

## Atebubu-Wiase Forest Landscape Restoration Project

### Report of Maiden Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meeting



### Report by Nature and Development Foundation



#### Contacts:

Mustapha Seidu ([mseidu@ndwestafrica.org](mailto:mseidu@ndwestafrica.org))

Glen Asomaning ([gasomaning@ndwestafrica.org](mailto:gasomaning@ndwestafrica.org))

## **Report on establishment of Multi-Stakeholder Platform (MSP)**

### **Background**

Active stakeholder participation in project implementation is indicative good project governance with the advantage of wider acceptance of project outcome. As such, many processes involving communities and land use recommends inclusive stakeholder participation. Therefore, there is an increasing expectation that a wide range of stakeholders and shareholders will be involved in forest landscape restoration not only because of the social and or legal requirement for free prior informed consent but also because such restoration activities may involve land-use changes and communities rights. Stakeholder or shareholder consultation or platform is also critical right from pre-planning to implementation of carbon projects and to respond to expectations, demands, concerns, feedback, and complaints from local people and other interest groups. This project being an attempt to restore degraded landscape with the aim of increasing community and ecological resilience to climate change, involves many stakeholders and institutions within the landscape whose operations have an impact on the success of forest restoration and agroforestry projects. The project will seek active consultation with a stakeholder group continuously that is representative of the different interest and farmer groups.

### **Objective of the meeting:**

The meeting is the first of a series of meetings of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform with the objective of forming the establishing the platform, forming the membership, agreeing to the terms of reference, electing the Chairman and other related matters.

### **Proceedings**

The MSP in the project is to play the role detailed in the Terms of Reference (ToR) (Attached as Annex 1). On Wednesday **9<sup>th</sup> March 2022**, the first MSP meeting was **held at the Municipal Assembly of the Atebubu - Amantin Municipal Assembly**

There were **36 participants** representing key stakeholders such as the Forestry Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Coordinating Directorate of the local authorities within the project area, members of the District or Municipal Assembly representing communities in the project area, sub-chiefs from the two traditional areas, farmers from communities within Atebubu and Wiase traditional areas, representatives of NGPTA and NDF. Find attached the list of participants who attended the meeting as Annex 2. Photos are attached to this report as Annex 3.

### **Presentations**

The first presentation by Nature and Development Foundation, who are the facilitators of community engagement component of the project, was a description of the project, partners, target areas to be covered and target number of trees to be planted. Mr. Asomaning indicated that the Forest Restoration and Woodlot components are to be carried out by APSD within their already concession. The agroforestry component which is being carried out by NGPTA is the component that entails direct involvement of the farmers and communities and therefore will be the subject of focus for subsequent discussions by the platform.

At the end of the presentation, participants were very glad that the team is following up from the initial engagement which occurred sometime in October 2021 and wondered when the farmer identification and seedling delivery will be done. It was explained that staff of NGPTA who were employed only a week prior to the meeting will visit the communities and identify interested farmers. Participants were also informed that contract for the supply of mangoes and cashew seedlings have been awarded and will be ready by end of April 2022.

Another important question that was asked by a participant was whether the project sponsors will demand a share of the cashew or mango plantations to be established. He was provided an answer to the effect that all the cashew and mango plantations to be established by them belong to them. The timber trees to be planted belong to them. However, **the carbon in the trees is of interest to the donor and so the trees and the carbon are encumbered until after a period of say 30 years.**

The second presentation made by NDF was on the ToR and structure of the MSP. A draft ToR was presented where participants indicated their approval or disapproval to some of the tasks assigned. Find attached, the final ToR of the MSP. On the structure of the platform, NDF will be a permanent facilitator and secretary due to its reporting obligation to iNovaland. The meeting agreed to select a chairman. Two persons were nominated backed by reasons for the nominations. The nominations were seconded by different participants. However, one of the nominated person by name, Mr. Adjei Badu Fordjour declined the nomination and rather supported the nomination of the other person. The unopposed nominated was given the opportunity to give consent to his nomination. Participants were requested to indicate by hand their approval of the nomination of **Mr. Anthony Owusu, the Member Assembly for Bantama** community for a term of two years renewable for another two years based on performance and approval by members.

For meeting venue, the meeting also agreed that MSP meetings may be organized in any of the participating villages depending on availability of a suitable place. However, the final decision of the date and next venue should be taken by the facilitators in consultation with the chairman.

### ***Membership of MSP***

The meeting agreed that the following stakeholders should be part of the MSP

- 1) Coordinating Directorate of Atebubu-Amanti Municipality
- 2) Coordinating Directorate of Sene West District
- 3) Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture of Atebubu-Amanti Municipality
- 4) Directorate of Ministry of Agriculture of Sene West District
- 5) District Wildlife Division
- 6) District Forestry Services Division
- 7) Members of Assembly of the communities within the project area
- 8) Chiefs from both Atebubu and Wiase Traditional Council
- 9) APSD
- 10) NGPTA
- 11) iNovaland
- 12) NDF
- 13) Farmer representatives

On the farmer representatives, it was agreed that each participating community, with the help of NGPTA, will select a representative to the MSP and will in turn report to his constituents on deliberations of the MSP. This is so because, NGPTA will hold meetings with each community and identify farmers who are interested and who are actually prepared to follow the rules of the project. NGPTA is therefore well placed to advice farmers on the qualities of a farmer who can represent their interest on MSP.

### ***Frequency of meetings***

It was agreed that meetings of the MSP will be quarterly. However, the date and venue will be decided by the facilitators in consultation with the Chairman and communicated to all members 15 days in advance.

### **Other relevant meetings**

Prior to the maiden meeting of the MSP, other engagements were held with the National REDD+ Secretariat of the Forestry Commission sometime in January 2022. One of these meetings was attended together with Andrew Heald of NGPTA. The meeting helped to clarify Ghana's afforestation measures as they relate to carbon sequestrations and how this project fits in as well as requirements that need to be met. The REDD+ office asked for an official introduction of the project through an e-mail accompanied with background information.

Other consultative engagement in respect of the project in January 2022 include the meeting with Forestry Research Institute of Ghana and the two local authorities with jurisdiction over the area of interest.

### **Issues Log and Action Points**

<b>Issue</b>	<b>Status</b>	<b>Actions until next MSP meeting</b>
Communication		How can members help communicate better on project objectives
Better gender representation		Women empowerment plan Bring in more female speakers to address their issues
Farmer representatives		NGPTA field staff to help farmers to select their representatives to the MSP

## **Annex 1: Terms of reference of multi-stakeholder platform in Atebubu-Wiase forest landscape restoration project**

One of the cardinal principles of good governance enshrined in many international standards involving land use, including those in New Generation Plantation platform, is stakeholder participation. Therefore, there is an increasing expectation that a wide range of stakeholders and shareholders will be involved in forest landscape restoration not only because of the social and or legal requirement for free prior informed consent but also such restoration activities may involve land-use changes. Stakeholder or shareholder consultation or platform is also critical right from pre-planning to implementation of carbon projects and to respond to expectations, demands, concerns, feedback, and complaints from local people and other interest groups.

As contained in the stakeholder analysis table (Annex 4), there are many stakeholders and institutions within the landscape whose operations have an impact on the success of forest restoration and agroforestry projects. The project will seek active consultation with a stakeholder group continuously that is representative of the different stakeholders and farmer groups.

### **ROLE OF MSP IN FOREST LANDSCAPE RESTORATION**

- 1) To help to represent all relevant stakeholders within the landscape to help identify community projects, key challenges and their mitigation measures, opportunities, and key areas for restoration.
- 2) To support in monitoring project results as well as in resolving local challenges not already resolved by project management team.
- 3) To foster the sharing of experiences, knowledge, skills, and innovations among a range of actors working on landscape restoration in the Atebubu and Wiase traditional areas.
- 4) To provide space for actors in the landscape to discuss the practical implementation of the project and its impact on farmers and other stakeholders.
- 5) Where practical, the MSP may document and disseminate emerging lessons for evidence-based learning across the sector on inclusive landscape restoration.
- 6) To help minimize and manage risk such as fire or livestock encroachment by helping communicate clear messages and sharing project objectives.

- 7) To support the creation of an enabling environment for the adoption of project activities.
- 8) To provide information to support the conduct of social audit on human trafficking and modern slavery within project intervention areas that require attention of project management.
- 9) To provide information and honest feedback, when requested, to project donors and to the project advisory board.
- 10) At least once in a year, members of the MSP may interact with communities to have firsthand information about progress, concerns and feedback on project implementation.

### **GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE**

Chairperson – to be selected during the first MSP meeting

Secretary – NDF will serve as secretary to the MSP for reporting to donor and Advisory Board

### **FREQUENCY OF MEETING**

Every quarter



## Annex 2: Participant List



Atebubu-Wiase Forest Landscape Project – 1<sup>st</sup> Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meeting Registration Form, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022

Venue – Municipal Assembly Hall, Atebubu

No.	Name	Institution/Community	Telephone No./Email	Signature
✓ 1	Hon. BONA ANTHONY KOFI	KOIKOFU	0546540010	
✓ 2	Hon Boi Peter	Mbrama	0552029498	
✓ 3	Kwame Nsarko	Mbrama	0592655494	
✗ 4	Kwarteng Emmanuel	NAP	0264557724	
✗ 5	Abraham Yelley	NAPTA	0249234100	
✓ 6	Koo BiBii	Mbrama	0240429878	
✓ 7	Atta Kwame	Mbrama	0548601838	
✓ 8	Kombat Daniel	Gereshma	0596693423	
✓ 9	Kofi Adu (Nana)	Cranadima	0206348425	
✓ 10	DANIEL BINGAYE	GERADIMA	0551962146	
✓ 11	MORO KARIM	GERADIMA	0549649615	
✓ 12	Lai Kwasi Ezekiel	Klase	0543717727	
✓ 13	Lunkwa Peter	Klase	0545741275	
✓ 14	Peter Kwadwo Frimpong	Wiase	0550344257	

✓	15	Kwa Sena Nansi	Bantema	0559013886	Nessi
✓	16	Elder Tepak Charles	Bantema	0592334035	<del>_____</del>
✓	17	Akokoh Serge	A.P.S.D	0540102924	<del>_____</del>
✓	18	Abubakari Ibrahim	APSD	0540102571	<del>_____</del>
✓	19	STEPHEN AIDOO	MoJA/AEEBURU	0246213694	<del>APSD</del>
✓	20	Samuel Asante Akrasi	Farmer/Bonifa	0247795164	<del>_____</del>
✓	21	NANA TAW GIADU	ODIKRO/KOKOFU	054406111	WY
✓	22	A GARITHA TUXAH	FARMER/KOKOFU	0241146278	A off
✓	23	JOHN ADU	FARMER/KOKOFU	0594955835	X
✓	24	TAKYI STEPHEN	FARMER/KOKOFU	0248230574	<del>_____</del>
✓	25	HON ANTHONY OXUSU	Assemblyman	0546374330	<del>_____</del>
✓	26	MATTHEW OPOKU	Dept. of Agric Kwame Ninsin	0243244140 matthewkopoku@gmail	<del>_____</del>
✓	27	AKRASI EMMANUEL	ASSEMBLYMAN APRADE EIA	0244581697	AKEL
✓	28	TANIMU AXIAL	GARADIMA EIA ASSEMBLYMAN	0547636144	Onkinking
✓	29	Aggei-Bschu Fordjour	Bantema Odikro	0246194333	<del>_____</del>
✓	30	ERIC K. SAABOME	SENIOR DIST. AS	0243919231	<del>_____</del>
✓	31	Eric Aboagye	Aleburu	0243030265	<del>_____</del>





✓ 32	Thomas Atibilla	AAMA	atibilla.thomas@yahoo.com 0246728720	Thomas
✓ 33	Eric Atta-Kusi	wildlife Division	attak319@yahoo.com 0546057019	Eric
34	Abduly Karim Seidu	FSD	054-8444549	Abduly
✓ 35	GLEN ASOMAHING	NDF-ACCRA	0244597935	Glen
36	Mustapha Seidu	NDF-ACCRA	0248930693	Mustapha
37				
38				
39				
40				

Annex 3: Photos of Maiden Multi-Stakeholder Platform Meeting











#### Annex 4: Stakeholder Analysis

In the context of the Atebubu and Wiase forest landscape restoration, there are several critical stakeholders that are fundamental for the successful social and environmental impact of the project. Below is a tabulation of the suggested stakeholders and their characterization.

No.	Stakeholder Group	Strengths	Weaknesses	Interest	Capacity
1	APSD	Greenfield plantations company	Use for timber originally planned for energy generation. This has not yet happened and may create some uncertainty in the minds of the communities and may derail APSD's own targets	Interest in implementing a successful greenfield project that benefit the environment and people while making profits in the long term	Capacity to establish largescale plantations; capacity to engage international partners; ability to raise international funding;
2	Paramount Chiefs	Landowners and custodians	Low revenues from land use	Royalties on land usage and in products generated from land use	They will permit different new land use within their jurisdiction. They have capacity to engage and advice inhabitants on the use for land
3	District Assemblies	Local government administrators. They generate revenue from different land uses. They provide basic amenities such as roads	Land-use brings little revenue. Wide infrastructure gap	Job creation for the youth; Increased revenue generation	Can support with infrastructure such as roads
4	Members of Parliament	Can serve as a link between the project and central government	Contact with people is weakened because their working base is in the capital	Job creation for the youth, general community development	Provide government support at both local and national level. Ability to mobilize inhabitants



5	Sub-Chiefs	Ability to engage community members and mobilize community members; Liaison between communities and paramount chiefs	They do not have capacity to make ultimate decision around land use.	Recognition, revenue from use of land	They live in communities with farmers and are the points of contact on land tenure issues; Ability to mobilize community members
6	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR)	The ministry has oversight over agencies such as Forestry Services Division and the Wildlife Division that fall under their jurisdiction in the districts	Local offices have limited logistical capacity	To fashion out policy that give direction for sustainable management, creation and utilization of the forestry resources.	Responsible for policy formulation and direction on lands and forestry. Government support
7	Ministry of Food and Agriculture, District Office	The ministry has oversight over agencies such as the extension services department that fall under their jurisdiction in the districts	Local offices have limited logistical capacity	Interested in promoting food security, sustainable incomes for farmers, regenerative agriculture	Responsible for policy formulation and direction on agricultural production and food security. Government support
8	Administrator of Stool Lands	Presence in all districts in Ghana	Logistical challenges at the district level	Collection of royalties on behalf of stools; disbursement of revenue	
9	Forestry Research Institute of Ghana	Forestry and Agroforestry Research	May not have an officer permanently stationed in the project location	Agroforestry, natural regeneration, woodlots	Seeds and seedlings provision. Ability to advise on establishment
10	Forestry Commission	The legal authority with the mandate to	Has been slow in rolling out the wood tracking system;	Sustainable management and	Able to provide support at the national level.

		regulate and manage the forest resources of Ghana.	there is some skepticism among some workers of the Commission of FLEGT/VPA; there is still no clarity on making legal timber available throughout Ghana	creation of the forest resources; revenue generation	
11	Forestry Services Division, District	District level offices	Local offices lack the required logistics	Forest establishment and management. Revenue from forest harvesting	Seed collection; seedlings production; Tree registration
12	Wildlife Division, District	Well trained personnel	Logistics	Sustainable management of wildlife resources	Support for the management of the Digya National park
13	National REDD+ Secretariat, 2 persons at least	National office with requisite staff at the national level	No staff at the local level.	Carbon sequestration and management	Engage in discussions on carbon management and accounting
14	NGOs	Have good relations with all actors including government, industry and communities.	Usually lack resources of their own to provide support to communities and must rely on private sector and international donors	Sustainable forest management, improved livelihoods and poverty reduction	Community engagement, Agroforestry, landscape restoration
15	Media	The main means of mass communication accepted collectively.	Has potential to easily ruin reputation when a false story or information is carried across.	To inform and educate	Has various forms and tools for communication and education.

## **Annex 5: Communication Quote**

### **MSP Quotes:**

“The biggest problem in the landscape and perhaps any dry landscape in Ghana is the problem of wild fires. The solution to this problem needs to come from within rather than without. The composition of the Multi-Stakeholder Platform, which includes local administrators, traditional chiefs, a local non-governmental organization and the farmers themselves will provide a good platform to address this challenge” – Glen Asomaning, Operations Director, Nature and Development Foundation.

“The Multi-Stakeholder Platform has created an avenue where both farmers and opinion leaders are brought together to take decisions that benefit themselves, their communities and the environment” Anthony Owusu, Bantama, Sene West.

“The recognition of the role that communities and farmers play at the initiation of the project through the Multi-Stakeholder Platform is highly commendable” Anthony Kofi Bona, Kokofu, Atebubu-Amantin.