

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 3 - September, 2009

From the Editorial Desk

This is the third quarterly bulletin of the Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter.

This edition seeks to throw more light on the activities and viewpoints of two relevant hydropower dam stakeholders – dam-affected communities (DACs) and the Volta River Authority (VRA).

Specific activities captured in this edition include the institutional networking and maiden annual meetings of the DACs, of which the latter led to the articulation of a Communiqué; the VRA responses to the concerns of DACs; the role of decentralized agencies in the development and management of hydropower projects in Ghana; and in the concluding portion, key biodiversity issues of the Bui Hydropower Project.

The continuous institutional and individual support to the production of the newsletter (mouthpiece of the dialogue process) is appreciated and welcomed.



Read, relax and respond!

Richard Twum Barimah Koranteng
Facilitator
Ghana Dams Dialogue

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Participants of the Institutional Meeting for Dam-Affected Communities and Traditional Structures.

Activities in the Third Quarter of the Dialogue Process

Institutional Meeting for Dam-Affected Communities and Traditional Structures

Knowledge sharing, awareness creation and capacity development at different levels is critical to an improved decision-making process. At the local grassroots level, this can be achieved through structured roundtables with representatives from communities that are directly or indirectly affected by hydropower projects. Dam-Affected Communities (DAC) constitutes one of seven institutional categories of participants in the Ghana Dams Dialogue. Previous issues of the newsletter have featured items on the series of institutional networking meetings that will be held among these stakeholder groupings in an effort to strengthen their participation in the Dialogue process. The membership of the DACs is well-defined, and the interests and concerns of the DACs have begun to be articulated. Given these factors, the institutional networking meetings took off with the DACs.

The networking meeting was held back-to-back with the First Annual Meeting of the DACs on the July 16, 2009 at the Akuse Club House Conference Room, between 09:00 and 13:00 GMT.

A total of 40 participants attended the meeting, which comprised of executives of the DACs from Bui, Kpong, and Akosombo hydropower projects, members of the Action Team of the National Coordinating Committee (NCC) and the Secretariat of the Ghana Dams Dialogue. The meeting was chaired by Torgbe Adom Drayi II.

In his welcoming address, Mr. Richard Twum Barimah Koranteng, on behalf of the Secretariat and the NCC, welcomed the executives of the DACs of three major hydropower projects in Ghana, and indicated

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the importance of the Dialogue Process to the communities. He stated that the first and second phases of the dialogue process have seen numerous activities and programmes geared towards building the capacities of the DACs to enable them to participate meaningfully in the process. He cited examples such as the field trip (exchange visit) of the Bui communities to the Akosombo and Kpong communities, various issue papers on matters of interest to DACs, and their numerical representations at NCC and Forum events.

In her presentation, the Project Leader, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally, outlined the rationale behind the Institutional Networking meeting and the need for the process to begin with the DACs. She stated that the meeting is a mechanism to bring on board more focused discussions and information exchange so that community concerns could be raised and discussed dispassionately. The Chairman, Torgbe Adom Drayi II, then summarized all the presentations and asked for an open discussion of outstanding economic, environmental and sociocultural issues and their relevance to the Bui Project.

The discussions, which ensued lasted over a greater portion of the meeting and touched upon issues such as land acquisition and ownership; the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund; participation of community representatives in the decision-making process; the Bui Power Project; and capacity building for DACs.

For a full report of the meeting, please visit the Ghana Dams Dialogue website (ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org).

First Annual Meeting of Dam-Affected Communities – Communiqué of the Meeting

In the third phase of the project, DACs in Ghana requested that the Ghana Dams Dialogue focus its efforts on building cohesion among, and mobilizing both upstream and downstream, affected communities from the Akosombo, Kpong and Bui hydropower dam areas. The idea for a meeting among such communities began to germinate on the Dialogue platform. The National Association of the 52 VRA Resettlement Townships (NAVRART-52) played an important role in bringing to fruition plans for such a meeting.

The theme of the meeting was “Successes and Challenges of the Akosombo and Kpong Resettlement Schemes: Lessons for the Bui Scheme.” The meeting took place on Friday July 17, 2009 at the Akuse Club House Conference Room, Akuse, Ghana, between 8:00 and 17:30 GMT.

A total of 185 stakeholders attended the meeting. Participants included representatives of the Eastern Regional Minister, the Chief Executives of the VRA and the Bui Power Authority (BPA), Honorable District Chief Executives, Paramount Chiefs, Divisional Chiefs; Subdivisional Chiefs, as well as the Heads of affected communities from the Akosombo, Kpong and Bui areas.

The management of the BPA gave its assurance during the meeting that it was doing its utmost to ensure a smooth and trouble-free resettlement process for communities affected by the project, given the sensitive nature of resettlement. Mr. Sylvester Zigah, the Development Programme Officer of BPA, who was representing the Chief Executive of the BPA, noted that the BPA was working closely with recognized government institutions such as the Ministry of Chieftaincy and Culture, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, the National House of Chiefs, the District Assemblies, the Land Valuation Board and the traditional authorities to ensure that the provision of compensation for lands acquired for the project was not fraught with problems.

The Project Manager of the VRA, Mr. K. D. Bright Siayor, on behalf of the VRA Chief Executive, also added that it was important to ensure that those communities that are dislocated because of hydropower dam projects are resettled among people of the same or similar ethnicity.

There were speeches from the District Chief Executives of some of the affected districts, and also a keynote address by the Eastern Regional Minister. The Eastern Regional Minister pleaded that the VRA and BPA pay particular attention to the impact of climate



Participants of the meeting in a pose for Group Picture.

change on water supply - climate change is said to have potentially negative impacts on the hydropower generation of Ghana. He requested that the VRA, BPA and other stakeholders in the energy sector carry out intensive public education to create awareness of global climate change and the need to protect our environment. In his closing remarks the chairperson, Nana Mprah Besemuna III, used the opportunity to reecho the relevance of the meeting to the chiefs and people of Bui and made a noteworthy statement; “What we have tried to do today is essentially for your benefit. Ours is already gone, but if you don’t learn from your history, you always repeat the same mistakes.” He added that, the only consolation would be that out of the suffering of the people of the Akosombo and Kpong resettlement, lessons have been learned and the case of the Bui Project will be far better. On the contrary, the people of the Akosombo and Kpong resettlement will be so bitter, if Bui suffers a similar predicament.

For a full report of the meeting, please visit the Ghana Dams Dialogue website (ghanadamsdialogue.iwmi.org).

Notice Board

Important dates to remember in 2009

- The 3rd Ghana Dams Forum and Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum Consultation in Ghana is scheduled for **October 26-30, 2009.**

The Secretariat of the Ghana Dams Dialogue pays a visit to the DCE of the Lower Manya Krobo District

The Lower Manya Krobo District Assembly District Chief Executive (DCE) is an automatic member of the NCC of the Ghana Dams Dialogue. From the commencement of the project, this membership has been filled by the former DCE, Hon. David Asare Sackitey.

With a new government in power, Hon. Sackitey was replaced by Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh. As an automatic member, the Secretariat formally wrote to the Chief Executive, who gave a positive response to the



Messrs. Edmund Kyei Akoto-Danso and Richard Twum Barimah Koranteng with Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh (center).

request that the Manya Krobo DCE's seat on the NCC continue to be filled.

The Secretariat led by Messrs. Richard Twum Barimah Koranteng and Edmund Kyei Akoto-Danso visited Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh to felicitate him on his recent appointment to the position the DCE of the Manya Krobo District Assembly.

He was briefed of the activities of the Dialogue and how his position as a DCE could enhance the objectives of the project.

Communiqué Issued by Participants of the First Annual Meeting of Dam-Affected Communities on July 17, 2009.

INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Dams Dialogue is a platform that brings together a variety of actors, who have a stake in hydropower dams. Its membership includes representatives from government ministries, decentralized government departments, research institutions, opinion leaders of DACs, traditional leaders, the private sector, and dam operators. The objective of the Dialogue is to contribute towards equitable, transparent, participatory and sustainable development of dams in Ghana.

We, the 185 participants who took part in the two-day meeting of DACs in Ghana on the theme "Successes and Challenges of the Akosombo and Kpong Resettlement Schemes - Lessons for the Bui Scheme," have acknowledged that:

1. There remain unresolved and critical social, economic, and environmental challenges, which constitute grave human injustices to affected communities.
2. The VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, set up to provide development support to affected communities, has not lived up to expectations.
3. Representatives of the affected communities are excluded from decision-making on issues that emanate from the Akosombo and Kpong hydropower projects and on issues that directly affect them.
4. The affected communities are subject to persistent harassment by host communities due to ill-managed resettlement.
5. Lessons from the Akosombo and Kpong hydropower projects have not made sufficient recommendations on what the Bui Resettlement Package should be.

In view of the above, we resolve as follows:

1. Steps must be taken to strengthen community associations, especially at Kpong and Bui.
2. The Ghana Dams Dialogue and affected communities should jointly convene a workshop between VRA, BPA, communities and other stakeholders.
3. The Ghana Dams Dialogue should act as a channel for the implementation of outcomes of the meeting.
4. The Ghana Dams Dialogue should urgently organize a workshop on the implementation of the proposed Bui Resettlement Programme.
5. That government should redefine the role of the inactive VRA Resettlement Trust Fund.
6. The Ghana Dams Dialogue should build capacity for DACs to enable them to participate meaningfully in the Dialogue.
7. A capacity building workshop should also be organized for decentralized government authorities in efforts to ensure good governance.
8. An Act of Parliament should be passed to establish a commission or its equivalent to govern dam-related activities in the country with the participation of affected communities.
9. An interim body should be established to coordinate the activities of all DACs and to develop strategies to address their concerns.
10. The relevant government and other entities should enter into binding and enforceable contracts for compensation and resettlement. These contracts must be properly negotiated and documented with affected communities.

Straight Talk with Patrick Okrah Kwakye



Patrick Okrah Kwakye

Successes and Challenges of the Akosombo and Kpong Resettlement Schemes: Lessons for the Bui Scheme. An Interview with Patrick Okrah Kwakye, Director Real Estate of VRA.

Can you please introduce yourself and tell me about the Department?

My name is Patrick Okrah Kwakye, Director of the Real Estate Department of the VRA. I have been working with the Authority since June 1985.

The Real Estate Department manages the Authority's real estate and acquisition of 'right of way' and land for the Authority's projects. The Department is also in charge of the residual resettlement issues arising out of the Akosombo and Kpong projects. The Department also performs local authority functions in the Akosombo Township – which is the VRA Township created under the VRA Act.

Can you please explain the role of the VRA in the development of resettlement communities?

Let me state that the role of the VRA with regards to Local Authority activities is solely for the Akosombo Township. Resettlement communities are located within different District Assemblies, so their development needs are supposed to be taken care of by their respective district assemblies. The association of the VRA with the resettlement communities is because of the creation of the dam that led to the resettlement of some communities. After the resettlement, the VRA, being the implementer of the dam, had to see to residual resettlement issues. Let me add that whatever we do in the resettlement communities, we do it with the permission of the District Assemblies.

The District Assemblies should be aware of their responsibilities toward the resettlement communities – these communities pay taxes, property rates, etc., to the District Assemblies. So it stands to reason that they are part of the District Assemblies. The fact that they have been resettled does not take them away from their political districts.

Do you think there is the need for sensitization about the roles of the VRA and the District Assemblies towards the resettlement communities?

Definitely. This is not a new process. Notwithstanding the need for sensitization, the District Assemblies themselves should demonstrate that they are in charge - that is the reason why we have been impressing on the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund to work with the District Assemblies. Currently, the issue on the ground is that, whereas the District Assemblies take the developmental needs of the host communities, they neglect the resettlement villages. My basic point, which I keep on repeating, is that so long as the people are paying taxes to the District Assemblies, then they owe allegiance to the assembly. It is, therefore, prudent that the District Assemblies look into the developmental needs of these communities. The Resettlement Trust Fund is there to assist the Assemblies with regards to the development of the District, particularly the resettlement communities.

What are some of the key differences in the Akosombo and Kpong dam projects?

The major difference between the two dam projects is, whilst we developed only core houses in the resettlement of persons

affected by the Akosombo Dam project, the Kpong Dam project was far better. In the Kpong Dam project, if you lost one house, you will be given a house of the same size as compensation with a kitchen, toilet and a bathroom. The Kpong resettlement was also provided with a school, roads, streetlights, drains, water, etc.

Above all, the Kpong Dam project dealt with a smaller resettlement of 7,000 people, whilst the Akosombo Dam was associated with 80,000 people from 739 villages. Among the 80,000 people in the case of the Akosombo Dam, those who agreed to take their money and go away were paid, and those who agreed to be resettled were resettled in the 52 communities.

Another point is that in the Akosombo Dam project, we had three years to resettle the 80,000 people whilst in the Kpong Dam project, we had about four years to settle the 7,000 people.

Can you inform us why it took a number of years for some resettlement communities close to the dam to get electricity?

Let me put it like this - when the dam was built, a greater part of the country did not have electricity, and hence the provision of electricity was a gradual process. The case of the Adjena (that led to the demonstration by the community) was not an isolated case. A number of the resettlement communities under the Akosombo Dam project got electricity after several years of dam construction. Apart from the resettlement communities, there are other communities close to the project that were recently hooked onto the National Grid. These were done through self-help projects. But in the case of Adjena, it was the VRA that provided the facilities for the extension of power from the Akosombo Township.

In your presentation, you mentioned that after spending the authorized amount on the resettlement issues, all other payments were to be the responsibility of the Central Government. Does this mean that the resettlement issues were not fully settled, and that the Central Government needed to follow-up with other payments?

Yes, issues on the lakebed were not completely resolved. I understand that the government has paid some monies to some claimants in that direction.

Forty years after the Akosombo Hydropower Dam and 27 years after the Kpong Hydropower Dam, there is still agitation from the residents of the Resettlement Townships. Have you any ideas for resolving the(se) problem(s)?

For lands - there are still some unused government lands and we are planning, together with the Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines and Ministry of Local Government, to give back some to the owners, especially if it is proven that compensation was not paid. We are also trying to get the District Assemblies and the Regional Coordinating Councils to be more involved in resettlement issues.

We also have the Trust Fund to supplement the development needs of the Districts Assemblies with respect to the Resettlement Communities.

If you could have done things differently, what changes would you have made to the resettlement process?

There would have been a lot of differences as compared to the Akosombo and Kpong dams, because the objective of resettlement is to enhance the livelihoods of the people. So, given today's circumstances, it will be an opportunity to create a modern township with access to electricity, water and proper educational facilities to enhance their way of living.

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Resettlement communities are usually saddled with numerous development challenges. Is it a clear case of disregard of the needs and concerns of the resettled people?

One problem we have in Ghana is called the dependency syndrome. Everybody thinks that everything should come from the Central Government. Those resettled were working before resettlements took place and should, therefore, continue working. The generation of employment depends on the community and partly on the District Assemblies. There is a perception - whether right or wrong - that the generation of employment should always be carried out by the Central Government. Moreover, the VRA has a mandate and that is to generate electricity. Where it is appropriate, the VRA assists these communities. But the VRA is not responsible for generating employment.

Sometimes, you can also blame the communities for poor development in their community. Let me use an example of our Thermal Project at Aboadze – the Chief was prepared to ensure maximum benefit for the community. In that project, the Chief requested that they would require cold storage facilities instead of monetary payment for the acquisition of their lands, because they are mostly fisherfolk and they usually have problems with storage of their harvest. As a result, the VRA paid more than they would have done if they had paid monetary compensation.

What are your views on arguments that claim that compensation from the Akosombo and Kpong dams was inadequate?

I do not know the basis for those who argue that the compensation was inadequate, but from my point of view, I know compensation was based on certain factors. These are emotional issues so sometimes you cannot stress the argument too much.

The Land Valuation Board has certain factors for determining compensation and there is also a national policy on compensation for lands. Applying these factors, the Land Valuation Board fixes rates for compensation.

What are the successes of the Akosombo and Kpong dam projects?

The fundamental reason for the two projects was to generate electricity and that can be said to be a major success for the entire nation. For the Kpong Dam, the quality of life improved. Considering the resettlement towns of the Kpong Dam, the type of communities they were living in has improved dramatically. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same for the Akosombo project. We must also note that the two projects created opportunities for the affected communities but it was left for them to take advantage of these opportunities.

Overall, the two dam projects have been successful, because they offered the country electricity. But for the Akosombo Dam, the country would have had major energy challenges today. Imagine the periods during which we had problems with the water level and the problems associated with it. Moreover, modern industrial development requires that you have enough energy and the Akosombo Dam, today, is the bedrock of energy in the country.

With the experience of the Akosombo and the Kpong dams, do you think the VRA can play a strong role in the Bui Hydropower project?

Currently, most of the officers who are supervising the Bui project are VRA staff, and as and when required, we are always ready to help. We have played a major role – considering that the Resident Engineer has been seconded from the VRA. We have another top Engineer at the BPA Secretariat from the VRA and also, the current Chief Executive of the project is a former Deputy Chief Executive of the VRA.

Any lessons to the BPA based on your experience?

I have had the opportunity of sharing lessons from the Akosombo and the Kpong dam projects towards a successful Bui project. They are aware that one of the major problems in dam construction is resettlement and I think most of my responses to your questions can be a lesson. The omissions and commission of the VRA with regards to the information in the two dam projects are readily available and they can learn from it.

Voice of the Land



Johnson Ehiakpor

Views from the District Assemblies

The Ghana Dams Dialogue visited the Asuogyaman and Lower Manya Krobo district assemblies in order to learn about the role of local authorities in the governance of hydropower dams. These visits came as part of the Secretariat's institutional analysis of the various administrative structures that are involved in decision-making around dams. The respondents not only provided information for the institutional study, but they also granted interviews for the Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter on related issues. Below are excerpts from the two discussions.

Mr. Johnson Ehiakpor, the District Chief Executive (DCE) of Asuogyaman, began the discussion by describing the purpose of local government, "The concept of local government is 'how can communities develop faster and according to their own needs'. This is in marked contrast to the past when the government made decisions in a top-down manner, with little input from local communities. At times, this set-up resulted in inappropriate development schemes." According to Mr. Ehiakpor, "a community may have been given a borehole pump while they needed clean toilet facilities." Decentralization has allowed "people to feel that they are part of the decision-making process," the District Chief Executive says. Today, communities can express their voices through District Assemblies, which Mr. Ehiakpor describes as "local parliaments."



Kingsley Boahene

Mr. Ehiakpor acknowledges that there has been some confusion as to which authority is responsible for the well-being of the resettlement communities in Asuogyaman – the District Assembly or the VRA. He traces this uncertainty to the fact that local authorities did not exist in their current form at the time of the dam's construction. The law that established the VRA did not envision the emergence of the District Assembly structures; nor has subsequent legislation on decentralization clarified the division of labor between the dam operator and the authorities in the affected districts. According to the DCE, the laws must be reexamined and harmonized.

Mr. Ehiakpor's understanding is that the VRA continues to shoulder some responsibility over the resettled communities. However, given

that the VRA is said to lack the sufficient resources to do so, and that the resettled communities are within the spatial boundaries of the Asuogyaman District, Mr. Ehiakpor sees a clear role for the District Assembly in addressing the needs of the communities. The District Assembly has provided them with health care facilities, and made available fertilizers and pesticides at low costs. It is also within the remit of the Assembly to ensure that the communities have access to a road network, as well as water and power systems.

That is not to say that the District Assembly and the VRA do not cooperate on various issues. Mr. Ehiakpor explains that the VRA is clearly in charge of administering the dam infrastructure. However, it collaborates closely with the District Assembly in doing so – the VRA can rely on assistance from the security services of the district when necessary, and the VRA sits on the district subcommittee on security and justice. If there is a problem with the dam, the District Assembly must be made aware of it since it is within the remit of the local authorities to maintain the integrity of national assets, such as hydropower dams. Indeed, the DCE represents a point of passage for information between the district and Central Government – being the representative of the President at the local level, the DCE can relay urgent information directly to the top levels of the State.

The District Assembly and the VRA also collaborate in the management of the Akosombo Township. The township recently experienced flooding due to heavy rains. In response, the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) office in the District Assembly provided advice and relief items to the Township. Indeed, the Akosombo Township pays part of its revenue to the Asuogyaman District Assembly. As such, the district authorities have a responsibility for providing certain services in return.

The District Assembly also acts as a mediator between the resettled communities and the VRA. However, earlier in the year some communities refused to pay for electricity that the VRA had been providing at subsidized prices, stating that the VRA should make it available at no cost. The District Assembly, along with the regional authorities, stepped in to act as a go-between. On behalf of the VRA, the authorities made the case that the communities should pay a minimum sum for the electricity in order for the VRA to sustain a resource base from which to reinvest back into the communities.

More recently, the resettlement community of Mpakadan – which depends on fishing as its source of livelihood – has been denied access to the river by a new commercial aquaculture venture. While the venture employs some local community members, it has caused grievances to others because they cannot access the landing sites for their vessels. Again, the District Assembly has stepped in to bring the concerned parties together to seek a solution to the situation that would be satisfactory to all.

According to the DCE, this situation is symptomatic of the ways in which investors often enter localities. Little consultation is carried out with the communities that will be affected by the undertakings. In Asuogyaman, the situation is compounded by the fact that the land and its people are administered not only by traditional and district authorities, but in places, also by the VRA. Investors may bypass the District Assembly, and simply seek permission from the VRA.

Mr. Ehiakpor acknowledges that various outstanding issues remain from the construction of the Akosombo and Kpong dams. He cites the so-called ‘floating population’ of 10,000 people, who were displaced by the infrastructure, as an example. “Where can they be located?” asks Mr. Ehiakpor. “Until now, no permanent settlement has been created. As a result, they continue to be displaced from the lands that they inhabit because it is not legally bound, and it is difficult to make basic services available to them. Moreover, the resettlement townships that were purposefully created face dilapidating infrastructures. The responsibilities of the district authorities and the VRA towards these communities must be

clarified, and both must be endowed with the necessary resources to meet the needs of the communities,” says Mr. Ehiakpor.

Above all else, the livelihoods of the communities must be restored in order to make them self-sufficient. “You will put money in the people’s pocket. They will not expect help from anywhere else,” Mr. Ehiakpor explains. Among the measures to be taken is the de-silting of the river in and around the district. This would revive the lost clamming and other fishing activities that the communities depended upon.

“The issues have not been forgotten,” says Mr. Ehiakpor. “We are on it.” According to the DCE, the inhabitants of Asuogyaman have recently gained a further channel of communication to the VRA as the Member of Parliament for the Asuogyaman Constituency was invited to serve on the VRA Board of Directors, as well as on various sub-boards, including that for resettlement. “I know that our problems will be minimized. The information on the ground can be communicated directly to the VRA.” says Mr. Ehiakpor.

Mr. Ehiakpor brought the discussion to a close by referring to the lessons that the Akosombo and Kpong experiences have to offer the Bui project. “The VRA has done a lot of research work on the challenges faced by resettlement communities. I don’t expect the Bui Dam to repeat these mistakes.”

The District Coordinating Director (DCD) of the Lower Manya Krobo District, Mr. Boahene, summarized the overarching role of the District Assembly as follows: “Simply put, we help implement government policies, and also the policies drawn up by the Assembly. The work of the Assembly covers the social, political and economic activities of the district.” The Lower Manya Krobo District hosts resettlement communities in the Kpong, Natriku and Anyabobi areas.

Being within the district boundaries, the Assembly provides certain basic amenities for the communities. Indeed, Mr. Boahene recounts that, the communities pay property rates to the Assembly – just like any other community. His understanding is that the resettlement communities have been handed over to the local authorities to manage. According to Mr. Boahene, “a project usually has [a particular] duration, and believes that it cannot forever cater [to] resettlement communities...Probably, there should be a law to make projects have oversight responsibilities for some period, and later be handed over to the local administration.”

However, the Assembly itself faces resource challenges, and as a result, is unable to fully cater to their needs. The facilities that were initially provided to the communities by the VRA have begun to deteriorate, and the Assembly is not in a position to mend them and the VRA does not appear to be able to bring its resources to bear on fixing the facilities.

According to the DCD, the Lower Manya Krobo District Assembly has rarely been confronted with concerns specifically from the resettlement communities. These, along with other communities, do call on the Assembly to provide better road infrastructure and waste management services. At times, what Mr. Boahene calls “self-styled developers” may encroach upon the land in and around the resettlement areas. Individuals claim ownership of land that is not necessarily legally theirs, and may even sell such lands. “This creates a lot of insecurity in the community,” Mr. Boahene explains.

Mr. Boahene offers advice to the local authorities at the Bui project site, “I would advise that the project should properly acquire land from, and for, the people with proper documentation to forestall any incidence of land litigation. As I indicated earlier, the project should cater for the resettled people for some time before they are handed over to the local administration. The project should also create varied economic activities that can make the resettlement communities gainfully employed...I would advise the Assemblies to collaborate with the project and the government to consider the welfare of the communities and also [to] establish other programmes to promote improvements in [the] livelihoods of the communities.

Pictorial Report of the First Annual Meeting of Dam-Affected Communities



Participants registering for the meeting.



Chairman of the NAVRART-52, Torgbe Adom Drayi II, delivering his welcome address.



Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally and Mr. Richard Twum Koranteng delivering the welcome address to commence the programme.



Hon. Johnson Ehiakpor (District Chief Executive of Asuogyman District Assembly) delivering the keynote address on behalf of the Eastern Regional Minister.



Representatives of the Volta River Authority (Mr. K. D. Bright Siayor) and the Bui Power Authority (Mr. Sylvester Zigah) listening to a presentation during the meeting.



Participants ardently listening to the proceedings of the meeting.



Participants ardently listening to the proceedings of the meeting.



Participants ardently listening to the proceedings of the meeting.



Director of the Real Estate Department of the VRA delivering his presentation.



Executives of the NAVRART-52.

Who will hear the cries of the Bui Hippos? FINAL Part

My Personal View!

Disadvantages of Losing a Big Proportion of Ghana's Hippos

This is the last of a two-part opinion piece by Maxwell Gbadago from Bui on the impact of the Bui Dam on the hippo population of the Bui National Park. The first part was published in the previous issue of the Ghana Dams Dialogue Newsletter. In that issue, Maxwell made it clear that in his view the construction of the dam poses serious threats to the endangered hippos that live in the National Park. In this final feature, Maxwell outlines the disadvantages that would follow if the hippo population was lost from the Bui National Park.

The dam is likely to disturb the natural habitat of the hippos, forcing them to migrate across the borders of Ghana. One of the region's key tourist attractions would be lost and with it, many of the jobs provided by the National Park. I suspect that poaching might take place in the surrounding countries, leading to potential conflict between Ghana and its neighbors. A decrease in the hippo population would reflect badly on the Environmental Protection Agency, the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and other relevant authorities, who will have failed to protect an already endangered species. Conversely, preserving the hippo



population would demonstrate the capacity of Ghanaian environmental regulators.

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

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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for all information concerning the group!!!!

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