

International Seminar on Challenges of Sustainable Forest
Management – Integrating environmental, social and economic
values.

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Challenges to Sustainable Forest Management in Ghana: Analysis
of Initiatives and the Way Forward.

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Outline

- I. Introduction: Forestry in Ghana & Progress against International Instruments
- II. Major Forestry programmes
 - Forest protection
 - Natural forest timber production
 - Plantation forestry
 - Off-reserve forest management
- I. Outstanding Challenges
- II. Conclusions

I. Introduction

- Ghana embarked on series of reforms in the Forestry sector culminating in a New Forest and Wildlife Policy in 1994 primarily to ensure resource sustainability and equitable access to all segments of society.
- Ghana signatory to several international instruments: CBD, ITTA, VPA, etc. which have influenced/reflected in national policy measures
- Current Forest & Wildlife Policy promulgated in 1994 followed by Forest Sector Masterplan : Vision 2020 to serve as the national forest programme (nfp). Emphasis:
 - SFM on all types of Forests
 - collaboration

- Several initiatives, laws, programmes, systems, etc. Initiated to reform the forestry sector to achieve objects of policy since mid 90s
- In spite of proliferation of initiatives, the extent & quality of forests in Ghana has been in decline as manifested by continuous deforestation and massive illegal timber harvesting (Birikorang, 2001).

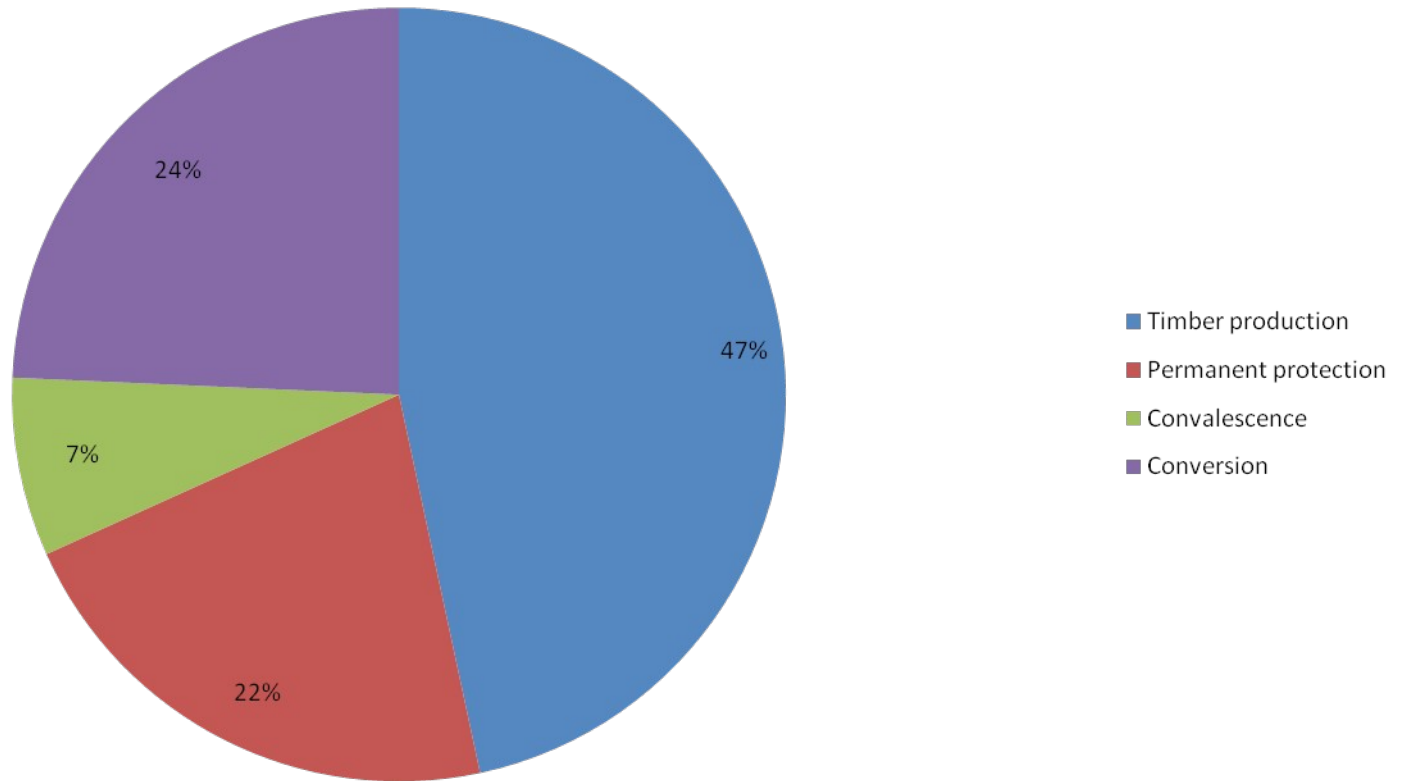
Basic Facts on Ghana Forestry

- Forest and wildlife reserves - 11% and 6% of land area (240,000 km²) respectively.
- Population increase- 10 x since 19th Century. Currently 22m
- **Economic: - 6% of GDP; Exports - approx US\$200m annually**
- Direct employment: 100,000+, indirect 2.5+ million
- Fuel wood consumption approx 14m M³; 75% of energy consumption.
- **Environmental benefits of forest and wildlife (Volta lake, etc,).**

Land use categories in Ghana.

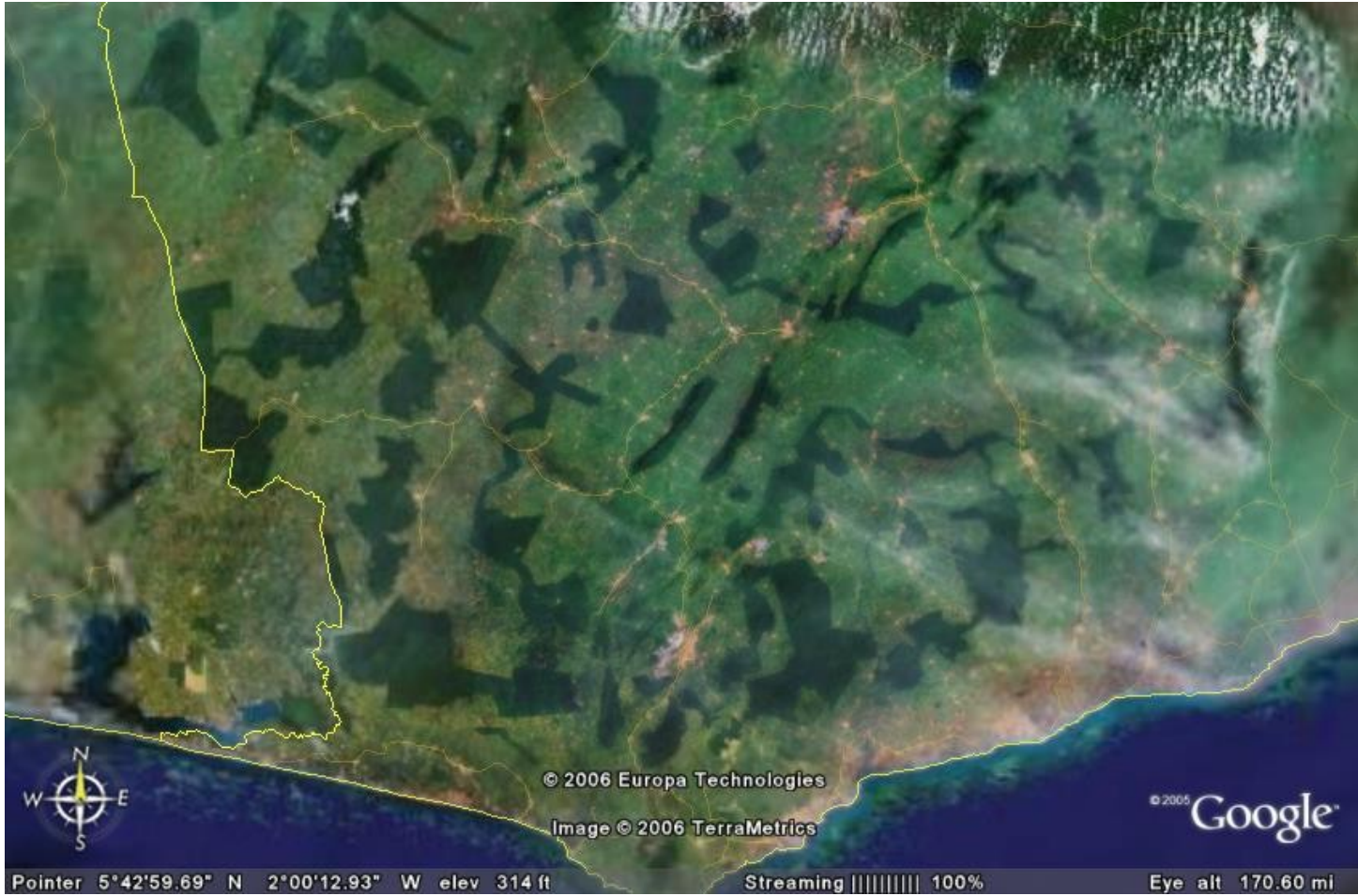
Land Category	Area (1,000 sq. km.)	Per cent
Forest reserves	26	11
Wildlife reserves	12	5
Off-reserve forests	5	2
Tree crops	17	7
Annual crops	12	5
Bush fallow & others	60	25
Savannah Woodland	71	30
Unimproved pasture	36	15
Total	239	100

Forest Reserves Zones in high forest area



Threats to sustainability

- Annual deforestation in Ghana is estimated at 65,000 hectares per annum, equivalent to 1.7 percent of existing forest stock.
- Annual economic losses from environmental degradation -4.5 percent of GDP in 2003, and forest depletion accounting for the highest 2.5 percentage.
- Severe loss of quality in the forest reserves due to inability of the state to effectively control exploitation of reserve forests; 6% -good condition. One quarter - categorized as “very bad” or without forest cover, another quarter as “mostly degraded.”
- Further risks to remaining reserves to be caused by:
 - industrial logging - installed capacity of timber industry 6 to 8 times that of sustainable yield), and domestic demand for timber (which is accelerating with economic growth)
 - Other threats: farming encroachments, wildfires and mining in forest reserves which is becoming an increasing threat.



Progress against International instruments

Nfp assessment					
Matrix	Description	Ranking			
		0	1	2	3
Nfp Phase	I – Analysis	0	3	8	1
	II – Formulation	0	7	10	2
	III – Implementation	0	9	14	0
	IV - Monitoring and evaluation	0	11	2	0
Cluster of principles	A. Country leadership	0	9	13	2
	B. Inter and intra sectoral linkages	0	10	9	0
	C. Partnership and participation	0	11	12	1



Assessing NLBI implementation

- Poor/Weak Progress thus priority areas
 - Promoting cross-sectoral coordination
 - Strengthening law enforcement
 - Development of effective financial strategies and
 - Integrating forestry programmes into national development plans.

Paper Devpt

- Approach

- Review of existing documents/papers

- Qualitative Analysis of programmes/systems in terms of environmental, social and economic objectives of management

- Peer review

Key	Interpretation
A	Initiative excellently on course and could serve as model
B	Though initiative positively contributing to goal there is room for improvement
C	Initiative not having positive impact and new approaches/redesigning required

Outcomes: Exemplary, must improve & unacceptable

II. Major Forestry Initiatives

Table 1. Key Forest Protection Programmes

Major Systems	Characteristics	Analysis & Rating			Way Forward
		Environmental Integrity	Social Equity	Economic soundness	
Wildlife Reserves	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forcibly reserved, • one-off compensation 	A	B	C	Establishment of environmental fund to sustain management
Forest protection strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRs > 30% slope • FR < 15m² BA • Provenance protection • Approx. 50% of HFZ FRs. 	A	C	C	Environmental Fund for management & to compensate landowners for loss of rights & benefits
Globally significant Biodiversity Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FRs with high genetic heat index • 29 full & partial FRs • 117,322 ha • CIF estbd but unsustainable • Mgt plans in place • Some ecotourism initiative started 	A	C	B	Quantify, value and lobby for PES opportunities
REDD	A very comprehensive & well-researched R-PP submitted & approved by the FCPF	A	A	B	Further analysis required to identify all the dimensions and address potential challenges
		Exemplary	Must Improve	Must Improve	

Table 2. Sustainable Timber Management & Harvesting Systems

Major Systems	Characteristics	Analysis & Rating			Way Forward
		Environmental Integrity	Social Equity	Economic soundness	
Sustainable Logging System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Compartments -128ha •40yr cycle; girth-limit selection system •Stumpage based on FOB values & spp. harvesting levels •Competitive bidding for harvesting rights •SRA 	B	C	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abuse –proof system of enforcement required. •Social benefit be attractive •Collaborative protection system with FFC necessary
VPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Emanates from EU-FLEGT program to export legally verifiable timber •Electronic-based WTS being developed •Massive consultation & publicity conducted chain •First license in Dec 2011 	A	C	A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •At least 2 more yrs require for thorough investigations b/4 plunging into system •Participatory involvement of all key – SH ne
Certification	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Ghana Standards developed •Certification advisory body and councils established •Stalled owing to lack of apparent premium timber prices •alternate market in neighbouring Sahelian countries 	C	C	C	International community to develop & demonstrate real advantages
Overall Rating		Must Improve	Unacceptable	Must Improve	

Table 3. Timber Plantation Schemes

Major Systems	Characteristics	Analysis & Rating			Way Forward
		Environmental Integrity	Social Equity	Economic soundness	
Modified Taungya	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Government partnering FFC as shareholders in rehabilitation of degraded FR •60% share to participating farmers, communities & landowners •Nearly 100,000ha established & fairly well protected •Substantial improvement in standard of living of communities 	A	A	A	Adopting the principles behind the scheme to cover other forestry initiatives
Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Direct funding of plantation dev't using contracted labour with government as sole shareholder. •Intensive funding from HIPC funds 	B	B	B	Emphasis should be on partnership with other stakeholders in joint ventures
Private	Degraded FR areas parceled out to private developers including substantial number of foreign companies to develop forest plantation with over 90% of proceeds to the companies	A	B	B	To increase impact on local populations avenue should be explored to partner local stakeholder
Woodlots	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Thousands of hectares of small scale woodlots have been established, mainly on OFR lands. •Records are however, scanty. •Planters have full right over harvesting 	A	A	C	Need for organized extension systems to promote small-scale planters
Overall Rating		Exemplary	Exemplary	Must Improve	



Table 4. off reserve management initiatives

Major Systems	Characteristics	Analysis & Rating			Way Forward
		Environmental Integrity	Social Equity	Economic soundness	
Local Government natural resource plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Lands within the jurisdiction of local government land areas appraised & zoned for varying forestry & other uses •Concept has been in existence for 10yrs •About 10 of such plans exist •Lack of resources for effective implementation 	B	A	B	Promulgation of policies & legislations for all local government to formulate & implement such plans
CREMA/Dedicated Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Selected OFR areas are designated for local people’s control & management of the forest resources therein •Few such areas have been formally designated •Scheme appears popular & have high adoption prospects 	B	A	B	Determining cost & returns subsidizing where deemed necessary
Trees on farms & fallows	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Encouragement has been given to farmers to retain timber trees in the course of their slash & burn farming. 	C	C	C	Government needs to adopt a major policy shift by granting rights & benefits to those nurturing the trees
Overall Rating		Must Improve	Must	Must	

Institutional Analysis

- **Ministry of Lands & Natural Resources:** effective at initiating policy reforms but tends to interfere in implementation/operational issues leading to abuses
- **Forestry Commission:** high human resource expertise but overly bureaucratic and self-centered, not innovating fast enough.

- **Private Sector** Forest resource harvesting: failed to invest in sustainable raw material supplies and most have the attitude of mining forest reserves and reinvesting in other areas.
- **Landowners & forest fringe communities (FFC):** They own the resource and or are severely impacted on by the fate of the forests. They are marginalized and lack collective voice. Owing to frustration they resort to illegal activities to secure their pound of flesh.
- **Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations:** They are gradually becoming alive and coalitions are emerging. There is the Forest Watch Ghana and the National Forest Forum and the Community Resource Management Committees. In addition the private sector has formed trade associations which champion their cause.

III. Summary of Challenges

- **Environmental**

- Inadequate funding for protection forests management due to non-existent revenue generating sources.
- Inadequate attention to restoration of degraded lands in off-reserve areas

- **Social**

- Disregard for ownership rights, poor or non-existent benefits
- Lack of stakeholder participation in certain programmes

Forest and People Sustainability Cycle (FPSC)





- **Economic**

- Inability to quantify value of environmental services and securing funds to effect management
- Under-pricing of forest produce due to industry-government collusion

- **Institutional**

- Policy – knowledge gap
- Weak public sector agency overstretching its bounds to manage large tracts of forests resulting in poor management and massive illegal encroachments
- Flagrant violations of systems on the part of powerful politicians with accompanying lack of accountability

Conclusions

- highly restrictive forest protection systems necessary for environmental protection but without compensation mechanisms to impoverished local communities likely to fail.
- socially equitable systems engender successful programme outcomes and ultimately ensure environmental integrity.
- In market failure situations, subsidies must be provided to facilitate achievement of management objectives.

IV. Recommendations

- SFM should be integral to overall land use Policy should aim at reforesting idle lands (urban, degraded off-reserve lands, agroforestry, coastal, reserve, etc.)
- Tenure reforms to ensure equity in rewards for investments and sacrifices in sfm, especially for landowners and forest fringe communities.
- Increased participation & improved governance, especially, enhancing stakeholder involvement in policy debate processes
- Legitimizing roles of weaker stakeholder groups and building capacity to ensure their effectiveness
- Instituting rigid accountability systems to prevent abuses by powerful sections of society through introduction of global objective governance assessment systems

Any future for them?



- Thank you

- Gratitude to organizers & Japanese Government (Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries)