

## MINUTES

**28<sup>TH</sup> NATIONAL REDD+ WORKING GROUP (NRWG) MEETING  
HELD AT THE FORESTRY COMMISSION BOARDROOM, ACCRA  
(THURSDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 2019)**

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### **ATTENDANCE:**

<b>MEMBERS PRESENT</b>	<b>ORGANIZATION</b>	<b>DESIGNATION</b>
Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio	Dep. Minister (MLNR)	Chairperson
Nana Frimpong Anokye II	National House of Chiefs	Co-chair
Mr. Alex K. Dadzie	GTA	Member
Naa Robert Loggah	National Forestry Forum	"
Mrs. Mercy Owusu Ansah	Tropenbos Ghana	"
Dr. Ernest Foli	FORIG	"
Ms. Roselyn Fosuah Adjei	FC (CCD)	"
Mrs. Nora Pappoe	MLGRD	"
Mr. Kingsley Amoako	MoFA	"
Mr. Franklin Ashiadey	MoF	"
Felix Addo-Yobo	NDPC	"

### **MEMBERS ABSENT WITH APOLOGIES**

Mr. Musah Abu-Juam	MLNR	Member
Mr. Joseph Osiakwan	MLNR	"
Mr. Tabi Agyarko	MLNR	"
Mr. Emmanuel Afreh	MINERALS COMMISSION	"
Dr. Seth Osei-Akoto	MoFA	"

Mr. Peter Dery	MESTI	“
Mr. Chris Beeko	FC	”
Dr. Emmanuel Opoku	COCOBOD	“
Mr. Kyekyeku Yaw Oppong-Boadi	EPA	”
Mr. Albert Katakò	CIVIC RESPONSE (CSO)	“
Mr. Eric Ofori-Nyarko	ENERGY COMMISSION	”

### **IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr. Julius Nkansah-Nyarko	ENERGY COMMISSION
Ms. Freda Atsem	MESTI
Dr. Richard Gyimah	TVD-FC
Mr. Simon Crown	COCOBOD
Mr. Michael Mawuli Akpe-Doe	“
Mr. Charles Sarpong Duah	CCD - FC
Mr. Thomas Gyambrah	“
Ms. Hilma Manan	“
Mr. Raymond Sakyi	“
Ms. Rhoda Donkor	“
Ms. Helen F. Wiafe	“
Ms. Gertrude Tetteh	“
Ms. Eunice Flora Adu	“
Mr. Stephen Ofori Amo	“
Ms. Alice De-Graft Mends	“
Ms. Abena Dwumfour	“
Ms. Tessia Ama Boateng	“

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
CCD	Climate Change Directorate
CE	Chief Executive
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
ERP	Emission Reductions Programme
ERPA	Emission Reductions Payment Agreement
ERP D	Emission Reductions Programme Document
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
FC	Forestry Commission
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FIP	Forest Investment Programme
FLEGT	Forest Law Enforcement Governance and Trade
FORIG	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana
FRL	Forest Reference Level
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GCFRP	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
GHG	Green House Gas
GSLRP	Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Programme
GoG	Government of Ghana
GTA	Ghana Timber Association
HIAs	Hotspot Intervention Areas
MDA	Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MESTI	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation
MLNR	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
MLGRD	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development
MMDAs	Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies
MoFA	Ministry of Food and Agriculture
MoF	Ministry of Finance
MRV	Monitoring, Reporting and Verification
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NHC	National House of Chiefs
NRWG	National REDD+ Working Group
3PRCL	Partnership for Productivity Protection and Resilience with the Cocoa Landscape
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation plus conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
PAP	Project Affected People
RPF	Resettlement Policy Framework
SFPs	Safeguards Focal Persons
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
TFA	Tropical Forest Alliance
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

UNFCCC

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate  
Change

UNREDD

United Nations REDD+ Programme

VC

Video Conference

VPA

Voluntary Partnership Agreement

ITEM /ISSUE	DISCUSSIONS	ACTION(S) TO BE TAKEN BY
<b>1.0 OPENING</b>	<p>1.01 The 28<sup>th</sup> National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) meeting started at 10:40am with an opening prayer by Naa Robert Loggah.</p> <p>1.02 The meeting was co-chaired by Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio and Nana Frimpong Anokye II).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A quick self-introduction was made by members present and other participants in attendance.</li> <li>• The Co-chair took members through the agenda for the day. The Co-chair suggested that subsequent NRWG agenda should be itemized (numbered) for ease of reference.</li> <li>• Without any further amendment, the agenda was adopted by members.</li> </ul>	
<b>2.0 CORRECTIONS ON PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>	<p>2.01 The Co-chair took members through the minutes of the previous meeting and the following corrections were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The small letter “s” should be added to MMDA to read MMDAs</li> <li>• Bullet point 5 of page 6 CDD should be corrected to “CCD”</li> <li>• Page 7 (5.06) add the word “Board” to read “GCF Board”</li> </ul>	
<b>3.0 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE PREVIOUS MINUTES</b>	<p>3.01 The Co-chair then initiated discussions on matters arising from the minutes of the 27<sup>th</sup> NRWG meeting and invited the Director for Climate Change Directorate</p>	

(CCD); Madam Roselyn Fosuah Adjei to take members through matters arising from the previous minutes.

- The Director thanked members for their attendance and continuous support in ensuring that the REDD+ programme is successful.
- She added that at Page 5 of the previous minutes, members requested that approved minutes for all NRWG meetings should be signed by the Co-chair and shared with members accordingly.
- She also stated that on page 6, regarding organizing a field trip for members of the NRWG, a World Bank Technical Mission is expected in the country from 11<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. A field trip is being planned from the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 to the Juabeso-Bia Hotspot Intervention Area (HIA). Though the notice for the field trip is short, she however believes that, this will be a great opportunity for members of the NRWG to participate in the field visit.
- The Director explained that the CCD does not have operational funds for undertaking activities and is currently sourcing funds from the FC hence, the rationale for including the field trip for members as part of the Mission's itinerary to better understand and appreciate on-going activities/initiatives within the landscape.
- A member enquired about progress made so far on the planned meeting with the National House of Chiefs (NHC).
- The Co-Chair indicated that the NHC recently held a meeting in Tamale and are planning their

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next meeting in Kumasi on either the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> July, 2019.

- Members requested that the CCD constantly follow up and remind the Co-Chair on the next meeting date so that the CCD's presentation can be included into the agenda for the meeting.
- A member mentioned that there is the need for discussion on how to fund the CCD beyond donor support and this needs to be addressed as a matter of urgency. Going forward, a budget for CCD activities should be included in the work plan of the FC.
- A member raised concern about the continuous absence of the MLNR members from NRWG meetings and enquired how they can be brought on board to participate in subsequent meetings.
- Another member added that historically the NRWG used to be hosted by the MLNR and since there has been a relocation of the NRWG meetings to the FC, their participation has been very low.
- The Director for CCD responded that the MLNR hosts the NRWG and this was dependent on the availability of the Ministry's conference room at the time of the meetings. She added that members from the MLNR sent in their apologies for absenting themselves from the meeting.
- The Co-chair summarised matters arising and indicated that there were two (2) outstanding matters he would discuss with the Chief Executive of the FC and Deputy Minister (Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio) after the meeting

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	<p>Which are (i) funding to support the CCD on meeting with the NHC and (ii) institutional participation regarding the constant absence of members from the MLNR.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With regards to membership of the NRWG, The Director CCD added the Executive Directors of FC are not members of the NRWG which she envisaged that it was an oversight and it is of utmost importance to engage them actively as efforts are on-going to mainstream CCD activities into FC's operations.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>4.0 PROGRESS UPDATE ON REDD+ IMPLEMENTATION</b></p>	<p>4.01 The Director for CCD gave the opportunity to technical staff of the CCD to update members on progress made.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This was subsequent to a brief update by Dr. Ernest Foli on the MRV-Sub working group's mission to Rome.</li> <li>• He mentioned that three (3) members of the MRV team participated in a training at the FAO Headquarters from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> June. They discussed various aspects of SEPAL (a tool for processing maps). There is also the need to update the MRV text in the Emissions Reduction Programme Document (ERPD) and Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).</li> <li>• The FAO team planned to visit Ghana in July, 2019 for a workshop once approval is given by the World Bank.</li> <li>• The objective of the workshop is to review Ghana's Forest Reference Level (FRL), revise the conditions the carbon fund raised and also run pre-detection of active seasonal trends (looking at differences with estimates made according to the emissions period).</li> </ul>	

- There will also be a discussion on resolution of maps used for the FRL and develop a work plan for the year.
- He mentioned that the FAO mission planned for July might change and they are waiting for confirmation from FAO.
- The Director CCD also added that the CCD does not have enough information regarding the FAO's July mission and is waiting on official communication from them. A video conference (VC) has been scheduled with FAO in this regard.
- She concluded that the FRL forms part of meeting the conditions for effectiveness for results-based payment and last year, accuracy assessment was done for the change maps. The World Bank is bringing FAO on board as a means of verification. Another important discussion is how this is linked to the Green House Gas (GHG) inventory.

#### **Presentation by CCD**

- Rhoda Donkor made a presentation on a training program she attended with Mr. Frank K. Owusu on Climate Change and Development at Norwich in the UK from 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> June 2019. She recommended that institutions such as the Forestry Commission reduce their carbon footprint by procuring energy conserving appliances such as bulbs, cars among others. The Climate Change Directorate (CCD) should also include in its training program climate change adaptation practices to complement the mitigation action of REDD+.

#### **Update of REDD+ Safeguards**

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Hilma Manan gave an update on REDD+ Safeguards. She mentioned that the CCD has disclosed its safeguards instruments (SESA, ESMF, RPF) in the national dailies and FC’s website. There has also been the development of a 3PRCL Safeguards Action Plan for the Juabeso-Bia HIA. Trainings were conducted for the 3PRCL Consortium partners and stakeholders on Safeguards, Principles, Criteria and Indicators, Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism and gender in May, 2019.</li> <li>• Mr. Raymond Sakyi made a presentation on a meeting he attended on 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> May, 2019 in Bogota, Colombia.</li> <li>• In his presentation he mentioned that the meeting brought together over 250 global and regional leaders from government, business and civil society under the theme of Forest Positive Future: Accelerating into the Decade of Delivery. Over the course of three days, participants discussed concrete actions to accelerate the deforestation-free agenda while working towards a common path forward and building linkages to the broader biodiversity, climate and land-use agendas.</li> <li>• Highlights from the meeting include the launch of the Bio Carbon Fund worth US\$ 20 million, the signing of the Colombian Cattle and Dairy Agreements, the Government of Germany joining the Alliance and President Ivan Duque’s inspiring address in which he expressed strong commitment to end deforestation.</li> <li>• He also gave a brief presentation on stakeholder engagement in the GCFRP landscape on REDD+ process.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>5.0 DISCUSSIONS</b></p>	<p>5.01 The Co-chair thanked the CCD for their various presentations and opened the floor for discussions.</p>	

5.02 A member asked what informed the upcoming workshop with the FAO team.

- It was explained that this was to review the maps and data collection procedures in-country.

5.03 A question was asked on how information on safeguards are gathered?

- The CCD has Safeguards Focal Persons (SFPs) across all regions and districts who have been trained on REDD+ safeguards. The SFPs collect data on safeguards and report accordingly through the safeguards reporting structure with the help of a safeguards team (made up of representatives from MMDAs, private sector, CSO/NGOs, COCOBOD, etc.).

5.04 Does the REDD+ Program envisage to resettle people?

- No, however there is a Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF) that provides guidelines on how to resettle project affected people. Admitted farms which have gone beyond their boundaries will be grandfathered for 10 years and with consultation with Traditional Authorities they will be given alternative lands to relocate their farms.

5.05 In view of the objectives of the stakeholder engagement what was the main challenge encountered?

- The major challenge was gender inclusion, women participation was not encouraging in most of the engagements.

5.06 A member enquired about what the land ownership system and housing structures in Costa Rica is like and also what Ghana and Costa Rica have in common? This

was in relation to the presentation done by Mr. Charles Duah of the CCD who attended a workshop in Costa Rica.

- Formerly, the country had short buildings and now they have high rise buildings to accommodate more people.
- In terms of land ownership, the government has a stake in land. Both countries have Cocoa, forest and biodiversity (Tropical climate) in common.

5.07 A member sought to find out how the FC can reduce its carbon footprint?

- As an institution, FC has to consider how much it emits and put in plans to reduce its emissions. The FC could start using LED bulbs for example to reduce emissions.

**Other outstanding activities by the CCD**

- The Director revealed that a World Bank Technical Mission is scheduled from 11-19<sup>th</sup> July, 2019. The CCD will send a mail to members who will be available for the WB field Missions from 11-13<sup>th</sup> July, 2019 in Juabeso-Bia.

- With regards to the Emission Reduction Payment Agreement (ERPA), negotiations have been completed. The World Bank and FC have signed their portion and awaiting the Ministry of Finance (MoF) to sign. Ghana plans on reducing an estimated volume of up to 10,000,000 tonnes of ERs from the GCFRP area at a unit price of USD 5 per ton CO<sub>2</sub>e amounting to \$50m. The ERPA will be launched and members will be informed in due time on the exact date.

- The Government of Germany has made additional finance of \$1.49m available as WB executed fund, to help Ghana fulfil its conditions of

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effectiveness to be able to access the results-based payments by early 2020 (AccelREDD).

- The Director added that, Ghana has been selected to serve on the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Board. A notification was received in May, 2019 and is for a period of two (2) years.
- There will be a UNREDD Secretary General's Summit in September 2019 and the Director informed the Deputy Minister and indicated that official communication will be made once the date is confirmed.
- She added that the GCF Board encountered some challenges and this has delayed the approval of the Ghana's Shea Landscape REDD+ Programme (GSLRP) proposal. For the next two (2) meetings, the GCF Board is not considering UNDP as an accredited entity and Ghana submitted its proposal through the UNDP. This might affect the approval of the proposal and may drag until next year.

**6.0 OTHER MATTERS**

6.01 The issue of NRWG members of the MLNR not participating in meetings was raised once again when the Deputy Minister who is the substantive Chairperson for the NRWG joined the meeting. He apologised for being late for the meeting and assured members of his punctuality in subsequent meetings. He also stated that he would have discussions with members at the MLNR once he gets back to the office and find out why they have been absenting themselves from NRWG meetings.

**7.0 CLOSING**

7.01 The Chairman thanked members for their time and contributions and for making the meeting a success.

- In the absence of any further discussions or contributions, the meeting was moved to a close

by Mr. Kingsley Amoako and seconded by Mr. Michael Mawuli Akpe-Doe.

- At the end of the meeting, a minute silence was observed for the late Mr. Robert K. Bamfo (former head of the CCD) who passed on in February, 2019.
- The meeting ended at 2:10pm with a closing prayer by Mr. Alex Dadzie.

**Nana Frimpong Anokye II (Co- Chair)**

