

Salvaging Timber from the Volta Lake

A Project by CSR Developments

Highlights

The project to **salvage trees** from the bottom of the Volta Lake is the **first of its kind in the world**. To launch it, Clark Sustainable Resource Developments, Ltd. (CSR Developments) has entered into an agreement with the **Government of Ghana** and the **Volta River Authority (VRA)** for the rights to extract trees from the submerged forests in the Volta Lake.

The Ghanaian parliament **unanimously ratified** the agreement, reflecting national support. The concession was later refined to cover 350,000 hectares, which is less than half of the lake's 850,000 hectares.

Founded in 2005, the company has a strategy to secure and operate licenses to **salvage underwater forests** in tropical countries, beginning in Ghana.

CSR Developments is taking an innovative **triple bottom line** approach to its business: its mission is to develop **resources that create social and economic value** while respecting and enhancing the **environment**.

It has committed to meeting or exceeding Ghanaian and **World Bank - International Finance Corporation** environmental and social impact assessment standards.

CSR Developments is a Canadian company with a growing, wholly-owned Ghana subsidiary. It has thus far **invested more than \$15 million in developing operations in Ghana**.

The concession was granted for a 15-year period, with an additional 10-year renewal option.

The CSR Developments management team has **global expertise** in forestry, timber processing, business management and operations, including in a number of African countries. It also brings extensive experience in environmental and community development.

The management team is more than 50% African heritage, with the Ghana team 80% Ghanaian. The company is assuming the risks in this large and complex enterprise, **without the government having to expend any public funds**.



A new green resource? A semi-submerged tree in the Volta Lake.

The government of Ghana has a substantial **carried interest** in the project .

The success of the Volta Lake concession will have a deeply positive impact including improved regional infrastructure, and significant employment, training and service opportunities. New foreign investment is expected to surpass **\$100 million** over the next four years.

The company will work with government agencies and other partners to **support community and infrastructure development** in the region, and it will **act as a catalyst** for addressing critical social issues.

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

Project Benefits

Employment

- This first-of-its-kind operation will create **hundreds of jobs and business opportunities**. It will help raise the standard of living in some communities around the lake through its own activities and by sourcing supplies and services.
- When fully operational, CSR Developments will **employ close to 400 people**, and create more than **\$100 million in foreign exchange revenues** yearly.
- The total impact of the project will be **more than 1,400 jobs** and **several hundred million dollars** in economic activity annually.

Lake Transportation Safety

- CSR Developments is working with the government and others to **improve lake transportation safety** by exploring tree removal and other solutions.
- Expanded lake transportation will create new economic development opportunities in the region.



Community Development

- Community development projects initiated and supported by CSR Developments will focus on critical **social, educational, and environmental issues**.
- The operations of CSR Developments will establish **world-class social and environmental management** and performance throughout its operations.
- A co-generation plant will **produce electricity** for the mill with excess amounts being made available to the **Ghana power grid**.

Economic Development

- Foreign direct investment of **\$15 million** has already been deployed and an **additional \$100 million** is planned over the next four years.
- The Government of Ghana has a substantial **carried interest** in the project, and the project will significantly **expand the regional tax base**.
- This major international operation will strengthen the industry and establish **Ghana as the world leader** in the emerging underwater timber industry.



Barges and backhoe being readied for a timber salvage operation in the Afram Arm of the Volta Lake.