

# 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 2 - July, 2009

## From the Editorial Desk

This is the second publication of the Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter.

The newsletter will continue to provide updates on dam-related matters in Ghana, with a special focus on hydropower dams in the country, notably the Bui hydropower project.

In this edition of the Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter, you will hear from both people who have experienced the challenges of resettlement and those who will be experiencing this in reality. Can the latter hope to learn from the former?

Your contributions and experiences, including comments on issues discussed, are very welcome to enrich the newsletter.



Hope you enjoy this edition!

**Edmund Kyei Akoto-Danso**  
Editor  
Ghana Dams Dialogue  
Newsletter



Mr. Albert Sam (middle), Publication Affairs Manager of Graphic Communications Group Limited, briefing the delegation on processes at the design unit.

## Activities in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter of the Dialogue Process

### Delegation on Dams Dialogue pays visit to Graphic Communications Group

Members of the Coordinating Committee of the National Dialogue on Dams and Development in Ghana (NDDDG) called on the Editor of the *Daily Graphic*, Mr. Ransford Tetteh, to solicit support for their efforts to ensure the sustainable development of dams in Ghana.

Led by Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally, a senior researcher at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), the members of the committee briefed Mr. Tetteh and the News Editor of the *Daily Graphic*, Mr. Sam Okaitey, on the third phase of the Ghana Dams Dialogue process, which is funded by Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and which runs from January 2009 to December 2010.

Other members of the delegation were Mr. Richard Koranteng Twum Barima, the Executive Director of the Volta Basin Development Foundation; Nene Tetteh Amoako IV, the Chief of Natriku and representative of the Lower Volta Basin; and Dr. Emmanuel Bekoe, Senior Research Scientist at the Water Research Institute (WRI). Also present were Nana Kojo Wuo II, the Chief of Bui; Mr. Edmund Akoto-Danso, a Research Assistant at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), and Ms. Majja Hirvonen, a consultant to the programme.

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Dr. Raschid-Sally said the primary aim of the third phase of the dialogue was to build capacities and provide tools for improved decision-making in order to promote the equitable, transparent, participatory and sustainable development of dams in the country.

She said the NDDDG had identified the *Daily Graphic* as the key media house to collaborate with, and sought to know how issues on dams could be factored into the *Daily Graphic* Governance Dialogue series.

Mr. Tetteh said that the *Daily Graphic* was ready to support the NDDDG in its activities. He said that the *Daily Graphic* Governance Dialogue was held annually to bring issues of public concern to the attention of decision-makers to act on them to better the lives of the people. He said the next dialogue would be held in August or September this year. Mr. Tetteh called for a detailed write-up from the NDDDG, so that the newspaper could incorporate dam-related issues into their upcoming event.

Mr. Tetteh said that dams and their impact on communities were important issues that the NDDDG had taken up, and maintained that it was imperative that the nation learned lessons from the building of the Akosombo Dam in order to avoid past mistakes. He said he was aware that seven communities were affected by the construction of the Bui Dam, and sought to know how the organization was engaging with those communities

*Story reported as published in the Daily Graphic on Tuesday, May 21, 2009 by Mark-Anthony Vinorkor*

### The Dialogue Process undertakes Institutional Study

The Ghana Dams Dialogue is now well into its third phase. It finds itself in a position of being able to facilitate stronger networking among its members. In order to do so, however, it is necessary to obtain a better understanding of the decision-making processes that take place around large, multi-purpose dams in Ghana.

A number of administrative structures – most of which are represented in the Ghana Dams Dialogue – are involved in the development and maintenance of dams. Their activities are informed by an array of policies, laws and other instruments. In effect, a preliminary compilation of different legislation and other instruments indicates that over 80 such acts and policies may have an influence, closely or distantly, on decision-making processes and consequences pertaining to dams in Ghana. The Secretariat of the Ghana Dams Dialogue is undertaking an institutional analysis that will seek to map this complex terrain of structures and instruments. In doing so, it will look for synergies between activities and explore ways in which these can be brought to bear on the Dialogue process.

The institutional analysis will focus on two groupings of administrative structures – Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), and local level institutions. It will gather information on their roles and responsibilities; their partnerships; and their involvement in the Ghana Dams Dialogue or similar multi-stakeholder processes. On the basis of this information, the analysis will address questions such as:

- How do the structures contribute towards the development and maintenance of large, multi-purpose dams?
- What issues arising from the Ghana Dams Dialogue are the structures in a position to address?
- What is the role of the administrative structures in the Dialogue, and what is their level of influence?
- What networks do these structures participate in, and how might these further strengthen the Ghana Dams Dialogue?

- What capacities do they have to participate in platforms, such as the Ghana Dams Dialogue?

These insights will feed into a series of networking events that will take place among groups of Dialogue members during the third phase. These events will allow members to bolster their interactions beyond those that take place under the Dialogue. The ultimate aim is to ensure the sustainability of the inclusive and equitable deliberations that have begun to emerge under the Ghana Dams Dialogue.

*Ms. Maija Hirvonen (Consultant for the Study)*

### Ajena-Pese Community respond to shutdown of transformer



On March 11, 2009, the Secretariat of the Ghana Dams Dialogue was informed of an unfortunate development between Ajena and Pese communities (two of the 52 resettlement communities of the Akosombo Dam project) and the Volta River Authority (VRA), with the former planning to take to the streets of Akosombo and preventing workers of the VRA from performing their duties. Therefore, a delegation of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) of the Ghana Dams Dialogue went to Ajena on Friday, March 13, 2009, to plead with the people of Ajena and Pese to hold off on the planned demonstration, which was to take off on Monday, March 16, 2009. The NCC stepped in to intervene because all the parties concerned – the two communities and the Volta River Authority (VRA) - are part of the Ghana Dams Forum.

After reflection, the community decided to heed the advice of the NCC representatives, and put their demonstration on hold, but on the condition that the leadership of the communities will be able to meet with the VRA to iron out outstanding issues.

The Secretariat had discussions with Mr. Okaine of the VRA on facilitating the VRA-Ajena/Pese meeting, but the Regional Minister of the Eastern Region (Honorable Samuel Ofose Ampofo) intervened in the process and requested to meet with the communities to calm down the tension. However, the delay in setting up the meeting prompted the communities to go ahead with their demonstration at a later date (Monday, March 23, 2009) in a peaceful manner. *In the meantime, the NCC received a letter on March 20, 2009 from the Chief and people of Ajena, who expressed their profound gratitude to the NCC for visiting the community upon hearing of the situation. They also stated that, since they have not heard from the VRA, their planned demonstration had been rescheduled to March 23, 2009.*

When they finally met, the Minister proposed, among other things, a committee to be set up to look into the outstanding issues between the communities and the VRA and to find a lasting solution to the issues.

Enquiring from the community, the GDD Newsletter was able to uncover some of the issues that had led to the grievances of the communities. The VRA had established a new commercial center at Akosombo, which some community members felt had overtaken a once thriving market in Ajena. As a result, the communities had experienced economic losses. Others cited a long history of unfulfilled promises made by the authorities to the communities. In the past, the VRA had tried to interrupt services. However, their efforts had been blocked by the communities, which had prevented officers of the VRA from accessing the transformer premises. This time, VRA staff had managed to enter the premises, and had shut down the transformer. This affected not only the non-paying communities, but also those paying their bills and those connected to the same line. *For more details and historical background, please visit the GDD website (<http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org/>).*

The GDD newsletter will be following up on these issues and will update readers on the outcome...

*Richard Twum Koranteng*

### **The National Coordinating Committee held its 7<sup>th</sup> Meeting**

The 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NCC of the Ghana Dams Dialogue was held on Tuesday, May 19, 2009 at the Conference Room of the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Accra, Ghana. A total of 17 people attended the meeting which included 14 out of the 16 NCC members.

The meeting was informed of, and discussed, the repackaging of the institutional networking component of the project; past and upcoming events; as well as activities and issues regarding resettlement at the Bui Hydropower project area. With the presence of two officers from the Bui Power Authority (BPA) (Mr. Kwaku Sarpong Akosa, Assistant Civil Engineer, and member of the NCC, and Mr. Wumbilla Salifu, the Resettlement Officer), the NCC meeting was able to discuss issues concerning resettlement.

The chiefs of Bui and Battor, Nana Kwadwo Wuo II and Togbe Emmanuel Agbesi Kpakpa, respectively, informed members about a controversy over the resettlement process of the Bui Hydropower Project. They indicated that two of the three communities (Battor and Dokokyina) are undecided as to where they wish to be resettled. Those present at the meeting agreed that it would be helpful if the NCC could intervene to amicably settle the issue.

In order to attend to urgent issues that are brought to the attention of the Ghana Dams Dialogue, a five-member Action Team was formed. The members of this team included Togbe Adom Drayi II, Nene Tetteh Amoako IV, Dr. E. O. Bekoe, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally and Mr. Richard Koranteng.

Among other things, the meeting concluded that:

- The Secretariat, on behalf of the Forum, should prepare a position paper on the impasses between the VRA and Ajena/Pese. The Secretariat should follow up to see an end to the issue.
- There was an urgent need to intervene in the Battor/Dokokyina area on the issues of settlement.
- On the issues of livelihood, the Bui Power Authority and chiefs of Bui and Battor consider livelihoods, which they are already familiar with. It was further requested that the BPA pay a visit to Tropo Farms (cage fishing on the Volta Lake) to replicate this on the Bui River.

### **Action Team of the Ghana Dams Dialogue visit Bui for Mediation**

During the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NCC on May 22, 2009, the chiefs of Bui and Battor informed the Committee of a controversy over the resettlement process of the Bui Hydropower Project. Two of the three communities (Battor and Dokokyina) are undecided as to where they wish to be resettled. After a long deliberation on the issue during the meeting, a delegation was tasked to visit the Bui in order to interact with the communities and see how best the issues could be resolved. The delegation was led by Togbe Adom Drayi II (Chairman, National Association of the 52 VRA Resettlement Townships (NAVRART/52)); Mr. Benjamin D. Ofori (Volta Basin Research Project of the University Of Ghana); Nene Tetteh Amoako (Chief of Natriku of the Lower Volta Basin); Mr. Richard Koranteng Twum Barima (the Executive Director of the Volta Basin Development Foundation); and Mr. Edmund Kyei Akoto-Danso (a Research Assistant at the International Water Management Institute).

On May 25, 2009, the five selected representatives of the NCC embarked upon the assignment to visit the communities, and resolve the concerns raised by the two chiefs and the environment officer of BPA.

The team first called on the Resident Site Engineer of the BPA, Anthony Boye Osafo-Kissi, to brief him on the mission of the team and to get to know what has happened in the interim period. The NCC then met the two communities at Battor with the environmental officer of the Bui Power Authority (BPA), Mr. Wumbilla Salifu.

The community unanimously raised three issues that needed to be resolved: compensation, alternative livelihoods, and autonomy and landownership. The two communities expressed concerns about their main livelihood, and whether they would be able to continue practicing this form of livelihood should they be resettled. They also stated their wish for the government to acquire the area on which they will be resettled in order for them not to be treated as subjects or tenants.

The Environmental Officer assured the communities that steps are being taken to measure the accurate acreage of land that each person is entitled to. The NCC urged the BPA—via the Environmental Officer—to value farmlands as soon as possible prior to inundation. Finally, the meeting recommended a five-member committee (including women) to consider the various livelihood options that the communities want, and submit these details to the Environmental Officer for further action.

After these assurances, the communities were asked where they want to be resettled. Speaking on behalf of the two communities, the Chief of Battor – Togbe Emmanuel Agbesi Kpakpa – informed the meeting that, having considered all the issues, both communities have agreed to be settled alongside the Bui Community in the Bui City. They assured the meeting of their current stand by reading a draft letter to that effect.

## **Notice Board**

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

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of Dam-affected Communities is tentatively scheduled for **July 16-17, 2009 in Akosombo.**
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ghana Dams Forum is scheduled for **September 2009.**

## Straight Talk with Joseph Amardi-Ajena



Joseph Amardi

as a Chain Boy and was promoted to a Survey Assistant. I also worked with the Kpong Project for a short while.

### Give us some details about yourself?

I'm called Joseph Amardi, the "Mratehene Sepi" of Pese – thus, the head of the youth leaders of Ajena-Pese. I'm 65 years old. I am currently a farmer. During the initial processes of construction of the Akosombo Hydropower Dam, I worked for Halcrow and Partners as a Survey Laborer in the late 1950s. Later, I joined Kaiser Engineers and Constructors, Inc.,

### You are a long time resident of the community and familiar with the history of the Akosombo Dam. Please give me some details.

The current location of the Akosombo Dam used to be called "Old Ajena". This is where I was born and where I lived until the resettlement. The community had about 400 households and the main profession was fishing, whilst others used to farm.

From what I know, I remember that the government at the time - led by Dr. Kwame Nkrumah - sent a representative to make a request to the Chief of Ajena about the potential of the location for construction of a hydropower dam and other related operations.

When the community was informed, we were very happy to hear that our environment could benefit the entire nation and, therefore, gladly accepted. Above all, numerous promises were made to us. Some of the promises included a nice resettlement package comprising improved buildings with bathroom and kitchen, school, police station, community center, roads and other facilities for the community. We were also consulted about where we wanted to resettle and we indicated this current place ('New' Ajena). Fortunately, this area was already our own land.

Soon after accepting the package, we were informed to resettle to the new location – "New Ajena". Contrary to their promises, what we came to meet at the "New Ajena" was an eyesore. Each household was given one room regardless of the number of persons in the family. Personally, I had six rooms in my former house, but as I said, I only got one room.

### What is your overall opinion on the benefits of the Akosombo Dam to your community?

I believe we were unfairly treated. The promises were not fulfilled. For example, at "Old Ajena", in addition to fishing, we had a fertile land for our farmers. When we were resettled, we were given lands on a state farm at Gyakiti (a neighboring community). However, because the government did not properly acquire the land, it was taken back by the community. Currently, if you need to farm, you need to personally have some arrangement with the landowners.

These problems have persisted over a long period of time with numerous complaints made to different governments which have come and gone, and almost all the time we hear the same message: "we are working on it".

### Were you involved in any way in the construction of the Akosombo Dam?

Yes, apart from working for Halcrow and Partners and Kaiser Engineers, I was also involved in the clearing and weeding of the area for construction of the dam.

### How was your community's relationship with surrounding communities?

The immediate surrounding communities are Gyakiti and Adumasa. We have had a cordial relationship with these communities.

The only problem, as I indicated earlier, is with the people of Gyakiti. As a result of non-payment of compensation by the government, our farmlands were forcibly taken away from us. In some situations, the people used this as an excuse to loot our already-established farms and to takeover production in them.

The VRA was aware of the problem very clearly, but nothing has been done about it. Currently, there are some building developments on the proposed state farm that has been acquired for the resettlement of our community.

Personally, I do not know how we can resolve these long-standing problems that we have encountered from our resettlement. I am saying this because, almost whoever matters - up to the level of governments - is aware, but they have not helped in finding a solution to the problem.

### In your own view, what changes has the dam brought to your community as a whole?

Changes as a result of the dam are numerous, but personally, and also considering my community – New Ajena, I will say that the dam has done us more harm than good. On the positive side, I can say that we currently have a clinic and also a source of electricity, which were absent in our former place, but both services came in late. I can also say that we have a senior high school, but I cannot attribute all these factors to construction of the dam, since it is not the VRA who built it for us.

On the other hand, we have lost a lot! I remember that we had fertile land. I also remember when I was a child during the rainy season, we could get some minerals from the runoff– I guess it was a diamond. Our land was really rich!

### What were some of the expectations the community had before the construction of the Akosombo Dam and have these expectations been met 40 years after the Akosombo Dam project?

The entire community was in anticipation over the possibility of improved facilities for them during and after construction of the Akosombo Dam. Personally, from the information that I got during the consultation for the dam development, I was expecting that my community would have been well developed with good schools, water provision, better roads, accessibility to jobs, and also royalties to the community.

For now, I do not know when the community will have these facilities or royalties that are due to us.

### Do you have any advice for the communities that will be resettled as a result of the Bui hydropower project?

I have two pieces of advice: First, they should have proper documentation of any agreement that they enter into. Second, they should not be blinded by the glaring promises of the government. These promises should be documented before they allow the government to execute the development.

### How are you involved (get information) in the Ghana Dams Dialogue process?

A delegation from the Ghana Dams Dialogue has visited us a number of times. Our Queen Mother, who has attended a number of meetings on the Dialogue, has also informed us of some of the activities of the group. The last instance was their intervention in our proposed demonstration against the VRA.

## Voice of the land

### Can you tell me something about yourself?

My name is Maxwell Gbadago. I'm a fisherman, and I also trap animals for zoos and for export. However, I love fishing the most out of all my jobs. I am from Tafle in the Volta Region but have been in Bui for the past 22 years.



Maxwell Gbadago

### What changes could the dam bring to your community as a whole?

I know the dam will bring changes (both good and bad) to my community. What I have noticed from the people who have been resettled as a result of the dam is that - they lose their jobs. Since most of the people in my community are fishers, and since that has been the main source of their livelihoods to help us provide for our children, I can see that things will really be bad for us. Our meetings with the Bui Power Authority do not give us any hope for the future. Besides that, if they can prepare the resettlement well, I am sure everything will work out fine. I also know that when the dam comes we will be affected by diseases such as bilharzia and malaria.

On the positive side, I believe the dam is good for Ghana. The dam will provide more electricity for the development of the nation.

### What can you say about the participation of your community members in the project?

Participation is low. It is not easy for some of the people to be employed. First they said that employment will depend on qualifications, but I believe that there is work as laborers which I think most of my people can do.

### In what way have you been involved in the dam project and what can you say about your involvement in the project?

You know, when the dam comes, we are going to lose a wide area of the National Park. As a result of that and knowing the effect it will have on the hippopotamuses in the area, I have had a number of encounters with officers in charge of resettlement who also linked me up with the wildlife officers at Bui and also with some officers from the Environmental Protection Agency. Even though my intentions for the numerous meetings on the above issues had not materialized due to bureaucratic processes, I believe proper consideration will be taken in trying to resettle the hippopotamuses so that we don't lose all of them.

### How well do you know the hippopotamus?

Even though I have no scientific knowledge about them, my daily encounter with them while fishing in the area gives me a more in-depth knowledge about the hippopotamuses in our area at least.

### How are you involved (get information) in the Ghana Dams Dialogue process?

It was in the last 2 years that the Ghana Dams Dialogue—with the help of GTZ—took us to some resettlement communities of the Akosombo and Kpong dams. I also attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Forum that was held in Accra in February, 2008.

### What can you say about the dialogue process?

The process is encouraging. The only problem I have is with our leadership - I believe by now, they should have done something better. It looks like if the Ghana Dams Dialogue had not come, we couldn't have done anything. As it was indicated during the meeting yesterday with members of the NCC, they are just opening our eyes, and it depends on us now to move in the right direction and act properly.

### Who could represent your community in the planning process and negotiate on its behalf?

I believe the chief of my community can represent us as a community. Also I think Nana Kwadjo Wunn of Bui can lead the entire resettlement communities. To avoid conflict and problems, I personally think he is the right person to lead us. It is left with him to build himself actively to lead us through this difficult period.

### Have your expectations been met after the completion of the first phase of the project?

Not at all ... I was expecting to see the resettlement communities in nice houses. Also, after losing their livelihoods, I was expecting the Bui Power Authority to be taking good care of them, but what am I seeing? The money they are giving them cannot cater for most of the resettled communities' household heads, especially considering if they are to use the same money (GHC 100) to take care of their entire households.

### What would have been a good package for you?

For me, I have a household of nine persons out of which five are schooling. I spend more than GHC 700 per month which means the compensation package would not be able to do much. I think, at least, GHC 150 per person per month would be sufficient for an average family. Above all, it is not easy to resettle somebody and for a person to establish themselves within a year – the compensation package scheduled for one year should be reconsidered for about two years.

### What is your overall opinion on the Bui project?

I am convinced that the Bui project is good for the nation, but I think a lot of issues have to be reconsidered thoroughly. For example,

- the timber in the reserves should serve as a resource rather than a curse as it happens in some areas in the Volta Lake; and
- the situation of the hippopotamuses is very crucial – resettlement plans should be set in a way to prevent losing them.

Lastly, I entreat the government to look at the resettlement process very clearly so as to prevent future conflicts.

## Pictorial Report of 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Activities



The Chief of Bui (Nana Kwadwo Wuol II) making a point during the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the NCC.



Delegation of the NCC pays a visit to Graphic Communications Group Ltd. Seated at the head of the table is (Mr. Ransford Tetteh) the Editor of the Daily Graphic.



A community member expressing herself during a meeting with the delegation sent by the NCC.



Mr. B. D. Ofori; Nene Tetteh Amoako IV; and Togbe Adom Drayi II at Battor.



The Action Team of the NCC meets with the people of the Battor and Dokokyina communities.



The Action Team of the NCC meets with the people of the Battor and Dokokyina communities. Seated in the middle is the Chief of Battor.



Members of Battor and Dokokyina ardently listening during the resolution meeting.



Members of Battor and Dokokyina ardently listening during the resolution meeting.

## Other Issues

### Profile of Members of the NCC (Part 1)

**Name:** Nene Tetteh Amoako IV

**Profession:** Natriku Chief (Osudoku Traditional Area)

**Position:** Civil Servant/Farmer

**Short message:** Dam Forums have made me abreast with the advantages and disadvantages of dams and its effects on people. Keep it up.



**Name:** Togbe Adom Drayi II

**Profession:** Trade Unionist

**Position:** Chairman, NAVRART/52 and Head, Organization Department Ghana Trade Union Council.

**Profile:** Postgraduate Diploma – Organization Development (UCC) and Master of Arts Student - Organization Development (UCC).



**Short message:** The Dam fora have been extremely productive. The platform presented by the fora have not only been used to discuss the development challenges associated with the Akosombo and Kpong dams, but have also provided the opportunity to generate fresh ideas to influence the Bui Hydropower Project in a positive manner. The Dams Forum seems to be the only body that is bringing all the stakeholders together to engage in a discussion on the impact of Dams in Ghana. The communities to be affected by the Bui Project do not seem to have the capacity and voice to effectively put across their fears and concerns about the negative impacts that the Bui project may have on them. If the Dams Forum is sustained, it will fulfill the obligation of providing public awareness on the socioeconomic implications of Dams in Ghana.

**Name:** Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally

**Profession:** Environmental Engineering

**Position:** Senior Researcher, International Water Management Institute.

**Profile:** Liqa Raschid-Sally has more than 20 years of varied work experience after her PhD in Urban Planning and Pollution Control, Environmental Assessments and Natural Resource Management; and capacity building in the water supply and sanitation sector. She has also served on the Steering Committee of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Dams and Development Project, from 2003 to 2005.

**Short message:** The Dams Dialogue in Ghana is distinctive in that stakeholders with divergent perspectives are able to gather around a table and talk through problems. How do you explain this? Are Ghanaians peaceful by nature? They are passionate about issues, but seem willing to listen. Given this climate, the Government of Ghana has a unique opportunity now to utilize the ongoing Bui Dam Project as a showcase for good environmental and social practices in dam planning.



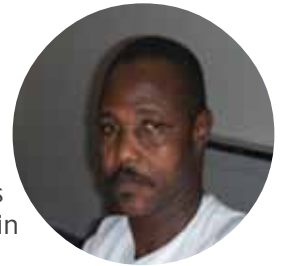
**Name:** K. D. Bright Siayor

**Profession:** Civil Engineer

**Position:** Manager, Project Management, Volta River Authority.

**Profile:** Masters in Business Administration (Finance), Diploma in Hydropower Development

**Short message:** The Dams Forum has actually served as a platform for effective dialogue between the dam-affected people and the project implementers. Hope the forum will be sustainable.



**Name:** Dr. E. O. Bekoe

**Profession:** Hydrologist/Water Resources Engineer

**Position:** Research Scientist

**Profile:** PhD. in Water and Environment, MSc. in Soil and Water Engineering, and BSc. in Agricultural Engineering.

**Short message:** The Dams Forum has been very fruitful and successful.



**Name:** Torgbe Kpakpa Agbesi II

**Profession:** Teaching

**Position:** Training Officer

**Short message:** This Forum has come at the right time and I am extremely grateful to GTZ (the donors), and IWMI (the organizers of such a forum). I hope that the Forum continues to enable the affected communities to come out from their ignorance and acquire the necessary benefits from such big projects as a dam.



Continued on page 8 ►

## Notice Board

**The Ghana Dams Dialogue has launched its website.**

**Visit**

<http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>

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

**Name:** Mike Anane

**Profession:** Environmental Journalist

**Position:** Coordinator – Foodfirst Information and Action Network (FIAN-Ghana), and President of the League of Environmental Journalists.



**Name:** Bob Alfa

**Profession:** Engineer

**Position:** Water Resources Engineer

**Profile:** Bob Alfa is a Water Resources Engineer with over 8 years working experience in water resources management and development. He has specialized in distributed hydrological modeling, especially with the applications of physically-based numerical models in the characterizations of hydrological processes. He is the coordinator of the development of the National Dam Safety Unit (NDSU) project being implemented by the Water Resources Commission. He is also a member of the energy sitting committee at the Energy Commission.



**Short message:** The National Dialogue for Dams provides a platform for the unfortunate communities, who have been adversely affected by the construction and operations of large dams, to voice their concerns and ensure that the development of large dams takes on board sound environmental and social practices to minimize the impacts of dams on the environment and neighboring communities.

**Disclaimer!!!**

*The opinions expressed in the interview section of this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editors or that of the Secretariat of the Ghana Dams Dialogue. The Editor will not be held liable for any errors, mistakes, misprints or incorrect information.*

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## Who will hear the cries of the Bui Hippos? Part 1

### My Personal View!

The hippos in Bui National Park belong to a unique species that cannot be found elsewhere in the world. As we all know, they are an endangered species. After coverage of the dam inundation, they will be forced to migrate upstream, where it is too rocky for them to live. They will, therefore, follow the shallow water to the borders of Ghana and settle within neighboring countries, where there is no protection. They will no longer be part of our country. They will move to Ntereso near the Ghana/Ivory Coast international border, where they will also spread to the boundaries of Burkina Faso.



To avoid losing them and potentially further endangering their lives, I propose that we resettle them downstream of the dam where there is an ideal habitat for them to live. Hippos will not settle in rocky waters, as they are naturally suited to sandy rivers.

Surely, for the sake of our country, it would be better to resettle them downstream than lose them to neighboring countries? I am seriously pleading with all the authorities of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), the Bui Power Authority, and opinion leaders across the nation to help save this precious species, which is seriously endangered due to construction of the Bui Dam.

Hippos in Ghana are a key tourist attraction, and preserving them will demonstrate our maturity and the experience that we have on the nature of our country. People come from all over the world to appreciate Ghana's natural beauty. I have researched similar situations in other countries, where entire species have been wiped-out or moved away due to man's intervention. Whilst I accept that the construction of the Dam will be hugely beneficial to us, I plead that we reach a compromise and help to protect this invaluable endangered species.

Please help us to preserve this fundamental Ghanaian tourist attraction and to aid the survival of this globally protected and severely endangered species.

Maxwell Gbadago  
Bui

### Comments and suggestions:

Please forward your comments and suggestions to:

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