

Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter

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

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Welcome Message

The National Coordinating Committee (NCC) of the Ghana Dams Dialogue (GDD) has been quite active during the first half of 2010. Activities undertaken during this period included the 9th meeting of the NCC, networking meetings with key financial and non-financial institutions, courtesy calls on some government ministries and an exit strategy meeting. All these meetings were to plan and strategize for the future of the Dialogue process, as its third phase comes to an end.

I wish to acknowledge the warm reception accorded to the Dialogue by the ministers of Environment, Science and Technology; Lands and Natural Resources; and Local Government and Rural Development during our courtesy calls on them during the period under review. We are also extremely grateful for the useful suggestions made during these visits particularly those pertaining to the institutional framework and future activities of the GDD.

Thus far, the GDD has made significant progress in diverse ways to bring to the fore key concerns on dam-related issues. What remains to be done is for relevant state institutions to develop appropriate strategies to resolve these concerns. In the ensuing months, the GDD will have to confront the question of how to get the public authorities more involved and committed to its activities so that conclusions of stakeholders will be implemented to yield tangible results. It is, therefore, expected that stakeholders

will continue making contributions that will help the Dialogue achieve its objectives.



Togbe Adom Drayi II,
Chairman, National Association of the 52 Volta River Authority Resettlement Townships (NAVRART-52)

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Activities of the Dialogue Process in the First and Second Quarters of 2010

The National Coordinating Committee held its Ninth Meeting

The Ninth meeting of the NCC of the GDD was held on March 29, 2010, at the International Water Management Institute (IWMI) in Accra, Ghana. Twelve members attended the meeting to discuss past and upcoming activities of the Dialogue process.

During the meeting, members were briefed on the Third Ghana Dams Forum and the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum (HSAF) consultations, which took place in October, 2009. It was noted that the Third Ghana Dams Forum had been successful. Proceedings of the forum along with other process documentation are available online at ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org.

Mr. Richard Twum Koranteng reminded members of the NCC of the Dialogue's intention to hold networking meetings with each of its seven institutional groups. The first of these meetings was held with the Dam-Affected Communities (DACs) back-to-back

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with the first annual meeting of DACs at Akuse. The subsequent networking meeting was planned to be held between key International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Non-Financial Institutions (NFIs) to focus on the integration of DACs into the decentralized administrative structure in Ghana. Attendees at the meeting agreed that the DACs could not be left to fend for themselves. Representatives of the Volta River Authority (VRA) Resettlement Trust Fund had noted that the institution would explore whether it could extend its activities to the resettled communities in Kpong and Bui.

Another important issue discussed during the Ninth NCC meeting was the organizing of a workshop to discuss the exit strategy. Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally outlined the proposed objectives of the workshop: to review the current strategy and activities of the Dialogue; to develop ideas, scenarios and other ways of envisioning the future direction of the Dialogue; and to develop steps and activities to ensure a seamless transition. A one-year transition period was proposed.

Members were finally updated on the planned livelihoods study at Bui Hydropower Dam resettlement area which had been put on hold because the GDD was awaiting feedback from the Bui Power Authority (BPA) on their activities regarding livelihoods for the displaced communities. Members agreed that the study could not be delayed any further, and since the Centre for Settlement Studies of the College of Architecture and Planning, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST), had already made some initial efforts on the subject, the best way to proceed would be to continue to interact with KNUST to develop the study further. To this effect, the BPA would be informed of the progress.

For complete minutes of the meeting, visit the Ghana Dams Dialogue website (ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org).

Institutional Networking Meetings with International Financial and Non-Financial Institutions

On May 11, 2010, the NCC of the GDD brought together key IFIs and NFIs based in Ghana. The objective of the meeting was to identify issues concerning the integration of DACs in Ghana into the decentralized government system. The capacity and resource needs of the different stakeholder groups, who are foreseen as being part of such a process, were also discussed.

Despite several of the invited institutions having confirmed their participation, attendance at the meeting from the IFIs and NFIs was poor. Several factors may explain the low turnout. Although many of the invited IFIs and NFIs had been a part of the World Commission on Dams (WCD), and are involved in dam-related activities in other countries, they are not active in the dams sector in Ghana. Moreover, the issues that the Dialogue had planned to raise with the IFIs and NFIs go beyond dams, and pertain to broader questions around civic participation in governance, local government capacities, basic service provision and others. Although the Dialogue attempted to convey the crosscutting nature of the concerns that would be addressed, the message appears not to have been received by the invited institutions.

The meeting began with presentations from the Secretariat of the NCC. The first presentation provided a brief background to the GDD while the second focused on capacity building of DACs. The final presentation of the day was given by Ms. Patience Asem from the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund. Her presentation provided an outline of, and the rationale for, the activities of the Trust Fund and

some of the challenges that it is facing in realizing its objectives. At the end of the presentations, the panel was open for comments and questions from the audience.

At the end of the meeting, participants agreed that a key component of any 'way forward' would have to be a sensitization framework or plan. One of the representatives of the VRA, Ms. Rhoda Arthur, noted that the VRA had contracted a consultant to draw up an environmental management plan, which also addressed the social dimensions of the Akosombo and Kpong dams. The intention was to produce a legally binding document on correcting the social ills that resulted from the construction of the dams. The study built on extensive consultations with communities and district assemblies. The Secretariat of the NCC, participants from the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ) GmbH and the Local Government Studies will, in turn, draft a strategy for the sensitization process.

Nene Tetteh Amoako IV requested a response concerning the extension of the mandate of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund to DACs of the Kpong Dam. Ms. Patience Asem from the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund indicated that the Trust Fund had been established for the 52 communities that had been resettled as a result of the construction of the Akosombo Dam. She recognized the injustice of this approach and stated that the situation could only be corrected by the VRA, and not by the Trust Fund. Ms. Rhoda Arthur added that the issue would be communicated to the appropriate office.

By way of conclusion, participants of the meeting urged the upcoming livelihood study at Bui to examine alternative livelihood strategies, and to develop these together with the communities. GTZ and World Wildlife Fund (WWF) expressed their interest in participating in the development and implementation of the sensitization framework by providing technical support. Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh of the Lower Manya Krobo District Assembly also vouched the support of his district assembly to the process.

Courtesy Visits to Key Ministries

The GDD process has witnessed a change in the government during the lifetime of the project. As a result, the Dialogue has had to introduce itself to new high-level appointees in order to secure their commitment for sustaining the momentum built-up by the GDD. As part of these efforts, the Action Team of the NCC paid courtesy calls on some key ministries. To date, the Dialogue has interacted with the ministries of Environment, Science and Technology; Lands and Natural Resources; and Local Government and Rural Development.

In each instance, the ministers gladly received the team and vouched their support for the process. One key output of these visits was advice given by the three ministers concerning the institutionalization of the Dialogue process in Ghana. Even though the individual ministers recommended different approaches, the Action Team acknowledges the value of all these recommendations which will feed into the exit strategy.

Secretariat Visit to Affected Communities of the Bui Hydropower Project

On the 17th and 18th of June, 2010, Richard Twum Barimah Koranteng and Edmund Kyei Akoto-Danso from the GDD Secretariat visited the DACs and notable local figures in the Bui area. The team was accompanied by Stephen Tuozzolo, a student from Princeton University in the United States, who is assisting the



A golden chance for all. Children of DACs of the Bui Dam presented with books and a football.

Secretariat in evaluating some of the communication material of the Dialogue process. The team first visited Hon. Jones Samuel Tawiah, the District Chief Executive (DCE) of the Tain District of the Brong Ahafo region of Ghana. The meeting, which took place in Wenchi, was also attended by the Municipal Chief Executive of the Wenchi Municipal Assembly, Hon. Yaw Osei Agyei. The Secretariat was warmly welcomed. The chief executives expressed a strong interest in getting involved with the Dialogue, given the importance of the Bui Dam to the district. The Secretariat promised to enroll both chief executives in the process. The Secretariat then visited the Education Office of the Tain District to meet with Mr. Francis Dongbetigr, the Director of Education. The objective of the visit was to introduce the Secretariat to the Director by the Chiefs of Bui (Nana Kwadwo Wui II) and Akainyakrom (Togbe E. Agbesi Kpakpa), who are members of the NCC and are also staff of the Education Office.

Along with the two chiefs, a visit was then made to Akainyakrom, one of the villages that will be resettled as a result of the construction of the Bui Dam. The Secretariat met with members of the community to hear their concerns and comments about the resettlement process. The community members were given refreshments and a visit was then made to the school, where the Secretariat presented every child in the community with a football and exercise books in the presence of their parents. They were advised to use the exercise books in school, whilst those who were not of a school-going age yet were encouraged to keep the exercise books until they start school.

A similar visit was made to the Jama Resettlement, where there was a meeting with the community and the chief of the host community, Nana Kojo Pambo II. The Secretariat spoke with the community members about the process and then listened as they explained their resettlement experiences. The Secretariat acknowledged that there were problems with the establishment of the new community and emphasized the importance of presenting those problems to the Bui Power Authority. As in the case of Akainyakrom, the community was presented with refreshments, a football, and workbooks for the schoolchildren.

The Secretariat then made a brief visit to see the resettlement site for the three remaining communities of the Bui Project which is under construction. At the end of the day, the Secretariat met with the Bui and Dokokyina communities, presenting them with refreshments, footballs and exercise books. A projector was brought in to show a video of the first annual meeting held with DACs in Ghana. Many of the community members stayed to watch the video, which helped to show some of the activities of the GDD. The visit to the Bui area helped the Secretariat to gain a better understanding of the current status of the resettlement process and the conditions, while giving the affected communities a chance to discuss their concerns about resettlement.

Exit Strategy Meeting

As phase three comes to an end, the NCC felt that the future of the GDD was not clear, and an exit strategy needed to be developed. It is against this backdrop that the Secretariat, the NCC and GTZ organized a Strategy Workshop to elaborate perspectives of the GDD, which will result in an exit strategy. The objectives of this workshop were to develop a shared understanding amongst the NCC of the GDD process, from inception until the present stage; define and establish a consensual basis for continuing the Dialogue process in the future; and design the mechanism (structure(s), roles and responsibilities) for institutionalization; and the action plan for the way forward.



Ms. Majja Hirvonen leading the research group during the Exit Strategy Workshop.

The methodology used for the workshop was based on principles of the Gestalt Approach to organization development, which engages the whole group by heightening awareness to all that is in the past, in the here and now, and in the future. The process focused not only on contributions from participants as individuals representing their organizations, but also as the NCC and its support Secretariat.

Notice Board

Important dates to remember in 2010

- July 30, 2010** - *Second annual meeting for Dam-Affected Communities*
- September 21, 2010** - *Tour with representatives of the media*
- October 12, 2010** - *Fourth Ghana Dams Forum*

Participants to the workshop agreed that the GDD had become a very crucial platform that must continue its work beyond December 2010; they were all willing to partner in the next stage of Dialogue process. Participants were asked what was most figural for them in terms of the GDD experience. Participants suggested various key features, which were condensed into a one-line statement and defined what the GDD meant for them. This became: "DIALOGUE LEADING TO TRUST AND IMPROVED GOVERNANCE."

The group resolved that:

- The GDD Secretariat, assisted by the existing Action Team (with Ms. Patience Asem as a co-opted member), shall be responsible for development of the future Action Plan for the GDD;

- The draft proposal of the Action Plan should be circulated to members of the NCC by July 15, 2010; and
- Based on their inputs and suggestions, the GDD Action Plan will be finalized and the next steps initiated.

In their closing statements, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally and Ms. Cathleen Seeger (GTZ) acknowledged the wonderful efforts put in by the stakeholders of the GDD. They hoped that the stakeholders will continue to invest time and effort to make the GDD not just a success in Ghana, but be an example to the whole world. On behalf of the GTZ, Ms. Seeger expressed her satisfaction with the achievements made in the current phase of the GDD and observed that even though no decision had been taken by GTZ for continuing the funding support beyond December 2010, the process will definitely attract other donors and funding agencies as it is a unique example in the continent.

My Thoughts on the Communications Products of the GDD



Stephen Tuozzolo, Intern, Ghana Dams Dialogue

Stephen Tuozzolo was an intern at IWMI this summer and was tasked with evaluating the communications output of the GDD under the assistance of Dr. Prue Loney, IWMI's Science Communicator. An environmental engineering student entering his third year at Princeton University in New Jersey, USA, Stephen spent eight weeks assessing the GDD Forum meetings, newsletters and website.

It is important to first thank those who agreed to meet with me and provide feedback. Your time was greatly appreciated and meeting such a diverse group of people was a wonderful experience. After meeting many people involved with this project, I found myself pleasantly surprised at the effect and popularity of the GDD. From resettled people from Bui, Kpong, and Akosombo, to various government officials, to research scientists, the Dialogue reaches a diverse and fascinating array of individuals throughout the entire country, and participants are very satisfied with its work.

Communication is critical for the success of the GDD, and outputs like the Ghana Dams forums, newsletter and website are important components of this platform. While the Forum serves its purpose on an annual basis, this newsletter, as well as the website

(<http://ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org>) should provide relevant and up-to-date information year-round.

The survey and evaluation that I completed indicated that the communications outputs could be improved. The main way that I've identified to improve these products is to widen their distribution and increase their usefulness to the user. This newsletter is an important way of sharing information about the Dialogue, especially for those without internet access. With that in mind, I recommended that the content of the newsletter be made more user-friendly and that the distribution of the newsletter be expanded. Suggestions for user-friendliness included bringing in outside voices for columns, making the text more readable, and keeping the information up-to-date. Broadening the reach of the newsletter involves sending more people the electronic version while also considering new ways of sending out printed copies of the newsletter.

Additionally, the website seems to be a very underutilized resource! It contains reports, proceedings, and news about the Dialogue, and I would encourage those with internet access to take a look! Those who participated in my survey had many more excellent recommendations for improving the communications of the GDD, which have been included in my report and presentation, and were submitted to the GDD Secretariat.

If you have any suggestions for improving the newsletters or other GDD communications products, please contact the GDD Secretariat. Constant feedback will encourage the improvement of these products and events organized by the GDD. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Ghana and would like to thank every one of you for welcoming me to Ghana and the GDD!

Notice Board

Visit ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org for all information concerning the group!!!!

Straight Talk with the Chief of Bui, Nana Kwadwo Wuo II



Nana Kwadwo Wuo II, Chief of Bui

Nana Kwadwo II is the Chief of Bui. He is married with four children and currently works at the Tain Education Office where he serves as deputy director. He holds a bachelor of education degree and primary education from the University of Cape Coast, Ghana.

How has the environment changed since the commencement of the project?

Rocks and trees are being cleared to pave the way for the project. They have said that the project cannot commence without these being cleared.

Are you saying that there is a lot of deforestation?

Around the project site, some trees have been cleared. The trees are valuable, because they help to fertilize the place. It has also opened up that area, as the trees served as windbreaks.

What has been the participation of the community in the project?

After commencement of the project, it took some time. Normally, whenever they want to do something, they bring their community relations officer, and every week he comes here which is a little bit encouraging. When only the Chinese were here, they tell you to go and see your government when you have a problem.

If the community relations officer comes here every week, what does he normally do?

Well, if we have problems, we can tell him and then we can also find out if they have any news for us.

Is that the only form of participation? Have people in the community been involved?

One problem we've been having is that we don't have skilled labor. The majority of the community members are employed in unskilled jobs. They are employed as masons, laborers, etc. The project is employing the majority of our people. We told them that they have to get our people involved in the project, and they agreed.

Before construction of the dam, what were your expectations?

The gorge was discovered in 1925, and since then, previous governments have come and gone. In the seventies, they got to a certain stage and stopped. So, the progress of this dam has been through several governments. It was around 2006 or so when we heard that the government was trying to get financiers to finance the project.

Our expectation was that if the government at the time actually meant business, then they would construct the dam. If the government saw the need for a dam and felt that it was a resource to the country then they had every right to proceed. We felt that we couldn't stand in the way of the government. The decision [to build the dam] had already been taken before we grew up, so we couldn't oppose it because it was something we came to accept.

Have your expectations for development and improvement been met?

Well, as you see, our people here are just peasant farmers. We are seeing that, at least now, they have some jobs. We've also seen that the road is being cleared. These are all testimonies. We also saw that outside the completion of the dam, a lot of people were interested in coming here now. They have seen that, very soon, life here will change.

What do you expect from the BPA?

I want them to do quality work. What I want to say is that we are now in the twenty-first century, and we have a lot of technological advancement. If you get to Akosombo and you look at their buildings, and where they stay, it is an eyesore. If you go to Akosombo, the youth have gone to the big cities, and why? They have not had any livelihood empowerment. They don't even have good roads. We are trying to get the BPA to do things and make changes in the area to meet the current standards of the time.

The bottom line is poverty. What we are saying is that people should be better-off than they are now. Because if you get to the DACs (from Kpong and Akosombo) and you look at the life of the people there, they are in abject poverty.

Do you think that Bui as a community, and you as Chief, can contribute to the city you are going to live in?

A week ago, they brought us a design of the buildings they are going to create. So, I also brought a building expert and he made the necessary corrections. We didn't end it there. We went to the site, made them bring up the plan and requested to see the plan. From there, we sent tape measures to find out whether the measurements were the same as those on paper. The measurements were correct as stated on the plan. We continue to monitor what they are doing, since we are going to be the beneficiaries.

Were you satisfied?

Yes, because one thing is, I had information from my people that the buildings were smaller. So, because of that I had to organize this meeting. But when we went and saw the work, we were all happy and felt it was good.

You are in the process of resettlement. Which aspect of resettlement is the most difficult?

You can have psychological trauma. We are living in a place where our grandfathers have stayed since the seventeenth century, and all of a sudden they are moving us to another site. It will take some time to overcome this move. Our cultures will change. There will be an influx of people. We are going to stay with new people.

Losing your ancestral home - you cannot replace it. In terms of culture, a man is born and everything is dynamic, so there should be a change. But there is no amount of compensation that can be paid for land. Land is something that not everyone can afford. Look at the land we are going to lose. The government is saying that we will be compensated. For how long will that money last? This land that is going to be taken over, we can never get it again.

When are you expected to leave?

They say that the project will be completed by December.

Have you been informed of any form of compensation?

Yes, we have been informed of three types of compensation – crops, land and buildings. If you have a building, you get a living room with a kitchen, toilet and bath.

Has there been a grant?

Yes, the same GHC 100, which they gave to the Jama Resettlement. But I have told them that they should take inflation into consideration when deciding on the amount of compensation.

The Jama resettlement was told that the GHC 100 per month was for two years. Later, they learned that there was not enough money for such an amount of compensation, and stated that they would only get GHC 100 per month for one year. What are you expecting?

They wrote to us, they said we should get one year. We want to get two years. GHC 100 is not enough – we said they should work on the rate within the prevailing economic situation of the country. There should be an upwards adjustment.

It is not sufficient, but you see, it is a dialogue. We meet, we suggest a figure, we bargain, we come to an agreement, and then it works. We know their limit and they should not take us for granted. We were bargaining that, if anything, they should give us GHC 250 per month, and that would satisfy me.

What can you say about the Dialogue process?

It has been very encouraging and very helpful.

When you visit Jama, what would you like to see differently in Bui City?

In Jama, they are saying that their lands are not fertile and that they are not having money. What we'd like to change is that if the same thing happens here, there should be some sort of livelihood empowerment. They can give them some fish ponds and it can serve us for fish-farming. This can bring some sort of livelihood.

They were also talking about the infertility of the land. What should be done is, getting some sort of agricultural extension officers to train the farmers, so that they can learn better ways of farming.

Has the BPA addressed livelihood empowerment?

They brought some NGOs here sometime ago with some questionnaires to bring to the community members. We have not heard from them since. We are saying that they should not only construct the dam, but they should think about the people. The dam is for the people.

Can you say “so far so good” with regards to this process?

Yes. We know that there is no 100% perfection. If the problems are minimized, then there is some achievement. There is still room for improvement.

The Dialogue should also be sustained, because we are seeing that the achievements that we are making here, much is owed to the Dialogue process. The Dialogue is helping us to know our rights and to insist on these rights, so at least you are not going to be ignorant about anything. If people know their rights, then there is some sort of development.

Voice of the Land – Torgbaja Michael Recounts a Difficult Two-Year Experience as a Member of a Resettled Community



Nana Kwadwo Wuo II, Chief of Bui

The GDD Newsletter interviewed Torgbaja Michael, who is the leader of the four communities resettled in the Jama area. The four communities are Dam Site, Brehodi, Agbegikuro and Lucene. Giving a brief history of the four communities, he said Brewohodi and Lucene are Dagarti settlers

who came to farm and settle in the area. Dam Site and Agbegikuro are entirely composed of Ewe settlers who migrated from the Volta Region. On the other hand, they are also fishermen.

Torgbaja Michael, who was a fisherman and an alcohol distiller, is currently involved in farming at the new settlement at Jama. Michael indicated that his two-year experience as a resettler has been a difficult one. On the impact of the relocation on the livelihoods of the communities, he said that “all that we were involved in (fishing and farming) is currently disrupted.” He explained that there are certain pests, like ants, that affect their food crops (like cassava and yams) by boring holes into

them and destroying the crops. He added that, because of the construction of the dam, they also have to stop fishing around certain areas on the river and this sometimes leads to agitation between the fishermen and some security personnel. Michael indicated that the resettlement grant given to them was quickly depleted, since they had to buy every little thing in their new place. He used this opportunity to plead with the BPA for a review of the grant. He was also wondering when the livelihood options that the BPA promised them will be made available.

Michael was delighted with the school built for them in their new settlement, a facility which was lacking in their old settlement. Compared to his old house, he was happy with in his current structure, but was quick to add that the BPA could have done better. He said that some of the houses were deplorable in terms of size and the materials used. Michael was also pleased with the cordial relationship and sense of unity that exists among the four communities that were settled together. He believes that it has been a learning experience in terms of different cultures and values. Finally, he believes that, after the completion of the project, lives will change for the better.

Pictorial Report of Activities of the Dialogue Process (January-June, 2010)



Participants at the networking meeting with IFIs and NFIs.



A participant (Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh) at the networking meeting making a contribution.



Ms. Patience Asem of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund reporting her group findings during the Exit Strategy Workshop.



Ms. Maija Hirvonen leading the Research group during the Exit Strategy Workshop.



Mr. Richard Twum Koranteng and Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally in a discussion with Hon. Joseph Yieleh Chireh, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development.



The Action Team of the NCC in a networking meeting with Ms. Sherry Ayittey, Minister for Environment, Science and Technology, and her deputy.



Chief executives of the Tain and Wenchi districts with members of the GDD Secretariat.



The GDD Secretariat presents books and a football to each child in Akaiyakrom in the Bui Dam area.

Feature: Livelihood Study to Commence!

The construction of the Bui Dam will have a range of consequences for communities living in the Bui area. Agricultural lands and lands intended for human settlement will become submerged in water. Communities will be relocated and their livelihood practices are likely to be altered.

In response to these changes, the GDD has commissioned the Centre for Settlement Studies of the College of Architecture and Planning at KNUST to undertake a study on the livelihoods of DACs in the Bui area. The study intends to develop an understanding of past livelihood practices and how these are likely to be altered as a result of dam construction. The study will also capture the livelihood aspirations of DACs and the measures that need to be taken to support them. The scope of the study extends beyond the communities that have been, or will be, relocated; and it also includes host communities. Additionally, it will attempt, in participatory mode, to understand the notion of well-being of the community, and gain insights into the socio-cultural heritage and other factors of the communities, which may contribute to the process. Preliminary findings of the study are expected by the time of the Fourth Ghana Dams Forum at the end of September.



Some houses in the Bui community

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