



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Monthly report submitted to Nature and Development Foundation

PROJECT NAME: Piloting Community Forest Monitoring in two Forest Reserves in Ashanti Region of Ghana through capacity building and field implementation



A report highlighting activities undertaken in June, 2015

COMPILED BY:

DOREEN ASUMANG –YEBOAH

PATIENCE PADIKIE DARNOR

DATE: 7th JULY, 2015



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

1.0 Introduction

The tropical high forest consists of a mass of luxuriant vegetation and rich diversity of living species, which represent an ecosystem that is unrivalled on earth. It provides not just a magnificent spectacle and a sanctuary for an incredible array of plants and wildlife but also shelter for species of plants and animals which cannot be found anywhere on the earth.

With up surging population in the last few years, Legal and illegal deforestation, land conversion for agriculture and growing human settlements, and an increasing reliance of local communities on forests for their livelihoods has resulted which is contributing to natural resources and environmental degradation.

Forest degradation continues to be a concern to all stakeholders in Ghana and the FLEGT initiative is seen as means to enforce forest legislation to ensure sustainable forest management. Communities are seen as one important stakeholder group that can ensure the success of this initiative however their capacity is far low for this task. To enable these play their roles effectively, there is a need to enhance their capacity on the VPA process in Ghana.

Between July, 2013 and July, 2014 the National Forestry Forum-Ghana in Partnership with WWF implemented the project dubbed “facilitating multi stakeholder dialogue on illegal logging and VPA in Ghana. The project built the capacity of stakeholders in 30 communities in 10 forestry districts in Ghana. These were followed by district and regional forums which resulted in a national forum. Key amongst the outcomes from these forums was the commitment of community members who live around forest reserves to help in forest management by helping in forest monitoring and also the need to reach out to other communities.

It is in this light that the NDF (previously WWF WAFPO) and the NFF-G have renewed their partnership and are implementing the project dubbed ‘Piloting Community Forest Monitoring in two Forest Reserves in Ashanti Region of Ghana through capacity building and field implementation’.

The project aims at providing support for proactive forest dwelling communities for effective monitoring of forestry activities to contribute to national FLEGT implementation efforts and sustainable forest management and also to support the establishment of formalized structures at community level for the protection of forests and networking amongst various community committees.

The project beneficiaries are; Akota, Kansakrom and Beyerebon no. 5 in the NKawie forest district and Bronikrom, Dotom, Siana, Aboaboso, Krobo, Kwameadu, Mennang, Breku and Bonkro in the New Edubiase forest district.

2.0. Proceedings

The activities undertaken within the period under review were;

- Organization of community sensitization forum at Bayerebon 5 that led to the formation of a community monitoring community
- Organization of a training workshop to Train some committee members on group dynamics and GLAS
- Monitoring visits to forest monitoring committees

2.1 Community sensitization meeting

A community sensitization meeting was held at Bayerebon in the Nkawie forest district.

At these meeting, community members were sensitized on the ownership of forests, VPA, SRA and the impacts of illegal activities on the forests and hence the environment after they had listed the importance of forests. Natives of Bayerebon 5 were also educated on record keeping.



Doreen explained issues to bayerebon community



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

After the presentation community members exhibited their joy for the education they had received. The youth leader of bayerebon 5 said that he was thinking they would have been better off if they had had this sensitization earlier but was still hopeful that the little left can be protected and if possible enrichment planting can be done. When given the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification for the issues baffling their minds, the following issues were raised;

- A participant wanted to know if volunteers will be given salaries and he was told they would not
- Community wanted to know how different the community monitoring committees (CMCs) are from the Forest Guards
- A participant wanted to know if the FSD staff are willing to collaborate with communities and he given an affirmative answer by the FSD technical officer who was present at the meeting. The elders of the community the gave their full approval and admonished their youth to volunteer.



The community leaders were all present at the Bayerebon community sensitization meeting



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

- Community members stated the role they will play in ensuring the effective implementation of the VPA as effective monitoring of forest activities.
- Communities however said that there should be some form of incentives to keep the interest of volunteers intact



At Bayerebon sensitization meeting

Present at this meeting were personnel from FSD and NFF-G who clarified issues to participants.

To end these meetings, people volunteered to be part of monitoring committees and were shown to the communities who accepts them and backed their traditional authorities to bless and advice them.

2.2 Organization of a training workshop to Train some committee members on group dynamics and GLAS

After successfully identifying interested members for the committee at the various communities, there was the need to build their capacities to enable them function effectively in the monitoring role assigned to them.

The groups were thus taken through awareness in group dynamic and Ghana Legality Assurance system. The first two committees to benefit from this training were Akota and Kansakrom committess in the Nkawie forest district.

On the 11th of June, a training workshop was organized targeting the 9 selected communities in the New Edubiase Forest District. Even though only these communities (Dotom, Menang,



Bronikrom, Aboaboso, Breku, Bonkro, Krobo, Kwameadu And Siana) were invited, 3 other communities(AboaboI &II, Subriso),who had forest monitoring committees also came to benefit from the training. The FSD forest guards and technical officers also took the advantage to get some enlightenment. Also present at the training were executives of the New Edubiase District Forestry forum, the FSD district manager and his two Deputies, official from the Adansi South district Assembly, NDF staff and NFF-G staff. A similar training programme was also organized on the 17th of June at Bayerebon 5 for their committee members.

2.2.1 Workshop proceedings

Welcome address by Mr. Nkwantabisa the DM of FSD

Mr Nkwantabisa in his speech told participant that the gathering was a classroom where we will enhance our Knowledge and capacity to combat illegal activities in the forest as we have taken a firm stand on the subject. He paused at this point and made participants applaud themselves for the success chopped so far since according to him the results are evident with the reduction of chainsaw sounds heard each night.



Mr. Nkwantabisa giving his welcome address



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

He admonished volunteers to have their towns at heart and not consider the challenges since nature has a way of paying us our due. He added that all should be ready to learn and that all that will be learnt could be applied in other aspects of life.

He ended his speech by welcoming all to his forest district and the training programme.

Purpose of the meeting by Glen Asomaning

Glen in presenting the purpose of the meeting said that they used to be WWF and for the past few years decided to extend their tentacles from training timber companies to include training of forest fringe communities. He added that under the project advancing the a legal and sustainable global timber trade through the EU FLEGT action plan implemented in Ghana by NDF (previously known as WWF WAFPO), the NDF supported the National Forestry Forum – Ghana to organize a number of forums which reached out to some 30 communities in 10 forestry districts in Ghana which included the New Edubiase forest district. These forums, according to him, resulted in a national forum after five regional forums were held. A key outcome from these forums was the commitment of community members who live around forest reserves to help in forest management by helping in forest monitoring.



Mr. Asomaning introducing the purpose of the workshop



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

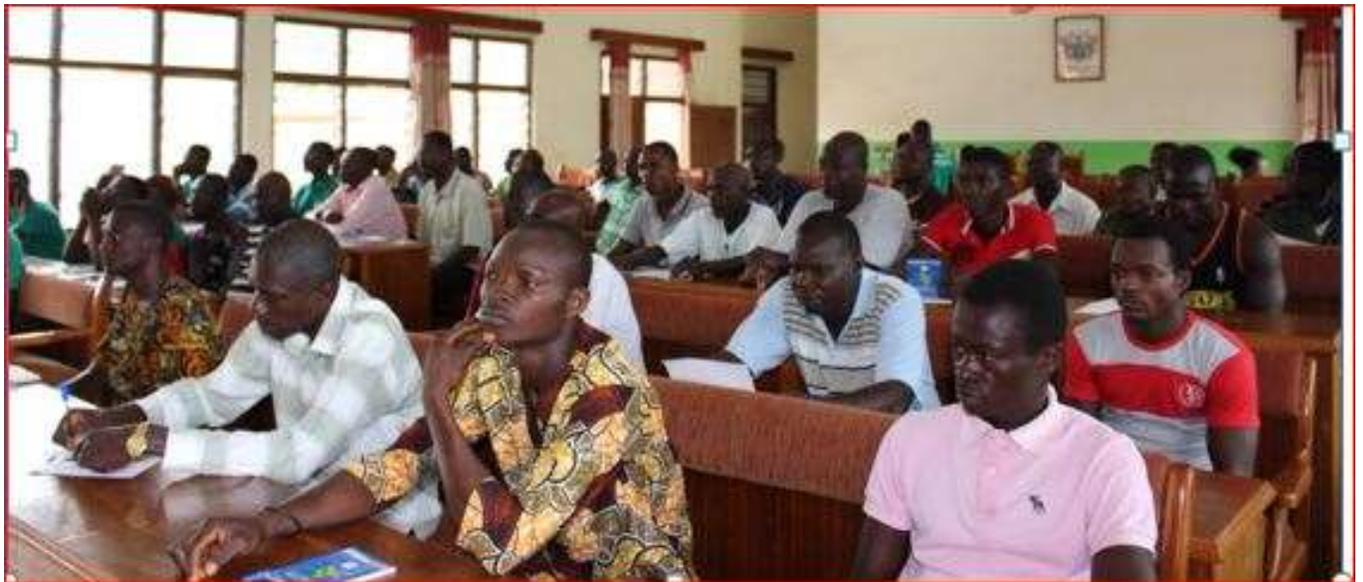
He said the NDF the decided to help these proactive communities in their quest to help protect the forest. Mr. Asomaning added that even though the help is not much, two forest districts have been selected and for that reason, all have gathered today to be trained so as to enhance capacities in helping to fight illegalities and promoting legal lumber.

He ended his speech by thanking volunteers and admonishing them to try and learn as much as possible from this workshop to enable them perform their roles effectively.

Presentation on VPA and TLAS by Mr. Frank Owusu

Mr. Owusu to begin his presentation led communities to remember what they know about VPA. A lot of inputs were made by the community which includes the fact that it is an agreement between Ghana and EU to only trade in legal lumber.

After this he introduced VPA as a partnership between the European Union and wood producing countries of which Ghana is one. He added that Ghana had already signed the agreement and that things are being put in place for its implementation of which the TLAS is one.



Participants looked on as presentation was made on TLAS

According to him the VPA is not any new law but only demands that we obey all the laws in our forest sector before we can export lumber to Europe or even use domesticall. He also spoke on the importance of VPA.

On the TLAS, Frank said that it is a set of principles and criteria that will need to be satisfied to make a lumber legal. He said that when these criteria is satisfied, the wood or wood product should be traceable to its source and it is only after all these have been satisfy that a timber contractor could get a FLEGT licensee to export or trade in lumber.



Frank training participants on the limber legality assurance system

Mr. Owusu added that the TLAS is the backbone of the VPA and hence volunteers are being educated on the subject since they are a major contributors to the VPA implementation process. He educated participants on seven legality principles as;

- the timber originated from prescribed **sources** and received consent from owners;
- the logger, at the time of felling, held a **valid TUC**, issued by the Minister for Lands Forests and Mines ratified by Parliament following the prescribed competitive process ;
- the logger at the time of felling, held a **valid Salvaging Permit (SP)** issued by the Forestry Commission ; or
- the logger complied with forest **operation procedures** and standards prescribed by statute



- the logger/producer complied with **timber transport** standards prescribed by statute
- The producer complied with timber **processing & trade** standards prescribed by statute
- The producer complied with **fiscal obligations** prescribed by statute(including SRA)

Participants at this point were led to share their knowledge on SRA which they said that is is a benefit they get from the timber harvested.

On challenges to community involvement in VPA, Mr. Owusu named lack of capacity, low motivation and weak feedback mechanisms. He however added that we are undertaking these sensitization and also providing some safety apparatus to volunteers to help minimize such challenges.

He ended his speech by asking communities to state some of the things they are and will be doing in aid of the VPA implementation process. The following contributions were made;

- Monitoring all activities in the forests and trying to establish their legality
- Reporting all illegal activities to the FSD office
- Helping community with SRA deliberations and signing
- Getting rid of all chainsaw operators in our community
- Protecting the forest from fires and helping to put off bush fires.
- A forest guard advised community members against using fire for hunting since that is also a major cause of bush fires

After the presentation, the house was divided into their various communities to have group discussions on some 9 scenarios of activities in the forest. After these group sessions, each group was given 15minutes within which they presented their results and contributions were also taken from the entire group including the FSD officials.

SKETCH ONE

Question: A contractor has been logging in your forest for 2 years without your consent. You were just sensitized on VPA and SRA. Elaborate the steps you will take to receive your SRA.

Response: The group said that they will make sure he stops logging immediately.

The house however said that they will have to approach the logger and send him to the Authorities (FSD and traditional authorities) to help in the signing of in the SRA.

The FSD officials however told participants to first inquire of his permit before starting the process of getting all SRA stakeholders ready for the negotiations and signing.



Group work time at New Edubiase training workshop

SKETCH TWO

Question: As a committee member, you were working on your farm and saw a chainsaw operator cutting a tree in the forest.

Elaborate the steps you will take to solve the problem

Response: The group said that the committee member will have to approach the logger and later inform the entire group.

The house however came to a conclusion that for safety sake he will have to return home and inform the entire committee so that they will approach the illegal logger as a group. The FSD officials added that they should approach the logger tactically but not with anger and they should also inform forestry officials of all the steps they take so that they can bring reinforcement when the need arises.

SKETCH THREE



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Question: A truck load of logs appeared from the forest. You suspect it is illegal since SRA has not been done. Looking in the car, you saw the forest guard.

What steps will you take to ascertain the legality or otherwise of the logs?

Response: The group said they will stop the truck and ask for papers that indicate that the logs were legal.

The house accepted what the group said and gave an example of that instance that happened quite recently.

The FSD DM told participants that in case that vehicle does not stop, they should report the incident to him and mention the name of his worker that was involved in such activity.



A group putting down what they intended to present to the house

SKETCH FOUR



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Question: You have reported an illegal activity to the FSD office. You heard nothing about the actions taken.

What will you do?

Response: The group said they will keep making follow ups

The house came to the conclusion that they should follow it up with a letter. The participants were educated on the various reporting channels in the forestry sector



The ladies also shared their experiences and strategies

SKETCH FIVE



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Question: A logger just came to your community preparing to enter the forest.

Elaborate how you will ascertain his legitimacy

Response: The committee needs to invite him to inquire of the permit he has.

The forestry officials added that added that the acquisition of permit involves a lot such that the communities should be aware of logging activities before the logger comes to start working therefore if he appears without the community knowing, we should inquire from both the logger and FSD in a tactical manner but not with anger. As much as possible avoid fighting with loggers.



The range supervisors also helped participants with some strategies

SKETCH SIX



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Question: A committee member is conniving with illegal loggers.

How will you deal with the problem?

Response: The group said they will speak to him and further invite him to the traditional authorities if he pays deaf ears to them then they will inform the FSD office if he still have not changed his ways.

The house however agreed that if a committee member indulges in illegal activities, he should be reported directly to the FSD office who will inturn report him to the police



Participants were eager to share their experiences on the scenarios given

SKETCH SEVEN



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Question: You tried to stop a chainsaw operator but he has the backing of a renowned person in the community.

What will you do?

Response: We will report the operator to the traditional authorities and FSD and also look for his operation sites and report same to the authorities.

The house said that we should inform FSD officials who should in turn prosecute the perpetrators.

The DM said that we are working with all stakeholder which include all opinion leaders but it does not mean we should not report if they indulge in illegal activities. He however added that illegal loggers are used to saying that they have the backing of one person or the other just to scare community members so we should try to investigate such allegations before taking any actions.



A group leader presenting the outcome of his group work

SKETCH EIGHT



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Question: You chanced upon illegal farms in the forest.

What will you do?

Response: The group decided to monitor and catch the owners of such farms and then report them to the FSD officials.

The house accepted their views and admonished each other to avoid farming in forests and make request to the FSD offices for degraded portions for farming where necessary



Making contributions at Edubiase training workshop

SKETCH NINE



Question: You noticed a fire burning in you forest.

What steps will you take?

Response: They will inform the chiefs who will make the gongon to be sounded fo all community members to take cutlasses,buckets of water etc. and go and make sure the fire is totally off before they come back home.

The house spoke about creating a fire break ahead of the fire and burning from that point to meet with the burning fire.

The DM of FSD said that fortunately for his district, fires are very rare but still thinks that there needs to be fire education to prevent fires. He added that the most effective fire control method is prevention by not using fire for hunting and not sending fire to the forest in the dry seasons. Mr. Nkwantabisa admonished committees that safety first and people should make sure they are not compromising their safety in fighting fires.

This was followed by a presentation on group dynamics

Presentation on group dynamics by Mrs. Doreen Asumang-Yeboah

To begin her presentation, Doreen asked participants to explain what is meant by a group to which they said it is 2 or more people who have come together with a common aim.

Doreen educated participants on the responsibility of the group as;

- To transfer information, ideas and knowledge gained to their people
- To lead their community in the fight against illegal timber harvesting and trade
- to monitor illegal timber operations and report to appropriate quarters
- Organize meetings as a way of ensuring that there is a feedback mechanism in place.
- Liaise between FC and community by transmitting information from their groups to the FC and vise versa.



Participants looked on as Doreen educated them on group dynamics

She educated participants on the stages of group formation as;

- Forming
- Norming
- Storming
- Performing and
- Adjourning

Doreen further spoke on the elements of a group as:

- A common understanding of purpose or interest
- Commitment of members
- Effective Conflict Management
- Laid down rules and regulations



- Transparency and accountability
- Effective and efficient Leadership

Participants were further educated on good leadership, management of meeting and reporting.

To end this presentation, a short video was shown about effectiveness of leadership and group work. After this participants stated what they have seen and their understanding of the video.

Remarks by Glen

Glen in his remarks stated that we are being funded by the EU to undertake these activities and hope that in the shortest possible time, illegal activities will have been reduced. He told participants that if things do not happen as expected, future funds will not be channeled to such activities. He admonished participants to help protect our forest so as to protect all the environmental services that benefits our farms as well.

To end his speech, he encouraged forest guards and range supervisors to collaborate with volunteers in their activities.

Remarks by the New Edubiase district forestry forum chairman

Hon. Boabeng, the chairman of New Edudubiase district forum, expressed his happiness that the workshop has been a success and told participants that incentives that will be given to volunteers will be on their commitment to the course. He told volunteers that he and his men will also be coming round for monitoring and wish to find only good activities and results.

Closing remarks by Mr. Nkwantabisa, the district manager of New Edubiase FSD

The DM began his speech by thanking all for making the workshop very lively. He added that the journey of stopping illegal logging had already started and sees this workshop as a major step. He was hopeful that by the end of this year all volunteers would have seen positive impacts of the work they are doing. He wondered what participants were taking back home from this workshop.

He further reminded participants of the major topics discussed and told them to always have them in mind as they worked. He commended Menang community for the bye-laws they have come up with and admonished other committees to do same.



Mr. Nkwantabisa giving his closing remarks

He said topmost on his agenda is collaborating and hope that all stakeholders have these in mind and make transparency key to all activities He further told participants that some shirts have been brought by NDF and that other protective gears will be provided later by NFF-G.

He ended by thanking all participants and wished them well.

Mr. Akwesi Manu from Breku gave the vote of thanks and a prayer was said to bring the programme to an end.

Similarly committee members at Bayerebon 5 were given training on group dynamics, VPA and the LAS. At this meeting, presentations were made on the topics after which issues were raised and addressed.



Bayerebon committee being trained on TLAS and group dynamics

2.3 Monitoring visits to forest monitoring committees

Follow up visits were made to the 9 communities in New Edubiase forest district from 29th June to 3rd July, 2015, with the following aims:

- Assessing the level of effectiveness of the transfer of information to committee members both at the community and training sessions
- To assess the level of utilization of information given to the committees
- To gather information on work done so far and
- To gather information on challenges and information gaps to inform designs for future training programmes (please see the appendix for the monitoring checklist)

The monitoring meetings took the form of focus group meeting of committee members with lead respondents. Generally it was realized that committee members are very enthused about their



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

role in forest management and are giving their best despite the fact that they are not being paid. It was also realized that they learnt a lot from the training they had. This is evident from the fact that they are putting in place their bye laws and also working as a unit instead of individuals as they used to do.

A very commendable finding was the fact that committee members were committing their personal monies to be used during monitoring operations and also that they try to locate all illegal logging sites and lead the FSD officials to them.



Monitoring meeting at krobo

Key amongst their further training needs were;

- Fire fighting techniques
- Dealing with illegal logging in nearby communities and
- The need for alternative livelihood training

The outcomes are shown in the tables below:



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Table 2.1 krobo monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Krobo
Date	29 th June, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Joseph Tetteh Teye
Position in community	Tuangya Chairman
Role in committee	President
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	To protect our forests for posterity
Number of people in committee	12
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	10
Reason for those absent	They had travelled
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt how to deal with logging related issues
What actions have been taken after the workshop	The group has met three times and are in the process of coming out with their bye- laws. They have also given each committee member a role to play
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly
What are the results and verifiable evidence	Community members can attest to the significantly reducing of chainsaw sounds heard in recent times
Have there been any challenges	Insults from some community members whose relatives and fiends are illegal loggers Challenges with dealing with illegal logging in areas closer to other communities that do not have monitoring committees
What are the capacity gaps	Dealing with illegal logging in areas closer to other communities that do not have monitoring committees, Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative. They are happy about our work and visit us whenever they come around
Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes except some few who were logging illegally we meet with the odikro occasionally for discussions
What are your recommendations to	Wants funds to be made available to cover all the expenses

improve the work

they make during their activities.



Timber right holder upon meeting with committee is repairing Aboaboso brigde

Table 2.2 Siana monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Siana



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Date	30 th June, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Adusu Augustus
Position in community	Secretary
Role in committee	Secretary
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	Their sense of ownership was rekindled and they wanted to protect the forests
Number of people in committee	10
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	9
Reason for those absent	He was sick
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt how to perform our roles effectively
What actions have been taken after the workshop	The group has met twice and has come out with their bye-laws but is yet to get it typed. They have selected their leaders and undertake monitoring visits once every 4 days.
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly
What are the results and verifiable evidence	They have found out that boundary lines from Edubiase to pillar 38 is bushy but the rest are neatly cleaned. They also seized 30 beams and gave them to the FSD. As we were meeting with them, a chainsaw sound was heard and they went away and came back with a chain, cutlass and gallon of petrol belonging to the logger because he had men around who informed him of the group approaching and therefore bolted away with his chainsaw machine.
Have there been any challenges	Insults from some women whose relatives and friends are illegal loggers Bushy and muddy boundary lines and forest roads Lack of identification cards
What are the capacity gaps	Education on water protection Right farming practices Species of economic importance to plant in cocoa farms The committee said they need this knowledge so they can sensitize other community members
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative. They have met the forest guard, Mr. Appiah, and are collaborating with him.
Have you received the support of the FSD	Yes. They follow up whenever we make any report



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

so far	
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes except some few who were logging illegally
What are your recommendations to improve the work	Wants funds to be made available to cover all the expenses they make during their activities. Eg. Feeding of committee members on monitoring errands. More visits from the project team to their communities Further training workshops which should include alternative livelihood trainings.

Table 2.3 Aboaboso monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Aboaboso
Date	30 th June, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Stephen Asiedu
Position in community	
Role in committee	
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	To protect our forests and benefit from it
Number of people in committee	9
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	5
Reason for those absent	They had travelled for funerals
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt a lot to help us with the monitoring
What actions have been taken after the workshop	The group has met once and are in the process of coming out with their bye-laws They have invited and spoken to a timber rights holder
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly
What are the results and verifiable evidence	The timber right holder has agreed to and was repairing a bridge that led to Aboaboso on the day we visited. They were going to sign Sra with the community within the same week.
Have there been any challenges	Insults from some women whose relatives were illegal loggers



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

What are the capacity gaps	Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative.
Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes. They advice us on what to do We have helped them with boundary cleaning
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes
What are your recommendations to improve the work	Wants funds to be made available to cover all the expenses made. More visits from the project team to encourage them

Table 2.4 Bronikrom monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Bronikrom
Date	1 st July, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Kwasi Adoko
Position in community	Linguist
Role in committee	chairman
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	To protect our forests for posterity
Number of people in committee	10 with the strong backing of out Odikro
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	10
Reason for those absent	
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. Very helpful
What actions have been taken after the workshop	The group has met once and also had one meeting with the elders of the community and updated them on issues They seized illegal logs on the 11 th june when they returned from the training and handed it over to the FSD
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced
What are the results and verifiable	FSD came for the seized logs



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

evidence	
Have there been any challenges	There is a sawmill in the community whose workers are threatening committee members Insults from some community members whose relatives and friends are illegal loggers
What are the capacity gaps	Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods They want the entire community to be sensitized on the importance of their activities
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative.
Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes They are happy about our work
Have you received the support of the community so far	We have the full backing of the odikro and some of the community members but the presence of the saw mill has turned some community members against us
What are your recommendations to improve the work	They need overall protective clothing and mobile phones

Table 2.5 Kwameadu monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Kwameadu
Date	1 st July, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Samuel Ayesu
Position in community	
Role in committee	Chair
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	Illegal logging was on the ascend and we want to protect the forest from degradation so as to protect our crops
Number of people in committee	10
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	6
Reason for those absent	One was sick and the others were attending a MOFA meeting.
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt how to deal with illegal logging
What actions have been taken after the workshop	Have arrested illegal mortar in a truck Have selected their leaders



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly
What are the results and verifiable evidence	Illegal mortar was handed over to the FSD Community members can attest to the significantly reducing of chainsaw sounds heard in recent times
Have there been any challenges	Misunderstanding between the committee and the youth engaged in illegal logging The committee are alleging that the police at a barrier close to their community were reproaching a member who is a driver for arresting logs that they could have arrested without any authority
What are the capacity gaps	Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods Dealing with illegal logging in areas closer to other communities that do not have monitoring committees,
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative.
Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes. They are happy about our work and visit us whenever they come around. (The DM gave us a message to thank them for helping him arrest some illegal logs)
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes except some few who were logging illegally
What are your recommendations to improve the work	They want the whole community to be re-sensitized on the activities of the committee.

Table 2.6 Dotom monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Dotom
Date	2 nd July, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Julius Mensah
Position in community	
Role in committee	Chair
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	To protect the forest from illegal activities
Number of people in committee	12
How many people participated in the	12



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

training workshop at Edubiase	
Reason for those absent	NA
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt how to perform our roles well
What actions have been taken after the workshop	Have had 2 meetings and have also met with the assembly member of the area Have arrested a truck full of illegal charcoal and handed it over to FSD forest guard Have selected their leaders
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly
What are the results and verifiable evidence	Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly Group members have contributed some money which is kept to be used for group expenses.
Have there been any challenges	They are alleging a corrupt forest guard since they suspected that the charcoal they arrested and gave to him did not end up at the district office
What are the capacity gaps	Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative, except for the corrupt forest guard
Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes.
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes except some few who were logging illegally
What are your recommendations to improve the work	That the FSD officials should always pick the calls that come from the committee members Some funds should be made available to them to help them in their expenses like transportation to check on purported illegal activities.

Table 2.7 Menang monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Menang
Date	2 nd July, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Emmanuel Adusu Stephen
Position in community	
Role in committee	Communication director
Have you had any sensitization or	Yes



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

awareness on forest law enforcement	
Reason for forming the committee	To protect the forest from illegal activities
Number of people in committee	9
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	7
Reason for those absent	Engaged with something else
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt how to perform our roles well
What actions have been taken after the workshop	Have had 4 meetings Have arrested a 3 truck full of illegal lumber and handed it over to FSD forest guard Have selected their leaders The night after they were visited the chanced upon illegally harvested logs and reported it to the FSD district officers.
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly
What are the results and verifiable evidence	The seized logs were handed over to the FSD office Chainsaw activities have been reduced significantly
Have there been any challenges	Lack of identification makes illegal operators to question their authority Illegal logging are done deep into the forests and committee members have to travel long distances to find these sites so as to direct FSD officials to take seized logs They don't know Berkwai FSD officials who also work close to them
What are the capacity gaps	Further education on markings on legal logs and effective communication with loggers Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative
Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes.
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes with very strong backing of their chief
What are your recommendations to improve the work	Be provided with protective gears That the FSD officials should always pick the calls that come from the committee members Some funds should be made available to them to help them in their expenses like transportation to check on purported illegal activities.



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Table 2.8 Bonkro monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Bonkro
Date	3 rd July, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Akwasi Manu
Position in community	
Role in committee	Chairman
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	To help the FSD with the protection of the forest from illegal activities
Number of people in committee	9
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	9
Reason for those absent	NA
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt how to perform our roles well
What actions have been taken after the workshop	Have had 3 joint meetings with Breku committee members Have helped FSD to arrest a 3 truck full of illegal lumber Have sensitized traditional leaders
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced
What are the results and verifiable evidence	Illegal loggers in Breku who are not natives of the town were informed through a gong by the odikro to leave the town and within that a period they tried to take away their logs and that was when it was intercepted by the FSD officials and arrested.
Have there been any challenges	They are being threatened and even two of their member wanted out for the fear of being killed Alleged leaking of their information to illegal loggers by an unidentified committee member
What are the capacity gaps	Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative
Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes. But sometimes it is difficult to reach on phone
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

What are your recommendations to improve the work	Be provided with incentives Want the entire community including the committee to be re-sensitized on their role
---	--

Table 2.9 Breku monitoring report

QUESTION	ANSWER
Name of community	Breku
Date	2 nd July, 2015
Name of lead respondent	Aboagye Sampson
Position in community	
Role in committee	chairman
Have you had any sensitization or awareness on forest law enforcement	Yes
Reason for forming the committee	To protect the forest from illegal activities
Number of people in committee	11
How many people participated in the training workshop at Edubiase	9
Reason for those absent	Have travelled
Was the training workshop beneficial	Yes. We learnt how to deal with illegal activities
What actions have been taken after the workshop	Have had 3 joint meetings with Bonkro committee members Have sensitized traditional leaders
Have there been any changes since the formation of the committee	Chainsaw activities have been reduced
What are the results and verifiable evidence	Illegal loggers in Breku who are not natives of the town were informed through a gong by the odikro to leave the town. Gave information that led to the arrest of a truck full of illegal logs
Have there been any challenges	Illegal logger insult and threaten them
What are the capacity gaps	Further education on the duties of the committee members since they believe that some of their members have not gotten the understanding Fire fighting techniques and Alternative livelihoods
What has been the response of the FSD so far	Collaborative



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

Have you received the support of the FSD so far	Yes.
Have you received the support of the community so far	Yes except the illegal logger of which most are visitos.
What are your recommendations to improve the work	Be provided with protective gears To be visited at least once a month

3.0 Conclusions and recommendations

The fact that communities wanted to help the FSD fight illegal activities is so evident in the manner in which these committees are going about their activities. The following were realized in the period under review:

- Volunteers acquired knowledge to sharpen their monitoring skills from the sensitization they were given but still need further training. This was evident from the manner in which they tackled the sketches at the training workshop.
- Volunteers monitoring skills was sharpened at the training workshops and hence the effective manner in which they are helping to reduce illegal logging.
- Volunteers enthusiasm has increased
- Cost of operation of the FSD in these forest district have reduced since part of their monitoring work is done by the monitoring committees
- The effectiveness of forest monitoring has also been enhanced due to the presence of volunteers around the clock unlike the usual on and off monitoring of the FSD.
- Communities need just a little training and to be given a little recognition coupled with some incentives to enhance the effectiveness of forest monitoring.
- Volunteers are committing their personal funds in support of their monitoring activities
- Finally community participation is highly essential to effective forest monitoring.

We are so impressed and we are looking forward to much better results after the protective gears are given to these volunteers

We are recommending the following

- There is need to find innovative ways of providing continuous support these communities to maintain their enthusiasm
- The safety wear acquisition process should be hastened
- The volunteers to be given training in alternative livelihoods to serve as incentives



COLLABORATING
ON FOREST
CONSERVATION IN
WEST AFRICA



NATIONAL FORESTRY
FORUM-GHANA

- That the volunteering communities be visited periodically by the project team so as to enhance their sense of recognition and
- The project activities should be expanded to other enthusiastic communities