

CLIMATE INVESTMENT FUNDS

August 31, 2016

**[Approval by mail]: Ghana Dedicated Grant Mechanism (FIP, DGM) (World Bank) (XFIPDG204A) –
Comments from United Kingdom**

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1. Links to other initiatives:

- It is very positive to see the strong alignment of the DGM proposal with existing FIP and FCPF activities. This is entirely consistent with the objectives of the DGM to support communities to engage with and benefit from REDD+ related activities. However, given the growing importance of the FLEGT VPA process on domestic as well as export timber in Ghana, we were surprised at the lack of connection made with FLEGT. Under the Ghana VPA government has undertaken to put in place measures that address the legality (and sustainability) of all timber, including that destined for the domestic market. The implications of these measures (domestic market policy, forthcoming procurement policy) for informal forest dependent enterprises is significant. We would like to flag the opportunity that this presents to ensure that the grant funding component makes a difference to forest dependent livelihoods affected by these policy reforms. There is already mixed experience in Ghana of assisting “illegal” enterprises to formalise, from which lessons can be learnt.

2. Gender:

- We appreciate the efforts made throughout the proposal to ensure that gender is reflected in gender responsive activities, and that vulnerable groups such as ethnic minority migrants in a community are also considered. We also note the low level of female participation on the NSC and would like to know how, over the lifetime of the DGM, this will be addressed. For example, capacity development funds under component 1 could be used to build leadership capacity amongst women community representatives to be able to engage with the DGM, and FIP, potentially joining the NSC at a later date, but also joining other processes that may be active in the region, extending the overall impact of the programme
- More indicators could be sex disaggregated rather than tracking a single % of people, for example we suggest that the indicator tracking perceptions should be disaggregated by sex, and by vulnerable group. This would help to demonstrate the perceived experience of these specifically targeted groups under the programme.

3. Component 1:

- \$1 million is a significant amount to spend on somewhat generic awareness raising. Unless training has a specific focus, with likelihood of tangible application, it is unlikely to have significant impact. We would like to suggest that further thought is put into how to link the awareness raising/training to the ground activities, understanding policy reforms etc.
- We note that Fante and Krobo are the main languages spoken in the selected areas. There is however reference to the awareness raising materials being prepared in Twi. Could you clarify this? In a largely oral tradition, we assume that written materials will be kept to a minimum. Could you confirm that Ghana’s extensive community radio network will be made full use of? Our experience shows that this is a very effective and relatively low cost means of raising general awareness, particularly in oral traditions.
- Chiefs and traditional authorities will be targeted with training to understand the consequences of illegal mining and chainsaw operations. It would be more helpful if these authorities could

also be made aware that the grant funding available under the DGM could be drawn upon to do something about these challenges. Simply raising awareness about the consequences (likely already well understood) will have little impact. Presenting local authorities with ideas and access to potential resources to find alternatives is more likely to have impact yet under the more comprehensive list of examples of likely candidate themes for funding, these two areas are not specifically mentioned (pg 38-39)

4. Component 2:

- we would strongly encourage the inclusion of supporting alternative forest enterprises as part of the “alternative climate-smart livelihoods”, see comments above about the potential inclusion of grants that help to address critical drivers such as illegal chainsaw operations
- To support this, we would like to suggest that under component 2B – business advisory support is also explicitly considered as part of technical training.

5. Component 3:

- \$1 million is estimated for this component, which is a significant proportion for management and M&E. How does this compare with other DGM projects approved?

Many thanks and best wishes

Gaia