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AN OVERVIEW OF THE ROLE OF WWF BUYERS AND PRODUCERS GROUP, THE GFTN APPROACH TO RESPONSIBLE FORESTRY AND CERTIFICATION

BY

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WHAT IS GFTN?

- Stands for Global Forest & Trade Network
- Consists of Buyers and Producers Groups
- Started as Buyers Group (95 + Group)
- Concept of Producers Group introduced later
- Buyers Group in timber importing countries
- Producers Group in timber exporting countries
- Each country group is generally called FTN



WHY GFTN?

Set up and run by WWF/WWF partner organization to:

- Improve forest management practices
- Help combat illegal logging and trade
- Help meet challenges faced by supporters and practitioners of responsible forestry
- Provide training, technical support and guidance on certification
- Facilitate information exchange
- Facilitate trade links with responsible producers and buyers
- Improve the standard of forest management through training on RIL



WHY PRODUCERS FTN IN GHANA?

- Ghana is a net exporter of timber
- Forest mgt characterised by unsustainable and illegal logging practices
- Non-compliance with Forestry laws and regulations
- Buyers and Consumers demand for legal and sustainable timber
- The need to identify and support responsible Forest Managers and Producers
- Adoption of certification in 1996 as one of the tools for achieving SFM
- Absence of framework on steps or process for reaching certification
- Low capacity and lack of certification expertise in Ghana



WHAT IS GHANA FTN DOING?

- Introduction of phase Approach to Certification in Ghana (MIV) with technical support from Proforest
- Providing training and technical support on certification and HCVF
- Conducting Baseline Audit for PG member companies
- 4 member companies have undergone Baseline Audits led by Proforest
- Implementation of activities towards achieving certification in PG members concessions
- Improving SFM capacity through RIL training
- Facilitating trade links with responsible buyers and producers
- \$6 million worth of market enquiries has been generated by March 2005



GHANA FTN MEMBER REQUIREMENTS

- Legal and long term concession or TUC
- Commitment to responsible forestry
- Eliminate wood from unwanted sources
- Commitment to certification of all concessions
- Commitment to certification of chain of custody
- Undergo baseline audit six months after application has been approved
- Development of certification Action Plan based on Baseline Audit findings
- Commitment to implementation of Action Plan
- Provide progress reports



BENEFITS TO PRODUCERS AND BUYERS

- Provides framework for Producers to work towards certification
- Training and technical support provided enables producers to implement activities geared towards reaching certification
- Support Producers to meet the cost of certification
- Products information to both buyers and producers
- Support buyers to make decisions on products



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