

# **Climate-resilient landscapes for sustainable livelihoods in northern Ghana**

## **ANNEX 7: Stakeholder Engagement Plan**

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## 1. Stakeholder consultations during project development

### *Introduction*

Ghana has stepped up efforts to access financial resources from the Green Climate Fund (GCF). In this regard, the Real Sector Division of the Ministry of Finance serves as the National Designated Authority (NDA) and the interface between Ghana and the Fund. Its primary function is to provide broad strategic oversight of the GCF's activities in Ghana and to communicate the country's priorities for financing low-emission and climate-resilient development. More concretely, the NDA facilitates the prioritisation of funding proposals and provides the no-objection for their submission to the GCF, guaranteeing the alignment of such proposals with country priorities. The NDA is also responsible for communicating nominations and no objections of national/direct access entities seeking accreditation to the fund.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) are leading the preparation of a GCF funding proposal titled *Climate-resilient landscapes for sustainable livelihoods in Northern Ghana* with United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) as its international accredited entity. A concept note (CN) was submitted to the GCF in July 2017. To support the development of the funding proposal the accredited and executing entities decided to undertake comprehensive stakeholder consultations in selected regions, districts and communities within the project boundary. These consultations were conducted in 2017. However, the project has undergone substantial changes and Output 2 incorporating early warning systems (EWSs) has been added to the project. As a result, the recent mission to Ghana (August 2024) was undertaken to fulfil the GCF's requirement to undertake stakeholder engagement within the 12 months of submission to the fund. This mission included stakeholder consultations with representatives from the public and private sector, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and seven local communities.

### *Summary of relevant points from the 2024 consultations*

The primary challenges identified during the 2024 consultations — which differ from those discussed during the 2017 mission — pertain to grievance redress mechanisms, gender dynamics, and the inclusion of ethnic minorities. These challenges are summarised below.

### Environmental and social safeguard considerations

The gaps and shortcomings of the proposed project's original environmental and social management framework (ESMF) were largely in relation to a deficit in implementation details, as well as uncertainty regarding the social risks that may be associated with the project execution. These additional risks included those related to exclusion, gender, Indigenous People and addressing of grievances. The mission engagements with institutional representatives demonstrated the capacity of both the MoFA and EPA to implement the project including being effective custodians and responsible entities to apply the ESMF, gender assessment and action plan (GAAP) and grievance redress mechanism (GRM). The experience of both entities with implementing other similar projects was demonstrated through the facilitation of the local level engagements. Engagements with both communities and district authorities revealed that the structure and capacity of MoFA and the EPA at local levels would benefit the project. For example, the EPA and MoFA's established GRM and Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) processes, along with their strong relationships with the intended beneficiaries, will support the implementation of the ESMF, GAAP and the GRM itself. Their long-standing presence in the Upper East, Upper West, and Northern regions, developed through the work on the Sustainable Land and Water Management Project, has built trust and familiarity with local communities. This existing network and operational experience will ensure smoother implementation, community engagement, and the effective addressing of social and environmental concerns throughout the project.

Similarly, information was collected regarding existing mechanisms and structures to address grievances, and although in some cases communities were not familiar with the types of grievance mechanisms, other communities indicated that such structures did exist in their districts. MoFA and EPA also provided information on an institutional GRM that has been successfully implemented for a World Bank funded project and, based on the current information, this GRM will be compliant with UNEP and GCF requirements and is, therefore, recommended for implementation under the proposed project.

However, it was apparent that in all observed cases, communities comprised of different religious groups and ethnicities functioned in an egalitarian and cohesive manner, although individual ethnic minority group consultations were not facilitated because of time constraints. The nature of the community as a cohesive unit appears to supersede ethnic differences. The only potential discrepancy was regarding the nomadic Fulani herders. Despite these groups being described as “the strangers”, the district level authorities indicated that there was limited potential for conflict between nomadic and sedentary group. How these communities will be engaged in the project is still to be determined, particularly as they are generally reluctant to engage in formalised projects. Moreover, the current project is not sufficiently structured to provide these community groups with tangible benefits (i.e. the project focus is not well suited to supporting nomadic livelihoods). However, consultations will be held with representatives of the Fulani to determine if and how they wish to participate in the proposed project, based on the approach designed in the IPPF. Potential risks will be addressed through the implementation of an Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), which provides a participatory and culturally appropriate approach to identifying and engaging relevant communities, including through Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC), while acknowledging national sensitivities around the term “Indigenous” in the Ghanaian context. The IPPF ensures alignment with UNEP and GCF environmental and social safeguard requirements, including the GCF IP Policy.

### Gender dynamics

The project's proposal gender assessment and action plan (GAAP), prepared in 2020, identified several gaps, primarily stemming from limited information at the community level, such as the roles of men and women in farming, access to financing and preferences for receiving training support. Additionally, some information in the GAAP needed to be validated because of the time that has passed since its development. It was also recognised that the GAAP could benefit from having more detail regarding implementation arrangements, and while it was gender-sensitive, there was need for it to be more gender-responsive and/or transformative. Moreover, the gender activities outlined for Outputs 4 and 5 in the GAAP provided limited detail to guide implementation and were not sufficiently tailored to the local context.

This mission has addressed these gaps by collecting additional necessary information to strengthen the GAAP and the integration of gender responsive and transformative actions in the updated Project Proposal and its budget. The team identified the institutions best suited to be involved in the GAAP's implementation and gained a better understanding of women's baseline involvement in agriculture. This will ensure that the GAAP builds on existing structures rather than creating new ones. Consequently, the GAAP will now be more responsive and detailed. For example, information on the preferred timing of training sessions was obtained, which will assist in ensuring that women can participate more effectively. As a result, the GAAP is now better positioned to meet the needs of the community and enhance women's participation in agricultural initiatives.

## *Stakeholder consultations team*

### 2024 Stakeholder consultations

The 2024 stakeholder consultations took place from 30 July to 13 August and were coordinated by the MoFA and the EPA. The local community consultation team consisted of Kingsley Amoako (MoFA), Isaac Acquah (EPA), Sylvester Koranteng and Edwina Quist (both representing the Natural Resource Unit of the EPA), as well as the ESMF and GAAP development team comprising international consultants Tinovonga Chimuka (C4ES) and Chester Kaplan. The EPA assisted with providing vehicles for the international consultants. The first week of consultations included meetings with public and private sector stakeholders, development institutions and a women's empowerment NGO. The second week consisted of consultations with local communities and farmers in four preselected districts in the Upper East region (East Mamprusi and Yunyoo-Nasuan) and Upper West regions (Jirapa and Lawra). The team were led to each community consultation by Kingsley Amoako, and once present, the respective District Agricultural Office led the community consultations.

### 2017 Stakeholder consultations

In April 2017, EPA and MoFA prepared a plan for conducting stakeholder consultations. UNEP and the EPA entered into a Small-Scale Funding Agreement through which the costs of these consultations were covered. Consultations were carried out by representatives from the EPA (National and Regional Offices in Northern, Upper East and Upper West), Ministry of Food and Agriculture, Ministry of Finance (NDA) and UNEP.

In order to cover the eight pre-selected districts, two teams were established. The first team, led by Mr. Kingsley Amoako, was comprised of Foster Gyamfi (Ministry of Finance, NDA), Emmanuel Tetteh (GIS Expert) and Jessica Andrews (UNEP). The second team led by Mr. Isaac C. Acquah Jnr. of the EPA, was comprised of Daniel Tutu Benefor (EPA-Head office) and Maria Jaramillo (UNEP). Regional and district officers were responsible for scheduling the meetings ahead of the team visits. In the first week, the first team covered two districts in the Northern regions (East Mamprusi and Bunkpurugu Yunyoo) while the second team visited Garu Tempene and Binduri in the Upper East Region. In the second week, the teams visited the remaining four districts (Wa West, Lawra, Lambussie-Karni and Jirapa) located in the Upper West region.

### *Approaches adopted for stakeholder consultations*

The project development process involved two stakeholder consultation missions, conducted in 2017 and 2024, each with distinct objectives and methodologies. The 2017 mission focused on validating the outcomes of an initial vulnerability assessment and introducing the project concept to stakeholders across multiple regions. This mission employed a broad, multi-tiered approach involving various participatory methods at regional, district, and community levels. In contrast, the 2024 mission was more targeted, designed to address specific gaps in the project proposal for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) submission. This later mission employed a focused engagement methodology, optimised for a short duration and concentrating on districts where prior engagements had not been conducted. While the 2017 mission aimed for extensive stakeholder involvement and broad data collection, the 2024 mission prioritised efficiency in validating previous outcomes and collecting targeted data required for finalising the GCF project proposal. These contrasting approaches reflect the evolving needs of the project development process, from initial concept validation to final proposal refinement.

### 2024 Mission approach

The 2024 field mission was strategically designed to address gaps in the project proposal for the GCF submission. The approach was characterised by a targeted engagement methodology, optimised for the mission's short duration and focused scope. Prior to the mission, a detailed gap analysis of the project submission package was conducted in the context of GCF and UNEP policies, identifying specific information needs and desired outcomes for stakeholder engagements. The engagement strategy was further refined in collaboration with the MoFA and EPA.

The mission focused on communities where prior engagements had not been conducted. Communities were selected by district agricultural offices based on criteria including vulnerability, representativeness of the locality and limited prior project support. An engagement team was formed, comprising district and national representatives, along with a gender and safeguards specialist experienced in GCF projects.

The engagement process began by conducting district-level meetings with authorities to plan community visits. Community engagements lasted approximately two hours each, using a funnel question approach that began with open questions and progressed to a more narrowed focus based on community input. The questions asked were provided by AFAWI and were designed to gather information on gender dynamics within farming communities — please refer to Appendix 1 for more details on the questions. Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) familiar with the communities facilitated translations and question presentations. Due to time constraints and logistical factors, gendered focus group discussions were not feasible. However, the team endeavoured to facilitate inclusive participation from all attendees.

Data collection was a required component of the mission. Team members took detailed notes during each engagement, and attendance was recorded using sheets that captured community member names, gender information and participants' livelihood practices or institutional roles. Following the engagements, individual notes were compiled into comprehensive narratives for each consultation, with findings organised by broad themes and notable points raised during discussions (see the section on Meetings and discussions).

This approach enabled the team to efficiently validate previous outcomes, address specific gaps, and collect targeted data necessary for finalising the GCF project proposal. The methodology balanced the need for comprehensive stakeholder input with the practical constraints of the mission, ensuring that the data collected would directly contribute to strengthening the project's alignment with GCF requirements and local needs.

**Table 1.** Regions, Districts and communities consulted from both missions

<b>Regions</b>	<b>Districts</b>	<b>Communities</b>
Upper East	East Mamprusi	Gambaga (capital), Jawani, Dimea, Zambulugu, Sumniboma 1 and Bongni
	Bunkpurugu Yunyoo	Bunkpurugu (capital), Gbetmunipaak, Muzzio and Temaa
	Yunyoo-Nasuan	Nyagu
Northern	Garu Tempene	Garu (capital), Lukitikipinkpuluk, Nwawaadug and Bempiella
	Binduri	Binduri (capital), Tambigu Community, Yarigungu, Yarigungu GSOP Mango and Kumpalgoga
Upper West	Wa West	Wechiau (capital), Naaha, Ponyameyiri and Berinyasi
	Lawra	Lawra (capital), Metthor, Bagri, Kanpuo and Zambo Baagangn
	Lambussie-Karni	Lambussie (capital), Gbingballa, Piina and Koro

	Jirapa	Jirapa (capital), Kuzokala, Gbetoure, Nyanvaare, Tuggoh and Ping
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## 2017 Mission approach

A mixture of participatory approaches were adopted. These included: i) field visits; ii) consultation meetings; iii) focus group discussions; and iv) community durbars. The overall goal of the consultations was to validate the outcomes of the vulnerability assessment, (carried out through an initial desktop analysis and stakeholder consultations at the national, regional district and community levels and led by a team of UNEP consultants) with stakeholders. The validation process included confirming information related to climate change exposure, sensitivity, potential impacts and overall vulnerability levels in pre-selected regions, districts and communities of intervention. The consultations allowed the teams to officially introduce the project concept to stakeholders, as well as gather their feedback for its consideration in the final proposal.

In each of the three regions<sup>1</sup>, meetings were held with institutions that are largely involved in the management of land-based livelihoods. Stakeholders consulted include the: i) Regional and District Coordinating Councils (RCC/DCC); ii) Savannah Accelerated Developing Authority (SADA); iii) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Regional Offices; iv) Forest Service Division; v) Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission; vi) Lands Commission; vii) White Volta Basin Secretariat of the Water Resources Commission; viii) Regional Department of Agriculture (RDA) MoFA; ix) Civil Society Organization (CSOs); x) Regional Gender Desk Office; Ghana Health Service-Nutrition Office; xi) National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO); xii) National Fire Service; xiii) xiv) District Community Development Office; xv) District Development Planning Office; xvi) Community Representatives (Assembly men or women); and xvii) Community Chiefs and Farmers.

At the regional level, separate meetings with each institution were scheduled. Where circumstances permitted, the team met various institutions at a time. During each meeting, the team introduced the project concept to the participants. This was followed by a discussion on climate change, environmental and social vulnerabilities at the region, district and community levels. Stakeholders were also asked to share information on on-going interventions, challenges and lessons learned. Finally, the teams and meeting participants discussed the potential involvement and role of each stakeholder during the project implementation phase, should it be approved by the GCF.

A similar approach was adopted at the district level. Stakeholder consultations were held at the district's capital and involved meetings with representatives of the Department of Agriculture, the District Planning Officer, the District Health Officer, the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) representative, the Community Development Officer, Civil Society Organizations and Assembly members. The consultations also provided an opportunity to collect, where available, documentation on recent District Development Reports; District Annual Progress Report; Communication, Population data and other relevant information.

Community consultations were also conducted. Each District Assembly was asked ahead of time to select 3 communities that would be willing to participate in these consultations. During

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<sup>1</sup> Stakeholder and partners consulted: Regional and District Coordinating Councils (RCC/DCC) Savannah Accelerated Developing Authority (SADA); Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); Forest Service Division; Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission; Lands Commission; White Volta Basin Secretariat of the Water Resources Commission; Regional Department of Agriculture (RDA) MoFA; Civil Society Organization (CSOs); Regional Gender Desk Office; Ghana Health Service-Nutrition Office; National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO); National Fire Service; District Community Development Office; District Development Planning Office; Community Representatives (Assembly men or women); Community Chiefs and Farmers.



these consultations, the team held discussions with community members, regarding their livelihood options, the main climate change related challenges that they face, as well as about coping strategies and challenges encountered in adapting and building resilience to climate change. The regions, districts and communities visited are shown in Table 1.

Common questions asked during consultations included the following:

1. What are the Climate Change Impacts you are already seeing in the agricultural sector in these districts?
2. Which communities (in these districts) experience these impacts the most?
3. What do you think of current project outputs?
4. What solutions have worked well (now and in the past)?

## Meetings and discussions

The summary of challenges discussed during each stakeholder consultation in 2024 and 2017 are presented below in Table 2 and Table 3, respectively.

**Table 2.** Summary of stakeholder consultations undertaken in 2024

Location	Participants	Remarks
<b>31 July 2024</b>		
Coconut Grove Hotel, Accra	<p>MoF (NDA) representatives: Abena Osei Asare Foster Aboagye Robert Mensah</p> <p>Kingsley Amoako (MoFA)</p> <p>Technical Advisory Committee representative</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team: Tinovonga Chimuka (C4ES) and Chester Kaplan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The NDA representatives emphasised the importance of ensuring the sustainability of the project's interventions, particularly in relation to the project's budget.</li> <li>- There was an emphasis on the need for the budget to consider both generally high levels of inflation as well as the local currency's devaluation against the US dollar in the next few years.</li> <li>- The NDA emphasised the need for this Funding Proposal to be approved as soon as possible. This is primarily because the delays in the project could result in it being removed from the Country Programme portfolio and replaced by a newer project.</li> </ul>
EPA offices, Accra	<p>Kingsley Amoako (MoFA)</p> <p>Isaac Acquah (EPA)</p> <p>Isaac Aggrey (WRC)</p> <p>Representatives from the EPA Natural Resource Unit</p>	<p><u>Output 2 and the Early Warning System (EWS)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Participants indicated that the Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) does have the capacity to implement the EWS.</li> <li>- GMet conducts environmental impact assessments for any sizeable EWS infrastructure as and when required by local regulations.</li> <li>- The main mode of dissemination for climate information is an online platform that is accessible through smartphones. Danish Hydraulic Institute (DHI) group has previously been involved in the training of the use of climate information systems.</li> </ul> <p><u>Gender roles in the agricultural sector</u></p>

	ESMF and GAAP development team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Men are responsible for land preparation as the farming season begins while women are more involved in the planting of crops.</li> <li>- Pest management is undertaken by men as there is a concern about the chemicals impacting women's reproductive capacity.</li> <li>- Women are predominantly responsible for water collection for household and farming use.</li> <li>- Culturally, it is not acceptable for women to farm yams.</li> <li>- The main crops cultivated include maize, groundnuts, yams and leafy crops such as kale during the dry season.</li> </ul> <p><u>Village Saving and Loans Associations (VSLAs)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VSLAs are mostly run by women in the local communities.</li> <li>- Community members cannot access loans or credit if they are not part of a VSLA.</li> <li>- There is the potential to partner VSLAs with microfinance institutions to improve access to credit.</li> </ul> <p><u>GCF Indigenous Peoples (IPs) considerations</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Representatives from the EPA emphasised that there is no discrimination in terms of which ethnic groups may benefit or engage in government supported projects as different ethnic groups live in harmony together in the local communities<sup>2</sup>.</li> <li>- Nomadic pastoralists involved in livestock rearing live farther from farming communities to avoid damage to crops<sup>3</sup>.</li> </ul> <p><u>Grievance Redress and Conflict Resolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Overt conflict is rare in Ghana and in the experience of the EPA. Local level conflicts are usually addressed using interpersonal engagements or through traditional structures.</li> <li>- There is an existing grievance redress mechanism (GRM) implemented for the Sustainable Land Management Project. Grievances are addressed through committees and can be escalated. At the first level, conflicts are addressed by community committees with support from extension officers. If this is</li> </ul>
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<sup>2</sup> The AE has rated land conflicts, 'medium risk' challenge for both probability and impact, as uncertainty land tenure and land use rights can potentially result in farmers implementing interventions being evicted from land, or pastoralists from accessing land on which they depend for their livelihoods. To avoid this, participatory, conflict-sensitive planning processes that safeguard land use rights for both tenured landowners and customary users will be implemented based on the IPPF, and conflict resolution mechanisms will be established. Refer to the Funding Proposal, Section F (Risk Factor 1), the ESAMF (Annex 6A) and the IPPF (Annex 6C) for further details.

<sup>3</sup> Note that this refers to existing voluntary agreements between nomadic pastoralists and sedentary residents. The IPPF does not and cannot mandate that Indigenous Peoples be refused access to customary lands, as per the GCF Indigenous Peoples Policy.

		<p>unsuccessful it can be escalated to the district level and addressed by the local steering committee, which is usually made up of different District Assembly members and a representative from the EPA. If this is also unsuccessful then it can be escalated to the national steering committee and central EPA Office. Grievance outcomes are reported quarterly.</p>
GIRSAL offices, Accra	<p>Takyi Sraha (Chief Technical Advisor)</p> <p>EPA Natural Resource Unit representatives</p> <p>GIRSAL representatives</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GIRSAL's primary stakeholders are financial institutions. They provide technical assistance to banks, training them on agricultural insurance products and how to de-risk agricultural loans provided by financial institutions. They do not partner directly with agribusinesses or VSLAs.</li> <li>- GIRSAL would only be able to provide risk assurance for loans if these are implemented through partnerships with rural banks and are above a specific ticket size.</li> <li>- The company is currently developing training manuals to upskill farmers and agribusinesses on different ways to obtain financing for their activities. The agricultural extension officers will be trained on the use of the manuals to disseminate the information to local farming communities.</li> </ul>
<b>1 August 2024</b>		
MoFA offices, Accra	<p>Solomon Gyan Ansah (Directorate of Crop Services)</p> <p>MoFA: Kingsley Amoako and other representatives</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<p><u>Output 2 and the EWS</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Climate related information is collected by GMet and disseminated to District Agricultural Offices who then disseminate to local communities through weekly announcements, radio stations and text messages.</li> <li>- Farmers have expressed continuous interest in receiving community or village level weather forecasts to better plan for the farming season.</li> <li>- The MoFA has created a new agribusiness platform (2024–2028) where farmers can subscribe and receive up to date weather forecasts. The platform will also encourage learning for increased market access.</li> </ul> <p><u>Access to finance</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The main barriers to accessing finance for agricultural activities is the limited long-term financing options which are compounded by commercial interest rates that are too high for smallholder farmers.</li> <li>- VSLAs have, therefore, been the most reliable option for smallholder farmers to have continuous access to finance for their farming activities.</li> <li>- The provision of savings kits and training for VSLAs has mostly been done through non-governmental organisations (NGOs).</li> </ul>
Alliance for African Women Initiative (AFAWI) offices, Accra	AFAWI representatives:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The ESMF and GAAP development team gave an overview of the project's history and mission objectives, which included: i) verifying the existing information in the ESMF and GAAP; and ii) gathering updated data to revise these documents.</li> </ul>

	<p>Vivian Akumah (Administrative Assistant) Jennifer Gasu (Programmes Manager) Philip Kwesi Agyei (Manging Director)</p> <p>Sheila Nana Akuah Ashong (EPA)</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- AFAWI representatives suggested sharing the latest version of the GAAP. This would enable the team to offer insights on necessary questions to ask during the planned consultations in the local communities of Jirapa, Lawra, East Mamprusi and Yunyoo-Nasuan districts.</li> <li>- The list of questions designed to gather information on gender dynamics within farming communities was provided by AFAWI and used during the community consultations. For more details on the questions, please refer to Appendix 1 of this report.</li> <li>- AFAWI shared their experience in enhancing rural women's access to finance, literacy and farming inputs. They also expressed interest in participating in the implementation of the GAAP for the Funding Proposal.</li> </ul>
National Insurance Commission offices, Accra	<p>Ghana Agricultural Insurance Pool (GAIP) Chief Technical Advisor</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GAIP is a facilitator of agricultural insurance products but does not develop or underwrite the insurance products themselves.</li> <li>- The insurance is provided through three insurance companies, including Enterprise and Unique.</li> <li>- GAIP is also involved in providing training on agricultural insurance through agricultural extension officers or Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) who disseminate the training to smallholder farmers.</li> <li>- GAIP's representative mentioned that the new Insurance Act of 2021 has operationalised the Agricultural Insurance Fund through the MoFA.</li> <li>- GAIP mentioned that the main challenge with buy-in for agricultural insurance is the perception that insurance will not pay out when the time comes.</li> </ul>
<b>2 August 2024</b>		
UN offices, Accra	<p>United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) representative: Angela Yayra Kwashie (Technical Specialist - Local Transformative Finance)</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- UNCDF's role in the proposed project was outlined and the Funding Proposal budget was discussed. A meeting to review further changes to the budget was organised subsequent to the return of the ESMF and GAAP development team from the mission.</li> </ul>
<b>05 August 2024</b>		

<p>Region: Upper West</p> <p>District: Jirapa</p> <p>District Agricultural office</p>	<p>National and District-level representatives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the district director of MOFA;</li> <li>a representative from the regional Environmental Protection Agency office;</li> <li>Agricultural Extension Agents; and</li> <li>a gender officer supporting the MOFA — the only woman present in this stakeholder consultation.</li> </ul> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<p><u>Gender and agriculture in the region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The presence of a Gender Officer at the district level was beneficial in terms of understanding ongoing work targeted at gender sensitisation and training. This officer is specifically tasked with addressing gender-related issues at a community level and supporting the AEAs and was clearly knowledgeable regarding the gender dynamics in the region. Additionally, the Women in Agriculture Platform (WAP) Development Officer was mentioned as the main figure in promoting and supporting women farmers within the district. The conversation highlighted the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in agricultural development, with an emphasis on ensuring that women have equitable access to resources, training and opportunities. The role of women in agriculture is increasingly recognised as necessary to the overall development of the sector in the region for a number of reasons, including their effective management of land.</li> </ul> <p><u>Support from civil society organisations (CSOs) and NGOs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Several organisations were identified as important players in supporting women farmers and promoting gender equity in agriculture. Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA) is a civil society organisation that was noted for its work in providing subsidies for farmer inputs and supporting women farmers — particularly in developing their own businesses. MEDA's involvement extends beyond agriculture, offering business support and empowering women to engage in alternative livelihoods.</li> <li>Jirapa Farmers Network (JIFAN) was another organisation discussed. Operating at the municipal level, JIFAN focuses on issues such as violence against women, resource access and capacity building for women. The network is instrumental in helping women develop their own industries — including garden farming — and provides essential WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) support.</li> </ul> <p><u>Women in Agriculture Platform (WAP)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WAP was highlighted as an important initiative within the district, offering agricultural support specifically tailored to women and focusing on alternative livelihood building and financial support. The platform also provides training opportunities, enabling women to enhance their agricultural practices and engage in sustainable livelihoods.</li> </ul> <p><u>GIZ's role in the region</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GIZ was mentioned as being present in the region. While the specifics of their activities were not fully clear during the discussion, it was suggested that GIZ provides institutional support and possibly direct support to the agricultural sector.</li> </ul>
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<p>Region: Upper West</p> <p>District: Jirapa</p> <p>Community: Tuggoh community (10°31'32.01"N, 2°48'48.91"W)</p>	<p>Local community consultation team (hereafter referred to as the local community consultation team):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Kingsley Amoako (MoFA);</li> <li>• Isaac Acquah (EPA);</li> <li>• Sylvester Koranteng and Edwina Quist (the Natural Resource Unit of the EPA); and</li> <li>• Tinovonga Chimuka and Chester Kaplan (C4ES).</li> </ul> <p>Community representatives 68 men 44 women</p>	<p><b>Overview</b> Chiefs were present for the Tuggoh community consultation. There was also a good representation of elderly women, young women with children and men among the present community members. While women were hesitant to share their opinions, one woman — who has a leadership position in one of the women-led VSLAs — spoke for the group. This woman's comments were often applauded by her fellow community members, including the men.</p> <p><u>Gender and agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Men's roles in agriculture include land preparation while women participate in planting, sowing, sourcing crops and preparing compost.</li> <li>- Women are also responsible for water collection and providing food to men while they prepare the land.</li> <li>- Gender roles are evident but depend on the type of crop being farmed. For example, women are not involved in the cultivation of yams because of limited physical capacity to do so.</li> <li>- Women are predominantly responsible for selling agricultural produce at local markets once they have received permission from their husbands. In the case of unmarried women, they would need to seek permission from their elders.</li> </ul> <p><u>Household income distribution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proceeds or profits from sales at local markets are divided for household expenses. This money is also re-invested in farming activities and inputs.</li> <li>- Once household expenses are accounted for, women are allocated a sum by their husbands for personal use.</li> </ul> <p><u>VSLAs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are several VSLAs in the Tuggoh community. Some have as few as seven members while others comprise up to 70 members.</li> <li>- VSLAs comprise farmers, traders and students who can access loans and finance. Share outs<sup>4</sup> for VSLAs are done annually.</li> <li>- NGOs, such as CARE International, have previously been involved in providing the savings kits and training on the operationalisation of VSLAs.</li> </ul>
<p>Region: Upper West</p>	<p>Local community consultation team</p>	<p><b>Overview</b> The Ping community was well represented with good participation from both men and women. The only group that was noticeably underrepresented was younger women, especially when compared with the previous</p>

<sup>4</sup> Share outs refer to the money that is paid out of VSLAs to its members.

<p>District: Jirapa</p> <p>Community: Ping community (10°37'26.16"N, 2°29'33.14"W)</p>	<p>Community representatives 67 men 21 women</p>	<p>engagement held earlier in the same morning. This was explained as the result of young women having travelled to the market to sell charcoal, however it was later added that many young women have left to seek employment opportunities in the south of Ghana. This is notable as outmigration in the North was previously described as being temporary and only occurring during the dry season, while these engagements occurred in the middle of the growing season. A considerable number of younger children and a few adolescents were present. As the engagement progressed more participants joined. This was a theme across all engagements held during the mission.</p> <p>As per the agreed methodology the community was not split into smaller focus groups as a result of limited time, translator requirements and the intention to develop a broader understanding about how different groups interacted. This was also done to collect data from different sectors of the community. This method can result in reduced participation by women and youth, however, the facilitators specifically encouraged input from all participants and were successful in this approach. Although contributions were made predominantly by men, this was not by a substantial margin, and participation by women as well as across age groups was good. While women were outspoken in some specific cases and men often conceded or agreed to points raised by women overall participation was a bit more muted than during the previous engagement.</p> <p><u>Livelihoods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community's livelihood activities are diverse but are primarily agriculture and livestock farming. Men traditionally lead in agricultural activities/cultivation with major crops including maize, groundnuts, beans, vegetables, and tomatoes. While men traditionally lead in the Ping community, there are certain activities that are only undertaken by a single gender. For example, the application of pesticide is undertaken only by the men. Similarly, women harvest groundnuts, but removal of the groundnut plant is undertaken by men. However, livestock farming is done equally by men and women and includes raising sheep, pigs, goats, chickens, and Guinea fowl. The community indicated that livestock mortality is a challenge that they face.</li> <li>- Apart from agriculture, women engage in petty trading — purchasing goods from local markets and selling them within the community. They are also involved in shea butter processing, both harvesting and processing shea butter nuts. When they are unable to harvest the nuts themselves, they purchase them for processing. Dry season gardening is another livelihood practice within the community; however, the limited availability of perennial water sources means that the community relies heavily on boreholes and wells that can be unreliable depending on the water table. As a result, sustaining dry season gardening is often difficult.</li> <li>- In addition to farming, some young men leave the community during the dry season to participate in informal, unregulated gold mining (Galamsey). Although this activity provides a temporary income, it involves considerable safety risks and uncertainties and is a major contributor to environmental degradation in Ghana.</li> <li>- The Ping community have also encountered difficulties with overcultivation of their land, which has led to reduced land productivity over time. To supplement their income, some community members engage in</li> </ul>
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		<p>charcoal production. However, there is a growing awareness that this practice contributes to environmental degradation, further exacerbating the challenges they face. Efforts to diversify livelihoods have seen some community members attempt to establish small businesses. However, these ventures are risky, particularly when externally financed, as the uncertain market for services within the community — driven by widespread poverty — makes it difficult for these businesses to thrive.</p> <p><u>Conflict resolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Conflict within the community is usually resolved through a hierarchy of methods, starting with interpersonal engagements between any two parties.</li> <li>- If this is ineffective the conflict can be escalated to the chief or Tindaana, depending on the situation. The Unit Committee (a group of community members selected by the community) can also be engaged in situations where there is uncertainty.</li> <li>- Further to these methods there are institutional bodies which can be consulted or contacted, either directly or by a representative (such as the assemblyman). These bodies include social welfare, AEA's or other similar bodies that are active in the area. The community referred to CAMBT and Domestic Violence Social Unit (DOVSU), which are networks to address conflict and gender-based violence (GBV), respectively. These networks bring in social welfare officers, gender specialists and law enforcement in instances of GBV.</li> <li>- Overall, the structures for addressing a range of conflicts are well established, but not particularly rigid or codified in a manner that can be easily observed. However, the presence of so many different strategies that range from informal to institutional suggest a strong culture of conflict resolution. This is supported by the observed convivial attitudes of the community members towards this topic.</li> </ul> <p><u>Training and training support</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community has been the focus of various agricultural training initiatives aimed at improving farming practices, targeting both men and women. These trainings have covered a range of topics, including improved tilling techniques, the disadvantages of slash-and-burn farming, compost preparation, and the integration of livestock to enhance agricultural productivity. There has also been specific training on the use of fertilizers in tomato production. However, support for tomato production has been lacking beyond the initial training sessions.</li> <li>- A considerable challenge is the limited participation of women in these training programs. Often, women are unable to attend due to their responsibilities elsewhere. However, there has been a targeted effort to address this issue, with composting training specifically organised for a women's group, ensuring that women are included in at least some aspects of agricultural development.</li> <li>- Despite these challenges ongoing efforts by NGOs have successfully increased women's participation in farming. Training is often organised specifically for women or farmer-based organisations (FBOs) — which tend to be constituted of women. Through these initiatives women have taken on more farming responsibilities and received training on composting techniques and other practices.</li> </ul>
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		<p><u>VSLAs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community has established several VSLAs, each tailored to different needs and demographics. These include VSLAs specifically for men, women and mixed-gender groups — each operating independently. The objectives of these VSLAs are diverse, with some functioning primarily as social safety nets, while others are focused on supporting farming activities as well as health-related expenses and schools fees.</li> <li>- The VSLAs also play a significant role in fostering social unity within the community, as the co-management model they employ creates opportunities for community members to come together and share ideas.</li> <li>- In general, income from VSLA's is used for the household. However, community members emphasised that while women typically do not hand over their annual share-out directly to men, the funds are commonly used to meet household needs, including farming. Men, on the other hand, described that they involve women in the financial process by showing them the funds they receive and contributing towards household expenses — although ultimately, they have control over the spending of this money. Several women highlighted that some men tend to spend a portion of their share before bringing it home.</li> </ul>
<b>06 August 2024</b>		
<p>Region: Upper West</p> <p>District: Lawra</p> <p>District Agricultural Office</p>	<p>National and District-level representatives</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>This consultation was held at the District Agricultural Office in Lawra as part of the preparation for upcoming community-level stakeholder engagements. The objective was to gather insights from the district authorities on themes that would be central to these engagements. The discussion was detailed and focused, with input from various district officials, including representatives from the MoFA, EPA, Veterinary Services and a gender specialist. The themes discussed were focused on developing a greater understanding regarding the broader agricultural and social landscape that the community-level consultations would address.</p> <p><u>Dissemination of climate and weather information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Ghana Meteorological Agency (GMet) provides daily, weekly, monthly, and long-term forecasts, including risk matrices that highlight the likelihood and intensity of extreme weather events such as storms and floods. This information is disseminated to AEAs and Lead Farmers, who then pass it on to FBOs and the broader community. GMet has recently improved its reach by providing voice messages in local languages, making the information more accessible.</li> <li>- Despite these efforts, challenges remain. The forecasts are typically at a regional level, which limits their accuracy for specific communities. This issue is exacerbated by the fact that multiple weather stations in the district are non-functional. However, GMet is addressing this by increasing its technical staff, with 250 new technicians hired in 2024. Training on interpreting weather information is provided by GMet. This training is traditionally provided to AEAs but community representatives were included in the most recent training in July 2024 to enhance local-level interpretation.</li> </ul>

		<p><u>Conflict resolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Traditional structures are the first line of conflict resolution, with Chiefs and Assemblymen playing pivotal roles. Tindaanas, or spiritual leaders, also handle land ownership<sup>5</sup> and access disputes. In cases of property damage, conflicts are either resolved by the individuals involved through interpersonal communication or by a committee established for this purpose.</li> <li>- These conflict resolution structures are not equally accessible to all, with women in particular struggling to have their grievances addressed. Women often have to seek the support of the 'Queen Mother' (traditional female leader) to address grievances. District officials acknowledged this disparity and emphasised the need for more inclusive conflict resolution mechanisms that ensure women's voices are heard and their issues are addressed effectively.</li> </ul> <p><u>Land ownership and group dynamics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most communities in the district practice both farming and livestock rearing, with some having designated pastoral lands. Conflicts arise if livestock are moved onto another person's agricultural land — particularly during the wet season when crops are growing. The Fulani herders — who were referred to as "strangers" because they do not hold land — cause tension when their livestock damage crops. The Fulani integrate into the community by seeking permission from the Tindaana or Chief to reside in the area and may support communities with the management of their own livestock. However, conflict can still occur and it was indicated that this would often necessitate the involvement of the District Agricultural Office in addressing any conflict in such a situation. There is a growing sentiment within district communities to reduce the presence of Fulani herders because of the perceived potential for agricultural damage. It was also noted that Fulani do not generally want to engage in projects, training or other capacity building, as their lifestyle affords them less available time when compared with their agriculturalist counterparts. Municipal by-laws mandate that residents must corral and control their livestock during the growing season to prevent such conflicts. The district's approach to these issues reflects the need for careful management of land use and community relations, especially as the pressures on land and resources increase. Despite this, it will be important to ensure that the Indigenous Peoples' traditional authority structures can lead any conflict resolution and that the District Agricultural Office is involved only if requested by Indigenous Peoples.</li> </ul>
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<sup>5</sup> Tindaanas were described as 'landlords' in the sense that they 'keep' the land, communicating with the land's spirits. Tindaanas also manage communal land in the interest of the people. In many areas where Tindaanas reside, there was not historically the system of chiefs.

		<p><u>Gender in agriculture and support for women's groups</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Historically, women in the district have had limited ownership rights over farmland. This lack of ownership has been a considerable barrier to women's full participation in agriculture. Despite these challenges, there has been progress — largely due to sensitisation programs and the efforts of initiatives like the Women in Agriculture Program (WAP).</li> <li>- Through WAP and the Rural Women in Agriculture (RWA) initiatives, women have increasingly been able to form FBOs — which can purchase and own land even though individual women cannot. This approach enables women to gain more control over their agricultural activities. However, challenges remain, such as the practice of reallocating land that women have maintained and improved to other individuals, discouraging long-term investment. Women's groups, particularly FBOs, have been instrumental in catalysing change. Women-only and mixed FBOs are common, while male-only FBOs have not been seen before by the district level stakeholders. These groups have provided women with a platform to access resources, training, and support, though challenges in land ownership and access persist. The district officials recognised the importance of continuing to support these women's groups to enhance their role in agriculture and ensure more equitable access to resources and opportunities.</li> </ul>
<p>Region: Upper West</p> <p>District: Lawra</p> <p>Community: Bagri (10°43'9.15"N, 2°55'2.70"W)</p>	<p>Local community consultation team</p> <p>Community representatives 112 men 135 women</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The consultation took place in the Bagri community situated near the border with Burkina Faso. The group initially consisted of mostly elderly women and men, with a few young men and even fewer young women. A notable aspect of this consultation was that it was opened by an elderly woman leading a Christian prayer and closed by an elder Imam leading a Muslim prayer in Arabic. Introductions were then made by a representative from the MoFA district office, who used the opportunity to build the kind of rapport that is valuable during such engagements. During these introductions, the number of participants increased. It was noted that the group was so large because it represented six sections of the community and at least five different ethnic groups. Most of the community is from the Dagaaba group who speak Dagaare, but four other groups were also represented.<sup>6</sup> The goals of this consultation were to add to the information collected in Jirapa the previous day, test the information provided by the district representatives and understand how the dynamics of a range of communities may differ across the landscape.</p> <p><u>Livelihoods</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture, petty trading, and fishing are central to the community's economy. Women are particularly involved in processing groundnuts and participating in VSLAs.</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> While some of these groups speak different languages, they are mutually intelligible and the different ethnic groups are intermixed in the communities. The six sections do not represent self-segregated ethnic communities.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- VSLAs serve as both a financial tool and a social safety net for women and are described as an insurance scheme. Through VSLAs, women maintain separate farms from their husbands and grow and sell their crops independently.</li> <li>- Practices like bush burning have historically been used and have persisted due to tradition and perceived necessity, despite the community acknowledging that it can be harmful to the soil.</li> <li>- Fishing is another predominant livelihood as the Volta River (Mouhoun) is in close proximity to the village.</li> </ul> <p><u>Conflict and redress mechanisms</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community reported that conflict is uncommon, however, it most often is regarding damage to agricultural produce by livestock.</li> <li>- Theft of livestock is viewed as a crime rather than a conflict. The community handles these matters internally, with the chief playing a central role in assessing damage and deciding on restitution or compensation.</li> <li>- In cases of crop damage, the community reports incidents to the chief, who evaluates the situation. If external parties are involved, the incident may be escalated to the Agricultural Office, which acts as a mediator. This is a notable consideration should conflict occur with people from outside the community.</li> <li>- For serious internal conflicts — including those involving domestic conflicts — traditional systems are usually the level at which conflicts are addressed. However when conflict is involving GBV or other types of harassment — particularly in criminal cases where the police are additionally included in the response — the assemblyman and unit committee will intervene.</li> </ul> <p>Potential conflict between Fulani herders and the local community was not specifically mentioned. However, these types of conflicts would be addressed through traditional systems. They are less likely to occur because of the Fulani's tendency to stay within the peripheries of the agriculturally productive areas used by the community. Similarly, the role of the AEA's in mediating conflict with outsiders would likely be important in a conflict between established communities and nomadic herders. Despite this, it is important to note that conflict resolution should always be addressed through customary grievance mechanisms wherever possible.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Hippos in the river pose a risk to crops and community members. This type of human-wildlife conflict has resulted in numerous injuries and loss of personal property.</li> </ul> <p><u>Weather and climate information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community's experience with receiving weather and climate information has been mixed, with many community members expressing frustrations over its inaccuracy and inconsistency. Updates are received via SMS and provide recommendations on planting and fertilizer application. There is also a helpline (1900) for weather-related assistance and local radio stations broadcast updates, particularly concerning water releases from the Baghra Dam after heavy rains. However, due to frequent inaccuracies, many community members have grown sceptical and often disregard these updates.</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community expressed a strong preference for mobile phone alerts as the preferred method for receiving climate information. Radio broadcasts are also seen as effective due to their broad accessibility. Some members mentioned a nearby community that has established a weather station, with a local individual trained to interpret the data. This approach, along with community radio, was suggested as a way to ensure that accurate information is disseminated before people head to their farms.</li> <li>- The community is interested in receiving more reliable and localised weather information that would enable better planning and adaptation to the changing climate conditions. However, the willingness to pay for such services was limited. Several younger community members are willing to share the cost and information with the broader community.</li> <li>- Fishermen do not typically use weather information in their livelihood practices. Despite being informed of conditions like dam spillages, they indicated that they would continue to fish, adapting their methods based on the season. However, if it is windy (or to be windy) they will not go on the river.</li> </ul> <p><u>Training support received by the community</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The consultation highlighted the role of women's groups in the community, particularly through their involvement in VSLAs. These associations have empowered women by providing them with access to financial resources, which they use to purchase farm inputs and support their households. The VSLAs also function as a social safety net, offering a sense of security and solidarity among the women.</li> <li>- Women have received training on composting and other agricultural practices, which has helped improve their farming techniques. However, the support has been inconsistent, and there is a need for more comprehensive and sustained training programs. Additionally, many women are often absent from training opportunities due to their domestic responsibilities, highlighting the need for more accessible and flexible training options.</li> </ul> <p>The women's groups expressed a strong desire for continued support and training, particularly in areas like financial management, advanced farming techniques, and climate resilience strategies.</p>
<p>District: Lawra</p> <p>Community: Zambo Baagangn (10°39'56.60"N, 2°49'13.84"W)</p>	<p>Local community consultation team</p> <p>Community representatives 27 men 34 women</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The consultation in Zambo Baagangn started with men primarily answering questions. Efforts were made to involve women in the discussion, through emphasising inclusivity in understanding the community's challenges. This group was comprised of more men than women and overall, the community seemed to be more exposed to poverty than the group previously visited. Few additional people joined as the consultation progressed.</p> <p><u>Livelihoods and agricultural practices</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community primarily engages in crop farming and livestock rearing. However, they face significant challenges such as low soil fertility, lack of inputs for crop farming and high livestock mortality. Outside of the farming season, many community members migrate south for work. Those who remain focus on caring for their livestock.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women's contributions include shea butter production and farming along the Black Volta River. However, these activities are marginal within this community due to the distance of the river.</li> </ul> <p><u>Weather and climate information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to weather information is generally through radio, although some community members reported not being aware that any information had been provided.</li> <li>- While there is no direct prevention of women accessing radios, their busy schedules often leave them with minimal time to listen.</li> <li>- The community expressed a preference for receiving weather information via radio or mobile phone, with a strong preference for local language broadcasts, specifically in Dagaare. Posters and other visual methods of sharing information were also suggested as beneficial and accessible ways of receiving information.</li> </ul> <p><u>Training and capacity building</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community has received various agricultural training sessions, including on maize, groundnuts, sorghum, agroforestry, and fertilizer application. However, composting training has not been provided widely, although one woman indicated she had been provided such training on a single occasion.</li> <li>- Both men and women participate in these training sessions, which are usually scheduled between 08h00 and 16h00 to ensure community availability. Despite this, women often face interruptions due to cooking responsibilities. The community highlighted the importance of ensuring that women have sufficient time to fully engage in these trainings in the future.</li> </ul> <p><u>Women's groups, VSLAs, and social dynamics</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community is highly engaged in VSLAs, with most members participating in mixed-gender groups. VSLAs play an important role in supporting health, purchasing foodstuffs, paying school fees and supporting small businesses.</li> <li>- Women in the community have access to farming land — although they are not allowed to have formal ownership — and there are no specific restrictions on women's agricultural activities. However, women must show the money they earn to their husbands who many, in some cases, take a portion of it.</li> <li>- Conflict resolution begins with interpersonal communication and, if necessary, escalates to the unit committee or the chief.</li> <li>- Conflicts such as domestic violence are addressed through discussions involving family members and community leaders. Notably, community members did not indicate a preference to address such issues through formal institutional channels, even though such channels do function at a district and regional level.</li> </ul>
<b>08 August 2024</b>		
Region: Northern	National and District-level representatives	<u>Climate information and EWSs</u>

District: East Mamprusi  District Agricultural Office	ESMF and GAAP development team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While systems are in place, it is acknowledged that many community members — particularly women — face challenges in receiving timely and accurate updates.</li> </ul> <p><u>Gender roles in agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- While men often control land ownership, women participate in the labour-intensive aspects of farming. This division underscores the need to address gender disparities in land access and ownership to improve overall productivity and economic stability. The officials emphasised that more equitable access could substantially enhance the community's agricultural output.</li> </ul> <p><u>The local Business Advisory Centre (BAC)</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The local BAC provides support for both on and off-farm business, focussing on women. One of their initiatives, "Business in a Box", focuses on agricultural business support. However, participation from the district has been low and there is a need to improve the initiative's reach.</li> <li>• Farmers face challenges in accessing credit, mainly due to inadequate record-keeping and business planning. Targeted support is needed to help farmers — particularly women — navigate these challenges.</li> </ul>
District: East Mamprusi  Community: Sumniboma 1 (10°32'59.25"N, 0°18'9.47"W)	Local community consultation team  Community representatives 137 men 236 women	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>Over 100 community members were present, and men and women of all ages were well represented. Men and women sat apart from each other on opposite sides. The community appeared to be more conservative than those engaged with in the western districts, with a mixture of Christians, Muslims and those who follow traditional belief systems present. All the women had their hair covered and many men sported orange dye in their beards. The local pastor was also present and was spoken of with great respect by all community members. The engagement was focused on collecting similar data to what was captured during the engagements in Jirapa and Lawra.</p> <p><u>Roles of men and women in farming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Farming tasks are generally shared between men and women, though some roles are gender specific. After the ploughing is completed by men, women take on the responsibility of cooking food in the morning before joining the men in planting. For groundnut farming, women handle the plucking of the nuts, while men dig up the plants after plucking is finished. However, when it comes to maize farming, both men and women share the workload equally.</li> <li>- Women are also primarily responsible for picking shea nuts. Mostly men undertake pesticide application, although some women participate as well. However, younger women — particularly those who are pregnant or breastfeeding — are advised against handling pesticides. Specific tasks like planting with mounds — which is done for yams and other similar crops — are typically handled by men.</li> </ul>



		<p><u>Livelihoods outside of farming</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women are involved in shea butter production, while both men and women rear livestock. Men handle the construction of buildings, with women undertaking plastering and flooring tasks. Trading, visiting markets, and local fowl rearing are also common activities. Additionally, charcoal production and the sale of firewood provide income, as do VSLAs. The wood for charcoal production is sourced from private farming land, not from the community forest, which is preserved for gathering medicinal plants. Men in the community sometimes act as herbalists, particularly the elders. Women often buy rice to process, although they don't grow it themselves. Some women engage in food preparation and sales, but face barriers to expanding their businesses due to a lack of capital. Dry season gardening is another activity, though access to water is a significant challenge, making this less cost-effective.</li> </ul> <p><u>Control of money</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Money management in the community is independent between men and women. Women and men manage their own income. However, men control the income generated when they are responsible for planting and harvesting. Conversely, women who grow crops on their own plots manage the income from those plots. The income managed by women is often used for purchasing livestock or paying for school fees.</li> </ul> <p><u>Climate information and preferences</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community receives climate information irregularly, primarily through the pastor, AEAs and radio. The transmission is not consistent and there is a need for improved access to climate information.</li> <li>- While some community members prefer receiving information via text messages, others feel more comfortable with radio due to their lack of familiarity with mobile phones. The idea of using voice notes or pre-recorded messages was well-received as it is a format accessible on most phones. Several community members mentioned the Farmerline service, however, its initial English-language prompt creates a barrier for those who don't speak the language.</li> </ul> <p><u>Conflict resolution and land access</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When addressing conflicts such as crops being damaged by animals, the community prefers a negotiated problem-solving approach rather than imposing fines. Restitution is typically not proportionate, as the focus is on resolving the issue in a way that benefits the community.</li> <li>- For other disputes, the community first tries to resolve issues within the clan or by consulting religious leaders. GBV cases are initially addressed through traditional structures and if unresolved may be escalated to the police — particularly in cases of repeat offenses. Child abuse and other familial issues are</li> </ul>
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		<p>typically handled within the family, with a mediator being involved if necessary. Social welfare services are also available in some cases, although access is inconsistent.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community reported no significant conflicts over land access. Their tenure systems are well-established through familial hierarchies, which reduces the need for formal conflict resolution structures. While district-level institutions exist to address land-related issues, traditional systems are used more often.</li> </ul>
<p>District: East Mamprusi</p> <p>Community: Bongni (10°35'14.48"N, 0°13'4.66"W)</p>	<p>Local community consultation team</p> <p>Community representatives 52 men 91 women</p>	<p><b>Overview</b> Participants were highly engaged, with input provided by both men and women. Men contributed more freely, however, women engaged thoroughly on some points and at times disagreed strongly with the men. This consultation focused on replicating the information sought out during the engagements in Jirapa and Lawra.</p> <p><u>Livelihoods practiced</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Agriculture is the predominant livelihood, with both men and women engaged in farming and livestock rearing. Men predominantly manage the fields, cultivating crops like maize, rice, and groundnuts. Women are heavily involved in shea butter processing, petty trading, and groundnut processing — activities that provide supplementary income and are important in the context of reduced agricultural productivity and reliability.</li> <li>- Dry season farming is an important activity, however, those practicing it face challenges due to the lack of power and reliable water sources. Some residents migrate to southern regions, big cities, or mining sites (galamsey) during the off-season to seek additional income. Despite these challenges, traditional practices like beekeeping, wild honey harvesting, and brewing Poitou remain as important livelihood strategies.</li> <li>- The lack of power infrastructure has made activities like soap making particularly difficult and the community requested the provision of power.</li> </ul> <p><u>Gender roles in agriculture</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender norms are embedded in farming practices. For example, in maize farming, men take on the responsibility of preparing the land, arranging for ploughing and coordinating with tractor operators. Women undertake the sowing, harvesting and transportation of the produce. Though women now use Tuk Tuks or tricycles to carry crops from the fields, the physical labour involved remains considerable.</li> <li>- In most cases, farms are owned and controlled by men, with women contributing labour or managing small parcels of land assigned to them. These women-managed plots are often more productive than the larger family farms. The proceeds from the women's farms remain under their control, while men's earnings are used to support the entire household. However, in difficult times women's income from petty trading and other activities will be used, particularly for purchasing agricultural inputs.</li> </ul> <p><u>Weather information</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There are gender disparities in access to weather information. Men receive regular updates via text messages, however, only a few women have access to such services. A service called Farmerline — which provides agricultural and weather information through an automated call centre — was also mentioned. However, although it offers content in local languages its initial interface is in English, posing a barrier to many farmers and preventing them from fully using the service.</li> <li>- Forecasts are often not spatially accurate, leading to costly misjudgements in agricultural planning. The community is willing to pay for more reliable and precise weather information.</li> </ul> <p><u>Grievance redress</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Grievance redress in the community is largely handled through interpersonal relationships and traditional leadership structures. For example, when livestock damage crops, the animal's owner is approached directly to seek a resolution. If necessary, the matter is escalated to the chief, who plays a central role in maintaining harmony within the community. Both men and women expressed satisfaction with the decisions made by the chief, highlighting the trust placed in this traditional form of justice.</li> <li>- Conflicts such as domestic violence are typically resolved through a combination of community support, neighbour intervention, and family involvement — particularly the woman's father. However, instances of GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEAH) were said to be rare. The importance of involving institutional organisations in GBV cases was emphasised, particularly given the community's limited connectivity to formal networks for addressing these issues. While some systems exist, they are not uniformly accessible across all communities, leaving gaps in protection and support for vulnerable individuals.</li> </ul>
<b>09 August 2024</b>		
Yunyoo-Nasuan District Agricultural Office	National and District-level representatives  ESMF and GAAP development team	<p><u>Conflict</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SEAH and GBV cases are directed to the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) within the police, supported by social welfare services.</li> </ul> <p><u>Capacity</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The district representatives have received support from various projects, including a Canadian project and the "Empowerment for Life" initiative focused on climate change work. However, there has not been a project specifically dedicated to their district.</li> <li>- The district agricultural office operates with 16 staff members, including 4 district agricultural officers and 5 extension agents who work directly within communities. Each agent covers ~2,000 farmers. Despite this, three areas in the district currently lack AEAs. To extend support, they sometimes leverage National Service representatives and collaborate with NGOs like Greenlands Farms — which supports women in shea butter processing and cooperative formation.</li> </ul>

		<p><u>Gender-specific training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gender-specific training is ongoing and focuses on climate-resilient agriculture, processing and gender mainstreaming — including sensitisation around the benefits women receive. Business support is provided, particularly for women in processing industries such as soap making, shea butter production and other small-scale businesses. The training focuses on business knowledge, linking small businesses to funding sources and capacity building around safe chemical disposal and farming practices in riverine environments. Compliance with these practices remains a challenge, despite the training efforts.</li> </ul>
<p>District: Yunyoo Nasuan</p> <p>Community: Nyagu (10°29'3.32"N, 0° 0'53.95"W)</p>	<p>Local community consultation team</p> <p>Community representatives 48 Men 51 Women</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The group in attendance was relatively small, composed mostly of chiefs, elders and a few older women. Participants were seated separately by gender. Notably, the reason for the reduced number of women present was due to many women either being at the market or working on their farms. While women did participate, their overall participation was lower than other consultations. Only one community was engaged with on this day, as it was a Friday and many community members needed to attend mosque.</p> <p><u>Gender roles in agriculture and training</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although women have access to land, they are not typically given ownership. Men were willing to support women's access to the land because of women's benefits to the household and the fact that women's farms often have higher productivity than men's.</li> <li>- Community members have received instruction on seed selection processes. However, there was some confusion as they expected to receive inputs through the Planting for Food and Jobs (PFJ) support network but did not. The men have not received any training on land management. The women, however, have received extensive training on dry season gardening, soap making and shea butter production.</li> <li>- One man expressed frustration, stating that gender balance initiatives had led to a focus on women at the expense of men. However, the men acknowledged that they have received useful agricultural knowledge from the Agricultural Officer, albeit not recently. The women confirmed that the Agricultural Officer visits households and that this input has been beneficial.</li> </ul> <p><u>Women's groups and VSLAs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Women in the community are involved in various groups focused on soap making, shea butter production, dressmaking/weaving, farming, marketing and pito brewing.</li> <li>- VSLAs are present in the community and were locally set up by TRAX Ghana — an NGO. The money from VSLAs is used for education, business investments, construction, input materials and purchasing grains to sell when prices increased. Men tend to use VSLA funds primarily for farming, while women borrowed more frequently from the VSLAs.</li> </ul>

		<p><u>EWSs and climate information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community receives weather information primarily through the Agricultural Officers, and both men and women have access to this information. There is a need for improved accuracy of forecasts — particularly medium-term predictions covering three months. There is also a need for training on how to deal with intermittent droughts and heavy rains.</li> <li>- The community expressed interest in receiving weather updates on their phones and suggested the establishment of a local weather station, emphasising the value of the community information centre for distributing information.</li> <li>- The community also has traditional methods for predicting the weather, which align with modern forecasts at times.</li> </ul> <p><u>Climate impacts and safeguards</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The community has observed a decline in rainfall, with the rains becoming less predictable and more intense.</li> <li>- Conflict arising from livestock damaging crops are resolved through interpersonal engagements, with the animal's owner expected to cover the costs. If the owner is unknown, they will wait to find out or rely on neighbours' reports. If necessary, conflicts are escalated to the chief. If no one sees the incident occur, restitution may not be provided.</li> </ul> <p><u>GBV and conflict resolution</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Household conflicts are initially addressed through engagement with elders. While forced marriage reportedly does not occur in the community, it was said that such a matter would be managed through referral to the assemblyman, after which it would be escalated to the chief, police or other institutional representatives, depending on the situation. Teenage pregnancies were highlighted as prevalent in the community.</li> </ul>
<b>12 August 2024</b>		
GMet offices, Accra	<p>Director General of GMet</p> <p>James Aggrey (WRC)</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The objective of this consultation was to verify the budget costs for Output 2's equipment costs and assess any viable options for reducing the costs thereof.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Food System Resilience Project (FSRP), a World Bank initiative, procured 20 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS). The supplier is overseeing installation, with three GMet engineers assisting in installation and maintenance. The data from these AWS units is integrated into global climate modeling systems.</li> <li>- The cost of an AWS should not exceed US\$65,000, with this amount serving as a benchmark. Although a contract has been signed before, the bidding process might result in a lower price.</li> <li>- The cost of radar equipment varies depending on the type. For example, a C-band radar with a 300 km radius costs ~US\$4 million. This is different from an X-band radar with a smaller radius.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The cost of all this equipment includes installation, training, taxes, transportation and maintenance.</li> <li>- The Director General suggested hiring in-house GMet officers for the installation instead of local consultants under Output 2. These officers would receive training from the supplier, ensuring long-term sustainability and reducing the costs for the project.</li> <li>- The supplier can provide training and offer a one-year equipment guarantee.</li> <li>- The existing weather station equipment in local communities is manually operated, resulting in micro-thermometers being outdated. These systems cannot be replaced and should be updated with AWSs that require minimal human intervention, with only an engineering team needed for operations and maintenance.</li> <li>- Most regions only have one station, which limits the ability to downscale data. Ideally, there should be one station every 30 km.</li> <li>- Training communities on the use of the system is necessary. GMet has established Green Climate Clubs at the local level to work with the youth in reading and understanding data (20 clubs are in the Northern region). These clubs could be a capacity-building option for Output 2.</li> <li>- Some equipment under this project might be placed on community land rather than government land to promote ownership and ensure the equipment is protected and secured by the community. A strategy for land use rights is needed.</li> </ul>
<b>13 August 2024</b>		
EPA offices, Accra	<p>Kingsley Amoako (MoFA)</p> <p>Isaac Acquah (EPA)</p> <p>James Aggrey (WRC)</p> <p>Representatives from the EPA Natural Resource Unit</p> <p>ESMF and GAAP development team</p>	<p><b>Overview</b></p> <p>The debrief meeting with representatives from the MoFA, EPA, and WRC covered the main findings of the mission and outlined the next steps. The representatives emphasised the importance of getting the project approved quickly and committed to taking the necessary actions to expedite the process.</p>

**Table 3.** Summary of stakeholder consultations undertaken in 2017

Location	Participants	Remarks
<b>22 May 2017</b>		
<b>1. Northern Region. Tamale</b>	Environmental Protection Agency	<p><b><u>General discussions</u></b></p> <p>The representative of the NDA introduced the project idea, as well as the objectives of the stakeholder consultations. The team indicated that initial consultations in 2016 indicated that scaling up the support, currently given to farmers in the potential areas of intervention, is crucial.</p> <p>The Regional Director of EPA mentioned that in interactions with communities, it is evident that climate change is affecting them. For instance, drought and limited water availability and access is resulting in crop failure or low yields. Given that people's livelihoods depend mostly on agriculture, members of the communities are moving to areas closer to water sources — which frequently increases their vulnerability to floods — or looking for non-existing jobs in other regions of the country. In addition, deforestation is increasing as a result of slash and burn practices and of tree harvesting for charcoal production.</p>

		<p>He also mentioned that District Assemblies rely heavily on Medium Term Development Plans (MTEPs), which are all subjected to Environmental and Social Impacts Assessments (ESIAs). The MTEPs for 2016–2018 currently in place indicates the rate of tree felling is accelerating, water resources are tight across the board, dry spells are becoming more severe, tensions between agriculturalists and herders are on increasing. Food production patterns are falling in the proposed districts, so cultivation is shifting (MoFA reports should demonstrate this).</p>	
		<p><b><u>Identification of barriers</u></b>  The following barriers were identified during the meeting relating to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increased resilience and productivity of agricultural systems and farmers</li> <li>• Limited availability and access to water hampers agricultural production throughout the year;</li> <li>• Soil degradation hampers agricultural production</li> <li>• Lack of alternative livelihood options contributes to deforestation and environmental degradation. In a situation of crop failure, low yields and low productivity, and in particular during the dry season, farmers frequently resort to harvesting of trees for charcoal production to secure alternative income;</li> <li>• Farmers have limited access to markets and limited capacity in record keeping and accounting procedures</li> <li>• Inappropriate use of agrochemicals — in particular by women as this is perceived as an activity carried out by men — can result in reduced productivity and further degradation.</li> <li>• Health risk factors related to the inappropriate handling, use and disposal of agrochemicals and agrochemical containers (for example re-using containers for food and water storage);</li> <li>• Traditional believes — such as associating digging a hole and planting a tree with burying</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identifying and promoting alternative and sustainable livelihood options;</li> <li>• Creating and strengthening market linkages should be a project objective.</li> <li>• There needs to be a conscious effort to identify one or more members of the communities and to train them in basic finance and accounting skills;</li> <li>• VSLAs have proven to be a best practice and have helped communities, in particular women to address many external — including climate related-shocks.</li> <li>• Training on the adequate proper handling, use of agrochemicals from certified service providers is needed.</li> <li>• Moving away from the use of agrochemicals to integrated pest management is desirable.</li> <li>• School environmental clubs are a best practice and an effective way of disseminating information and encouraging the uptake of best practices and improved technologies</li> </ul>



		<p>your soul — can be a barrier to engaging communities in reforestation.</p> <p><b>(a) <u>Institutional Barriers</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lack of coordination between different institutions and initiatives;</li> <li>• Duplication</li> <li>• NGOs are not necessarily integrating environmental values into their interventions.</li> <li>• A joint communication strategy on climate change is lacking;</li> <li>• At times, there are conflicting messages from different actors and NGOs regarding climate change and the type of agricultural practices that should be adopted by farmers, amongst others;</li> <li>• NGOs and projects are not necessarily creating or sharing materials that can be used by other projects to replicate/ scale up initiatives;</li> <li>• There has not been an inter-organizational dialogue/meeting on climate change issues</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implementation structures and arrangements should be built into existing institutions at the regional and district level in order to guarantee sustainability.</li> <li>• The District Environmental Management Committees, created under the Ghana Environmental Management Project, are still operational in some districts and where operational they work really well. However, these Committees are not currently integrated into the District Assemblies. For this reason, they are not guaranteed funding from the national/local government.</li> <li>• The institutionalization of these committees is mostly a political decision and requires different ministries at the national level to coordinate and agree. The decision is taken in parliament. However, since these Committees have not been implemented in all districts, there is not sufficient buy in from other regions to support their institutionalization. The GCF project could support this process, or at least demonstrate the effectiveness of these committees in order to increase support.</li> </ul>
		<p><b><u>Suggestions on criteria for community selection</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Ghana Environmental Management Project (GEMP), as well the Sustainable Land and Water Management Project (SLWM) incorporate relevant criteria for the selection of communities and can be used as examples.</li> <li>• Availability, access and sufficiency of food and water should be considered as criteria</li> </ul>	

		<p><b><u>Gender Analysis</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some participants said the Gender framework under GEMP &amp; SLM should be built upon, while others stated it was not functioning well.</li> <li>• Herders should be included in decision making at community level</li> <li>• Gender strategy developed under GEMP should be used.</li> <li>• Female beneficiaries were the top performers (this message was repeated again and again throughout consultations the rest of the week)</li> <li>• Female groups are still operational after project (Honey and soap production).</li> <li>• Women are not educated so men run or act as secretary to the groups, even after accounting training men were needed.</li> <li>• Should identify and train women champions who can be trained in detail.</li> <li>• Agrochemical male use only, women do not use (men do it for them), many can't read instructions</li> </ul>
24 May 2017		
<p><b>1.1</b> <b>Bunkpurugu</b> <b>Yunyoo</b> <b>District</b></p>	Bunkpurugu	<p><b><u>General discussions</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ambrose B. A. Salifu the District Planning Officer welcomed the team to the meeting and encouraged members to contribute to the discussion.</li> <li>• Mr. Kingsley K. Amoako one of the team leaders presented the project concept and the objectives of the consultations, and entreated all members present to furnish the team with the necessary information to incorporate in the proposal</li> </ul> <p>The rainy season used to begin in March to April, but now the planting season starts in June and ends in November. The number and length of dry spells has increased and last several weeks. It was asked "What are communities doing with regards to climate change interventions?" District team responded that the main work is community mobilization and sensitization, early warning, emergency preparedness against floods and droughts. There are currently five dugouts within the district; they have identified several places where large dams and dugouts could be put in place. Communities also need boreholes (water table is very high). Boreholes function well during dry season, and some of them are solar powered. Challenge is some of the solar panels have been stolen. Typically, theft is by neighbouring communities. They also organize women's group and sensitize them. Twenty-five (25) communities are classified as highly vulnerable to flood. Currently, the district is working to organize them and sensitize them; they tell them about the buffer zone (50 m) away from the bank of stream where they could start their farms. They encourage them to plant a particular plant species (Elephant</p>

		<p>grass) because it helps reduce speed of run off. District also identified 67 schools that need tree planting around the school to contribute to wind break; and they encourage schools to form green clubs. The district has formed 360 disaster volunteer groups who sensitize community members about hazards. About 80–100 communities are categorized as medium to highly vulnerable to drought (prolonged dry spell). It was concluded that the proposed GCF project fits well under the climate change thematic area of the District Medium Term Development Plans.</p>	
		<p><b><u>Identification of barriers</u></b>  The following barriers were identified during the meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theft of solar panel (hard assets) for weather station</li> <li>• Inadequate sensitization of communities on projects</li> <li>• Lack of tree seedlings</li> <li>• Stoney lands making farming difficult</li> <li>• Lack of coordination between different institutions and initiatives</li> <li>• Wildfires</li> <li>• Inadequate water during dry season</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Intensification of sensitisation efforts;</li> <li>• Strengthening institutional capacity to promote climate change adaptation;</li> <li>• Support the establishment of nurseries to produce tree seedlings to support the project</li> <li>• Promotion of agroforestry</li> <li>• Introduction and promotion of sustainable land management technologies</li> <li>• Use of manure and crop residue</li> <li>• Promoting use of compost</li> <li>• Use of early maturing crop varieties</li> <li>• Promote tree growing on degraded lands</li> <li>• Training and sensitization on wildfires</li> <li>• Promote alternative livelihood interventions</li> <li>• Establishment of water systems</li> </ul>
		<p><b><u>Suggestions on criteria for community selection</u></b>  Vulnerability to climate change impacts should be a criterion for community selection</p>	

		<p><b><u>Gender Analysis</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women have difficulty accessing land</li><li>• District team proposed that women should be organised into groups and sensitized on gender issues</li><li>• Early marriages</li><li>• Gender in agriculture is being addressed to increase women access to agricultural lands,</li><li>• Women have been educated and sensitized to plant woodlots for their fuel wood needs</li><li>• Introduce women to energy saving cook stoves</li></ul> <p><b><u>Other projects or initiatives implemented in the district/communities consulted (government or from international organizations)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Adaptation of Agro Eco Systems to Climate Change (AAESCC) implemented with support from GIZ</li><li>• Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP)</li><li>• Ghana Environmental Management Project (GEMP) with funding from CIDA</li></ul>	
24th May 2017			
	Gbetmunipaak community	<p><b><u>Community entry and consultation</u></b></p> <p>The chief, elders and community members welcomed the team. The community would be very happy to join the project. They have suitable land for agroforestry projects.</p>	<p>The community has benefited from interventions such as tree planting activities. The NADMO and Fire Service have been sensitizing them on fire prevention and the importance of maintaining vegetation cover on their fields. They enumerated challenges such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Seasonal flooding which destroy their farms,</li><li>• Wildfires during the dry season. This destroys vegetation, which is a feed source for their livestock.</li></ul>
	Muzzio community	<p><b><u>Community entry and consultation</u></b></p> <p>The community chief was not present at the time of visit but represented. The team were welcomed</p>	<p>The community informed the team that they are a beneficiary of the GSOP project which is supporting them to plant trees around the dugout. They are working with the District Assembly, NADMO and the Department of Agriculture on the</p>

		by an elder who expressed their willingness to contribute to the success of the project.	GSOP activities. Their challenges are poor soil fertility and wildfires. This compels them to look for farmlands far from the community which affects their farming activities.
25th May 2017			
	Temaa community	<p><b><u>Community entry and consultation</u></b></p> <p>The chief, elders and community members welcomed the team. They were enthusiastic in participating in the project.</p>	<p>The community benefited from the GSOP support in tree planting. The team, after interacting for a while with the community observed that there seems to be a challenge with the implementation of the GSOP. Probing further, the community informed the team of the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Assembly man of the community is engaged in selecting his family members to participate in the tree planting activities because of the monthly payout</li> <li>• This has potential to create friction among community members</li> <li>• However, the district team explained that the situation has come about as a result of poor communication. That there is a private investor who is recruiting people to plant trees and unfortunately, some community members are associating that with the GSOP. This actually affected the implementation of the GSOP but they have come to explain the issues to the community. They are two different interventions and that resolved the misconception. The chief confirmed this and assured the team of their willingness to participate in the project and that he and the elders will mobilize his community members to implement the project successfully.</li> </ul>
26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2017			
		<b><u>General Discussions</u></b>	

1.2.East Mamprusi District	District Assembly	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The District Planning Officer, Mr. Baba Abukari welcomed the team and all the participants to the district.</li><li>• Mr. Kingsley K. Amoako one of the team leaders presented the project concept and the objectives of the consultations, and entreated all members present to furnish the team with the necessary information to incorporate in the proposal.</li></ul> <p>The Planning Officer mentioned that most of the communities in the district are vulnerable, as climate change has a negative effect on their agricultural activities. Almost all of them are subsistence farmers who depend solely on the unpredictable rainfall patterns in the district.</p>	
		<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Unpredictable rainfall patterns;</li><li>• Long dry spells sometimes occur in the rainy season;</li><li>• Lack of farm inputs and high cost of the few available;</li><li>• Lack of storage facilities, leading to post harvest loss;</li><li>• Accessibility to market facilities is a challenge for farmers due to inadequate roads;</li><li>• Insufficient and inadequate animal feed;</li><li>• Seasonal dry season- migration, especially the youth in search of opportunities in the cities;</li><li>• Lack of Small Water Systems to support livestock and farming;</li><li>• Lack of alternative livelihood options;</li><li>• Lack of institutional capacity;</li><li>• Climate information is not available to farmers;</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction of Small Water Systems in the communities to facilitate their farming activities e.g. livestock rearing, dry season farming and agro-forestry;</li><li>• Promotion and adoption of improved agricultural practices/ climate smart agriculture practices, and conservation agriculture practices such as composting and the adoption of improved/climate resilient seeds;</li><li>• Farmers to be trained to plan and manage agriculture as a business;</li><li>• Incorporating human resource development in the district;</li><li>• Establishment of climate information centres in communities; introduction of rain gauge station to collect rainfall data and educate farmers on when to commence planting;</li><li>• Dissemination of weather information through local radio.</li><li>• Introduction of exchange programme between beneficiary communities, through visits to sister project sites.</li></ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop and support community Adaptation Action Plans aimed at addressing climate change.</li> <li>• Protection of forest/vegetation around their vicinity</li> <li>• Introduction of climate change clubs in schools and communities</li> <li>• Continuation of Village Savings and Loans Associations in communities with previous success records from previous interventions.</li> <li>• Introduction of tree planting and food crops (Taungya system) in degraded forest.</li> <li>• Supporting Modified Taungya System (MTS), where farmers who plant the trees become shareholders in the trees when harvested.</li> <li>• Supporting individuals with logistics for establishing woodlots</li> <li>• Provisions for logistics for the training of fire volunteers' clubs in schools and communities</li> <li>• Public address system for fire service officers and volunteers to educate communities.</li> <li>• Sensitization of communities on the hazards of bush burning</li> <li>• Punitive measures for fire offenders should be enforced</li> <li>• Provision of more fire tenders</li> <li>• Planning Officer should include Fire Service activities in their budget.</li> </ul>
		<p><b><u>Project success factors</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with the District Planning officers, to ensure sustainability after the project</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All stakeholders should be encouraged to be part of the project</li> <li>• All stakeholders in the project should collaborate with each other</li> <li>• Community/Family ownership leads to more commitment, resulting in great success</li> <li>• Education of communities on the final ownership of the project</li> </ul>	
	Dimeia Community	<p><b><u>Community Entry</u></b></p> <p>The community chief was not present at the time of the visit. However, community elders welcomed the team. The team presented the project concept and the objectives of the consultations. The community reacted positively and expressed their interest in participating and ensuring the success of the project if approved and implemented.</p>	<p><b><u>Previous projects experience</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The community benefited from the RING project which started in 2014; the main activities are the cultivation of soya beans and dry season farming by both male and females. They used proceeds to support their families.</li> <li>• The women are currently engaged in Village Savings and Loans groups, as well as with shea nut picking and processing.</li> <li>• When asked how those interventions have benefited them, their answer was that they have been getting soft loans to pay school fees and to support their families.</li> <li>• Community members mentioned that women are generally more committed to paying back loans from the Village Savings and Loans Associations,</li> </ul>
	Zambulugu Community	<p><b><u>Community Entry and Interactions</u></b></p> <p>The chief, elders and community members welcomed the team. The community expressed their interest in participating in the project. They have suitable land for agroforestry projects. Their main challenge is the poor road network to the community.</p>	<p><b><u>Previous projects experience</u></b></p> <p>They have benefited from projects implemented by CARE and OXFAM. The entire community benefited, while some members were selected to lead the project activities. The community mentioned that these interventions brought unity between their community and a nearby community participating in the same project, as they had to exchange ideas according to the requirements of the project. Through these projects, women and men attended the same</p>



			<p>meetings, and voices of women were considered when taking decisions.</p> <p>Community members have learned to prepare their own action plans and to send them to the district to be incorporated in that of the district. Presbyterian Agricultural Station promoted Village Savings and Loans Associations. The agricultural station also supported VSLA members with extension services. VSLAs have been handled by women, who are considered more trustworthy when it comes to paying back loans. They have over fifty members whose lives have improved drastically with these schemes.</p> <p>Activities of the project are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construction of pen</li> <li>• Poultry production</li> <li>• Soil fertility enrichment through application of animal droppings.</li> <li>• Farm inputs like fertilizers and improved seeds to improve yields.</li> <li>• The project educated them on hazards of bush burning and the need to carry out tree planting and woodlot establishment.</li> <li>• They have well organized fire volunteers. According to the community, as a result of the above interventions the community has not experienced any bush fire outbreak since 2011.</li> <li>• Rain gauge: They have been trained in the handling of rain gauge and how</li> </ul>
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			to use it to record rainfall figures. Tree planting along rivers. They planted tree species along water bodies and around the communities/houses.
22nd May 2017.			
<b>2. Upper East Region. Bolgatanga</b>	The White Volta Basin Secretariat of the Water Resources Commission	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>The White Volta Basin Secretariat of the Water Resources Commission is very interested in interventions that address climate change and support subsistence farmers and members of the community in sustaining their livelihoods. Integrating the water aspect into development and climate change adaptation interventions is a priority. The representative of the Commission stated that “the impact of climate change apart from affecting food security, also affects education, it affects health, it affects all aspects of life; one’s education and health are impacted negatively you cannot really say that you are living”.</p> <p>The Water Resources Commission has developed an integrated Water Resources Management plan and works closely with the Environmental Protection Agency. The Commission is currently preparing a draft investment plan to identify areas in which investments to improve water resource management are needed. This Investment Plan presents the general framework for identifying the major issues relating to sustainable, climate-resilient water resources management in the White Volta Basin.</p>	
		<p><b><u>Barriers identified</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livelihoods in the Basin depend mostly on agriculture, which is rain-fed.</li> <li>• With crop failure and low yields, farmers lose their upfront investment. Their food security and incomes are also affected.</li> <li>• Farmers do not necessarily have access to fertilizers.</li> <li>• Frequently, the use and disposal of agrochemicals is inadequate. Any misuse of fertilizers will eventually end up in a water source.</li> <li>• The number of extension officers available to deliver training to farmers is insufficient.</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) have proven to be a best practice. Training in savings has become crucial for farmers. Where VSLAs have been implemented, saving has become part of their culture.</li> <li>• Aquaculture, amongst others, should be explored as an alternative livelihood option</li> <li>• Projects should encourage farmers to reduce the use of fertilizers and adopt alternative agricultural practices.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an absence of legislation to guarantee that people do not farm too close to water sources, which can increase exposure to floods and therefore increase vulnerability.</li> <li>• The conditions and low productivity in farmlands can result in migration to areas where people could potentially be more vulnerable.</li> <li>• There is limited awareness of communities, in terms of the impacts of their actions on the water that they themselves need, in order to sustain their livelihoods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where possible, increasing water availability and access should be considered in the project design.</li> </ul>
		<p><b><u>Suggestions for Community Selection Criteria</u></b>  Some of the criteria the EPA and WRC use to identify vulnerable populations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Impacts of climate change on livelihoods</li> <li>• Impacts on crops and crop failure</li> <li>• Impacts on livestock</li> <li>• The impacts of climate and extreme weather events on people's decisions, which may lead to further environmental degradation.</li> <li>• Linkages between climate related events -such as drought- and migration trends and conflicts</li> </ul>	
		<p><b><u>Other projects or initiatives implemented in the district/communities consulted (government or from international organizations)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Volta River Basin Strategic Action Programme Implementation Project (VSIP)- Volta Basin authority</li> <li>• Global Water Partnership</li> <li>• CIRAD- CIAT</li> </ul>	
		<p><b><u>Data required and requested from stakeholders</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• WRC maps – indicating areas where floods have occurred or are likely to occur and indicating areas affected by environmental degradation</li> <li>• Integrated Water Resources Management Plan(s).</li> </ul>	

	<p>Environmental Protection Agency (Regional Director Mr. Asher Nkegbe)</p>	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b>  The Upper East Region has a Regional Environmental Management Committee chaired by the Regional Co-ordination Council. EPA plays a secretariat role in this committee and provides technical support to the districts. It provides support in M&amp;E Programmes and it plays an advisory role in environmental issues. Personalities at the community level are traditional leaders and landowners. They are necessary for mobilizing community members. EPA recognises that environmental education is required. According to EPA's regional director, Committee members take turns to talk on the radio and participate in community forums.</p> <p><b><u>Solutions and suggested activities for consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b></p> <p>School environmental clubs have been identified as a best practice for youth participation in environmental management. EPA relies significantly on the school environmental clubs. It has proven to be a very effective way to disseminate information. Activities undertaken by the clubs involve hands-on experience and include environmental campaigns, tree planting (within the school and the communities), organic farming, school debates on topical environmental issues. Sense of ownership at the school level is recognised as strength and an opportunity. There is a need to continue to engage existing clubs, as well to increase the number of school clubs and to replicate this initiative in other districts and communities. Developing standard manuals for clubs would be beneficial.</p> <p>Access to land, land preparation and inputs: All members of the community are involved in the development of community land use plans. Once there is a project in place, access to land is generally not a problem. It is necessary to engage the communities from the beginning. If women have money to invest in land preparation and buy inputs, then men will most likely allow women access and use of the land.</p> <p>Extension officers: The new government has started recruiting new extension officers. However, this project can also rely on LEAD farmers. For this, there will be a need to consider the provision of inputs or other incentives to lead farmers. LEAD farmers can not only help disseminate information to other farmers, but they can also use their farms as demonstration farms, which can in turn contribute to increased uptake of resilient varieties and practices.</p>
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	Regional Coordinating Council	<b><u>General Discussions</u></b> The main administrative structure at the regional level is the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), headed by the Regional Minister. Other members of the RCC include representatives from each district assembly, regional heads of decentralized ministries, and representatives of the Regional House of Chiefs. The RCC supervises the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of district development plans. The RCC considers that climate concerns should be taken seriously. Climate is a determinate factor that should be considered when thinking about poverty reduction. Climate change has negative impacts on crops production, individual and household incomes and therefore on poverty levels. The country needs to understand climate issues. RCC is looking forward to collaborating in this initiative. There is a need to align indicators amongst different regions. Some Indicators related to environment include increased tree planting, adequate waste management and sanitation management.	
		<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited alternatives- to agriculture- livelihood options and low agricultural productivity.</li><li>• There is limited availability and access to water and this has been exacerbated by climate change.</li><li>• Subsistence farmers depend mostly on rain-fed agriculture. During the dry season, most farmers do not currently have any income generating activities besides charcoal productions.</li><li>• Tree harvesting for fuel wood and charcoal production is one of the main sources of income; however, it is a major cause of deforestation.</li><li>• Farmers' incomes are not sufficient to cover food, educations fees and health care, which increases their vulnerability.</li><li>• Most women are subsistence farmers and have limited access to land due to lack of resources to invest.</li></ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is a need to diversify income and to identify alternative (to charcoal production) and sustainable livelihood options. The income generated by charcoal production is not that significant. However, people do not currently have a viable alternative.</li><li>• It is also necessary to identify alternative energy sources, as charcoal production is driven by the demand and the absence of alternative energy options.</li><li>• Rearing of small animals should be promoted as an alternative/additional livelihood option.</li><li>• Tree planting and other reforestation and conservation practices need to be accompanied with significant technical training and extension services.</li></ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Large portions of available land are degraded</li><li>• The seed industry is not well developed. Currently research institutes breed seeds according to ecological zones. Farms experiment these seeds and seed producer organizations multiple the seeds. Seeds dealers pick up the seeds and retailers sell them. However, seeds are not necessarily available at the community level and are not always affordable. Nonetheless, adoption of improved/certified seeds has increased. Farmers have realized that traditional seeds face various challenges.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Assessing the quality of soil is necessary before starting any forestry or farming project.</li><li>• Irrigation or small water systems need to be developed to provide all year-round water availability.</li></ul>
		<b><u>Suggestions for Community Selection Criteria</u></b> Determination of issues of vulnerability lies in the hands of the District Assemblies. They determine economic, social and environmental issues. Some of these issues include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Deforestation due to various reasons, including charcoal production; fuel wood harvesting; unsustainable agricultural production; environmental degradation; inadequate application of agrochemicals; pollution of water bodies.</li><li>• Occurrence and exposure to floods; prevalence of pest and diseases.</li></ul>	
		<b><u>Other projects or initiatives implemented in the district/communities consulted (government or from international organizations)</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• North Rural Growth and Poverty Programme (highly subsidized programme)</li><li>• Rice sector Support Project</li></ul>	
23rd May, 2017			

	Forest Service Division (Deputy Regional Director)	<b><u>General Discussions</u></b> There are various forest reserves in the area. Most of the locals depend mostly on farming and charcoal production for their livelihoods. Some farmers are engaged in animal rearing: cattle, small ruminants and poultry. The Forest Service Division has promoted planting of trees by providing seedlings and training. Some but not all of the promoted species are indigenous. There are five blocks of forest reserves in the region namely: Red Volta; Vazua; Morago; Tamne and Bumbug. There are network of rivers in these reserves and some of them serve as corridors for wildlife, notably elephants. The team were informed that under certain instances degraded portions of the reserves are demarcated to farmers for cropping and tree planting in order to re-vegetate the area. There are also <b>Green Belts</b> around the boundaries of the reserves, where trees that are evergreen (acacia for instance) are grown. The purpose of this is to avoid fire to spread into the reserve. Around the boundaries, the Forest Service Division works with the fringe community members to clear the area of all combustible material. In addition, the Forest Service Division delivers training/sensitization activities in communities and market areas.
		<table><tr><td><b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> Some of the challenges faced by the Forest Service Division include:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited number of vehicles and staff for patrolling</li><li>• Lack of adoption of reforestation and conservation practices by the communities</li><li>• Land for tree planting is not always available or accessible</li><li>• Lack of resources to engage fringe communities in collaborative forest management</li></ul></td><td><b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving current community fire volunteer groups and creating new groups: These groups receive some incentives, such as ID cards and protective clothing including T-shirts. They feel proud to be part of the groups. Fire service officers provide training to these groups from time to time.</li><li>• The Forest Service Division can play a role in the implementation of the GCF project. The Division can:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Support the coordination with community fire volunteer groups.</li><li>○ Support the protection of reserves and the establishment of green belts.</li><li>○ It can provide training to communities in alternative</li></ul></li></ul></td></tr></table>
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			<p>income generating activities, such as beekeeping.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Provide training and support market linkages for shea tree/shear butter production-women groups.</li> <li>○ Support the protection of water bodies in the forest reserves.</li> </ul>
	<p>Department of Agriculture (DoA)- Regional office (Deputy Regional Director)</p>	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>Before decentralization, the Department of Agriculture (DoA) at the regional level used to be under the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) but with the new policy, agriculture -regional offices are now part of the local government. However, the vision and mission of the Department continue to be the same. At the local level, the DoA seeks to promote agriculture and agribusiness through research and technology development. The DoA provides extension services, support to farmers and traders and aims at modernizing agriculture and reducing poverty.</p> <p>Implementation is done at the district level and includes 6 objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food security and emergency preparedness, through climate change adaption and the adoption of modern technologies and new varieties.</li> <li>• Improving income growth of farm families considering the conditions of the ecological zone. This is done through an integrative approach that includes farming, livestock and other alternative livelihood options.</li> <li>• Increasing competitiveness through value addition.</li> <li>• Combining science and technology in food production.</li> <li>• Improved Institutional coordination.</li> <li>• Sustainable management of land and environment (prepare and manage soil) water management (achieving food security, especially under climate variations, requires managing natural resources sustainably).</li> <li>• M&amp;E, which is crosscutting activity.</li> </ul>	



			<p>Activities of the Department of Agriculture (DoA) in this region do not cover cocoa, fisheries, coffee, forestry or wildlife.</p> <p>During the planning sessions at the district level, the DoA maps out productivity trends. This helps the DoA to anticipate to a certain extent where there may be food shortages.</p> <p>SLWM project has done a good job in aligning messages regarding agricultural practices.</p> <p>The DoA has taken the leadership in organizing research extension farmer linkage committee, to link farmers, input suppliers and other relevant stakeholders.</p>	
			<p><b><u>Barriers identified</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coverage of current extension services: According to the DoA regional office, every district is subdivided into zones and each zone is divided into 8 operational areas. Each zone should have one extension supervisor and 8 extension officers- one per operational area. Depending on its size, a district could have a maximum of five zones. Based on this structure, a district with 5 zones should have a total of 40 extension officers. However, the current numbers are not anywhere near the 40. Also, the average age of extension worker is 48- 50 years old. They are close to retirement and replacements do not happen every year. Retirements of previous extension officers and the lack of recruitment of new ones is a challenge. For the past 7- 8 years there has not been funding to contract new extension officers. There are not enough extension officers and in practice, extension supervisors sometimes also play the role of extension officers.</li><li>• Production is seasonal due to limited water availability- rain fed agriculture.</li></ul>	<p><b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Farmers' based organizations should be used to support extension delivery systems. The Farmer Based Organization's policy aims at increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of the delivery system in order to increase extension coverage.</li><li>• It may be easier to link farmers to existing certified seed suppliers but the option of having seed producers at the community level should also be considered; a cost-benefit analysis would be needed. In addition, the capacity building for seed producers would be required.</li><li>• Use of Video Vans has been an effective strategy for increasing awareness of climate change related issues.</li><li>• Promoting income diversification and alternative livelihood options such as:</li></ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Input distribution systems are privatized and inputs are not always available at the community level. If a provider does not see a business case for going to a remote community, they will not do so.</li> <li>• There is the need to have farmers in the communities producing/multiplying foundation seeds, a MoU with the seed industry would be necessary. Seed inspectors would have to monitor the seed producers at the community level. The Foundation seed is also very expensive. Farmers producing seeds would need to receive capacity-building support in order to increase organization capacity, produce/multiply seeds, to be certified and to provide seeds.</li> <li>• Coordination amongst different actors and projects is a challenge.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Value addition to orange flesh potatoes, which can be used to make yogurt locally. Orange flesh potato can contribute to improved nutrition, food security and income generation. It is important that the roots are available.</li> <li>○ Soya beans based products</li> <li>○ Rice based products</li> <li>○ Sesame production</li> <li>○ Vegetables</li> <li>• Overall awareness raising in the areas of nutrition and alternative income generating opportunities, as well as market linkages are necessary activities.</li> </ul>
	Trax Ghana Mr. Vincent Subbey. Director	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>Trax Ghana is a non-governmental organization (NGO) working with rural communities in Northern Ghana. They work to reduce poverty and increase food security through sustainable agricultural and livelihood interventions. Trax uses the principles of agro ecological production to support health and sustainable food systems in Northern and Upper East Regions of Ghana.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>Trax considers access to water for all year-round cultivation as an issue. Trax encourages farmers to move away from using agro chemicals. The costs of production are reduced when using alternatives and there is less damage to the environment.</p> <p>TRAX is on the ground and could play a role in this project in the under listed areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community entry and facilitation</li> <li>• Capacity building</li> </ul>		

<sup>7</sup> <https://traxghana.com/about/>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advocacy</li> <li>• Value addition and market linkages</li> <li>• Research</li> <li>• Establishment of demonstration plots</li> <li>• Farmer based group's formation</li> <li>• Training in gender issues</li> <li>• Conducting training of trainers</li> </ul>	
		<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Misuse of agrochemicals and lack of regulation/or enforcement of regulation to guarantee that only accredited, certified, input dealers could prescribe agrochemicals. Farmers may access agrochemicals- that are inappropriate for their ecological zone- from other areas and use them wrongly.</li> <li>• Limited availability and access to water</li> <li>• Limited access to markets and financial services</li> </ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promoting agro ecological production and alternatives to agrochemicals</li> <li>• Promoting and supporting sustainable livelihood options such as honey production, which have an income component and an environmental component.</li> <li>• Increases awareness of environmental issues and of the need for sustainable natural resource management.</li> </ul>
	Fire services- Regional Office (Assistant Chief Fire Office- Douglas Koyiri)	<b><u>General Discussions</u></b> The Fire Services strategy includes the following activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire prevention- education at the community level</li> <li>• Training of community fire volunteers</li> <li>• Equipment for community fire volunteers: Fire volunteers are equipped with protective clothing. They do not receive allowances but they receive certificates and identity cards.</li> <li>• Additional to prevention there is also training in fire management.</li> </ul>	

			<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Fire Volunteers don't necessarily see their work as something that benefits them, which affects their commitment.</li> <li>• Cultural practices are also a barrier for fire prevention. For instance, some community's practices ceremonies where they burn bushes before communal fishing or believe that bush burning could drive away ghosts</li> <li>• Fire services has limited sponsorship and resources</li> <li>• Fires Services has limited capacity in terms of logistics and funds to visit and train communities and therefore, to support fire prevention and management</li> <li>• Limited number of vehicles</li> </ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Engaging Fire Services in the project and allocating resources to this institution in order for them to carry out, in an adequate manner, fire prevention and management practices.</li> <li>• Further motivation for volunteers would be to engage them in livelihood options that are linked to preventing fires/protecting the forest; and supporting them in securing their livelihoods so that they do not have an incentive to initiate these fires.</li> <li>• Training communities in alternative sustainable livelihoods and in starting and managing their enterprises.</li> </ul>
			<b><u>Suggestions for Community Selection Criteria</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tree coverage</li> <li>• Identifying main income generating activities in a particular community to assess the extent to which their livelihoods depend on charcoal production or fuel wood harvesting, and the likelihood of fires in the area.</li> <li>• Potential for reforestation</li> <li>• Potential for developing /promoting alternative livelihoods options</li> <li>• Potential for alternative energy sources</li> <li>• Prevalence of bush burning practices</li> </ul>	

	Lands Commission (Charles Agawa- Regional Head)	<b><u>General Discussions</u></b> In Upper East Region, there are various categories of land: public, family land, skin land and private land. An authority controls skin land. Available land is significantly fragmented. Every family or individual can end up with a very small portion of land, at least in Bolgatanga Township or Municipality. In other districts and communities in the region more land is available.	
		<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low agricultural productivity and limited water availability during the dry season has resulted in increased seasonal migration. Young people in particular are migrating to the southern part of the country; therefore, creating job opportunities in the region could contribute to addressing this issue.</li> <li>• Land registration should be promoted but could cause conflicts with communities or traditional leaders.</li> <li>• Women have limited access to land and are frequently pushed to farm in areas located far from their households</li> </ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In the past Care International implemented a programme (2015-2016) through which support was provided to farmers in the development of simple lease agreements with a duration of around 2 years. Having more secure tenancy rights contributes to increased investments in the land.</li> <li>• The Land Commission can help with capacity building on land tenure issues and also on drafting lease agreements.</li> <li>• Women should be supported to participate in VSLAs and in alternative livelihood options. If women have access to capital and inputs, men may allow them to access and invest in their land.</li> </ul>
24th May, 2017			
2.1.Binduri District	Binduri District Assembly	<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No soil quality assessments have been done to determine the suitability of the land for producing different crops;</li> <li>• Physical observations show that portions of available land are not suitable for crop cultivation. This is either because the land is too rocky or</li> </ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Land has to be utilized. If it cannot support food production then it should support something else.</li> </ul>

		<p>degraded, or because of the climatic conditions. Even without any soil assessment it is still evident that some soil and land cannot support the growth of certain crops. In these conditions, some communities will not be able to adapt to climate change.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some communities in the district, where traditional crops are failing, have been supported to undertake Mango production. However, soil studies that can support the viability of producing this variety of mango -or other crops- have not been conducted.</li> <li>• There is a lot of road constructional works on going in the districts- competing with land for agriculture.</li> <li>• Deforestation is a major problem.</li> <li>• Availability and access to water is a major problem.</li> <li>• Existing dugouts are not able to provide sufficient water to communities.</li> <li>• People are cutting trees that could provide them with alternative and more sustainable livelihoods options, such as Shea trees. They are using a short-term survival strategy. They are looking at what they could get from the environment today rather than in the long term. People are conscious of some of the effects of deforestation but they are desperate.</li> <li>• Farming incomes are seasonal, so there is a need for alternative income sources.</li> <li>• Farmers have limited capital to expand businesses, such as soap production or watermelon juice.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Animal rearing is one the necessary activities in Binduri. It may help to prevent migration.</li> <li>• Organizing people in farm or enterprise based organizations has proven to be effective.</li> <li>• Farmer based groups should be linked to financial services.</li> <li>• Supporting communities in engaging in alternative livelihood options, such as watermelon juice and soap production.</li> <li>• Collaborating with the District's Business Advice Center, currently focusing on empowering women and in helping them identify and develop alternative livelihoods during the dry season.</li> <li>• Guinea fowl production has good potential in the district, if supported with the needed extension services and logistics;</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Farmers have limited access to financial services and markets (Guinea fowl is a good example of an enterprise with potential but with very limited access to markets)</li> <li>• Storage facilities are not adequate in number and quality</li> <li>• Most of the dugouts in the few communities' privilege to have them to support dry season gardening are either broken down or non-functional;</li> </ul>	
		<p><b><u>Other projects or initiatives implemented in the district/communities consulted (government or from international organizations)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEAP: Government project supporting the most vulnerable people in the communities</li> <li>• Ghana social opportunities project (GoG)</li> <li>• Rural Enterprises Project (GoG)</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Data required and requested from stakeholders</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers, names and locations of dams</li> <li>• Communities that have access to dams</li> <li>• Records on floods and extreme heats; including communities affected by floods</li> <li>• Additional information on Business Advice Center</li> <li>• Incidence of fire</li> <li>• Population in the district</li> <li>• Population per community</li> <li>• Categories and type of employment at the community level</li> <li>• Number of communities in the district</li> </ul>	

	Health Services	<b><u>General Discussion</u></b> When assessing the vulnerability of a particular community, health officers look at disease patterns, some of which are linked to environmental/climatic conditions and others, which are linked to social factors. Changes in climate have caused some diseases to prevail. Meningitis has increased due to long dry season with warm weather and high temperatures. There are sporadic cases of cholera. Community volunteers support health officers in monitoring the prevalence of diseases. Malnutrition is a major problem. Specific criteria are used to assess if a child is underweight. The vulnerability of the community is determined based on the number of cases of malnutrition.	
		<b><u>Barriers Identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Limited connectivity, network and access to electricity.</li><li>• Lack of computers and radios.</li><li>• Limited vehicles/motorbikes.</li><li>• Limited capacity of facilities (20 facilities in the district)</li><li>• There is only one community information/early warning centre.</li><li>• Poor infrastructure.</li><li>• No accommodation for health officers in the different facilities.</li><li>• WFP and other programmes that distributed food are no longer operating in these areas.</li><li>• When women have to farm far from the households - either because they are not granted access to land located close to the household or because they move to areas with better access to water especially during the dry season- they tend to leave their children behind; this means that in many occasions the children are not fed or cared for, which can result in malnutrition. When women have to go to the market, they also tend to leave children behind.</li></ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engaging communities in the management of acute malnutrition</li><li>• Undertake health and nutrition education, including how to feed and care for children.</li><li>• Conduct food demonstration trainings, with locally available materials.</li><li>• Behavioural change and therefore training/awareness raising of communities is required.</li><li>• Increasing number of motorbikes to two per facility (20 facilities in the district) would have a significant impact.</li></ul>



			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Due to lack of resources the health services office has not been able to conduct frequent trainings with the communities.</li><li>• Home visits are not as frequent as they should be due to limited number of motorbikes.</li></ul>	
25 May, 2017				
	Department of Agriculture	<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Women are significantly affected by poverty and rely on the forest reserves for their incomes.</li><li>• Harvesting of trees for fuel wood is one of the main causes of deforestation.</li><li>• Spillages from the Bagre dam in Burkina Faso have caused floods affecting Ghana's Northern, Upper East, Eastern and the Volta regions. The communities located in those areas have been advised to evacuate during spillages. However, the flow of information either between Burkina Faso and Ghana and/or between Accra, the regional, the district and the community level is not always timely.</li><li>• Some traditional believes are a barrier to the adoption of fire and deforestation prevention and management measures. For instance, some communities believe that bushfires are caused by ghosts. Other communities believe that by digging</li></ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Supporting communities in identifying alternative- to agriculture- livelihood options, in particular during the dry season, will help reduce the number of people farming close to the river and therefore will contribute to reducing vulnerability of crops and people to floods.</li><li>• Improved and increased water availability, for instance through provision of water pumps, could support agricultural production during the dry season.</li><li>• Green belts to protect the forests from wildfires.</li><li>• Engaging communities from the planning phase is necessary. This will allow communities to identify communal lands</li></ul>	

		<p>a hole to plant a tree, they are also burying their souls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate animal husbandry and management of rangelands.</li> <li>• There is communal land but land is mostly owned by families and individuals.</li> <li>• Communal storage may not be the preferred option for farmers.</li> <li>• Limited access to markets.</li> <li>• Inadequate price information.</li> <li>• Farmers rarely sell as group, which has implications in terms of the prices that they sell their products for. In addition, aggregators do not mobilize themselves to the communities unless it makes financial sense.</li> <li>• There is a communication gap between the national, regional and district levels.</li> <li>• There are no adequate weather stations at the district level.</li> <li>• There are currently only 4 extension officers in the district. This means that coverage of extension services is inadequate.</li> <li>• There are some storage facilities but the number and quality of the facilities is insufficient.</li> </ul>	<p>where needed, to organize themselves in groups, to discuss the possibility of sharing storage facilities, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Putting in place and improving coordination mechanisms is necessary. Success of the project depends on working as a team. The Department of Agriculture has taken the leadership in organizing an interagency meeting that includes forestry, health, district assembly, etc.</li> </ul>
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	Yarigungu Community	<b><u>Community interactions</u></b> <p>The community is a hilly and stony area. It has no dam or a dugout but community members depend on the White Volta for farming and other domestic usage. The rainfall patterns have changed for a while. There is less rain and very limited access to water overall. This is one of the main challenges that the community faces. All of the participants were farmers. In the past, they planted in the month of April. However, in recent years they have been planting as late as June.</p> <p>The community members are aware of the linkage between their activities and deforestation, and some of the consequences that deforestation has on the natural resources that their livelihoods depend on. However, they expressed that they currently don't have a clear alternative to harvesting of trees for fuel wood and charcoal production, in particular during the dry season. The vegetative cover within the community is quite low and we learnt some members of the community sometimes cross to Burkina Faso for fuel wood.</p> <p>They are interested in being involved in activities that will increase agricultural productivity and in diversifying their incomes. Community members highlighted access to water for agriculture and access to markets for alternative livelihood activities, as two issues.</p>		

	Tambiigu	<p><b><u>Community interactions</u></b></p> <p>In this community women participated actively in the discussion. Most women that participated in consultations had access to about 2 acres of land. They did not own the land but as a result of their engagement in Village Savings and Loans Associations they have been able to save and demonstrate to men that they have capital to invest in the land and therefore they have been able to access and invest in land. Women in this community seemed to be organized in groups and some of them mentioned that they are involved in shea butter processing and production.</p> <p>Limited access to water for agricultural production, as well as limited access to markets and limited support in building their capacity to manage their enterprises, were mentioned as primary issues. Seasonal migration due to limited livelihood opportunities during the dry season was also highlighted. A silted dugout with broken canals challenges the community for dry season gardening. The community is aware of bad farming practices especially close to the riverbed causing siltation and flash flood eventually affecting crop yield. Participants mentioned that they would be willing and motivated to participate in reforestation activities if they also had support in diversifying their incomes. Participants were asked what they would do if they were able to further increase their productivity and incomes. Various women mentioned that they would use the additional income to cover for education fees and health costs. One man said that he would find another wife.</p>
	Kumpalgoga	<p><b><u>Community interactions</u></b></p> <p>A challenge is that there are no veterinary services available. Therefore, even though small ruminants and cattle are an important livelihood option, when animals fall sick, they frequently die, as there is no one to treat them. Fortunately, the community has a dam for their dry season farming activities but the dam is silted and not properly functioning. However, the community members and animal compete for water from the Dam. The Kumpalgoga dam has a potential irrigable land area of about 12ha with almost the entire community depending on the dam. The current alternative livelihood support activities within the community are mostly shea butter extraction, dawadawa processing as spices, fuel wood collection and charcoal production. Challenges facing the community include inadequate and unreliable rainfall, lack of potable water for domestic use and livestock, annual bush fires, tree felling and lack of processing machine for shea butter extraction.</p> <p>The community is interested to be involved in activities that will improve their agricultural productivity through cultivation of high yielding and early maturing crops, tree growing and rehabilitation of the dam.</p>

24 May, 2017			
<b>2.2.Garu Tempene District</b>	Departments of Agriculture, Community Development and Social Welfare; and Forest Service Division of the Forestry Commission District Assembly	<b><u>General Discussions</u></b> There are about 212 communities in the district. All communities except for very few are vulnerable. The total population of the district is around 130,000 people. There is an average of 7 people per household. About 80% of the population is involved in agricultural activities. Most of them are subsistence farmers.	
		<b><u>Barriers identified</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Floods have increased- significant floods occurred in August 2016.</li> <li>• Long dry spells are also occurring during rainy season. In June – July 2016 there was no rain for 21 consecutive days.</li> <li>• Farmers are moving closer to the rivers due to droughts, which make them more vulnerable to floods.</li> <li>• The varieties of mangoes promoted (and others) are not always adequate for the type of soil and climate conditions.</li> <li>• Access to markets is a major challenge.</li> <li>• In most cases there are no veterinarians that can treat sick livestock.</li> <li>• Insufficient and inadequate animal feed.</li> <li>• Seasonal- dry season- migration, especially by young people in search of opportunities.</li> <li>• There is no comprehensive measure to track impact of all interventions.</li> <li>• Existing initiatives such as the Ghana Social Opportunities Project provide cash and/or initial input support but do not necessarily provide support/guidance to beneficiaries on how to</li> </ul>	<b><u>Solutions and suggested activities to consideration as inputs into the project proposal</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Radio is one of the main sources of climate information.</li> <li>• Creation and strengthening of farmer based organizations/groups. The communities themselves should form these groups.</li> <li>• District Assembly is involved in community emergency disaster preparedness Programme.</li> <li>• It is important that farmers are trained in perceiving and approaching agriculture as a business.</li> <li>• Linking farmers to financial services. Some initiatives have linked farmers to banks that provide them a loan in the form of inputs: the bank approves a loan but gives the money directly to the input dealer. The farmer receives a voucher that he/she then uses to collect inputs from input dealers. The farmer is then responsible for paying back the loan directly to the bank.</li> </ul>

		<p>manage and invest their money or on how to start, run and expand their enterprises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are not enough resources to monitor and evaluate impact.</li> </ul> <p>The coverage of current interventions is very limited</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment of the soil, as well as identification and promotion of adequate crop and tree varieties is essential.</li> <li>• Improved agricultural practices and conservation agriculture practices such as composting and the adoption of improved seeds (such as drought tolerant maize varieties) is essential.</li> <li>• Community members could produce fodder to sell to other community members.</li> </ul>
		<p><b><u>Suggestions for Community Selection Criteria</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Food insecurity</li> <li>• Floods: between 20 – 30 communities are very vulnerable to floods</li> <li>• The communities that are located around the forest reserves are cutting and burning trees. This is because of the limited alternative livelihood options.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Other projects or initiatives implemented in the district/communities consulted (government or from international organizations)</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LEAP programme: GoG programme supporting the most vulnerable communities. The LEAP programme provides a social stipend for the most vulnerable people in the communities: extremely poor households; people aged 65 and above; orphans and vulnerable children; people with disabilities; pregnant women and children under one. The programme started in 2008 and does not have an end date.</li> <li>• Ghana Social Opportunities Project: GoG project that aims at identifying income-generating options for community members during the dry season. Project activities include involving community members in: i) mango plantation; ii) labour intensive road construction; iii) dam rehabilitation.</li> <li>• CARE International; participatory scenario planning.</li> <li>• Community led total sanitation programme (CLTS)</li> </ul>	

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Northern Rural Growth Project</li></ul>
		<p><b><u>Data required and requested from stakeholders</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Records of communities where floods have occurred.</li></ul>
26 May, 2017		
	Nwawaadug Community	<p><b><u>Community interactions</u></b></p> <p>Limited access to improved planting materials especially early maturing seeds, disease and pest resistance and high yielding seeds for rice, maize, groundnut and onion production. The community is challenged with poor agricultural extension and veterinary services. They also suffer high postharvest losses. As the norm in the area, women do not own land but they get access to farmlands through their relatives, husbands and landowners. It was indicated that the poor rainfall patterns- of approximately only four months in a year- in the community and low agricultural yields have influenced the migration of the youth to the southern part of the country in search of opportunities. The community are close to the White Volta River and they do experience flash floods on their farms when the rainfall delays. During the off season, the communities are involved in charcoal production, dawadawa processing, pito brewing, shea butter extraction, trading in livestock/small ruminant and migrating to the south to engage in illegal mining. The potential livelihood activities they would be interested in including, rice parboiling, groundnut and shea butter extraction, adoption of SLM technologies, tree planting and creating buffer along riverbanks.</p>
	Lukitikipuluk Community	<p><b><u>Community interactions</u></b></p> <p>Members were aware of changing weather circumstances within their community, attributing reduced crop production to the effects of climate change such as low and erratic rainfalls and long dry seasons. They are also challenged by inadequate extension services and poor agronomic practices resulting in soil infertility and widespread infestation of parasitic weeds (striga) in their farms. In addition, access to farm inputs e.g. improved seeds; fertilizer is a problem for the community. The community depend on livestock production as an alternative source of income, in particular during lean season and as a way to cope with the impact of crop failure on their incomes; however, farmers do not have enough animals. The community has vast land and some people bring their livestock from other communities in the region due to its abundant fodder. The community would like to partake in any activity that will improve</p>

		their agricultural production and alternative livelihood support activities to cope with the long dry season. The community is willing to be involved in any afforestation (tree planting) activities and improved animal husbandry.
	Bempiella No.1. Community	<p><b><u>Community interactions</u></b></p> <p>The community is concerned about the current weather changes; rainfall volumes have reduced considerably and community members attribute this to the degradation of the environment. Youth that participated in the consultations mentioned that most of them had been involved in illegal mining (Galamsey) in the south, given the need to find alternative sources of employment and income. However due to the government clampdown on this activity, they have returned. Community is challenged by infertile soils; lack of access to farm inputs e.g. improved seeds and fertilizer; insufficient bullocks for ploughing farmlands; and limited or remote sources of water. The community is involved in dry season gardening; however water sources for irrigation are generally not accessible. The shallow rivers and seasonally flooded land are now given over for dry-season gardening in community, often using water lifted by hand. The community has made improvised watering cans used to carry water from far distances of about 200 metres to water crops on farms in Bempiella.</p>
29 May 2017		
Tamale and Bolgatanga	Regional Coordinating Councils	<p><b>Debrief Upper East and Northern Regional Coordinating Councils.</b></p> <p>The Regional Coordinating Directors, planning officers, Gender Desk Officers and some Directors of the respective Regional Coordinating Councils were debriefed on the district consultations. The team reported on the cooperation received from the various District Assemblies (DAs) in organizing their respective departmental heads and representatives for the meetings. Also mentioned were the useful reports and information provided by the DAs concerning their districts and the fruitful discussions held at both the district headquarters and the various communities selected for field visits.</p> <p>Major challenges reported by the respective districts as well as proposed activities to address the identified challenges were shared with the respective Coordinating Councils.</p> <p>Commenting on the feedback from the field, the Coordinating Directors indicated their satisfaction with the report and reiterated their pledge to collaborate with the team in ensuring that all needed information and support to make a strong case for the approval of the project will be made. According to both Councils, the challenges were known to them and they have been supporting the respective districts to find sustainable ways to address the identified challenges. They therefore see this project as an opportunity to support the districts in overcoming some of the challenges. More importantly, they</p>



		<p>were encouraged by the fact that districts and communities have been able to propose some solutions to overcome the challenges. This will make the proposed interventions sustainable.</p> <p>The Upper East Regional Coordinating Director indicated that they will be happy to receive feedback on the status of the project when it is finally submitted to the Green Climate Fund.</p> <p>The Regional Coordinating Director for Northern Region also indicated that he would avail himself for further discussion of the project and added that if it is possible the team should consider increasing the number of beneficiary districts in the region.</p>
30th May, 2017		
<b>3. Upper West Region. Wa</b>	Lands Commission Regional Office	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>The regional Lands Officer welcomed the team and indicated that the Lands Commission (LC) does not work on vulnerability issues. Its scope is land administration and management. It is therefore a service provision institution on the tenure system. The Lands Commission has four main divisions/units:(a) Survey and Mapping; (b) Public and Invested Land management; (c) Land Valuation and (d) Land Registration. Their mandate is to manage the state lands in the region in the interest of the people of the Republic of Ghana as per the constitution. However, most of the lands in the region are family owned and controlled by Tendaba who is the spiritual head and manages the land on behalf of the family.</p> <p><b><u>Land ownership in the Upper West Region</u></b></p> <p>With regards to land ownership, the director pointed out that only a limited amount of land in the region belongs to the state; most of the land belongs to families (lead by the Tendaba), Individuals and Skin. He said that before buying any land there must be a Planning Scheme or land title document to justify the right ownership to avoid future litigations. Unfortunately, most of the land does not have Planning Schemes of the area. There are also fragmented interests, among multiple family members, in land and this could be an indicator of vulnerability, especially for those within the peri-urban areas within the region. At the regional office, they have a cadastral plan for the entire region.</p> <p>People in the region develop their lands without following any planning schemes. The Director mentioned that when the interests of chiefs and family heads are divided among many family members, numerous consultations- to guarantee rightful ownership of the land- are needed, and this normally leads to very high transaction costs. For community level interventions, extensive consultations with family heads and community leaders are needed, in order to guarantee their engagement. By tradition only men own land. Some women own lands, but frequently keep this from the knowledge of their</p>

		<p>husbands. The Commission does not have a database including information on land ownership in the region.</p>
	<p>Regional Director, EPA, Representative of Ministry of Agriculture, Forest Services Division, Suntaa Nuntaa (NGO), SADA</p>	<p><b>Representative of Ministry of Agriculture</b></p> <p>The Deputy Regional Director, Mr. Huudu indicated that the selected districts have marginally suitable soils for legume cultivation. Therefore, integration of SLM technologies into interventions on their farmlands will be good for the selected districts. Past and on-going interventions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FAO initiated a Technical Cooperation Project in some of the communities in the selected districts. This project provided selected farmers with the opportunity to participate in a training programme on land restoration at Yatinga Province in Burkina Faso,</li> <li>• The DoA is promoting draught tolerant and short season crop varieties. The preferred maize variety is wangdata.</li> <li>• The second phase of the West Africa Agriculture Productivity Program (WAAPP II) supported seed growing. Seeds given to beneficiary farmers were recovered and given to non-beneficiary districts free of charge. This could be replicated under the proposed project to make improved seeds available to farmers. Seed Maize growing districts identified by the DoA are Wa East, Daffiama-Bussie-Issa (DBI), Nadowli and parts of Wa West and Lambussie Karni. Legume seed could be produced in Lawra and Jirapa Districts. Community seed systems under conservation agriculture should be promoted under the proposed project.</li> <li>• Farmers are receiving training on compost preparation and utilization to increase soil fertility and land productivity,</li> <li>• Farmers are also receiving training on stone lining to check soil erosion and water harvesting on farmlands, they have learned how to restore water in the soil</li> <li>• Other technologies include Zai and half-moon to harvest and retain water on farms,</li> <li>• Farmers have been educated to avoid burning as the dry weeds serves as a feed for livestock during the dry season. Various seeds also germinate as soon as the early rains set in, increasing the quantity of wild fruits for animals and human consumption.</li> <li>• There have been Radio discussions on climate change adaptation.</li> <li>• The issue of access to land is not a problem in the communities.</li> <li>• Farmers have been introduced to draught tolerant seedlings.</li> <li>• Farmers are being encouraged to form seed growers' associations in the districts.</li> </ul> <p>Some of the communities have boreholes, dug-out wells and reservoirs</p>

		<p><b><u>EPA Regional Director</u></b></p> <p>The Regional Director informed the team about the experiences acquired in the implementation of the Ghana Environmental Management Project as a coordinating body of the region and about some of the interventions implemented in the region as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The EPA facilitated the formation of the Community Environmental Management Committees, Community Fire Volunteer Squads and Common Interest Groups. These committees were trained on environmental issues and introduced to the non-burning concept. The communities were encouraged and assisted to enact rules and regulations and to sanction those who might engage in bush fires. The communities were asked not to cut trees in the protected area, and to allow the area to regenerate itself.</li> <li>• Introduction of Natural Resource Based Livelihood Support activities such as Shea butter and Moringa processing, bee keeping among others;</li> <li>• Incorporation of leguminous plant species in the agricultural landscape to improve soil productivity and fertility;</li> <li>• Upscaling of sustainable land and water management practices including stone lining or bunds, compost preparation and utilization, half-moon and Zai, crop rotation, intercropping among others;</li> <li>• Introduction and establishment of the Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA)</li> <li>• Establishment of woodlots through tree planting in some communities</li> <li>• The use school environmental clubs in dissemination of environmental issues of concern and afforestation;</li> <li>• Training of soap makers in some communities</li> <li>• Acquisition of high bred and disease resistant small ruminants to selected communities</li> <li>• Introduction of energy saving stoves to some communities, to reduce domestic fuelwood and charcoal consumption.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>The Suntaa Nuntaa (NGO)</u></b></p> <p>Suntaa-Nuntaa is a wholly Ghanaian NGO set up in 1990. The leader of the Organization, Mr. Robert Loggah, indicated that the organization's aim is to fight degradation of natural resources in the Upper West Region in Ghana. It also tries to empower the poor in society, especially women so that they can attain household security, in terms of sufficient food and sufficient cash for medicines and education. They are implementing activities in some districts in the region, which include agroforestry, poultry, animal rearing, tree planting/woodlot establishment and nursing, health matters, cottage industries and other income generating activities such as bee keeping. They also raise awareness among school kids</p>
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		<p>on annual bush fires. To ensure the success of the coming project the officer suggested that the following should be considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue working with communities with good performance records in past project execution.</li> <li>• Collaboration with other ongoing projects to share ideas.</li> <li>• There should be competition among communities, an award for the best performing community.</li> <li>• Selection of communities should be non-political</li> <li>• Look for baseline data</li> <li>• More indigenous ways of doing things and community ownership,</li> <li>• Sustainability of the project before it starts should drive the process of development,</li> <li>• Upscaling what works,</li> <li>• Risk management should be seriously considered,</li> <li>• Awareness creation in local languages,</li> <li>• Community fatigue (too many engagements with the communities to develop proposals without any fruitful outcome),</li> <li>• Tracking transformation beyond the project period,</li> <li>• Capacity building for district and regional staff in tracking changes/transformation – the bigger picture,</li> <li>• Participatory monitoring.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Savannah Accelerated Development Authority (SADA)</u></b></p> <p>The Upper West Regional Coordinator of SADA, Madam Vivian Adams Nabie expressed willingness to be part of this potential project. She indicated that the name of SADA may be changed to Northern Development Authority; however, their role of catalysing, coordinating and monitoring will not change. The officer indicated that SADA should be at the centre of the project because of its coordination role. They can also facilitate identification of partners to join in the implementation of the project. SADA has developed its agricultural master plan, which is available at its website: <a href="http://www.sadagh.org">www.sadagh.org</a>. SADA's representative indicated that there are plans to embark on tree growing programmes with the Youth Employment Agency. SADA also has the capacity to organize stakeholders and policy engagement to attract investment into the project area to complement project efforts. She enumerated some of the facilities at their workplace, which would be made available to enhance the success of the GCF project as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilities to be used in organising stakeholder meetings</li> <li>• Officers to assist in design of the project</li> </ul>
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They have experts that could transfer knowledge related to tree planting</li> <li>• They have field logistics which can be used to enhance the success of the project</li> <li>• They have land suitability maps for the entire region and was done in 2015</li> <li>• All SADA data/information can be accessed from this website: <a href="http://www.sadagh.org">www.sadagh.org</a></li> </ul>
	Regional Coordinating Council (RCC)	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>The Regional Coordinating Director, Mr. Kingsley Agyei Boahene welcomed the team to the region and expressed his appreciation for the consideration of four districts from the region in the project proposal. He shared information on climate change projects in the region such as the 11<sup>th</sup> EU project under preparation, which is a pilot. He expressed that harmonization of climate change projects in the agriculture sector is needed, in order to maximize benefits. Indicating that the Regional Coordinating Council manages the district assemblies, the RCC will leverage that role to support the consultation process with the district assemblies. The Director indicated that the RCC is in support of the project proposal and will give it all necessary support to ensure success. Commenting on the identified districts, he said the Wa West district is the poorest district in the country while Lambussie Karni district has degraded lands; therefore, these districts could significantly benefit from the support and activities contemplated in this GCF proposal. He also indicated that climate change is not currently incorporated in the Functional Organisational Assessment Tool (FOAT) and considers that it is necessary to include climate change in the tracking tool.</p>

	Regional Meteorological Officer	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>The Regional Meteorological Officer provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are rainfall-recording stations in selected communities where they collect data and send the raw data to their head office in Accra.</li> <li>• Data is manually collected through trained volunteers in the communities.</li> <li>• Wa has a synoptic station that collects data on rainfall and other elements of the weather because of the air stripe.</li> <li>• Babile has also a broader data collection centre</li> <li>• There are 14 automatic weather stations installed in the region</li> <li>• There are weather maps on Ghana from 1953 to 2012 available</li> <li>• The Meteorological Office depends on NGOs to disseminate information to the communities</li> <li>• A gap identified during interaction is the lack of back up data from the automatic weather stations at the regional office. This poses a challenge in advising the Regional Coordinating Council and farmers in general, using weather information.</li> </ul> <p>For the processed climatic data of the region, he suggested we contact Mr. York or Mr. Nkansah at their head office in Accra for detailed information.</p>
	The Regional Nutrition Office	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>The Regional Nutrition Office does not have explicit climate change vulnerability indicators. Food security is one major indicator of vulnerability. Their operational focus has been the promotion of total wellbeing with nutrition at the centre. Two main operational activities are prevention and management of nutritional health targeting women at reproductive age and children under five years. By way of prevention, the office carries out education on healthy nutrition and diet; while on the management front, the office looks at under and overweight issues. They counsel mothers and care givers to prevent malnutrition. The officer informed the team that the 2012 WFP food security and vulnerability assessment identified Wa West as the most food insecure in the region with Jirapa and Wa East districts on the borderline. Other activities promoted are indicated below;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Routine data collection through the child welfare centres,</li> <li>• Promote locally available food groups and how they should be blended,</li> <li>• Food demonstration/preservation,</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote nutrition sensitive agriculture,</li> <li>• Partner with the Women in Agriculture Directorate (WIAD) regional officer to improve food processing.</li> </ul> <p>Challenges listed by the officer include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inadequate Logistics for monitoring district level activities,</li> <li>• Inadequate staffing levels,</li> <li>• Behavioural change,</li> <li>• Bad roads and</li> <li>• High annual Staff turn out.</li> </ul>
31st May 2017		
<b>3.1 Lambussie-Karni District</b>	<p>Department of Agriculture,</p> <p>National Disaster Management Organization (NAMDO),</p> <p>Nutrition Officer,</p> <p>District Epidemic Management Committee Officer,</p> <p>Fire Officer:</p> <p>NGO</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The NADMO officer identified bush burning and rainstorms as the major disasters in the regions. He also mentioned that when the Bagri dam is open, this affects some communities in the district. The NGO representative indicated that the District Ghana Social Opportunities Project (GSOP) provides livelihood support for some communities by providing them with financial assistance to initiate small business like shea butter processing, poultry and piggery. Some women have been trained to start Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLA), which is helping them to cover school fees. He mentioned some of the challenges the district confronts as follows:</li> <li>• Reduction in shea fruiting due to lack of rainfall.</li> <li>• Rainstorms affect some of the trees; for instance, immature fruits drop during the storm.</li> <li>• Shea trees are cut for charcoal production.</li> <li>• Bad roads in the district are also a primary issue contributing to lack of market for the farm produce after harvest.</li> <li>• Lack of storage facilities in the district</li> </ul> <p>The Nutrition Officer highlighted that some of the major prevailing diseases in the district are anaemia and wasting. The Officer mentioned that children are being immunized to ensure their safety. Unfortunately, the Nutrition Office could not achieve their target last year due to lack of capacity. On the other hand, for the District Epidemic Management Committee Officer, the major health related issues in the district span from: prevalence of teenage pregnancy; Meningitis in the dry season; traditional birth practices; Lack of ambulances in the clinic; lack of a community emergency transport system for the clinic in time of emergency cases; lack of education regarding the need to eat a balanced diet; and lack of parental care due to poverty, which can also result in teenage pregnancy.</p>

		<p>The Fire Officer reported that the incidents of fire in communities are not rampant; few bush burning occurs when the farmers are preparing their land for farming. However, the communities should be trained to avoid bush burning. The Fire Officer elaborated on some of the challenges that the communities face as follows: Lack of resources to train and equip fire volunteers, as well as to form anti-bush burning clubs in schools and Resources to educate communities against bush burning.</p> <p>The district director of agriculture indicated the following as climate change indicators;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rainfall season has shortened. Recent major season rainfall does not last more than 4 months (June – September)</li> <li>• During the rainy season, water runs through the streams but dries up within one month after rains. This affects availability of water for agriculture activities</li> <li>• Certain wild species that supported coping strategies are becoming extinct making communities more vulnerable</li> <li>• Labour migration (temporal and permanent) immediately after the farming season has become very common in the district. Health routine data indicates seasonal migration.</li> <li>• Processing facilities are inadequate to support processing of farm produce</li> <li>• The District Assembly is planning a PPP warehousing arrangement to support storage of farm produce</li> </ul>
	Gbingballa community	<p><b>General Discussion</b></p> <p>The team met the chief and some community members and presented the project concept, as well as the objectives of the consultations. The community expressed their willingness to participate in the project if implemented. According to the chief, most community members are farmers and produce maize, beans, millet, yam, rice and guinea corn. They enumerated the following challenges, for their consideration in the project proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Poor soil fertility, they need fertilizer to increase their yields</li> <li>• Lack of rainfall and unpredictable weather</li> <li>• Short rainfall pattern</li> <li>• Long dry seasons</li> <li>• Severe sunshine</li> </ul> <p>When asked about the causes of these climate changes, community members provided the following responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The gods are angry, and so they are pouring libation for pacification, and for possible rains.</li> <li>• If I knew, I would have solved it, retorted one of the farmers who was asked by one of the team members about the causes.</li> </ul>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When asked if they have engaged in charcoal burning, they mentioned that they have not, given the current laws against tree cutting.</li> </ul> <p>The community suggested the following solutions to the challenges they identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They will like their old broken dug out (dam), constructed by the Catholic Church for the community, to be fixed. Once the dam is functional, they can carry out dry season farming, which will also prevent the youth from moving to the cities in the south for menial jobs.</li> <li>Access to Land is not an issue</li> <li>Community members indicated the following priorities: Animal rearing, e.g. sheep, goats, fowls, pigs and Village Savings and Loans Associations.</li> <li>On previous project experience, the members of the community mentioned that they are not currently participating in any project but that they are willing to engage in this project if implemented.</li> </ul>
1 June 2017		
	Piina community	<p><b><u>Interactions with community</u></b></p> <p>Agricultural activities in the community include cultivation of crops; maize, millet, cowpea, groundnuts, sorghum, yam, soybean, and livestock: sheep, goats, local poultry, guinea fowls, ducks, cattle and pigs. It was observed that the community has patches of vegetation with semblance to forest. When asked why these patches were there, community member responded that it is not good to clear all the forest because they believe the forest calls the rain. They also leave it to fallow for between 6 and 10 years before they clear for agricultural activity. The community members have engaged in tree planting. Species include “puree” a local name, teak, shea and “dawadawa”. They use trees for construction (decking) of their houses. Regarding rainfall, the community members said they have been experiencing fluctuations. This year for example, they have had only one good rain. As to why they think the rains are not coming, their responses were as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>They believe some community members go against the taboos of the community and this could cause rainfall fluctuations,</li> <li>Killing or felling big trees in the forest is also contributing to insufficient rainfall. Normally, a fine is imposed on people who cut down trees.</li> </ul>

		<p>There are no irrigation systems in the community. They practice bush and compound farming and their crop yields have been decreasing over the years. Sometimes they lose their entire crops during the farming season. Some sell their livestock to buy food, some travel down south to look for jobs while some produce charcoal for sale. Migration is very high in the community because of persistent poor yields. Community members think reduction in fertilizer prices could enhance access because fertilizer is available but not affordable. Access to improved seeds is also a challenge so they recycle their local seeds. Regarding the method that they use to determine the time for farming, they responded that they use months to calculate the time for farming. In addition, when the yellow and red berries as well as shea trees start fruiting, they see this as an indication that it is time to farm. Their major challenges are as follows: No electricity, no dugouts for dry season farming and no alternative livelihood activities.</p>
	Koro community	<p><b><u>Community Interactions</u></b></p> <p>The community members mentioned that there are extremely challenging conditions for farmers, with high temperatures, erratic rainfall and eroded soils leading to lower yields. Reduction or elimination of fallow periods and an absence of strategies for returning adequate resources to the soil, combined with labour migration makes typical soil and water conservation technologies difficult to carry out. Some of the challenges they face are as follows: inadequate bullock ploughing and tractor services; diseases and pests problems; credit and market access problems; no extension and veterinary services; siltation of water bodies; wrong application of agro-chemicals; and seasonal migration; and limited water for crops and livestock. In addition, generally every household has ownership to a parcel of land and each household cultivates about 10 acres per annum. However, it is the head of the household who distributes parts of the land to individuals within the households; . It was mentioned that the community members also engage in off-farm activities such as agro-processing, pottery, dry season gardening, petty trading, farm produce and livestock marketing, among others.</p>
2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017		
<b>3.2 Lawra District</b>	District Planning Officer, NADMO, Ministry of Agriculture	<p><b>Opening</b></p> <p>Mr. Kingsley Amoako explained the purpose of the consultations. The stakeholders consulted welcomed the project idea and promised to support the project in their various capacities to ensure its success. The Planning Officer referred to the following facilities in the district:</p> <p>Climate vulnerability Indicators used by the district:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communities along the Black Volta are usually affected by floods during the rainy season</li> <li>• Crop yields in the district are low due to long dry periods</li> <li>• Food insecurity</li> <li>• Shortened rainy season</li> <li>• Bushfires</li> </ul>

		<p>Interventions in the District were listed as below</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSOP is ongoing in some selected communities in the district, supporting rehabilitation of dugouts</li> <li>• Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS) Platform has been established in the district and its sensitizing communities on impacts of tree felling and bush burning. The CCAFS has influenced the District Assembly to change the environment sub-committee to environment, agriculture and food security sub-committee.</li> <li>• CREW Project implemented between 2014 and 2016. Under this project flood and drought maps were developed and an early warning system was established. However, due to non-connectivity to the Internet, the early warning system is not functioning. It will be included in the MTDP, which is currently under preparation.</li> <li>• LEAP intervention by Government</li> <li>• RESULTS: introduced small ruminants rearing as alternative livelihood activity, involved the District Assembly during implementation, which ensured there was budgetary support.</li> <li>• FAO had supported some communities with 18 pumping machines in 2008 to support dry season farming activities along the Black Volta. District Assembly added 10 pumps later and the NRGF added 5 pumps to support farming groups. The groups observe the buffer zone policy.</li> <li>• They have established Business Advisory Centres to give flexible loans to farmers</li> <li>• Bee keeping and shea processing</li> </ul> <p>The NADMO Officer elaborated on their activities in the districts as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some communities along the Black Volta are vulnerable to floods</li> <li>• Flood and drought vulnerable maps are available in their office for the use of the district assembly</li> <li>• Long dry periods prevent farmers from planning their farming activities</li> <li>• Annual bush burning occurs from October till February, resulting in the loss of soil fertility</li> <li>• There are few irrigated lands which communities around those areas use for dry season farming.</li> <li>• The Officer, confirmed that farmers do not farm very close to the Black Volta.</li> <li>• There is a weather station provided by UNDP at Hamile</li> <li>• Severe windstorms affect some communities, which calls for tree planting in those areas.</li> </ul> <p>The Fire Officer expressed concerns about the annual fires experienced in the district. He attributed their inability to tackle the fire challenge to lack of organizational capacity to educate communities and establish fire volunteers in fire prone areas. He indicated that the fire office needs assistance in the planning and logistics to train fire volunteers and form fire prevention clubs in schools.</p>
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		<p>Considerations for the project proposal</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete support to groups – land development should be part of the support for irrigation</li> <li>• Use of existing groups and institutions. Support should be devoid of politics</li> <li>• Work through chiefs</li> <li>• Support to a single household based groups are more successful than mixed groups from different households</li> <li>• Monitoring to maintain integrity of the water quality, quantity and flow rate of Black Volta River</li> <li>• Start with high value crops such as export vegetable crops including yellow melon and chili</li> <li>• Consider marketing as part of the interventions</li> <li>• Participatory engagement</li> </ul>
	2 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	<p>Metthor Community</p> <p><b><u>Community Interactions</u></b>  The community is a border town along the Black Volta River. The Northern Rural Growth Programme (NRGP) supported the development of a total of 20 ha model irrigation farm for two separate groups of farmers. Interactions were made with three members of one group who were present on their fields at the time of visit. Crops grown included maize, tomatoes and sweet potatoes. Water was pumped from the Black Volta River to irrigate crops. The Fall Army Worm had infested maize plots causing significant damage to the crops. According to the farmers, they spotted some fall army worms on the sweet potatoes earlier but it seemed the pest preferred maize to other crops so they migrated to the maize field. It has been a challenge to manage the fall army worm invasion.</p>
		<p>Bagri Community</p> <p><b><u>Community Interactions</u></b>  The community chief and community members reacted positively to the visit and expressed their willingness to support and participate in the project if implemented. Their main source of livelihood is farming. UNDP is assisting the community by preparing a forty-acre land and providing irrigation facilities to the community for dry season farming. The community had formed four groups, each group comprised of eight women and seven men. They will plant pepper and other vegetables, they will also establish banana plantations. Tree planting along the Black Volta and Ghana - Côte d'Ivoire boundary will also be introduced. This project will collaborate with UNDP to expand these activities in the community and bring more community members on board.</p>
		<p>Kanpuoh Community</p> <p><b><u>Community Interactions</u></b>  The team were accompanied by the Lawra District Chief Executive, interaction with the community members revealed that the community has been a beneficiary of the UNDP Integrated Dryland Development Project (IDDP) and Ghana Environmental Management Project (GEMP). Activities</p>

		<p>implemented include sustainable land management practices, controlled tree cutting, setting aside non-burning areas for natural regeneration and tree growing. The community have their Community Environment Management Committee, Community Fire Volunteer Squads and Common Interest Groups still in place and functioning. FAO recognizing their effort in NRM provided them with processing machine to process their maize and shea nuts. The community has a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) since 2012 which collects and saves members' contributions, which gives loans and shares dividends to them to provide their household needs and plow back this investment to their farming systems to sustain the activities.</p> <p>They indicated that seasonal labour migration to the south during the long dry season has been reversed as outmigration has stopped and some migrants have returned home. This was attributed to the adoption of sustainable land and water management practices, which have resulted in improved soil productivity and fertility. There has also been improvement in yield among all farmers practicing integrated soil fertility management in the community. However, not all community members benefited from the GEMP and hope to use the upcoming project to sustain and upscale the activities using the knowledge and experiences acquired from GEMP. The community identified lack of farm inputs such as fertilizer, certified seeds, water for dry season gardening, credit facilities and marketing of farm produce as challenges being faced. Their expectation from the proposed project include: (a) dugout to carry out dry season farming; (b) be part of the coming project to start another plantation at another location and (c) establish rangeland to improve animal feed and access.</p>
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2017		
<b>3.3 Jirapa District</b>	<p>Planning OFFICER, Ministry of Agriculture, NAMDO</p>	<p><b><u>Interactions</u></b></p> <p>The meeting was held at the district conference hall, the District Coordinator welcomed the team and one of the team leaders, Mr. Amoako, informed the stakeholders present of the new project concept note being developed. He indicated that the consultations aimed at gathering their inputs to enrich the project proposal. On the incidence of Climate Change, stakeholders confirmed the changes in the vegetation/tree cover, loss of soil fertility, changes in rainfall patterns, all serving as indicators of climate change. Some of the challenges in the district are as follows: Annual bush burning; loss of vegetation cover; loss of soil fertility; land exposed to erosion and floods</p> <p>Some of the interventions in the district include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>World Vision support to NADMO - The NADMO Officer enumerated some of their activities as follows: Education of communities in flood prone areas, where to resettle, in time of floods; They advised communities to possibly relocate to higher grounds.</li> </ul>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GSOP - The Assembly is being sponsored by GSOP to coordinate tree planting exercises in three communities, since 2015. Tree species like cassia and mahogany are being planted in those community afforestation projects.</li> <li>• The following activities are being promoted by the Department of Agriculture: Training of farmers in compost making to enrich the soil; Provision of improved seeds of commercial crops for farmers to plant; Introduction of early maturing crops to farmers and Construction of dug out, wells and rehabilitation of damaged wells</li> <li>• CCAFS platform has been established in the district</li> <li>• RESULTS project - Involved in the provision of other alternative livelihood to the farmers like batik making.</li> <li>• World Vision - Assisting the women by introducing the Village Savings and Loans concept.</li> <li>• NRGP- Supporting selected communities in establishing tree plantation. Besides, it provided them with facilities/inputs like pumping machines and pipes for dry season farming along the Black Volta. It also provided Park House to store vegetables</li> </ul> <p>Some of the challenges the Farmers are facing include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial capital needed to commence their farming activities</li> <li>• Market for the farm produce (butter nut and watermelon)</li> <li>• Bad road network to their communities</li> <li>• Lack of storage facilities</li> <li>• Pest destruction of the farm produce</li> </ul>
	31 <sup>st</sup> May 2017	<p>Gbetuire Community</p> <p><b><u>Community Entry and Interactions</u></b></p> <p>The team were welcomed by the community elders and presented the project proposal; the community expressed support for the effort and indicated their commitment to participate. The community highlighted that their main source of income is farming and that the main problems that they are facing include: Poor soil fertility, leading to low yield; high cost of fertilizer; unpredictable rainfall; short period of rainfall; long dry period; floods disturbing their farms during the rainy season; Lack of irrigation inputs to facilitate dry season farming and Cattle herdsman destroying their farms.</p> <p>When asked about the causes of climate change, the community highlighted the bush burning by hunters and cattle boys/herdsman and cutting down of trees for charcoal production as the main causes. The community indicated that they are mainly engaged in groundnut and sorghum farming, and at times they also plant maize, which needs fertilizer to ensure good yields. In terms of access to water, the community said only one borehole serves the entire community. They also indicated that they have been involved in GSOP, SADA and NRGP project. GSOP helped them financially by giving</p>

			<p>them some monthly stipends for establishing tree plantations. They provided them with farm inputs like pumping machines and open up the roads to their community. NRGF supplied them with fertilizer and pumping machines to expand their farms. Tree seedlings were provided and planted by the community, but unfortunately most trees died due to lack of water during the long dry season and to fire outbreaks. They highlighted that access to farming inputs and resources - -such as dugouts, pumping machine, pipes and fencing materials and also construction of storage facilities are necessary to facilitate dry season farming.</p>
		Kunzokalah Community	<p><b><u>Community Entry and Interactions</u></b></p> <p>The team were welcomed by the elders of the community led by Mr. Sigbaa Ziedema. The team visited on-going projects supported by GSOP, RESULTS and former members of parliament of the area. The projects included the establishment of 5 hectares of Cassia plantation under the auspices of GSOP; aquaculture farming using cage culture with about 70% of the beneficiaries being women and supported by the RESULTS Project; and dry season gardening on ten hectares fenced area supported by the member of parliament of the area. Interactions with the community members at a community forum indicated that, farming is the main economic activity in the community; farmers are mostly engaged in groundnut, bambara beans, maize, beans, millet, yam, cassava (leaves as vegetables), tomatoes, okro, rice and guinea corn production. Some women gather stones for sale. They are also involved in livestock production but most of their cattle have been stolen.</p> <p>Challenges faced by the community, in relation to agriculture production include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Access to farm inputs especially fertilizers due to high costs;</li> <li>• Annual bushfires, which is believed to be spiritual with superstition;</li> <li>• Unreliable rainfall patterns with frequent dry spells;</li> <li>• Significant reduction in animal dropping for manure due to reduce numbers of animal rearing in the community;</li> </ul> <p>Alternative livelihoods the community depends on for income, especially during the long dry season include the following;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gathering of stones for sale for constructional purposes;</li> <li>• Pito brewing;</li> <li>• Shea butter extraction;</li> <li>• Aquaculture farming;</li> <li>• Dry season gardening for vegetable production.</li> </ul>

	Nyanvaara Community	<p><b><u>Community Entry and Interactions</u></b></p> <p>Agricultural activities undertaken in the community include cultivation of crops such as cowpea, groundnuts, millet, rice and maize. Livestock such as sheep, goats and fowls are reared in the community. Community members indicated that maize is cultivated by farmers who could afford to apply fertilizer to the crop, due to the poor nature of the soils. The cost of fertilizer is too high for most farmers and it is also not available at the time it is needed in the community. They indicated that crop yields have been declining over the last few years due mainly to declining soil fertility and poor plant population of crops. Among the crops planted in the community, yields from cowpea are high while the other crops give poor yields. Regarding rainfall patterns, the people reported that rainfall during 2016 was better than in the present year, 2017. However, rainfall patterns are generally unpredictable, and the duration of the season has shortened. In 2016, the rains started in April so by May, most farmers had planted; rains ended in October. They are convinced that bush burning and deforestation are contributing to the changing rainfall patterns.</p> <p>The causes of tree felling are mainly for charcoal production because there is a market for it, which serves as motivation for more charcoal production to support their livelihoods. Charcoal production can result in wildfires while other contributors are group hunters; sometimes fire originate in communities. They consider that stopping wildfires and tree felling could improve rainfall. Asked to propose alternatives to charcoal production, they proposed rearing of livestock and fowls. They however, expressed concerns about thieves and veterinary care for the animals. They also were interested in dry season gardening, if water sources are available, as well as in shea processing for the women in the community.</p>
<b>1 June 2017</b>		
<b>3.4 Wa West District</b>	<p>Wechau</p> <p>Planning Officer, NADMO</p> <p>Assembly man</p> <p>Department of Agriculture</p>	<p><b><u>General Discussions</u></b></p> <p>The team were welcomed by the stakeholders and presented the objectives of the consultations. This was followed by a discussion on climate change vulnerability indicators in the district. The participants highlighted the following indicators</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Incidence of annual bush fires and flooding</li> <li>• Ability of the community to recover from a disaster</li> <li>• Activities of the communities like tree cutting for charcoal production</li> <li>• Location of community, topography and soil type</li> <li>• Migration of youth to cities</li> </ul>



	Community Development Officer	<p>When asked about the adaptation/mitigation measures that the Assembly have put in place to address the challenges identified, they provided the following responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaboration with NGOs to facilitate tree planting in some of the affected communities.</li> <li>• Collaboration with WFP (community assets creation programme) for the provision of dug outs for fish farming in some communities</li> <li>• Selected communities were assisted with inputs to carry out dry season farming, which beneficiaries partially pay back after harvesting</li> <li>• Promotion the use of early maturing crop varieties</li> <li>• NRGPs supported farmers with pumps for dry season farming</li> <li>• Village Savings and Loans Associations have been introduced in some communities with assistance from UNICEF</li> <li>• Contractors in the districts have been instructed to plant trees to replace the number of trees destroyed whilst constructing roads.</li> </ul> <p>Participants were consulted regarding the interventions that from their view are not working; to this, the participants mentioned that the Sanitation Fund, one component of the Village Savings and Loans Associations- is not functioning due to the unwillingness of the women to contribute to the fund with the belief that men should rather provide toilet facilities at home and not women. They also mentioned that contractors engaged to construct community dugouts, normally, do not plant trees to replace the destroyed trees when carrying out their work. Besides, such dugouts do not support dry season farming as they dry out during the dry season due to lack of vegetative cover.</p> <p>When asked what could be done to address these issues, they mentioned that: all opinion leaders should be involved in decision-making; that there is a need for increased awareness; and that; community understanding of the project, involvement of community members and proper management of their expectations are also necessary for guaranteeing the success of any intervention.</p>
	Ponyamayili Community	<p><b><u>Community Entry and Interactions</u></b></p> <p>The community members indicated a number of challenges faced by the community-including: lack of farm inputs such as fertilizers and certified seeds; lack of credit facilities and marketing of farm produce; and lack of potable water, electricity and roads. It was indicated that agricultural productivity is currently low due to poor soil fertility, low and unreliable rainfall, and lack of extension services. It was also indicated that each individual farm has a maximum of 2 acres, although there is enough land to cultivate more. This is due to lack of resources. They are not beneficiaries of the LEAP Programme.</p>

	Berinyasi community	<p><b><u>Community Interactions</u></b></p> <p>Climate change impacts in the community include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late start of rainfall. Farmers normally use long duration crop varieties so they normally lose their harvest as a result of the shortened rainfall season. They therefore prefer short duration crop varieties.</li> <li>• Poor soil fertility; they have to use fertilizer before they can harvest anything from their farms,</li> <li>• They started planting cashew as an adaptation measure but they have challenges with getting cashew seedlings,</li> <li>• Their food security is poor because of low yields and long dry seasons,</li> <li>• There are no dug out of water systems for dry season gardening,</li> <li>• They only have one bore hole in the community, which is not enough for their potable water needs,</li> <li>• The youth migrate down south to provide labour during the long dry season. About 60% migrate annually leaving behind the elderly and the children.</li> </ul> <p>When asked what could be done to retain the youth in the community during the long dry season, they responded as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Establishment of a dug out for dry season gardening will incentivise the youth to stay. They cited Siiru community as an example where the provision of a dug out, has incentivised the youth to stay because they have an alternative to labour migration.</li> <li>• Involving youth in Shea processing</li> <li>• Engaging youth in animal rearing; e.g. small ruminants and poultry. There are areas dedicated for fodder and grazing of livestock</li> </ul>
	Naaha	<p><b><u>Community Interactions</u></b></p> <p>The team was welcomed by the Assemblyman of the area and taken to visit a community plantation on the western part of the community. According to the Assemblyman the plantation was started in 1998 with assistance from the Forest Service Division of the District, which provided them with tree species and guided them in planting the trees. The team also visited the chief palace, where participants were told about the project concept. Community members were consulted on the benefits they have perceived from planting trees. The following benefits were highlighted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community members are now able to get local medicinal requirements from the site</li> <li>• It has prevented the occurrence of bush fires as the place is humid throughout the year</li> <li>• It has promoted rainfall</li> <li>• It is serving as a suitable place for different species of wild animals</li> </ul>

		<p>They have a dug out adjacent to the plantation that serves as a source of drinking water for cattle and other animals. According to them they don't use the dug out for dry season farming as it cannot sustain such a venture, but they would do dry season farming if they were provided with a dam to serve that purpose. Their main occupation is farming, and they mainly engaged in maize, millet, and groundnut production. They confirmed the climate change has affected their farming activities, as they cannot predict the weather and as the planting period has been reduced drastically (May to 15th June).</p> <p><b>Their needs involve:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water source (Dam) to carry out dry season farming</li> <li>• Expanding production to other locations</li> </ul> <p><b>Previous projects experience</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were involved the GSOP project</li> <li>• Village Savings and Loans</li> </ul>
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**Table 4.** Summary of the stakeholder consultations undertaken in 2024

## Conclusion

The 2017 consultations identified climate change challenges and impacts on land, agriculture, water, forest, health and the energy sectors. The main vulnerabilities identified in the project area include:

- incidence of annual bush fires and flooding;
- poor soil fertility;
- lack of rainfall and unpredictable weather;
- short rainfall patterns;
- long dry seasons;
- severe sunshine;
- seasonal out migration among the youth; and
- lack of water for dry season farming.

The criteria used by the District Assemblies in selecting the beneficiary communities was mainly related to the vulnerability of the communities to climate change impacts such as flood flash, dry spells, wildfires, iron span formation, severe soil erosion, soil infertility, among others.

The most significant barriers identified in the project area include:

- floods occurrence;
- frequent long dry spells during rainy season;
- farming along riverbanks due to poor soil fertility;
- market access for their agricultural products;
- no veterinary services;
- insufficient and inadequate animal feed;
- seasonal- dry season- migration from the project area to the southern part of Ghana; and
- inadequate or unavailability of information and data on climate change risk and impacts on human health and suggested ways to adapt.

The adaptation options suggested by the stakeholders were;

- increase access to high quality seed, enabling farmers to adapt to drought, diversify crop varieties, and take advantage of favourable growing conditions for high valued crops;
- improve soil/land management practices and crop cultivation methods through adoption of sustainable land management practices or techniques;
- access affordable and higher quality farm inputs such as herbicides and pesticides;
- build capacity for extension service workforce in SLM; and
- good animal husbandry practices.

The consultations conducted in 2024 served a dual purpose: i) to validate the outcomes of the 2017 consultations; and ii) to gather additional data pertinent to the project's evolving scope. These engagements confirmed the continued validity of the previously identified climate vulnerabilities and adaptation needs, while also substantiating the project's ongoing community support. Furthermore, the consultations provided necessary insights into the application and dissemination of early warning information, a component not included in the initial version of this stakeholder engagement plan.

The 2024 consultations revealed gender disparities in agricultural practices, despite women's substantial contributions to farming activities. While men predominantly control land ownership and major decision-making processes, a noteworthy trend has emerged where women are gaining increased access to land through farmer-based organisations (FBOs). This development suggests a gradual shift in traditional land tenure systems and highlights the

potential for enhanced agricultural productivity through more equitable resource allocation. Livelihood diversification emerged as a principal resilience strategy across the consulted communities. In addition to traditional crop farming and livestock rearing, community members — particularly women — engage in various economic activities such as shea butter processing, petty trading, and seasonal migration. This diversification serves as a buffer against agricultural uncertainties and climate-related risks, underscoring the need for diverse livelihood approaches to rural economic development. The proliferation of Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) represents a considerable development in community finance. These grassroots systems function not only as sources of credit for agricultural inputs, health expenses, and education fees but also as platforms for social cohesion and knowledge exchange. The higher frequency of women's participation in VSLAs indicates their potential as mechanisms for enhancing women's financial agency and economic empowerment.

Access to accurate and timely agrometeorological information and advice emerged as a pressing need across all communities. While information dissemination occurs through various channels —including radio broadcasts, text messages, and agricultural extension agents — there is a universal demand for more precise and localised weather predictions and advisories. The communities' expressed willingness to pay for reliable weather information which underscores its perceived value in agricultural planning and risk management. However, language barriers — particularly in automated systems such as the Farmerline automated call centre — present substantial obstacles to information access for some community members, highlighting the need for more inclusive dissemination strategies.

The consultations also revealed well-established mechanisms for conflict resolution and grievance redress within these communities. These systems typically involve a hierarchical approach, beginning with interpersonal communication and escalating to traditional leadership structures such as chiefs, elders, and Tindaanas when necessary. For more severe challenges such as gender-based violence, institutional authorities like police or social welfare services may be involved. Notably, many communities demonstrated a preference for negotiated, consensus-based problem-solving approaches over punitive measures, reflecting a communal ethos in maintaining social harmony.

While capacity building initiatives have been implemented in these communities, with various training programmes focusing on agricultural techniques, dry season gardening, and value-addition activities, their efficacy is hampered by scheduling conflicts with women's domestic responsibilities. This challenge underscores the need for gender-responsive approaches in the design and implementation of community development initiatives (see Annex 8: Gender Assessment and Action Plan). Overall, despite observed progress, these communities continue to be subjected to persistent challenges including limited access to water for dry season farming, soil fertility degradation, insufficient agricultural inputs, and high livestock mortality rates. The 2024 consultations reaffirm the project's relevance and the urgent need for the early warning system (EWS) component. They underscore the importance of gender-responsive approaches in project implementation, the need for improved weather information dissemination, and the potential for leveraging existing community structures like VSLAs in project activities. Therefore, the project's focus on sustainable land management, improved agricultural practices, and EWS aligns well with the expressed needs and priorities of the communities, indicating a strong foundation for successful implementation and positive impact.

## **2. Stakeholder engagement during project implementation**

The proposed project, entitled *Climate-resilient landscapes for sustainable livelihoods in northern Ghana* has been designed to support collaborative and participatory approaches for all project interventions. During project implementation, continuous and iterative interactions between members of the project management unit (PMU) and beneficiaries of the project will be conducted to promote country ownership and uptake of all project interventions. Engagement with ethnic minorities under the project will be undertaken in alignment with the consultation strategy that is developed as part of the Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (EMPF). The stakeholder engagement plan will be elaborate by the PMU. The framework for the SEP is provided in the following section.

### *Stakeholder Engagement Plan*

The SEP will be designed by the PMU in Year 1 of implementation and comply with UNEP as well as GCF Environmental and Social Safeguards (ESS) standards. The SEP will be developed to align with the findings from the Environmental and Social Assessment and Management Framework (see Annex 6b) and the Ethnic Minority Engagement Framework (see Annex 6c) and will build on the findings from the public information and community engagements conducted during project development.

### Stakeholder Engagement Plan framework

Sufficient development of the SEP will require the following actions to be undertaken during Year 1 of project implementation.

- Stakeholder engagement prior to the implementation of project activities, including:
  - stakeholder identification and analysis emphasising organising dialogue events with affected groups; giving special attention to those whose vital interests, particularly employment, can potentially be affected by the project;
  - stakeholder engagement planning; activities and consultations with appropriate and diverse consultation methods (meetings, roundtable discussions, public hearings, focus groups, radio, newspapers);
  - information disclosure;
  - consultation and engagement; and
  - recording all activities and regular reporting to relevant stakeholders, EPA and UNEP.
- Adopting and implementing the SEP prior to engaging construction and service contracts, accounting for the nature and scale of the project and any potential adverse impacts on the affected communities. It must relate to the sensitivity of the environment and social concerns, and the level of public interest.
- Identifying and documenting the various individuals or groups who are likely to be affected, directly or indirectly, by the project.
- Establishing an effective grievance mechanism to facilitate prevention and timely
- resolution of disputes that may arise during the project life cycle. Mediation staffing must be established prior to project implementation.

The SEP will be written, maintained and managed by the PMU social safeguards officer, who will report to the Project Manager. Contained within the SEP will be mechanisms for the following priority actions:

- identification of relevant stakeholders;
- interaction with relevant stakeholders to define interests, roles and responsibilities;
- detailed recording of contact with all parties in the stakeholder engagement matrix;
- reporting arrangement of stakeholder engagements to the PMU and UNEP;

- planning for future engagement with relevant stakeholders over the lifetime of the project;
- creation of a Public Information Dissemination Plan;
- creation of a Community Consultation Plan;
- implementation plan for ongoing stakeholder engagement; and
- a system for monitoring the SEP and for third party evaluation of its efficiency to inform adaptive management during project implementation.

The primary functions of the SEP will be defining the following requirements for effective stakeholder engagement during project implementation:

- the stakeholder interactions needed at each stage of the project to enable consultations and participation at critical project points;
- appropriate and critical messages that the project needs to communicate to relevant stakeholders at different stages of the project while ensuring that official government and legal requirements for public notices are scheduled appropriately;
- activities required to undertake consultation, communication and participation;
- the process for monitoring stakeholder activities; and
- a basis for estimating staffing requirements for stakeholder activities.

The SEP will contain a sub-plan for Public Information Dissemination which will outline when and how information is provided to relevant stakeholders, to be developed during Year 1 of implementation. The sub-plan will establish a hierarchy of messages required for delivery to relevant stakeholders to ensure maximum efficiency. The messages will be designed to be appropriate for the method of delivery and target audience while providing flexibility for the inclusion of unexpected information. Included in the sub-plan will be a recording and reporting mechanism that is easily shareable with project partners. The PMU social safeguards officer will include public information activities as part of the stakeholder engagement reporting process.

The GCF requires that, for projects such as this one that are classified as Category B, information disclosure must follow its Revised Environmental and Social Policy and Information Disclosure Policy. Specifically, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)<sup>8</sup> must be made publicly available in both English and the relevant local language, where applicable. These documents must be disclosed at least 30 days prior to the GCF Board's or AE's consideration of the funding proposal, whichever earlier. Disclosure should be carried out through electronic links posted on both UNEP's the GCF's websites. In addition, for clarity during implementation, and give the wide range of activities from outputs 1 to 5, the AE is requested to define the potential subprojects for the purpose of identifying disclosure requirements during implementation. An explanation may be included defining a subproject. As an example, the AE may include that a subproject may comprise a specific intervention/activity or a set of intervention/activities from outputs 1 to 4.

The SEP will also contain a Community Consultation Plan as a further sub-plan, to ensure that communities most directly affected during the implementation period are properly and effectively informed and consulted about aspects of the project which will impact their homes, families and livelihoods. The PMU social safeguards officer will need to determine the format and number of consultations required to gather input from all relevant stakeholders. The sub-plan will need to consider the time requirements for all aspects of the consultation process.

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<sup>8</sup> Refer to Annex 6 for the ESMP details.

The SEP requires an implementation section which defines the roles and responsibilities of each actor and action required under the plan and the logistics required needed over the life of the project. This also includes identifying the staff and tools required to deliver an effective stakeholder engagement programme.

The SEP will include a monitoring process for all activities and will define targets and indicators against which progress can be assessed and performances evaluated, while providing for redirection of the programme as needed. These indicators will be based on the GCF Integrated Results Management Framework and project specific indicators<sup>9</sup> defined for the proposed project. The monitoring process will be developed during Year 1 of implementation.

#### Activity-level stakeholder engagement plan

Numerous activities under the project will involve periodic engagements with institutional and community representatives to ensure the project remains responsive to community needs and is appropriate for national and local contexts. The specific institutional and community representatives will be selected based on local presence and capacity to support project activities. For example, Business Advisory Centres will be engaged under Activity 4.3 and trained to coach Farmer-based Organisations (FBOs) and their members on the business and financial aspects of Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) and Climate-resilient Agriculture (CRA), thereby enhancing FBO bankability for local financial institutions. In addition, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) — such as AFAWI — that specifically target women farmers will be engaged. Where appropriate, the engagements with institutional and community representatives have been incorporated into the design of project activities. Table 5 below outlines the various stakeholder engagements that will be undertaken during project implementation, including the purposes of these engagements and the required participants. This list of stakeholder engagements is indicative and will be updated during project inception.

**Table 5.** Activity-level stakeholder engagement plan

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Stakeholder engagements</b>	<b>Period of engagement</b>	<b>Stakeholders</b>	<b>Budget (US\$ equivalent)<sup>10</sup></b>
1.1: Implement a new early warning data information and management system to provide access to improved data sources and new datasets on floods and droughts	Engagement with technical staff and district-level stakeholders to introduce and operationalise the new early warning system.	Years 1–5	Representatives from GMet, HYDRO, WRC, and relevant district-level staff	72,000 <sup>11</sup>
1.2: Enhancing hydrometeorological and groundwater monitoring observation networks	Meetings and capacity-building workshops for relevant stakeholders to strengthen hydrometeorological	Annually (Years 1–7)	Technical staff from GMet, HYDRO, WRC, and district-level staff (15 per year, totalling	120,000 <sup>12</sup>

<sup>9</sup> Refer to Funding Proposal Sections E.3 and E.5, respectively, for these indicators.

<sup>10</sup> All stakeholder engagement activities are funded using GCF funds.

<sup>11</sup> Based on Sub-activity 1.1.2 and Activity 1.3.3 in Annex 4.

<sup>12</sup> Based on Sub-activities 1.2.1 and 1.2.2 in Annex 4.



	and groundwater monitoring.		105 participants)	
1.3: Capacitate key technical staff at national, regional and district levels, including GMet, HYDRO and WRC, for drought and flood services delivery	Two training sessions per year for technical staff at national, regional and district levels, including GMet, HYDRO and WRC, in each of the eight target districts.	Annually (Years 1–7)	Technical staff from GMet, HYDRO, WRC; district and regional representatives. 30 participants per training session (240 per year, totalling 1,680 participants)	54,000 <sup>13</sup>
1.4: Establishing a robust national framework for disseminating DSS and climate-related hazard management to communities.	Capacity-building workshops, development of communication mechanisms, and dissemination of DSS information to national and local stakeholders.	Years 2–5	National-level stakeholders, local community leaders, technical staff from MoA, GMet, HYDRO, WRC (20 per workshop, totalling 120 participants)	90,000 <sup>14</sup>
1.5: Implement national action plan for coordinating drought and flood hazard management in the agricultural sector	Stakeholder workshops and meetings to operationalise and implement the national action plan.	Years 3–7	Technical staff from MoA, GMet, HYDRO, WRC, and representatives from farming communities (25 per workshop, totalling 175 participants)	180,000 <sup>15</sup>
2.1: Train extension officers on climate-resilient agricultural practices, EbA and alternative climate-resilient livelihoods.	Deliver two training sessions per year for extension officers in each of the eight target districts.	Years 1–7	Extension officers and relevant community representatives across the project sites	224,000 <sup>16</sup>
2.2: Train beneficiary communities in northern Ghana on climate-resilient agricultural practices, EbA and alternative climate-resilient livelihoods.	Project sensitisation workshops in each of the targeted communities.	Years 1–5	Representatives from common interest groups	192,000 <sup>17</sup>
	CIGs established and targeted training on specific climate change adaptation	Years 2–6		240,000 <sup>18</sup>

<sup>13</sup> Based on Sub-activities 1.3.2 and 1.3.3 in Annex 4.

<sup>14</sup> Based on Sub-activities 1.4.1–1.4.3 in Annex 4.

<sup>15</sup> Based on Sub-activities 1.5.1–1.5.3 in Annex 4.

<sup>16</sup> Based on Sub-activity 2.1.3 in Annex 4.

<sup>17</sup> Based on Sub-activities 2.2.2 and 2.2.5 in Annex 4.

<sup>18</sup> Based on Sub-activity 2.2.5 in Annex 4.

	interventions delivered to beneficiaries.			
2.3: Develop community climate action plans (CCAPs) in collaboration with beneficiary communities.	Workshops in each of the targeted communities to develop/finalise a CCAP.	Years 1–5	Five extension officers from the relevant target communities as well as relevant community representatives	240,000 <sup>19</sup>
2.4: Implement climate change adaptation interventions, including climate-resilient agricultural practices, EbA and alternative climate-resilient livelihoods, identified in the CCAPs in beneficiary communities.	Training sessions and direct engagement with beneficiary communities for the implementation of adaptation interventions.	Years 3–7	Community representatives, extension officers, and relevant district-level staff	560,000 <sup>20</sup>
2.5: Develop a monitoring and evaluation strategy for climate advisory services in northern Ghana to improve the accuracy and appropriateness of advisories for smallholder farmers.	Design and implement an M&E strategy, conduct annual community surveys and establish feedback channels like meetings and digital platforms. Analyse results and integrate them into advisory practices. Train extension officers and government officials on M&E procedures.	Years 1–5	M&E specialists, extension officers, and government officials (5 community surveys annually x 5 years = 25 surveys; 50 participants per survey = 1,250 participants)	10,500 <sup>21</sup>
3.1: Implement land restoration on communal land in 120 comm	The project will establish tree nurseries to support reforestation in 120 communities; Undertake community consultations, and secure the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples when involved, on final location for restoration as per CCAPs and agree on modalities for plantings, maintenance and protection of the sites and Undertaken	Years 1 - 7	Five extension officers from the relevant target communities as well as relevant community representatives	216,000 <sup>22</sup>

<sup>19</sup> Based on Sub-activity 2.3.1 in Annex 4.

<sup>20</sup> Based on Sub-activity 2.4.2 in Annex 4.

<sup>21</sup> Based on Sub-activity 2.5.1 in Annex 4.

<sup>22</sup> drawn from Activity 3.1.2 in Annex 4

	annual restoration plantings and maintenance in agreed areas as per CCAPs.			
4.1: Establish farmer-based organisations (FBOs) and Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) that can access credit and insurance for farming and non-farming livelihood activities.	Community engagement sessions and capacity-building workshops to establish FBOs and VSLAs. Moreover, provide training on business and financial management techniques.	Years 2–5	Community representatives, extension officers, and relevant district-level staff	96,000 <sup>23</sup>
4.2: Connect FBOs and local financial institutions to improve access of beneficiary communities to credit and insurance products.	Develop and distribute knowledge products, host workshops, include LFIs representatives in training events, and conduct roadshows to engage LFIs with beneficiary communities.	Years 2–6	Approximately 80 participants (50 LFI representatives, 20 FBO members, 10 facilitators) in workshops and roadshows. Knowledge products distributed to 10 LFIs.	39,000 <sup>24</sup>
4.3: Establish a blended finance model to provide credit lines to support climate-resilient agriculture.	Engagement with local financial institutions and government bodies to establish the blended finance model.	Years 3–7	Representatives from LFIs, Ministry of Finance, and agricultural extension services. Approximately 60 participants (30 from LFIs, 20 from FBOs, 10 Ministry of Finance representatives)	136,100 <sup>25</sup>
5.1: Generate and disseminate knowledge products capturing best practice and lessons learned to inform the upscaling of climate change adaptation across northern Ghana.	Development and distribution of knowledge products through various channels, including workshops and conferences.	Years 4–7	Government staff, NGOs, academic institutions, and community representatives	

<sup>23</sup> Based on Sub-activity 4.1.1 in Annex 4.

<sup>24</sup> Based on Sub-activity 4.1.2 in Annex 4.

<sup>25</sup> Based on Sub-activities 4.3.1, 4.3.3., 4.3.4 and 4.3.6 in Annex 4.

5.2: Conduct knowledge-sharing and awareness-raising events.	Community knowledge-sharing events where people from non-beneficiary communities and extension officers from non-target districts are exposed to the adaptation interventions and approaches implemented by this project.	Years 2–6	Approximately 100 community members from five communities, as well as relevant district staff and extension officers (with a minimum of 10 participants each)	336,000 <sup>26</sup>
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### Grievance Redress Mechanism

As part of the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) will be established, informed by input from local communities and the existing methods used for conflict resolution (see Annex 6c: Environmental and Social Assessment Management Framework). The GRM will integrate traditional practices with formal institutional processes to create a culturally appropriate system that addresses community concerns effectively while supporting the overall success of the project. Based on findings from the 2024 mission, local community disputes are initially addressed through direct interpersonal communication, escalating to mediation by traditional authorities such as Chiefs, Tindaanas, and Assemblymen when necessary. Unit Committees and Queen Mothers play supportive roles, particularly in advocating for marginalised groups. For more complex challenges, including gender-based violence or child abuse, resolution pathways extend from family and community support systems to religious leaders and formal institutions, such as police or social welfare services.

Building on the experiences of previous donor-funded projects, an institutional GRM has been established with a tiered structure. The GRM initiates with community committees supported by extension officers, progresses to district-level steering committees comprising District Assembly members and EPA representatives, and culminates at the national steering committee and central EPA Office. This structure ensures grievances are managed at each level with precision, supported by regular reporting mechanisms that enhance accountability and transparency. The project's GRM establishment strategy aims to integrate these traditional and institutional mechanisms into a comprehensive system. This integration will involve clearly defined escalation criteria, enhanced inclusivity measures for marginalised groups and specialised protocols for complex cases. The strategy emphasises a community-centric approach, focusing on negotiated, problem-solving methods that benefit the community as a whole. To ensure effectiveness, the project will implement capacity-building initiatives for community leaders and committee members, alongside monitoring and evaluation processes.

The institutional GRM described above provides a foundation for managing grievances across multiple levels. Rather than creating a different system, the project will adopt and build upon these existing structures, tailoring them to meet its specific needs. This strategy ensures that the project benefits from proven mechanisms while maintaining consistency with local practices and institutional frameworks.

### **Community level structures**

<sup>26</sup> Based on Sub-activity 5.2.7 in Annex 4.

At the community level, the project will use the existing community committees supported by extension officers as the foundation for its local grievance management. These committees, already familiar to community members, provide a sufficient starting point for the project's GRM. To adapt this structure to project needs, the composition of these committees will be augmented to include project-specific representatives, ensuring relevance to project activities. Committee members will receive training on project-related challenges and resolution techniques specific to potential project-induced grievances. Clear communication channels between these committees and project management will be established to facilitate efficient information flow.

### **District-level structures**

At the district level, the project will integrate its grievance management processes with the existing district-level steering committees. This integration will involve appointing project liaisons to participate in relevant district steering committee meetings and developing protocols for addressing project-related grievances within the existing committee structure. District Assembly members and EPA representatives on these committees will be briefed on project specifics to facilitate informed decision-making. This approach ensures that project-related grievances are addressed within the established framework while benefiting from the expertise and authority of the district-level structures.

### **Regional-level structures**

The project will leverage regional coordination offices to ensure effective grievance management and information flow between the district and national level. In the context of northern Ghana, these offices will participate in addressing environmental and social challenge related to climate-resilient agriculture and ecosystem-based adaptation (EbA) interventions. Regional structures will include technical coordination offices that represent relevant stakeholders such as EPA and other relevant institutions. These offices will facilitate grievance resolution by managing challenges that arise across multiple districts, particularly those related to project activities that span large geographic areas. Unresolved grievances or those requiring further action will be escalated to the EPA's Client Relations Unit (CRU) at the national level, ensuring systematic documentation and resolution. This regional layer will enhance the project's ability to address cross-district challenges, minimising delays and ensuring the effective implementation of climate-resilient strategies.

### **National level structures**

The project will coordinate closely with the national steering committee and central EPA Office. This coordination will involve regular reporting of project-specific grievance data to the central EPA Office and participation in relevant national steering committee meetings. These interactions will provide opportunities to update national stakeholders on project GRM activities and seek guidance on complex cases. The project will align its GRM procedures with national standards while maintaining flexibility to address project-specific needs, ensuring consistency with broader governance frameworks.

### **Specialised protocols and inclusivity**

Building on the existing GRM structure, the project will develop and implement specialised protocols for addressing grievances related to project activities, ensuring they complement existing procedures. Additional inclusivity measures will be tailored to the project's stakeholder groups, particularly focusing on those who may be impacted by project activities. Clear escalation criteria will be defined to determine when and how grievances move from project-specific handling to the broader institutional GRM, ensuring a seamless interface between project and institutional mechanisms.

### **Capacity building initiatives**

To ensure effective adoption of the existing GRM structure the project will implement targeted

capacity building initiatives. These will include: i) training for community committee members on project-specific aspects and how they integrate with existing GRM processes; ii) workshops for district and regional level officials on the project's activities and potential impacts; and iii) orientation sessions for national-level stakeholders on how the project's GRM activities align with and support broader institutional mechanisms. These initiatives will improve the overall capacity of the GRM while ensuring its effectiveness for project-specific needs.

### **Monitoring and evaluation**

The project will also implement a monitoring and evaluation system to track the effectiveness of adopting existing GRM structures for project-specific needs. This system will identify areas where further adaptation may be necessary to meet project goals and provide regular feedback to all levels of the existing GRM structure on project-related grievance trends and resolutions. This continuous assessment and improvement process will ensure that the adopted GRM remains responsive to both project and broader community needs.

In alignment with international best practices, the project-level GRM will address community concerns promptly through dialogue and engagement. The mechanism will employ an understandable and transparent process that is culturally appropriate, rights-compatible, and readily accessible to all stakeholders at no cost and without retribution. Particular attention will be paid to ensuring the GRM is gender- and age-inclusive, responsive to the needs of women, the elderly, persons with disabilities, youth, and other potentially marginalised groups (see Annex 8: Gender Assessment and Action Plan). The GRM's design will specifically address potential access barriers for these groups, tailoring approaches as appropriate to the project context. While providing an effective means of resolution, the GRM will not impede access to judicial or administrative remedies that may be relevant or applicable.

### **Sexual exploitation and harassment (SEAH) and GBV related grievances**

Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment (SEAH) require a dedicated and survivor-centred grievance mechanism that operates alongside the broader project-level GRM. SEAH cases will be handled through a parallel process to ensure confidentiality, accessibility, and access to survivor support services. This system will be implemented in alignment with Ghana's legal framework, including the Criminal Offences Act (Act 29), Domestic Violence Act (Act 732), Labour Act (Act 651), and Children's Act (Act 560), which provide mandates on SEAH-related offences, survivor protections, and reporting obligations.

Due to the sensitivity of SEAH grievances, they will bypass community-level structures and be handled directly at the district level by the District Environmental Management Committees (DEMCs). This ensures confidentiality while integrating SEAH grievance handling into the established project GRM governance structure. Each DEMC will designate a Gender Focal Point, responsible for managing SEAH grievances, facilitating survivor referrals, and ensuring appropriate case handling.

### **Methods for Lodging a SEAH Grievance**

To ensure accessibility, multiple confidential reporting mechanisms will be established at the district level and above. These will allow survivors to report grievances safely and without fear of retaliation. The available mechanisms will include:

- Direct reporting to the DEMC Gender Focal Point: Survivors may report grievances directly to the designated Gender Focal Point within the DEMC, ensuring confidential handling.

- Hotlines and text-based reporting: A dedicated SEAH hotline and SMS-based reporting platform will be established where feasible.
- Direct referral to DOVVSU: Survivors may also approach the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) for legal intervention.
- Anonymous reporting: Options will be provided for survivors to lodge complaints anonymously.
- NGO-supported mechanisms: Where available, SEAH grievances may also be reported through partner NGOs with demonstrated experience in supporting survivors of GBV and SEAH.

The DEMC Gender Focal Points will be responsible for ensuring that grievances are separately recorded, processed with confidentiality, and referred to the appropriate support services.

### **Addressing SEAH Incidents: Support, Escalation & Investigation**

Upon lodging a grievance, survivors will be provided with immediate access to professional support services, ensuring they receive assistance regardless of the outcome of the grievance process. These services will include:

- Medical care, including forensic examinations where applicable.
- Psychosocial support, such as trauma-informed counselling.
- Legal assistance, including guidance on available options.
- Protection and reintegration support, ensuring survivors do not face social stigma.

Victim support services will be provided by NGOs active in the area with experience in SEAH/GBV. These organisations will be identified during project inception, ensuring that all service providers have the necessary expertise in providing such support services, including trauma-informed survivor support, legal guidance, and psychosocial care. Where additional long-term survivor support services (such as shelter, reintegration assistance, or extended psychosocial care) are required, the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection (MoGCSP) will be engaged to facilitate referrals to government-coordinated GBV response services.

The DEMC Gender Focal Points will coordinate grievance handling at the district level, ensuring that all SEAH cases are appropriately managed. However, DEMCs will not conduct investigations. DOVVSU will serve as the designated government entity responsible for legal investigation and law enforcement referral. Where required, cases may be escalated to regional or national authorities. Cases will only be referred to law enforcement with survivor consent, unless Ghana's legal framework mandates compulsory reporting. Survivors will be provided with legal guidance before any formal action is taken.

To prevent future SEAH incidents, the project will conduct root cause investigations, identifying whether project structures, staff conduct, or community practices contributed to reported grievances. Where project personnel, contractors, or affiliated individuals are implicated, appropriate disciplinary measures will be implemented, ranging from warnings to contract termination and legal referral.

### **GCF Independent Redress Mechanism**

In addition to the project level GRM and the UNEP SRM, project-affected persons will also have access to the GCF independent redress mechanism (IRM). While the GCF IRM operates independently from the proposed project GRM, it also serves to address complaints and grievances from persons adversely impacted by projects or programmes of the GCF. After verifying eligibility, the IRM engages with the relevant parties to explore options for resolving the challenges that are raised in the complaint, with an aim to reach a mutually satisfactory outcome. If parties are unwilling or unable to resolve the challenges, the IRM conducts a compliance appraisal to determine whether a compliance investigation is merited, and if so, investigates to identify any non-compliance with GCF policies or procedures in relation to the complaint and recommends appropriate redress. The IRM monitors any problem-solving agreement or compliance recommendations that result from its processes.

Based on discussions with the primary stakeholders in a complaint or request, the IRM will collaborate with them to develop a jointly agreed problem-solving process. This is intended to address the challenges raised or, where there is no opportunity for a problem-solving process, refer the case for IRM compliance review. The IRM conducts independent compliance appraisals and investigations of GCF projects and programs and their adherence to GCF policies and procedures. It makes recommendations to the GCF board based on its review with the intention of ensuring compliance and providing redress.

Through this comprehensive approach, the project aims to establish a GRM that not only resolves conflicts effectively, but strengthens community cohesion and supports the overall success of the project implementation.

## **Information disclosure**

Information disclosure is a critical component of safeguards implementation and stakeholder engagement. In accordance with UNEP's Environmental and Social Sustainability Framework (ESSF) and the Green Climate Fund's Information Disclosure Policy (IDP) and Revised Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), the project will ensure that environmental and social information is made available to stakeholders in a timely, accessible, and culturally appropriate manner.

The following documents will be disclosed both centrally and at the community level, as relevant to the project stage and the nature and scale of the activity:

- The project's purpose, nature and scale, duration, and potential environmental and social risks and impacts;
- Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF);
- Indigenous Peoples Planning Framework (IPPF), and any Indigenous Peoples Plans (IPPs) developed during implementation;
- Environmental and Social Impact Assessments (ESIAs), site-specific Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs),
- The Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM).

In line with GCF requirements, any ESIA and associated ESMP prepared for Category B interventions will be disclosed at least 30 calendar days prior to GCF Board decision or Accredited Entity approval, whichever is earlier. Disclosure will take place on both the GCF and UNEP websites and via appropriate local mechanisms.

The ESMF, IPPF, and any future IPPs will be made available in English at district centres across the project landscapes, recognising English as the national language of Ghana. At the



district and sub-district levels, summaries of safeguards documents will be translated into appropriate local languages to support accessibility. This approach reflects Ghana's high degree of linguistic diversity—home to over 80 languages—and aims to maximise inclusion within feasible operational limits.

Specifically, for any subproject identified during implementation, the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) must be made publicly available in both English and the relevant local language, where applicable. These documents must be disclosed at least 30 days prior to the GCF Board's or AE's consideration of the funding proposal, whichever is earlier. Disclosure should be carried out through electronic links posted on both UNEP's and the GCF's website.

In addition, for clarity during implementation, and give the wide range of activities from outputs 1 to 4, the AE is requested to define the potential subprojects for the purpose of identifying disclosure requirements during implementation. An explanation may be included defining a subproject. As an example, the AE may include that a subproject may comprise a specific intervention/activity or a set of intervention/activities from outputs 1 to 4.

At the local level, information will also be shared through community meetings, printed materials, and oral briefings. All communication methods will be designed to be accessible to women, persons with disabilities, and other marginalised groups, including Indigenous Peoples. During project inception, the PMU will prepare a Disclosure Implementation Plan to confirm roles, timing, language needs, and appropriate dissemination channels. Progress on disclosure will be tracked and reported through safeguards monitoring and evaluation processes.

## **APPENDIX 1 — proposed consultation questions from AFAWI**

### *The idea of gender*

Not all people are the same because there are differences in gender. By gender we mean group of people like men, women, children and physical challenged. Whatever we are doing affects gender components differently. We want to understand all needs of the different groups of gender and look, especially on the vulnerable ones. We need to ask ourselves where, how and why the inequalities are.

### *Marriage and family structure*

Research from the northern part of Ghana indicates that normally men own the brand of landed properties including land which is their economic asset. As the land is the main assets it means ownership can be a problem in terms of gender.

1. Who owns the economic land of the family?
2. How is the production done?
3. Activities concerning the farming: What does the men do? What does the women do?
4. How are the activities distributed in terms of gender roles?

### *Religion/Norms and Taboos*

1. What are traditional norms and taboos related to economic and climate change?
  - 1.1 What are norms and taboos in terms of gender?
2. Which of the norms negatively affects the economic activities which gender?

### *Income/Economic*

1. What work does men, women and children do in terms of their farming activities?
2. How is the family income distributed?/Do families share it or each person has its own?
3. If it comes to poverty, who is affected?

### *Decision-making*

1. How is the production done?
2. How is the distribution done?
3. How is the consumption done?
4. How is the decision making concerning the families work, the land, the food they eat, etc.?

### *Health*

1. Who is more vulnerable in terms of health and risks?
2. How does the famers work physically affects the men? How the women?

### *Education*

1. How is the level of literacy in terms of gender?

### *Implementation*

1. How does lack of the needs of the men, women and children affects their livelihood?
2. How are the main needs of the people according to gender be met for effective implementation for climate change resilience?
3. How many women and men beneficiaries can be identified with climate resilient agriculture practices and alternative climate resilient livelihood activities in the district?
4. How will gender mainstreamed in the current implementation of climate change adaptation by EPA interventions help the target communities?