



Final Report on
Africa Task Force:
West Regional Africa Workshop

Environmental Resilience:
An Agenda for Action for
Land professionals to advocate for change in
Land and Natural Resource Management

Elmina, Ghana

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Chairs Final Report 2013

Africa Task Force: West Regional Africa Workshop

The FIG Africa Task Force (ATF) is an initiative aimed at supporting FIG African Member Associations and Academic members over the period 2010- 14.

This global taskforce emerged in response to consideration by the general council and approved by General assembly in Eilat, Israel, May 2009. The terms of reference and supporting material can be viewed at www.fig.net/atf.

This is the Chairs report of the sub Saharan African Task Force workshop regarding the preparation and running of a two-day workshop with a focus on Environmental Resilience: An agenda for Action for Land professionals, held on 21- 22 October 2012 in Elmina, Ghana.

The key purpose of the task force is to enable the surveying profession in sub Saharan Africa to deal with social responsibility in terms of contributing to achieving the MDGs. In this regard, the role of the surveyors as change agents engaging with the politicians and civic society is important.

Each year the Task Force invites an African member association to co-host the workshop event. It is with great pleasure that the FIG Africa Task Force (ATF) welcomed the **Ghana Institution of Surveyors (GHIS)** who organised the logistical arrangements in Ghana. In addition this year focus compliments building the profession for the future generation accordingly the FIG **Young Surveyors Network (YSN)** contributed significantly to the deliberations.

The two day Workshop considered and devised key messages in Environmental Resilience in Land, to strengthen FIG Members within sub Saharan Africa and will present its findings at FIG Working Week in Abuja 6th- 10th May 2013.

Key activities undertaken

Seminar Organisation and Program

This workshop brought together decision makers and practitioners from several African nations (Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Niger Republic, Tanzania, Senegal, South Africa, Uganda and Zimbabwe) with expertise across the range of land professional disciplines within the FIG membership.

The final version of the workshop programme is attached to the detailed report available on the web site www.fig.net/atf. Presentations from the workshop are also available on the FIG web site.

The objectives of the workshop

The task force in 2012 will look at the theme, Environmental Resilience in Land and to develop Land professional's capacity through a strategic foresight exercise. This aims to develop and promote an Agenda for Action for Land Professionals to advocate change in approaches to land and resource development in support of good land governance.

The workshop recognises that the pace of change in the Environmental agenda adds urgency to our professional work. Environmental resilience in this workshop is

defined as human impact that should not be greater than the environmental carrying capacity of the natural resource.

Over a two day workshop the Task Force objectives were to provoke thought and stimulate debate along with the objectives to:

- promote a longer term proactive outlook among delegates;
- challenge some existing assumptions about the future development of land governance;
- encourage alternative ways of thinking about what lies ahead in a rigorous and systematic manner; and
- provide a platform for delegates to participate in thinking, talking, planning and acting creatively and differently together.

These objectives were achieved and a set of Scenarios developed that have led to the drafting of an Agenda for Action with a final draft document expected to be uploaded on the web site soon. The deliberations of how this was achieved are explained below.

Speakers and Participants

An invitation letter was sent to all member associations in sub Saharan Africa requesting that they circulate amongst their members. Other special invites were sent to African land professionals (Planners and Engineers). In addition the Young Surveyors Network (YSN) successfully obtained a FIG Foundation grant which combined with their own resources, funded young professional's to attend the workshop.

Delegates were limited to 42 in number, an initial list of participants were drawn from the registration process organised by ATF and GhIS

The list of confirmed participants and speakers is attached to the detailed report, available on the web site.

Deliberations

In the face of ever increasing impacts as a result of human settlement, planning for the future of the places we inhabit has become increasingly challenging. The social, economic, environmental, and infrastructure systems that sustain us have become more complex and interdependent, and uncertainty about future changes remains high. A deeper understanding of sustainability has extended the planning horizon to 30 years and beyond, far longer than the terms of most politicians and the careers of today's planners and administrators.

As professionals we need to take the opportunity to take a leading role in advocating to stakeholders the need for key environmental mitigations steps to prevent land degradation. GHIS President D K Kyere (FGHIS) echoed that exploring the advocacy role of Land Professionals is very apt and timely as most governments in Africa, including Ghana, are trying to streamline the issues of land as part of the general shift in the development paradigm.

Our deliberations over the next two days are concentrated around a Futures approach. This approach offers a powerful means of exploring what might happen in the future and identifies strategic actions that might be taken today to prepare for prospective futures in our professional lives. Drawing upon and adapting Strategic Foresight methodologies, the two-day structure is very much a rapid futures appraisal approach.

The first day was led by presentations from Kayoed David Oluwamotemi (Nigeria),

and two Surveyors from the Young Surveyors network, Leah Njugana (Kenya) and Ronald Ssegendo (Uganda) each sharing their personal professional observations addressing the global trends that might influence African nations in the next 20+ years. Once the delegates shared their understanding of the trends, the deliberations moved onto the scenario planning and development process

Scenarios are compelling pictures of alternative possible futures. They are not predictions or forecasts, but stories that help us to imagine and portray complex, multi layered and multi dimensions systems, such as development in land and land use.

The participants were split into groups in which to carry out the two days' activities. The remainder of the day concentrated upon going through a rapid appraisal of scenario planning that will enable thinking to devise key messages. Delegates are divided into groups in order to concentrate on specific environmental themes:

- Climate Change (Group 1)
- Natural Resource Security; food, water (Group 2)
- Infrastructure; Power, Transport (Group 3)
- Urbanisation & Rural/ Urban migration (Group 4)
- Biodiversity; landscape/ nature protection (Group 5)
- Mining Resources (Group 6)

At the end of the day each group had a clear idea of their respective environmental theme, they created scenarios that are all plausible and take into account trends as identified today, and that will have an impact in the 20- 30 year future.

The second day maintained innovative thinking by deliberating and collecting information to compile an Agenda for Action. The outcome provided 6 environmental themes, each with 4 possible and plausible scenarios. From each set of scenarios, a preferred foresight future is identified for Land professionals. Delegates considered and debated in a rigours and logical sequence to find ideas for action for key messages, i.e. material that will prepare for the Agenda for Action. This included recommendations on how to mitigate negative impacts of environmental degradation (a) skills needed to help Land professionals to be better prepared and understand the issues (b) Engagement with whom, and on what stakeholder platforms, and (c) the role of Member Associations.

On the plenary stage the presentations of each group's proposal were made, followed by a plenary discussion led by Dr Jenny Whittle (South Africa), all positively critiqued issues presented by the groups.

In the final wrap-up session it was agreed that the 2012 ATF workshop has successfully outlined:

1. Key messages; A series of scenarios to demonstrate key messages based on environmental themes
2. Text material: to be used to compile an agenda for action. This will be prepared and incorporated into a Draft Futures document over the subsequent months to be further discussed at the ATF Roundtable to be held at the FIG Working Week in Abuja, May 2013.
3. For individuals: the workshop has started an earnest and continuing conversation about the future of the profession in an advocacy role, and especially the opportunity to be taken up by the member associations.

Outcome of the Workshop

Reaching consensus on the next steps, that in the first quarter of 2013 action by:

- End February - Each of the 6 groups will be responsible for review and refinement of their scenarios.
- March - final edit, formatting and print production in preparation for,
- May - the draft Agenda for Action will be brought to the Roundtable held at the FIG Working week, Abuja, for final discussion on content.

A short workshop report based on the detailed deliberations has been prepared and uploaded onto the ATF web site.

Closing remarks

Underpinning the workshop deliberations is the challenge for individual member associations to work toward our Vision to facilitate environmental resilience in land:

By 2030 Africa land professionals will provide global thought leadership and promote professional leadership qualities amongst its members and within their Associations

To do this requires capacity of sufficient number of Land professionals entering the profession who are mindful of the need for foresight in their own profession as well as society at large. Delegates were enthused to encourage their member associations to take on-board the Scenario strategic planning tool and All supported one delegate's observation that the process enables All to:

***UNDERSTAND LIFE FROM OUR HISTORY,
WE WANT TO LIVE INTO THE FUTURE.***

Further, it is accepted that to reduce environmental impact as a result of human activities we need to change and adapt our practices. Environmental adaptation is not just an issue for government; the Land Professional sector has an opportunity to contribute to the development and deployment of public adaptation solutions.

Clearly in a rapid scenario appraisal such as this, detailed work on adaptation cannot be made but this workshop is the beginning. By providing exploratory and plausible story- scenarios will enable Member Associations to progress and adapt the stores and apply this to their own specific nation contexts.

Drawing from the key messages identified in the scenario planning process, it is hoped that this agenda will enable professionals to support and advocate practices contributing to the good land governance and potentially contribute to a Nation State Adaptation Strategy as these emerge in the upcoming years.

To achieve the workshop Vision requires delegates to encourage Member Associations to use the workshop output as a starting methodology for further development to devise a realistic strategy that articulates adaptation messages to mitigate against environmental degradation in land governance policy and land management actions.

We aim to now to cast the net wider than just the workshop and look at capturing the thinking and input from the wider FIG membership at the Roundtable in Abuja 2013.

Website

The conference web site website is located at: <http://www.fig2010.com>

The FIG web site is located at: www.fig.net

Dr Diane Dumashie, Chair, Chair Africa Task Force, February 2013