



**GLOBAL
FOREST
WATCH**

TECH FELLOWSHIP

GLOBAL FOREST WATCH

TRAINING TIPS

For
CREMA Monitoring Team in the
Western North Region of Ghana

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These tips are to provide trainees additional information for reference purposes.

RELATED FORESTRY LAWS

(Summarized from the Constitution of the Republic of Ghana 1992 & Forest and Wildlife Policy 2012)

Natural resources including timber trees, public lands, minerals etc. are vested in the President and held in trust for the people of Ghana. The citizens of Ghana own natural resources and the government manages and controls them on behalf of the citizenry.

The forestry sector is run under two management regimes namely; On Reserve and Off-Reserve forest areas. Reserved forests are mainly managed by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources through its designated Commissions (Forestry Commission, Minerals Commission, Lands Commission) and their respective Divisions.

Off- Reserve areas are managed by Stool lands, Families and Individuals with the requisite ownership rights. The management of naturally regenerated trees anywhere (on or off-reserve) in Ghana is vested in the President on behalf of the people of Ghana.

Trees planted in off-reserve areas are wholly owned by the one who planted them and the planter is required to register such trees with the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission to certify the planter's ownership.

Timber Contractors require a valid Timber Utilization Contract (TUC) to log legal timber in off-reserve areas. Communities and affected farmers have the right to participate in the field inspection of their land area selected for the granting of timber rights and may consent or refuse the grant of the TUC. All necessary negotiations must be made and agreements reached before a TUC is issued by the FC. Communities can protest in writing to the FC within 21 days after the notice has been issued to ensure their concerns are well addressed. TUCs issued without the consent of the respective communities and or affected individuals is considered an infraction of the law.

Holders of TUCs must in all case negotiate and sign a Social Responsibility Agreement (SRA) with the affected communities which in many cases is 5% of the stumpage fee of allocated timber and ensure that the agreement is promptly adhered to.

Timber Loggers who log without the requisite TUCs and SRAs are considered illegal loggers and their activities must be monitored and culprits appropriately dealt with by law.

TIPS ON HOW TO READ MAP

- Know the purpose of the map (Deforestation or Fire Alert)
- Check the map's orientation (locate the North and South)
- Refer to the legend (also called the Map Key) to make sense of the map.
- Make a note of the most appropriate route to take to visit the deforestation or wildfire site.
- Pay attention to the scale.
- Communicate with nearby communities to inquire of the likelihood of the identified alert.



SECURITY TIPS WHILE ON GROUND TRUTHING

- Be sure to have the map which shows the route to the alert site handy to avoid getting lost.
- Embark on the ground truthing in a group, avoid going alone.
- In the case where the group suspect the presence of illegal loggers or miners, invite security personnel from the FSD and Police to join the team. AVOID confrontations with illegal loggers and miners since in most cases they are well armed with weapons which can endanger the lives of the Monitoring Team.
- Dress appropriately to prevent accidents and injuries while on ground truthing missions. Wear overalls, boots, hats etc.

TEN TIPS FOR ADVOCACY

- Advocate on **FACTS not just EMOTIONS!**
- **Know the Issue You Want to Advocate For:** Get informed and stay up-to-date on the issues you care about.
- **Have a Goal :** Every advocacy needs to have a clear goal on what it wants to achieve. The group needs to agree on this goal and collectively buy into it. The goal must be clear, focused and SMART.

- **Plan your Advocacy:** As a group invest quality time to plan your advocacy prior to its start. This will help you identify and explore opportunities and deal with potential risks that could help or impede the success of the advocacy.
- **Identify Key Messages:** Come up with at most three key messages you want policymakers and law enforcers to act on after a correspondence or meeting.
- **Know Your Law Enforcers:** Know more about the mandates of the various law enforcers who can ensure the achievement of your advocacy goal and continually engage them.
- **Understand Your Role:** There will be time when the CREMA cannot take any action because of jurisdictional, legal, or resource constraints. It is important to know this reality to help encourage more dialogue with powers and authorities that can take the needed action for the success of the advocacy.
- **Choose How You Will Take Action:** Identify and use the most appropriate means of getting the attention of law enforcers to support your advocacy. Engage in dialogue and face-to-face meetings as much as possible. Make use of the media and local authorities to mount pressure on law enforcers to act in case undue delay and deliberate negligence of responsibilities by law enforcers is experienced.
- **Update Your Deforestation and Wildfire Database:** Ensure that verified data on deforestation and wildfire occurrences are well updated to ensure that the advocacy is based on facts and not just emotions!
- **Keep in Touch!** Maintain a cordial relationship with all stakeholders and ensure prompt feedback on issues.