

## Recommendations to control Illegal Chainsaw Milling in Ghana

Domestic market demand for lumber has been identified as the major driver for illegal CSM in Ghana hence the failure of the chainsaw ban. Without addressing the domestic lumber supply within the context of the production and supply of legal timber, it may almost be impossible to develop and enforce an adequate CSM policy. The policy option should therefore ultimately put adequate legal lumber on the domestic market in conformity with the sustainable production capacity of the forest resource. Export policies should be fully aligned with domestic market policies since they both draw timber from the same resource. The policy should also address the pull factors or drivers that give rise to the perpetuation of the practice and should also aim at optimising or re-creating the advantages of chainsaw milling whilst at the same time reducing any ill effects of the practice.

The EU funded project on chainsaw milling “Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw milling in Ghana and Guyana through multi-stakeholder dialogue” is facilitating a multi-stakeholder dialogue (MSD) in Ghana. In this process all stakeholders participate in decision making, supported by sound information to inform and enable them to weigh the merits of various options. To address the domestic market demand from the current forest resources and in support of the VPA process in Ghana, the MSD has outlined the following possible policy directions.

1. Sawmills alone to supply the domestic market with legal timber
2. Sawmills and other players to supply the domestic with legal timber
3. Artisanal millers alone to supply the domestic market with legal timber.

**Policy direction 1: Sawmills to supply the domestic market with legal lumber obtained from sustained yields:** This policy direction implies the maintenance and full enforcement of the chainsaw milling ban and the development of a range of strategies to encourage sawmills to supply lumber to domestic markets. Some constraints to this policy direction include the continued costs, efforts and political will needed to truly enforce a chainsaw milling ban and the costs to Government in bridging the gap between prices offered at domestic and export markets.

**Policy direction 2: Sawmills and other players supply the domestic market with legal lumber obtained from sustained yields:** This policy direction implies allocation of harvesting rights to artisanal millers and the logging industry. Objectives for on and off-reserve forest management will have to be determined. Mechanisms must be developed to create a level playing field between saw millers and other players on the domestic market. Some constraints to this policy direction include time, effort and political will needed to organise and train artisanal millers and dealing with ‘free riders’. The costs to Government in bridging the gap between prices offered at domestic and export markets are also a challenge.



### Policy direction 3: Artisanal improved mills to supply all lumber required by the domestic market while sawmills focus on export, in keeping with sustained yields:

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The multi-stakeholder discussion and analysis will map out consequences and identify modalities for implementation of each policy direction. The outcome and recommendations from the MSD could then form a basis for a sector policy to address chainsaw milling in Ghana. Freehand chainsaw milling is considered to be incompatible with any of the options presented. A general timber harvesting and trade improvement policy arrangement must be in place to enable any of the specific policy options to work as expected.

A number of other conditions must be met for any policy to be successful. Freehand chainsaw milling is however considered to be incompatible with any of the options presented. The strategy to achieve a reduction of this practice will depend on the policy options that will be selected. It is observed that a general timber harvesting and trade improvement policy arrangement must be in place to enable any of the specific policy options to work as expected. These conditions are specified below.

#### General conditions necessary for success of any policy direction:

1. Apply and enforce a scientifically supported sustainable Annual Allowable Cut throughout the forest estate, in particular the forest reserves.
2. Stimulate tree growing on farms and plantation establishment to increase future supply.
3. Any option will lead to a reduction of opportunities in the chainsaw subsector, implying the need to provide efficient and competitive alternative livelihoods for displaced chainsaw operators.
4. Register and provide a code of conduct for all lumber traders/dealers.
5. Improve rural community access to timber for non commercial use through artisanal practises
6. Optimise the harvest of yield allocated.
7. Statutory fees should be paid (and collected) regularly and promptly.
8. Enhance the capacity of the Forest Services Division in forest monitoring.
9. Improve mechanisms for involving rural communities in forest monitoring.
10. Establish mechanisms to induce the right political will for policy implementation.
11. Improve benefit sharing of timber revenue to also cover farmers.
12. Formalise cross border trade with industry.
13. Mount a vigorous consumer campaign against freehand chainsaw lumber.
14. Introduce a public timber procurement policy.

This paper is a summary of the recommendations formulated within the framework of the EU-funded project "Developing alternatives for illegal chainsaw milling in Ghana and Guyana through multi-stakeholder dialogue". The recommendations follow from a case study of chainsaw milling in Ghana, an international workshop on chainsaw milling (25-26 May 2009 in Accra, Ghana) and a two-day technical working committee meeting, (10-11 June, 2009 at Abono, Ghana).

The contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of TBI and its partners and can in no way be taken to reflect the views of the European Union



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