

Topic: *Integrating governance monitoring into IM-FLEGT and IM-REDD to improve forest governance*

Jonathan W. Yiah / Sustainable Development Institute

AFRICA SUB-REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON INDEPENDENT FOREST MONITORING

Theme: Improving Forest Governance through effective
Independent Forest Monitoring

10th – 11th May, 2017 Accra, Ghana

NGOs contribution to Liberia's forestry reform

□ Ensuring transparent and participatory forestry reform (FCRC-2005 and FRMC-2006)

- Began on cleaned slate – no old concessions and new forestry reform law (NFRL 2006)
- Progressive NFRL provisions on stakeholders (communities and CSOs) participation and monitoring
- Specific provisions for stakeholders participation in developing new legal frameworks
- Completion of CRL and regulations (2009 and 2011)
- REDD+ processes not fully participatory compared to VPA, although there were efforts to involve CSOs
- FPIC principles left to interpretation by concessionaires
- TFA2020 could be a useful vehicle but definition of deforestation problematic

Civil society monitoring in Liberia

- ❑ Envisioned CS-IFM as integral part of forestry reform (NFRL Reg 108 Part Seven, Section 71)
- ❑ Not included in VPA as advocated but provides for CS-IFM (VPA Article 16 and Annex VIII, #9)
- ❑ CS-IFM role still receive with a degree of suspicion (However, EU Delegation has directly provided grants)

Links with policy makers, communities, other CSOs

- ❑ Responses from FDA on policy can be improved (PUP, CFMAs)
- ❑ Communities direct involvement aside from CSOs is recently gaining traction following more than five years of CSO support (NUCFDC at NMSMC and NBSTB feedbacks)
- ❑ Successes celebrated by NGO network have been taken up by few advocacy NGOs and then later owned by the network
- ❑ Membership on technical Advisory Committee of CoC service provider

Challenges

- ❑ Would appreciate CSOs proactive advocacy on implementation of CS-IFM recommendations; (ex. PUPs & CFMAs)
- ❑ Would appreciate CS-IFM focus more on monitoring and reporting on LAS verifiers which will comprise IA's main task
- ❑ The requirement for stakeholder review impacts on the '*independence*'
- ❑ Not clear how Independent Auditor will incorporate findings of CS-IFM reports
- ❑ Very few CSOs engaged with REDD processes
- ❑ Timely access to information from SGS through FDA sometimes not forthcoming

CS-IFM maintaining independence

- ❑ SDI experience indicates doing both independent monitoring and advocacy can be challenging, i.e. being judge and complainant
- ❑ Increasingly, forest stakeholders are gradually appreciating CS-IFM role in Liberia's forest sector. Since their formation in 2012 the CS-IFM team is carrying out its monitoring role distinct from direct advocacy
- ❑ Current need for CSOs to increase use of CS-IFM monitoring recommendations as tool for advocacy

Thank You

A group of approximately 25 people, mostly men, are gathered in a room for a meeting or presentation. They are standing and sitting around a table. In the foreground, there is a table with a laptop, a printer, a water bottle, and a cup of coffee. The background features a whiteboard and a blue wall. The text 'Thank You' is overlaid in large black font at the top. Three other text prompts are overlaid in white font: 'Comments?' on the left, 'Questions?' in the center, and 'Addition/subtraction?' on the right.

Comments?

Questions?

Addition/subtraction?