



# **FOREST WATCH GHANA**

# **CHANGING INTERNATIONAL MARKETS FOR TIMBER**

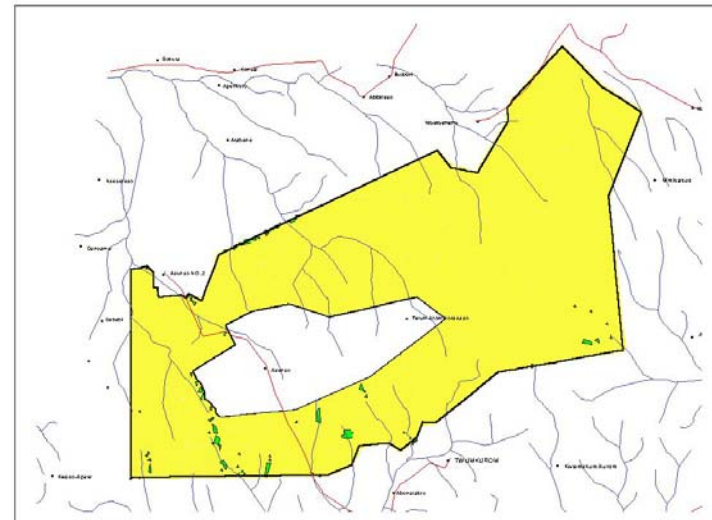
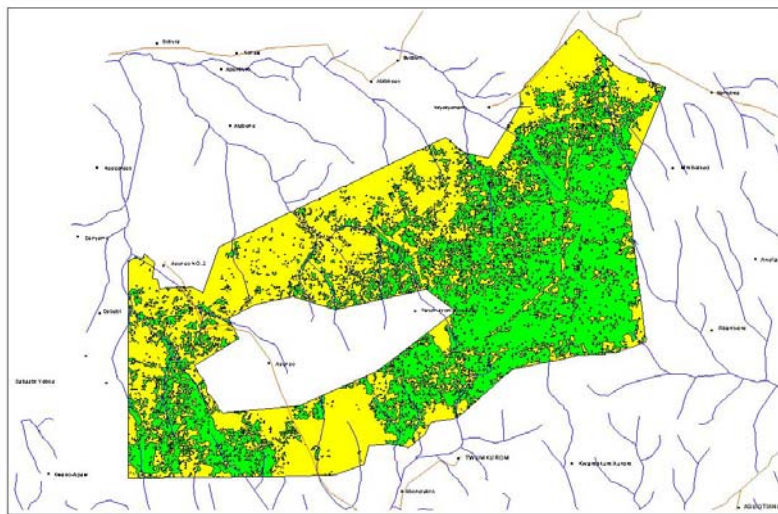
**Independent Monitoring and  
engaging with NGO's**

# THE CRISIS!

- Pamu Berekum forest reserve

•1990

2000



**Non Forest Cover**



**Forest Cover**

# What's happening? – the Pamu Berekum Reserve Story (statistics)

- Reserved :1932
- Area : 189.10 Sq Km
- % forest loss 1932 - 1990 = 48%
- % forest loss 1991 - 2000 = 99%
- 48% forest loss in 58 yrs compared to 99% loss in 10 yrs

# Why does this happen?

- lack of incentives for local management of forest resources.
- Inequity in benefit sharing arrangements
- under pricing of forest resources
- Over harvesting of timber resources at 4x AAC
- allocation of timber rights through admin means rather competitive bidding
- Partial enforcement of TRMA and non enforcement of the Transitional Provisions of the TRMA

# Who we are

- 20 national organisations leading in
  - Rural livelihoods support
  - Forestry research
  - Environmental activism
  - Socio-economic rights
  - Socio-cultural rights
  - Media & information rights
  - Public interest law
- Links to 100s of CBOs in forest fringe communities

# What we do & possible areas of engagement with Industry & FC

- Campaign for forest resources to contribute to poverty reduction of FFC and national development
  - Fair access to forest resources
    - Fair distribution of forest rents
    - Improved (participatory) sector governance
    - Better CSO networking to give voice to marginalised forestry stakeholders

# Fair Allocation of Forest Resource Rights

- Commercial Timber Rights allocated through TUCs in accordance with TRMA and LIs
- Compliance with Transitional Provisions of TRMA
- Clarity of Tree tenure and ownership issues, NTFP access, legal framework for Community Based Natural Resource Management



# Fair Benefits Sharing

- Improved Revenue Collection
  - Actions to sanction defaulters
  - Quarterly review of stumpage fees
  - Facilitate review of disposition of Timber Rights Fees
  - Free zone status for timber companies exporting timber from local sources

# Fair Benefits Sharing (cont'd)

- Improved Revenue Sharing
  - Scientific determination of forest management costs
  - Improve accountability of chiefs and DAs to citizens

# Good Governance in Forest Resource Management

- Community access to information on forest resource management and benefits
- Transparency in FC management & accountability as per service charter and FC Act
  - Annual Reports to Parliament, audited account and reports on revenue collection and distribution

# Why independent Monitoring

- To ensure adequate policy and legislative reforms to back implementation of FWP
- To ensure duty bearers (Parliament, FC) and stakeholders (Industry, CSO) are fulfilling their roles and responsibilities
  - law enforcement, compliance with regulations and laws by logging companies and FC
- Provide feedback on gaps for redress
- Provide space for analysis, reflection, coordination and synergy

# What is required for independent Monitoring?

- Access to information by all stakeholders on what the system of operation is and how the system works
- Transparency from all stakeholders with respect to compliance with laws & regulations
- A framework for independent and joint reflection, analysis and review of the system for effectiveness and efficiency

# Who should be an Independent Monitor?

- A network of national and local level independent monitors
- A national level organization with no direct vested interest in the resource to monitor national level enforcement and compliance
- CBOs/network of CBOs for ensuring communities access to their fair share of benefits from the resources, logging companies compliance with laws and regulations
- Linkage with international pressure groups and markets to ensure respect for national standards

# Positive contributions of the Independent Monitor

- **Forest sector characterized by different stakeholders with different interests and each satisfying his interest without regard for sustainability**

**The strength of Independent monitor lies in:**

- **Ability to act as watch dogs, bring critical issues into public domain to stimulate public discussion and bring pressure to bear on duty bearers, advocate for compliance and legislative reforms.**
- **Ability to raise issues that cannot be raised by public officials for fear of victimization**
- **Ability to engage policy makers objectively with facts based analysis**
- **Ability to resist being corrupted and remaining independent.**

Thank you