

GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAMME (GCFRP)

SCREENING CHECKLIST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS ISSUES

1. Project Information: Name and Contact Details:			
Project Name GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+PROGRAMME (GCFRP) ENRICHMENT PLANTING	Location: (region/district/village) AHAFO/GOASO/AWADURO		
	If other, explain:		
FSD /WD District Focal Point	GEORGE BOAMEY		
Name of reviewer:	MICHAEL BOAKYE AMPONSAH	Date of screening:	APRIL, 2021

Subproject Details: Attach location map (longitude – latitude coordinates (GPS reading) if available):	
Type of activity: <i>What will be done, who will do it, what are the objectives and outcomes</i>	Enrichment Planting Staff, (Compartment cutting, Clearing, Strip cutting, pegging and planting), Kensere community work gang, To restore the compartment with valuable economic tree species thereby enhancing the biodiversity of the area.
Estimated Cost:	GH 27,740 cedis
Proposed Date of Commencement of Work:	June, 2021
Expected Completion of Work	June, 2024
Technical Drawing/Specifications Reviewed:	Yes

2. Physical Data:	Comments
Subproject Site area in ha	141.32 ha in Compartment 7 of the Goa Shelterbelt Forest Reserve
Extension of or changes to existing land use	No
Any existing property?	No
Any plans for construction, movement of earth, changes in land cover	No

3. Preliminary Environmental Information:	Yes/No	Refer to Process Framework	Specify/ Provide Comments
Is there adjacent/nearby critical natural habitat?	Yes		Forest reserve
Is there activities On Forest Reserve?	Yes		MTS and Enrichment planting activities on reserve.
Is there activity adjacent to Forest Reserve?	Yes		Cocoa farming
What is the land currently being used for? (e.g. agriculture, gardening, etc.)			Forest Reserve

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Will the proposed activities have any impact on any ecosystem services, biodiversity issues or natural habitats?	Yes		Increase tree population, biodiversity and carbon stock enhancement
Will there be restrictions or loss of access to using natural resources in any traditional areas including medicinal plants or those of economic value for livelihoods?	Yes		There will be limited access to NTFPs for domestic use
Will there be water resource impacts?	No		
Will there be soil impacts?	No		
Will the subproject require use of pesticides?	No		
Are there any new or changing forest management planning or activities?	No		
Any cultural heritage/sacred sites in project area?	No		There will be an application of both indigenous and forest management practices and respect for taboo days

4. Preliminary Social and Land Information:	Yes/No	Refer to Process Framework	Specify/ Provide Comments
Has there been litigation or complaints of any environmental nature directed against the proponent or subproject?	No		
Will the subproject require the acquisition of land?	No		
What is the status of the land holding (customary, lease, community lands, etc.)?			Government Land
Is there evidence of land tenure status of farmers and/or occupants (affidavit, other documentation)?	No		
Are there outstanding land disputes?	No		
Has there been proper consultation with stakeholders?	Yes		Consultation with Traditional Authorities and fringe communities
Is there a grievance process identified for PAPs and is this easily accessible to these groups/individuals?	Yes		GCFRP FGRM in place for addressing potential grievances
Will there be any changes to livelihoods?	Yes		Improvement in farmers livelihoods when employed and paid by the FSD to support their livelihoods.
What are the main issues associated with farmer benefits and community benefits?			No issues encountered as at the time of screening

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Will any restoration or compensation be required with "admitted" farmers?	No		
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5. Impact identification and classification:

When considering the location of a subproject, rate the sensitivity of the proposed site in the following table according to the given criteria. Higher ratings do not necessarily mean that a site is unsuitable. They indicate a real risk of causing undesirable adverse environmental and social effects, and that more substantial environmental and/or social planning may be required to adequately avoid, mitigate or manage potential effects. The following table should be used as a reference.

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Issues	Site Sensitivity			Rating (L,M,H)
	Low	Medium	High	
Natural habitats	No natural habitats present of any kind	No critical natural habitats; other natural habitats occur	Critical natural habitats present; within declared protected areas	If High Refer to Annex 3.1 and Contact Regional EPA
Water quality and water resource availability and use	Water flows exceed any existing demand; low intensity of water use; potential water use conflicts expected to be low; no potential water quality issues	Medium intensity of water use; multiple water users; water quality issues are important	Intensive water use; multiple water users; potential for conflicts is high; water quality issues are important	If High Refer to Annex 3.1 and Contact Regional EPA
Natural hazards vulnerability, floods, soil stability/ erosion	Flat terrain; no potential stability/ erosion problems; no known flood risks	Medium slopes; some erosion potential; medium risks from floods	Mountainous terrain; steep slopes; unstable soils; high erosion potential; flood risks	If High Refer to Annex 3.1 and Contact Regional EPA
Land and Farming Tenure	No conflicts, disagreements around use of land, tenant farmer rights and location of admitted farms and farmers transparent	Process of land regularization and rights to natural resources being worked out with clear communication and grievance process in place	Land conflicts historically unresolved, admitted farmers being evicted, tenant farmers losing rights and no transparency or grievance redress available	If Medium or High Refer to Process Framework

Summary of Site Sensitivity (Rate as Low/Medium/High for the site and provide comments)					
Site	Natural habitats	Water quality and water resource availability and use	Natural hazards vulnerability, floods, soil stability/ erosion	Land and Farming Tenure	Comments
Compartment 23 of the Ayum Forest Reserve	Medium	Low	Low	Low	Low impact on natural habitat, water quality, soil and land use due to the measures adapted to restore enrichment planting site. There is also no sensitive site found at the area of planting.

6. E & S assessment comments based on site visit

(use additional sheet and attach if necessary):

Summary Observations

The total site developed is 14.15 which is below 40ha and will not have any impact on the regenerative capacity of the natural habitat but rather restore the forest cover and enrich the area planted with diverse indigenous tree species increasing biodiversity.

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Potential Environmental and Social Issues That Require Referral to EPA or Using EA1 Form

	Benchmark and Issues	Impact description			Remark
			Yes	No	
1.	Statutory provisions	Is the proposed plantation area less than 40ha?		No	If yes, proceed with EA1 Form
2.	Statutory provisions (see <i>Natural Habitat Issues in Checklist</i>)	Are there any ecologically sensitive/ critical areas within the proposed project area		No	
3.	Protected areas and wildlife	Will project activities potentially impact natural habitats or critical wildlife species		No	
4.	Biodiversity loss	Will land use change or vegetation clearance lead to loss of exceptional flora/ fauna		No	
	Water pollution	1. Is there a local stream close to the project site? 2. Does it flow all year round? 3. How long does it take to walk to this stream 4. Do you think any project activity will affect this stream		No	
6.	Soil erosion	Are there steep slopes in the project area? Can you easily walk on the slopes without falling		No	

7. Impact Identification and Mitigation (use additional sheet and attach if necessary)

Impact/Risk	ESMF Mitigation Options & Others
<p>Biodiversity Reduction in valuable indigenous economic tree species</p> <p>Forest Management Forest degradation through wildfire</p> <p>Security and Safety Inadequate and poor use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) Delayed court processes of certain grievances such participation issues</p> <p>Soil Tree population reduction leads to low soil stability</p> <p>Cultural Heritage Not preserving local identity and heritage of fringe communities</p>	<p>Biodiversity Design planting to include diverse indigenous tree species in their right proportions and positions which mimics the composition of trees at planting area</p> <p>Forest Management Educate and train fringe communities on fire hazards control and prevention methods, ensure regular patrols to reduce fire threats, create fire rides around MTS plantations.</p> <p>Security and Safety Provision of PPEs such as overall, raincoat, safety boots to community work gang and field staff.</p> <p>Use the GCFRP FGRM modalities to address grievances</p> <p>Soil Improvement of soil stability through planting of diverse indigenous tree species.</p> <p>Community Heritage Respect the knowledge and rights of local people by obeying and adhering to taboo days which is seen as sacred.</p>

Determination of environmental category based on findings of the screening: A ___ B ___ C ___

A Requires an EIA/ESMP

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- B Requires preparation of additional E&S information to support ESMF
 - C Does not require further environmental or social due diligence – Refer to ESMF
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Prepared by: George Boamey

Date: April, 2021
