



# **PROGRESS UPDATE ON GCFRP IMPLEMENTATION**

## Table of contents

<b>INTRODUCTION</b> .....	1
<b>1. FOREST RESERVE REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION</b> .....	1
<b>1.1 MODIFIED TAUNGYA SYSTEM (MTS)</b> .....	1
<b>1.2 TREES ON FARM (TOF)</b> .....	1
<b>1.3 MAINTENANCE OF ENRICHMENT PLANTING SITE</b> .....	1
<b>1.4 PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE / ADDITIONAL LIVELIHOODS FOR FARMERS</b> .....	2
<b>1.5 UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING SECURED FROM PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS:</b> .....	5
<b>2. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND MRV</b> .....	7
<b>2.1 DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND MONITORING REPORT</b> .....	7
<b>2.2 DEVELOPMENT OF SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING REPORT</b> 8	
<b>2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF MONITORING FRAMEWORK</b> .....	10
<b>2.4 FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM</b> .....	11
<b>2.5 MITIGATIONS AGAINST RISK OF REVERSALS</b> .....	13
<b>3. LANDSCAPE PLANNING WITHIN HIA AREAS</b> .....	15
<b>3.1 DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GCFRP AREA</b> .....	15
<b>3.2 CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE HIA FUNCTIONAL UNITS AND CONSORTIUM PARTNERS IN ASUNAFO ASUTIFI</b> .....	1
<b>3.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF GCFRP BENEFIT SHARING PLAN (BSP)</b> .....	2
<b>3.4 CAPACITY BUILDING ON BENEFIT SHARING PLAN</b> .....	2
<b>3.5 STRENGTHENING AWARENESS ON THE BENEFITS-SHARING ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAMME</b> .....	3
<b>3.6 TRAINING OF LANDSCAPE-LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS ON BSP OPERATIONALIZATION</b> .....	4

<b>3.7 FORMATION OF HIA IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (HIC)</b> .....	5
<b>3.7.1 HIC MAIDEN MEETING</b> .....	6
<b>3.8 CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENTS WITH FUNCTIONAL UNITS OF THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES</b> .....	7
<b>3.8.1 FUND FLOW MECHANISM CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING FOR HIA STAKEHOLDERS</b> .....	7
<b>3.8.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON COMMUNITY AND FARMER BENEFITS</b> .....	8
<b>4. RISK MANAGEMENT &amp; FINANCE</b> .....	10
<b>5. GOING FORWARD</b> .....	25
<b>ANNEX 1</b> .....	26
<b>UPDATE ON BENEFIT SHARING PLAN</b> .....	26
<b>ANNEX 2</b> .....	28

## **List of abbreviations**

BSP	Benefit Sharing Plan
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CRMC	Community Resource Management Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DA	District Assembly
EP	Enrichment Planting
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FC	Forestry Commission
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
HIA	Hotspot Intervention Area
HMB	HIA Management Board
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MMDA	Metropolitan, Municipal District Assembly
MTS	Modified Taungya System
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
RDA	REDD+ Dedicated Accounts
REDD	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
SHEC	Sub-HIA Executive Committee
TOR	Terms of Reference
WB	World Bank

## **List of Tables**

Table 1: Enrichment Planting Achievement.....	2
Table 2: Additional livelihood options for farmers.....	3
Table 3: List of representatives for the HICs .....	6

## **List of Pictures**

Picture 1: Engagement of local actors on livelihood options across the HIAs .....	5
Picture 2: Alternative livelihoods - Bee keeping and vegetable farming in Juaboso – Bia HIA.....	6
Picture 3: Alternative livelihoods – Piggery in Juaboso – Bia HIA.....	6
Picture 4: Engaging community members in Juaboso-Bia HIA as part of data collection.....	10
Picture 5: Capacity building for stakeholders in Asunafo - Asutifi HIA.....	2
Picture 6: Capacity building for Kakum and Juaboso-bia HIA .....	3
Picture 7: Awareness strengthening on BSP across the HIAs .....	4

## **INTRODUCTION**

The Forestry Commission through its Climate Change Directorate that doubles as the National REDD+ Secretariat continues to coordinate the implementation of the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program. This report highlights the progress update of activities from December 2022 – April 2023. The structure of the report follows the implementation of activities per ER Program Design.

### **1. FOREST RESERVE REHABILITATION AND RESTORATION**

#### **1.1 MODIFIED TAUNGYA SYSTEM (MTS)**

Modified Taungya System Plantation establishment is a significant innovative way that Ghana has adopted to undertake collaborative forest management where communities are involved in the restoration of degraded forest reserves. In 2022, a target of 50Ha MTS plantations have been established with the supply of 60,000 tree seedlings in compartments 10 and 14 of the Goa Shelterbelt Forest Reserve within the Asunafo Asutifi HIA. A total of 53 farmers benefited from this exercise. The survival rates would be determined with the onset of the initial rains in time for the 2023 planting season.

#### **1.2 TREES ON FARM (TOF)**

One of the key forest restoration approaches under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program is 'Trees on Farm'. Under this approach, tree seedlings of various species are distributed to farmers in the cocoa-forest landscape to plant in their cocoa farms. In 2022, 60,000 seedlings mainly Mahogany, Emire and Ofram spp were distributed to farmers in Two (2) Hotspot Intervention Areas (Asunafo Asutifi and Juabeso Bia). The distribution was mainly done through the Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD) district offices.

#### **1.3 MAINTENANCE OF ENRICHMENT PLANTING SITE**

In 2021, enrichment planting of six (6) forest reserves were undertaken for which a first round of maintenance (mainly tending) was done through the respective districts in the first quarter of 2022. Subsequently, funds were released in the third quarter for a second

round of tending within the enriched compartments. Details of the second round of maintenance of enrichment planting is in the table below.

*Table 1: Enrichment Planting Achievement*

<b>Reforestation Approach</b>	<b>Forest District/HIA</b>	<b>Forest Reserve</b>	<b>Communities</b>	<b>Compartment</b>	<b>Achievement (ha)</b>
<b>Enrichment Planting</b>	Sefwi-Wiawso	Sui River	Kokrowa	105	132.69
			Sikaneasem	106	134.67
<b>Enrichment Planting</b>	Goaso/ Asunafo - Asutifi	Goa Shelter belt	Nkensere	7	140.07
				9	140.65
<b>Enrichment Planting</b>	Mankranso/ Ahafo – Ahafo South	Tinte Bepo	Agyabedidi	3	115.47
			Oforikrom	4	171.05
<b>TOTAL</b>					950.07

#### **1.4 PROVISION OF ALTERNATIVE / ADDITIONAL LIVELIHOODS FOR FARMERS**

As part of the activities outlined in the Upfront Advance Payment Work Plan, farmers within the HIAs are to be provided alternate/additional Livelihood options. The objective is to provide them with diversified income sources in order to wean them away from over-dependence on their farms for livelihoods.

In light of this, the NRS has engaged the farmers and other stakeholders within all HIAs to discuss and prioritize preferred livelihoods options as well as criteria for selection of beneficiaries.

NRS has engaged five (5) CSOs to coordinate the provision of prioritized livelihoods options per HIA while the Forestry Commission incurred all incidental costs. The NGOs/CSOs engaged include NCRC (designated with Kakum HIA), Tropenbos Ghana (designated with Juaboso-Bia and Asunafo-Asutifi HIAs), Eco-Care (designated with Ahafo-Ano South HIA), Kumasi Wood Clusters (designated with Atewa HIA) and Rainforest Alliance (designated with Sefwi Wiawso-Bibiani HIA).

Subsequently, funds have been provided to some CSOs to coordinate the provision of prioritized livelihoods options per HIA. Another round of stakeholder engagement within HIAs have been undertaken to firm up the priority options in October and November 2022 after which livelihoods options have been set up for selected beneficiaries who have also been trained in managing the livelihoods options. Below is a summary of Livelihoods options and the number of beneficiaries per HIA.

*Table 2: Additional livelihood options for farmers*

<b>HIA</b>	<b>Livelihood Type</b>	<b>Beneficiaries</b>
Sefwi Wiawso Bibiani	Bee Keeping and Snail Farming	21 (beekeeping; 14 males and 7 females)  10 (snail farming; 8 males and 2 females)
Juaboso Bia	Bee-Keeping and Snail	18 (beekeeping; 17 males and 1 female)  10 (snail farming; 4 males and 6 females)
Asunafo-Asutifi	Bee-Keeping, ginger farming and Snail	18 (beekeeping; 11 males and 7 females)



		10 (snail farming; 6 males and 3 females) 10 (Ginger; 7 males and 3 females)
Kakum	Bee-Keeping, Vegetable farming and snail farming	10 (beekeeping; 9 males and 1 female ) 15 (snail farming; 10 males and 5 females) 15 (Vegetable farming; 8 males and 7 females)
Atewa	Mushroom, snail farming, bee-keeping	14 (beekeeping; 8 males and 6 females) 25 (snail farming; 11 males and 15 females) 6 (mushroom; 4 males and 2 females)
Ahafo Ano South	Aquaculture, vegetable farming, snail farming and beekeeping	3 (beekeeping; 2 males and 1 female) 11 (snail farming; 6 males and 5 females) 5 (aquaculture; 5 males) 1 (vegetable farming; 1 male)
Total		<b>218</b>



*Picture 1: Engagement of local actors on livelihood options across the HIAs*

**1.5 UPDATE ON ACTIVITIES FOR ADDITIONAL FINANCING SECURED FROM PARTNERSHIP FOR FORESTS:**

- Additional livelihood support:
  - 13 farmers benefiting from Bee keeping (honey production)
  - 12 farmers benefiting from vegetable production (green pepper and cabbage)
  - A farmer benefiting from the set-up of a piggery farm (about 5 piglets)
- Provision of office space for Juaboso Bia HMB:
  - An office space secured to rent for 3 years for the HMB
  - Set up of office with furniture and ICT equipment
- World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) to enhance the National Forest Monitoring System
  - Developed fire alert system
  - Included Asunafo Asutifi and Ahafo Ano-South onto the NFMS web portal
  - Developed a mobile application for the NFMS



*Picture 2: Alternative livelihoods - Bee keeping and vegetable farming in Juaboso – Bia HIA*



*Picture 3: Alternative livelihoods – Piggery in Juaboso – Bia HIA*



## **2. INSTITUTIONAL COORDINATION AND MRV**

### **2.1 DEVELOPMENT OF SECOND MONITORING REPORT**

As part of efforts to generate the second Monitoring Report and ensure consistency, a similar approach adopted for the first MR is being replicated by Ghana. Since data forms the of the entire process, it was required to undertake Data collection activity using the sample-based approach. This took place from **15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> August** and **12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2022**. Team members consisted of staff from RMSC and the REDD+ Secretariat. The sample plots used during the first monitoring period were reassessed, placing emphasis on the year 2020 and 2021 to detect changes that have occurred. Thus over 7,600 plots were interpreted with QA/QC done and a recheck of deforestation and degradation plots. Data analysis was done and first draft of monitoring report for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monitoring period (2020/2021) was submitted to World Bank (WB). Subsequently the WB sent forth their comments on the first draft which has been updated and shared again with the Bank for approval and onward submission for third party verification and validation. The NRS after key consultations on the comments has submitted a reviewed report to the World Bank.

### **DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS FOR MEASUREMENT OF HIA BENCHMARK PERFORMANCE**

<sup>1</sup> to give the determination of the relative environmental performance of the six (6) HIAs.

Therefore, to determine the relative HIA performance, the sample-based approach was used to estimate the reference level as well as monitoring for all 6 HIAs (Juabeso, Kakum, Atewa, Sefwi-Wiawso, Asunafo-Asutifi and Ahafo Ano).

The data collection exercise began from 27th June to 15th July 2022 with team members from RMSC and the REDD+ Secretariat. A total of about 16,000 sample

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/documents.php>

plots were collected with a grid of 1km apart from each other due to the small size of the HIAs and the need to increase precision.

Out of the 6 HIAs, Juabeso Bia HIA had increased deforestation in 2019, Asunafo Asutifi HIA had decreased deforestation in 2019 and the rest remained unchanged. This was subsequently used to determine the amount of Carbon Payments due each HIA for the first monitoring period. The relative performance scoring for the HIAs and the corresponding payments has been posted online and may be found here: <https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/documents.php>

To assess HIA performance for the 2<sup>nd</sup> monitoring period, the data collection exercise will be replicated, however since the base has already been determined with the previous data, focus will be on only the years of interest (2020 and 2021).

## **2.2 DEVELOPMENT OF SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING REPORT**

Through the technical guidance of the World bank Safegurads team, the NRS and its stakeholders developed Environmental and Social management Plans for the Asunafo/Asutifi , Kakum and Juabeso/Bia HIAs.

With the capacity built, the NRS undertook a Safeguards monitoring exercise from 12th September to 2nd October 2022 to monitor how safeguards issues were being respected and addressed by stakeholders at the landscape level. During the monitoring exercise, data was collected for the development of Safeguards Implementation and Monitoring reports for Sefwi Wiawso – Bibiani and Ahafo Ano South HIAs.

The NRS has worked on the comments shared by the Bank and has since posted the reviewed ESMPs for the two HIAs online.

### Highlights of findings from the Reports

Findings from the report show the proponents of GCFRP as well as implementing partners (from government, private sector and CSOs/NGOs) have exhibited strong dedication to sound environmental and social safeguards measures in the implementation of interventions/activities under GCFRP by demonstrating robust compliance to both national and the World Bank safeguards policies. By involving communities in methods that provide them with environmental and financial benefits, the programme has a strong potential to increase carbon stocks (achieve emissions reductions) in the High Forest Zones by reducing deforestation and forest degradation. Certain negative environmental and social effects (soils, water supplies, biodiversity, and some socioeconomic issues) that result from GCFRP implementation have been identified and mitigated against thereby maximizing the reputational, economic and social benefits of the programme. The recommended mitigation measures are sufficient to protect the environment and promote social growth. Some recommendations to further enhance programme implementation were drawn based on monitoring of the safeguards implementation:

- There is a need to strengthen partnership and coordination with key stakeholders at the HIA level
- Regular and timely monitoring of activities/interventions undertaken by partners is encouraged
- Continuous stakeholder engagement with project proponents on safeguards implementation is recommended



*Picture 4: Engaging community members in Juaboso-Bia HIA as part of data collection*

### **2.3 DEVELOPMENT OF MONITORING FRAMEWORK**

In order to help establish an efficient and comprehensive monitoring framework and system that is able to capture information and data from multiple levels of the GCFRP (program level—HIA level—Sub-HIA—CREMA and community) as well as a range of implementing partners (companies, NGOs, government agencies, etc.), and then use this information to generate monitoring reports, the World Bank through the AccelREDD+ project procured a consultancy service to support the Forestry Commission to develop a GCFRP M&E Framework and results-based monitoring system.

Subsequent to the acceptance of inception report and submission of a draft Results Framework and an M&E guidance manual, a technical team of experts was formed to work with the consultant to review the key indicators within the Results Framework to be concise and explicit. The technical team submitted their comments and inputs which was incorporated by the consultant and submitted to the World Bank.

The Final M&E Results Framework was eventually submitted, which was accepted by the Bank. NRS have gone ahead to collect on indicators within the GCFRP M&E results framework for 2019 – 2022 and populated into the results framework. Validation of the data collected has been completed. The populated M& E framework can be found here:

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hPVIECdb56opTMefeQIVSFQQsNUXGnt9/edit?usp=share\\_link&ouid=102450896921355209838&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hPVIECdb56opTMefeQIVSFQQsNUXGnt9/edit?usp=share_link&ouid=102450896921355209838&rtpof=true&sd=true)

## **2.4 FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCE MECHANISM**

The ERPD identified potential conflict sources for categorising grievances. The potential conflict sources are;

- Resource use and access
- Land and tree tenure
- Benefit Sharing
- Safeguards
- Participation and inclusiveness

A total of 161 grievances were recorded across five HIAs, namely, Asunafo Asutifi, Kakum, Sefwi Wiawso – Bibiani, Ahafo Ano South and Juaboso – Bia for 2020-2023 period. 19 grievances were recorded under resource use and access, 6 under land and tree tenure, 32 under safeguards and 4 under participation and inclusiveness. Of these, 151 have been resolved and 10 are still outstanding. 44 feedback were also recorded within that period across these five HIAs.



ASUNAFO - ASUTIFI				
Grievance/Feedback	2020	2021	2022	2023
Resource use and access		4		
Land and tree tenure				
Benefit Sharing				
Participation and inclusiveness				
Safeguards		124	3	
Feedback		27	4	

AHAFO ANO SOUTH				
Grievance/Feedback	2020	2021	2022	2023
Resource use and access				
Land and tree tenure			3	1
Benefit Sharing				
Participation and inclusiveness				
Safeguards				
Feedback			1	

JUABOSO -BIA				
Grievance/Feedback	2020	2021	2022	2023
Resource use and access			11	
Land and tree tenure				
Benefit Sharing				
Participation and inclusiveness			3	
Safeguards				
Feedback	11			

SEFWI WIAWSO - BIBIANI				
Grievance/Feedback	2020	2021	2022	2023
Resource use and access				
Land and tree tenure				2
Benefit Sharing				
Participation and inclusiveness				
Safeguards				2
Feedback				

KAKUM				
Grievance/Feedback	2020	2021	2022	2023
Resource use and access		4		
Land and tree tenure				
Benefit Sharing				
Participation and inclusiveness		1		
Safeguards		1	2	
Feedback			1	

HIA	2020				GENDER		2021				GENDER		
	FEEDBACK	GRIEVANCE	RESOLVED	ONGOING	M	F	FEEDBACK	GRIEVANCE	RESOLVED	ONGOING	M	F	
Asunafo Asutifi							27	128	126		2	114	33
Kakum							0	6	4		2	6	
Ahafo Ano South							0	0					
Sefwi Wiawso - Bibiani							0	0					
Juaboso - Bia	11						0	0					
<b>Total</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>33</b>	

HIA	2022				GENDER		2023				GENDER	
	FEEDBACK	GRIEVANCE	RESOLVED	ONGOING	M	F	FEEDBACK	GRIEVANCE	RESOLVED	ONGOING	M	F
Asunafo Asutifi	4	3	3		3		0	0				
Kakum	1	2	2		2	1	0	0				
Ahafo Ano South	1	3			3	3	0	1			1	1
Sefwi Wiawso - Bibiani	0	0					0	4	3		1	4
Juaboso - Bia	0	14	13		1	14	0	0				
<b>Total</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

GRIEVANCES	
RESOLVED	ONGOING
151	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>161</b>

## 2.5 MITIGATIONS AGAINST RISK OF REVERSALS

### Drivers of deforestation

The identified drivers of deforestation include:

Agricultural expansion – . Through the capacity building of farmers on the climate smart cocoa practices and interventions, as well as farmer business school, farmers have adopted best agricultural practices to increase shade trees on their farms which contributes to productivity. This has been a game-changer in term of engendering a shift from such practices.

Illegal logging – through the implementation of Ghana Wood racking system and domestic market regulations as well as government new procurement rules for timber in public construction

Illegal mining – the displacement of illegal small-scale gold mining in the GCFRP project area was recognized as a medium risk in the original ERPD. Since then Ghana has made significant progress with regards to mitigating this risk. The government of Ghana in 2017 launched a new program (artisanal mining) to enforce the law by putting down measures to stop the menace, this helped to reduce the menace. Additionally, about 4000 ha of forest reserves have been encroached by illegal mining as communicated by the Minister of the Lands and Natural Resources (Hon John Abu Jinapor) . This therefore makes illegal mining a national challenge. That notwithstanding, His Excellency the President, Nana Addo Dankwa Akufo-Addo, on June 6, 2022, commissioned 100 mercury-free gold processing machines for small-scale mining operators as part of Government’s efforts at ensuring responsible mining and environmental stewardship. the President was elated that the mercury-free mineral processing technology will assist the small-scale miners to achieve three basic goals: (1) high tonnes per hour processing (2) mercury-free recovery and (3) high gold recovery. The technology according to the President, “has the capacity to recover 90% plus of gold from the ore, far more than would have been obtained from the traditional method using mercury.” He also acknowledged the fact that the processing methods of using this technology will help reduce the pollution of water bodies and the

physical environment. Again, through the National Alternative Employment and Livelihood Programme ( NAELP) government of Ghana has taken steps to lead on the creation of Alternative jobs to illegal Mining for Sustainable National Development.

### **3. LANDSCAPE PLANNING WITHIN HIA AREAS**

#### **3.1 DEVELOPMENT OF GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE GCFRP AREA**

As part of processes in developing the governance arrangements for GCFRP Area, the World Bank Extended the consultancy service to Tropenbos Ghana to further develop the governance structure for the Sefwi Wiawso – Bibiani HIA.

The Functional Units for the HIA has been set up. Also, the Hotspot Intervention Area Management Board (HMB) has been set up and a Framework Agreement has been signed at both the landscape level and the FC.

No	Output	Actions/Activities	Deliverables	Status	Remark
0	Project actions effectively and successfully implemented	<p>0.1 Project implementation and advisory team constituted</p> <p>0.2 Review designed tools and templates and adjust for project implementation project monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>0.3 Project activities executed with results documented and reported</p>	<p>Project inception report detailing project implementation plan, project reporting and managing lines, etc.</p> <p>Report on project execution team including technical and financial Progress reports and end of project reports</p>	<p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Completed</p>	<p>Implementation team (TBG &amp; NRS) working effectively.</p> <p>Inception report shared</p> <p>Reconnaissance survey report submitted to NRS and WB</p> <p>1st Progress report drafted and submitted to NRS and WB</p> <p>2nd Progress report draft shared.</p> <p>Final report being drafted including mapping (mop up) of SWB HIA communities</p>
1	Governance structures developed and/or adapted spanning community to the HIA level, and effectively functioning in Sefwi-Wiawso-	<p>1.1 Engage/consult stakeholders and develop roadmap for establishing governance structures for the HIA building upon RA work.</p> <p>1.2 Engage private sector, CSOs and</p>	<p>Report on HIA development roadmap for Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA.</p> <p>Private and Public sector stakeholders as well as CSOs identified for Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso</p>	Completed	<p>Roadmap shared with stakeholders, and being used to develop BASW HIA.</p> <p>Potential partners identified, NRS to</p>

No	Output	Actions/Activities	Deliverables	Status	Remark
	Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA.	government agencies to form partnership to support the development and implementation of HIA governance structures.  1.3 Start execution of the roadmap for developing governance structure	HIA partnership or consortium formation Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA governance structures and processes established. Develop and disseminate HIA development awareness materials	Completed   Completed	facilitated partnership formation meeting.  170(+ - 2) New CRMCS formed in all orphan communities and clustered into 26 Zones. Committee Executive elected for all CRMCS and their respective Zones.
2	Synergies among statutory and local authorities developed in HIA Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA	2.1 Develop MMDAs, and Statutory agencies capacity in HIA governance structures and working processes. 2.2 Facilitate meetings between SHEC/HMB and respective statutory agencies to identify niches for HIA participation. 2.3 Jointly (agencies & SHEC/HMB) develop action plan for HIA participation in ongoing initiatives or activities.	Report on ongoing or planned initiatives or local authority-led activities in Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA, possible synergies and niches for HIA engagement and participation.	2.1 Completed  2.2 Completed  2.3 Completed	The three MDAs (Bibiani, Sewfi Wiawso and Akontombra) are involved in the HIA development processes.  Current HIA capacity development on stakeholder collaborations will offer HIAs additional platform to understand working processes of MDAs
3	HIA governance structures and processes	3.1 Adapt or develop (as needed) draft documents, including constitution, bylaws,	- Outline for drafting HIA Constitution, By-laws, Maps etc. for Sefwi-	3.1 Completed*	Final constitution, FA available, and byelaw being drafted or under review

No	Output	Actions/Activities	Deliverables	Status	Remark
	formalized and legitimized	maps, management plans and financing plans that can be taken forward by partners  3.2 Prepare draft Sub Agreement/Framework Agreement with FC's NRS and Legal Department for the HIAs  3.3 Facilitate the signing of the agreements (i.e. Framework Agreement and Sub Agreements) for Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA.	Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA - Framework and Sub Agreements Developed for Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA - Signed Sub Agreement - Signed Framework Agreement	3.2 Completed  3.3 Completed	
4	Specific lessons and experiences on Sefwi-Wiawso-Bibiani-Anwiaso HIA development generated and disseminated	4.1 Continually document experiences and lessons on HIA development processes for dissemination,	Report on specific lessons and experiences in the development of the SWAB HIA	4.1 Completed	4.1 First report on HIA lessons and experience sharing shared; report revised to capture most recent lessons and experience sharing with stakeholders
5	Final drafts of SHEC/HMB constitutions and bye laws in the A-A HIA	Facilitates discussions for inputs to HIA constitutions Draft bye laws and solicit for stakeholders' inputs	Final HIA constitution Final Bye laws	5.1 Completed  5.2 Completed 5.3 Completed for Constitution  5.4 Depends on 5.2	5.1 Final reading of A-A HMB and Sub HIA Constitutions completed with final drafts ready. Patrons selected for 4 Sub HIAs and the HMB.

No	Output	Actions/Activities	Deliverables	Status	Remark
		Workshop to endorse/validate HIA constitution Facilitate gazette of HIA constitution and bye laws			Byelaws shared with respective MDAs for review and gazetting
6	HIA governing executives and other stakeholders have capacity to management natural resources in the landscape	6.1 Provide technical support to Proforest and WB consultant capacity building activities for A-A HIA executives and other stakeholders 6.2 Provide awareness materials to augment ZECs/SHEC/HMB to sensitize and form CRMCS in strategic communities not covered under phase I	Report on new CRMCS and ZONES including list of executives.	6.1 Completed for WB consultant and Ongoing for Proforest  6.2 Completed	6.1 Technically supported WB Consultant capacity development for ZEC/Sub HIA executives  Technically supporting Proforest capacity development for ZEC/Sub HIA executives 20,000 tree seedlings supplied to the A-A HMB to augment their climate smart/agroforestry practices

No	Output	Actions/Activities	Deliverables	Status	Remark
1.0	Final drafts of Atwima-Mponua	1.1 Facilitates discussions for inputs	Final Constitution	Completed	



	SHEC and HMB Constitutions and Byelaws developed.	into SHEC and HMB Constitutions.			
		1.2 Draft bye-laws and solicit for stakeholders' inputs.	Final Bye laws	Completed	
		1.3 Organise multi-stakeholder workshop to validate/endorse constitution and bye-laws	Report on validation workshop	Completed for constitution	
		1.4 Facilitate gazette of HIA bye-laws.	Gazetted byelaw	Ongoing	MDA review and finalizing and gazetting byelaws ongoing.
2.0	SHECs and HMBs in three HIAs i.e., Juaboso-Bia HIA, Sefwi-Wiawso HIA, and Atwima-Mponua HIA have improved capacity in key natural resource governance and management issues including capacity to access and manage emissions reduction payments.	2.1 Conduct quick assessment to identify capacity gaps/needs for three HIAs.	List of capacity gaps/capacity need relevant to HIA	Completed	
		2.2 Engage HMBs and SHECs of the three HIAs to prioritize training and capacity building options.	Capacity development courses and plan	Completed	
		2.3 Develop and print training materials for the prioritized capacity building and learning	Printed training materials	Completed	
		2.4 Conduct HIA level capacity building and training for key stakeholders and	Report indicating number and beneficiaries of HIA capacity development	Completed	

			partners in the three HIAs.			
			2.5 Facilitate platform for joint learning among five HMBs on their activities and performance.	Platform for HIA learning and experience sharing	Completed	
			2.6 Organise exchange visit between two HIAs (old and new) for peer learning and experience sharing.	Report on inter HIA learning and experience sharing	Completed	
3.0	3.0 constituted three HIAs	HIC for	3.1 Engage stakeholders and partners to build consensus to modalities for constitution HICs.	Number of stakeholders engaged on HIC processes	Completed by NRS	
			3.2 Develop and validate guiding document for HICs composition, mandate and operation.	Draft Developed	Completed by NRS	
			3.3 Facilitate selection of HIC for three HIAs.		Completed by NRS	

### **3.2 CAPACITY BUILDING OF THE HIA FUNCTIONAL UNITS AND CONSORTIUM PARTNERS IN ASUNAFO ASUTIFI**

As part of implementation arrangements for the GCFRP, the NRS with support from Proforest and WCF have developed a Landscape Management and Investment Plan for Asunafo Asutifi HIA. To enhance the capacity and prepare the GCFRP Functional Units and Consortium Partners to function effectively in the implementation of the plan a sensitization workshop was organized on September 20, 2022 at Goaso for key stakeholders. Generally, this exercise brought about better appreciation and understanding of the work that lies ahead which are crucial for the attainment of Asunafo-Asutifi landscape vision. Given that 31 the functional units (comprising of 11 HMB and 20 SHEC members) were trained as Trainers-of-Trainers (ToT) the immediate impacts of this exercise are detailed below: A greater interest of farmers in Forest/Landscape Restoration activities have been observed. During the training the farmers alluded to the negative activities some farmers undertake including extending farming activities into forest reserves and setting up fire in farms among others. Thus, the training helped to place a spotlight on the negative socio-economic activities that are inherent in farming communities, and thus demanded for attitudinal change if Ghana **were** to sustain the REDD+ programme. By way of strategy, the ToTs were encouraged to regularly interface key proponents and partners of the program for a number of supports including accessing tree seedlings and farming extension support.

- I. The exercise brought about awareness and sensitization of Cocoa Rehabilitation opportunities that are available to them. The participants were made aware that COCOBOD are rehabilitating old and diseased cocoa farmers intended to shore up the productivity of affected farms. Thus, the exercise was capitalized to encourage farmers on the need to patronize the cocoa rehabilitation exercise.
- II. Safeguards Monitoring - The exercise enhanced the understanding of ToTs on safeguards and also promote the uptake of safeguards using the bank's safeguards instruments



*Picture 5: Capacity building for stakeholders in Asunafo - Asutifi HIA*

**3.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF GCFRP BENEFIT SHARING PLAN (BSP)**

As part of implementation of the GCFRP Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP), a REDD+ Dedicated Account (RDA) Steering Committee has been set up consisting of members from various institutions as prescribed in the BSP. A first Steering Committee meeting was held on the 5<sup>TH</sup> of August,2022 to provide members with the necessary information and capacity to manage the REDD+ Dedicated Account. A second meeting was organized for the members of the REDD+ Dedicated Account Steering Committee on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023. Issues discussed during the meeting include the following: Review of the Fund Flow Mechanism Operational Manual, Update on Emission Reductions payments (percentages going to each HIA) and Presentation on Consent Form. Atwo day RDA Steering Committee was also held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May to discuss the proposals submitted by the respective HICs.

**3.4 CAPACITY BUILDING ON BENEFIT SHARING PLAN**

Given the inclusive and participatory nature of the GCFRP design and implementation, there is a need to train and build capacity of participating Community-based organizations, notably CREMA/Zonal Executive Committees (CECs/ZECs) on developing and tailoring the messaging on the Emissions Reduction Program to HIA Landscape

Stakeholders, which comprise of registered farmers groups, Traditional Authorities, and community members. In light of this, Solidaridad was engaged (with support of WB) to provide Landscape Level Capacity Building consultancy service. The objective is to enable communities to better understand their roles and responsibilities within the GCFRP program governance structures and to understand the concepts and processes of the Benefit Sharing Plan at HIA levels so that they can improve their ownership of the Program by effectively participating in Program activities and benefitting more as well as voicing their feedback and/or grievances as needed to the HIA consortiums.



*Picture 6: Capacity building for Kakum and Juaboso-bia HIA*

### **3.5 STRENGTHENING AWARENESS ON THE BENEFITS-SHARING ARRANGEMENT UNDER THE COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAMME**

After the validation and verification of Emission Reductions (ERs) under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP), Ghana has received her first-ever Carbon Payments. Therefore, there is a need to strengthen awareness among REDD+ communities that would eventually receive benefits from the payment of carbon funds. In line with this, the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) undertook field engagements with the various community stakeholders including the Hotspot Intervention Area (HIA) functional units (i.e., CRMCs, CECs, SHECs, and HMBs) in five (5) HIAs to deepen discussions on the carbon benefit-sharing arrangements/modalities- next steps that HIA would need to undertake to prepare and submit proposal to NRS and RDA in order to get

their share of benefits, the support that NRS would provide in the process. The HIAs included Asunafo-Asutifi, Kakum, Ahafo-Ano South, Juaboso-Bia, and Sefwi Wiawso – Bibiani.



*Picture 7: Awareness strengthening on BSP across the HIAs*

### **3.6 TRAINING OF LANDSCAPE-LEVEL STAKEHOLDERS ON BSP OPERATIONALIZATION**

As part of ensuring continual consultation and awareness creation on the operationalization of Benefit Sharing Plan the National REDD+ Secretariat in collaboration with staff from the WB and the Fund Flow Consultants organized training sessions for the HIA Functional Units in five (5) Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) including Asunafo-Asutifi, Ahafo-Ano South, Juaboso-Bia, Sefwi Wiawso- Bibiani, and Kakum from 17<sup>th</sup> January to 2<sup>nd</sup> February. The engagement sought to train and deepen understanding on the Fund Flow Mechanism, procurement processes developed under the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme to enable the local actors to appropriately apply the modalities for accessing carbon benefits. A team of consultants including an international community engagement expert and an accountant/financial systems expert with support from to assist the National Redd+ Secretariat (NRS) (collectively called the CB Team) implemented these series of capacity building/awareness training. Generally, the consultants aimed to enhance the HIA stakeholders understanding of the operations of the Fund Flow Mechanism. Specifically, these included:



- The governance arrangements to manage the benefit-sharing processes of the FFM.
- The roles of all bodies and actors in the FFM;
- The role of HIA Members in the control and operations of Bank accounts for the receipt and disbursement of benefits.
- Guidelines and controls in the operations of the HIA Implementing Committees and the HMBs related to benefit-sharing;
- The scope and process of the selection of community development projects/ farmer group benefits
- The process, checks and balances in the execution/ implementation of the final selected community level/ farmer group request for benefits;
- Financial management and Procurement processes (including the receipt, distribution, record-keeping and reporting) for the projects selected and implemented; and
- Recording documentation and archiving of records for auditing purposes.

### **3.7 FORMATION OF HIA IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (HIC)**

The National REDD+ Secretariat facilitated the formation of the HIA Implementation Committee (HIC) during Kakum Consortium meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> March, 2023. Prior to the formation of the HIC, the partners present were sensitized on the scope and role of the HIC to ensure awareness and enhance their effectiveness. The 8-member committee formed is composed of representatives from the Forestry Commission, Ghana Cocoa Board, District Assembly, HIA Management Board, and Nature for Conservation and Research Centre (NRCR). One more rep from the private sector will be nominated to fill up the slot reserved for the private sector.

As was done for the Kakum HIA, NRS facilitated a meeting of the various stakeholders in the remaining four (4) to form the HIA implementation committee. The HICs thereafter, participated in their first meetings to deliberate proposals (details in 3.8.2) below) from the HMB (communities). This happened at Ejisu from the 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

Below are the details of the persons nominated to be part of the various HICS:

Table 3: List of representatives for the HICs

Asunafo-Asutifi	Kakum	Juaboso-Bia	Sefwi Wiawso - Bibiani	Ahafo-Ano
Daniel Amponsah Gyinaye Ama Boatemaa Moses Azuma Mbawin Proforest – Augustus Asamoah Kwame Obeng (Tropenbos) Michael Boakye Amponsah – FC Moses Kangah – COCOBOD WCF	Joseph Nkrumah Nyantakyi Boateng Matilda Ankomahene Sulemana Bawa - NCRC Felix Kwame Quainoo – COCOBOD Frank Kwame Agbenu– District Assembly Samuel Annan-Riverson - FC (WD) WCF	CHRISTIANA OWUSU PAUL GYABENG MARK AIDOO - FC SNV TROPENBOS MR. ADU GYAMFI – COCOBOD WCF	Sylvester Mensah Amadu Alhassan John Kaye Ennin Raymond Boamah – Fc Osman Dawuda -Cocobod (Bibiani) Matilda Agyapong (Rainforest Alliance) Winston Asante Solidaridad WCF	Augustine Dabo Lawrence Asamoah Racheal Amponsah Obed Owusu (Ecocare) Joseph Asante (Tropenbos) Chrisantus Nifaasoyir – FC Roland Awuah Frimpong – COCOBOD (Tepa) WCF

### 3.7.1 HIC MAIDEN MEETING

Following the formation of the HICs, the HICs kickstarted their maiden committee meeting to discuss and work on the requests submitted by the HMBs on behalf of the local communities. Specifically, the HICs deliberated on the prioritized farmer benefits and arrived at a decision with justification for the selected items and indicative budgets for each priority item.

AHAFO-ANO	ASUNAFO-ASUTIFI	JUABOSO-BIA	KAKUM	SEFWI Wiawso
Cutlass	Cutlass	Mist blower	Cutlass	Wellington boots



Indigenous tree seedlings	Multipurpose shade tree seedlings	Knapsack sprayer (matabi)	Spraying Machine	Cutlass
	Wellington Boots	Cutlasses	Pruner	
	Livelihood support	Wellington boots	Fertilizer 1 ltr bottle	
	Miscellaneous	Compost (pilot)		

**3.8 CAPACITY BUILDING AND ENGAGEMENTS WITH FUNCTIONAL UNITS OF THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES**

This section summarizes the key engagements on BSP with the communities for 2023

**3.8.1 FUND FLOW MECHANISM CAPACITY-BUILDING TRAINING FOR HIA STAKEHOLDERS**

With support from the World Bank, the NRS together with the Fund Flow Consultant and staff of the World Bank embarked on capacity building workshops from 17<sup>th</sup> January – 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2023 for the representatives of the HIA stakeholders serving on the various HIA and sub-HIA level bodies (HIA Management Board (HMB), Sub-HIA Executive Committees (SHEC) and the CREMA Executive Committees (CEC)) on the Benefit-Sharing Plan’s FFM Operational Manual. The workshops contributed to enhancing the understanding of the participants on the roles and responsibilities of the HIA actors and the processes involved in the FFM before the funds are disbursed by the RDA Trustees. The key topics that the workshop focused on include the following:

- The governance arrangements to manage the benefit-sharing processes of the FFM.

- The roles of all bodies and actors in the FFM;
- The role of HIA Members in the control and operations of Bank accounts for the receipt and disbursement of benefits.
- Guidelines and controls in the operations of the HIA Implementing Committees and the HMBs related to benefit-sharing;
- The scope and process of the selection of community development projects/ farmer group benefits
- The process, checks and balances in the execution/ implementation of the final selected community level/ farmer group request for benefits;
- Financial management and Procurement processes (including the receipt, distribution, record-keeping and reporting) for the projects selected and implemented; and
- Recording documentation and archiving of records for auditing purposes.

### **3.8.2 COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ON COMMUNITY AND FARMER BENEFITS**

As part of operationalizing the benefit sharing plan and the Fund Flow Operational Manual, there was the need for the consolidation of proposals/request from the HIA communities for the actions of the HIA Implementation Committee (HIC) and the REDD+ Dedicated Account Committee. In view of this, the NRS as part of its coordination role facilitated the consolidation of the requests from the communities with a designed template. Prior to the exercise, the communities through the HIA functional units (HMB, SHECs and CRMCs) had undertaken community led consultations to take into consideration the interests of the grater communities so far as their farmer and community benefits were concerned. The process thus was community led, transparent, participatory and bottom-up that allowed the communities to lead the processes and come up with what directly addresses their needs and concerns. A total of 78 local actors were engaged during this field visit, of which 54 were males and 24 were females. Generally, the HMBs across all the five HIAs requested for extended period to undertake broad consultations with all relevant stakeholders on the community benefits. A key output of the exercise are summarized in the table below according to the various HIAs.

<b>AHAFO-ANO</b>	<b>ASUNAFO-ASUTIFI</b>	<b>JUABOSO-BIA</b>	<b>KAKUM</b>	<b>SEFWI Wiawso</b>
Cutlass	Multi-purpose shade Tree seedlings	Mist blower (stihl)	Cutlasses (crocodile machetes)	Wellington boots
Wellington Boots	Wellington Boots	Knapsack Sprayer	Spraying machine (Solo)	Cutlass
Indigenous tree seedlings	Cutlass (Crocodiles)	Cutlass	Standard pruners (desert lion)	Insecticide
Spraying Machines	Livelihood Support	Wellington boot	Fertilizer (Sidalco liquid fertilizer)	Knapsack Sprayer
Fertilizers	Knapsack Sprayer	Insecticide	PPEs (PVC Mesh Fabric Chemical Resistant Protective Suit)	
Pesticides		Additional livelihood	Pesticides (assorted)	
			Boots (Treton strong)	

#### 4. RISK MANAGEMENT & FINANCE

Cocobod, in october 2022 announced the start of a Cocoa Farmers Pension Scheme to assure farmers of earning income in their old ages. The scheme has just been rolled out after piloting in the Ashanti region. The table below indicates private sector support for the programme.

Partner	Name of Project/Summary	Location	Key Activities	Key Achievements	Period
Proforest	Alignment of private sector initiatives with national policy processes	Asunafo-Asutifi HIA, national and global	Stakeholder engagement for collective action	Eight cocoa and chocolate companies have committed to support the development of the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA into a functional landscape programme	2018 - 2021
		Asunafo-Asutifi HIA	Assessment of socio-economic and ecological condition of the HIA to inform landscape management plan with funding support from eight cocoa and chocolate companies through the World Cocoa Foundation	Socio-economic and ecological assessment report for the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA	2020 - 2021

		Asunafo-Asutifi HIA/ National	Development of National Guidance on Engagement Principles for Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme and Associated Initiatives through stakeholder engagements	Development, Publication and Launch of National Guidance on Engagement Principle	2018 - 2021
	Support company-government collaboration at national and landscape levels	Asunafo-Asutifi HIA and National/global	Stakeholder engagement at the national and landscape level for collective landscape action	Awareness created among private sector companies and organizations on the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA Support mobilized for collective landscape action.	
		Asunafo-Asutifi HIA	Development of Management and Investment Plan for the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA through multistakeholder process.	Management Plan for the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA successfully completed.	2021 - 2022
	Capacity Building for Linking 'no-deforestation' supply chains and national climate	Asunafo-Asutifi HIA	Capacity building for landscape stakeholder and functional governance structure in the following areas:	Enhanced knowledge of key landscape stakeholders including functional units of	2021 - 2023

	mitigation initiatives		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Effective Functioning and Sustainability of Landscape Governance Structure</li> <li>ii. Environmental and Social Safeguards and Human Right Impacts</li> <li>iii. Effective Landuse Planning using the HCV-HCS Tools and Approach</li> <li>iv. Basic forest policy and legislation</li> <li>v. Group formation and dynamics</li> <li>vi. Community mobilization</li> <li>vii. Communication and reporting skills</li> <li>viii. Natural Resources Conflict Management</li> <li>ix. Gender Concepts and Issues</li> </ul>	landscape governance structure	
	Building deforestation-	Asutifi South Sub-HIA	Strengthen Sub-HIA governance Structure, revolving	Yet to Start	2023 - 2024

	free climate resilient cocoa production landscape	(Asunafo-Asutifi HIA)	fund for livelihood activity, building CREMA Secretariat Complex with Rural Service Centre, stakeholder engagement, development M&E Framework,		
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<b>No</b>	<b>Name of Project/Project Summary</b>	<b>Goals/Objectives</b>	<b>Target Landscapes</b>	<b>Key Activities</b>	<b>Period</b>
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1	Forest for a Just Future - Green Livelihood Alliance Programme II (GLAII)	<p><b>Goal:</b> Tropical forests and forest landscapes are sustainably and inclusively governed to mitigate and adapt to climate change, fulfil human rights and safeguard local livelihoods.</p> <p><b>Aims:</b> Local communities in the Juaboso-Bia landscape at a level of awareness, interest and capacity that drives an increase in tree cover, conservation of existing forests and sustainable or climate-smart agriculture (agriculture being the major livelihood activity in the landscape).</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> The programme seeks to realise these in an environment where environmental rights defenders feel safe to operate and the voices of the ordinary citizens are considered in decision-making processes relating to forests and the environment.</p>	<p>1. Juaboso - Bia Cocoa Forest Landscape</p> <p>2. Sefwi Wiawso Cocoa Forest Landscape</p>	<p><b>Landscape Level</b></p> <p>1. Capacity development for communities on climate-resilient farming practices including restoration of degraded areas and integration of trees in cocoa farms</p> <p>2. Promotion of inclusive governance in community/landscape setups that contribute to natural resource management and related decision-making processes.</p> <p>3. Pursue actions e.g. institutional capacity, training, livelihood options, integrated planning, awareness on forest and mining laws, etc. to help halt deforestation that is driven by agro-commodity production (in this case, cocoa) and mining within the Juaboso-Bia and Sefwi-Wiawso landscape.</p> <p><b>National Level</b></p> <p>1. Lobby and Advocate government (MLNR, COCOBOD, FC, Minerals</p>	2016 - 2025
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				<p>Commission, etc to make their operations and policies supportive of GLA agenda i.e. tree tenure, wildlife policy, etc.</p> <p>2. Engagement with Private firms e.g cocoa, timber, oil palm, etc. on matters of sourcing and illegal cocoa production in forest reserves.</p> <p>3. Smallholder farmers will be trained to integrate trees in their farms and apply only approved environmentally safe inputs.</p> <p>4. Support and contribute to the creation of an enabling environment where CSOs, local communities (including women and youth) enjoy human rights and safely participate in social movements advocating for sustainable and inclusive natural resource management.</p> <p>5. Strengthen the capacities of CSOs (including media) to lead environmental</p>	
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				social movements and defend environmental human rights.	
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2	Mobilizing more for climate (MoMo4C)	<p><b>Aim and Objectives</b></p> <p>To bring together entrepreneurs, firms, policymakers, investors and civil society organizations to make green business propositions that tackle causes and impacts of climate change at the landscape level in developing countries, and to attract investments to implement these initiatives</p>	<p>1. Juaboso - Bia Cocoa Forest Landscape.</p> <p>2. Sefwi Wiawso Cocoa Forest Landscape</p>	<p><b>Enabling Environment</b></p> <p>1. Strengthening Multi-stakeholder Platform (MSP) in JB and SW landscape to understand, acknowledge climate change risk, and promote climate-resilient actions, regulations, and policies.</p> <p>2. Strengthening Multiple landscape actors (Small-holders' farmers, communities, public and private sector) change mind-set by adapting and practicing climate-resilient actions.</p> <p><b>Business cases</b></p> <p>1. Promoting climate resilient business cases available for public and private investors contributing to sustainable development.</p> <p>2. Strengthen the capacity of identified groups in financial literacy, entrepreneurship, green-business opportunities, and possible investments in their landscape.</p> <p>3. Supporting entrepreneurs and</p>	2019 - 2023
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				<p>investors formulate bankable business cases and pilots.</p> <p>4. Facilitating and supporting entrepreneur, financial institutions, and investors formulate investment action plans for possible business cases in Key Landscape Challenges (cocoa, crop diversification, NTFPs, and others)</p> <p>5. Organizing green business investment day event to showcase all the bankable green business cases to prospective investors and multiple landscape actors to receive input into the business investment plan and validate the business investment plan.</p> <p><b>Harvesting lessons</b> Facilitate opportunities for mutual learning by the alliance from the project intervention in SW and JB landscape</p>	
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3	Working Landscape Programme	<p><b>Aim</b> For impacts in terms of sustainable land use, inclusive governance, and responsible finance and business, with an emphasis on local men and women foresters and farmers, communities, indigenous peoples and forest, and farm producers' organizations.</p> <p><b>Objective</b> To promote transformational change towards climate-smart landscapes in the forested tropics, to help achieve the climate goals as defined in the Paris Agreement, while also contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals.</p>	<p>1. Juaboso - Bia Cocoa Forest Landscape.</p> <p>2. Sefwi Wiawso Cocoa Forest Landscape.</p>	<p><b>Landscape Level</b></p> <p>1. Capacity building and informed dialogue facilitation on climate smart practices</p> <p>2. Capacity development on climate change mitigation and adaptation (agroforestry, climate smart practices, etc) while supporting people's livelihoods and sustaining agricultural value chains.</p> <p>3. Promoting sustainable land use including diversification.</p> <p>4. Promoting responsible finance and business through establishment of VSLAs and financial literacy training.</p> <p><b>National Level</b> Supporting Ghana's policy direction and related actions such as the Ghana National Climate Change Policy, the Ghana Forestry Development Master Plan (FDMP), Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) and the</p>	2019 – 2023
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				Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)	
4	Research for Development and Innovation Agriculture and Learning (ReDIAL)	<p><b>Goal:</b> Contribute to transformation and innovation in agriculture and food systems in Ghana through action research, application of innovative technologies and organization of farmers and multi-stakeholder platforms.</p> <p><b>Aim:</b> Reduce the challenges in agriculture which lead to post-harvest losses and require time and drudges with the use of women and child labour for threshing activities. Equip farmers in climate-smart agricultural practices.</p> <p><b>Objective:</b> The programme seeks to foster innovation for improving soil fertility in Ghana by</p>	Sefwi Wiawso Cocoa Forest Landscape	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Capacity development for communities on climate-resilient farming practices as well as development of climate-resilient agriculture in forest landscapes.</li> <li>2. Training on climate smart agriculture and providing innovative technologies in farm management eg multi-thresher</li> <li>3. Implementation of village savings and loans, landscape restoration and inclusive landscape governance</li> </ol>	2020 - 2024

		generating scientific knowledge and data while applying innovative technology to improve the threshing of grains and cereals.			
5	Support to Juaboso-Bia Landscape Management Platform (Partnership for Forest - P4F)	<b>Aim and Objectives</b> To sustain an effective and attractive HMB that will attract investment to the landscape and position the HMB in the cocoa value chain.	Juaboso-Bia	<b>Landscape Governance Sustainability and Fund Mobilization</b> 1. Training of 25 smallholders on Bee Keeping, vegetable and piggery farm enterprise and maintenance. 2. Providing legal advisory support to HMB on enterprise management contract and financial governance arrangement 3. Set-up an HMB Governance and Enterprise Fund in support of the HMB	202 2- 202 3

				<p><b>Smallholder Farmers' livelihoods and Enterprise supported</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Setup HMB enterprises, provide backstopping support and coach individual beneficiary farmers on enterprise management</li> <li>2. Develop a marketing strategy, product branding and seek off-taker suppliers' agreements and purchase orders for the HMB enterprise</li> <li>3. Organise HMB workshops on branding and packaging products</li> </ol>	
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6	Fire Smart Landscape Governance Programme	<p><b>Goals</b> The intervention envisions a wildfire resilient landscape where local actors including communities, statutory &amp; regulatory bodies, and local governments inclusively adopt comprehensive and effective wildfire management approach/practices to minimise incidence of wildfires and its associated negative imprints e.g. deforestation, loss of lives and property, etc.</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Establish a common entry point for negotiating inclusiveness and participation in effective wildfire management between communities, formal (e.g. MMDAs, MLNR-FC &amp; EPA, GNFS, GPS, MoFA, etc.) and informal institutions (e.g. Traditional authorities, Community Fire Volunteers, etc.).</li> <li>2. Review existing wildfire management practices to ascertain effectiveness of structures, institutional mandate, roles and responsibilities, as well as challenges/ capacity gaps.</li> <li>3. Negotiate and adopt options for effective and efficient wildfire management approach/practices</li> </ol>	Juaboso-Bia/Sefwi-Wiawso cocoa-forest landscape	<p><b>Landscape level</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Participatory and collaborative research to review and ascertain effectiveness of existing wildfire governance and management practices including structures (MoPs, Guidelines, Community Fire Volunteers, Statutory bodies, etc.) and institutions (policy, regulatory, etc.).</li> <li>2. Joint (multi-stakeholder) identification of niches, consensus building and synergies (among institutions) for the design of landscape approach to wildfire management.</li> <li>3. Capacity development (communities, statutory institutions, etc.) for adoption, pilot and upscale of effective and efficient wildfire management approach and practices (i.e. landscape approach) in target landscapes.</li> <li>4. Awareness creation for participatory</li> </ol>	202 2- 202 3
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		<p>through multi-stakeholder dialogue, capacity development, and collaborations in target landscapes.</p> <p>4. Stimulate a national policy, or regulatory, or guidelines on landscape approach to wildfire management.</p>		<p>monitoring &amp; evaluation, lobby and advocacy to inform national policy and practice on effective wildfire management.</p> <p><b>National level</b></p> <p>1. Establish a partnership with the Regional West Africa Fire Management Resources Center (RWAFFMRC) as network wing of the Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC) for bridging the gap between scientific research findings to policy making, to provide sufficient knowledge for decision making</p>	
7	Landscapes and Environmental Agility across the Nation (LEAN)	<p><b>Aims</b></p> <p>To conserve biodiversity, build climate resilience, and reduce emissions from land-use changes in the savannah, high forest, and transition zones of Ghana—and all while helping local farmers to improve their livelihoods</p> <p><b>Objectives</b></p> <p>To directly support national efforts to conserve biodiversity, improve the livelihoods of</p>	<p>Transition al Landscap e- Tropenbo s Ghana</p> <p>Transition al Landscap e- Eco-Care Ghana</p> <p>High Forest</p>	<p>1. Establishment of a participatory landscape management structures that will facilitate easy uptake of Integrated Landscape Management (ILM) technology and innovation.</p> <p>2. Working alongside with all stakeholders to mobilize and effectively deploy</p>	2022-2023

		small-scale farmers, build climate resilience, and reduce emissions from land-use changes across Ghana’s savannah, high forest, and transition zones.	<p>Landscape- The Rainforest Alliance</p> <p>Ghana’s savannah - World Vision Ghana</p> <p>Ghana’s savannah, high forest, and transition zones.</p>	<p>resources and tools that will support targeted sustainability interventions.</p> <p>3. Trainings on Climate smart practice and integrated landscape management systems.</p> <p>4. Promoting and implementing alternative livelihood support for smallholder farmers on bee keeping, piggery.</p> <p>Establishing of nursery sites</p>	
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**5. GOING FORWARD**

The following are the list of activities that would be undertaken for the remaining months of the year:

- Distribution of Carbon Payments
- Development of half year BSP Report

## **ANNEX 1**

### **UPDATE ON BENEFIT SHARING PLAN**

#### **1. INTRODUCTION**

Ghana has received its first carbon payment under the Emission Reductions Payment Agreement (ERPA) with the World Bank.

The following highlights key activities that have been undertaken since the receipt of the payment in January 2023. These activities are part of the Fund Flow Mechanism, which are in line with the operationalizing of the Benefit Sharing Plan:

#### **2. Establishment of the RDA Steering Committee**

A seven-member RDA Steering Committee has been set up to provide accountability backstopping for the ER payments. In line with the BSP, the Trustees are made up of representatives from the Ministry of Finance (Chair), National House of Chiefs, Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands, and Non-Governmental Organisations/Civil Society Organizations (NGOs/CSOs) namely: Tropenbos Ghana, Solidaridad West Africa and Forest Watch Ghana. The NGOs/CSOs were selected through a competitive process to complete the Seven Member Committee of Trustees. Processes leading to the selection of the members can be found in the link below.

<https://reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Operationalization%20of%20the%20BSP.pdf>

The RDA has had its first two meetings on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2022 and 9<sup>th</sup> February 2023. At its first meeting the RDA had an orientation for the members on their roles and responsibilities and the operational modalities for their work. The second meeting looked at the benefits due the various beneficiaries and how they were arrived at.

Minutes of the two meetings have been shared by the World Bank.

The RDA Steering committee has just completed its third meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May to review the proposals from the respective HICs. Draft minutes will be shared with the Bank upon review by the RDA Steering Committee.

### **3. Formation of the HICs**

Another key BSP governance structure is the formation of HICs which is made up of an 8 member representations from HMBs (3), CSOs/NGOs (2), COCOBOD (1), Private sector (1) and FC (1). The National REDD+ Secretariat organized and coordinated a landscape-level workshop on April 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup>, 2023, which brought together various partners from government, private sector and civil society organizations as wells as local communities (HIA Management Boards). The workshop facilitated the formation of the HIC for five out of six HIAs including Asunafo-Asutifi, Ahafo-Ano South, Juaboso-Bia, Kakum and Sefwi Wiawso-Bibiani. Annex 1 indicates the HIC members for the various HIAs. The nominated representatives were taken through their roles and responsibilities.

The respective HICs on day two (14<sup>th</sup> April) reviewed the proposals from the communities according to the budgets received from the ER payment for consideration and approval by the RDA Steering Committee. These proposals were submitted to the HICs by the communities.

The vetted proposals were subsequently submitted to RDA Steering Committee.

### **4. Engagement with HMB**

The HMB engaged the various farmer communities/farmer groups within the HIAs to select the benefit types. A team from the NRS between February and March provided technical backstopping to the HMBs to consolidate the selected benefit types. The consolidated benefits types were then submitted to HIC for review and onward submission to the RDA Steering Committee.

The above activity followed right after the FFM consultant and international community engagement expert had implemented a series of capacity building/awareness training on the fund flow with the sole objective of building the capacity of the representatives of the HIA stakeholders serving on the various HIA and sub-HIA level bodies (HIA Management Board (HMB), Sub-HIA Executive Committees (SHEC) and the CREMA Executive Committees (CEC)) on the Benefit-Sharing Plan's FFM Operational Manual.

### **5. Recruitment of BSP Officer**

In line with the BSP and as part of the key outputs of the Aide memoir for the last World Bank Mission in December 2022, a Benefit sharing officer has been recruited

## ANNEX 2

Links to other key documents:

### FFM Manual

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/12CDIEBFgg0Q49-2s1zTpT9uVnZMNdjey/edit?usp=share\\_link&oid=102450896921355209838&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/document/d/12CDIEBFgg0Q49-2s1zTpT9uVnZMNdjey/edit?usp=share_link&oid=102450896921355209838&rtpof=true&sd=true)

### HIC formation letter

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KXJujLj4-WKr\\_tMRUBRwCok3MXAxpSwP/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KXJujLj4-WKr_tMRUBRwCok3MXAxpSwP/view?usp=share_link)

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KXJujLj4-WKr\\_tMRUBRwCok3MXAxpSwP/view?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1KXJujLj4-WKr_tMRUBRwCok3MXAxpSwP/view?usp=share_link)

### M & E Results Framework

[https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hPVIECdb56opTMefeQIVSFQQsNUXGNt9/edit?usp=share\\_link&oid=102450896921355209838&rtpof=true&sd=true](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1hPVIECdb56opTMefeQIVSFQQsNUXGNt9/edit?usp=share_link&oid=102450896921355209838&rtpof=true&sd=true)

### List of beneficiaries

[https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Ahafo%20Ano%20South%20Farmer%20Groups\\_Cocobod.xlsx](https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Ahafo%20Ano%20South%20Farmer%20Groups_Cocobod.xlsx)

[https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Asunafo%20Asuti%20Groups\\_COCOBOD.xlsx](https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Asunafo%20Asuti%20Groups_COCOBOD.xlsx)

[https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/COCOBOD%20Cooperatives\\_%20Kakum%20HIA\\_%20NCRC%20HMB%20Chair%20edits\\_%2024-10-2022\\_update.xlsx](https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/COCOBOD%20Cooperatives_%20Kakum%20HIA_%20NCRC%20HMB%20Chair%20edits_%2024-10-2022_update.xlsx)

[https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Juaboso\\_COCOBOD.xlsx](https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Juaboso_COCOBOD.xlsx)

[https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Sefwi%20Wiawso\\_COCOBOD.xlsx](https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Sefwi%20Wiawso_COCOBOD.xlsx)

<https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Olam%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing.xlsx>

<https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Touton%20Eliho%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing.xlsx>

<https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Nyonkopa%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing.xlsx>

<https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Kuapa%20Koko%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing.xlsx>

[https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Ecom%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing\\_03.01.23.xlsx](https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Ecom%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing_03.01.23.xlsx)

<https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Cargill%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing.xlsx>

[https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Adom%20Buyers%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing\\_template\\_06012023.xlsx](https://www.reddsis.fcghana.org/admin/controller/publications/Adom%20Buyers%20Society%20List%20for%20Registration%20to%20HIA%20Benefit%20Sharing_template_06012023.xlsx)