

General Information on Field Site

The field exercise is based on “learning through field observation” It aims to give insights into the forest issues in Ghana that are the framework for the national REDD plan, as well as serve as the basis for the discussions in the dialogue especially linking the dialogue with some real-life situation. We hope that the participants can benefit from the field visit in the following ways:

1. Getting to understand more about the mitigation options that forest can provide in Ghana
2. Through collaboration and discussion, exchange ideas and experiences about forest and climate change mitigation issues;
3. Give an insight into possible suggestions for the Government of Ghana on their REDD Preparatory Proposal and further REDD National Plan
4. Analyze what are some existing elements in Ghana that are contributing to the definition and construction of a National REDD strategy and what are the ones that still need work for preparing the country for a successful REDD implementation

In order to achieve these (ambitious!) objectives and maximize its benefits, the field visit will be structured as follows:

Through observations in the field and discussions with stakeholder groups, we will be able to get insights into the followings:

- 1. The main challenges of REDD implementation in Ghana*
- 2. Identification of drivers of deforestation and forest degradation*

Obviously we will not pretend to even begin to completely understand the context in Ghana after a two days visit, but the observations and discussions are intended to focus the discussions during the following two days dialogue sessions.

Background information about the Site

Location

The field site for TFD is a landscape located in Wassa Amenfi West District. The Wassa Amenfi West District with a projected population of about 186,000 is located in the middle part of the Western Region of Ghana. The landscape consists of a mosaic of forest areas (protected areas, production forest reserves, individual tree plantations) mixed with cocoa farming and food crop production. Cocoa farming is the main source of rural income and the main driver of the local economy. The district population consists of an “indigenous”/resident population and large numbers of immigrants from elsewhere in Ghana who settled when the wider region was part of the cocoa frontier. Migration continued through much of the twentieth century into the 1990s.

The mix of indigenous people and migrant settlers has lead to a complex and rich social mosaic, with a wide variety of tribes and languages. The land tenure system, based on customary land tenure (legally recognised in Ghana) is complicated by the presence of migrants who generally farm land through tenancy arrangements.

The district capital is at Asankrangwa, in the Northern part of the district. The distance between Busua Beach Resort and Asankrangwa is about 160 kilometres. It will need between 2 to 3 hours travelling time to reach the first point of visit.



Major land-use issues and trends are:

- *Existence of Forest Reserves:* Part of this landscape fall within the legally classified forest reserves, with some of the area classified as protected areas – termed Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs) – e.g. Furi River, Mamiri and Furi Head.
- *Existence of Production Reserves:* Part of the forest reserves in the landscape are classified as production forests. These are given out on contract to logging companies for timber production. SAMARTEX is one of the leading logging companies in the landscape.

- *Cocoa production.* While the landscape remains part of the very large Ghanaian cocoa industry, many farmers remain very poor and lack the financial resources (and sometimes knowledge) to achieve more profitable production. While prices vary significantly over time, there remains a strong perception that the price paid to farmers by the Government does not adequately reflect the value of cocoa on the international market.
- *NTFP Collection and Sale.* NTFPs are widely produced and collected for consumption and sale. NTFPs collected include bushmeat (especially grasscutters), various medicinal plants, bush mangoes, voacanga, cola and others. Allanblackia is increasingly grown and sold. Other NTFPs, including cola, are grown on farms.
- *Tree planting.* Tree planting on private land is an increasing trend. With clearer rights for farmers to sell registered trees on private land for timber, interest in the planting of indigenous timber trees is increasing, with potential contributions to increased income and improved biodiversity.
- *Access to forests and wildlife.* Communities do not have access to tree resources on reserve forests. (Indeed, wild trees on private land remain the property of the Forest Commission.) Collection of NTFPs for private consumption from reserve forests is allowed, but commercial collection requires a permit. Short term changes in this respect are unlikely.
- *Existing Forums:* The introduction of the concept of CREMAs (Community Resource Managements Areas) provides potential for communities to manage wildlife on land outside Reserve Forests. Under wildlife law, the Wildlife authorities have legal authority for wildlife off-Reserves. Under the CREMA scheme this authority can be delegated to communities subject to negotiated by-laws passed by a District Assembly. The authority includes the right to permit or forbid hunting of authorised species, to charge fees and so on. Community Forest Committees also exists in the landscape

Outline of Programme

Monday 16 November, 2009.

07.00:	Presentation of the field agenda	
07:15	Depart Busua Beach Resort for the Field site	
10.15	Arrival at the Furi River Forest Reserve – this is one of the Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas (GSBAs) in Ghana.	Opportunity to see the status of one of the forest under protection, and take a walk into a typical tropical moist forest in Ghana. A representative of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission will be with the group
12.00:	Leave Furi River FR for Asankrangwa	The drive from Furi River to Asankrangwa will be through forest communities, villages and various agricultural lands – especially cocoa farms intercropped with trees.
13.00:	Lunch at Asankrangwa	

14.00:	Visit Quarm Forest Plantations and others	Individual farmers have started on tree plantations. Quarm forest plantation is one of the individual tree plantations. We will also be visiting tree plantation of a woman farmer. Mr. Quarm and the lady farmer will host the group and show us their plantations
16.00:	Meetings with CREMA Executives and members of Community Forest Committees (CFC) at Nana farm	Some CFCs and CREMA executives have had opportunities to participate at consultation meetings on REDD.
17.30:	Back to Asankrangwa	Night at Melody Hotel, Asankrangwa and cocktail with invited Wassa Amenfi West District people.

Tuesday 17th November, 2009.

08.00:	Depart for Samreboi and field visits to SAMATEX complex including the forest plantations.	SAMATEX is one of the big logging companies in Ghana. The visit will be to their former concessions as well as to their plantations. We can also visit the mills and their efforts into the production of non timber forest products. SAMATEX Forest Manager will be our host. The agroforestry team will also be available to assist in the visit
11.30:	Back to Asankrangwa to meet with the District Chief Executive of the Wassa Amenfi West District and the Assembly members. Side meeting Forest Manager and his staff. with the District	Courtesy call on the DCE to intimate him about the reason for visit and solicit for political will from the district official. Some of the District Forest Management team have participated in some REDD related meetings.
12.30	Lunch at Melody Hotel	Possibly with the DCE and the District Forest Management Team
14.00	Depart for Busua Beach Resort	This is a three hour drive