

REPORT

Safeguards Training Workshop for the Partnership for Production, Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL) Project at Juabeso-Bia



May, 2019

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACRONYMS

ACRONYM	MEANING
3PRCL	Partnership for Productivity, Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes
CRMC	Community Resource Management Committee
CSC	Climate Smart Cocoa
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
DA	District Assembly
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
FC	Forestry Commission
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FSD	Forest Services Division
GCFRP	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
HIA	Hotspot Intervention Area
HFZ	High Forest Zone
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NCRC	Nature Conservation Research Centre
PCI	Principles, Criteria and Indicators
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
RSC	Rural Services Centre
SAP	Safeguards Action Plan
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
SHEC	Sub-HIA Executive Committee
SIS	Safeguards Information System
UNFCCC	United National Framework Convention on Climate Change
WD	Wildlife Division

Executive Summary

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (GCFRP) is one of Ghana's major milestone in the REDD+ process. This is a giant step towards on the ground implementation of REDD+ policies, actions and measures. The main goal of the GCFRP is to: improve land-use and socio-economic development in the High Forest Zone (HFZ) and cocoa growing areas of Ghana; and preserve Ghana's HFZ to sustain the ecosystem functions and maintain cultural heritage for future generations. The Partnership for Productivity, Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL) is a sub-project under the GCFRP to address the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in the Juabeso-Bia Landscape which is one of six Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) selected for GCFRP implementation.

The Safeguards workshop was organized by the Climate Change Department of the Forestry Commission in collaboration with Touton SA under the Partnership for Productivity, Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL) project. The workshop was planned for two categories of stakeholders. The first day was held for 3PRCL consortium members. The consortium consists the Forestry Commission, COCOBOD, Touton, NCRC, Agro-Eco, SNV and Tropenbos Ghana. The 2nd and 3rd days had key stakeholders including MMDA, CSOs, Traditional Authority, Local communities, Sub-HIA Executive Committee (SHEC) participating. The purpose of the workshop was to build stakeholders' capacities on REDD+ safeguards, Gender, and the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) developed under the REDD+ program.

The method adopted was a three-day interactive and participatory training workshop spanning Tuesday 21st May through to Thursday 23rd May, 2019. A total of eighty-two participants were present during the workshop. Several documents such as the REDD+ information briefs were distributed to participants for their information.

Towards the end of the workshop, 3PRCL consortium members were taken through the screening process to understand how to screen a project activity using the approved checklist. Screening is done to determine whether or not a project activity or intervention requires an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or other safeguards regulations according to international and national REDD+ safeguards regulations and Ghana's safeguards.

1.0 Introduction

Global warming resulting in climate change impacts present a major threat across the globe and therefore demands international response. Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) has emerged as one of the international mechanisms that seek to mitigate this threat through incentivizing initiatives or actions by developing countries to reduce their greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly from deforestation and forest degradation.

Benefits envisaged from REDD+ are biodiversity conservation, poverty alleviation, and ecosystem restoration amongst others. REDD+ therefore presents an opportunity for developing countries to access funding from developed nations to improve the management of their forest resources on a sustainable basis.

The programme aspires to bring about transformational change in the Forestry and Cocoa Sectors. It has great potential to safeguard Ghana's forests for present and future generations. Ghana developed its maiden programme, the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) from a list of Emissions Reduction Programmes (ERPs) outlined in the REDD+ Strategy. Under this programme, Ghana established its first sub-project which is the Partnership for Productivity Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL) in the Juabeso-Bia Landscape.

The 3PRCL project is being led by Touton Ghana and six other consortium partners, which are; Forestry Commission (FC), COCOBOD, SNV, Agro-Eco, Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) and Tropenbos Ghana to address the cause of forest degradation and deforestation while enhancing cocoa production. This is funded by Partnership for Forests (P4F). The project aims to achieve deforestation-free cocoa landscape, support the development of a market for climate smart cocoa beans, Rural Services Centre (RSC), improve extension, strengthen forest governance, develop a national deforestation monitoring system to serve all stakeholders, and develop and pilot landscape-wide governance framework in the Juabeso-Bia landscape in the Western North Region of Ghana.

Addressing and respecting safeguards is a major requirement of the REDD+ process for accessing results-based payment and subsequently a Safeguards Information System has been developed to provide information on how safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout implementation of REDD+.

As part of the efforts to implement the actions/interventions under the GCFRP, the Climate Change Department of the Forestry Commission in collaboration with Touton under the project dubbed Partnership for Productivity, Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL) organized a three-day capacity building workshop on REDD+ Safeguards at Kofikrom/Proso and Juabeso. The first day training workshop focused on the 3PRCL consortium members (Forestry Commission, COCOBOD, Touton, NCRC, Agro-Eco, SNV and Tropenbos Ghana). The second and third day's trainings focused on the 42 sub-HIA Executive Committee members and HIA

Governance Board members as well as representatives of MMDAs . There were a total of 82 participants present on each day of the trainings.

The workshop sought to build the capacity of relevant stakeholders within the Juabeso-Bia HIA which is one of the pilot programmes under the GCFRP on REDD+ safeguards. REDD+ Safeguards ensures that the social and environmental risks are minimized and benefits are enhanced in the implementation of REDD+. In effect, the project should not make people or the environment “worse-off” but rather enhance benefits.

The aim of the safeguards training workshop was to build the capacities of the 3PRCL staff and other stakeholders within the Juabeso-Bia HIA on REDD+ Safeguards including the Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCIs), Safeguards Action Plan (SAP) developed specifically for the 3PRCL, GCFRP, FGRM and Gender.

1.1 Objectives

The main objectives of the workshop were:

1. To build the capacities of participants on REDD+ Safeguards and Safeguard Information System (SIS).
2. To build capacity on mainstreaming Gender consideration into the REDD+ Process.
3. To introduce the FGRM in addressing REDD+ conflicts in project implementation.

1.2 Methodology

A three-day interactive and participatory safeguards training workshop was organized by the Climate Change Department (CCD) of the Forestry Commission in collaboration with Touton SA. The participants included in this workshop were the HIA consortium partners, HIA Management Board and Sub-HIA Executive Committee (SHEC), the Regional Manager, District Manager and the District Safeguards Focal person and reps of MMDAs. The workshop was executed in a form of presentation with discussions held at the end for participants to provide inputs, ask questions or seek further clarifications.

2.0 Principles, Criteria and Indicators

Activity A.3.2 Training of 3PRCL Staff and refresher training on safeguards and sensitization on the Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCIs) for stakeholder within the Juabeso-Bia HIA.

There was a general presentation on REDD+, GCFRP, 3PRCL afterwards, the training on REDD+ safeguards and PCIs followed.

The REDD+ program stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation whilst promoting conservation, enhancement of forest carbon stock and sustainable forest management is the programme Ghana has signed onto to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The GCFRP is the first among other strategies Ghana has adopted to reduce GHG emissions within the High Forest Zone (HFZ). The GCFRP has adopted the concept of Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) as baseline for implementation. The HIAs was deduced as a result of the extent of deforestation and forest degradation within a landscape, the number of private institutions working within the area and the need to help curb the rate of degradation and forest degradation. As a result the 3PRCL project which aims at ensuring a sustainable cocoa production while avoiding deforestation and forest degradation for cocoa production is a good example.

In achieving a sustainable cocoa production and a healthy forest safeguards plays a critical role. Safeguards are safety measures adopted to reduce negative impact or a “do no harm” approach. REDD+ safeguards ensures that social and environmental risks are minimized and the benefits are enhanced in the implementation of REDD+.



Cross-section of participants during the Training of 3PRCL Staff on safeguards and PCIs at the Touton Rural Services Center in Kofikrom/Proso.

Ghana's safeguards process started in 2014 with the development of a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA). The SESA process produced an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) which are all guiding documents to effectively implement REDD+ safeguards. The SESA was updated in 2016 to better understand the social and environmental issues within the GCFRP.

Ghana is defining its country approach to safeguards (CAS) and has undertaken legal analysis of the Cancun Safeguards and World Bank Safeguards Operational Policies and developed a Safeguards Information System (SIS). The SIS have two (2) components which are the back end and the front end. The front end is accessible to the general public while the backend is accessible to only the administrators of the REDD+ programme purposely for uploading information.

In addition, Principles, Criteria and Indicators (PCIs) were developed by the Safeguards sub-working group to provide the procedure, how and what safeguards information needs to be collected during project implementation. The PCIs have 13 Principles, 54 Criteria and 136 Indicators developed from the Cancun and the World Bank Operational Policies.

Questions and Answers

1. What security measures are laid down to protect people who report about illegalities in their district?

Ans: It is against the Forestry Commission code of conduct to disclose the identity of an informant who gives information on an illegality. When such incidence occurs and the commission finds out the Forestry officer would be dismissed therefore incidence hardly happens.

2. Who will coordinate safeguards information gathering at the HIA level.

Ans: All the safeguards team members will provide information from their sectors and it will be put together by the SFP to be inputted into the SIS platform and transfer to the Regional safeguards Focal Person for validate. This information is then sent to the Program Management Unit (PMU) who submits to the national focal person and Director Climate Change. The Director then reports to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) as part of our national communications to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the World Bank and then subsequently the SIS web platform is updated for the general public. (*Kindly refer to annex 1 for the SIS reporting structure*).

3. Can the SIS web-platform be assessed by all consortium partners?

Ans: The SIS platform is very transparent and made accessible by all at the front end. Once you have internet access, just like any website, you can log on for any REDD+ safeguards information.

4. When there is no internet access, how can information be uploaded onto the SIS web-platform?

Ans. When there is no internet, Safeguards Focal persons can input data and subsequently upload this later when there is internet access the information will be sent automatically. All this is done at the backend of the SIS with their Admin username and password.

3.0 Safeguards Information System (SIS)

Activity A.3.3 Training of stakeholders on safeguards data collection and sensitization on the SIS web platform within the Juabeso-Bia Landscape.

The 3PRCL Consortium partners were taken through the general PCIs developed for data collection on safeguards throughout the project implementation. The PCIs document outlines the specific principles, criteria and indicators (quantitative and qualitative) followed to gather safeguards data for input into the SIS web platform. The PCIs developed was based on the Cancun safeguards and the World Bank safeguards actions, which spells out the safeguards actions to respect and address.



Cross-section of the participants during the training of stakeholders on data collection and sensitization on the SIS web platform at Juaboso

However, for the implementation of safeguards for the 3PRCL a draft Safeguards Action Plan (SAP) has been developed. The draft SAP provides guidance on the implementation of REDD+ Safeguards within the Juabeso-Bia HIA. It provides guidelines on the measures to follow in ensuring that social and environmental risks are minimized and benefits enhanced during implementation of interventions/actions within the landscape. The SAP has measurable indicators to measure Safeguards actions and assigns responsibility of Safeguard actions to relevant stakeholders. It is location specific and costed.

Questions and Answers

1. How does the implementation of the REDD+ safeguards address attitudinal change to help the community adapt easier?

Answer: It is important to continue to receive sensitization. Continuous engagement will help contribute to attitudinal change.

2. Does REDD+ safeguards focus on younger ones? How do children fit in within the landscape of Juabeso-Bia?

Answer: Yes, forums were organized, campaigns such as the REDD EYE Campaign promoted youth awareness and involvement in REDD Actions. Climate Change concept will be taught in both private and governmental schools. However, insufficient funds make it difficult to implement this action.

3. How do you navigate around the national laws related to forest governance and safeguards?

Answer: As part of the Cancun safeguards actions countries implementing REDD+ are supposed to ensure that actions complement or are consistent with the objectives of national forest programmes and relevant international conventions and agreements. Another action states that countries should ensure transparent and effective national forest governance structures taking into account national legislation and sovereignty. Therefore, respecting safeguards take into consideration national laws.

4. What data on participation can be collected for safeguards reporting?

Ans: The Safeguards action plan has been developed to provide indicators for measuring participation and inclusiveness therefore all information contained in it needs to be considered. An example is the setting up of the Sub-HIAs; how meetings were organized, the attendance list, the number of women representation among others.

4.0 Gender Mainstreaming

Activity A.3.4 Refresher training on gender responsive activity planning for relevant stakeholders in Juabeso-Bia Landscape led by the Safeguards Focal Person (SFP).

Gender mainstream has been established as a strategy to promote gender equality. It assesses the issues both men and women face in their environment. Gender has been mainstreamed in Ghana's REDD+ process. This ensures that both men and women have equitable use, access and control to forest resources. The action of gender mainstreaming also minimizes or addresses the negative impacts of activities on vulnerable groups in the society, particularly women. Ghana established the Gender-Sub working group in March 2015 as its commitment to a gender-sensitive REDD+ process. The working group developed a gender action plan to guide implementation of gender throughout REDD+ implementation.



Participants during the refresher training on gender in Juaboso

The REDD+ gender Action plan states that women should be involved at all stages of project development from readiness, throughout implementation. It states that women should be involved in Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) activities among others. Programmes or workshops should ensure that at least there is 30% representation of women.

Suggestion

In as much as we are involving women in all activities they need to play active roles in all engagements. Participants identified ways women have been included in activities such as being represented in the Sub-HIA committees, Governance Board and being invited to participate in programmes and included in decision making processes.

5.0 Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM)

Activity A.3.5 Sensitization and operationalization of the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) in the Juabeso-Bia HIA (Printing of FGRM posters).

Ghana established the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) to receive, evaluate, and address project-related feedback and grievances from affected communities or stakeholders at the community or project level, region, or country. Some potential conflict sources that can result from REDD+ implementation are: resource use and access; land and tree tenure; benefit sharing; participation and inclusiveness, among others.

The steps for the grievance resolution mechanism are: receive and register grievance; acknowledge, assess, assign; propose response; agreement on response; if yes, implement agreed response; and if no, revise approach, refer out or close out. It is envisaged that it will take about 45 days for a grievance to be addressed. The number of days may increase or decrease once this tested during implementation.

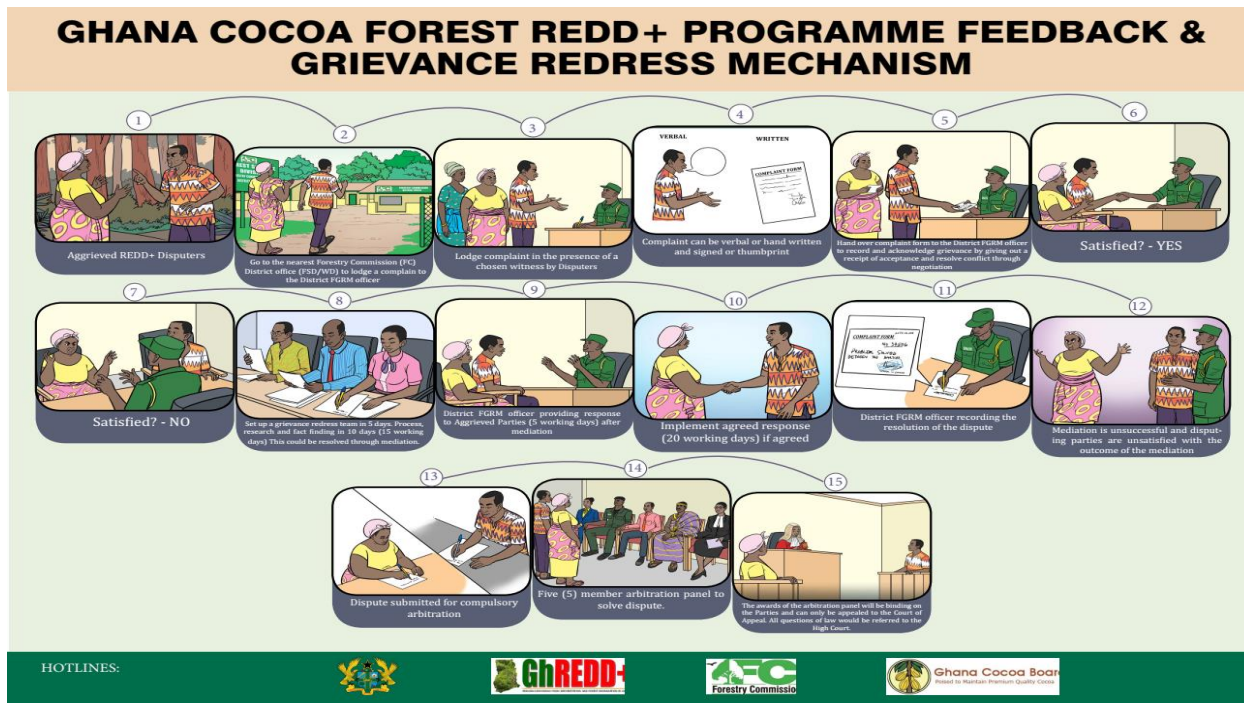


Figure 1. GCFRP FGMR Operational Modalities

Questions and Answers

1. Some organizations have complaint units so will the REDD+ secretariat work with them to build their capacities to implement the FGMR for dispute resolution?

Answer: There are safeguard focal persons put in place to address these issues or complaints at all district and regional offices of the Forest Services Division (FSD) and Wildlife Division (WD) of the Forestry Commission. They will try resolving disputes through negotiation, mediation and if this does not work then a panel of arbitrators will be empaneled to solve the grievance. The idea of the FGMR is to avoid the court system which has its own complexities and is expensive. It is worth noting that issues of criminalities such as illegal logging will not be addressed under the FGMR and will be referred to the court of law. In that process, if need be, complementary existing initiatives will be consulted.

2. What happens when there are no available consortium partners to address these issues?

Answer: District and regional focal persons have been trained to address these issues, a complaint can also be made online on the SIS web platform and the platform also has hotline numbers for complainants to lodge their grievance and have it addressed.

The second phase of the workshop took place at the Christ Apostolic Church Auditorium from 22nd to 23rd May, 2019. The District FC Manager, Mr. Mark Aidoo, delivered a welcome address

stating that deforestation and forest degradation happening within the Juabeso-Bia Landscape has led to the loss of significant amount of forests within the landscape. He explained that there were initially six (6) forest reserves in the Juabeso-Bia area, however, there are only two (2) forest reserves left. This situation he mentioned, is appalling and therefore there is the need to as a matter of urgency restore these forests to their original state for the benefit of our future generation.

Mr. Thomas Okyere (the Regional FSD Manager for Western Region) stated that Ghana has signed onto international programmes/conventions to curb emissions resulting in climate change. To curb these emissions, he revealed that over four million seedlings have been supplied to farmers through the Ghana Forest Investment Programme (GFIP) in the Juabeso-Bia landscape. He emphasized on the need for carbon stocks enhancement which is one component of REDD+ and the importance of tree planting to help fight climate change.



A group photograph of the participants during the 2-day training on REDD+ safeguards for key stakeholders in Juaboso

After the speech, Mr. Raymond Sakyi from the National REDD+ Secretariat assessed participants understanding of climate change. Most participants described climate change as change in weather patterns which are unreliable rainfall patterns, high rise in temperatures, humidity, increase in sea levels among others. Mr. Sakyi and the other resource persons went further to explain the concept of REDD+, GCFRP, 3PRCL and HIAs. They discussed the seven pillars of climate smart cocoa (CSC) which are professionalization and coaching, access to inputs, cocoa rehabilitation, intensification and productivity, bancarization, additional livelihood programme and landscape governance.

The second day started with a recap of the presentations from day 1. Participants were able to state all seven pillars of CSC, the drivers of deforestation and all issues related to safeguards mechanism. Mr. Poku-Marboah begun the day's session by inviting Mr. Elijah Owusu of Rainforest Alliance. He briefed participants on the opportunities in charcoal production to help reduce the pressure on forest reserves. He advised that the private sector get involved and also bring down technology from Kenya to Ghana to help in improved charcoal production methods. When this is achieved the reliance on forests for charcoal production will reduce.

In order to help participants understand the discussion better, Mr. Prince Adu from Touton used the practical example of a moribund cocoa farm which needs to be cut and rehabilitated and all the activities which need to be undertaken and the probable safeguards which could be triggered. This helped in making the message clearer as most of the participants are cocoa farmers and could easily relate to the example. Participants suggested that before cocoa rehabilitation is carried out, farmers need to be aware and be compensated. They also stated that land and tree tenure issues should be well addressed between stakeholders (farmers, land owners, chiefs and opinion leaders) before cocoa rehabilitation. This was followed by a presentation on the GCFRP FGRM by Mr. Raymond Sakyi from the CCD. He took participants through the modalities of the FGRM, the type of grievance to send to the Forestry Commissions Grievance Redress desk for resolution and the need to go with a witness when lodging any grievance. He emphasized on the fact that the FGRM does not address illegal issues. Any criminal or illegal issues.

Question and Answer

1. What measures have been put in place to curb the proliferation of unapproved inputs in the market?

Ans: Chemicals certified by COCOBOD are approved for usage. However, Touton have input shops in some communities, which supply farmers with certified inputs.

2. When monitoring safeguards compliance on the field what are the likely indicators to measure.

Ans: The safeguards team will monitor the location where cocoa farms are situated that is their closeness to water source, sacred groves or any other natural habitat where the actions or activities carried out in the farming could affect the quality of the habitat. The

surroundings of the cocoa farms will also be checked to see whether there are evidence on the use of any uncertified chemical usage by farmers among others.

3. Can there be a case where a grievance is sent to the Forestry Commissions FGRM desk without a witness?

Ans: The Safeguards process wants to as much as possible ensure transparency that is why there is a need for a witness however if there are confidential issues the aggrieved persons can walk to the Forestry Commissions office without a witness.

4. Does the FGRM address illegal logging grievances?

Ans: Illegal logging is a criminal case therefore the FGRM cannot be used to resolve such grievances. Such cases will be referred to the court of law for adjudication.

After the technical session, other stakeholders shared with participants their roles and how this will complement the REDD+ process.

Presentation by District Police Commander

Mr. Isaac Kumnipa, the District Police Commander for Juabeso advised participants on ensuring safety of themselves when executing any action to assist the police execute their mandate. He again mentioned that people should avoid harm, consider how they communicate in areas when and where they are reporting cases and the people they communicate with. Our enemies are so close to us that we do not see therefore, it is important to safeguards ourselves in all cases.

Presentation by Fire Service Officer

The Fire service officer presented on how the forest estate can be safeguarded through fire volunteering. He encouraged participants to assist with bushfire prevention in their landscapes especially in Forest Reserves. He also gave some safety tips on how to prevent fire outbreaks in homes, workplaces and on farms. He mentioned three basic variables that causes fire outbreak which were; oxygen, heat and fuel.

Presentation by EPA Area Manager

The EPA area manager advised participants, particularly farmers to avoid giving their farms to galamsey operators for mining since illegal mining activities contribute to climate change. He encouraged farmers to protect their farms against illegal logging, mining and all other illegalities that may cause harm to the environment and may affect their livelihood. He also advised against the use of uncertified agrochemicals and adopt integrated pest management for sustainable crop production.

Presentation by the District Department of Agriculture

The District Agriculture Director gave a brief presentation on planting for food and jobs as part of the government's intervention to adapt to climate change while providing jobs for the youth. He sought for the maximum cooperation of all stakeholders in achieving the goals of the programme in order to ensure food security.

General Observations

- Participants showed a great understanding on what Climate Change is, REDD+ Safeguards concept in their responses during the recap session on day 3.
- During the discussion on gender inclusiveness, some of the women stated that the men did not give them the opportunity to participate and contribute in activities. They also stated that some of the men suggested that women would run away from participating in certain activities.

4.0 Conclusion

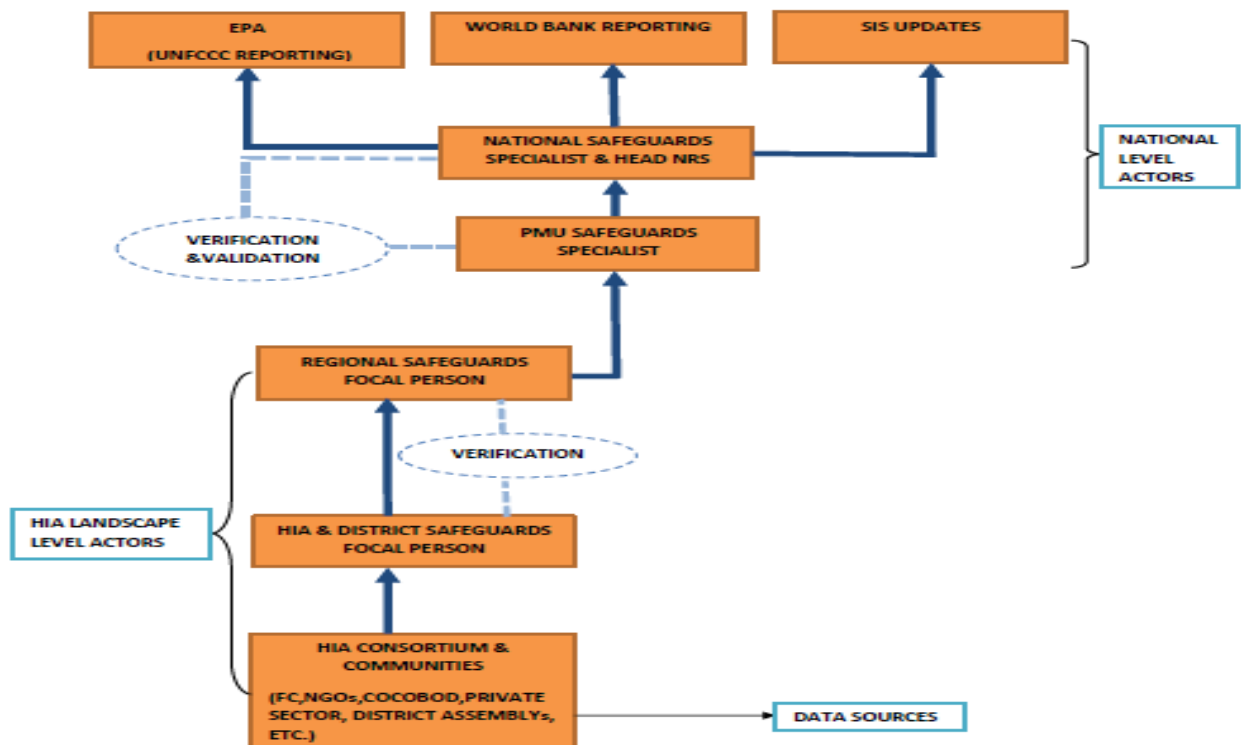
The REDD+ safeguards sensitization workshop was successful because participants were able to give a detailed recap on what they learned from the presentations. The participants were able to explain concepts such as REDD+ safeguard, the seven pillars of CSC and the causes of deforestation among others.

Participants were encouraged to relay the knowledge and experience gained from the workshop to other community members who could not participate in the workshop. It was emphasized that without all stakeholders on board, the goal of reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation cannot be achieved.

5.0 Recommendations

1. Build on Tropenbos initiative (FLEGT watch) to report illegalities.
2. There should be field observations on how cocoa rehabilitation is undertaken.
3. There should be hands-on (practical site training) on how safeguards should be addressed and respected
4. Conduct research into forest product substitutes such as bamboo.
5. Ensure effective forest resource management monitoring.

Annex 1: Safeguards Institutional Arrangement



Annex 2: ATTENDANCE LIST

(TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR THE 3PRCL CONSORTIUM MEMBERS) FOR MAY 21ST, 2019.

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Annex 3: ATTENDANCE LIST (TRAINING WORKSHOP WITH STAKEHOLDERS AT SEFWI JUABOSO DISTRICT) FOR 22ND -23RD MAY, 2019.

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****Caveat**

The responses provided to questions in this report are not exhaustive and only represent the given answers at the time of the training.