for poverty reduction policies that improve forest-dependent livelihoods and increase forest cover and services in rural areas. TBI Ghana provides a platform for collaboration in addressing issues that impact on sustainable forest management in Ghana.

TBI Ghana pioneered a broad, locally led programme development process to identify critical issues relating to societal needs, forest management, conservation and rural development and translated these into research projects. This led to the establishment and management of a locally owned, problem-oriented programme which had strong relations with national forest policies and its implementation.

The Programme successfully concluded the first phase in 2005. Between 2006 and 2007, whilst wrapping up the results of the first phase, we also embarked on an elaborate process of participatory, demand-driven programme development process.

The second phase of the programme runs on the broad theme of 'improved forest-dependent livelihoods in the high forest zone of Ghana' with special emphasis on forest governance issues such as equity and illegal logging.

TBI GHANA AND THE VPA PROCESS IN GHANA

Illegal logging in developing countries and its related international trade have been reckoned as key contributors to environmental damage. This elicits concerns for responsible production, trading and consumption of timber. The EU's response to illegal logging is the adoption of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) action plan in 2003 to facilitate trade in legal timber and to improve forest governance. To put FLEGT into effect, Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) are being developed. Under the VPA, only legal timber and timber products will be permitted into the European Community.

VPA is a trade agreement between timber producer countries and the EU which aims at halting illegal logging. Principal requirements of VPA include the following elements:

- A country definition of what constitutes legal timber.
- A system that verifies compliance with this definition.
- A system that ensures traceability of timber products from the forest to point of export.
- A system that issues FLEGT licenses for the EU market.
- A system that independently monitors these elements.

In November 2009 Ghana was the first country to have signed and ratified a Voluntary Partnership Agreement with the EU on legal timber exports, after a negotiation process that started in 2006. It is expected that the first FLEGT licenses from Ghana will be issued by the end of 2010.



With a mission to make distinctive scientific inputs into sustainable forest management in Ghana, TBI Ghana has been actively involved in the VPA process in a variety of ways. Partnering with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED), TBI Ghana assessed the potential social, economic and environmental impacts of key options discussed at the VPA negotiations, and suggested possible modifications. The findings have assisted the preparatory work of the VPA Steering Committee (VPA SC) for Ghana's VPA negotiation with the EU.

TBI Ghana was nominated as one of two representatives of civil society groups on the VPA SC to facilitate informed debate and ensuring an equitable participation of civil society in the VPA discussions. Working together with other civil society organisations, TBI Ghana engaged forest dependent communities in awareness creation and sensitization. This platform served to inform communities about the VPA intervention, to elicit feedback and to build their capacity for engaging in VPA discussions.

Illegal chainsaw milling in Ghana robs the country of vast amounts of development capital, fuels conflicts, and distorts market prices for timber, but sustains thousands of rural families. Though banned since 1998, chainsaw milling continues to supply over 80% of lumber to the domestic market. Without ensuring legal and sustainable domestic timber supply, it may be almost impossible to benefit from the VPA as envisaged. TBI Ghana chaired one Working Group of the VPA SC that examined and made recommendations for addressing the challenges of supplying legal timber to the domestic market; these informed the Government of Ghana's negotiating position. This was followed by the project *"Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw lumbering through multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) in Ghana and Guyana"*. The MSD process is to design innovative policy options to address the legal timber supply for the domestic market without compromising rural livelihoods and the environmental health of Ghana's forests. So far, stakeholders have formulated initial recommendations to guide these discussions for addressing the chainsaw problem in the country. (See www.chainsawmilling.org for details)

The potential effects of VPA implementation on local livelihoods are further assessed in the research project - *“Illegal or Incompatible (IOI): Managing the consequences of timber legality standards on local livelihoods”*. TBI Ghana and partners seek to provide better understanding of these consequences as well as inputs for managing them. In October 2009 TBI Ghana organised a workshop to facilitate information exchange and dialogue among forest stakeholders.

The following four key messages directed at policy makers both in Ghana and the EU resulted from the ‘IOI’ workshop.

1. There is a need for establishment of a forest and environment policy analysis centre in Ghana to support the design and implementation of social safeguards.
2. Representative stakeholder involvement and continued attention to identifying social safeguards are key to successful implementation of the VPA.
3. Stakeholders have different needs and aspirations, hence the need to identify social safeguards with respect to the specific needs and interests of each group. This is required to avoid providing one simple package as social safeguard for all social groups.
4. In developing social safeguards, one might think of various policy options such as:
 - Capacity building in local communities to monitor and evaluate the process and impact of VPA implementation.
 - Improved arrangements for guaranteed access to forest resources as well as to timber benefit sharing mechanisms for communities that depend on forests.
 - Development of alternative livelihoods for groups of poor people who are negatively affected by the FLEGT/VPA scheme, especially chainsaw operators.
 - Increased efficiency, added value and, hence, sustainable employment in the forest sector.
 - Expanding the forest resource base in Ghana for example through plantation, etc.

Failure to address the identified social safeguards in the VPA implementation will definitely bring adverse effects to various social groups. Infosheets and workshop proceedings can be downloaded from the IOI project website:

<http://www.vpa-livelihoods.org/>.

Under the Trans-disciplinary Student Platform Approach to learning (TSPA) programme, TBI Ghana supported a group of Ghanaian graduates and Dutch students to identify possible impacts of stricter law enforcement under VPA on livelihoods of forest fringe communities. They concluded that the implementation of the Timber Legality Standard under VPA could generally have a positive impact on the livelihoods of forest fringe communities especially those who are not directly involved in the timber production chain. But it could adversely affect those involved in chainsaw activities; and that VPA implementation is likely to affect people in urban areas more than forest-fringe communities.



Finally, TBI Ghana witnessed the signing of Ghana's VPA with the EU in Brussels. TBI Ghana remains committed to providing guidance for policy-makers, resource managers and researchers by supporting debate about and review of policies related to VPA in Ghana and generating knowledge on options for improving forest-dependent livelihoods.

TBI GHANA AND REDD IN GHANA

Deforestation and forest degradation in developing countries are held to account for about 18% of the emission of green house gases (GHGs) that are responsible for global warming and climate change. (Industrialised countries are responsible for 82% of GHGs emissions). A global initiative to reduce deforestation and forest degradation has been termed REDD (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation). Lately, the initiative has been broadened to include forest conservation, reforestation and improvement in carbon stocks, and a new acronym, REDD-plus has been adopted.

Ghana with support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank, is preparing to be ready to implement REDD-plus activities. One key requirement of the entire REDD-plus initiative (from readiness preparation to actual implementation of REDD-plus projects) is that the process should be as consultative and participatory as possible. To this end, a national multi-stakeholder REDD-plus steering committee (NRSC) has been put together to guide the process. TBI Ghana is privileged to be one of two civil society representatives on the NRSC. Besides this, TBI Ghana participated in putting together the consultation and participation (C&P) plan, and is supporting the C&P processes required for the various phases of making Ghana REDD ready.

With support from the Danish Government, TBI Ghana is also partnering with the IUCN to promote pro-poor REDD through the project “Building synergies between forest governance, equitable benefit sharing and reduced emissions through sustainable forest management in five tropical countries”.

Challenges or Concerns

There are serious concerns as to whether the necessary policy and legislative reforms to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation can be carried through, against the current political timber economy of the country. Furthermore, there is the silent fear that the ‘free’ monies from the REDD-plus initiative may undermine the good governance anticipated under the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (NREG) arrangements.



ACHIEVEMENTS

Our 2009 achievements are presented under the following themes:

- Knowledge
- Capacity and Organisation
- Dialogue
- Networking (Linkage)



Knowledge

TBI Ghana's support for the generation of adequate and relevant knowledge to improve forest policy and practice yielded some results. Six research projects funded from our core budget successfully implemented planned activities for 2009. Out of this, three PhD studies are highlighted in the following sections.

Title: Forest Governance Arrangements and Innovations for Improved Forest and Tree-Related Livelihoods in Ghana's High Forest Zone

Researcher: Thomas F. G. Insaadoo, PhD student, KNUST, Ghana/University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Objective: The overall objective of the project is to examine the role of forest governance in the context of governance innovations, in contributing to improved forest and tree-related livelihoods and poverty reduction in forest communities.



The project is based on case studies on the following reforestation schemes: Modified Taungya System (MTS), the Highly Indebted Poor Country (HIPC) funded forest plantation development, and commercial forest plantation development in degraded forest reserves; timber tree planting by small-scale growers and nurturing regenerated timber trees on off-reserve farmlands.

Progress of work

Field data collection was carried out between November 2008 and September 2009 through at least 15 consultations and meetings with village chiefs & leaders as well as forestry officers. Household surveys, focus group discussions and some key informant interviews were also conducted during this period.

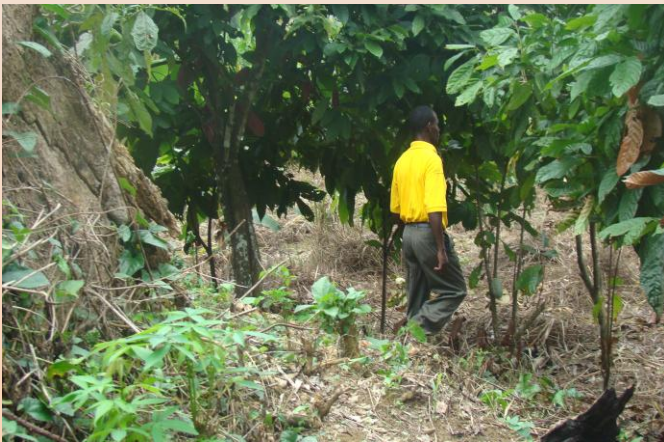
Preliminary results

A number of forest governance arrangements have been identified in forest and tree use schemes that serve as livelihoods for the actors involved. They are the following:

(A) Those applicable solely in degraded forest reserve areas, which include: (i) the Modified Taungya System (MTS) as a Government-Community Partnership venture, having the Forestry Commission (FC), farmers, landowners, and community as main actors; (ii) the HIPC funded forest plantation development as a Government-Community Partnership venture, with the Forestry Commission (FC), workers/farmers and landowners as main actors; (iii) Commercial forest plantation development as a Government-Private-Community Partnership venture, with the investor, Forestry Commission (FC), landowners, and community as main actors.

(B) Those applicable solely in off-reserve areas: on-farm small-scale tree planting as a Private-Community Partnership venture. These include the following: (i) those with own or purchased land who receive support from private companies, with farmer/small-scale tree planter and supporting timber company as the main actors; and (ii) those who lease land from chiefs/landowners and receive support from private companies, with farmer/small-scale tree planter, chief/landowner and supporting timber company as the main actors. (iii) There is also on-farm tree nurturing, with Government-Traditional Authority partnership, where there is no direct benefit to farmer and community who are supposed to tend and protect naturally grown economic trees, and having Forestry Commission, District Assembly, Landowner/Traditional Authority and Administrator of Stool Lands as main actors. (iv) Others are crop damage compensation from timber contractors, with Private-Community Partnership, having the farmer and timber company as main actors; and (v) Timber Utilization Permits (TUPs) that give permission for harvesting timber for community development projects - focusing on collective than individual, with Government-Community Partnership, and having the community as the main actor or beneficiary.

(C) *Those applicable in both on- and off-reserve areas* including the following: (i) Collection of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) - Extraction for Domestic and Commercial use, in which permits are required when from forest reserve and for commercial use, but no permits required when for domestic use, either from on- or off-reserve area. This has Government - Community type of partnership, with the Forestry Commission and the Community as main actors. (ii) Others are benefits from Social Responsibility Agreements (SRA) with operating timber companies, as a Private-Community Partnership, having timber contractors and communities as main actors; and (iii) royalties paid from stumpage fees by commercial timber contractors on trees felled, as Private-Community Partnership; chiefs and District Assemblies (DAs) have been identified as beneficiaries. Farmers, community and other social groups do not benefit; and there is no accountability. Actors in royalties include chiefs, DAs and timber companies.



Title: Conflict Over Forest and Tree Related Livelihoods in the Governance Context of Ghana High Forest Zone

Researcher: Mercy Afua Adutwumwaa Derkyi, PhD student, KNUST, Ghana/University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands

Objective: Analyse the dynamics of forest and tree-related livelihood conflicts and management pathways in the context of forest governance in Ghana.

The project is expected to benefit forest governors (Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Forestry Commission and divisions), Academic institutions, Police, Judiciary, Ghana Police Services, NGOs, Timber Operators, forest fringe communities (Modified Taungya System, Community Forest Committees, non-timber forest products collectors) and Traditional Authorities. The study employs both qualitative (e.g. case study and field study) and quantitative (e.g. survey) methods. Research techniques such as questionnaires (structured and semi-structured), focus group discussions, document analysis, interviews and stakeholder workshops have also been employed.

Progress of work

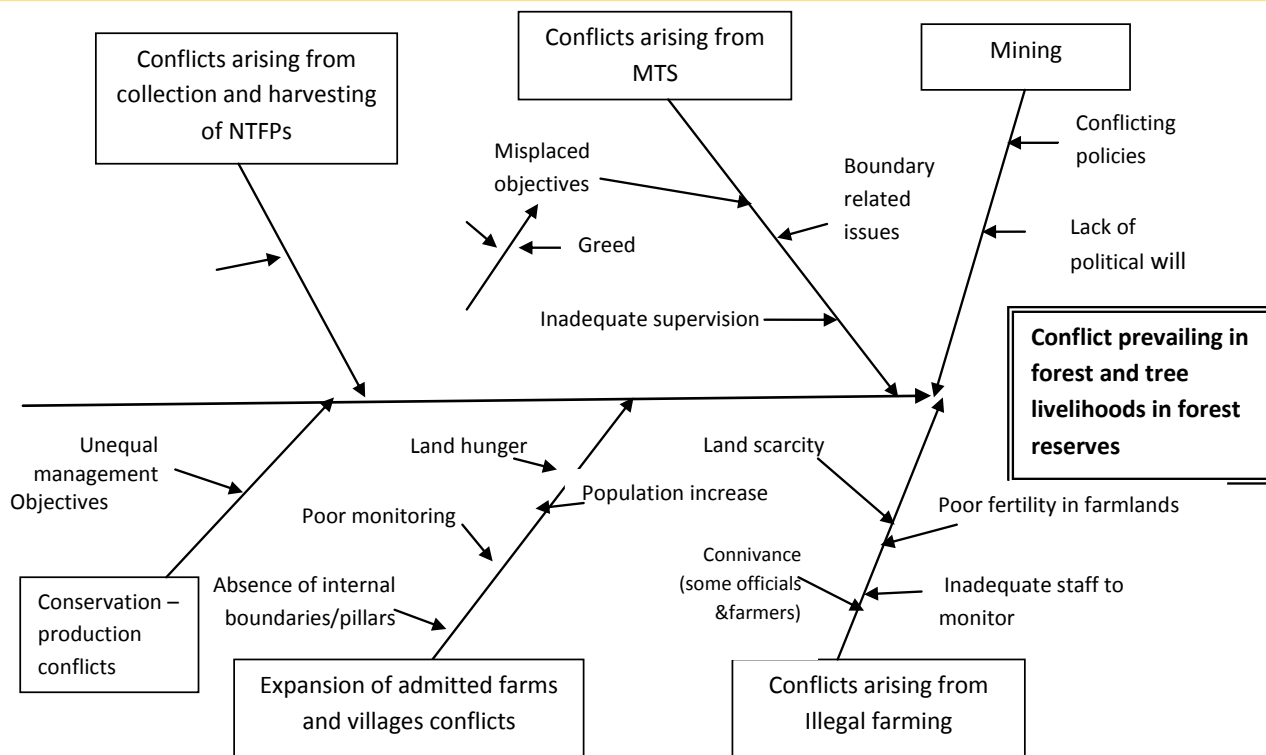
Seminars and series of meetings and discussions on research issues held. Questionnaires have been administered to forest governors and experts as well as individuals in different forest stakeholder groupings. Forest and tree cases in law courts have been collated; FSD managers, Judges and Court Registrars in five forest districts in the high forest zone have been interviewed. Validation meeting held for forest governors and experts.

Preliminary results

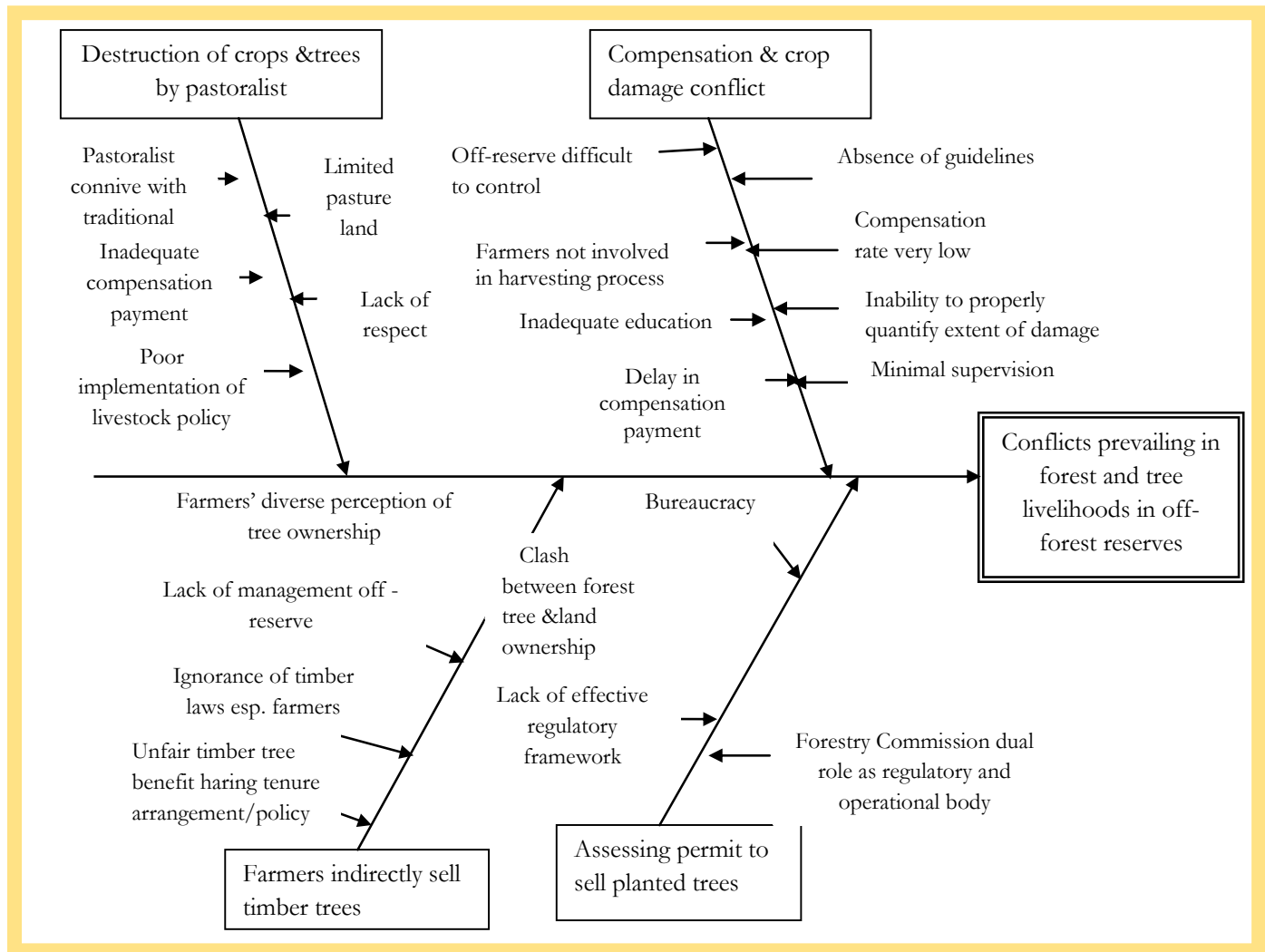
Forest governors and experts' views on the different forest and tree livelihoods conflict and causes prevailing in the high forest zone revolved around three main scenarios: i) Conflict categories and causes prevalent in Ghana gazetted forest reserves; ii) Conflict categories and causes prevalent in off-reserve forest management area and iii) conflict categories and causes prevalent in both off and on forest reserves management areas. The findings are presented in an adapted Fishbone diagrams with the different smaller bones representing deeper causes of the larger bones they are attached to. Each bone is a link in a Cause-and-Effect chain that leads from the deepest causes to the targeted problem as shown in the following pages.

Forest governors and experts identified three key conflict categories existing in both off and on reserve management areas of the high forest zone. These categories are also been triggered by multiple of factors.

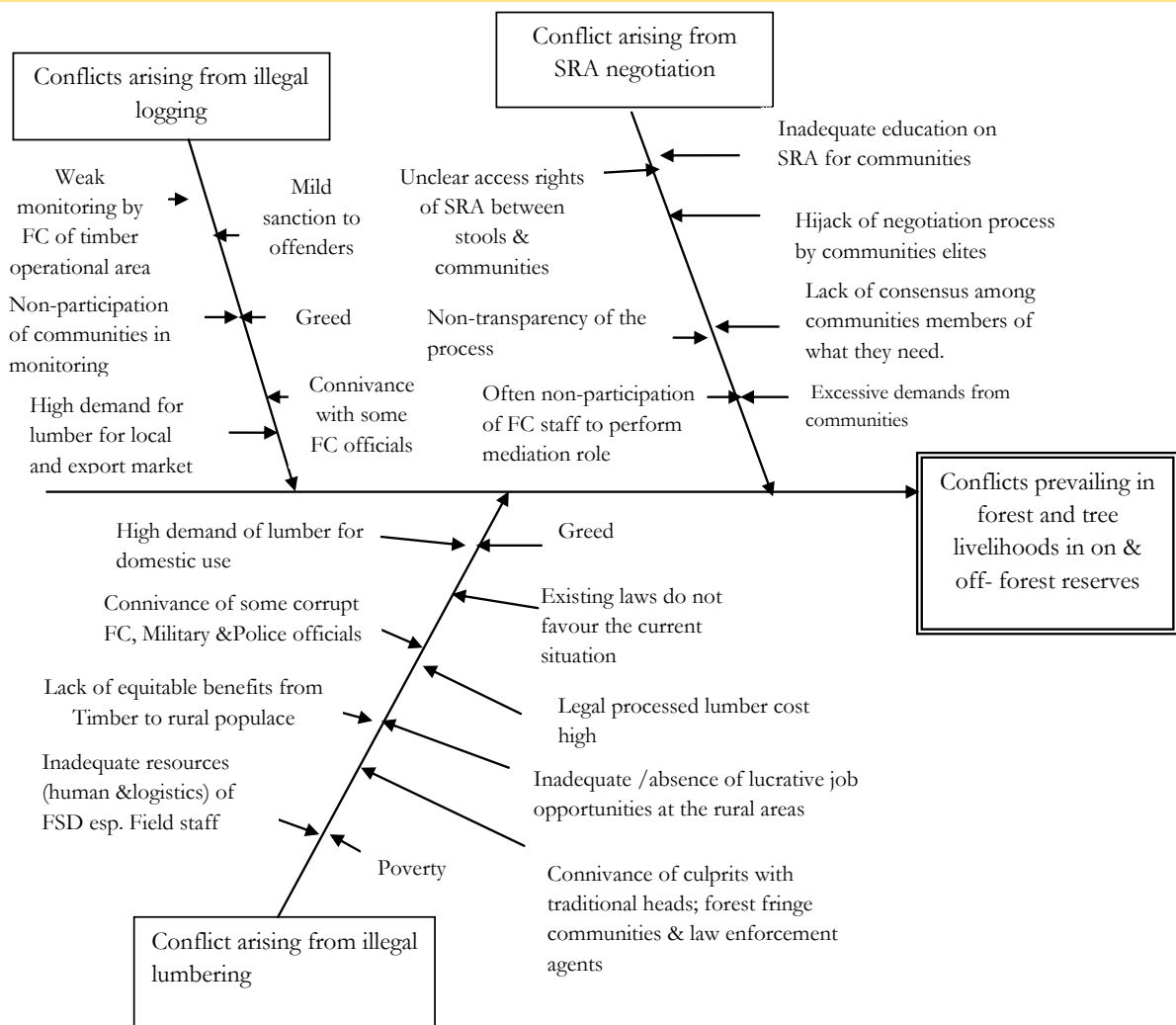
Scenario 1: Different conflict categories and causes prevalent in forest reserves of Ghana



Scenario 2: Different conflict types and causes prevalent in off-reserves forest areas of Ghana



Scenario 3: Different conflict types and causes prevalent in the on and off reserves forest areas of Ghana

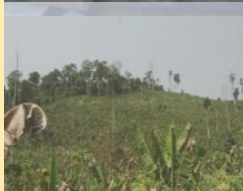
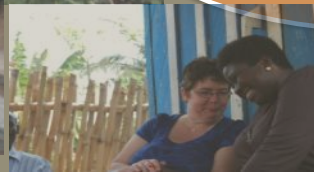


Conclusion: Conflict arising from the different forest and tree livelihoods in Ghana is dynamic and involves multiple actors operating in the different levels of scales. Theoretically, most of these conflict categories and their causes could be clearly delineated. In practice however they are often interrelated. Thus, a research of this nature adapts a joint policy – oriented approaches.

Minimising conflicts over forest and tree resources improves livelihoods leading to improved governance



Joint policy-oriented research is the way forward



Title: Scenario analysis for sustainable management of Ghana's high forests

Researcher: Kwame A. Oduro, PhD student, FORIG, Ghana / Wageningen University, The Netherlands

Objective: The research objective is to develop consistent scenarios of timber production in the HFZ under different constraints. The specific objectives are to (1) determine the timber production potential and dynamics of timber resources for different timber production systems (2) identify and describe the key driving forces that affect the developments (and dynamics) of timber resources in different timber production systems and (3) describe the temporal developments of timber supply from the HFZ under alternative scenarios.



Through scenario analysis, the research explores the consequences of different scenarios on timber resource developments in the country. Data collection methods includes desk research, biophysical assessments of field plots, analysis of existing data sets, consultations, surveys and interviews.

Progress of work

Biophysical assessments (inventory) have been carried out in plantations established under three different schemes. These are the Oda-Kotoamso Community Agro-forestry Project (OCAP), the Forest Resources Creation Project (FRCP), and the Community Forest Management Project (CFMP). OCAP and FRCP plantations were established in off-reserve areas. FRCP plantations were planted out purely on farms. CFMP plantations were established within degraded forest reserves using the Modified Taungya System (MTS). In all, assessments have been done in 11 farming communities in two regions (Western and Eastern regions). Data entry is almost complete.

Interviews with farmers and local landowners on their management practices and other factors and incentives that affect timber resources development on their farmlands have been conducted. Seventy OCAP farmers were interviewed and over 100 farmers in 5 communities have been interviewed under the FRCP. In addition, officials and project team members involved in the different schemes have been interviewed. Additional information (project newsletters, background information, project reports, etc) on the different schemes have been collected for review and analysis.

Preliminary results

Initial results show that (1) factors affecting tree developments in the HFZ are economic, political, social and ecological in nature, and (2) incentive schemes motivate tree planting but the type of incentive scheme significantly affects how timber trees are managed and would develop.



Aside from these PhD studies, TBI Ghana has supported three research projects executed under MSc studies with both local and northern universities. These studies essentially provide the baseline mechanisms for managing off-reserve resources, with special focus on benefit sharing arrangement and livelihood development. One of the studies by Mr. Kenneth Anyomi has been completed. The report can be downloaded from our publications page at www.tropenbos.org. The remaining two studies by Messrs William Dumenu and Edward Awuah are still on-going.

Capacity and Organisation

TBI Ghana supports adequate national human capacity building and strengthens forest sector institutions for the generation and use of information on forestry in Ghana. Our effort in this area in 2009 was very fruitful and we share a few with you in the following stories.

Institutional strengthening

As part of our capacity building and institutional strengthening efforts, TBI Ghana worked with Tropenbos International in leading a consortium of four Dutch institutions to support the implementation of a project on 'Institutionalization of Integrated Natural Resources Management (INRM) principles and approaches in the strategy and academic programmes of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources (CANR) of KNUST. The project is supported by the Netherlands Programme for Institutional Strengthening of Post-secondary Education and Training Capacity (NPT). Other members of the consortium are the International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture (ICRA), Centre for Development Innovation and University of Amsterdam (DHO).

The Trans-disciplinary Student Platform Approach to learning (TSPA) is implemented under the NPT project. Hosted by CANR and supported by TBI Ghana, the project in 2009 built the capacity of nine fresh Ghanaian graduates and seven Dutch students in an inter-cultural and inter-disciplinary platform for 14 weeks. They worked in two teams looking at possible impacts of stricter law enforcement under the VPA on livelihoods of forest fringe communities (*see page 11 for a summary of their conclusions.*)

The NPT project aside, TBI Ghana complemented institutional strengthening of the College of Agriculture and Natural Resources with the small grant facility, communication training and seminars as elaborated in the following accounts.

Small Grant Facility

TBI Ghana also reserves a small budget to support the fieldwork of undergraduate students at the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology. The goal is to improve the quality of undergraduate research in sustainable forest management. In 2009, about thirty students benefited from the facility. These were essentially students in their final year of undergraduate and graduate programmes.

Communication Training

In November 2009, TBI Ghana held communication training for small grant beneficiaries to sharpen their communication skills in scientific writing and reporting. In a participatory approach, the training focused on such topics as presentation skills, report writing, proposal writing and referencing styles (citation). Mr. K.S. Nketiah, Programme Director and Mr. Bossman Owusu, Communication Officer facilitated the training at the TBI conference room.



TBI Ghana/RENARSA Seminar

TBI Ghana holds that information is a prerequisite for development. Without it no innovation would be able to spread. In Ghana, most natural resource students in universities find it difficult accessing quality information that can equip them to handle future challenges as professionals. For instance, there is lack of relevant and/or up-to-date information; emanating partly from poor teacher-student ratio, low teacher motivation and curricula which have not been updated to meet new demands imposed by changing emphasis in forestry practice.



RENARSA is the coalition of Renewable Natural Resources Students of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology in Kumasi, Ghana. They are mainly concerned about conservation of renewable natural resources, notably forest, watershed and fisheries. Currently, membership stands at over 600 students. TBI Ghana has a long-standing relationship with RENARSA.

As a knowledge broker and trusted partner in sustainable forest development, TBI Ghana recognizes that more can be done to support students. The programme considers that a more innovative way for broad students' engagement will be to disseminate relevant knowledge to them. Such information would augment what they receive during regular teaching and learning sessions and update any previous knowledge they may have acquired through reading.

To this end, TBI Ghana has instituted periodic seminars in collaboration with Renewable Natural Resources Students' Association (RENARSA) of the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) with the approval of the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources. At least, one seminar is planned for each academic semester. The maiden seminar held on November 4, 2009 at the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources, KNUST was facilitated by Mr. Bossman Owusu, Communication Officer. Over 300 students and lecturers participated. It is anticipated that this arrangement will gradually fill information gaps identified in the study of Natural Resource Management.

Internships

Each year, TBI Ghana offers internship opportunities to students for their practical periods. In 2009, three interns were engaged in the programme.

International Student Support

Besides the TSPA, the Programme offered opportunities for four international students to carry out the field work for their M.Sc. theses. TBI Ghana also facilitated a study tour in Ghana for a Danish team from the Department of Forest & Landscape, University of Copenhagen Denmark. The team comprised fifteen students, one lecturer and two senior forestry officers. The aim was to give the students a broad and holistic understanding of management of natural resources in different settings and situations, and to show the importance of sustainable and multi-faceted management of nature areas in developing countries.



Other Partners

TBI Ghana also supported staff of the Forestry Commission of Ghana and the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana in forestry research capabilities to improve the information base and skills needed to carry out their mandate. The capacity of non-governmental and community-based organisations was also strengthened to provide the tools and skills required to support improved management of forest resources in Ghana.

Staff Training

In February 2009, TBI Ghana organised a training programme for staff on 'Personal Development and Performance Improvement'. The training which was offered by the African Leadership Development Centre took place after the Christmas break and was aimed at fine-tuning employees' skills towards a fruitful working year. The participatory training took staff through such topics as 'self discovery', 'goal setting', 'developing the leader in you', 'personal organisation for peak performance', 'developing values for successful living' and 'management/staff expectations'.

TBI Ghana is health and safety conscious. We seek to minimize risk for staff productivity and improved organisational well-being. On 12th June 2009, TBI Ghana invited resource persons from the Ghana Red Cross Society and the Factory Inspectorate Division to take staff through vital health and safety matters.

Such training aside, individuals were trained in specific areas that can enhance their performance on the job. Mr. Peter Otoo Ackromond, a Driver of TBI Ghana was also supported to undertake a one- month intensive training programme on 'Driver Auto-Mechanic' organized by the National Vocational Training Institute in August 2009. Mr. Ackromond graduated in October 2009 and received a certificate in the 'Trade of Driver Auto-Mechanic'.



Three other employees who were supported by TBI Ghana in a two-day training programme organised by the Professional Development Centre of the British Council share their impressions below.



Paul Osei Tutu, Forest Connect Project Officer

I participated in a two-day professional development course on proposal writing in January 2009. I was nominated to attend the course because proposal formulation and drafting is a major part of my work at TBI Ghana. Aside from the technical knowledge in proposal development acquired, I now appreciate the need to plan well, know the intended reader of a proposal and what the recipient will like to see, know my likely competitors and strategise to outplay them.



Jane Aggrey, Assistant Communication Officer

I was privileged to be part of a two-day training programme on 'Leadership and Team building'. I liked the participatory approach to learning used in the training, characterised by demonstrations and illustrations. I appreciate the opportunity given me by TBI Ghana because the training was an eye opener to a lot of useful things about leadership and team-building.



Emmanuel Fosu, EU-Chainsaw Project Assistant

I was involved in a two-day training on 'Written Communication Skills' in November 2009. It offered me the opportunity to interact with personnel from other sectors of the economy. It was also a platform to make known TBI Ghana and our activities to other participants. I think trainings of this nature are very important to keep employees up-to-date to improve efficiency and effectiveness on the job.

Internal Seminars

Aside from individual staff development in the form of participation in relevant short courses, the Communication Unit facilitates what is called 'in-house training' or 'internal seminars' for all employees. The aim is to widen the knowledge of staff of TBI Ghana on relevant issues required for peak performance as well as personal and organisational management. Sometimes, employees use this platform to report back on assignments or meetings attended in order to keep others updated. Training or seminar topics are often volunteered or flagged during needs assessment. In 2009, employees benefitted from sessions on 'self-discovery', 'goal setting', 'interview skills', 'public speaking', 'developing the leader in you', 'updates on TBI Ghana programmes', 'individual working experiences with TBI Ghana' and 'improving organisational communication'. The seminars are expected to continue in 2010.



Dialogue

TBI Ghana provided platform for knowledge-based discussion to harness useful ideas from stakeholders for the management and utilization of forest resources. From such dialogues, consensus is built on rather controversial issues and policy recommendations emerged. The EU chainsaw project and 'Illegal or Incompatible' project illustrate this.

The EU Chainsaw Project

Lying at the heart of the project is the multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) that provides platform for all major stakeholders in the production, trade and use of illegal chainsawn lumber to dialogue and come out with a consensus-based action plan to address the problems associated with chainsaw milling. Two of such meetings were held on 25th September 2009 in Accra and 11th December 2009 in Kumasi. Each national MSD was followed by a district-level MSD serving as a feedback mechanism to inform and solicit inputs from constituencies of the various stakeholder groups.



The EU chainsaw project, “Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw milling through multi-stakeholder dialogue in Ghana and Guyana”, is a 5-year EU sponsored project which focuses on the broad theme of forest governance. The purpose is to reduce the level of conflict and illegality related to chainsaw milling in Ghana. In Ghana, it is implemented by TBI Ghana, Forestry Commission and Forestry Research Institute of Ghana.

The 'Illegal or Incompatible?' Project

Under the research project, *'Illegal or Incompatible?: Managing the consequences of timber legality standards on local livelihoods'*, TBI Ghana organised a workshop on 'Social safeguards in the Ghana-EU VPA' on October 8 and 9, 2009. The objective was to facilitate information exchange and dialogue among forest stakeholders on the possible impacts of VPA implementation on livelihoods. About thirty-eight national and international participants shared views on which social actors can be affected by the policy implementation and suggested possible mitigation measures.



Participants drawn from research, academia, policy, development partners, timber industry, civil society and the Forestry Commission also shared views on research agenda needed for managing the consequences of VPA implementation.

Networking (Linkage)

In 2009, TBI Ghana undertook a number of activities in partnership with other organisations. Some of these activities sought to connect national and international forest agendas.

West African Regional Conference of the EU Project

Under the EU Chainsaw project, TBI Ghana held an Africa regional conference in Accra on 25th and 26th May, 2009. The two-day international conference was attended by sixty-five participants from Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Kenya, DR Congo, Uganda and Liberia. Project partners from the Netherlands and Guyana were also present. The conference served as a forum to share and learn experiences from other African countries where chainsaw milling is also a problem. The aim was to identify international best practices to address the dilemma of chainsaw milling in Ghana.

Forest Watch Ghana

As a civil society organisation that seeks to improve forest-dependent livelihoods in the country, TBI Ghana takes interests in pro-poor policy discussions by Forest Watch Ghana. TBI Ghana has supported FWG in establishing forestry forums at various districts to create a platform for grassroots support for sustainable forest management in Ghana.



In 2009, TBI Ghana participated in most meetings of the coalition during which lessons were exchanged amongst civil society organisations.

Forest Watch Ghana (FWG) is a national campaign vehicle made up of over thirty civil society organisations and many individuals linked to forest community-based organisations and committed to the rights of poor forest users. Since its formation, FWG has actively advocated pro-poor policy changes in the forestry sector in Ghana.

Forest Connect Ghana Project

TBI Ghana is the institutional hub spearheading and coordinating activities for the Forest Connect project in Ghana which forms part of an international agenda to promote small and medium forest enterprises (SMFEs) in 13 countries under the coordination of the International Institute of Environment and Development (IIED) and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).



Whilst the formal forest industry is known to employ about 100,000 people, it is estimated that the SMFE sub-sector engages over 300,000 in Ghana. Yet, SMFEs receive little or no attention in forest policy. They have high start-ups but are hardly sustainable. They face problems such as excessive bureaucracy, unclear policies and regulations, insecure tenure, inaccessible credit and poor market information. Other challenges include inadequate technology, poor infrastructure, lack of bargaining power and insufficient business know-how. Even though some few spontaneously work together in associations to reduce transaction costs and adapt to new market opportunities, support structures for such forest associations either do not exist or fail to reach those who need help most. They are therefore unable to shape the policy environment in their favour.

TBI Ghana with support from IIED seeks to address this lack of “connectedness” through this Forest Connect Ghana project. It is expected that in the long run, the project will help mainstream and optimise the contribution of SMFEs to sustainable forest resource management, livelihood improvement and the Ghanaian economy.

TBI Ghana has carried out a diagnostic study of the SMFEs in Ghana. A national workshop on SMFEs was organised in March 2009 to validate the study findings. The workshop which was attended by SMFE actors, organisations that promote SMFEs, relevant state agencies, experts from academia and the media, put together a 13 member Working Group to help SMFEs in Ghana reach their potential for local sustainable development by learning from experience, developing plans and steering action for policy/legislative reform, support networks, enterprise organisation and market restructuring.



The Working Group has developed an action plan and a project proposal which seeks to create awareness of existing opportunities in the SMFE sub-sector and help create a national federation of SMFE associations/practitioners to give them recognition and voice to participate in governance processes. Based on the diagnostic study, policy recommendations have also been submitted to a national policy review committee for consideration. Visit the project website www.forestconnectghana.com for more information.

PROGRAMME PERSONNEL

The TBI Ghana Programme is a legally registered Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), which is strongly embedded in the national structures. The Programme is implemented by the Programme Management Unit led by the Programme Director with general oversight from a Bi-National Steering Committee. The Programme maintains a small secretariat of six full-time staff; there are other high calibre professional staff recruited for specific projects which are externally-funded. Through memoranda of understanding with three Ghanaian institutions, the Programme also has access to professional personnel from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, the Forestry Commission and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. Below is the full complement of professional and support staff.

Staff of TBI Ghana as at December 2009

Name	Designation
Mr K. S. Nketiah	Programme Director
Mr. James Mckeown Parker	National Project Coordinator, (EU-Chainsaw Project)
Mrs. Mercy Owusu Ansah	Community Forestry Advisor / National Facilitator (on Secondment from FC, on the EU-Chainsaw Project)
Mr. Paul Osei Tutu	Project Officer (Forest Connect Project)
Mr. Bossman Owusu	Communication Officer

Miss Jane Aggrey	Assistant Communication Officer
Mr. Emmanuel Fosu	Project Assistant (EU-Chainsaw Project)
Mrs. Olivia Ansu Amponsah	Programme Assistant
Mr. Michael Zusain	Accounts Officer
Mr. Patrick Opoku	Intern (National Service)
Evans Sampeney	Intern (National Service)
Mr. Osei Kwame	Intern (Cashier)
Mr. Samuel Dankwa	Driver/ Handyman
Mr. William Tortoe Asamoah	Driver/ Handyman
Mr. Peter Ackromond	Driver/ Handyman - EU-Chainsaw Project
Mrs. Judith Acheampong	Receptionist
Ms. Vivian Haward	Cleaner
Mrs. Sarah Eshun	Cleaner
Mr. Kwame Appiah	Groundsman



BI-NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

To ensure that the Programme stays on course and addresses issues of national relevance, the Programme has a 15-member Bi-National Steering Committee that provides oversight. It is made up of representatives of key forestry stakeholders in Ghana and of Tropenbos International. It meets at least once a year to receive progress reports and approve work-plans for the ensuing year. The full list as at December 2009 is as follows:

Prof. Nii Ashie Kotey	Chief Executive, Forestry Commission, Chairman
Prof. Rene Boot	Director, Tropenbos International
Mr. Fredua Agyeman	Technical Director, (F) Min. of Lands and Natural Resources
Mr. K.S. Nketiah	Programme Director, TBI Ghana
Dr. Victor Agyeman	Director, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
Nana Adu Nsiah	Executive Director, Wildlife Division
Prof K. Frimpong-Mensah	Dean, Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources
Mrs. Edith Abroquah	Representative for Women in Forestry
Oheneba Amponsah Agyemang	Director, Resource Management Support Centre
Nana Adomaku Panin	Asumurahene, representing landowners
Mr. Albert Katako	Care International (Rep. civil society)
Dr. Kyereh Boateng	Scientific Coordinator (Secretary)
Mr. Jonathan Allotey	Executive Director, Environmental Protection Agency
Mr. Hans Vellema	Dutch Programme Coordinator
Mr. Attah Alhassan	Member, TBI General Board (Ex-officio member)

PROGRAMME PARTNERS

National

1. Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology - KNUST
 - College of Agriculture and Natural Resources, CANR
 - Department of Silviculture
 - Department of Fisheries
 - Department of Agro-forestry
 - Faculty of Forest Resources Technology
 - Bureau of Integrated Rural Development
 - Faculty of Agriculture
 - Department of Planning
 - Department of Agricultural Engineering
 - Faculty of Bioscience
2. Forestry Research Institute of Ghana - FORIG (Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, CSIR)
3. Forestry Commission - FC
 - Forest Services Division
 - Resource Management Support Centre

- Timber Industry Development Division
- VPA Secretariat

International

4. University of Amsterdam - UvA
 - AMIDst,
 - ECDO
5. Wageningen University and Research Centre - WUR
 - Nature Conservation and Forest Policy
 - Centre for Development Innovation
6. University of Freiburg:
 - Department of Forest Biometry
7. International Centre for development oriented Research in Agriculture - ICRA
8. International Institute for Environment and Development - IIED
9. University of Twente (Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC))

FINANCES

TBI Ghana has two main sources of funding for its activities; these are core funds from the Netherlands Department for Development Cooperation (DGIS) received through the parent organisation, Tropenbos International; and fund raised from external sources through the writing of proposals. For the period under review, TBI Ghana had a core budget of two hundred and sixty thousand Euros (€ 260,000) and managed to raise about 200% of that from external sources, mainly the European Union and the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED).

Collaboration and partnership are two key strategies that the programme uses. By means of these, TBI Ghana also has access to extra resources through in kind contributions from partners.

Financial resources irrespective of the source are deployed in the five key result areas of generation of knowledge, developing human capacity, institutional strengthening, communication and dialogue and in linking national and international forestry agendas.

To ensure accountability, TBI Ghana reports monthly on its financial transactions to the head office, using the EXACT GLOBE software and subjects itself each year to external financial auditing by an international audit firm.