

# Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter

Contributing towards well-informed decision-making and sustainable planning and management of dams in Ghana

A quarterly publication of the Ghana Dams Forum

Issue 1 - March, 2009

## Introduction from the Secretariat

On behalf of the Secretariat for the Ghana Dams Dialogue process funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), I would like to welcome you to the first edition of the Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter.

This quarterly newsletter was initiated to create public awareness of the activities of the Ghana Dams Forum. It will also be a mechanism for the communities and other stakeholders in dam-affected areas to raise issues of importance.

This edition of the newsletter brings you information on the background to the Ghana Dams Dialogue, field information on the Bui Hydropower Project, special interviews from Bui and other stakeholders, and much more.

The newsletter is also available at <http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>

Enjoy reading .....



**Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally**  
Project Leader  
Ghana Dams Dialogue



Diversion of the Black Volta River for the Bui Hydroelectric Dam Project

## Background to the Ghana Dams Dialogue

Ghana is a water-rich country. Construction of dams for hydropower, water supply and irrigation is a reality. The well known multi-purpose Akosombo and Kpong dams on the Volta River are often referred to for their benefits as well as their socioeconomic and environmental trade-offs. However, assessment of the environmental and social impacts was not considered as mandatory at the time of dam construction.

After construction of the Akosombo Dam, the lack of institutional structures and processes to discuss and assess several issues was felt. Some of these issues include the need for dams; the different options available to respond to energy, water supply and irrigation needs; and to address the negative impacts of upstream and downstream water use. The fact that the new Bui Dam is under construction makes it all the more urgent to set a dialogue process in motion where various stakeholders with different perspectives can come together and discuss and agree on certain dam-related issues such as participation.

It was in this context that a multi-stakeholder dialogue platform, the Ghana Dams Dialogue, was initiated in November 2006 by a number of organizations with a stake in dam development with the aim of providing technical support on institutional issues related to water resources and dam development. The secretariat for the process is co-hosted by the Volta Basin Development Foundation (a not-for-profit organization) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI).

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### Progress goals to date

1. To contribute towards well-informed decision-making and sustainable planning and management of dams in Ghana, and
2. To provide consensual recommendations for integration into national planning and legislation through a multi-stakeholder dialogue process.

### Objectives

- To set up a platform (the Ghana Dams Forum) with representation of all groups who have a stake in dam development.
- To support transparent information exchange and an active dialogue on important issues related to existing and planned dams.
- To analyze issues, and review and adapt international guidelines and strategies for inclusion into the relevant decision-making processes as needed in Ghana.

### Outputs

- Background report of the National Coordinating Committee Meeting
- Setting up of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) which acted as the steering committee for the Ghana Dams and Development Forum.  
Two fora that took place brought together a broad range of informed Ghanaian stakeholders to reflect and discuss dam-related issues in a more integrated manner, which considers social, environmental and economic dimensions of development in the planning and management of dams. A total of 84 and approximately 150 participants attended the first and second fora, respectively.

- Three papers based on an inventory of issues of relevance in the context of dams in Ghana and strategies to address these issues (key priority issues identified through a participatory process). Community participation, compensation, research, development and capacity building.
- An action plan for the follow-up of recommendations on the issues discussed and for support of the institutionalization of the dam dialogue and/or its objectives.
- A greater understanding and appreciation of the impact of climate change on hydropower dams to both scientists and non-scientists.
- A short policy brief on the impacts of climate change on the Bui Hydropower Project.

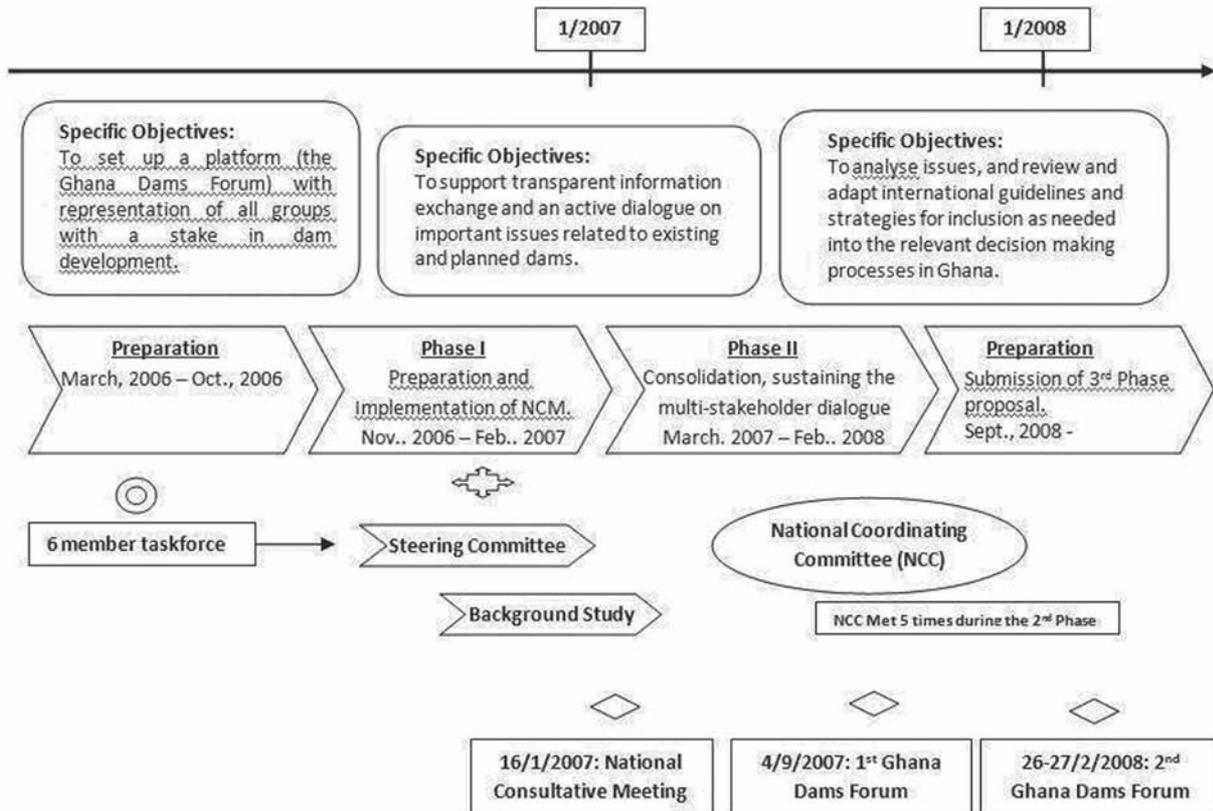
### Project partners

The process has a secretariat, National Coordinating Committee and a sixty-member Forum. The Forum comprises representatives from government ministries, decentralized government departments, research institutions, opinion leaders of dam-affected communities, traditional leaders, the private sector and other stakeholders to discuss priority issues related to dam construction and development in Ghana.

Activities of the forum are coordinated by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC). The NCC comprises:

Volta River Authority (VRA); Volta Basin Development Foundation; Ministry of Energy; Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing; Conservation International; Water Resources Commission; Association of Ghana Industries; Representative from the proposed Bui Hydropower Area; Representative from the Lower Volta Basin; Volta Basin Research Project; Ghana Journalists Association; International Water Management Institute; Manya Krobo District Assembly; National Association of the 52 VRA Re-settlement Townships and the Bui Power Authority (BPA).

### Timeline of the Dialogue Process to date



## Phase II of the Dialogue Process Ends with a Two-day Workshop

After the first Ghana Dams Forum held on the September 4, 2007, one of the recommendations was to commission three issue papers for discussion at the Second Forum. The Forum (which ended the second phase of the Dialogue process) was held over two days (February 26-27, 2008) at the M Plaza Hotel, Accra, Ghana, with the main theme being "Bringing Research Findings on Dams Closer to the People". Each day had its respective sub-themes, namely, "Contribution of Community Involvements, Compensation, Research and Capacity Building to Dam Development in Ghana" and "Impact of Climatic Change on Dams: The Case study of the Bui Hydropower Project".

The main goal of the forum was to contribute towards a better understanding of stakeholders on issues related to dams and their development in Ghana, through presentations and discussions.

The Forum discussions provided substantive input towards the development of consensual recommendations for integration into national planning and legislation contributing to well-informed decision-making and sustainable planning and management of dams in Ghana.

The workshop was organized by the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) with the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) and Volta Basin Development Foundation (VBDF), and was financed by the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Approximately 150 stakeholders attended the workshop. These comprised officials from ministries, departments and agencies; local non-governmental organizations and media; national operators and the private sector; communities and traditional structures; international finance and donor agencies; research organizations and local level institutions.

Three papers based on an inventory of issues of relevance in the context of dams in Ghana and strategies to address these issues were presented during the forum. The presentations were structured in order to allow members of the public to benefit the most.

Also, looking at the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) of the Bui Hydropower Project, it clearly shows that, not much about the potential impact of global climate change on the Bui dam is known. The GLOWA Volta Project, which has been able to model future discharge scenarios that take into account climate change, presented its findings during

the forum. The objective of this exercise was to get a greater understanding and appreciation of the impact of climate change on hydropower dams to both scientists and non-scientists. A short policy brief on the impacts of climate change on the Black Volta Basin and the Bui Dam was issued by project scientists of the GLOWA Volta Project of the Centre for Development Research (ZEF, University of Bonn). Two studies that investigate

the impact of global climate change on the water availability in the Ghanaian part of the Volta River Basin served as the scientific background for this analysis.

Finally, an action plan for the follow-up of recommendations on the issues discussed during the forum was compiled through a communiqué and presented to all the ministries that participated in the forum.



Participants at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Dams Forum

### Notice Board

#### *Important dates to remember in 2009*

- Annual meeting for dam-affected communities:  
**July 2009**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ghana Dams Forum:  
**September 2009**

## Communiqué from the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ghana Dams Forum

We, members and participants of the Ghana Dams Forum, met at M Plaza Hotel, Accra, on February 26-27, 2008, for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ghana Dams Forum and Workshop on the Impact of Climate Change on the Bui Hydropower Project under the theme: "Bringing Research Findings on Dams Closer to the People" and have reached the following resolutions:

- The need to adhere to and implement national social and environmental standards and set specific targets for monitoring purposes.
- Comprehensive options assessment is undertaken for future water and energy resources development.
- Modalities of community participation in project design, management, monitoring and evaluation are clearly defined, and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders enunciated.
- Pertaining to the Bui Dam development project:
  - ★ Monitoring of project activities and implementation of recommendations (ESIA and EMP) are undertaken by a designated agency;
  - ★ undertake drought-flow analysis;
  - ★ assess the potential impact of climate change on the dam; and
  - ★ assess the contribution of the dam on greenhouse gases.
- A detailed proposal for the development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of hydropower and other water resource development projects are disseminated and made available (particularly at the local level) and strictly adhered to by relevant parties.
- Human capacities of all stakeholders are strengthened with special emphasis on empowering communities to lead to their active participation.

- Outstanding issues (e.g., compensation and royalties) in relation to the existing dams are urgently re-examined and addressed.
- The living conditions of the people to be resettled should be enhanced through the provision of improved livelihoods and building of capacities.
- Adequate funding for research and monitoring related to dams and development be provided from both the government and private sources, and ensure that researchers are motivated.
- The government should facilitate data management by tasking appropriate agencies for this purpose.
- Appropriate avenues for the dissemination of research findings are established.
- Relevant research findings and other pertinent information on dam development and planning should be made available to all stakeholders.

SIGNED:

**Mrs. Cecilia Amoah**

Director, Volta Basin Research Project of the University of Ghana, Legon  
Chairperson, National Coordinating Committee of the Ghana Dams Dialogue

**Mr. Minta A. Aboagye**

Director of Water, Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing  
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**Mr. Samuel Ayeh-Dartey**

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Member, National Coordinating Committee of the Ghana Dams Dialogue

## Phase III of the Dialogue Process Began in January 2009

This phase is a follow-up to the previous project on the Dams Dialogue in Ghana. In view of the fact that the Bui Dam is now under construction and that the impact of dams are still being played out with issues around the Akosombo and Kpong dams re-settlement still remaining unresolved, there remains a need to pursue the dialogue through continued facilitation of the Ghana Dams Forum. Some key concerns voiced by stakeholders during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum meeting include having more transparency with regard to dam project development and implementation, more communication between the various stakeholder groups and more attention paid to conducting good research to inform the dialogue process.

Phase III (January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2010) has the primary aim of building capacities and providing tools for improved decision-making processes on dam-related issues that would lead to equitable, transparent, participatory and the sustainable development of dams in Ghana. This phase will bring together

representatives from all dam-affected communities to share information and increase awareness of re-settlement and dam-related issues affecting local communities and capacity building; prepare a detailed research paper on the livelihood situation of affected communities, and an institutional study to provide guidelines and recommendations towards a policy framework.

The National Coordinating Committee will be meeting regularly to steer the program. Two fora and two annual conferences are planned to bring together representatives of all dam-affected communities and other relevant stakeholders. The program also proposes to have targeted meetings to address sustainable dam development, with key players (key ministries and government agencies) who have a major stake in dam planning, construction, management and operation.

For more information see:

<http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>

# Pictorial Report of the Field Trip by NCC Members to the Bui Hydropower Area



A section of the Bui community during the meeting



A member of the NCC explaining issues to the community members during the meeting



A group picture with the community and the NCC members



A courtesy call on the Chief of Jama by the NCC members



The Chief of Bui introducing the members of the NCC to the Jama Chief



A section of the Jama Resettlement Community during the meeting



A section of the Jama Resettlement Community during the meeting



NCC members meet with some staff of the Bui Power Authority (BPA)



Field tour to the project site of the Bui Hydropower Dam



NCC members during the 6th NCC meeting

## Straight Talk:

The members of the National Coordinating Committee of the Ghana Dams Dialogue visited the Bui Hydroelectric Power Project site where they had an interactive discussion with an Assistant Civil Engineer and the Environmental Officer of the Bui Power Authority. This section captures the discussion held between the NCC representatives and the BPA officials.

### Q: What has been done so far?

**A:** Detailed geological and hydrogeological investigations commenced on October, 2007 – March 2008, to determine the structure of the subsurface to ascertain the geological characteristics of the rock mass at the dam site. These detailed investigations were carried out to determine the rock permeability, depth of underground water, scope and depth of anti-seepage curtain needed for the dam foundation, evaluation of the stability of rock mass at both abutments of the dam slopes, saddle dams and powerhouse foundation. It was also carried out to determine the quantity and quality of the proposed quarry and borrow areas for sand, gravel and aggregates for concrete works.

### Q: What was the size of the workforce?

**A:** We are three independent bodies, the employer (BPA), the contractor (Sinohydro) and the consultants (COB). For the employer, we are 19 residents on site. This comprises a resident engineer, civil engineers, geodetic engineers, caterers, caretakers and drivers. Most of the local workforce work for Sinohydro. They are a little under 1,000 people for now. As and when it becomes necessary, the contractor may employ more people. The expatriate staff of the contractor comprises Chinese and Pakistani people. They are approximately 300 in number.

### Q: What is the relationship between the contractor, employer and the local folk?

**A:** We have a good relationship with the colleagues around the area and just last week on Sunday we paid a visit to the Bui Village on our way to the Bui National Park. Besides that, we sometimes have football matches with the township, especially Bongase Village. Also, the villagers come for help and other logistics.

### Q: Who handles local labor contracts?

**A:** The Chinese employ their local people themselves but we have tried to get the services of the Construction, Building Material Workers Union of the Trade Union Congress (TUC) to have an office here so that the contractor will employ the local people through the TUC. Those structures are now being put in place.

### Q: What about their salary?

**A:** We have a bit of a complication here. When they (the Chinese) were bidding for the project, their research indicated that they have to pay above the minimum wage



Assistant Civil Engineer, Bui Power Authority

in the country, which was pegged at 2.25 Ghanaian Cedi (GHC). They, however, paid approximately 3.00 GHC as the minimum on-site, but within the construction industry, there is a minimum wage of 4.55 GHC. The new scheme for the salary to reflect the one in the construction industry will be implemented in January 2009.

### Q: What are the plans for the Bui City?

**A:** Yes, we have plans for the Bui City. The total land size is about 1,800 km<sup>2</sup> and we are going to dedicate the majority of this area to the development of the City. But now we are planning to re-settle the affected communities in the designated areas which will eventually become an enclave in the city. At present, we have completed the initial zoning for the various divisions in the city, i.e., the commercial, industrial, etc.

This task was done by the China Urban Planning Department with inputs from the various stakeholders (Town and Country Planning Department, Institute of Engineers, architects, surveyors, economists, etc.) in the country.

A site has been dedicated for the development of the city. This is <http://www.buicity.com>

### Q: Where are the funds coming from for the Bui City?

**A:** No, the 630 million dollars mentioned does not include funds for the development of the Bui City. But the re-settlement is part of it. Now, the BPA is submitting a proposal for consultants to draw up a technical proposal to generate money from the activities planned for the City itself.

### Q: What progress have you made with re-settlement?

**A:** Yes, we have already re-settled four of the seven communities. The place, Jama, is a permanent location. Jama will be an enclave within the Bui City. We are still in consultation with the remaining three villages for them to specify where they want to be re-settled.

For full discussion/interview, visit <http://www.ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>

## Voice of the land

**Q: Tell me a little bit about yourself?**

**A:** My name is Francis. I'm from Bui and have lived here for the past 30 years. I am a farmer currently working as a Foreman-Carpenter with the Bui Hydropower Authority.



Community Member

**Q: What changes could the dam bring to your community?**

**A:** When the dam is built, there will be a good supply of electricity and water. Previously, we did not have a good road, but as they started the dam construction, the road has also been developed.

Now you can even get a car to Wenchi faster. Also, we will have a police station which will help prevent any illegal activities from taking place in the community. Finally, I know we have also been promised hospitals and schools.

On the negative side, our farms have now been surveyed but most of us don't know the actual size of the farms and also how much we are going to be paid for our farms. Also, what I have realized is that, after the re-settlement of the first four towns, most of the fishermen are finding it very difficult to walk that long distance (7 km) from the community to the riverside. At the same time, re-settled farmers are yet to get their compensation. Finally, the people were informed that their new settlement is a temporary location but right now we hear that it is going to be a permanent place. If this will

be the same for the next three communities yet to be resettled, then it will be a disadvantage to us all.

**Q: What can you say about the participation of your community members in the project?**

**A:** Few people in my community are involved. Most of the people working at the project site are from Kumasi, Techiman and some are from Accra. I know the project recruited a number of artisans but since most of my community people are unskilled, that's the reason why most of them do not get employment at the site.

**Q: How are you involved in the Ghana Dams Dialogue process?**

**A:** I have only been told about the activities of the Ghana Dams Dialogue – that was the last time some of my people went to some re-settlement communities of the Akosombo and Kpong dams. After their visit, the group informed the community about whatever that went on during their visit.

**Q: Have your expectations been met after the completion of the first phase of the project and also re-settlement?**

**A:** Yes and No!

Yes, considering the pace at which the project is going.

No, because personally as a carpenter working with the Bui Power Authority, I'm paid 4.5 GHC per day and looking at the workload, I believe that the remuneration is not enough. I believe when we are paid 8 GHC per day, it will be sufficient considering the workload and other health implications of working at the site.

**Q: What is your overall opinion on the Bui project?**

**A:** My opinion is that, the Bui project is going to benefit the whole nation. A number of Ghanaian youth will be employed during and after completion of the dam and thereby reduce unemployment in the nation.

The only thing I will add is that, the government should come down to sit with the community so that the community will know exactly what is going on and also help in proper documentation of whatever is going on here.

## Notice Board

*The Ghana Dams Dialogue has launched its website.*

*Visit*

<http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>

*for all information concerning the group!!!!*



Source: <http://www.vra.com/Publications/PublicAdvice/publicadvice.html>

## Members of the National Coordinating Committee

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Dr. E. O. Bekoe	Water Research Institute	Senior Research Scientist
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Togbe Emmanuel Agbesi Kpakpa	Representative from the proposed Bui Hydro power Area	Chief of Battor
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Mr. S. A. Appenteng	Association of Ghana Industries	Member
Mr. Minta A. Aboagye	Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing	Director (Water)
Mr. Mike Anane	Ghana Journalists Association	Member
Torgbe Adom Drayi II	National Association of 52 VRA Resettlement Townships	Chairman
Mr. S. Ayeh-Dartey	Ministry of Energy	Deputy Director (Finance and Administration)
Mr. K. D. Bright Siayor	Volta River Authority	Manager, Project
Mr. Kwaku Sarpong Akosa	Bui Power Authority	Assistant Civil Engineer
-	Manya Krobo District Assembly	District Chief Executive



The intake of the Akosombo Dam



A guard poses at the entrance of the Bui National Park

**Workshop presentations and all other project outputs can be downloaded at <http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>**

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## Next Issue:

### Comments and suggestions:

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**Next Issue of the Newsletter will be available in June 2009**

