

NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON DAMS AND DEVELOPMENT IN GHANA

9th National Coordinating Committee Meeting

MINUTES

Date: March 29th, 2010 Time: 9:⁰⁰ – 12:⁰⁰ Venue: IWMI Conference Room

CHAIRPERSON

Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally

NCC MEMBERS PRESENT

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| 1. Togbe Adom Drayi II | NAVRART 52 |
| 2. Mr. Benjamin Ofori | Volta Basin Research Project (Representing) |
| 3. Nene Tetteh Amoako IV | Representative from the Lower Volta Basin |
| 4. Mr. Richard Twum Koranteng | Volta Basin Development Foundation |
| 5. Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally | International Water Management Institute |
| 6. Torgbe Agbesi Kpapka | Akainyakrom Representative |
| 7. Mr. Mintah Aboagye | Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing |
| 8. Nana Kwadwo Wuo II | Chief of Bui |
| 9. Gabriel Apatu | Bui Power Authority (Representing) |
| 10. Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh | Manya Krobo District Assembly |
| 11. Mr. Bob Alfa | Water Resources Commission |

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT

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| 1. Ms. Maija Hirvonen | Consultant |
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MEMBERS ABSENT

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| 1. Mr. Samuel Ayeh-Dateh | Ministry of Energy |
| 2. Mr. Mike Anane | League of Env. Journalists |
| 3. Dr. E.O. Bekoe | Water Research Institute |

AGENDA

1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 8th NCC meeting
2. Past events/ activities
 - a. 3rd Ghana Dams Forum and HSAF Consultations
 - b. Preparatory meeting: Institutional networking with IFs and NFIs
3. Upcoming events/ activities
 - a. Courtesy call on the Vice-President
 - b. Institutional networking meeting with IFs NFIs
 - c. Exit strategy meeting
 - d. Extra item – livelihoods
4. AOB

The 9th NCC meeting began at 9:52. The chairperson, Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally, gave a few words of welcome and invited Nene Tetteh Amoako IV to lead an opening prayer.

ITEM		ISSUE	RESPONSIBILITY
1. Confirmation of the minutes of the 8 th NCC meeting		NCC members reviewed the minutes of the 8 th NCC meeting. Mr. Bob Alfa moved for the confirmation of the minutes. He was seconded by Mr. Ben Ofori.	
2. Past events/ activities	a. 3 rd Ghana Dams Forum and HSAF Consultations	<p>Dr. Liqa Raschid-Sally briefed the NCC members on the 3rd Ghana Dams Forum and the Hydropower Sustainability Assessment Forum (HSAF) consultations, which had taken place in October, 2009. Three consultations were arranged in order to discuss the protocol that the HSAF is preparing to measure the sustainability of hydropower dam development. The first of these was held with dam-affected communities (DACs); the second involved ministries, departments and agencies (MDAS); and the final one was held among members of the Ghana Dams Forum. At all three consultations, participants discussed the usefulness and practicability of the proposed protocol, and made recommendations for improving it. Participants felt that in its present form the protocol calls for too detailed information, and it is too time-consuming to implement. The HSAF has taken these points into consideration in its revision of the protocol.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally also noted that the 3rd Ghana Dams Forum had been successful. Forum proceedings had been circulated among NCC members, and Dr. Raschid-Sally reminded participants that these, along with other process documentation, were available online.</p>	

<p>2. Past events/ activities</p>	<p>b. Preparatory meeting: Institutional networking with IFs and NFIs</p>	<p>Mr. Richard Twum Koranteng reminded NCC members of the Dialogue’s intention to hold networking meetings with each of its seven institutional groups. The first of these was held among the DACs back-to-back with the First Annual Meeting of Dam-affected Communities at Akuse. The subsequent networking meeting is planned for the international financial and non-financial institutions (IFs and NFIs). This meeting is envisioned to focus on the integration of DACs into the decentralised administrative structure in Ghana.</p> <p>A preparatory meeting was held on November 24th, 2009 in the lead-up to the networking meeting. Attendees included representatives from the VRA (its corporate directorate and its public relations department), the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund, GTZ-Ghana and the Institute for Local Government Studies (ILGS). Among others, representatives of DACs expressed their concern that a hand-over from the VRA to local authorities would lead to the marginalisation of the communities. Attendees of the preparatory meeting agreed that the DACs could not be left to fend for themselves. Representatives of the VRA Resettlement Trust Fund had noted that the Fund would explore whether it could extend its activities to the resettled communities in Kpong and Bui.</p> <p>Mr. Koranteng explained that the Secretariat has tried to involve GTZ as much as possible in the preparation of the IFs and NFIs meeting; in addition to supporting the Ghana Dams Dialogue, GTZ also backs decentralisation processes in Ghana. Dr. Raschid-Sally added that the involvement of GTZ – ideally as a co-host – would lend credibility to the meeting and serve to ensure that other donors (particularly those supporting decentralisation) attend. The Secretariat approached the GTZ country director with this request, and was directed to the head of the GTZ decentralisation programme, Dr. Völker Mönikes. The meeting with Dr. Mönikes is scheduled for April 6th, and the Secretariat intends to explain the purpose of the Dialogue’s networking activities and seek GTZ’s involvement in the IF and NFI meeting. Dr. Raschid-Sally invited other NCC members to provide their input into the issues that could be raised with Dr. Mönikes.</p> <p>Mr. Minta Aboagye asked the other NCC members whether a strategy was already in place to support the transition of responsibility for the DACs from the VRA to the district</p>	<p>Secretariat</p>
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		<p>assemblies. He encouraged the other members to consider the structures and measures that would need to exist for the DACs to thrive under the district assemblies alongside other communities.</p> <p>Mr. Bright Siayor responded that this is an issue that comes up at every meeting. Mr. Siayor recalled that at the 3rd Ghana Dams Forum, Mr. Kalitsi referred to the existence of documentation that outlined the hand-over of DACs from the VRA to district assemblies. In light of this, Mr. Kalitsi expressed his disappointment that the DACs were not already under the district assemblies.</p> <p>Mr. Siayor also noted that DACs and district assemblies make confusing statements about their expectations of the VRA. The VRA cannot indefinitely care for the DACs, given its own financial constraints, and already see DACs as part of the district assemblies. Mr. Siayor was not in a position to comment on the current financial situation of the VRA Trust Fund, but noted that as part of the district assemblies, DACs would be able to benefit from a larger pool of resources dedicated to local government.</p> <p>Mr. Koranteng suggested that at the core issue is the title to the resettled land. District assemblies expect DACs to pay property tax, which is one of the sources of internally generated funds for District Assemblies. But because DACs do not have title deeds to the lands, they find it unjust that they should pay taxes on land that is not theirs and this is of great concern to the District Assemblies. Until this issue is resolved, the district assemblies will consider DACs as a burden on their resources, and DACs themselves will fall into a vacuum in terms of public service provision.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally noted that what was needed was a formal handing over process. A workshop or a meeting among the relevant stakeholders might help to clarify their roles and responsibilities. This could be among the proposals that are presented to the IFs and NFIs.</p> <p>Mr. Ben Ofori stated that it should be clear that DACs are not faced with a choice between being part of the district assemblies or the VRA; the decision must come from government</p>	
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	<p>and be based on a careful review of the situation. Mr. Ofori also emphasised that host communities should be part of any discussions on the issue. There remain outstanding concerns among these communities regarding the compensation that they were given for the land that was allocated to the new arrivals. The resettled communities, in turn, seem reluctant to integrate with their hosts.</p> <p>Mr. Aboagye said that the complex legal issues underpinning these questions were for the Lands Commission and other relevant authorities to resolve. It is evident that the VRA cannot continue to support DACs. They have to be encouraged to 'outgrow' VRA support. The documentation that Mr. Kalitsi referred to should be in the VRA archives. Whether VRA should give up land, and to which jurisdiction, must be resolved.</p> <p>Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh used concrete examples to highlight that at present DACs turn to district assemblies on some matters and the VRA on others. It would be clearer, he argued, if the DACs were unequivocally under the district assemblies. The assemblies, in turn, would have to be prepared to take on full custodianship of the DACs. Additional financial resources would be essential, but alone insufficient. A clear exit plan or transition package is needed; there is nothing to suggest that steps have been taken in this direction. Land litigation issues must be settled before livelihoods enhancement and other community welfare activities can begin. This, in turn, demands time.</p> <p>Mr. Ofori noted that the fact that DACs turn to district assemblies for certain issues, such as education and health, was evidence of the fact that they already see themselves as part of district assemblies.</p> <p>Nene Tetteh Amoake IV remarked that resettled communities had been told that they would be looked after by the VRA for ten years. However, the VRA seems to continue to hold onto the land; they should hand this over to the local authorities.</p> <p>Mr. Siayor agreed with Mr. Aboagye over the need to clarify the status of the land acquired by the VRA for the hydropower projects, and offered to raise this issue with the Chief Executive of the VRA. Mr. Aboagye recommended instead that the Ghana Dams</p>	
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		<p>Dialogue exercise its facilitative role by bringing together the Lands Commission and other relevant stakeholders to discuss means of relieving VRA of its responsibility over the DACs, and assuaging the fears of DACs that they would be left to fend for themselves.</p> <p>Mr. S.A. Appenteng agreed that district assemblies should have jurisdiction over DACs, and that whatever support was available for DACs should be channelled through the assemblies.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally thanked the NCC members for their suggestions, and noted that a number of issues had been raised by the NCC members. A first step would be a structured discussion to draw out key elements. The Secretariat would raise this matter with the IFs and NFIs, possibly in the form of a proposal for assistance for the Dialogue to move the issues forward. She also noted that the Dialogue would raise the land issue with the VRA Chief Executive.</p>	
3. Upcoming events/ activities	a. Courtesy call on the Vice-President	<p>Mr. Koranteng reminded the NCC members of the Secretariat's efforts to introduce the Ghana Dams Dialogue to the Vice-President, who comes from the area surrounding the Bui project. The Secretariat's attempts have been unsuccessful, and Mr. Koranteng asked the NCC members to provide advice on how it should proceed.</p> <p>Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh understood the heavy schedule of the Vice-President, and offered to bring the matter to the attention of the special assistant to the Vice-President. Mr. Aboagye noted that the purpose of the meeting would have to be explained very clearly. The Secretariat should pass on a letter requesting a meeting to the Vice-President through Hon. Agbo-Tetteh. The letter should highlight that the Dialogue exists to forge interactions between diverse stakeholders and to forestall what happened in Akosombo and Kpong. The Secretariat should emphasise the interactions that the Dialogue has mediated between DACs and local authorities, and the support that it enjoys from the traditional authorities in the dam-affected areas. The Secretariat should also prepare briefing notes for Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh.</p> <p>Mr. Appenteng added that the letter does not have to be long, but it should allow the Vice-President's staff to appraise the working of the Ghana Dams Dialogue. It should also</p>	Secretariat & Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh

		<p>clearly state that the Dialogue is seeking the Vice-President’s advice on key issues.</p> <p>The NCC members recommended that IWMI – ideally its regional director – sign off on the letter. Mr. Aboagye discouraged having too many signatories in the letter. This would give the impression of the letter being a petition. Moreover, IWMI’s international status would help to create a stronger impression. Mr. Aboagye suggested that the delegation that goes to the meeting include members of the Secretariat, the chiefs, Hon. Isaac Agbo-Tetteh and the IWMI regional director, if available. GTZ could also be approached to query their interest in joining the delegation.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally thanked the NCC members for their advice.</p>	
	b. Institutional networking meeting with IFs NFIs	<p>Dr. Raschid-Sally noted that this item had already been addressed in the earlier discussion (please refer to item 2.b.). Dr. Raschid-Sally expressed her hope that as many NCC members as possible would attend the eventual networking meeting.</p>	
	c. Exit strategy meeting	<p>Dr. Raschid-Sally conveyed the positive feedback of the GTZ programme officer overseeing the Dialogue to the NCC members. The programme officer has suggested that the Dialogue draw up an exit strategy, which – if deemed valuable – would allow funding for an additional year, to institutionalise the process to continue beyond the lifetime of the project. The programme officer has proposed a meeting between the NCC and the GTZ to this effect and, together with the Secretariat, prepared a concept note for the meeting. The Secretariat wished to have input from NCC members prior to confirming the arrangements.</p> <p>Dr. 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. The tentative questions for discussion include: what are the main achievements so far; which added value do stakeholders to the Dialogue; and what are the Dialogue’s links to other</p>	

		<p>institutions and initiatives. Dr. Raschid-Sally noted that it would be a one-day meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Aboagye stated that the extension of the Dialogue depended on the availability of funding. Would the process continue to be anchored at IWMI, or at another organisation? The independence of the 'anchor' would have to be ensured: the Dialogue should remain apolitical in order to sustain the involvement of a broad range of stakeholders. Mr. Aboagye also queried whether IWMI should seek further funding to sustain the Dialogue.</p> <p>NCC members debated whether the Water Resources Commission (WRC) would be an appropriate anchor. Dr. Raschid-Sally noted that it is an independent advisory body with access to government. Mr. Appenteng responded that if the Dialogue wanted to retain its independence, it should be removed from any organisation that had been set up by government. Dr. Raschid-Sally explained that the WRC already has Basin Boards that facilitate thinking around issues that also concern the Dialogue. The new Dams Safety Unit will further extend the overlap in interests. She also explained that while IWMI's international status brings some advantages to the Dialogue, it also implies that it remains out of the ambit of national processes.</p> <p>Mr. Aboagye agreed that the WRC could be approached, given their mandate, the activities of the Basin Boards and the newly created Dams Safety Unit. They are also in a position to raise issues with government authorities and development partners.</p> <p>Mr. Appenteng asked about the line that the WRC has taken with regards to the issues raised by the Dialogue. He wanted to be convinced that the WRC reflected Dialogue thinking. Mr Aboagye noted that the WRC mandate mirrored the concerns of the Dialogue in so far as the WRC operates according to the concept of Integrated Water Resources Management, which cuts across a range of technical and social aspects related to the development of hydropower dams. It exercises this role in cooperation with other key regulators, including the Environmental Protection Agency. Moreover, the Board of Commissioners of the WRC includes representatives from the EPA, VRA and the National House of Chiefs.</p>	
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	<p>d. Extra item - livelihoods</p>	<p>Although not on the original agenda, Dr. Raschid-Sally wished to update the NCC on the planned livelihoods study at Bui.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally explained that the Dialogue had approached the KNUST about the study, since KNUST had already made some initial efforts on this front. For a more comprehensive analysis, the Dialogue felt that the research needed the support of the BPA. The Secretariat sensed an opportune moment when it learned from Mr. Zigah that the BPA is in the process of initiating a livelihoods enhancement programme together with an NGO. The Secretariat has been trying to arrange a meeting with the Chief Executive Officer of BPA to discuss the issue and it is our hope that this meeting will be held soon"</p> <p>According to Dr. Raschid-Sally, the response from BPA has been ambiguous. It seems that the programme is not yet underway, and the involvement of the Dialogue was also left open. She also mentioned that it remained unclear whether KNUST was going to continue to be involved. The Dialogue is expected to produce a livelihoods study as an output, but does not want to move in a manner that would antagonise the BPA.</p> <p>Nana Kwadwo Wuo II said that he was not aware of the inception of a livelihoods enhancement programme. He noted that Mr. Zigah had solicited input from communities into the design of such a programme in November, but he had not been informed of any developments since.</p> <p>Mr. Aboagye called for further information on the envisioned programme – what is its</p>	

		<p>timeline and how has it been fashioned out. He said that the BPA should feel free to share information with the Dialogue.</p> <p>The representative from the BPA was unaware about the current status of the livelihoods programme. Mr. Zigah had not briefed him on it, since it was not on the initial agenda for the meeting.</p> <p>Mr. Koranteng noted that collaboration with the BPA had not always been as fruitful as the Dialogue had hoped. Mr. Appenteng said that the Dialogue should strengthen its efforts to keep the BPA fully informed of its activities by developing a mechanism for dealing with the BPA on a daily basis. This would avoid any misunderstandings about the Dialogue, and lead to a realisation that closer collaboration could be beneficial. He also called on the DACs to be more proactive in pushing their agenda, and raising awareness of their concerns.</p> <p>NCC members were agreed that the best way to proceed would be to continue to interact with KNUST to develop the study further, and to contract KNUST to undertake the study for the Dialogue. KNUST then becomes the point of passage to the BPA regarding the study.</p> <p>Dr. Raschid-Sally thanked the NCC members for their inputs, and noted that she would like Mr. Ofori to assist in developing the terms of reference.</p>	Secretariat
4. AOB		There was no other business for the meeting to consider.	

The meeting ended at 12: 19 with a thank you from the chairperson, and a closing prayer from Nana Kwadwo Wuo II.