Concessions to Small-scale Associations

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Outline

• General context
• Description of the concession system / model
• Main achievements and impacts
• Major difficulties / failures
• Enabling conditions
• Key success factors
• Lessons learned
• Recommendations
About Ghana

• Ghana is a West African country with a population of 27.4 million (World Bank, 2015)
• It is bounded by Côte d'Ivoire to the west, Burkina Faso to the north, Togo to the east and the Gulf of Guinea to the south
• Total area of 239,460 km\(^2\) but the land area is 88,811 km\(^2\)
• Economy: agricultural based with high contributions from mining, timber and recently, the oil industries
Vegetational Zones

• There are three main vegetation zones:
  – High forest Zone
  – Savannah Zone
  – Transition Zone

• The HFZ, in the southern zone of Ghana, ranges from wet evergreen to dry semi-deciduous forests and records the highest rainfall

• The Savannah region is the driest part and covers about two thirds of the country. The third zone is the transition zone, between the HFZ and the Savannah Zone.
After Karsenty, A. (2016)
Forest condition

- In less than 50 years, Ghana lost 90% of her primary forest, and between 1990 and 2005, the country lost 26% of its forest cover (UNEP, 2008)

- The major drivers of this loss are wrong policies and policy failures manifesting in:
  - Agricultural expansion
  - Illegal logging
  - Surface mining, and
  - Fuelwood extraction
Policy framework

- The 1948 Forest Policy provided for rapid liquidation of timber resources from off-reserve areas: a means of salvaging them from agricultural activities.
- The 1948 policy also made no provision for wildlife conservation; Resource management excluded the local people.
- In response to shortfalls of the 1948 policy, the 1994 Forest and Wildlife policy provides for:
  - Collaborative forest management.
  - Wildlife conservation. And
  - Regulation of timber harvests in areas outside reserves.
Policy framework

• In line with recent global trends in natural resources management and local demands, a new Forest and Wildlife policy was promulgated in 2012:
  – A considerable shift in emphasis from consumptive to non-consumptive use of forest resources
  – Greater attention to environmental functions & services
  – Decreased emphasis on timber
Timber Rights Regimes

- Timber Utilization Contracts (Concessions)

- Salvage permits: for extraction of commercial trees that fall in the way of development projects

- Timber Utilisation Permit: for community projects; strictly not for commercial purposes
The concession system in Ghana

• The concession ordinance of 1900 restricted access to reserved areas and also cancelled individuals’ rights to trees outside the reserves (Asante, 2005)

• The Timber Resource Management Act, 1998 and its Regulation (LI 1649) established the TUC to replace the old concessions system
  – More transparent process
  – Gives recognition to traditional authorities and local communities in forest management
  – Provides for a competitive process for the grant of a TUC
Categories of Concessions

• Small scale: 15 – 125 km²
• Medium scale: 125 – 300 km²
• Large scale: 300 – 500 km²
Major Difficulties of the current System

• Tussle over payment of Timber Rights Fees
• Procedural challenges with Competitive allocation
• Export orientation of the industry
• Market driven harvesting: creaming of the resource
• Sustainability
• Fragmentation of the resource
• Illegal logging
• Encumbered ‘concessions’ (40 year felling cycle)
Response to the challenges

• Resort to Salvage permits
• Fragmentation of the resource
• Hiding behind a bad piece of law to operate an ‘illegal’ permit system
• Short term ‘concession’ systems
• Legislative Instrument to cover Off-reserve resources(?)
Current imperatives: A system that:

• Addresses the domestic market
• Will help curb illegal logging
• Returns wealth to the local communities
• Makes for better use of the resource
• Meets requirements of legality (FLEGT/VPA)
The new Concession system

• Identification of willing TUC holders
• Broker partnerships between Associations of small-scale operators and TUC holders
• Prepare agreements that ensure win-win situations
  – The Associations get access to legal timber resources (un-removed yield)
  – Products by the Association serve the domestic market
  – In return, the Association commits to protect the ‘concession’ against illegal logging
Challenges of the new system

• Unscrupulous forest managers
• Bureaucracy
• Logistics esp. haulage and transportation
• Suspicion of concessionaires
• Non-availability of the resource
• Small-scale operators are at the mercy of large-scale concessionaires
• Securing a more direct access for small-scale associations
Main Achievement and Impacts

- Improved rural livelihoods (employment of locals).
- Improved respect for community rights (SRAs).
- Reduced involvement in illegal logging (artisanal millers).
- Emerging culture of monitoring illegal logging amongst artisanal miller groups (artisanal millers).
Key success factors

- Political cooperation
- Capacity building
- Continuous dialogue amongst all stakeholders
- Financial incentives
- Strict law enforcement
Enabling conditions

• Research leading to the development of ATM concept
• Organisation of illegal loggers to artisanal miller groups
• Technical training on artisanal milling
• Establishment of national discourse to create space for small-scale artisanal millers
• Facilitating role of TBI Ghana
• Cooperation from the Forestry Commission
• Capacity building for the Association
Lessons learned

• Building partnerships to create win-win situations

• Changing ‘criminals’ into partners

• With the right mechanisms in place, illegal operators can operate legally

• Artisanal milling has the potential to reduce illegal logging whilst improving rural livelihoods
Recommendations

• There is the need to create the requisite framework for small-scale associations to contribute to the supply of legal timber to the domestic market
  – Requisite legal framework
  – Direct concessions to small-scale associations

• In the meantime, necessary partnerships should be promoted for small-scale associations to harvest un-removed yield to supply legal timber to the domestic market
BIBLIOGRAPHY


THANK YOU