

# **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LANDS AND FORESTRY**



## **ON THE RATIFICATION OF THE REVISED TROPENBOS INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION AGREEMENT, 2007**

*June, 2008*

Acc No: 1307

Class No: Ra / MLF / 15

## **INTRODUCTION**

1. The Revised Tropenbos International Foundation Agreement, 2007 was laid before Parliament on 13<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 and referred to the Committee on Lands and Forestry for consideration and report in accordance with Order 177 of the Standing Orders of the House.

2. The Committee held two Sittings to deliberate on the Agreement. The Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines attended upon the Committee to brief Members of the Committee on the object of the Agreement and its benefits to the country.

## **BACKGROUND**

3. The original Agreement was signed by the Government of Ghana (GoG) represented by the Ministry of Lands, Forestry and Mines and Tropenbos International Foundation of Netherlands on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2000 to undertake applied Research in natural resource with specific reference to the forest and wildlife sector. Changes in global forest policies and the dictates of national priorities necessitate the periodic renewal of the Agreement.

4. The first phase of the Agreement expired on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2005 and Ghana is entering into its renewal. The new Agreement seeks to maintain the provisions of the previous Agreement and extend its validity to 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011.

## **OBJECT OF THE AGREEMENT**

- i. The main objective of the Agreement is to contribute to better use and management of tropical forests for the benefit of the people, conservation and sustainable development.

- ii. To contribute to professional capacity building and international debates for sustainable management of the country's forest and wildlife resources for poverty alleviation and environmental improvement.

## **OBSERVATIONS**

5. The Committee noted that during the first phase of Tropenbos Programme in Ghana, which the nation was given €1.5m five (5) individuals benefited from sponsorship to study PhD programmes, twenty-four (24) on Masters programmes and fifteen (15) on certificate and Diploma courses in European countries. Seventeen (17), students benefited from BSc. degree programmes from local universities whilst thirty-four (34) were supported for short-term training programmes.

6. The Committee again observed that Tropenbos Ghana Programme supports research into natural resource based conflict management, forest responses to different silvicultural treatment, managing of off-reserve timber resources as well as timber regeneration after logging. The national process to set priorities for forestry research and development receives support from Tropenbos.

7. Your Committee was informed that Tropenbos provided the platform for discussions on important policy issues such as managing illegalities associated with forest operations, equity in forest benefit sharing and means of alternative livelihoods.

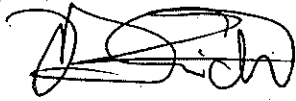
8. The Committee observed that the nation will in this new agreement benefit from €2.0million grant facility from Tropenbos Foundation International, Netherlands. This will be channelled into research, human resource development, capacity building and

information dissemination on sustainable management of forest resources.

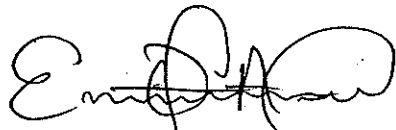
## **CONCLUSION**

9. The overall outcome of this agreement is considerably beneficial to the nation. Your Committee therefore recommends that the House approves the ratification of the Revised Tropenbos International Foundation Agreement, 2007.

Respectfully submitted:



**HON. JOSEPH BOAHEN AIDOO**  
**CHAIRMAN,**  
**COMMITTEE ON LANDS & FORESTRY**



**EMMANUEL OPOKU-ACHEAMPONG**  
**AG. CLERK,**  
**COMMITTEE ON LANDS & FORESTRY**  
*June, 2008*