Contribution of the Forestry Sector to Socio-economic Development

Ghana’s experiencing reporting, data collection & challenges

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Outline of presentation

- Introduction to the forest resources
- Contribution to national economy
- Challenges with Reporting and Data Collection
- Lessons Learned
- Recommendations
Introduction

- Land area 238,537 km² - size of United Kingdom
- Endowed with natural resources - minerals, timber, oil (recent discovery)
- Agriculture including forestry accounts for 21.3% of GDP (2012)
Forest Resources

- Forests accounting for 34% of land area (8.2 mil ha.)
- 1.6 mil ha. Designated as PFE (forest reserves)
- 282 FR; 16 Wildlife Reserves
- Direct: 120,000
- Informal: 200,000
Contribution to the Economy (I)

- Forestry accounts for 2% of GDP (2012) down from 8% a decade ago
- Services sector is the fastest growing and contributing 49.3% of GDP (2012)
- GDP increased from US$ 7.5 billion (2003) to US$ 34.9 billion
- Forest provides livelihood to 15% of population (3.6 million people 2012)
Contribution to the economy (II)

- Fuelwood: 70% of Ghana’s energy needs
- Informal sector not recognized:
  - Illegal logging 70,000, US$2m (2007)
  - Rural household lumber, 300,000m³, US$32m (2001)
  - Medicinal plants: US$30m
  - 10 Ntfps: 420,000; US$90m (2008)
- Non cash local economy, no data
- Formal Direct cash US$245m
Contribution to the economy (II)

- National Plantation Development Prog
  10,000ha/yr; 10,000 jobs; 389 comm
  - Food production (US$98m, 2008)
- Bushmeat: US$275m
  - 6,000 hunters; 300,000 traders
- Benefit Sharing (Infrastructure dev’t)
  - Royalties: On-reserve, FC40%; Sthders 60%
  - Off-reserve, FC 50%; Stholders 50%
  - Social Responsibility Contracts: 5%
Challenges with Reporting, Data Collection

- Inadequate up to date data available (choice of yrs)
- Irregular data generation by the national statistical body
- Inadequate capacity for data collection and processing
- Weak inter-sectoral coordination (other organizations have the mandate and do not integrate forestry issues)
- No visibility of the real contribution of forestry
Lessons Learned

Recognition of linkages: sfm & education, health, agric

Direct relationship between Poverty reduction strategies, SDG and sfm: priority to livelihoods for rural forest dependent communities

Valuation of non-cash forest benefits: local economy of forest fringe communities is largely non-cash and not reflected in national accounting

High capacity requirement for data collection, analysis and reporting within the forest sector
Recommendations

- Sustainable forest management should be made the priority foundation for sustainable development. This should be mainstreamed into all the relevant sectors;
- Intersectoral collaboration among all the relevant sectors in order to generate information for reporting on the contribution of forests to national development;
- The non-cash economy of forest dependent communities should be given equal attention like the cash economy to better reflect the contribution of sfm to national development;
- Capacity building for the economic assessment of the goods and services of the forests should be pursued vigorously by member states;
- Mechanisms for ensuring regular data collection must be developed and promoted.
THANK YOU