



Annex 7 – Summary of Consultations and Stakeholder Consultation Plan

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PART ONE - SUMMARY OF CONSULTATIONS

Introduction and Context

The consolidated report on consultations held on the Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ project (GSLRP), provides an overview of various consultations held at different times of the project design. As a background, the initial idea on the GSLRP stems from the Ghana Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) Strategy which benefited from several rounds of multi-stakeholder reviews and engagements under the readiness phase of Ghana's efforts towards reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD+).

In line with the above-mentioned, the Forestry Commission (FC) officially requested United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to support the development of a Green Climate Fund (GCF) project proposal in line with Ghana's REDD+ Strategy, which identified the need for a programme focusing on the Shea landscape of Ghana. UNDP communicated this request to the Nationally Designated Authority (NDA) on 25 November 2016. After discussing this request with the NDA Technical Advisory Committee¹, the NDA nominated UNDP as Multilateral Implementation Entity (MIE) for this project on 28 December 2016.

Subsequently, series of stakeholder meetings have been held from concept note stage to the full design stage. This report consolidates all the relevant meetings held to date. The National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) as much as possible included a good representation of women on all consultative meetings to ensure gender equity, and gender considerations have been mainstreamed into all elements of the GSLRP. The participation and feedback from these meetings have gone a long way to improve the GSLRP design and ensure that it is realistic and achievable.

I. Summary of consultations

The following is a summary of the process and consultations held:

- a. **Inauguration Ceremony of the Task Force for the Development of the GSLRP, Forestry Commission Board Room, 4th April 2017**
 1. **Introduction:** The meeting was held to inaugurate a select expert group who will assist in the development and drafting of the GSLRP document with technical expertise to provide the necessary backstopping under the direct supervision of the Head of the Climate Change Unit, Forestry

¹ The NDA set up a Technical Advisory Committee made up of key sectoral ministries and agencies to support the NDA in performing its roles, including the prioritization and selection of projects for submission to the GCF, the selection of National Implementing Entities, and more in general to provide advice on GCF related issues.

Commission together with development partners such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

2. **Introductory remarks by the Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission of Ghana:** In his opening Statement, the CEO of Forestry Commission (FC), Mr. Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, explained that the GSLRP is one of Ghana's adopted approaches for implementing REDD+. He stressed the importance of the proposed project and encouraged the members of the Taskforce to develop a proposal which will promote sustainable approaches to land use, forest conservation, and enhanced community-based resource management. This he said will help address the on-going degradation and deforestation from illegal logging, charcoal production, agricultural expansion and illegal mining that threaten the forests and shea production system. He also indicated that, the project will also be an important initiative to strengthen rural economies in the north, support female-dominated shea harvesting systems, increase revenue streams and address poverty, which is widely considered to be endemic in the Northern Savannah Zone (NSZ).
3. **Presentation by the Forestry Commission on GSLRP:** A presentation was made by the Head of the Climate Change Unit and National REDD+ Secretariat of the FC on the objectives, outputs (with outcomes) and activities, the project structure, implementation arrangements, the indicative grant request to GCF and the associated co-financing and the roadmap towards the project submission.
4. **Statement by UNDP:** The UNDP Programme Specialist and Head of Sustainable Development Cluster Unit, Mr. Paolo Dalla Stella, assured the FC and the Taskforce members of UNDP's continuous support both technically and financially to the development of the GSLRP. He underscored the fact that, UNDP is ever ready to support the FC in developing the GSLRP in accordance with the UNDP's Strategic Framework and Country Programme in Ghana.
5. **Inauguration of the Task Force Members:** The CEO of FC inaugurated members of the Taskforce and they constituted members from FC, the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA), A Rocha Ghana, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning (MoFEP), Ghana Cocoa Board, and International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). The Taskforce members thanked the CEO of FC for selecting them and they promised to give their best to support the development of the GSLRP proposal. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Taskforce is attached.
6. **Concluding remarks by the Chair:** The CEO of FC thanked members of the Taskforce for accepting to provide technical backstopping for development of the GSLRP proposal.
7. The list of participants can be found in the annex to this report.

b. **Inception Meeting for GSLRP, Modern City Hotel, Tamale 24th May 2017**

1. **Introduction:** An inception meeting was held at Tamale, Northern Region of Ghana, to introduce the GSLRP and solicit support from key stakeholders in the landscape. As part of the inception meeting, field visits were conducted to various sites and locations in the region. The specific objectives of the inception meeting and field visits were:

- a. Review in detail, conceptual and analytical framework, methodological approach to the project design as well as comments from the GCF Secretariat and how to translate this in full proposal development including:
 - i. Adequacy of the methodological approach and/or gaps that must be filled, if any;
 - ii. Indication of additional work needed to make the proposal acceptable, if any;
 - iii. Discussion, review and finalization of roles and agree on different phases of interaction among the team, including re-adjusting the road map.
 - iv. Further examination of the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and practical linkages to the business case in the GCF proposal;
 - v. Identification and sharing of information on opportunities and on-going initiatives that could enhance the studies.
- b. Receive feedback, proposals and recommendations the development of the full proposal.
- c. Discussions on next steps/roadmap for implementation of recommended actions.

2. **Introductory remarks by the Head of the Climate Change Unit, Forestry Commission of Ghana.** In his welcome address, Head of the Climate Change Unit indicated that, the FC and UNDP are collaborating to develop the GSLRP. He highlighted the GSLRP as a unique project which stems from the Ghana REDD+ Strategy for the Shea Landscape of the Northern Savannah woodland.

3. **Statement from the UNDP:** Ms. Elsie Attafua, UNDP's Senior Regional Technical Advisor, REDD+, underscored the importance of the meeting and said it was very important to give an opportunity for key stakeholders in the landscape to provide genuine feedback and inputs into the project development process. In addition, the meeting was to provide an opportunity to forge potential partnerships including with communities, local authorities and private sector, amongst others. She indicated that, effective collaboration and coordination between FC, UNDP and the various stakeholders will be key in helping shape the programme.

4. **Presentation by the Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA):** The Director of SADA made a presentation on the resources, economic and development challenges of the Northern region. He also presented outcomes of spatial analysis conducted by SADA and the organization's strategy to fully address the challenges of the Northern savannah landscapes. From the spatial analyses, he outlined the main targets in the forestry domain as follows:

- Reduce tree loss by controlling forest fires;
- Increase tree cover in urban centers;

- Increase tree cover in public spaces such as hospitals and schools;
 - Increase tree cover in riparian vegetation.
5. **Presentation by Regional Manager Forest Services Division, Tamale:** The Regional Manager for the Northern Region gave an overview of REDD+ and what it means to Ghana. He emphasized that the REDD+ programme is not limited to the FC but depends on multiple actors in the landscape, hence the need to bring together all the various stakeholders. He said Ghana is transitioning from REDD+ Readiness phase into the implementation phase, and thereby, developing key projects and programmes such as the GSLRP as part of the REDD+ Strategy implementation. He indicated that, the GSLRP is targeted at interventions related to a particular ecological zone and centered around the Shea. He mentioned that, the programme is being led by FC in collaboration with other partners and key stakeholders. He outlined some challenges to forest management in the savanna landscape which included the following:
- Lack of data on forest resources such as maps
 - High poverty levels
 - Poaching and encroachment
 - Annual wildfires
 - Grazing in forest reserves and parks
 - Vast uninhabited areas
- He ended his presentation by giving some recommendations on how the challenges could be addressed, including through the proposed GSLRP. He mentioned that, the GSLRP can leverage and build on existing/new initiatives, promote synergies and complementarities, and align with relevant traditions and customs. He called for support from relevant stakeholders especially landowners
6. **Presentation on the GSLRP and related discussions:** A presentation was made on the GSLRP including the objectives of the project. The discussions that ensued entailed comments and feedback on the proposed GSLRP. These focused on the following:
- Stakeholder engagement: Discussions focused on the need for targeted engagement of traditional leaders' and traditional authorities to enforce existing customary laws since they have power and can influence community members. This comment was well received by the Chiefs and Traditional leaders present and they indicated their commitment to reinforce their efforts in this regard.
 - The issue of Fulani herdsman was discussed and stakeholders encouraged the design team to see how best they can be engaged in project implementation since grazing is a major cause of deforestation and forest degradation in the NSZ.
 - Sustainability: The stakeholders commended the project and mentioned the need to ensure the sustainability of the project. Discussions also focused on the need for the institutionalization of all project activities into the operations of state institutions' activities. Their involvement in project

implementation arrangements was highlighted to ensure ownership and achievement of the needed paradigm shift and transformation.

- **Suggested interventions:** Stakeholders proposed interventions to be considered in the project design including woodlot establishment and alternative livelihood opportunities since that would help address challenges in the forest sector.

7. **Presentation on the drivers of forest loss and degradation in Northern Ghana:** A presentation was made on the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Northern Ghana which focused on the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation. They included the following:

- Agriculture expansion
- Logging
- Fuelwood / Charcoal production
- Wildfires
- Infrastructure development
- Mining
- Over grazing

Following, the above-mentioned presentation, there were focused group discussions to deepen discussions on the nature of drivers of deforestation in the NSZ, and the potential interventions that could address them.

8. **Key conclusions and messages from the meeting:** The key message underscored by the meeting was the need for more concerted efforts on the Shea landscape to achieve climate mitigation targets, promote climate resilience and enhance the livelihoods of rural communities.
9. **Concluding remarks:** The Head of the Climate Change Unit thanked all the participants for making time to be part of the meeting and for their valuable contributions and active participation.
10. The list of participants can be found in the annex to this report.

c. Consultation with Shea Private Sector Actors on June 27, 2017

1. **Introduction:** Consultations were held with private sector companies involved in Ghana shea supply chains through a series of discussions with the Global Shea Alliance (GSA) in 2017/18. The GSA is a non-profit industry association with 450 members from 33 countries, including women's groups, brands and retailers, suppliers and NGOs. Through public-private partnerships, the GSA promotes industry sustainability, quality practices and standards, and demand for shea in food and cosmetics.

As the accredited entity supporting the Government of Ghana in the project formulation process, UNDP held a series of teleconferences with GSA, as well as face-to-face meetings with the GSA secretariat in Accra, Ghana. Discussions included specialized expertise on sustainable and deforestation-free commodity production from representatives of UNDP's Green Commodities Programme.

The GSA secretariat undertook an outreach drive to its members to determine potential interest in participating in the project being proposed by the Government of Ghana and partners to the Green Climate Fund. This included outreach to major buyers and non-governmental organizations who have past or current corporate social responsibility investments in the Northern Savannah Zone.

Through follow up teleconferences, an opportunity was provided for the GSA to pose questions on behalf of members, to determine the potential means of engagement by companies in contributing to the proposed project's objectives. Early interest, particularly from the buyers and NGOs mentioned above, enabled the formulation of Output 2 of the project that focused on *Degraded shea parklands restored through public private partnerships*. A constructive dialogue was held on the nature of the activities to be financed by GCF and co-financiers as part of shaping Activity 2.1 on *Restoration and sustainable management of shea parklands*, Activity 2.2 on *Improving sustainability of shea processing at village and industrial scales*, and Activity 2.3 on *Enhancing an enabling environment for climate-smart shea*.

These private sector consultations also led to the development of a new Activity 2.2.5 on *Upgrading industrial processing equipment to reduce GHG emissions*. The planned sub-activity will see private sector companies providing co-finance for upgrading their processing capacity in Ghana, using cleaner production techniques to avoid greenhouse gas emissions, and bringing additional socioeconomic benefits in the form of enhanced value addition and job creation.

One key result of this private sector and NGO stakeholder engagement has been the successful inclusion in the project of co-finance from 15 separate organizations to the combined value of US\$88,7 million. Letters indicating this support have been received from all these organizations and are submitted with the Funding Proposal as Annex IV. The amounts can be grouped as follows:

- International-based companies (\$30,200,000)
- Ghana-based companies (\$27,586,302)
- Ghana NGOs (\$350,000)
- International NGOs (\$30,650,000)"

In addition to GSA, UNDP also facilitated meetings with Shea Network Ghana (SNG) in Accra. SNG is an organization of shea sector businesses, stakeholders and value chain actors (collectors, buyers, aggregators and brands) formed in 2010 by the Ghana shea private sector and regulator, Ghana

Cocobod to organize and co-ordinate the value chain. The Organization seeks to influence policy and provide solutions to industrywide challenges for overall growth of the shea sector in a coordinated manner. It provides the platform to share industry experiences and knowledge, facilitate synergy and promote shea usage, develop opportunities for stakeholders and share benefits for all. The meetings focused on SNG's role in project design and implementation. SNG Board members also participated in and contributed to meetings to design the GSLRP, particularly Output 2.

d. Meetings on Development of GCF Project Proposal at Fiesta Royal on 08th August 2017

1. **Introduction:** This meeting was organized to update policy makers and other stakeholders including members of the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG) on the development of the GSLRP and introduce to them the development of the Ghana REDD+ Investment Plan (GRIP) for their comments and expert inputs.
2. **Presentation on update of GSLRP:** A presentation was made to update participants on the GSLRP. It focused on the background and objective, outputs (with outcomes) and activities, the project structure, implementation arrangements, the indicative grant request to GCF and the associated co-financing and the roadmap towards the project submission.
3. **Presentation on the GRIP:** In addition to the GSLRP, participants were introduced to the Ghana REDD+ Investment Plan (GRIP), which was intended to operationalize the Ghana REDD+ Strategy, for the implementation of REDD+ in Ghana. It was further explained that, the GRIP is to help facilitate the implementation of policies and measures as well as mobilize the requisite financing and investments associated with the implementation of the Ghana REDD+ Strategy (GRS). Thus, the GRIP would help the country to define, scope and prioritize key investments as well as the associated costs.

Specific objectives of the GRIP are to develop a robust plan that included: a robust theory of change; detailed action plan, including leading and contributing agencies and stakeholders, scope and scale, volume of activities and timeline, quantified targets, expected carbon and multiple benefits, risk assessment and provisions to respect and monitor REDD+ safeguards, financial needs and respective sources and modalities; overarching resource mobilization framework; robust monitoring and evaluation framework.

Discussions and Comments: Participants were very impressed with the update on the development of the GSLRP and commended the proponents on the number of consultations that have been undertaken. On the GRIP, participants lauded the idea and encouraged the development of the plan. One key recommendation that came up strongly was government co-financing funding for GSLRP implementation as a catalytic for additional co-financing from Ghana's development partners as well leveraging bilateral or multilateral funding.

Concluding remarks by the UNDP and FC: The meeting concluded with FC, thanking all participants for their participation in the meeting.

The list of participants can be found in the annex to this report.

e. **Task Force Meeting on the First Draft of the GSLRP Aruba Hotel, Aburi, 1-2 August 2017**

1. **Introduction:** A maiden GSLRP Taskforce meeting was held to initiate the GSLRP proposal development. The main objective of the meeting was to expand the concept note that was sent to the GCF and to incorporate the comments and feedback received from the inception meeting in Tamale.
2. **Presentation by on GSLRP:** A presentation was made by UNDP and the FC on the background and objective, outputs (with outcomes) and activities, the project structure, implementation arrangements, the indicative grant request to GCF and the associated co-financing and the roadmap towards the project submission.
3. **Discussions by the Taskforce on the GSLRP:** The members of the Taskforce focused their discussions on the proposed outputs of the project. They made several inputs as follows:
 - Output 1: The members shared examples of ongoing projects and initiatives in the region that the GSLRP could draw from. This includes the examples of a community level fund in Wecheau district and the landscape level fund being developed in the Mole area by other development partners. Taskforce members also encouraged the design team to look at the natural setting of the Northern Savannah landscape to appreciate the context as this varies from other landscapes in the country. For example, what may be referred to as a degraded area in some parts of Ghana would not be the same for the Northern Savannah. Further, discussions also focused on mapping of already existing and potential Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA). Taskforce members shared their knowledge of the area and indicative criteria to be considered when the choice of CREMA is made.
 - Output 2: Members indicated that there is the need to develop a strategy to improve the shea value chain given that an improvement in this area will increase the income of women who are engaged in the collection of the nuts while concurrently addressing climate change issues.
 - Output 3: Members indicated that, the FC's fire management plans and guidelines for NSZ could serve as a good basis to inform proposed interventions in the GSLRP. The Taskforce also suggested that, fire management implemented as part of the MTS should be complemented with fire management in non-MTS areas. They further indicated the need to map out areas which will be designated for MTS in the project area.
 - The Taskforce members affirmed that a major approach to achieving successful REDD+ implementation in the NSZ was to undertake extensive sensitization and awareness creation in the early stages of project implementation to reorient the minds of the community members on the

drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as well as the interventions that mitigate the impacts of these drivers.

4. **Concluding remarks by the UNDP and FC:** The Taskforce members were urged to work assiduously to enrich the proposal and meet the deadline for submission to the GCF and thanked them for their participation in the meeting.
5. The list of participants can be found in the annex to this report.
- f. [2nd National REDD+ Forum, Accra International Conference Center, 19th October 2017](#)

1. **Introduction:** As part of efforts to garner broad level stakeholder buy-in and political support for Ghana's REDD+ Process, the National REDD+ Secretariat instituted the biennial National REDD+ Forum which brings together all relevant actors in the REDD+ space to create more awareness, showcase on-going national and international actions on REDD+ and also to collect feedback for future actions. Most importantly, it is to galvanize high level political support for Ghana's REDD+ process. The maiden event held in November 2015 was chaired by the then President of the National House of Chiefs, Prof. Naa John S. Nabila and H. E. Ex. President John Agyekum Kufuor was the Special Guest of Honour in his capacity as the UN Special Envoy on Climate Change under the theme "*Conserving our Forests for better lives and a better climate*". The aim of the forum was to galvanize high-level and public support for actions and measures targeted at addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as part of Ghana's contribution to ongoing global efforts at abating global warming and its impacts.

The REDD+ Forum is one of many vehicles instituted under Ghana's REDD+ process to sensitize stakeholders and the general public on the REDD+ mechanism, its benefits and also opportunities. Notable among them are the REDD+ roadshows and REDDeye Campaigns which also have a specific target on the general public and the youth respectively.

2. **The Second National REDD+ Forum:** The 2nd National REDD+ Forum which was held at Accra on 19th October 2017. It brought together stakeholders in the forestry and land sector, donor partners to deliberate on climate change issues and how best the REDD+ mechanism can be adequately used to combat climate change nationally and globally. The 2017 event was under the theme "Strengthening law Enforcement for Effective REDD+ Implementation".
3. **Speech by the President of Republic of Ghana:** The President of the Republic of Ghana, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo Addo, called on all Ghanaians to come on board the fight against climate change.

He said, *“It is real, and we need to support pragmatic measures, such as REDD+, to tackle it for the good of our country and the world.”*

The President also called on the Chief Justice and members of the Judiciary to ensure that the fines and punishments that are pronounced on perpetrators of illegal forest activities are deterrent enough and should be delivered quickly and effectively. H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo – Addo pledged his government’s unflinching support for the fight against climate change. He said *“I want to reiterate that my government is in full support of every action that prevents forest degradation and deforestation, and also increases our forest cover. Our fight against the illegal mining phenomenon, also known as galamsey is a case in point”*.

Making reference to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 and 15, he mentioned that it was very critical that Ghana takes climate change seriously as the signs of its existence were very clear namely rise in sea levels, severe and extreme weather conditions such as droughts, floods and erratic rainfall patterns.

H.E. Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, indicated that *“Ghana is currently developing another sub-national REDD+ programme in the Upper West, Upper East and Northern Regions of Ghana, with the support of the Italian Government through the United Nations Development Programme, for submission to the Green Climate Fund. The programme has the potential to transform the northern savanna ecosystem of Ghana with the right implementation and enforcement structures”*.

Below is a picture of the President of Ghana and members of the High table during the 2nd National REDD+ Forum:



Figure 1 Picture of the President of Ghana and members of the high table during the National REDD+ forum

- g. High Level Briefing Meeting at The Forestry Commission Board Room, Accra 31st October 2017
1. **Introduction:** This meeting brought three heads of Institutions together, namely the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Forestry Commission (FC), the CEO of Ghana Cocoa Board (Cocobod) and the Country Director for UNDP as well as the Chairman for the Parliamentary select committee on Forestry. The meeting was part of efforts to galvanize political support for the GSLRP, particularly seeking support for project design and implementation from Cocobod as well as potential co-financing.
2. **Remarks by the CEO of the Forestry Commission:** The meeting started with a welcome address from Mr. Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, the CEO of FC. He provided an update on the progress of the GSLRP and also welcomed feedback from meeting participants. He further re-iterated the strong commitment of Government in the design of the GSLRP, which has brought the CEOs of two major Government organizations together.
3. **Statement from UNDP:** Mr. Dominic Sam, UNDP Country Director, gave an opening remark and also underlined UNDP's commitment to support the GSLRP.
4. **Statement from Ghana Cocoa Board:** The CEO of Cocobod, Mr. Joseph Boahen Aidoo, gave a brief opening remark and expressed his organization's interest to be part of the proposal development and assured Cocobod's full support to the successful implementation of the GSLRP.
5. **Presentation on the Presentation on the Overview of the GSLRP:** A presentation was made on the GSLRP as part of the high-level briefing. The presentation focused on the overall thrust of the GSLRP,

and its alignment to national policy, planning and programming frameworks, the expected results and impact. Amongst others, it was mentioned that, the GSLRP will provide a boost to industrialization through shea processing facilities, and as well contribute to employment, regional competitiveness in the shea sector, and policy reforms that support climate change mitigation. The presentation also highlighted the importance of mobilizing co-financing from Government as a way of demonstrating the Government's commitment to the process and as well ensuring the sustainability of the project.

6. **Discussions on the GSLRP:** The CEO of the FC, stressed the importance of the shea landscape in Ghana as well as the importance of the Shea tree, which needs to be protected, properly managed and used effectively. He also assured the GSLRP design team of FC's full support. The CEO of Cocobod identified research on Shea as one key area of collaboration with FC. He assured the team of technical support and said that co-financing support will come in kind.

Mr. Francis Manu Adabor, a Member of Parliament for the Ahafo Ano South East, Ashanti region expressed his gratitude to all partners supporting the project, and noted that, GSLRP has the potential to create opportunities for the country through the transformation of the Shea value chain and the reduction of carbon emissions from the NSZ. He advised the three institutions working to jointly and effectively work together to achieve the desired objectives of the project.

7. **Key Messages and Recommendations:** The three key messages and recommendations from the meeting were: a) the need to increase the population of Shea trees given its contribution to climate change mitigation and sustainable livelihoods as well as the entire Shea value chain; b) the need to broker more partnerships with tertiary institutions such as the Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources and other research institutions to such as the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) in the GSLRP design; and c) the need to leverage ongoing national initiatives to support the implementation of the proposed project.
8. **Concluding remarks by the Chair:** The chairperson thanked all stakeholders for their participation and fruitful deliberations in the meeting. The concluded that, the GSLRP is unique and transformational and that all partners should all work together to achieve the success of the project.
9. The list of participants can be found in the annex to this report.

h. Task Force Meeting at Aruba Guest House Conference Room, Aburi 2nd-3rd November 2017

1. **Introduction:** The main objective of the Taskforce meeting was to discuss and review the second draft of the GSLRP proposal. The main objective of the task force meeting was to discuss and review the second draft of the GSLRP proposal.

2. **Discussions on the second draft:** Taskforce members made the following inputs into the GSLRP proposal documents:
 - The need to encourage policy dialogue on how to harmonize existing policies in the forestry and agriculture sectors.
 - The proposal should capture use-rights of Shea trees and ownership of planted shea.
 - The project should support existing arrangements in the planting and use of Shea.
3. **Output 1:** It was agreed to undertake extensive community led forest restoration outside forest reserves. Participants discussed the need for a methodology that will be used to achieve this, as well as the need to involve community members. This discussion led to the decision to strengthen the use of the CREMA approach in the project design. The Taskforce also assessed the use of the criteria for the selection of CREMA against the areas that had been selected for the project.
4. **Output 2:** The Taskforce noted that, the Shea parklands have resulted as a result of historic cultural norms and traditions of the people in the NSZ. Therefore, this project should support the establishment of a system that will incentivize community members to uphold their traditional norms which has resulted in the selective retention of Shea trees on farm and fallow lands. For example, the GSLRP should enable communities to do communal planting of Shea. It was also agreed that, traditional authorities and district assemblies should be given a pivotal role to play in the project implementation since they represent the community and government at the local level respectively.

The project should help to support communities in registering their trees in the Shea parklands. Taskforce members also discussed the need for continuous applied research to reduce the gestation period of Shea and ease of propagation. Different research methods including gem-plasm, stem grafting, and topping were encouraged during discussions. Also, it was agreed that top scientists undertaking research in this area would be contacted during the design phase of the project. Finally, under Output 2, the role of the Global Shea Alliance in supporting the project was underscored.

5. **Output 3:** The discussions by the Taskforce focused on the need for extensive sensitization and intensive fire management in NSZ. It was concluded that, the NSZ had large land banks that had seen severe degradation and eventual deforestation due to fire and there was the need to reverse this trend with this REDD+ project. Members suggested that, the existing benefit sharing regime for MTS from the commercial harvest of the plantation timber be reviewed upwards to favour farmers to serve as an incentive. Members also indicated that nurseries could will be established in communities to produce the seedlings needed. This will help create jobs in the community and serve as a supplementary source of income and livelihood. Some other technical practices were suggested

to be undertaken in the establishment of the MTS plantations including; suitable site selection by the FC, creation of fire rides, creation of fire patrol teams and undertaking of regular patrols especially during the dry season to forestall wildfire incidence and ensure the success of the plantations.

6. **Output 4:** The GSLRP should be very clear on tree tenure and land tenure issues since it is a major issue being considered for policy reform by the government. It was therefore concluded that, the inclusion of the reform of tree tenure and benefit sharing in REDD+ systems such as the Social and Environmental Safeguards, Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM), Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) should be strengthened in the GSLRP, and in particular, Output 4.
 7. **Concluding remarks from the task force meeting:** The FC thanked all the members for their active participation and edged them to send any further comments they have on the proposal.
 8. The list of participants can be found in the annex to this report
- i. Stakeholder Meeting in Tamale, Modern City Hotel 29th November 2017
1. UNDP Country Office in Ghana and the Forestry Commission of Ghana convened a validation and appraisal meeting with the stakeholders and partners in the Northern region of Ghana on the proposed Green Climate Fund (GCF) project on “ **Ghana Shea landscape REDD+ project (GSLRP)**. The objectives of the meeting were:
 - i) to facilitate a final review of the proposal, including the Project Design and Plan and to validate the proposal, and
 - ii) to confirm the arrangements for oversight and quality assurance to be put in place by UNDP as the accredited entity and implementations arrangements through the Forestry Commission.
 2. The meeting was attended by representatives from the Forestry Commission, Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, Ghana Cocoa Board, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Northern Development Authority, Metropolitan Municipal District Assemblies, Communities, Global Shea Alliance, Shea Network Ghana, A-Rocha, International Union For Conservation of Nature, Savannah Agricultural Research Institute, University of Development Studies, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science And Technology, Traditional Authorities, Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) such as Kasa Initiative Ghana, Forest Watch, Forest Forum, the Nature Conservation Research Centre as well as UNDP.

3. The Project Appraisal Meeting was chaired by the Ministry of Land and Natural Resources through the Regional Manager of the Forestry Commission.
4. **Welcome remarks:** The Regional Manager, Mr. Bernard Tabil, formerly welcomed everybody to the meeting. He highlighted the linkages of the proposed project to the national development priorities and the national REDD+ agenda. He noted that, the project will go a long way in supporting REDD+ implementation in Ghana. He recognized the consultative approach adopted in developing the proposal and appreciated all members of the GSLRP taskforce and the private sector actors for their support – both technical and financial support throughout the process. He applauded the National Designated Authority, (NDA), Forestry Commission, Ghana Cocoa Board and UNDP for their coordinated effort in developing the Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Programme proposal.
5. In addition to the above, the Regional Manager mentioned that, the objective of the meeting was to review and validate the draft proposal with stakeholders in the project areas. He informed the meeting that, the members of Parliament and President of Ghana had already been briefed of the project and have expressed their full commitment to the project. By engaging the highest level of decision-makers, they will facilitate the project's integration into national planning and policy processes for required political support and national ownership.
6. **Presentation on the Process towards the Proposal development:** A presentation was made by Mr. Kingsley Bekoe and Mr. Charles Sarpong Duah on the process used in developing the project, updating participants on progress on co-financing of the project, the project economic and financial analysis, gender and stakeholder engagement, and environmental and social safeguards. On the latter, they noted that, the overall social and environmental risk category for this project is moderate based on the application of UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards. They summarized the social and environmental risks as well as their associated mitigation measures based on the social and environmental screening process (SESP) and on the consultative process

with the GSLRP Taskforce, consultants, civil society, community, traditional leaders and the Global Shea Alliance was presented and adopted.
7. **Presentation on the draft GSLRP:** Following a presentation by Mr. Charles Sarpong Duah on the objective, outputs (with outcomes) and activities, the project structure, implementation arrangements, the indicative grant request to GCF and the associated co-financing, the meeting endorsed the project structure, while adding suggestions which are captured here as the additional inputs and recommendations adopted. Valuable suggestions were made by representatives of communities and civil society to enhance the involvement of all stakeholders particularly communities (both men and women) in the Shea Landscape.

8. **Implementation modalities:** The meeting endorsed the proposed implementation arrangements and modalities (National Implementation Modality (NIM) with UNDP as the GCF Accredited Entity and Forestry Commission as the implementing partner. Further, the meeting proposed and agreed on the partner organization/s that will work closely with the Forestry Commission and UNDP on every output and activities proposed. These partners include: Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) Committees and communities, Northern Development Authority, District Assemblies, Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and FORIG, Business Advisory Centres of the District Assemblies and NGO partners could include NCRC, CARE International, A Rocha, IUCN and others. Global Shea Alliance, co-financiers, Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MOFA), Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana, Ghana Cocoa Board, IFAD and Shea Network Ghana. In addition to these institutions, the meeting agreed that stakeholders will be engaged throughout the project implementation.
 9. **Way forward and conclusions:** The meeting validated the proposal and requested UNDP and the Forestry Commission to incorporate recommendations proposed and submit the proposal to the GCF.
 10. The list of participants is annexed to this report.
- j. Validation with the National REDD+ Working Group, Tang Palace, Accra, 23rd November 2017
1. **Introductory remarks by the Forestry Commission of Ghana:** A meeting was held with the National REDD+ Working Group (NRWG), stakeholders from key Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), the Northern Development Authority (NDA), Civil Society Organizations, and Private Sector among others. This meeting served as a validation meeting on the technical components of the project. The objective was to receive feedback, proposals and recommendation from participants including:
 - Adequacy of the findings and/or gaps that must be filled, if any;
 - Indication of additional work needed to make the proposal acceptable, if any;
 - Feasibility of the proposed implementation arrangements;
 - Identification of opportunities for collaboration and partnerships; and
 - Discussions on next steps to complete the project design.
 2. **Presentation by the Forestry Commission on GSLRP:** The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Minister for Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio, Chair of the NWRG. Following, a presentation was made by Mrs. Roselyn Agyei, Head of the Climate Change Directorate and REDD+ Secretariat of the Forestry Commission on the objective, outputs (with outcomes) and

activities, the project structure, implementation arrangements, the indicative grant request to GCF and the associated co-financing and the roadmap towards the project submission. Following her presentation, a series of discussions ensued as presented below.

3. **Discussions by the NRWG on the GSLRP:** The stakeholders identified with and endorsed the listed drivers of deforestation and forest degradation and confirmed that those were the major drivers in the Northern Savanna Zone (NSZ). They made particular reference to perennial wildfire as a very key driver which could even thwart the project objectives of carbon stocks enhancement. They further suggested the need to seriously consider pastoralism as a cause of fire and suggested pragmatic ways of confronting this challenge. Suggestions to forestall this was to establish fodder banks where cattle would be led to graze so as to free other areas for regeneration and reforestation. Another suggestion was to develop a grazing route for the nomads who transit from neighboring countries. They also recommended that, facilities like ponds would be provided along these routes to restrict the cattle from grazing anywhere.
4. Participants also made contributions as per their expertise on how best to undertake some of the activities. For example, civil society organizations emphasized the importance of safeguards during implementation. They noted that, putting in strong safeguards measures will ensure that, there will be no leakage effect of whatever interventions undertaken since most people depend on activities such as illegal timber harvesting as their source of livelihood. This point was also buttressed by the design team who emphasized the Social and Environmental Screening Procedures (SESP) and the Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF), which is part of the design documents to be presented to GCF.
5. Participants also stressed the fact that, the nature of the implementation arrangements of the project would empower key national institutions to sustain and build on the outcomes of the project after the project ends.
6. **Key conclusions and messages from the meeting:** One key message underlined by the meeting participants was the need for more concerted efforts on the Sea value chain to increase its prominence and value to rural communities as a whole. The meeting applauded the work that had gone into the design of the project, and also confirmed that, all the necessary elements to ensure the success of the project have been fully covered in the proposal. They pledged their support to project implementation and recommended that, all the necessary support should be given to the project proponents to ensure that the targets in the project are achieved.
7. **Concluding remarks by the Chair:** The chairperson noted the validation and endorsement of the project by the NRWG and other stakeholders present and thanked them for their participation in the meeting.

8. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

k. **Parliamentarians meeting to validate GSLRP, Accra City Hotel, 22nd November 2017**

1. **Introductory remarks by the Chief Executive Office of the Forestry Commission of Ghana:** A meeting was held with the Parliamentary Select Committee on Forestry together with some members of Parliament from the three Northern regions of Ghana. The objective was to share the draft project proposal with the Parliamentarians, and as well, secure high level political buy-in of the project. The meeting was also intended to receive additional inputs and guidance from such key decision-makers.

In his opening Statement, the CEO of Forestry Commission, Mr. Kwadwo Owusu Afriyie, stressed the importance of the proposed project to achieving Ghana's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the implementation of Ghana's National REDD+ Strategy. He underscored the innovative and transformative nature of the proposed climate change mitigation project and thanked the Parliamentarians for the continuous support in the design of the projects. He also welcomed their support in the future implementation of the project.

2. **Introductory remarks by the UNDP Country Director, Ghana:** The Country Director of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Ghana, Mr. Dominic Sam, thanked the Government for its commitment to the GSLRP design process and also extended gratitude to Parliamentarian for prioritizing this important meeting. He re-iterated UNDP's commitment to the process and called upon the Parliamentarians to continue supporting the project through to its potential implementation.
3. **Presentation by the Forestry Commission on GSLRP:** Mrs. Roselyn Agyei, Head of the Climate Change Directorate and REDD+ Secretariat of the Forestry Commission, presented the objective, outputs (with outcomes) and activities, the project structure, implementation arrangements, the indicative grant request to GCF and the associated co-financing and the roadmap towards the project submission. Following her presentation, a series of discussions ensued as presented below.
4. **Discussions by Parliamentarians on the GSLRP:** Parliamentarians were pleased with the initiative and showed strong support and commitment to provide the necessary political influence in policy directions that will support the program implementation. The Parliamentarians commended the efforts made to involve relevant stakeholders in the project areas which culminated in the validation meeting in Tamale where different relevant stakeholders including traditional authorities, academia, local communities, community resource management areas (CREMAs), non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and private sector, amongst others.

In addition to the above, Members of Parliament underscored the importance of the project in helping to address the spate of illegal timber harvesting in the Northern Savannah Zones which has contributed extensively to forest degradation and deforestation in the area. The CEO of the Forestry Commission also outlined the efforts being made by the Government by placing a ban on the movement and export of this timber species (African Rosewood) which has curtailed the degradation in recent years.

The Members of Parliament took the opportunity to discuss policies that are still in Parliament like the new Wildlife Bill and others which are still at various stages of development like the tree tenure and benefit sharing. Members explained that the Wildlife Bill had already been reviewed at committee level and had been presented twice in Parliament. They pledged to give these Bills priority and work towards expediting the approval process.

On financing, Members of Parliament were appreciative of the potential GCF strategic and catalytic financing, as well as co-financing from the private sector and from Government. Notwithstanding, the Members of Parliament, called for additional resources to address the enormity of climate change challenges in the region and unanimously committed to making a case for consideration of more financing in subsequent budget hearings.

In endorsing the proposed project, a key point raised by the Parliamentarians was the enormous attention paid to the vulnerable and rural poor through their participatory involvement in the design of the project to improve upon the whole Shea Value Chain. This, they said, provides pragmatic opportunities for transforming the livelihoods of the actors along the value chain. They were very impressed and strongly approved the innovative nature of the project by adopting a landscape approach to emission reduction where all activities are tailored to involve local community members. Ultimately, a take home note from the policy makers was the appreciation of the extent of forest loss in the region and expressed utmost support for policy reforms that can address this regression in forest cover. They also were excited to mention this project at all their public engagements with their constituents as well as to other colleague Parliamentarians.

5. **Concluding remarks by the Chair:** The chairperson noted the validation and endorsement of the project by the Parliamentarians and thanked them for their participation in the meeting.
6. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

I. Meeting with Deputy Director, Directorate of Agriculture Extension Services at MoFA 1 March 2018

1. Introduction: This meeting was convened to receive additional inputs into the proposal from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) and to further discuss the integration to MOFA staff into the GSLRP.

2. Summary of discussion: It was agreed that, agricultural extension services will be significant in the project implementation. As such, it was also important to receive acceptance and buy-in of MOFA. At this meeting, the following detail functions of the MoFA were made known and linked to how they can assist in the project implementation.

3. Overview of MoFA: It is a fully decentralized Ministry, with seven technical directorates including Crops, Animal husbandry, Veterinary, and Extension. In the decentralized system, the directorates provide policy direction (for instance through the FASDEP²), coordination and training/technical backstopping for the decentralized departments (from time to time). Practically, the services include development of policy documents, development and facilitation of training and reporting.

- The structure/form of the decentralized agencies at the regional and district mimic the technical focus at the Ministry level. Thus, every region has a Regional directorate of Agriculture which comprise the Regional Director and supervisors for each of the seven technical areas. Likewise, each District/Municipality or Metro has a Directorate of Agriculture with Director, and Development Officers or Supervisors are technical/subject matter specialists and supervise the work of Area Extension Agents (AEA). The staff of the Directorates at the regional, metro, municipal and district levels are under the Local Government Services (LGS). Thus, the LGS controls man-power and staffing needs agriculture, while MoFA provides the policy and coordination functions.
- The Directorate of Extension has Research Extension Liaison Committees at the decentralized level, and this committee which officers responsible for planning, coordinating and executing the research (through farmer field schools, and testing) and extension agenda of the Ministry in collaboration with all stakeholders. They have annual planning meetings. It is worthy to note, that the research outfit of MoFA is the Centre for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), while that of COCOBOD is the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG) at Bole. The extension outfit of COCOBOD is Cocoa Health and Extension Division (CHED), which has limited or no agents responsible for the Shea sector in the northern savannah landscape. The Directorate sees the collaboration with CRIG as practicable

² FASDEP is the Food and Agricultural Sector Development Policy which guides the sector to enhance the environment for all categories of farmers, while targeting poor and risk prone and risk-averse producers.

and efficient, where CRIG is responsible for the research, and provides training for the on-farm trials and propagation to the AEA in collaboration and coordination with the Extension Directorate.

- In terms of real numbers on the ground, the Director provided statistics, disaggregated on gender basis relative to the man-power for the three northern regions (which is elaborated in the table below). For each region, the staff directly employed by the LGS are enumerated as well as those employed by the National Youth Employment Agency (YEA) through the Government's flagship "Planting for Food and Jobs" programme³. Additionally, MoFA estimates the ideal number of staffing for each region.

Data on staff of LGS Directorate of Agriculture for each of the three Northern Regions⁴

	AEAs (including supervisors)			NYEA			Ideal Number staffing
Regions	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Upper East	70	11	81	25	11	36	207
Upper West	34	11	50	62	8	70	164
Northern	141	13	154	94	11	105	640
TOTAL	245	35	285	181	30	211	1,011

4. **Concluding remarks:** The meeting concluded with MOFA re-iterating its support to GSLRP implementation.
5. The list of participants is annexed to this report.

m. Minute of MoFA Directors Meeting, Accra, 5th March 2018

As part of the stakeholder consultations and engagements, the Forestry Commission (FC) together with UNDP were invited to present the GSLRP draft proposal at the directors meeting of the Ministry of Food & Agriculture (MOFA). The meeting was attended by 15 directors representing

³ Note these are fairly temporary jobs, and is reflective of the Planting for Food and Agriculture objective for each region in terms of types of crops, etc. However, the staff perform similar functions as AEAs

⁴ Data is from December 2017

Irrigation, Youth & Agriculture, Extension, Statistics & Research, Policy Planning, Veterinary Services, Project Coordination, Human Resources and Agriculture Engineering Services.

The GSLRP was presented by Charles Duah Sarpong, Climate Change Unit and others present from UNDP were Louis Kuukpen (Assistant Country Director, Programmes), Kingsley Bekoe (National Coordinator, SWITCH Africa) and Rita Effah (Programme Officer).

Following the presentation, the directors had the following inputs:

1. The need for MOFA to play continue to play an important role in the project implementation and the need for continued incorporation of all and particularly the youth in project implementation;
 2. The importance of leveraging and collaborating with ongoing projects such as the Ghana Agriculture Sector Investment Programme (GASIP) supported by the International Fund for Agriculture (IFAD) and the resilient agriculture against climate change (REACH) supported by the European Union;
 3. The need to strengthen collaboration with the Bole Research Centre which for a long time has worked on shortening the gestation period of Shea and upscaling this kind of work; and
 4. The Director in charge of extension briefly explained the two levels of extension within the country: a) one that focuses on extension support for coordination and policy services; and one at the district level which is decentralized through the local government services.
 5. In response to the inputs from MOFA Directors, FC and UNDP highlighted the crucial role of MoFA especially for the extension services related to Output 2, and where strategic partnership with MoFA is essential.
 6. The meeting concluded with MOFA, FC and UNDP stressing collaboration on Output 2 of the GSLRP.
 7. The list of participants is annexed to this report.
- n. **Civil society consultation meeting on the forestry commission-UNDP Ghana shea landscape REDD+ project (GSLRP) proposal at UNDP office on March 15, 2018.**
- The objective of this meeting was for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to validate the proposed GSLRP project as well as provide additional inputs to especially sessions F.3 and G of the proposal related to social and environmental risks assessment.
1. **Presentation of the overview of the GSLRP:** A presentation of the GSLRP was made to introduce the objectives, components and activities among others to the CSOs. With the main thrust of the project focusing around community collaboration and scaling of interventions on the ground within the NSZ, CSOs involvement in ensuring the success of the project was strongly emphasized.
 2. **Discussions and comments from the presentation:** The CSOs confirmed that, the areas covered under the various components and especially the various activities outlined to ensure the reduction of carbon emissions in the NSZ were selected with the right considerations of real drivers if deforestation and forest degradation in the NSZ. They also identified with the inclusion of the

difference in cultural traditions and norms in the NSZ as compared to that in the southern part of the country as a factor to be exploited to support the efforts at ensuring emission reduction through strengthening of the cultural norms that promote environmental protection and discouraging the practices that cause degradation and reduction of crop yields. The CSOs, especially the ones that domicile in the NSZ, reiterated the need for extensive awareness creation and educational campaign within the entire project area especially in the early stages of project implementation to ensure the needed transformational change that is being envisaged.

3. **Social and Environmental risks assessment:** CSOs were grouped to assess and validate the social and environmental risk of the project activities. They focused on the risks associated with each activity under the various components, ranked the risks (which were mainly Low with some Medium), suggested ways of mitigating the risks and identified the agencies to be responsible for mitigating the risks.

I. PART TWO – Further consultations on social and environmental issues

CENTRAL GONJA DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Attendance: District Coordinating Director and 10no. other district officers

Date: 23 August, 2017

Venue: Central Gonja District Assembly, Buipe

Background Information: The district assembly is the local administrative and political authority. The district has a population of about 87,000 with a ratio of 49%: 51% for males to females. Major towns with population sizes in excess of 10,000 persons include Buipe, Yapei, Mpaha, and Sampala. Key economic activities include farming (livestock production and agriculture), and fishing. The main crops cultivated are maize, yam, guinea corn, groundnut, and soyabean. There are two irrigation schemes existing within the district at Buipe and Yapei. The latter is however not functional. Major disease include malaria, water related diseases (diarrhoea, typhoid) and upper respiratory diseases. The main forest of interest is the Yakombo FR.

Assembly dependence on forest and forest resources: Access to forest is prohibited and Assembly supports FSD to ensure this is adhered to. Communities nevertheless harvest fuel wood from farms and process some to charcoal. The Assembly collects a toll of Ghc1.00 per 50kg bag of charcoal sold from loading trucks at charcoal markets or at road checkpoints. **This may amount to about 10% of Assembly annual revenue, that is Internally Generated Fund (IGF).** The Assembly is aware some persons enter into forest to harvest wood for charcoal production.

Community threat to forest reserve: There is threat from communities who encroach on the Yakombo forest to source for fuel wood and for farming. Stemming the tide will require providing alternative livelihood opportunities and through sustained sensitization and awareness creation programmes

Food security: The Assembly has concerns over food security. Most foods consumed in the district are imported from other parts of the country. Communities have adequate land to grow enough food to feed themselves and to sell for income but seem to lack the desired interest to farm.

Role of women in decision- making: At the Assembly level, this is not seen as a major issue since there are some assembly women who generally participate in the Assembly's decision- making process. Capacity building and empowerment is essential.

Fulani menace: The Assembly regularly receives complaints from communities about Fulanis herding their cattle into their farmlands and destroying crops. They would usually lodge the complaint firstly to their local chiefs. However, the traditional authority appears to have been compromised (receives regular donations of cattle from Fulanis) hence little or no action is taken by chiefs. The Assembly also requires support from Traditional Authority to pursue their development agendas and therefore hesitant to bypass their authority. The community's rights are therefore usually abused. There have been reports of rape and certain parts of the district are considered no-go areas. There is strong mistrust between many communities and the local Fulani settlers to the extent that inter-marriages with Fulanis are taboo in many parts of Gonja land.

Marginalised persons: The Assembly identifies community members with mental illness as a major group which is vulnerable/ marginalised in society. Both the community social and district administrative structures are not strong enough to provide these persons the required support. The former has more to do with societal taboos and superstition. However, there is no firm linkage between such persons and forestry sector.

Conclusion and recommendation: The Assembly is excited about the community forest concept and also the collaborative management ideas espoused by the Project but would expect the following considerations:

The major perceived risks and some possible mitigation measures are with regard to: (1) *landownership issues*- land should be officially allocated for the project and proper documentation assured to avoid any future conflicts especially with respect to community forests; (2) *community reluctance to participate in communal projects*- community members are usually eager to receive payments for their labour immediately and would usually stay away from such projects which they perceive as taking too long to provide any benefits. There is anxiety over assuring 'survival' today rather than in the future. The project may consider some immediate incentives for community members participating in the project for example, payment of minimum wage or any such compensation arrangements; (3) *selection of trees*- trees of economic importance will be most desirable; (4) *improved collaboration between the FSD and the District Assembly* –communities ultimately approach the District Assembly through their respective assembly persons with their grievances and it is important to include the Assembly as an integral member of project team.

BUIPE TRADITIONAL AREA

Attendance: Paramount Chief (Buipewura) and 12no. elders including Spiritual Head (Tindana)

Date: 23 August, 2017

Venue: Buipewura Palace, Buipe

Background Information: There are about 20no. major communities within the traditional area with population sizes over 5,000 persons. Buipe, the main town is made up of both indigenes

(Gonja) and settlers (Sissala, Hausa, Zamrama, Fulani, Gawo, Ashantis, Ewes etc). The proportion is roughly 40% indigenes and 60% settlers.

Land tenure /ownership: The allodial interest under the Gonja kingship is held by the Over Lord of the Gonja Traditional Council, i.e. the Yagbonwura. The Paramount Chief of the Buipe Traditional Area (Buipewura) exercises direct oversight on behalf of the Over Lord. The Paramount Chief in turn, works through appointed local community chiefs to manage land issues. There are two main categories of land comprising (1) customarily freehold interest and (2) farming rights. The customary freehold interest confers to the indigenes of the area, a perpetual right to use the land. Farmers with such rights do not have any obligation towards the traditional leaders. They have the right to use the land and pass it on to their descendants. Whereas, farming rights are user rights that settler farmers are granted by the traditional leaders. Under these rights, farmers are allowed to use the land for as long as the traditional leaders allow them. Under this arrangement, the farmers may be required to pay an annual homage to the traditional leader who gave the land especially for commercial farming projects. Any part of land leased will go through the leasehold registration and signed by the paramount chief and the Yabongwura (Overlord).

The Tindana has no direct share in ownership of lands in the Gonjaland. However, they are recognised as the custodians of shea trees. The shea harvesting season starts only with their permission and blessing when he is expected to perform required rituals. He receives token portions of the harvest from the women in gratitude to the gods. The Fulanis who come to settle in Buipe are given access to grazing lands by the Traditional leader through the local community and Fulani chiefs. Permission is granted after payment of royalty which may consist of one (1no.) cow and a token cash amount of GHc500. The farming practice consists of shifting cultivation so that after 2-3 years of cropping, the land is left fallow and reverts automatically to the chief.

Encroachment of Forest reserve: the only forest reserve existing is the Yakombo forest reserve. The community has encroached on the Yakombo forest and are farming in the reserve. Other activities in the Reserve include shea nut picking and fuel wood harvesting by women. The threat posed to the Reserve by the community is not perceived as severe. There are degraded areas within the forest essentially due to fire, and rocky areas.

Traditional Role of Women: Women undertake most of the domestic roles and responsibilities. Women also engage in economic and income generating work such as farming, trading, shea nut harvesting and processing etc to provide food and shelter for the family. Their male counterparts are mostly into their farming activities.

Grievance redress: Complaints and grievances by affected persons are resolved amicably at the Buipewura's palace. Conflicts between the community (farmer) and Fulanis often arise owing to destruction of farmlands by cattle. When this happens, the farmer first reports to the local chief. The chief then invites the district agricultural extension officers to value the destruction and the Fulani is made to pay.

Community management of off-reserve forest: The Buipewura has initiated the establishment of a 3-ha off-reserve forest along the Black Volta and has plans to further develop this into a commercial eco- tourism site. The FSD has been providing technical support to grow economic trees such as shea trees, cassia, mahogany, teaks and cash crops including mango. The chief pledges his full support for the proposed intervention.

Conclusion and recommendation: The Paramount Chief and his elders are pleased with the project especially with the proposed off reserve community forests, particularly, since there is already an initiative by traditional authority to develop similar projects. The following observations are made as potential risks to the project:

Women participation in Decision Making

Traditionally, women seldom were involved nor contributed in decision making both at the household and community level. Male orders have to be obeyed and women sought permission from spouses to undertake some public activities. Even though, there is massive promotion for gender balance in recent times, women's involvement and contribution to decision making at the household and community level is still very low. The implication for the project is that the voice and contributions or suggestions of women might not be included in the community decisions for the project if not specifically requested.

Access to Resources and Right to Land/ Ownership

The right, access and control of land are in favour of male farmers. Whereas women could have access to land, most depended on their spouses' farms to cultivate subsistence crops, such as groundnuts okro, corn and vegetables. Few women 'owned' farms of their own and through inheritance but most worked on parts of their spouse's land. Irrespective of the diverse roles played by women, women are greatly disadvantaged in terms of access and control of resources and ownership such as land. At the household level, women owned nothing (sheep, cattle, etc). They have no shares or percentage per right.

This cultural setting does not empower women enough to be independent and to take up certain managerial roles.

WOMENS' GROUP-BUIPE

Attendance:-- Leader, Gbedese Welfare Group; --- Leader, Matima Welfare Group

Date: 23 August 2017

Venue: Offices of the FSD, Buipe

Background Information: A number of women's groups operate in the town notably the Gbedese (meaning- we rather follow lies and leave the truth) and the Matima (meaning, you never thought you could have it) and the leaders of these two welfare groups were consulted. Both belong to a parent group which is the Buipe Welfare Association. Their key objective is to help each other in

business by making regular contributions which could then be borrowed by needy members especially for farming activities. The average woman may have 5 to 6 children.

Economic activities: Usually, the women earn money from their petty trading activities such as in foodstuff (dry cassava, maize, groundnut etc). These may be harvested from their farms (up to 2ha) or bought from middle men/women and resold in the local open market. The women are involved in farming and mostly work on their husbands' farms. Other economic activities include the seasonal shea picking (about 2 to 3 months in the year). Some women burn charcoal and would usually collect the dead trees on their farms for the purpose but admittedly, some also enter the Yakombo forest to collect fuel wood for household use and for charcoal production. They agreed that harvesting trees from the forest is not advisable since they know it's a no-go area.

Participation in decision-making processes: This is quite limited but has improved greatly in the past few years. Earlier years, women may not be invited to communal meetings. Also, they are usually so busy with their household duties that they would prefer the men to attend the meetings and later communicate decisions to them at home. "Loud mouth" women are mostly not welcomed and their husbands may perceive them as personal embarrassments.

Resource management: Women are not obliged to disclose monies they earn to their husbands but would willingly contribute to the family expenses by paying for a child's school fees or contribute to buying food and other basic requirements at home. Women do not own land or other resources like livestock. They rely on their men.

Conclusion and recommendations: The group leaders affirmed that women are quite appreciative of the support given by men for example, carrying loads of gathered shea from the forest to the community. They understand the objectives of the proposed project and welcome the initiative. They are most willing to participate in the project but admit that they would require some support in terms of education and empowerment to be able to play the role expected of them. They are not in competition with their men but will be most willing to complement their efforts for the sake of their children and the community as a whole.

CHARCOAL PRODUCERS AND BUYERS ASSOCIATION

Attendance:-- Chairman, Buipe Charcoal Buyers Association

Date: 23 August 2017

Venue: Offices of the FSD, Buipe

Background Information: The Buipe Charcoal Buyers Association is made up of 25 members including 10 Gonjas and 15 Southerners, mostly made up of women (22 members) and therefore only 3 men. They deal directly with the producers. Their activities are all year round. It was alleged that the burners usually harvest trees from their farmlands and not the forest. A charcoal burner may acquire a concession of up to 10 acres of farmland to harvest trees which may include dead and partially burnt trees from bushfires. They appreciate the importance of

preserving the forest and will not wish to destroy it. There may however be few individuals who may encroach to steal trees to produce charcoal. There is an informal agreement with the producers to sell to the members of the Association. The Association ensures fair trading so that uniform prices are paid by all members and no one ‘undercuts’ prices to spoil the business.

Women involvement: Women are very active in the charcoal business and it's a major source of income for many families. They usually obtain all the support and encouragement they require from the men.

Bush fires: Charcoal producers are not the prime suspects for bush fires. The Fulanis would usually do early burning to benefit from fresh grass to feed their cattle. Hunters are also to be blamed and would require education on setting of traps to hunt animals rather than burning.

Conclusion and recommendations: Fully appreciates the intention behind the project but worried about the possible lack of community interest and involvement in a community forest project. Community members are usually poor and therefore short-sighted and may not be interested in projects which they think would not bring immediate benefits. People are worried about earning enough money today to survive hence would require very thorough and continuous awareness creation and empowerment programmes to make them appreciate the objectives of the project. Rather, individuals may be supported (training and be given credit) to set up these forests on their lands but not on community lands, and community members may be willing to work in the individual's forests to earn some direct income.

CATTLE HERDSMEN (“FULANIS”)

Attendance:

Date: 23 August 2017

Venue: FSD District Office, Buipe

Background Information: The current crop of Fulanis in Buipe are settlers from different parts of Burkina Faso, Mali, Benin, and Nigeria and Niger. Their total population is in the **region of about --**. Some of them have been in the community for over 10 years and identify themselves as an integral members of the community. They occupy sections of the community which have been demarcated for them by the chief and usually live in groups according to their countries of origin. They have travelled to Ghana to access good grazing lands to feed their cattle and some have in the process opted to stay ‘permanently’. They would usually travel back home once or twice in the year to visit their families but some have also opted to bring their wives and children to live with them in Ghana.

Conflicts with local communities: There are no serious conflicts between themselves and the local community apart from infrequent agitations when their animals destroy farms and this is usually settled amicably at the Buipewura's palace. Crops that are destroyed are valued and paid for by the cattle owner. The Fulani community is mindful of particular traits shown by different

nationalities. Particular nationalities may be very ‘wicked’ and may indulge in rape, murder, stealing etc, and are the usual cause of trouble for the wider Fulani community.

Bush fires: The threat has been realised and accepted. Many Fulani herdsman may wish to burn off reserve forests for fresh grass for their cattle. Some recalcitrant ones may however enter the forest reserve to cause havoc which is generally frowned on by most members.

Conclusion and recommendations: Their cattle are restricted from entering the forest reserve even for watering purposes which becomes critical during the dry months of the year. They propose that, as done in Burkina Faso and other neighbouring countries, they should be formally permitted to enter the forest under strict supervision to water and feed their animals during the dry months. The project objective seems laudable and despite the apparent mistrust, they are willing to work together with the local communities to cohabit and benefit from communal resources. It is agreed that this will require continuous sensitization and education for all stakeholders.

GONJA YOUTH ASSOCIATION, BUIPE BRANCH

Attendance: Chairman, Gonja Youth Association, Buipe

Date: 23 August 2017

Venue: FSD District Office, Buipe

Background Information: The Buipe branch of the Gonja Youth Association embraces all the youth in the Buipe community and it is managed by a nine (9)- member executive elected for the purpose. They have embarked on various projects with marginal success, including the recent initiative dubbed ‘Greening Buipe’ which encouraged each household to plant and nurture one tree. The project was fully supported by the FSD which provided over 1,000 seedlings. Trees planted included both cash and food crops, Acacia, Teak and Mango.

Youth empowerment and commitment: There is considerable inertia on the part of the youth to actively participate in communal projects. The Association has organised many programmes to sensitize its members but patronage is usually poor. Hence, there are doubts about getting considerable support to achieve some of the objectives of the proposed interventions. Their interest is mostly on immediate results and financial returns rather than sacrificing for the future. Sustained education and awareness creation effort will be required to achieve attitudinal changes.

MONORI MURUGU CREMA MANAGEMENT TEAM

Attendance: CREMA Chairman and 10 other team members

Date: 24 August 2017

Venue: Murugu Community

Background information: The Murugu- Monori CREMA as the name suggests consist of the two communities which are the Murugu and Monori communities respectively. The motto for the CREMA in the local hange dialect is “Tukur Arasaman” translated as “to preserve for future generations”. The inhabitants of the two communities are ‘cousins’ with the original settlement being Murugu. They are settlers descending from the Moshi tribe. The protected area is the Mole park which neighbours their respective communities. They are mainly farmers and crops cultivated include yam, cassava, groundnut, cashew, guinea corn, millet on a subsistence level. Any left over produce may be sold on the local market.

Management structure: The CREMA was inaugurated after an incubation period of almost 5 years. Each community owns a Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) which comprises about 15 members who work on voluntary basis. There are three (3) women in the Murugu management committee including the treasurer. The two communities are overseen by a CREMA Executive Committee with membership drawn from the two CRMCs. The CREMA has adopted a Constitution and accompanying byelaws to regulate and guide their activities. The byelaws were prepared with financial and technical assistance from the BUSAC Fund and the CREMA is yet to receive approval by the District Assembly for gazetting. The CEC successfully managed the contract with the BUSAC Fund to hire a consultant to prepare the documents.

Protection of Park: The CREMA has instituted clear instructions prohibiting access to the core area protected by the communities especially for farming purposes. Fortunately, community lands designated as farmlands are fertile hence this minimises the temptation to enter the Park for farming and other purposes. The use of agrochemicals is minimal. The community has greatly benefited from the support of the NGO A Rocha (Ghana), with whom they have a ‘permanent’ relationship.

Women participation in decision- making and projects: The CREMA has involved women in most of its activities including livelihood projects like beekeeping and especially the shea picking and trading business. At the executive level, there are three (3) women in the CRMC and also in the CEC. As mentioned already, the treasurer of the group is a woman who has been carefully chosen to ensure that community funds are safe. The Murugu community is not earning some income as yet but the Monori community currently earns some money through its eco- tourism activities (canoe rides through the park, cultural dancing etc). The key economic activities are in respect of farming and the seasonal harvesting of shea nuts. However, they have urgent safety concerns while collecting the shea nuts principally with respect to snake bites. It is also a big challenge to the women conveying bags of shea fruits from the forest to the community. Generally, the women are always given the required recognition in society to play their role for the development of the community.

Conflicts within the CREMA: The CREMA suffered some setbacks recently over the harvesting of rosewood in their core protected areas. A section of the community saw it as an opportunity to earn income while others wanted protection for the reserve as agreed by the CREMA. Despite the initial misunderstanding and quarrels, sanity prevailed eventually when the matter was referred

to the Chief who ruled that once the entire community has together agreed to keep the reserve, it must be kept as such. The CREMA sees such occurrences happening frequently in the future especially when they begin to earn money from their communal activities. They were however quick to mention that, it has not been an issue with Monori community which is currently involved in community projects which are earning them money.

Conclusion and recommendations: There is considerable stress on CREMA executives who sometimes have to sacrifice their own economic and social activities to attend to CREMA demands. The ‘full time’ support given by A ROCHA has been critical without which they would not have made much progress. They appreciate the initiative being proposed by the Project and foresee some community members with bigger influence ‘invading’ the CREMA management when it is fully established and earning the community some good income. They believe the community strife that may potentially result can be satisfactorily managed both by following their constitution and byelaws and also with the support of traditional authority. The women are prepared to stand their ground to ensure that their interests are protected. The migration of young ones to urban areas may reduce and therefore persons trained and empowered to manage community affairs would continue to reside in the community.

WOMENS GROUP, MURUGU CREMA COMMUNITY

Attendance: Group leaders including Chief's representative

Date: 24 August 2017

Venue: Murugu

Background Information: there are various women groups within the community with their respective leaders. Notable ones include the “Village Magagia” whose role is the organisation of women and for dissemination of information to all sectional heads of the community of upcoming meetings. There are also others like the ‘Shea Magagia’ who is the key liaison person for the shea business in the community. Almost all the women in the community belong to the Village Savings and Loans Scheme. The core mandate of this group is to give financial support for both business and personal needs. Members make monthly cash contributions from their earnings or income from trading or shea nut sales. They usually trade in dry cassava, maize grains, groundnut, okro etc.

Economic empowerment: Women are principally engaged in farming activities. Other economic activities include, beekeeping and honey production, shea nut picking and processing, and gari processing. Their crucial partner is the NGO A Rocha which assists with marketing for their produce. For example, the NGO has arranged with Savanna Fruits Company to buy shea nuts from the community at well negotiated prices. There are also other arrangements for sale of honey. With a ready market, the women are economically empowered and the men appreciate the support provided by the women in households.

Discrimination against women: One of the main community taboos targeted at women is that while in their menstrual period they are not allowed to go to farm and also to cook for their husbands. This may be interpreted as an opportunity for women to take monthly rests from their usual very busy household and other economic activities.

Women participation in decision- making: Women are well recognized as worthy partners in the development of the community. They are efficiently managing their various social and welfare groups and also serving on community development committees including the CREMA. The men will usually refer issues to them at home for advise and they are happy to be in the background to offer their support.

Conclusion and recommendations: The women are happy with the upcoming project and look forward to being empowered sufficiently to fully contribute their quota for the development of the community. They are not afraid of being sidelined when CREMAs become successful because their role as co- managers of the process is well established and cannot be substituted by the men. They are far from being classified as a marginalised or a vulnerable group.

EAST MAMPRUSI DISTRICT ASSEMBLY, GAMBAGA

Attendance: District Coordinating Director and other twelve (12) departmental heads (Agriculture, Engineering, Community Development...)

Date: 25 August 2017

Venue: Gambaga

Background Information: The District has a population size of about 143,40 persons with 49:51 ratio of male to females. The major towns in the district include Gambaga, Nalerigu, Lambginsi, Sakogu, Nagbo, Gbintiri with populations in excess of 10,000. The main ethnic group is the Mamprusi with others such as Komkomba, Bimboba, Mossi, Hausa. Notable communities close to Gambaga Scarp East forest reserve include Gbangu, Sakogu-Gbangu, Bukperi, Namoli. The forest reserve is one of the most threatened reserves in the region. The major economic activities within the district include farming (livestock production and agriculture), and fishing. The main crops cultivated are maize, yam, guinea corn, groundnut, and soyabean. Secondary activities include petty trading, hunting, charcoal burning. There is high encroachment of the reserve by charcoal burners. Major diseases include malaria, and water related diseases (diarrhoea, typhoid). Poverty levels are very high within the district, probably the worst in the northern region.

District dependence on forest resources: The Assembly does not earn any direct or substantial income from the Gambaga Scarp East forest reserve. Charcoal production is illegal in the district hence there is no revenue from that source even though there may be some activity going on.

Human rights issues: The oldest witch camp in the country is found in the district and there are reported cases of severe abuses in this camp. The district also suffers from seasonal migration of

young women to the southern parts of the country to work in the urban markets as ‘kayayei’ (porters carrying loads for shoppers). Some return pregnant and with various ailments. There are still few instances of female genital mutilation. These may not be directly related to forestry.

Women participation in decision- making: At the district level, women are fully involved in assembly meetings and participate in assembly activities. There is a designated gender desk and a full time officer. At the community level, even though women do not own land and other important resources, they still command respect in the community. They are the managers of households and a man may typically involve her in taking important decisions affecting the family. However, this may not be very visible in public. Traditionally, women would prefer the men to openly discuss issues in public knowing that they (women) would be consulted privately when the men come home. The women seem to enjoy this kind of quiet diplomacy. This is however changing and it is now acceptable for the women to join the men to discuss issues at community meetings without fearing humiliation and being called derogatory names as ‘all knowing’ and ‘witch’

Conclusion and recommendations: the Assembly will gladly support this Project and identifies project risks as follows: (1) the chiefs are crucial for the success of the project. There must be a comprehensive engagement programme to stress on their role and responsibilities especially in the allocation of land for the community forests. However, any such land to be acquired must be properly documented to avoid any future leader claiming ownership of such a community resource; (2) communities close to forest reserve enter the reserve to farm out of a desperate need to survive. Unfortunately, their lands outside the reserve are not fertile and yields have been poor. The farmers lack sufficient capital to invest in agrochemicals including fertilisers hence they are tempted to access the rich and fertile forest lands. The project may consider promoting suitable farming practices like conservation agriculture techniques to assist them improve yields or engage in other livelihood schemes; (3) the project should be prepared to devote much time and resources to sensitization, awareness creation, education and empowerment programmes especially at the community level. Women should be particularly targeted.

GBANGU COMMUNITY (East Mamprusi District)

Attendance: Gbangu community Chief and his Elders

Date: 25 August 2017

Venue: Gbangu community, chief's palace

Background Information: The Gbangu community in the East Mamprusi District has a population of about 6,000 persons made up mostly of Mamprusis and a few settlers. The minority group may be Fulani. The community is a few hundred meters away from the Gambaga Scarp East Forest reserve which is therefore within walking distance from the community.

Land tenure /ownership: The allodial interest under the Mamprusi is similar to the Gonja. All lands are in the care of the Paramount Chief who holds it in trust for the people. The lower divisional chiefs/ and town and village chiefs exercise direct oversight on behalf of the Paramount office. Settler farmers are granted land use rights by the chief either for farming or for settlement. These settlers are allowed to use the land for as long as the traditional leaders allow them. Settlers are required to give a token to the chief to pour libation. A bag of maize is presented voluntarily to the chief at the end of the farming season as a sign of respect and to receive blessings.

Community economic activities: The traditional role of women in the house continues to be the usual household chores and they also indulge in economic activities including farming to earn income. This is predominantly subsistence farming. Crops cultivated include maize, millet, groundnut, soyabean, yam, and beans. Average acreage a farmer cultivates is about 5 acres. Agrochemicals are used extensively in farming activities because of poor quality soils.

Women and decision- making: Women enjoy the right to participate in decision- making. Some women may be shy and would not wish to speak in public but the community does not have any problem with any woman who may wish to express her opinion in public. Indeed, women are becoming more confident and vocal these days and would speak without much hesitation. The elders are willing to support any woman willing to lead to implement any initiative such as the community forest.

Conclusion and recommendations: The community through their chief pledged their support to the project and will willingly play their part to preserve the forest and create new ones. They however wish to be allowed to farm in the forest to reduce the burdens of farming on them. Their farmlands are now very infertile and much of their meager resources go into the purchase of agrochemicals including fertilisers. The FSD may carefully police and manage their farming activities in the reserve to avoid abuses. The chief is willing to contribute land for the development of the community forest.

WOMEN GROUPS- GBANGU COMMUNITY

Attendance: Gbangu community women (about 30 women)

Date: 25 August 2017

Venue: Gbangu community

Background Information: There are various women groups in the community such as Farmers Group, Female Students Group, and Weekly Contribution (Susu) Group. The core objective of these groups is to support each other in both business and personal matters including health care, funerals etc. The Susu group for example does weekly or monthly contributions from their earnings or income from sale of shea (during the season) and farm produce. Executives or leaders

to manage these groups are appointed and their work is voluntary. The average size of a household is about 20 persons and a woman may have about 6 or more children.

Discrimination against women: Women undertake the usual domestic activities and in addition contribute to the family income by supporting the husband on the farm. She may also indulge in petty trading. There are only few cases of abuses against women which may be the usual domestic cases. This may be reported to the chief and elders through the chief's representative (who is a woman) for redress. Women do not own land and have accepted the status quo to work on their husbands land. The chief may provide land for a widow who may wish to farm.

Women empowerment: The women seem confident that they contribute towards decision making in the community. They are encouraged by the men to speak freely in public unlike previously and they believe that no project brought to the community will be successful without their involvement. Indeed, they are prepared to nominate one of their own to be the community leader for the community forest initiative as proposed.

Conclusion and recommendations: The women will fully embrace any such initiative to participate in developing community forests because of their appreciation of the need to preserve forest resources. However, they have become so dependent on the forest and its resources so that they may require support to avoid the necessity of farming in the reserve and other activities like collecting fuel wood and shea nuts. As mentioned earlier, they are prepared to play lead roles in the community and do not expect any hindrances from the men in doing so. However, much more sensitization and empowerment programmes will be required.

LIST OF STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED/ATTENDEES

CENTRAL GONJA DISTRICT ASSEMBLY-BUIPE

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1	Georgina Tumbakorah	District Coordinating Director	0246110178
2.	Neina Fawzia Soari	District Planning Officer	0244893793
3	Imoro Mumuni M.	District Agric Officer	0248128035
4.	Alhassan Sumani	Community Development/Social Welfare Officer	0243957421
5	Inusah Dramanu	District Works Department-Head	0243957885
6	Moses K.Tang	District Finance Officer	0244215866
7	Rashidatu B.Alhassan	Business Advisory Centre-Head	0243220590

8	Abudu Bawah	NADMO-District Director	0243014553
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WOMEN GROUP-BUIPE

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1.	Memunatu Changa	Gbedese Group Rep	0206783033
2	Afishata Seidu	Matima Group Member	0266773841
3	Maria Abukari	Matima Group Member	-

YOUTH LEADER- BUIPE

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1.	Kubori	Chairman-Gonjaland Youth Association, Buipe Branch	0208426736

FULANI OPINION LEADER-BUIPE

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1.	Yussif Sambo	Fulani Representative (from Burkina Faso)	0267220851

CHARCOAL BUYERS/PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1.	Bakari Suleimana	Chairman-Charcoal Buyers Association Member- Charcoal Producers Association	0209420041

EAST MAMPRUSI DISTRICT ASSEMBLY-GAMBAGA

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1	Abdulai Zakariah	District Coordinating Director	0244766212
2	Nantomah Adam	Assistant Director I	0508237089
3	Andrew Mensah Tulasi	Assistant Director IIB	0200295770
4	Sulemana Zulkalminu	Assistant Development Planning Officer	0244893793
5	Zakari Hamidu	District Agric Officer	0208156041
6	Tingben B.Joseph	Community Development/Social Welfare Officer	0503617714

7	Awuni Gilbert	District Works Department-Head	-
8	Matthew Abban	District Works Department	0246922168
9	John Nartey	District Works Department	0209125345
10	Abdul –Ramnan Nashiru	Accountant	0208087826
11	Yakubu Abubakari	Procurement	0242614139

CREMA-MURUGU

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1	Seidu Munaba	Chairman	0200706642
2.	James K.Bani	Secretary	0500443614
3	Mahama Ababanga	Treasurer	0505944092
4.	Jacob Konta Zeim	Organiser	0503396794
5	Joseph G.Jedu	Vice Chairman	0506014666
6	Mark M.Bani	Vice Secretary	0502985547
7	Amidu Bintimsigu	Member	0508444694
8	Memuna Ibrahim	Member	0208285191
9	Amadu Borsche	Member	--
10	Fusheina Dunaba	Member	-
11	Pogbanaba Jebuni	Member	-

WOMEN GROUP-MURUGU

No.	Name	Position	Telephone
1.	Kontah Mnibo	Village Magagia	-
2	Ndonlanyani Tawah	Shea nut Pickers Magagia	
3	Mahama Ababanga	CREMA Treasurer	0505944092
4.	Seidu Amina	Member	-
5.	Amadu Bricha	Member	-
6.	Braimah Memunah	Member	-

II. PART THREE - Stakeholders Engagement Plan

Introduction

This section describes how stakeholder engagement will take place in the GSLRP. It provides information on processes, rules and regulations. The project builds on extensive stakeholder engagement and consultation which will continue throughout project implementation. In preparation for the full proposal development the UNDP, the Forestry Commission, Global Shea Alliance and consultants organized a series of meetings. These involved key groups in the target regions and aimed to ensure there is interest and buy-in for the project concept.

i. Objective of the stakeholder's engagement plan

Ghana is committed to ensuring meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of the projects. Stakeholder analysis and engagement will be conducted in a gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory and inclusive manner, ensuring that potentially affected vulnerable and marginalized groups are identified and provided opportunities to participate. Measures will be undertaken to ensure that effective stakeholder engagement occurs where conditions for inclusive participation are unfavorable.

Meaningful, effective and informed stakeholder engagement and participation will be undertaken that will seek to build and maintain over time a constructive relationship with stakeholders, with the purpose of avoiding or mitigating any potential risks in a timely manner. The scale and frequency of the engagement will reflect the nature of the activity, the magnitude of potential risks and adverse impacts, and concerns raised by affected communities.

Topics the stakeholders will be able to express their views on will include, but are not limited to: the ESIA - social and environmental risks and impacts and proposed mitigation measures; the Benefit Sharing Plans - sharing of development benefits and opportunities; CREMA and MTS enhancement and creation; tree tenure reform; restoration in the shea parklands, capacity building and training opportunities and other implementation issues. Meaningful, effective and informed consultation processes will possess the following characteristics:

- Free of external manipulation, interference, coercion, and intimidation.
- Gender and age-inclusive and responsive.
- Culturally appropriate and tailored to the language preferences and decision-making processes of each identified stakeholder group, including disadvantaged or marginalized groups.
- Based on prior and timely disclosure of accessible, understandable, relevant and adequate information, including draft documents and plans.
- Initiated early in the project design process, continued iteratively throughout the Programme and Project life cycle, and adjusted as risks and impacts arise.
- Addresses social and environmental risks and adverse impacts, and the proposed measures and actions to address these.
- Seeks to empower stakeholders, particularly marginalized groups, and enable the incorporation of all relevant views of affected people and other stakeholders into decision-making processes, such as

Project goals and design, mitigation measures, the sharing of development benefits and opportunities, and implementation issues.

- Documented and reported in accessible form to participants, in particular the measures taken to avoid or minimize risks to and adverse impacts on the Project stakeholders.
- Consistent with the States' duties and obligations under international law.

Stakeholders will have access to relevant project information in order to understand potential project-related opportunities and risks and to engage in project design and implementation. Therefore, as part of the stakeholder engagement process, information will be disclosed to ensure that project stakeholders have access to relevant information. Specifically, the following information be made available:

- Stakeholder engagement plans and summary reports of stakeholder consultations,
- Social and environmental screening reports with project documentation (30 days prior to approval),
- Draft social and environmental assessments, including any draft management plans (30 days prior to finalization),
- Final social and environmental assessments and associated management plans,
- Any required social and environmental monitoring reports.

This information is to be disclosed in a timely manner, in an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to affected persons and other stakeholders. These elements of effective disclosure are briefly elaborated below:

- Timely disclosure: information on potential project-related social and environmental impacts and mitigation/management measures will be provided in advance of decision-making whenever possible. In all cases, draft and final screenings, assessments and management plans must be disclosed and consulted on prior to implementation of activities that may give rise to potential adverse social and environmental impacts.
- Accessible information: Appropriate means of dissemination will need to be considered in consultation with stakeholders. This could include posting on websites, public meetings, local councils or organizations, newsprint, television and radio reporting, flyers, local displays, direct mail.
- Appropriate form and language: Information needs to be in a form and language that is readily understandable and tailored to the target stakeholder group.

ii. Project Stakeholders

The project will focus on the northern reaches of the savannah zone which includes both Sudan and Guinea Savannah and will be referred to as the Northern Savannah Zone (NSZ). The area is 9.7 million ha, covering three (3) administrative regions namely; Northern, Upper East and Upper West regions and encompassing 61% of the savannah zone with a population of over 5.5 million people.

Project stakeholders include direct and indirect beneficiaries, which include local people living in the NSZ including the ethnic groups living in the NSZ as per Table A2.1 which outlines the major ethnic groups that will be engaged with in the project area.

GSLRP Area and Site Locations

The project aims to work about 30,000 beneficiaries. The map below (Figure 2) highlights in yellow the proposed regions where project activities will be implemented. The administrative boundaries are provided in Figure 3.

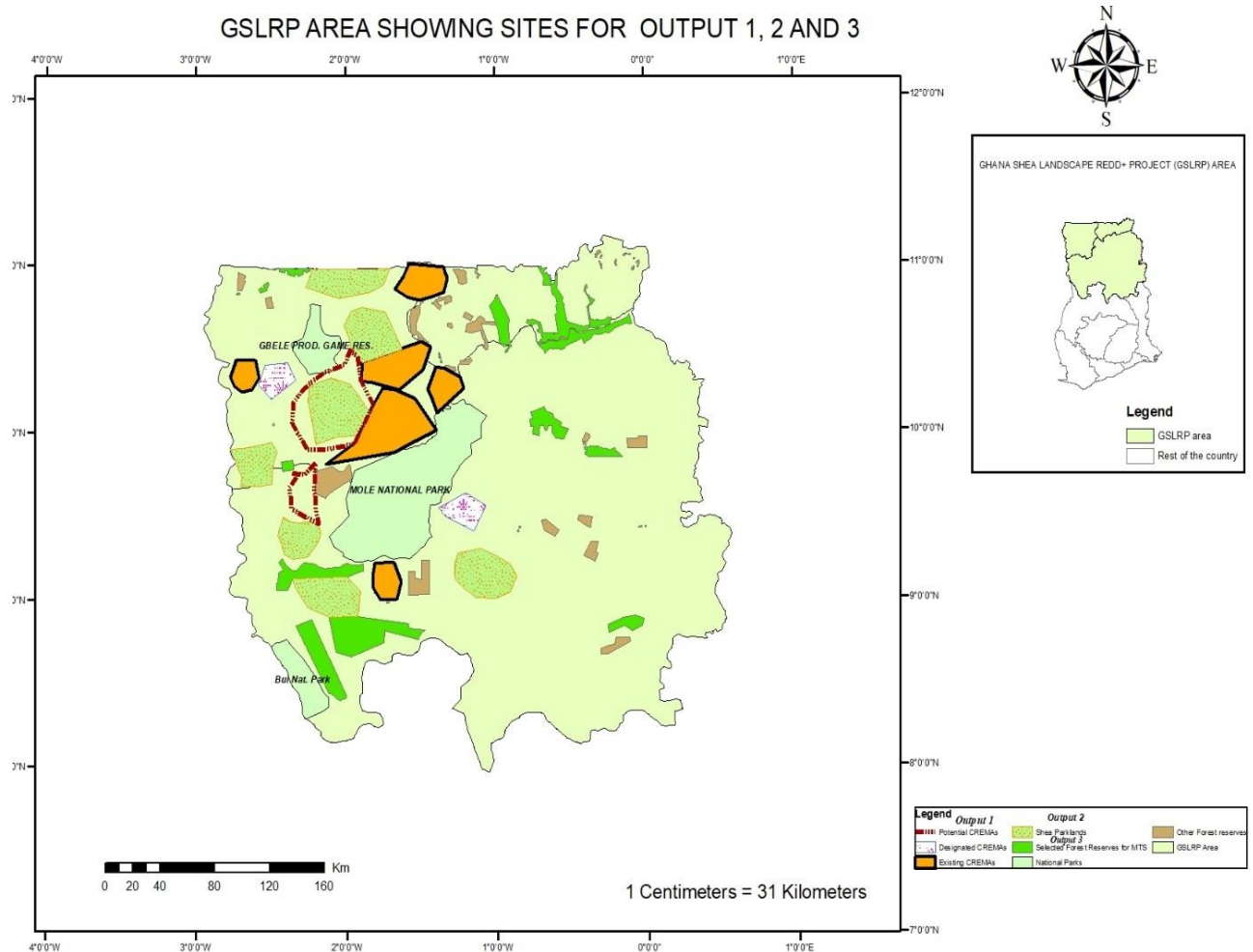


Figure 2: Project sites for the GSLRP

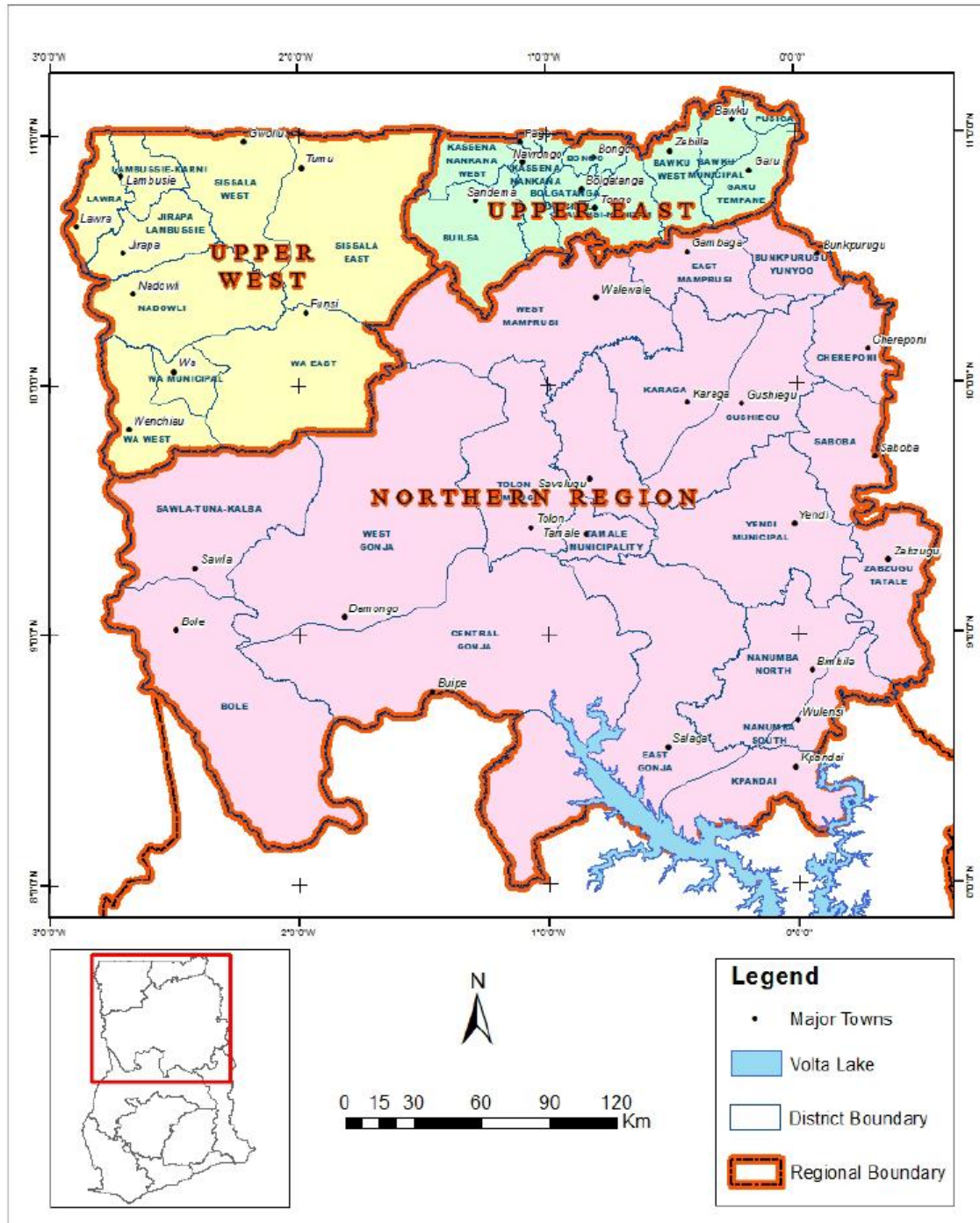


Figure 3 District and Regions in Northern Ghana

Source: Research Gate: https://www.researchgate.net/figure/Map-Depicting-Northern-Ghana_fig1_269991172

iii. Ethnology of the Northern Regions⁵

Northern Ghana has a number of different peoples speaking a variety of related languages and exhibiting considerable cultural similarities. See Table A2.1 below.

Table A2.1: Traditional Areas and Major Ethnic Groups within the Corridor

No.		District	Traditional Area	Major ethnic groups
1		Kasena Nankana West	Nakong, Katiu, Chiana and Kayoro	Kasena (Grusi)
2		Sissala East	Banu, Tumu, and Welembere	Sissala and Kasena (Grusi)
3		Builsa North	Builsa	Builsa
4		Builsa South	Builsa	Builsa
5		Mamprugu Moagduri	Wungu	Mamprusi, Kantosi and Komma,
6		Wa East	Sing and Busa	Wala, Dagaaba, Sissala and Chakali
7		Daffiema-Bussie-Issa	Daffiema, Bussie, and Issa	Dagaaba and Sissala
8		Sissala West	Gwollu and Zini	Sissala and Dagaaba
9		Kasena Nankana East	Navrongo, Naaga, and Koldo	Kasena (Grusi) and Nankana

Note: Other ethnic groups in smaller populations include Akan, Ewe, Moshie and Fulani (GSS, 2010)

Some of these peoples claim to be autochthonous while others like the dominant or aristocratic lineages among the Dagomba, Mamprusi and Gonja claim descent from warrior immigrant groups that invaded the area and imposed their rule over the indigenous peoples. They intermarried with these peoples whose daughters they took as wives and whose languages and social norms they eventually adopted.

Their traditions of foreign origin and the associated exploits remain and are recited by professional court drummers and fiddlers. These have been recorded by modern historians. Thus, in the traditional states of Northern Ghana migrant groups and indigenes coexist. On ritual occasions the differentiation may be dramatized in rituals which highlight complementation and opposition. Migrant groups, usually the conquering minority have often adopted the local languages and absorbed the social features of the indigenes among whom they found themselves. The integration has in many cases been so effective that a visitor, unless told, could not possibly guess the differences.

The social organization of the peoples of Northern Ghana is informed by patrilineal descent ideologies which differentiates these people from the Akans of Southern Ghana. There are however differences in the application of patrilineal norms. Corporate groups of kin or relatives exist whose members trace

⁵ Awedoba, A.K The people of Northern Ghana. Accessed <http://lagim.blogs.brynmawr.edu/files/2015/03/The-Peoples-of-Northern-Ghana.pdf>

putative ties to common ancestors. Property rights and succession to traditional positions would be based largely on paternal ties. Sons succeed fathers or if there are no sons, siblings succeed and inherit property. Northern peoples - Dagomba and Gonja and a few others seem to accord more or less equal importance to relationships traced to maternal and paternal relatives. Among the Dagomba extended family groups have been identified which bring together individuals who are related by either maternal or paternal ties or a combination of both.

The Northern chief sits on a pile of skins unlike his southern counterpart. It is therefore customary in Ghana to refer to the skin polities of the North where chiefs are 'enskinned' or enrobed rather than 'enstooled', as is the case in southern Ghana. In a number of respects Northern chieftaincy differs from what occurs in the south of the country.

Succession is patrilineal rather than matrilineal. In a few communities (for example Gonja) offices equivalent to queen motherhoods were traditionally recognized but not in the majority of Northern communities. The office of magazia (a term of Hausa origin) is the local women's leader. She is elected and need not have kinship connections to the chiefs. There are however female chiefs among the Dagomba and Mamprusi groups. In many communities the office of Tendaana coexists with that of chief. It is suggested that Tendaana predated the institution on chieftaincy in most parts of the North. While chiefly families do not claim any autochthonous status Tendaana lineages often do. Tendaana are essentially priestly figures who supervise ritual activities concreted on the earth. In addition to their priestly duties or as a consequence, they usually serve land owners who apportion land for building and farming purposes. These rights have been taken over by chiefs in some communities

Source: Awedoba, A.K The people of Northern Ghana. Accessed <http://lagim.blogs.brynmawr.edu/files/2015/03/The-Peoples-of-Northern-Ghana.pdf>

iv. Regulations and Requirements for stakeholder's engagement

Stakeholders will have access to relevant project information in order to understand potential project-related opportunities and risks and to engage in project design and implementation. Therefore, as part of the stakeholder engagement process, information will be disclosed to ensure that project stakeholders have access to relevant information. Specifically, the following information be made available:

- Stakeholder engagement plans and summary reports of stakeholder consultations,
- Social and environmental screening reports with project documentation (30 days prior to approval),
- Draft social and environmental assessments, including any draft management plans (30 days prior to finalization),
- Final social and environmental assessments and associated management plans,
- Any required social and environmental monitoring reports.

In addition, the project will leverage the Stakeholder Consultation and Participation Plan (C&P) developed and widely used by the Forestry Commission. The C&P Plan took lessons learned from consultations carried out as part of the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance (NREG) sector programmes and Ghana's REDD+ readiness and

preparatory phases, building on the use of Civil society platforms such as Forest Forums at national, regional and local levels for consultation and engagement with communities and other stakeholders.

This information is to be disclosed in a timely manner, in an accessible place, and in a form and language understandable to affected persons and other stakeholders. These elements of effective disclosure are briefly elaborated below:

- **Timely disclosure:** information on potential project-related social and environmental impacts and mitigation/management measures will be provided in advance of decision-making whenever possible. In all cases, draft and final screenings, assessments and management plans must be disclosed and consulted on prior to implementation of activities that may give rise to potential adverse social and environmental impacts.
- **Accessible information:** Appropriate means of dissemination will need to be considered in consultation with stakeholders. This could include posting on websites, public meetings, local councils or organizations, newsprint, television and radio reporting, flyers, local displays, direct mail.
- **Appropriate form and language:** Information needs to be in a form and language that is readily understandable and tailored to the target stakeholder group.

UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards (SES) will apply to the project, which include requirements related to meaningful stakeholder engagement, public disclosure, and grievance mechanisms. The SES are considered to be in line with the requirements of GCF as lender.

Box 1. Summary of UNDP SES Requirements of Stakeholder Engagement

- *Ensure meaningful, effective and informed participation of stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of UNDP Programmes and Projects, providing stakeholders opportunities to express their views at all points in the Programme and/or Project decision-making process on matters that affect them (SES, para. 21; SES, Policy Delivery Process (PDP), paras. 12, 14)*
- *Ensure that stakeholder analysis and engagement are conducted in a gender-responsive, culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory and inclusive manner, identifying potentially affected vulnerable and marginalized groups and providing them opportunities to participate (SES, PDP, 12).*
- *Develop appropriately scaled stakeholder engagement plans. The scale and frequency of engagement will reflect the nature of the activity, magnitude of potential risks and adverse impacts, and concerns raised by affected communities (SES, PDP, paras. 13, 15).*
- *Meaningful, effective and informed consultation processes need to meet specified criteria (SES, PDP para. 14)*
- *Ensure that stakeholders who may be adversely affected by the project can communicate their concerns and grievances (SES, PDP, paras. 17, 18)*
- *For projects that affect rights, lands, territories, resources, and traditional livelihoods of indigenous peoples, ensure free, prior informed consent (FPIC) (SES, PDP, para. 16, SES, Standard 6, para. 9)*
- *Provide ongoing reporting to affected communities and individuals for projects with significant adverse social and environmental impacts (SES, PDP, para. 25)*

Undertake measures to ensure effective stakeholder engagement occurs where conditions for inclusive participation are unfavorable (SES, PDP, para. 12)

The following definitions and concept will be applied for the Stakeholder Engagement process:

Stakeholders: Stakeholders are persons, groups, or institutions with an *interest* in the project or the ability to *influence* the project outcomes, either positively or negatively. Stakeholders may be directly or indirectly affected by the project. The range of potential stakeholders is diverse and may include target beneficiary groups, locally affected communities or individuals, national and local government authorities, civil society actors, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) (both domestic and at times international), indigenous peoples, politicians, religious leaders, the academic community, private sector entities, workers organizations, UN agencies and donors, and other special interest groups. Importantly, stakeholders may include groups opposed to proposed interventions. The “stake” that each of these different groups has in the project will vary.

Stakeholder analysis: Stakeholder analysis is the process of identifying a project's key stakeholders and assessing their interests in the project and the ways in which these stakeholders may influence the project's outcomes. An understanding of power relations and potential alliances and conflicts among stakeholders is necessary. Stakeholder analysis provides the foundation for planning stakeholder engagement throughout the project cycle.

Stakeholder engagement: Stakeholder engagement is an overarching term that encompasses a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle. The SES defines stakeholder engagement as an ongoing process that may involve, to varying degrees, the following elements:⁶

- Stakeholder analysis and planning
- Disclosure and dissemination of information
- Consultation and meaningful participation
- Dispute resolution and grievance redress
- Stakeholder involvement in monitoring and evaluation
- Ongoing reporting to affected communities and other stakeholders.

The intensity and scale of stakeholder engagement will vary with the type of project, its complexity, and its potential risks and impacts. It starts early in project planning and spans the entire life of the project.

Information Disclosure: Information disclosure here refers to the provision of timely, accessible information regarding the project and its potential social and environmental impacts to stakeholders in order to facilitate their meaningful, effective and informed participation in project design and implementation. The SES contain requirements for the disclosure of screening reports; draft and final social and environmental assessments and management plans; and any required social and environmental monitoring reports.

Free, prior and informed consent (FPIC): At the earliest stage of project conceptualization and design, and iteratively throughout implementation and closure, mechanisms need to be identified and implemented to guarantee the meaningful, effective and informed participation of indigenous peoples

⁶ UNDP, Social and Environmental Standards (SES), Policy Delivery Process and Accountability, para. 12.

on all matters.⁷ Culturally appropriate consultation will be carried out with the objective of achieving agreement, and FPIC will be ensured on any matters that may affect the rights and interests, lands, resources, and territories.

v. Types and levels of stakeholder participation

The nature, scope and frequency of stakeholder engagement needs to be proportionate to the nature and scale of the project, its potential risks and impacts, and the level of stakeholder concern. The extent to which the project may impact various stakeholder rights and interests and the power and influence of certain stakeholders will affect needed engagement strategies and approaches. Stakeholder analysis, together with project screening and assessment of social and environmental risks, assists in developing appropriate engagement strategies for different stakeholder groups, which will then be further articulated during Project implementation.

Table A2.2: Identification of Key Stakeholders and Modes of Engagement

Stakeholder Group	Mode of Engagement
Forestry Commission Forestry Commission (FC) is the government institution responsible for the sustainable management of Ghana's forest and wildlife resources. The Climate Change Unit of the FC established in 2006 and recently elevated to a Directorate has the mandate to manage forestry-sector initiatives related to climate change adaptation and mitigation including REDD+. It hosts the National REDD Secretariat, which is responsible for coordinating Ghana's REDD+ process.	The Forestry Commission is the lead implementing institution or the executing entity.
Global Shea Alliance Responsible party for output 2.	Deliver output 2.1 and 2.2 with partners. GSA will also utilise their Community Engagement best practices in the implementation of the activities.
UNDP	UNDP standards and guidelines

⁷ This means affecting indigenous peoples regardless of (i) whether the Project is located within or outside of the lands and territories inhabited by the indigenous peoples in question, (ii) whether or not title is possessed by the affected indigenous peoples over the lands and territories in question, or (iii) whether the indigenous peoples are recognized as indigenous peoples by the country in question. (See Standard 6, Indigenous Peoples, para. 3.)

Responsible Party	
<p>Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR)</p> <p>As parent ministry of the Forestry Commission, the MLNR is responsible for policy formulation and coordination to ensure the sustainable management and utilization of the nation's lands, forests and wildlife resources. The Ministry is headed by a secretary, with directors responsible for technical work including forestry and policy coordination.</p>	<p>The MLNR will be engaged more directly on issues of tenure reforms, including tree tenure to support the CREMAs, forest fiscal reform to provide financial incentives for the sustenance of the CREMAs. Several strategies and focus group engagements with the Ministry and the relevant units will be further fleshed out during the project implementation phase.</p>
<p>Individual (direct) beneficiaries – they will be directly involved with the project activities implementation, as well as education / awareness raising programmes.</p> <p>This group will be constituted by women and men covering the full spectrum of interest and type of stakeholder</p>	<p>The full range of methods required will be used, but where necessary, targeted workshops and meetings may be more effective to communicate and discuss with certain groups. Additionally, engagement methods will integrate a gender and participatory approach, to ensure direct individual beneficiaries, including those from more marginalized groups (e.g. women, ethnic groups, youth, etc.), are actively and equitably engaged. Further communication through the development of information documents specifically aimed at the various levels of capacity encountered, will represent another key engagement tool.</p>
<p>Affected communities – as for direct beneficiaries these communities will be groups contributing towards the project activities either by implementing them or by being beneficiaries of education and awareness raising campaigns</p>	<p>As above</p>
<p>Local organizations, community-based organisations and local NGOs with respect to training considered as direct supporters of the awareness raising campaigns and if deemed insufficient capacity, will receive additional capacity building.</p>	<p>As for communities (as described above) there will be a range of situations and engagement of local organizations representing women and youth, with various levels of capacity and access to own funding sources.</p>
<p>Women's co-operatives and their communities</p>	<p>The engagement by private sector companies and NGOs will be in line with the GSA "B"</p>

	Practices in Community Engagement Manual (includes guidelines on community assessment, community mobilization and empowerment, partnership building, expectation management)
<p>National and regional NGOs – a range of NGOs considered as key direct partners to observe the implementation process as well as to assist on the ground with activities and supervision if required. Capacity building will be provided if required in some instances.</p> <p>(KASA, Forest Watch, Forest Forum, NCRC, IUCN, Rocha, SNV, Tropenbos, Civic response, Solidaridad etc)</p>	<p>Community-based, national, and regional NGOs will be engaged to form partnerships with private companies to implement the project on the ground. Support will be given by the GSA to train and facilitate the different partnerships. Support will also be given to provide information and disseminate best practices through the GSA manual on parkland management best practices, newsletters, member snapshots, conferences, and workshops. The partnerships with especially national and regional NGOs will be strengthened and utilized to receive feedback on project implementation, its impacts, especially to vulnerable and marginal groups in order to inform changes in project approach as appropriate and in line with the broader objectives of the project. The project will leverage multi-stakeholder and NREG platforms and process already in place such as the forest forums, NGO annual review meetings, Annual NREG Sector Reviews to disseminate information on project progress and impacts and seek feedback to improve project implementation and reduce negative impacts.</p>
<p>Regional and Local government authorities Metropolitan Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs). Through the decentralized governance system, the MMDAs execute government business at the regional and local levels, through the various decentralized government institutions. The relevant MMDAs in the NSZ will be engaged for this purpose for the furtherance of the project objectives.</p>	<p>The MMDAs play an important role, providing technical expertise, for example through the Business Advisory Centers to support business development of the CREMAs, the development of land use and spatial planning by-laws for the CREMAs among others.</p>

<p>Traditional Authorities</p> <p>Custodians of land, Traditions and culture in Ghana and they will help enforce by-laws in the program area. In Ghana Traditional Authorities are respected institutions that hold influence and are important change agents.</p>	<p>The Traditional Authorities will be engaged throughout the project implementation especially regarding the development of communication materials building on indigenous knowledge of shea propagation and protection, fire management, as well as support for the development and enforcement of by-laws for the CREMAs.</p>
<p>Private sector “value chain” associations and organizations – these are the structures that connect local level producers to the buyers of goods represented by the private sector companies. These structures represent activity specific value chains and may at times act as a buffer between the producers and the buyers of goods. Technical support to improve their efficiency and capacity as well as improving their ability to motivate changes within their structures and members attitudes will represent a key feature of the project activities.</p>	<p>Same as above.</p>
<p>Academic and research institutions that will conduct research related to the project – a range of key topics will be the basis of the various types of training that will take place. Capacity in the form of access to reference material, access to research equipment and research funds will be key. Additional training may be required.</p>	<p>These will be key institutions that will provide support with the development of appropriate training materials and approaches for the various activities foreseen by the project</p>
<p>Religious groups</p> <p>Religious groups play important roles in development and change in the society. Notable groups including Muslims Associations, Catholic Bishops Conference, branches of the Ghana Pentecostal Council, Christian Council of Ghana in the NSZ play important roles for education, sensitization and enforcement of by-laws on the environment.</p>	<p>Members of these groups may be requested to be part of the dispute resolution team set up for GSLRP.</p>
<p>Local media providers, and especially rural radio, these structures will provide support to reach the project beneficiaries in general and ensure</p>	<p>Rural radio and appropriate methods of communication will make up an integral part</p>

stakeholder groups are effectively informed important subjects. Support in the form of technical improvements to their operations as well as education, awareness raising, capacity building may be required.	of the communication campaign on forest management.
Public sector agencies in charge implementation Ministry of Environment Science Technology and Innovations, Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, Environmental Protection Agency, Energy Commission, NADMO, COCOBOD)	The relevant sector agencies will be engaged at different stages of the project implementation in furtherance of the project objectives and actions. Ministry of Finance will be engaged during discussions on fiscal reforms that will sustain the CREM, including introduction of tax incentives among others. Ministry of Food and Agriculture will be engaged specifically to support the operationalization of the communication plan on shea through the extension agents. Other Ministries and agencies whose mandate and activities relate to the project activities will be engaged during the implementation phase, through a detailed analysis and mapping of activities in the N and possible areas of collaboration to avoid duplication and sustain project interventions.

Two distinct phases will take place for the planned stakeholder engagement process related to the GCF project:

Inception - once the project is initiated and a project team has been recruited and is in place

- An inception workshop held with stakeholders to develop the annual plan and to work through the approved project design, understand roles and responsibilities in the project ranging from including stakeholder engagement during project implementation, monitoring, communications, reporting, and conflict resolution and grievance redress.
- Initial contact with stakeholders is made to identify the stakeholders that will be the actors and beneficiaries of the project in the first six months. This phase will include the environmental and social impact assessment process, as specialists will be travelling to the planned regions and presenting the final approved version of the project as well as the go through a process to assess the social and environmental risks associated with the planned measures and to finalise the environmental and social management plan.
- The rules of engagement regarding gender and minority groups will be disclosed and presented as per the gender assessment and action plan, as well as the processes that will require the development of

contracts and various other obligations leading to a clear understanding and acceptance of roles and responsibilities.

Implementation - the project is activated and will require implementation and of the project stakeholder engagement approach. The methods will vary depending on the stakeholders and a preliminary summary is presented in the Table A2 above. In addition, through the annual adaptive management reviews, the project will also engage different stakeholders to review the entire process relative to the implementation of different outputs (especially for the CREMAs and the fire management), identify shortfalls and address them in subsequent years of implementation.

In the process of stakeholder's engagement in all the phases of the project a grievance and redress mechanism will be applied.

vi. **Grievance Redress Mechanism**

The GSLRP will employ the model already set up for REDD+ in Ghana. While more permanent PLR revisions are being pursued to establish a national Forest Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for REDD+, as an interim measure, and building from the modified structure proposed under the 2014 consultancy⁸ and a follow up on in 2016, which recommended the quicker option of developing regulations under the Forestry Commission Act, 1999 (Act 571) to establish an FGRM. A quicker process that will be spearheaded by the MLNR. the project will begin to pilot the FGRM structure and process under the authority and traditional jurisdiction of designated Traditional Authorities (chiefs and queen mothers), and with the support of other highly respected individuals of high ethical and moral standing, including religious leaders, District Assembly members, upstanding opinion leaders and other stakeholder representatives so the disputing parties have their grievances addressed.

A significant strength for the FGRM and for the proposed interim structure, is that traditional Chiefs, Elders and "Queen Mothers" already operate as recognized institutions for dispute resolution within their traditional jurisdictions, and have always been the "first port of call" in settling local level disputes and acting as agents of change at local, regional and national levels since time immemorial. Furthermore, the role of Chiefs and Traditional Authorities is already recognized under Ghana's Constitution, which supports the implementation of customary law. As such, their role in conflict resolution through mediation and arbitration is both key and appropriate on both cultural and legal grounds. Religious leaders also serve as important mediators of social and economic disputes amongst their congregations and followers, and respected opinion leaders also frequently facilitate resolutions or participate in mediations with the TA or religious leaders.

Furthermore, as stipulated in the FCPF R-PP, "the principle of subsidiarity" will be used in establishing conflict resolution structures, with conflicts being addressed at the lowest or most localized level as appropriate. Should a large number of conflicts specific to the programme and REDD+ occur or it prove difficult for issues to be resolved at lower or localized levels, conflicts can be escalated to higher levels".

⁸ [Development of Dispute Resolution Mechanism for REDD+ in Ghana](#)

The proposed structure for grievance redress and conflict resolution is described below, in the following sub-section.

FGRM Structure and Operational Guidelines

Draft operational guidelines for addressing forest and REDD+ related grievances have been developed in consultation with key stakeholders, and a final version has been completed, which will receive broader national stakeholder validation in the coming months.

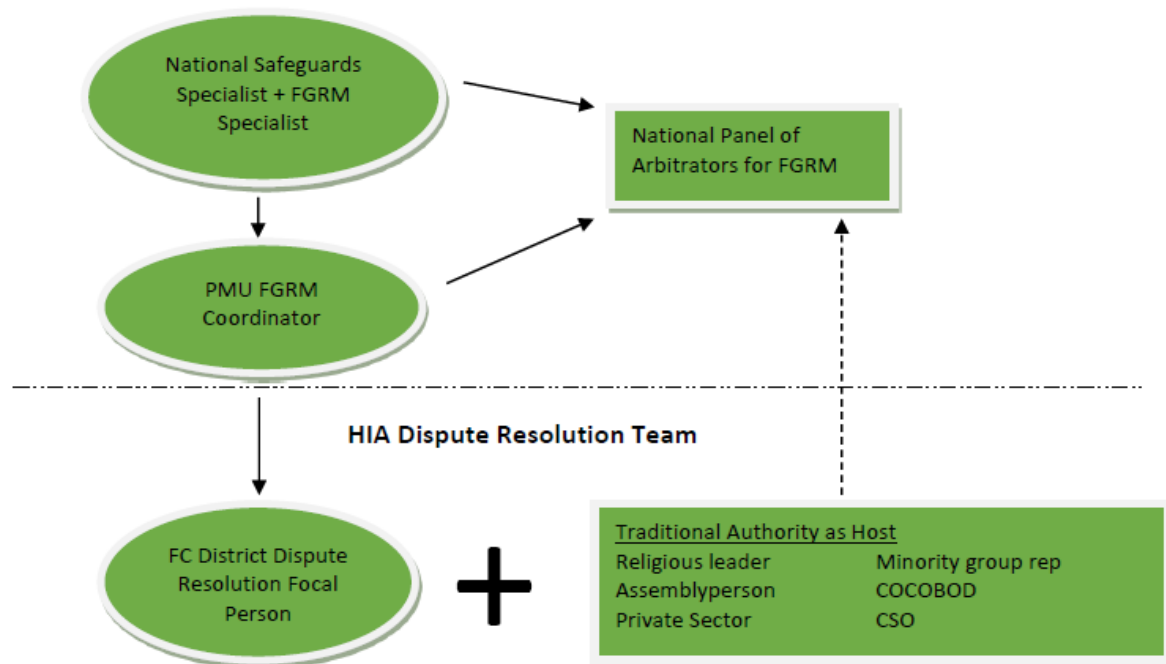
FGRM Structure

To date, the existing practice is for forest users to report infringements of the principles and standards of the Forestry Commission Charter to the Customer Service Officers (CSO) at the FC's district offices and have them dealt with at this level. These complaints are limited to infringements of the provisions of the Charter and not forest grievances as a whole. In addition, recurring conflicts between FC officials and forest users make it imperative that the FGRM that is being created has autonomy and includes a wider array of mediation stakeholders. The project should set up a Dispute Resolution Team (DRT) made up of between 7 and 9 members. As much as possible the DRT will be gender sensitive and have a good representation of both men and women. It may be hosted by a respected representative of the Traditional Authority with jurisdiction in the area and co-convened with a trained FC Dispute Resolution Focal Person (DR Focal Person) at the FC district level. Other members can include (as appropriate) a respected religious leader, CSO and private sector representative, and the local Assembly Person to the District Assembly, and opinion leader representatives of marginalized or minority groups.

The DRT will sit on a regular basis to help resolve grievances. Should the body be unable to resolve any dispute, the grievance will be channeled to a 5-member panel of arbitrators at the national level. The rationale is not for the DRT and Focal Person to take over the role of chiefs in dispute resolution, but for it to complement their work while also ensuring that people's rights are respected and met. A PMU FGRM Coordinator and the National Safeguards Specialist will manage a roster of mediators and arbitrators who would be empanelled as and when disputes need to be addressed at the national level.

An FGRM desk with an FGRM Specialist has been set up at the NRS with oversight from the National Safeguards Specialist. Together, they will oversee all aspects of FGRM trainings and implementation in the GSLRP, and in other programmes or localities in the future. They will also follow and support the amendment process, and ensure reporting on FGRM process and outcomes. At the level of the PMU, there will be a PMU FGRM Coordinator who oversee the process at the programme level and will be responsible for receiving complaints from the district DR Focal Person. FGRM forms have been developed by the consultant and there are efforts underway to synergize the FLEGT/VPA and FIP complaint forms as these programs are interlinked.

FGRM structure and operational bodies



(HIA – Hotspot Intervention Area)

FGRM Operational Guidelines

In order to effectively operationalizing the FGRM, training, continued capacity building, and a general broadening of understanding is required. The NRS will oversee trainings for the PMU FGRM Specialist, the identified national arbitrators, and the selected members of the DRTs on the FGRM, mediation and conflict resolution principles, forestry laws, and REDD+ and the GSLRP. The NRS and the PMU will also oversee negotiations with the Traditional Authorities and other key stakeholders and opinion leaders in each GSLRP to negotiate the adoption of this structure and process. As adoption of the FGRM moves forward as an amendment to the FC Act, the NRS Safeguard Specialist and the PMU FGRM Specialist will also ensure that learning from the piloting process is incorporated into the recommended amendment, and that the DRT s kept abreast of the legislative process and any prospective changes to the structure.

More broadly, from previous studies and surveys on capacity building needs in relation to REDD+, it is clear that despite extensive consultations at national, regional, district and local levels, there remains a gap in knowledge about REDD+ and climate change issues among stakeholders, like farmers and communities, and within sub-national institutions that include the district assemblies and the traditional authorities. Growing the understanding of communities and institutions within the target areas of the GSLRP on REDD+ and the ERP is important for enabling the implementation of the FGRM process. In order to fill the above gap, there is a plan to hold trainings at appropriate levels and locations aimed at expanding people's understanding and building the capacity of key institutions, organizations, bodies, and individuals. These include, relevant ministries and agencies, NGOs, private sector and other

interest groups, local communities, district FGRM officers, DRT members, FC Range Supervisors, Metropolitan Municipal District Assembly members (MMDAs) within the ER Program area (once the consultancy is completed).

Broadly, the FGRM will be operationalized in six steps.

1. Parties seeking to have any REDD+ dispute resolved would file their complaint with the district or community FGRM officer within the ER project area where it will be received and processed.
2. If the parties are unable or unwilling to resolve their dispute through negotiation, fact finding or inquiry a mediator chosen with the consent of both parties would be assigned to assist the Parties to reach a settlement.
3. Where the mediation is successful, the terms of the settlement shall be recorded in writing, signed by the mediator and the parties to the dispute and lodged at the FGRM registry. The terms of the settlement will be binding on all parties.
4. If mediation is unsuccessful, the dispute resolution team will convene to mediate and resolve the grievance.
5. If the mediation is unsuccessful, the Parties will be required to submit their dispute for compulsory arbitration, by a panel of 5 arbitrators, selected from a national roster of experts. The panel of 5 arbitrators will be composed of a qualified arbitrator, a lawyer, a forestry/natural resource expert, a traditional authority and a governance expert with at least 1 of them being a woman.
6. The awards of the arbitration panel will be binding on the Parties and can only be appealed to the Court of Appeal. All questions of law would be referred to the High Court.

For the purposes of the FGRM, REDD+ related grievances and relevant issues include: disputes relating to activities being promoted under the programme; disagreements about land rights or tree tenure; disputes relating to benefit sharing arrangements; disputes relating to participation in decision-making processes; disputes relating to access to and user rights of land, trees, and forests; disputes related to gender inequality or migrant-local issues; and disputes related to access to resources. Examples of the nature of conflicts that might arise from the implementation of REDD+ is presented below.

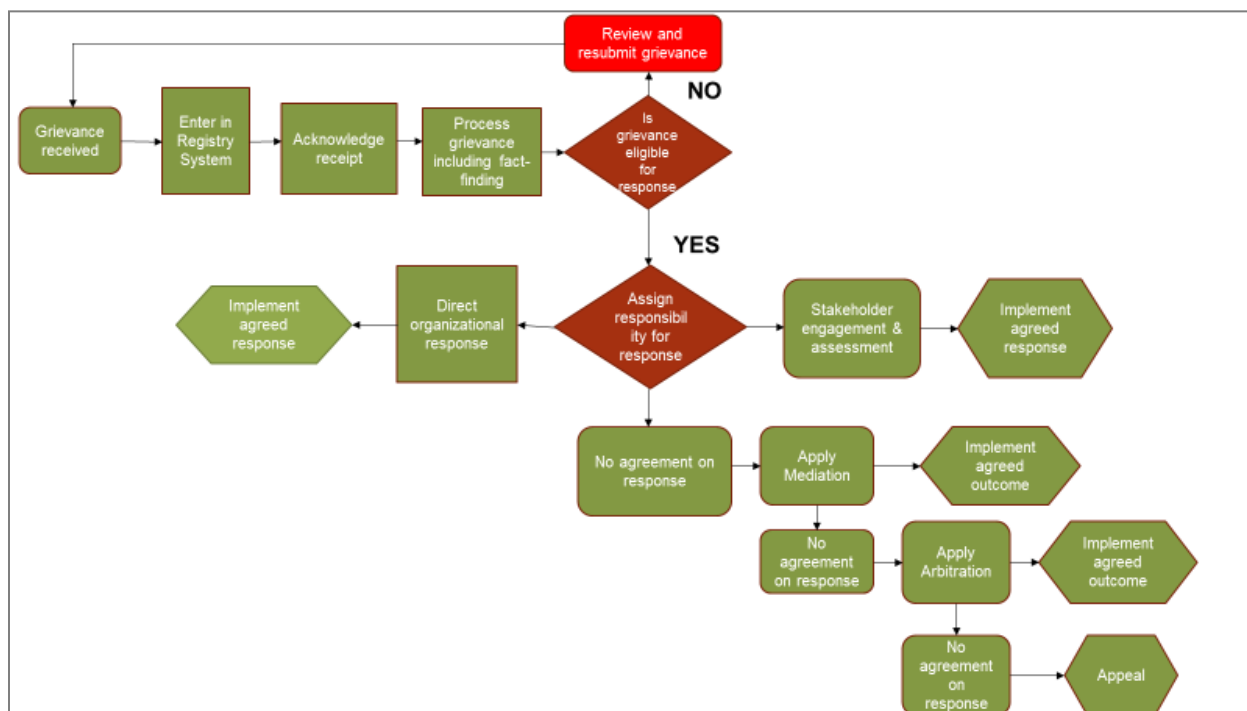
- Land clearing for agriculture –It is possible that given the current trends, conflicts or disputes could still occur, possible between FSD, farmers, landowners, and/or local fringe-communities and migrants.
- Tenure conflicts and/or boundary issues – The integration of GSLRP activities into existing tenure arrangements could result in new relationships or agreements between key actors like the state, traditional authorities and community stakeholders. If not carefully negotiated, it could create the potential for conflict. In addition, issues related to boundaries, land use, and user rights to tree and land could become more contentious and any latent conflicts or boundary disputes could be revived among traditional authorities, tenant farmers and landholders. If carbon rights are bundled with tree rights, then the existing confusion about tree ownership rights are likely to renew conflicts between the farmers, and landowners.
- Conflicts over tree rights Lessons from existing benefit-sharing schemes in the natural resource sectors and as a result of the implementation of early REDD+ pilot projects (for example, IUCN-Ghana’s work in Western Region) underscore the importance of well-defined tree tenure regimes with effective and equitable distribution of benefits. Especially in the initial months and year of implementation, as new

tree tenure arrangements are implemented, there is the distinct possibility that conflict or disputes could arise.

- **Benefit-sharing** –As implementation begins perceptions of what benefits should accrue, to whom, and how could lead to conflicts. But even when the BSP is clear and agreement is reached at the local level, conflicts can still emerge over time. The FGRM will be important in helping to clarify issues and resolve conflicts.
- **Gender Equality** - Consistent with the National REDD+ Strategy, mainstreaming gender and equity concerns at all levels and in all decision making, is key. However, it is possible that groups who tend to carry less “power” within society (e.g. marginalized groups) such as women, children and migrants could feel that their interests are not adequately reflected in the decision-making process, in the implementation of activities or in the sharing of benefits. The FGRM would provide an avenue to address and resolve these concerns and grievances. The NRS recognizes that the FGRM consultation process has to be gender sensitive to guide the engagement process of these groups. The proposed FGRM process should also be transparent, impartial, safe, timely, accessible, and provide special attention to women, the poor and marginalized and/or vulnerable groups.
- **Forest Access**- Access to the forest and user rights have also been the cause of disputes that sometimes attract the intervention of the police, military and law courts for settlement and enforcement. Grievances about forest-user rights are also expressed on issues such as the illegal extraction of forest products, influence of elites, inequitable resource distribution and exclusion of resources to marginalized groups, including women.
- **Access to resources**- Access to resource, including farming packages, extension and training are important elements of the BSP. It is possible, that as implementation begins, farmers or communities could context their access to the resources laid out in the GSLRP and how effectively they have been shared.

The proposed FGRM procedures and modalities for implementation within the ER programme is shown in the figure below. There are different modes for receiving complaints from aggrieved persons at the local level. Complainants can either choose to register their grievance with a designated Traditional Authority, or with the FC district DR Focal Person. Once a complaint is registered and assessed, receipt of the complaint is acknowledged back to the complainant, and an action along the appropriate channel for resolution is proposed. If the complainant does not agree on the recommended action, then it goes for review. Records of each step should be kept and remain within defined time frames.

Proposed FGRM procedures and processes



Major Step 1: Receive and Register Complaints

- i. Anyone affected by the implementation of the GSLRP programme is competent to make a complaint.
- ii. All aggrieved persons with complaints related to GCRFP implementation should have the opportunity to register it with the TA or with the FC DR FP or FGRM desk at the national level.
- iii. The district level DR Focal Person shall receive and collate the grievances or concerns of a complainant.
- iv. Complaints can be received orally but must be recorded in writing by a representative of the TA or the district DR Focal Person.
- v. All complaints shall be recorded on a standard complaint form (FGRM Form A1) which must be submitted to the PMU FGRM Coordinator irrespective of whether the complainant is seeking redress or not.
- vi. Where the complainant is illiterate, the district DR Focal Person or another literate individual nominated by the complainant shall complete the FGRM Form A1, read to the complainant what has been written and have them sign or thumbprint to indicate their approval of the written account, after which the FGRM Officer will also sign.
- vii. A signed or thumb printed FGRM Form A1 is considered 'submitted' by the complainant. Where the complainant is a group/community/company, the person signing the complaint must be competent as a legal representative; however its own rules define it.
- viii. The FGRM officer who receives complaints orally or in writing must complete the FGRM Form A1, sign and register it in the official complaints record book, noting date of receipt, complainant, handling officer and assign a case ID within a day before submitting those details to the head office within 3 days

- ix. For purposes of uniformity, a case ID will follow the following format: District Code/year/00+number following in a chronological manner
- x. A completed form that has been assigned a case ID is considered 'received' and must be processed
- xi. Where there is a networked electronic registry accessible to the FGRM district DR Focal Person, the case shall be logged into the registry within 2 days
- xii. Thus the processes of receiving and registering complaints at the District FGRM office MUST not exceed 3 working days.

Major Step 2: Acknowledge, Assess and Assign

- i. All complaints received must be assessed for eligibility using an eligibility criteria that ought to be developed, before they are processed through the FGRM and assigned official responsibility within 3 working days
- ii. The complaint, the reply and the decision on eligibility should be acknowledged, either through email, written letter, in person, telephone or, SMS
- iii. The decisions on eligibility and actions assigned must also be recorded in the official District complains record book.
- iv. In all cases, it is mandatory for the FGRM Form 2B to be completed
- v. The FGRM officer is responsible for the assessment of the complaint and the reply. They may co-opt other people for the purposes of the assessment to propose a response and the response shall be recorded on FGRM Form 2B
- vi. The party whom the complaint is made against (“responding party”) must be notified of the complaint against them and invited to reply within 7 working days of receipt of complaint.

Major Step 3: Propose Response

- i. Based on the assessment report recorded in FGRM Form 2B, the grievance redress strategy (including a clear statement of what must be done, by who and within what time) proposed will be communicated to the Parties, either directly or through the submitting FGRM district DR Focal Person within 14 days of receipt of complaint.
- ii. The proposed action may involve negotiations between the Parties, direct actions by the FC or with other stakeholders to deal with the subject matter, or referral to an ADR process
- iii. The agreed action shall be communicated to the relevant officer/persons/institutions for implementation by completing the FGRM Form 3C directing the action to be taken, stating what should be done, who should do it, when it should be done and when a report is to be submitted.
- iv. In the event that mediation is proposed, the Parties will jointly select or agree on the method for selecting the mediator from the roster of mediators. In the absence of an agreement, the mediator will be chosen by the DR Focal Person.
- v. A memo shall be written by the District DR Focal Person within 3 days after receipt of consent of complainant to the proposed action.
- vi. Where the grievance has not been successfully resolved through mediation, the dispute will be referred for compulsory arbitration by the DR Focal Person.

- vii. In the compulsory arbitration, a 5-member ad-hoc panel⁹ consisting of a qualified arbitrator, a lawyer, a forestry/natural resource expert, a traditional authority and a governance expert with at least 1 of them being a woman will be constituted.
- viii. Subject to the provisions of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Act, 2010 (Act 798), the panel shall be constituted by the parties or in absence of agreement, by the national coordinator of the FGRM from a roster of arbitrators maintained by the national coordinator.
- ix. Awards by the ad-hoc arbitration panel shall be in writing and binding on both parties

Major Step 4: Closed Out

- i. A dispute will be considered 'closed out' if the settlement terms have been implemented or a party files an appeal at the High Court, in which case the resolution of the case leaves the ambit of the prescribed FGRM
- ii. Where the dispute has been fully settled and the terms implemented, the dispute would be considered to have been effectively resolved and recorded as such in the district and national FGRM records/database.
- iii. Where one Party disagrees with the award, the Party may file an appeal at the Court of Appeal upon limited grounds such as on questions of law.

UNDP's [Stakeholder Response Mechanism](#) (SRM) is also available to help project-affected stakeholders, government and others partners jointly resolve concerns and disputes. It is available when Implementing Partners and UNDP project-level stakeholder engagement processes have not successfully resolved issues of concern.

Project affect stakeholders will be informed throughout the project cycle of their options for grievance redress and how to access the various channels.

⁹ The membership here is revised from the panel contained in the 2014 DRM Report

Annexes

A. DRAFT TERMS OF REFERENCE (TOR) FOR GHANA SHEA LANDSCAPE REDD+ PROGRAMME (GSLRP) TECHNICAL TASK FORCE

1.0 BACKGROUND

Ghana is pursuing the international mechanism Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+) under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to significantly reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation. Major progress has been made towards readiness for REDD+ implementation and the key building blocks as stipulated by the Warsaw Framework of 2013. These comprise the National REDD+ Strategy, submission of a National Forest Reference Level, initial design of the Safeguards Information System and the National Forest Monitoring System in accordance with methods, guidance and processes established by the UNFCCC.

Ghana's Vision for REDD+ is to "significantly reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and enhance carbon stocks through sustainable forest management and forest restoration over the next twenty years, whilst at the same time addressing threats that undermine ecosystem services and environmental integrity in order to maximize co-benefits from forests". By so doing, REDD+ will become a pillar of action for the national climate change agenda and a leading pathway towards sustainable, low emissions development.

Ghana's REDD+ Strategy was launched in November 2016 after validation by a broad section of stakeholders and high level political endorsement. The Strategy identifies a set of programmatic strategic options for addressing the direct and indirect drivers of deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana's ecological zones within a jurisdictional nested approach.

1.1 The GSLRP Description

The Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ programme is intended to support the effective implementation of specific Policies and Measures (PAMs) identified in the National REDD+ Strategy for the Northern

Savanna ecological zone. The project aims at implementing an Emission Reductions Programme for the Shea Landscape of the Northern Savanna Woodland, while at the same time addressing Ghana's Policy and Legislative Reforms on Tree Tenure and Carbon Rights (Policy and Legislative Reform Programme) as stated in the Strategy.

The GSLRP is designed to promote sustainable approaches to land use, forest conservation, and enhanced community-based resource management to stem the on-going degradation and deforestation from illegal logging, charcoal production, agricultural expansion and illegal mining that threaten the forests and shea production system and supply chains. This project will also be an important initiative to strengthen rural economies in the north, support female-dominated shea harvesting systems and revenue streams and address poverty, which is widely considered to be endemic in this ecological zone.

This eco-zone, which covers vast swathes of Ghana's landmass (over 60%) is fast losing its preponderance of forests, highly valuable savannah woodland species (including rosewood and shea trees) and wildlife due to destructive charcoal production, illegal logging, unsustainable farming practices, illegal mining, hunting, livestock grazing and human induced fires. The Northern Savanna Woodland landscape is an important source of several Ghanaian staples, including root tubers like yam, cereals such as millets, assorted vegetables and nuts, and with its large tracts of grasslands, it hosts most of Ghana's livestock population, helping in a major way to meet the protein needs of the country. Of considerable concern is that the area is highly susceptible to climate change impacts particularly droughts, which further magnifies the poverty and natural resource degradation.

As Ghana approaches the final stages of REDD+ Readiness and prepares for full implementation of actions in the National REDD+ Strategy, the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) of the Forestry Commission is fully developing the GSLRP document to secure funding from the Green Climate Fund of the UNFCCC. This is being done in collaboration with the Ministry of Finance as the National Designated Authority for the GCF in Ghana and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) as a National Implementing Entity (NIE) for the GCF. A concept note on the GSLRP has already been submitted to the GCF for their comments as the country develops the full programme proposal document in June, 2017.

2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE

OBJECTIVE

The objective for the formation of the Technical Task Force is to work together towards developing a pragmatic, environmentally sound, socio-culturally acceptable, economically viable GCF proposal

document that is well-aligned with Ghana’s sustainable development aspirations and international REDD+ requirements, protocols and guidelines.

2.0 MEMBERSHIP AND EXPERTISE

The members of the Technical Task Force and their expertise are outlined in the table below:

NAME	POSITION/INSTITUTION	EXPERTISE/ROLE
Mr. Charles Akely Abugre	CEO, SADA	Savannah ecological zone landscape level policy planning and implementation
Mr. David Kpelle	Director Operations, Wildlife Division (FC)	Wildlife Conservation and protection
NAME	POSITION/INSTITUTION	EXPERTISE/ROLE
Mrs. Saadia B. Owusu Amofah	REDD+ Project Officer, IUCN	Development of Pro-poor and rights-based approaches to REDD+ project planning and implementation.
Mr. Yaw Atuahene Nyarko	Regional Manager, Forest Service Division (FC)	Forest Management, protection and conservation.
Mr. Robert Mensah	GCF National Designated Authority, Ministry of Finance	Approval of projects and programs for GCF consideration.
Mr. Daryl Bosu	Dep. National Director, A Rocha Ghana	Community based natural resource governance and management and terrestrial carbon accounting.
Mr. Vincent Achirenaa	COCOBOD Shea Unit	Shea development in Ghana
Ms. Roselyn F. Adjei	REDD+/FIP safeguards and Gender Focal Point, Forestry Commission	Development of governance structures and Social and Environmental safeguard instruments and management framework for REDD+ projects.

Mr. Kwame Agyei	MRV/Registry Specialist, Forest Commission	Carbon accounting, forest reference level determination and REDD+ database management.
Mr. Charles S. Duah	M&E/Budgeting Specialist, Forestry Commission	Monitoring and evaluation of REDD+ projects and programs against set indicators.
Ms. Hilma Manan	FGRM, Forestry Commission	Management of feedback and grievance redress mechanisms for REDD+.

4.0 OPERATIONS

The technical Task Force shall meet on a scheduled basis as deemed appropriate for the timely submission of the GSLRP proposal document. The chairperson (to be nominated by the task force), in collaboration with the head of the NRS will arrange meeting days and send notification to members at least one week (apart from exceptional cases) to the date of the meeting and also share all relevant documents prior to the meeting.

5.0 RESPONSIBILITIES

The task force would be working with a team of consultants who would be working on specific elements such as value chains, economic analysis and safeguards to provide inputs into the relevant sections of the proposal document. The task force would be working with and under the direct supervision of the Head of the NRS or whoever he appoints as such.

Specifically members shall:

- Provide comments and input into the development of the proposal document;
- Provide assistance to the consultants and the NRS in finalizing the proposal document;
- Develop a plan for sustained engagement with all relevant stakeholders and partners to ensure inclusiveness, and maximize opportunities for stakeholder involvement and contribution to the development and implementation of the GSLRP Emissions Reduction Programme (ERP);
- Attend meetings as scheduled;
- Provide any other technical backstopping as needed.

6.0 REPORTING

As indicated earlier, the GSLRP Technical Task Force will report directly to the Head of the NRS or any member of the Secretariat he appoints as such, through the Chairperson.

7.0 LOGISTICAL SUPPORT











The NRS as well as the UNDP will provide the necessary logistics to facilitate the smooth execution of the roles and responsibilities assigned the task force. All relevant key working and reference documents for this assignment such as the concept note already submitted will be shared by the NRS with the task force for ease of reference.

- B. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS (for the detailed participants list – double click the page 55 of 33 to access the full list).

ATTENDANCE SHEET

GSLRP INCEPTION MEETING

AT THE BOARD ROOM OF THE FORESTRY COMMISSION, ACCRA (27th May, 2017)

NAME	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	TELEPHONE NO.	E-MAIL	SIGN
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