

Salvaging Timber from the Volta Lake

A Project by CSR Developments

Growing the Economy while Considering the Environment

When fully operational, CSR Developments is expected to create more than a hundred million dollars of revenue per year and directly employ close to 400 people.



A boat crossing at the Volta Lake.

Employment multiplier – CSR Developments is anticipated to have an employment multiplier of approximately 3.5. This means that each job created by the company directly is expected to create a further 2.5 jobs in the economy, adding up to a total of approximately **1,400 jobs created**.

Economic Impact

- Direct employment: close to 400
- Total jobs created: 1,400
- Yearly activity: several hundred million dollars



Value added multiplier – A recent economic study summarized value-added multipliers for forestry industries around the world. These numbers point to an average value-added multiplier of 2.7 for forest industries in West Africa.

Therefore, for each dollar of value created by CSR Developments, an additional 1.7 dollars would be added to the Ghanaian economy.

Thus the company's operations will create additional economic activity of **several hundred million dollars** to the economy of Ghana every year.

The Volta Lake Research Project at the University of Ghana

The Volta Basin Research Project (VBRP), University of Ghana, has recently signed a memorandum of understanding with CSR Developments that will enable **cooperation in research, development and business activities** and help facilitate the smooth and timely implementation of the Volta Lake project.

The **extensive knowledge of the lake** and its surrounding communities that VBRP offers will be very helpful to the success of the CSR Developments timber salvage project.

In the near term, VBRP will provide the company with **advice, technical support and information** to assist with its preparation of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for the project.



The input from VBRP will cover a variety of topics ranging from fisheries to biodiversity.

Both organizations are looking forward to the results of the ESIA, as they will guide the development of activities under the agreement for the **five year term**.

Potential projects may include research on water quality, human diseases, alternative livelihoods, as well as aquaculture development and project monitoring.

VBRP and CSR Developments hope that their **partnership will act as a catalyst** to encourage other parties, including government institutions, donor agencies, NGOs and corporations, to work together for the sustainable development of the Volta Lake.

Lake Transportation

Trees in the Volta Lake have been a **transportation hazard** for more than forty years.

Despite numerous efforts, a viable solution has not been found for this pressing concern.

CSR Developments expects that its project will **help solve** some of the major, tree-related transportation **safety issues**.

In partnership with the government and other public, private and civil society stakeholders, **the company will work to develop and finance a viable plan** for removing these trees.

As an important first step in beginning to address the navigation risks in areas where the timber value allows for recovery operations, CSR Developments will **remove the hazardous trees** as part of its operations.

The company is already working with key stakeholders to facilitate a comprehensive review of transportation safety on the Volta Lake that would seek to identify **practical actions** to address transportation safety issues.

To this end, CSR Developments sponsored the operations direc-

tor of the National Lake Rescue Institute in Uganda, which has saved countless fishermen through its education and life jacket programmes, to visit the lake and **evaluate opportunities for improving lake safety**.

Community and general **public education** on lake transportation safety requirements and **support for communities with life-saving equipment** are expected to be important elements in the corporate social responsibility contribution of CSR Developments.

The company is also actively supporting the **Ministry of Harbours & Railways** and the **Millennium Challenge Corporation** efforts to improve transportation in the Afram Arm of the Volta Lake.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)

CSR Developments has committed to undertaking an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) that meets or exceeds the higher of **Ghanaian** or **World Bank / International Finance Corporation** standards.

This is the **first time** that a complete ESIA has ever been performed on an underwater timber salvage operation.

The process involves three essential steps. First, a **Scoping Report** outlines the baseline data on which -- in a second step -- a full Environmental and Social Impact Assessment is based.

The full ESIA is now under way. Once completed, it will be submitted to Ghana's **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)** for review.

After a permit is issued, CSR Developments will write and implement an **Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)**, as a final step, under which it will operate the concession.

In its Scoping Report, completed in late 2007, the ESIA study team obtained early input from its stakeholders, undertook a preliminary impact assessment and identified potential mitigation measures.

This preliminary study is in keeping with **globally accepted, best practices**. The Scoping Report has been studied by numerous stakeholders to confirm the key issues that are the focus of the ESIA.

The company is now gathering comprehensive information that will enable it to **meet the long-term economic, environmental, social and safety objectives** of the venture.

Extensive baseline data has been collected for analysis of potential long-term impacts, particularly on **water quality and fisheries**.

The company is looking forward to completing the ESIA, and developing its ESMP and operational plans.



A boat crossing at the Volta Lake.

Partnership with the Nature Conservation Research Centre

CSR Developments and the Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC) agreed in 2007 to collaborate on social and ecological issues facing lake communities.

The partnership has two key objectives: to **improve living conditions and economic opportunities** in the operating area, and to increase knowledge of the West African manatee and protect its shoreline habitats in the Afram Arm.

Specific activities outlined under the partnership include better understanding of water safety issues, the provision of household solar lighting and safe water supply, as well as scholarship funds for junior secondary school students.

NCRC will use its Ghanaian network to advocate and support **social infrastructure investment** in target communities.



Volta Lake Project Summary

- Company founded in 2005 with strong Ghanaian roots
- 25-year concession covering 350,000ha of the lake
\$15 million invested, \$100 million in next 4 years
- Employment, community development and lake transportation safety
- Creating financial, environmental and social returns
- Partnering with government, NGOs and local communities

The submerged forest offers habitat to one of the **most important remaining manatee populations**, which has been trapped above the Akosombo dam for more than forty years.

But the manatees are now under threat from fishing activities and some hunting.

The **joint efforts** of the two organizations will focus on research, **mitigation and conservation** measures to allow the human and manatee populations to co-exist.



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