



Brockley Combe | Backwell | Bristol | BS48 3DF | UK  
+44 (0)1934 864 263 | victoria.wiafe@theidlgroup.com | www.theidlgroup.com

## Victoria Wiafe

### SUMMARY:

Victoria Wiafe is a research consultant working in the natural resources and biodiversity sector for more than six years in Ghana. She has also worked as a social development consultant with civil society organisation in Ghana, Liberia and Cameroon. She has a detailed understanding of donor-funded development projects (World Bank, USAID, DFID and the European Commission) as well as multi-donor programmes such as the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance Program (NREG). Through various assignments, she has developed an extensive knowledge and familiarity with the civil society and natural resource environment in Ghana. In particular, she conducted a feasibility study on civil society support in Ghana under which recommendations for the design of a civil society strengthening facility for the European Commission were made. She also recently supported the government of Ghana in the development their Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) Preparation Proposal in readiness for climate change. Victoria was also a part of the team responsible for the development of a strategy and action plan for biodiversity conservation and management in the northern savannah region of Ghana. She recently validated Ghana against the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative framework.

### KEY STRENGTHS:

- Knowledge in climate change and REDD Readiness activities internationally and nationally
- Experience in participatory natural resource management promotion and planning
- Experience in social development and familiarity with civil society strengthening facilities in Ghana
- Social and Environmental Impact Assessments
- Participatory Monitoring and Evaluation
- Strong organizational and management skills
- Good Facilitation techniques

### QUALIFICATION:

Bsc. (Hon) Natural Resource Management, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Ghana, 2001.  
Advanced Facilitation Training, Bristol, UK, 2007.

## **COUNTRY EXPERIENCE:**

Ghana, Liberia, South Africa, Kenya, Malawi.

## **RECENT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Dec 2009 – Feb 2010: Consultant – Validation of the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Ghana, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Ghana**

The principles of EITI seek to promote good governance, and accountable and transparent use of mining benefits. The main objective of the EITI validation is to provide an independent assessment, including verification, of the progress a country has made in implementing the EITI, and to make recommendations that may help improve or sustain the EITI in the future. Validation is critical to maintaining the initiative's integrity and status as an international standard, and an integral component of the EITI process. Victoria was the natural resources and consultation consultant on the team.

### **April – August 2009: Consultant – Development of REDD Readiness Preparation Proposal for the Government of Ghana.**

*theIDLgroup* is currently engaged in the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Mechanism with developing the readiness plan (R-Plan) for REDD in Ghana. The objective of this assignment is to support the Government of Ghana in preparing the policy components of the FCPF Readiness Plan and in delivering the final R-Plan by coordinating overall preparation and providing technical inputs. The R-plan includes a number of components such as an assessment of land use and forest policies and governance in the forest area in Ghana; preparation of a consultation and outreach plan on the national REDD strategy; design of social and environmental impact analysis methodology for the REDD strategy to be designed; design of a national REDD strategy; and estimating investment and capacity building requirements for the implementation of the REDD strategy. Tasked with the policy and consultation component of the R-proposal.

### **March 2009 – 2012: M&E Consultant - Governance & Transparency Framework, Making the Forest Sector Transparent, Global Witness (Ghana/Liberia).**

Making the Forest Sector Transparent is a four year programme being undertaken by Global Witness and *theIDLgroup Ltd* to strengthen civil society engagement in the forest sector in order to secure government accountability. The objective is to increase access to information on forest sector activities; advocate for greater transparency; and support a network of CSOs working on forest governance. Victoria is a member of the team providing monitoring and evaluation services to the programme, including supporting partner organizations to establish M&E frameworks and delivering capacity building to ensure effective implementation.

### **Jan – March 2009: Research Consultant – Preparation of Letter of Development Policy on Environment and Natural Resources for the Government of Ghana, funded by European Commission**

Assisted the team in the preparation of a Policy Document for Environment and Natural Resource

Sectors in Ghana. The policy document focuses on the sub-sectors of mining, forestry and environmental protection, but also highlights cross-sectoral issues that relate to governance and environmental protection and supports areas where the Government has adopted processes with an international dimension.

**2007–2009: Facilitation of Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), Ghana and Liberia**

Victoria has provided support to the FLEGT process in Ghana and Liberia as part of IDLs role in facilitating the process in Ghana. In 2003 the European Commission adopted an Action Plan for Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) to attempt to address the problem of illegal logging and associated trade in illegal timber products which have serious economic, social and environmental impacts in many countries. Core aspects of the Action Plan are support for improved governance in wood-producing countries and a licensing scheme to ensure only legal timber enters the EU.

**April – July 2008: Consultant - Feasibility Study on Civil Society Support in Ghana, European Commission**

Conducted a nation-wide qualitative and quantitative mapping study of existing civil society structures and the environment in which they operate in the country, existing donor initiatives in supporting non-State Actors and an assessment of the needs of CSOs at various organizational and sector levels. The main objective of this mapping exercise was to design a European Commission Civil Society Strengthening Facility for civil society development in Ghana.

**March 2008: Research Consultant - the Role of Private Actors in Development in Ghana, World Bank**

This was a World Bank study to identify the various private actors and philanthropist who have been contributing to development in Ghana. Victoria used her knowledge of non-state actors in country to organize meetings with the appropriate organizations for the mission team.

**June 2007 – Jan 2008: Consultant - Natural Resources and Environmental Governance Program, World Bank**

Tasked with organizing and facilitating consultative workshops and sector dialogue meetings for civil society organizations, state actors in the natural resource and environment sectors and Development Partners in Ghana to discuss and fine tune the NREG program assessment framework of policy, institutional and financial reforms which had been developed by the forestry, mining and environment government institutions. This also included consultations with civil society organizations in the environment and natural resource sector to accentuate social components of the program assessment policy matrices and develop an interim civil society strengthening facility for the NREG program. She also provided assistance in the planning and organization of all NREG missions (Aide Memoire, updating mission agenda and contact list, and mission meeting report) within the period.

The scope of the NREG program is to address governance and management issues as regards natural resources and environment with the overall objective of ensuring sustainable economic growth, alleviating poverty, increasing revenues and improving environmental protection. The program primarily deals with forestry and wildlife; mining, environmental protection.

**October 2007: Co-Facilitator, Proposal Writeshop for the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa Adaptation Knowledge Sharing Network, FARA/IDS**

Facilitated a two-day meeting of FARA partners within the Africa sub-region and the Institute of Development Studies, UK at the FARA Secretariat, Accra to review a proposal designed to provide support to two linked areas of the Climate Change Adaptation in Africa (CCAA) Programme: (a) facilitation of a knowledge sharing network on climate change adaptation in Africa and (b) capacity building in adaptation research communications. Through a set of horizontal collaborations between organisations spread across Africa's regions and the Institute of Development Studies in the UK, this core group developed the foundations of a continent-wide sustainable knowledge sharing network, to support the active use of climate adaptation research for Africa's most vulnerable people.

**Jan 2007 – Feb 2008: Project Manager- Northern Savannah Biodiversity Conservation Project, World Bank**

Member of team responsible for developing a savannah biodiversity conservation strategy and action plan including a policy paper on savannah resource management for the Northern Region of Ghana. This study was part of the government's overall strategic framework of developing community based, integrated resource management in the savannah zone with the objective enhancing social and environmental benefits to the region.

**April 18 – 29, 2006: Research Consultant – Ghana Parliamentary Select Committee on Lands, Forestry and Mines**

Assisted in designing a study tour on wildlife park management and conservation for parliamentarians in Ghana, where they reviewed public, private and community management of wildlife parks in South Africa, Malawi and Kenya. Handled all logistical arrangements and accompanied the MPs throughout the tour. Meetings were organized with government policy officials, private sector park operators, community park operators, politicians and civil society groups

**July 2005 – March 2008: Research Consultant - Rights and Voice Initiative (RAVI), DFID**

She assisted in the development of right-based monitoring and evaluation systems for the Ghana Rights and Voice Initiative (RAVI), a \$6m 4-year civil society programme. RAVI provides support for 30 civil society organisations in Ghana, including leading environmental advocacy groups such as Forest Watch Ghana and WACAM. Participated in quarterly reviews with RAVI partner Civil Society Organisations (CSO's) in Northern, Ashanti and Greater Accra Regions and has led the facilitation of CSO groups in designing monitoring procedures for RAVI. Currently providing training to the RAVI secretariat staff in the updating of their website and the production of a new monthly e-newsletter.

**2004 – 2005: Research Consultant - Country Environment Analysis, World Bank**

Victoria provided support to FRR's contract with the World Bank for policy and institutional inputs to the Ghana Country Environmental Assessment (CEA), in particular assisting with the compilation of financial, expenditure and budgetary data from MOFEP and other MDAs for the public environmental expenditure review (PEER) elements of the CEA. She also organized and participated in several meetings and consultative workshops between civil society organizations, environmental NGOs, government institutions and the mission team during the study.

**2004 - 2007: Ghana Lands and Forest Policy Support Facility (GLFPSF)**

The GLFPSF is a funding facility which commissions research activities and studies which aim to strengthen the supply-side for evidence based policy development. Studies have so far been carried out

into: policy coherence and harmonisation; resource conflicts and benefits sharing in Ghana; improved government responsiveness to civil society; legality of timber; and wood waste utilisation.

She was responsible for web content management and monthly e-newsletter management for the GLFPSF ([www.ghana-psf.org](http://www.ghana-psf.org)).

**2003 – 2004: Project Coordinator, Bruks Associate**

**Survey on Sawn Timber Milling Industry Cost Structure, Amex International**

She participated in data collection and analysis from twenty-five timber firms in the Ashanti, Brong Ahafo and Central Regions of Ghana.

**USAID Project on the Developmental Impact of Private Remittances to Ghana Study**

Collected data and provided assistance in data analysis from all banks, remittance houses and Forex bureau in the Greater Accra, Ashanti and Brong Ahafo Regions.

**Aug – Oct 2003: Reporter, Hamilton Resources and Consulting - Community Fora to test Forestry Commission's competitive bidding process for the allocation of timber rights from forest owners' perspectives**

Had the responsibility of developing community consensus report for five regions on the high forest zones for the study.

**2002: Kenwood Communications Ghana Ltd, Marketing Executive**

She was responsible for devising attractive marketing strategies for the sale of the two-way radios and accessories. She also worked as an intermediary between the company's clients and management.

**2001: Survey Enumerator - Forest Sector Development Project Phase 1**

This was a baseline survey for the development of a Service Performance Charter for the Ghana Forestry Commission (FC) in all the regions in the country. She interacted with inhabitants of towns and villages in the pilot sites to gather information on the shortcomings of FC in these regions. This was under the first Service Charter for a public sector agency in Ghana.

**August 2000 - May 2001: Research Assistant, Hamilton Resources & Consulting (p.l.l.c) - Ghana Wood Industry and Log Export Ban Study, DFID**

She assisted the team in research into Ghana's forest industry performance, structure, capacity and incentives, as well as distribution of forest benefits in the forest sector; the log export and chain saw bans and their impacts and making recommendations for bringing industry capacity within the limit of the regulated harvest.