



Project Title: Integrating Civil Society in timber harvest validation processes for improved governance and reduced illegal logging under the European Union and Ghana Voluntary Partnership Agreement.

Institution name and address: Resource Management Support Centre, Forestry Commission

Country: Ghana

July 2011

Funding: USD 96,000

Start date: September 2010

Projected end date: September 2011

Introduction and Background

The project “Integrating Civil Society (CS) in timber harvest validation processes for improved governance and reduced illegal logging under the European Union and Ghana Voluntary Partnership Agreement” has been under implementation since September 2010. The project has explored modalities to integrate grass-roots civil society groups in the implementation of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) signed between Ghana and the European Union. It has achieved this through sensitization, establishment of community and civil society institutions, development and testing of integration protocols towards enhancing the monitoring & validation roles of CS in VPA implementation. The project targets communities fringing two forest reserves (Asenanyo and Suhuma) being used as pilot sites for the Wood Tracking System (WTS) under the VPA and other civil society groups such as the National Forestry Forum, the Timber Trade Associations and staff of the Forestry Commission. Implementation of activities follows a revised work plan endorsed by the First Steering Committee.

Objective 1: Complete awareness on Forest law enforcement and governance under VPA;

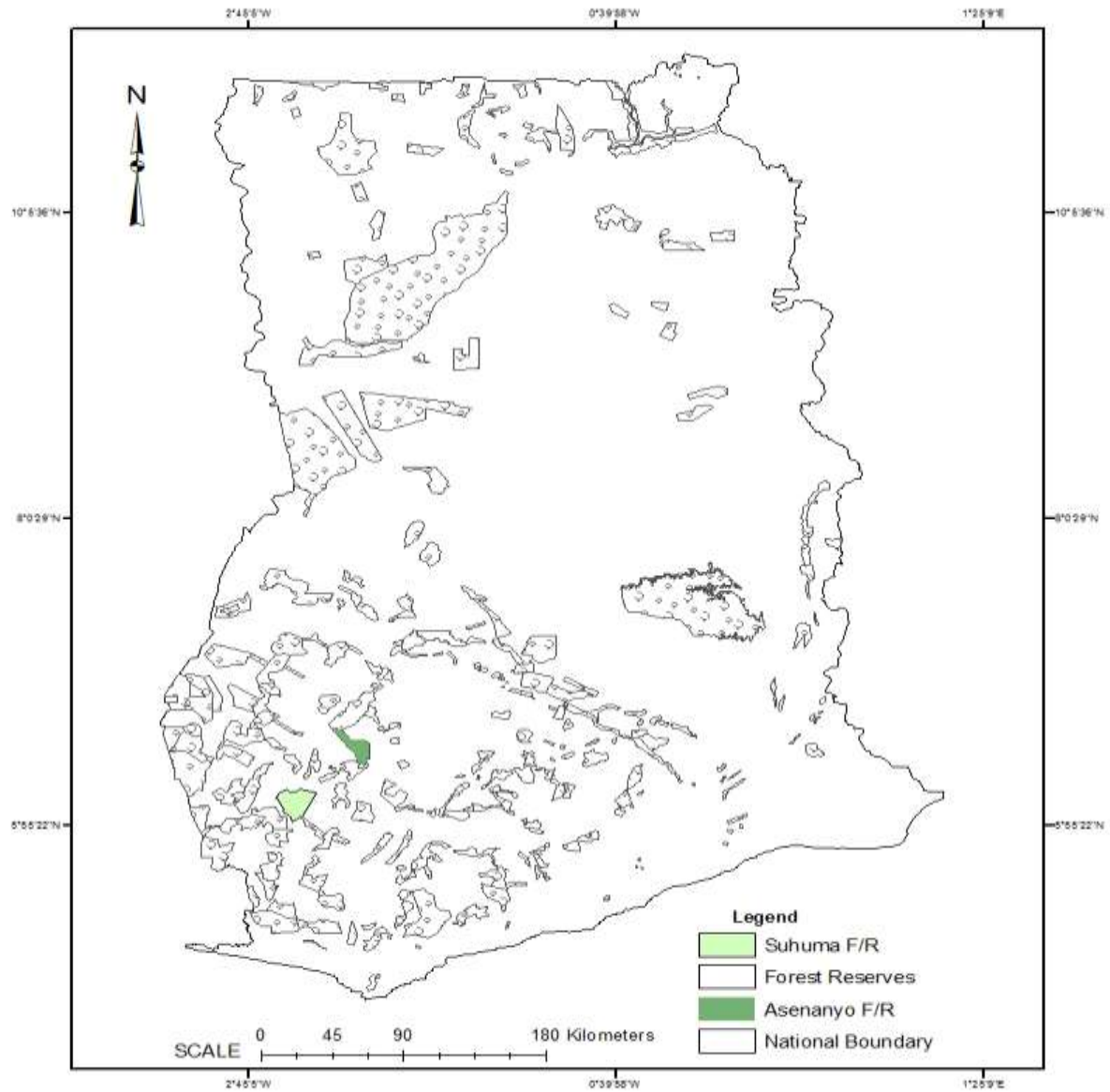
Objective 2: Develop processes to integrate civil society into the VPA monitoring and validation process;

Objective 3: Develop and strengthen processes for stakeholder engagement in VPA implementation;

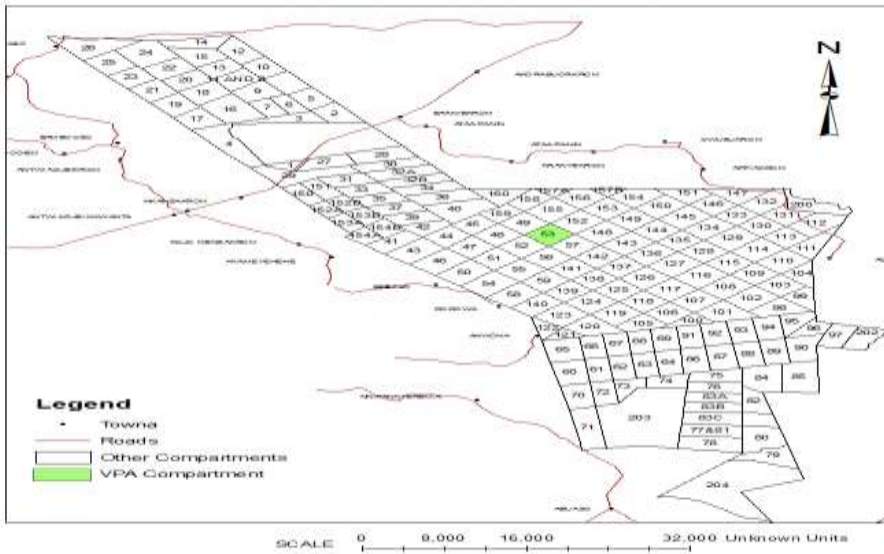
Objective 4: Test and review stakeholder monitoring and integration systems under the VPA;

Objective 5: Publicize outcomes and lessons amongst VPA stakeholder groups.

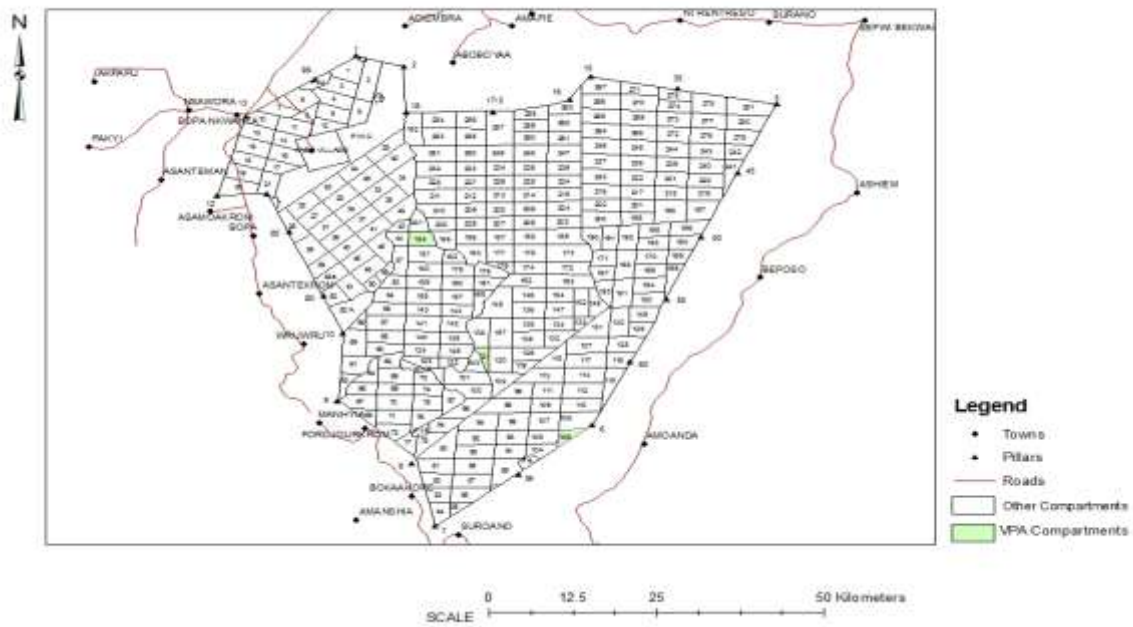
MAP HIGHLIGHTING VPA PILOT SITE



ASENANYO FOREST RESERVE



SUHUMA FOREST RESERVE



Highlights of Implemented Activities

Establishment, training, inauguration and management of community forest committees at the two pilot sites. The purpose of this activity was to build capacity of Community based CSO to partner the Forest Services Division operational activities in implementing the VPA and related forest management activities, such as prevention of illegal farming: Sixteen community resource management committees and two reserve committees have been established at the two VPA pilot sites. Creation of awareness on VPA is in progress amongst forest fringe communities and civil society groups notably forestry staff, timber company field staff and community representatives at the two VPA pilot sites. Training sessions and inauguration workshops, has been held in the form of meetings and community durbars for over 150 CFC's.

Training of civil society groups and FSD staff in VPA protocols: The Project organized a protocol training programme for Civil Society in the VPA process. Protocol Training took place from Monday 25th July to Wednesday, 27th July, 2011 at the Wood Industries Training Centre, Akyawkrom, near Ejisu Over 40 CSO comprising forest fringe communities, traditional authorities, timber company field staff and the Forestry Commission staff were trained in the following sessions of the protocol.

Folio	Name	Designation	Presentation
1	Raphael Yeboah	Executive Director	Overview of Civil Society Integration Protocols
2	Edward Obiaw	Director	Promoting Good Governance in Timber Production
3	Charles Dei Amoah	Manager	CS Roles in Timber Allocation Processes
4	Alex Asare	Manager	The ACP-FLEGT Project Objectives & Goals
4	Kofi Affum Baffoe	Manager	CS Roles in Timber Harvesting & Transportation Procedures
5	Anthony Eshun	Manager	CS Roles in Trade Licenses & Levies
6	Joseph Boakye	Regional Manager	Accountability in Fiscal Obligations & SRA Management
7	Noble Eshun	Assistant Manger	CS Roles in Stock Survey & Yield Selection
8	Richard Gyimah	Manager	Checklist for Ensuring Adherence to VPA WTS

			Obligations.
9	Mercy O. Ansah		Presentation & Discussion on Draft MOUs

Testing and evaluating the VPA integration protocols in practical field demonstration, timber check points and sawmill situations. Capacity of over 16 communities at the pilot sites has been strengthened on VPA topics such as facilitation and role of CRMCs, TAs, Das, FSD and other public agencies. Forty four CS representatives have been trained on VPA processes and their roles in ensuring monitoring and validation of the WTS. Field, road side checking at designated timber check points, and sawmill has been organized for participants on the second day of the protocol training programme. Certificates were awarded to trainees bestowing on them legitimacy to play their validation role.

Development of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU): To enhance relationships between the community and Civil Society structures and the Forestry Commissions, MOUs has been designed and validated. MOUs between the CRMCs and the FSD and between the VPA monitors and the FC has been formulated and ready for adoption. The MOUs are thus ready for signing between various parties. All the partners have agreed on the idea of entering into the MOUs to help facilitate smooth implementation of CS roles in VPA validation.

Development of Awareness Creation Materials: Newsletters have been drafted to publicise project activities and outcomes. Communities fringing the two VPA pilot sites have been adequately educated on forest management, tenets of the VPA Wood Tracking System, impacts of forest destruction and restorative measures to reverse deforestation. Awareness Package has been shared with similar projects. Posters with key forestry messages have been printed and distributed to pilot forest offices, RMSC, Project secretariat and communities. A 2012 Calendar highlighting a key message for each month have been designed and 1000 copies under printing.

Description of project activities, Actions taken and Results:

Objective 1:

Complete awareness on Forest law enforcement and governance under VPA

Objective 1 Summary

Communities fringing the two VPA pilot sites adequately educated on forest management, tenets of the VPA Wood Tracking System, impacts of forest destruction and restorative measures to reverse deforestation. Cooperation of such communities on forestry issues now improved

Objective 2:

Processes to integrate civil society into the VPA monitoring and validation process developed

Objective 2 Summary

Protocol for civil society Integration developed and validated and tested.

Objective 3:

Processes for stakeholder engagement in VPA implementation developed and strengthened.

Objective 3 Summary

Sixteen community resource management committees and two reserve committees established at the two VPA pilot sites.

Objective 4: Test and review stakeholder monitoring systems

Objective 4 Summary

The monitoring system has been adequately tested and participants' evaluation results compiled.

Objective 5: Publicize outcomes and lessons amongst VPA stakeholder groups

Objective 5 Way Forward

Programme designed to host dissemination workshop by the end of August 2011.

Summary of Achievements:

- Creation of awareness on VPA completed amongst forest fringe communities and civil society groups (forestry staff, timber company field staff and community representatives) at VPA pilot sites during workshops, meetings, community durbars and using various materials such as posters, fliers, calendar, T-shirts.
- Establishment, training, inauguration and management of community forest committees at the two pilot sites to partner the Forest Services Division operational staff in enforcing tenets of the VPA as well as other forest management activities, such as prevention of illegal farming.
- Civil Society group for VPA monitoring and validation Constituted and Testing and Evaluation of the VPA integration protocols in practical field demonstration, timber check points and sawmill situations completed.
- Development of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to regulate the relationships between the Community Forest Committees, Civil Society Representatives and the Forestry Commissions completed
- Initiation of project review to acquire lessons for dissemination workshop.
- Newsletter to publicize project activities and outcomes drafted.

Up Coming Events and Announcements

Dissemination Workshop: Dissemination Workshop for key stakeholders, project beneficiaries and implementers slated in last week of August. Project outcomes will, for the first time, engender successful integration of CS in timber harvesting validation and monitoring processes.

Project Evaluation and Lessons: A project evaluation has been initiated and lessons learnt will be shared with all stakeholders and similar projects.





FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION (FAO) AND FORESTRY COMMISSION



Combat Illegal Timber Harvesting by Supporting the Voluntary Partnership Agreement Resource Management Support Centre

January

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December

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APPENDIX J

PICTURES OF CFC INAUGURATION IN SEFWI-WIAWSO-30/06/2011



LYDIA OPOKU (REGIONAL MANAGER W/R)



SECTION OF CFCs



DIGNITARIES FROM THE VARIOUS ORGANISATIONS AND COMMUNITIES.



MIDDLE: NANA KWASI NKOA II, CHAIRMAN FOR THE PROGRAM AND HIS SUPPORTERS.



MR AWUKU (DISTRICT MANAGER-SEFWI WIAWSO) ANSWERING QUESTIONS.





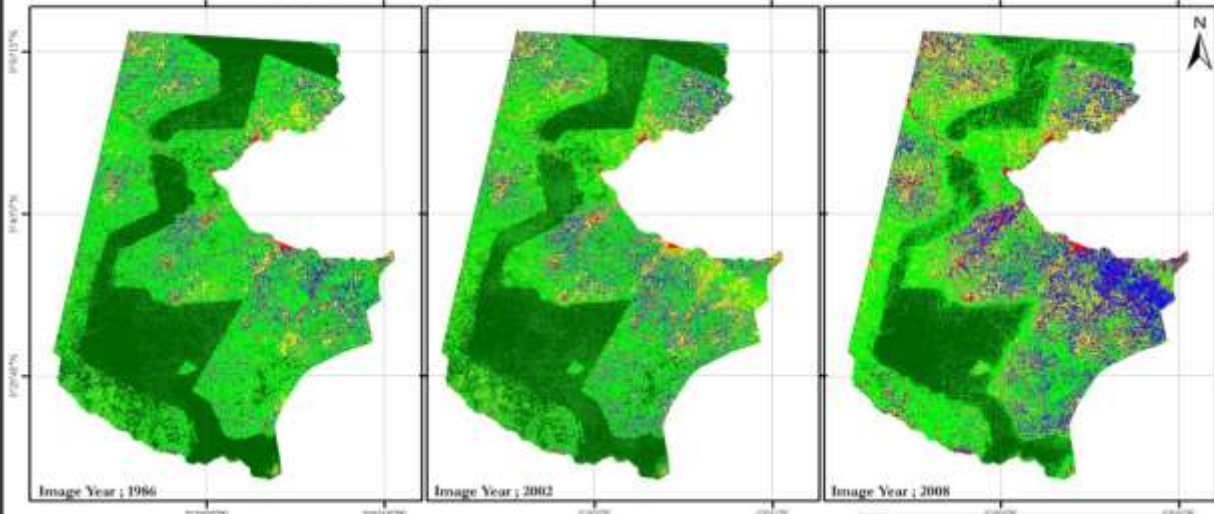


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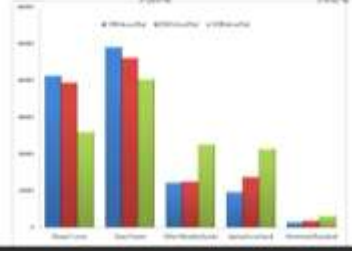
LAND COVER CHANGES



Legend

Land Cover Types	Land Cover Description
■ Closed Forest	Primary Forest (Closed Canopy)
■ Open Forest	Degraded Forest or Secondary Forest
■ Other Wooded Lands	Cocoa Farm, Citrus, Oil Palm and Rubber Plantation
■ Agricultural Land	Food Crops, Fallow Grounds, etc.
■ Settlement/Bareland	Communities, Open Areas and Bare Surfaces

Prepared by: Sikoba Mubizwa (RHR)
Akwagye George (Ghana - RHR)





is presented to

Francis Fosu

for

COMPLETING A THREE-DAY TRAINING COURSE ON PROTOCOLS FOR INTEGRATING CIVIL
SOCIETY IN VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT PROCESSES ON TIMBER

JULY 2011

Signature

ALEXANDER ASARE
PROJECT COORDINATOR

Date

ACP-FLEGT CIVIL SOCIETY INTEGRATION IN VOLUNTARY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT PROJECT
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SUPPORT CENTRE, FORESTRY COMMISSION