

**Training Of Landscape Management Board Members In Sefwi Wiawso On REDD+
Safeguards Under The Olam-RA Project Partnership For Livelihoods And Forest
Landscape Management**



12-14 February, 2020 at Sefwi Wiawso



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Rainforest Alliance (RA)-Olam Partnership for Forest and livelihood and Landscapes in Western Ghana” is one of the sub-projects under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) implemented within the Sefwi Wiawso landscape. A three (3) day capacity building workshop was organized to build stakeholders’ capacities on REDD+ safeguards, gender, and the Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) as part of the programme implementation. The workshop took place from 12-14 February, 2020 at Sefwi Wiawso.

The method adopted for the training workshop was an interactive and participatory one. The workshop organized by RA and Olam and facilitated by two resource persons (Mr. Raymond Sakyi and Ms. Rhoda Donkor from the Climate Change Department (CCD) of the Forestry Commission.

A total of twenty-eight (28) participants were present during the workshop as well as the field exercise. The workshop had 26 male representatives and 2 female representatives. The poor female representation was attributed to an ongoing Ghana card registration that had majority of the females engaged in it. Overall, the training went well with participants showing clear understanding of REDD+ Safeguards.

INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) is one of the flagships programs under the Ghana REDD+ strategy coordinated by the Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board. The program is implemented by the two government entities together with other partners. 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 Rainforest Alliance (RA)-Olam Partnership for Forest and livelihood and Landscapes in Western Ghana" is one of the sub-projects under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) within the Sefwi Wiawso landscape.

PURPOSE OF WORKSHOP

The purpose of the workshop was to build stakeholders' capacities on REDD+ safeguards, gender, and the REDD+ Feedback Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) to enable smooth implementation of the GCFRP.

OBJECTIVE

The main objective of the workshop was:

1. To build the capacities of participants on REDD+ Safeguards, Safeguard Information System (SIS), gender responsiveness and the Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM).

METHODOLOGY

A two-day interactive and participatory safeguards training workshop and a field demonstration on the application of Integrated Pest Management as well as the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) was undertaken. The Safeguard workshop took place from 12-14 February, 2020 at Sefwi Wiawso. The RA and Olam and Olam organized the training workshop and was facilitated by representatives from the Climate Change Directorate of the Forestry Commission (Mr. Raymond Sakyi (Knowledge Manager and Stakeholder Consultation officer) and Ms. Rhoda Donkor (Assistant Safeguards officer)). The participants were; Landscape Management Board (LMB) members comprising of the Forestry Commission, Cocobod, Administrator of stool lands, District Assembly, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA). The workshop was executed in a form of presentation with discussions held at the end for participants to give input. During the workshop REDD+ materials such as wrist bands, knowledge materials on REDD+ safeguards were distributed to participants. All presentations were sent to participants via email.

PROCEEDINGS

DAY 1

The first day began with an opening prayer and a quick self-introduction by participants. This was followed by a welcome address and an opening remark by Rainforest Alliance (RA). The RA representative delivered a short statement indicating the objectives of the partnerships for Forests Project and the LMB organogram.

UPDATE BY THE FORESTRY COMMISSION

The Assistant District Manager of the Forest Services Division (FSD) of the Forestry Commission (FC) in Sefwi Wiawso District indicated that forest is among one of the major natural resources in the country and we all have to collectively protect it. The FC has 3 main divisions (FSD, WD, TIDD) all these division plays major role in ensuring sustainable production and management of the reserves in Ghana. He said the FC introduced a collaborative forest management that is why now we have various NGOs/CSOs, traditional authorities, LMBs among others engaged in forest activities. The various intervention FSD is undertaking are; FIP- Model Plantation, Enrichment planting and the Modified Taungya System. He further added that the FC hires labor to undertake plantation exercise such as the Youth in Afforestation Program.

A participant asked if the Forestry Commission has a field monitoring team that patrols the forest? In answering the question, the ADM stated that there are field staffs, Forest Range Managers, Forest Guards and also Rapid Response Units who monitors forest activities. He added that, the FC has developed a system to monitor forest illegalities called the Wood Tracking System (WTS).

PRESENTATION ON CLIMATE CHANGE, REDD+ AND THE GCFRP

There was a general presentation on Climate Change, REDD+, GCFRP by Mr. Raymond Sakyi. He began his presentation by assessing farmers understanding on climate change where majority of the participants responded that, climate change is the change in climatic conditions manifested through unpredicted and irregular rainfall pattern, high rise in temperature, humidity, high rise sea levels among others. The resource person added that when the above-mentioned signs persist over a long period of time usually 30 years and above then it is termed as climate change.

Mr. Sakyi went on to ask the participants about the causes of climate change and ways to reduce the change. The participants mentioned bush burning, illegal logging, infrastructure development, illegal mining, charcoal burning among others as the major causes of climate change. The participants indicated that to reduce change there is the need to plant trees, adopt mechanical ways of weeding, effective monitoring of forest activities, continuous sensitization, ensure collaborative forest management and put in workable policies and law enforcement.

Mr. Sakyi then gave brief highlights on the REDD+ program and what it stands for. He explained that REDD+ is Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and the plus stands for conservation, enhancement of forest carbon stock and sustainable forest management.

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 the bases 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 landscape.



Cross section of the participants

PRESENTATION ON REDD+ SAFEGUARDS

There was a presentation on REDD+ safeguards by Ms. Rhoda Donkor, she explained that Safeguards generally means precautionary measures identified to to anticipate, minimize, mitigate or treat otherwise the adverse impacts associated with proposed activities. Therefore, REDD+ safeguards are measures to avoid negative social and environmental impacts. In achieving a sustainable cocoa production and a healthy forest safeguards play 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+.

She also mentioned that the REDD+ Safeguards process started with the development of a strategic environmental and social Assessment (SESA) which was conducted to understand the social and environmental issues within the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) area in 2014 and updated in 2016. The SESA process produced an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) and Resettlement Policy Framework (RPF)

- Ghana's ESMF clearly specifies appropriate roles and responsibilities, and outline the necessary reporting procedures, for managing and monitoring environmental and social concerns related to project interventions

- The RPF provides guidance on how resettlement issues should be dealt with and how project affected persons should be compensated. In the end, such persons should be “*no worse-off if not better off*” after the resettlement.
- Process Framework (for consultation) and Pest Management Plan produced under FIP to ensure effective safeguards implementation

Ghana is respecting the following safeguards in its Country’s Approach to Safeguards:

- Cancun/UNFCCC safeguards
- World Bank safeguards
- Africa Development Bank (AfDB) safeguards
- Environmental Assessment Regulations

CANCUN Safeguards: this presents a set of principles which country’s willing to adapt to their country situation provide meanings and clarification to.

The seven (7) Cancun safeguards (listed below) were explained thoroughly.

- a. Programme/project actions complement national forest programs and relevant international conventions and agreements
- b. Transparent and effective national forest governance structures, taking into consideration national sovereignty and legislation
- c. Respect for the knowledge and right of indigenous people and members of local communities
- d. Full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders in particular, indigenous people and local communities in programme actions
- e. Actions are consistent with the conservation of natural forest and biological diversity
- f. Systematic actions to address the risk of reversals (e.g when cocoa prices are increased, and farmers return to BAU i.e. unsustainable production)
- g. Actions to reduce displacement of emissions (leakage of emission within a landscape) (these two are specific to REDD+ and might be difficult to apply in different areas)

World Bank Operational Safeguard Policy: The Bank attaches much importance to its safeguards policies and adherence to it remains a prerequisite for securing funding for programmes and projects supported by the Bank. Key areas covered by the policy but recently reviewed include:

- Environment (Environmental Assessment, Natural Habitat, Forest, Pest management, Safety of Dam)
- Social (Involuntary resettlement, Indigenous people, Physical cultural resources)
- Legal/ international law, Projects on International Waterways (OP/BP 7.50; 2001), Projects in Disputed Areas (OP/BP 7.60; 2001)
- New policies (Access to Information Policy (2010), Piloting the Use of Borrower Systems (2005))

Questions and Answers

Q 1. When one has an issue with the Forestry Commission where should he/she lodge the complaint since the grievance redress mechanism is operationalized by the FC?

Ans. All forestry issues are received by the Forestry Commission therefore when you are aggrieved with the FC report the case to the FC office. At the District office the District Manager together with his Deputy Assistant District Managers are well trained professionals who show no fear or favors. One of ADM's is designated as the Safeguards and FGRM focal person who receives all grievances. There is also a phone number available to lodge your complaint. If still you are not convinced you can report to any of the partners of the project who will then facilitate a response from the FC.

Q 2. What are the specific grievances the FGRM address?

Ans. The FGRM address grievances such as benefit sharing, gender inequality, lack of inclusiveness, boundary issues among others.

UPDATE FROM PARTNERS (MOFA, COCOBOD, DISTRICT ASSEMBLY PLANNING OFFICE,)

MOFA

The District MOFA Director also gave a brief overview of two main activities they are undertaking which are; Planting for Food and Export (PED) and Planting for food and Jobs as part of government's intervention to adapt to climate change whiles providing jobs to the youth. MOFA is also undertaking diversification and ensuring fire management

Ghana COCOBOD

Cocobod as part of its activities towards ensure sustainable cocoa production and adapting to climate change has introduced climate smart cocoa production and cocoa rehabilitation. Under the cocoa rehabilitation programme farmers are encouraged to cut down old and diseased cocoa farms. The Ghana Cocobod representative indicated that cocoa farms in forest reserves will not receive

compensation package when cut down this would serve as a sign to deter farmers from encroaching on forest reserves. Cocobod as part of its support activities is supplying pruning and weeding machines to farmer cooperatives as part of their livelihood support to farmers.

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

The district assembly representative stated that they have been collaborating with MOFA to undertake education and sensitization on climate change.

DAY 2

The main activity for the day was training on Integrated Pest Management (IPM) and the use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) led by the Ghana Cocobod and MOFA in collaboration with the National REDD+ Secretariat.

The day began with recap from the day 1 activity on REDD+ safeguards.

Mr. Eric Opoku, Mr. William Allan and Mr. Kwansah Godman led the discussions on how to undertake Integrated Pest Management in cocoa farms. The key Points noted were;

1. Identify pest, monitor pest host, treat appropriately mechanically and biologically. Resort to the use of Cocobod Certified Chemicals when all pest management approaches fails.
2. Consider all round irrigational system
3. Apply 10 X 10 spacing in cocoa plantation
4. The need to remove diseased cocoa pods A
5. Undertake Frequent silvicultural Practices



Q & A

Q 1. Can cocoa farmers combine more than two chemicals to prevent pest attack?

Ans. Farmers are supposed to use recommended Cocobod certified chemicals in their right proportion. Instructions on chemical application should be rightly followed to avoid harm.

Q 2. Has Cocobod identified any biological means of treating pest infestation?

Ans. The Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) is working on a more effective way to treat pest attack without the use of chemicals.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs)

There was a demonstration on the use of PPEs when undertaking farm spraying.

One of the resource persons explained that, PPEs are equipment worn to minimize exposure to hazards that cause serious workplace injuries and illness. PPEs may include but not limited to items such as safety glasses and shoes, earplugs or muffs, hats, respirators, gloves and coveralls

Some key points users need to know about PPEs;

- When PPEs deem necessary to be used
- Which kind of PPE is recommended for use
- How to properly wear, adjust or remove PPEs
- The limitation of PPEs
- Proper usage, maintenance and disposal of PPEs.

Meeting with RA Staff on REDD+ Safeguards.

The resource persons from the CCD met with the Rainforest Alliance and Olam staff to build their capacities on REDD+ and Safeguards. The two institutions were given a general overview of REDD+ where it started and where it has gotten to and the need to respect and address REDD+ safeguards as implementing partners.

Question and Answers

Q 1. Why do you have only 3PRCL as a project under the GCFRP in the REDD+ trajectory

Ans. That would be revised to include all other projects under the GCFRP however the time the trajectory was built the 3PRCL happened to be the only pilot project under the programme.

GENERAL OBSERVATION

- Participants showed greater understanding on REDD+ Safeguards concept in their responses during recap session
- Generally, participation to the program was impressive however women participation was very low

CONCLUSION

The REDD+ safeguards training workshop was successful and this could be attributed to the evaluation done at the end of the program. Participants were able to give a detailed recap on what they learnt 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.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- The need to frequently build the capacities of stakeholders on REDD+ Safeguards
- Subsequent trainings should provide leaflets, videos and presentation materials to participants
- To ensure effective participation of gender in subsequent meetings, invitation letters should clearly specify the number of men and women needed to participate in a meeting.
- Certificates should be provided for participants for such training workshop.

ANNEX 1**PARTICIPANTS LIST**

| | NAME | INSTITUTION |
|----|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Gordon Owusu | Bepoase |
| 2 | Brafi Isaac | Old Adiembah |
| 3 | Nana Cobbina Nicholas | Chief Farmer |
| 4 | Adonu Richard | OLAM |
| 5 | Augustine Oppong-Boadi | MOFA |
| 6 | Faraday Mensah | Ackaakrom |
| 7 | Francis Okuampa | Bodi |
| 8 | David Mensah | Kwatukaa |
| 9 | Sylvester Mensah | Nkuadum |
| 10 | Kwansah Godman | CHED-Boako |
| 11 | Alfred Nkansah | Amafie |
| 12 | Elvis Ennia | CLS/Wiawso |
| 13 | Kwaku Gilbert Baah | MOFA |
| 14 | Doris Assampong | Datano |
| 15 | Alex Boahen | Kojokrom |
| 16 | Isaac Antwi | Municipal Planning Unit |
| 17 | Rexford Enusie | Avis |
| 18 | Williams Allan | CHED |
| 19 | Richard Nkrumah | Bodi D/A |
| 20 | Francis Nkuah | Benchema |
| 21 | Francis Boadu | Amafie |
| 22 | Eric Nanor | OLAM |
| 23 | Samuel Frimpong | Forestry |
| 24 | Vincent Appiah | FSD |
| 25 | Charles Cobbinah | |
| 26 | Eric Opoku | CHED |
| 67 | Zenabu Musah | Akotombra |
| 28 | Frimpong Manso Donkor | Agric Dept |