



REPORT 2

THE PRESENT – COMMUNITY RESOURCE IDENTIFICATION

Date: April 26 - 27, 2017

Venue: Liati Wote

Present: 20 PARTICIPANTS SELECTED BY THE LIATI WOTE COMMUNITY, STEPPING STONES FOR AFRICA (CINDY NOORDERMEER-PANOU, JONATHAN KUMA GAVI), JOLINAIKO ECO TOURS (APOLLO PANOU) AND ONE BELGIUM STUDENT.

INTRODUCTION

The transect walk was a follow up on the first exercise of telling the community story from the past to the present. Essentially, the goal of this exercise was to produce a social map by identifying community resources. This will in turn aid in identifying the tourist potentials, places of interest, individuals with special skills and unexplored potentials. The exercise was also intended to identify community weaknesses – what these community potentials are lacking and therefore making them ineffective, unprofitable or unattractive.

THE PRESENT – A CROSS-CUT TRANSECT WALK

At a village square meeting prior to the exercise 20 participants were selected from different identifiable groups within the community to do the transect walk. These groups were:

- The chief and elders
- The Queen mother and her council
- Tourism management staff
- Town Development Committee
- Water and Sanitation Committee
- Wote Afadjato Youth Association (WAYA)

Cindy Noordermeer-Panou gave an overview of the first meeting and the purpose of the current meeting which was to identify and locate the developments versus underdevelopments and to identify development needs and potentials. The participants were divided into two heterogeneous groups. Participants were asked to explain or mention all the aspects that are important to them either positive or negative. Each group was assisted by a facilitator, Kuma or Cindy, who facilitated the discussions during the walk, and by Sandra or Christoph Gavi who sketched everything that was said. Based on these sketches, a larger map of the walk was drawn. These maps identified and located all the concepts that were mentioned and were presented to the group by one of the participants. The two maps were combined to produce a community resource map of the village. This map was later reproduced on a large plywood and displayed at the village square for wider community input.

The two routes of cross-cut transect walk:

- Group 1: started from the Tagbo Falls Lodge, along the main village street and through several compounds to the old Border Guard Station, coming up to the E. P. Church Pastor's house and ending up at the houses after the Chief's house.
- Group 2: from the Community Guest House through compounds to the clinic, Junior High School and CRAN compound.



CHALLENGES IDENTIFIED DURING THE WALK:

- i. Lots of dirty neighbourhoods.
- ii. Poor maintenance of buildings particularly not painting houses makes them look unkempt and ugly.
- iii. Public toilets and refuse dumps located too close to the main road.
- iv. Excessive felling of trees in the forest.
- v. Increasing truancy and drop-out rate among pupils/students in the village.
- vi. Leadership challenges – command structure seems broken leading to disunity among the people. This is evident in the lackadaisical attitude towards communal labour.
- vii. The youth are not empowered to contribute to community development.
- viii. Growing lack of respect for elders.
- ix. Giving up useful traditional practices for the so called modernity.

Rains affected the course of the meeting and the prioritization exercise is postponed till August 2017

