

**GHANA REDD+ PROGRAMME SCREENING CHECKLIST FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
AND SOCIAL ISSUES**

1. Project Information: Name and Contact Details:			
Project Name	Location: (region/district/village)		
	Ashanti Region, Ahafo Ano South-East District Tinte Bepo Forest Reserve Compartments 3 and 4		
If other, explain:			
FSD District Manager	MR. GODWIN AGYEMANG		
Name of reviewer:	MR. AUGUSTINE GYEDU	Date of screening:	8/4/2021

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>	<p>1. Enrichment Planting Project</p> <p>2. District Manager for the Mankranso Forest District will carry out the Project.</p> <p>3. The Objective is to increase the stocking level of Indigenous Economic Tree Species for sustainable timber production, increase the forest cover for biodiversity conservation and to ensure poverty elevation through job creation</p>
Estimated Cost:	GHC 374,921.00
Proposed Date of Commencement of Work:	February 2021
Expected Completion of Work	September 2021
Technical Drawing/Specifications Reviewed:	No

2. Physical Data:	Comments
Subproject Site area in ha	286.52ha
Extension of or changes to existing land use	No
Any existing property to transfer to subproject	No

Any plans for construction, movement of earth, changes in land cover	1. Repair of Existing Damaged Bridge 2. Project Sites have Open and Close Forest Cover
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3. Preliminary Environmental Information:	Yes/No	Refer to Resettlement Policy Framework	Comments
Is there adjacent/nearby critical natural habitat?	No		Adjacent habitats have been disturbed
Is there activities On Forest Reserve?	Yes		1. Timber Exploitation 2. Plantation Development 3. Research Plot 4. Crop Farming
Is there activity adjacent to Forest Reserve?	Yes		Crop Farming
What is the land currently being used for? (e.g. agriculture, gardening, etc)			Forestry
Will the proposed activities have any impact on any ecosystem services, biodiversity issues or natural habitats?	Yes		1. The Project will increase forest cover and this will protect 'River Abu' from drying up. 2. The project will improve soil characteristics 3. The project will conserve biodiversity
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?	No		Traditional Areas will have unrestricted access to collect Non-Timber Forest Products such as Medicinal Plants, Mushrooms and Snails as well as livelihoods issues are concerned
Will there be water resource impacts?	Yes		Vegetation Cover will increase to protect Streams and Rivers such as 'River Abu' from drying up
Will there be soil impacts?	Yes		There will be Improvement in soil characteristics such as soil nutrients and soil productivity

Will the subproject require use of pesticides?	No		1. The use of pesticides will cause injuries and death to some fauna and flora through physical contact. 2. Pesticides will pollute Streams and Rivers and this will have negative effects on both human beings and other fauna when they drink them
Are there any new or changing forest management planning or activities?	Yes		Project Areas have been changed from Production Zone to Convalescence Zone
Any cultural heritage/sacred sites in project area?	No		The Project Areas are not under Protection Zone

4. Preliminary Social and Land Information:	Yes/No	Refer to Resettlement Policy Framework	Comments
Has there been litigation or complaints of any environmental nature directed against the proponent or subproject?	No		Fringe Communities and District Assembly have embraced the Project
Will the subproject require the acquisition of additional land?	No		The Sites selected for the Project equate the Target (Acreage) given to the Mankranso Forest District. However, we can accommodate any additional targets
What is the status of the land holding (customary, lease, community lands, etc)?	Customary		Tinte Bepo Forest Reserve is Customary owned by the Traditional Leaders
Is there evidence of land tenure status of farmers and/or occupants (affidavit, other documentation)?	No		There are No Admitted Farmers in the Project Sites
Are there outstanding land disputes?	No		Tinte Bepo Forest Reserve has been Gazetted as Forest Land
Has there been proper consultation with stakeholders?	Yes		Fringe Communities and District Assembly have been briefed and have accepted the Project
Is there a grievance process identified for PAPs and is this easily accessible to these groups/individuals?	Yes		The Forest Services Division and Traditional Leaders together with the District Assembly will address any grievances from people

Will there be any changes to livelihoods?	No		The Fringe Communities will continue to depend on the Project Sites for Non-Timber Forest Products such as Medicinal Plants, Snails and Mushrooms
What are the main issues associated with farmer benefits and community benefits?			During the exploitation of the Timber, the Fringe Communities benefited from Social Responsibility Agreement (SRA) and Royalties
Will any restoration or compensation be required with "admitted" farmers?	No		There are no Admitted Farms in the Project Sites

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.

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	L
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	L
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	L

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 of conflict and rights to natural resources being worked out with clear communication and grievance process in place of conflict being addressed	Land conflicts historically unresolved, admitted farmers being evicted, tenant farmers losing rights and no transparency or grievance redress available	L
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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
	Low	Low	Low	Low	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There are no natural habitats within the Project Areas 2. Low Intensity of Water Use 3. No known Flood Risks 4. No Admitted Farms

6. E & S assessment comments based on site visit:

Summary Observations

The project sites have no land litigation, no admitted farms and no known flood risks

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

Requires an EIA

Requires preparation of additional E&S information

Does not require further environmental or social due diligence

Prepared by: GODWIN AGYEMANG

Date: 12/4/2021

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

	Benchmark and Issues	Impact description	Yes	No	Remark
1.	Statutory provisions	Is the land take/size of proposed plantation area up to 0-39, 40-100+ ha?	No		If yes, proceed with EA1 Form If land size is 0-39 ha conduct PEA If land size is 40-100ha conduct EIA
2.	Statutory provisions (see Natural Habitat Issues in Checklist)	Are there any ecologically sensitive/ critical areas within the proposed project area		No	If yes, contact regional EPA
3.	Protected areas and wildlife	Will project activities potentially impact natural habitats or critical wildlife species		No	If yes, proceed with EA1 form
4.	Biodiversity loss	Will land use change or vegetation clearance lead to loss of exceptional flora/ fauna		No	If yes, proceed with EA1 form
5.	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		Yes No 30mins No	If 4 is yes, proceed with EA1 form

6.	Soil erosion	Are there steep slopes in the project area?	No	If yes, proceed with EA1 form
		Can you easily walk on the slopes without falling	Yes	

7. Impact Identification and Mitigation (use additional sheet and attach if necessary)	
Impact/Risk	ESMF Mitigation Options & Others
a. Fire Outbreaks	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Construct and Maintain Fire Rides 2. Educate the Reserve's Fringe Communities on Fire 3. Form and Train Fire Volunteer Squad in Fringe Communities 4. Arrest and Prosecute Fire Setters
b. Illegal Logging and Chainsawing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase Patrols within the Project Area and the entire Reserve as a whole 2. Arrest and Prosecute Offenders in collaboration with the Fringe Communities, District Assembly, Police, Military and Judiciary 3. Educate Fringe Communities on Sustainable Forest Management
c. Illegal Farming	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase Patrols, Arrest and Prosecute illegal farmers 2. Plant the affected area with trees.
d. Drought	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Replant with trees when success rate of trees planted in the affected area is more than 20% failure 2. Conduct beating-up when success rate of trees planted in the affected area is less than 20% failure
e. Pest and Diseases on Cultivated Trees	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plant identified disease and pest resistant tree species 2. Practise environmental hygiene.
f. Injury to workers	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) 2. Sensitize and Educate field workers in the use of PPE's 3. Ensure field workers their use of PPE's
g. Drying of water bodies.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Plant of Bamboo along River bodies 2. Create buffer along the River bodies 3. prohibit felling of trees within buffer zone river bodies 4. Educate field workers on watershed management

Summary of Site Sensitivity (Rate as Low/ Medium/High for the sites and provide comments)					
Site	Natural Habitat	Water quality and water resource availability/ erosion	Natural hazards vulnerability, floods, soil stability/erosion	Land and Farming Tenure	Comments
TINTE BEPO FOREST RESERVE COMPARTMENTS 3 & 4	Medium	Low	Medium	Low	Demarcation and cutting of strip lines in the Compartments and Planting of indigenous trees seedlings will not have any significant impact on; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Habitats • River Bodies • Soil stability • Landscape

7. ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE/ CRITICAL AREAS

NB: *Projects sited in these areas could have significant effects on the environment and the EPA could require a more stringent environmental assessment*

All areas declared by law as national parks, watershed reserves, forest reserves, wildlife reserves and sanctuaries including sacred groves

Areas with potential tourist value

Areas which constitute the habitat of any endangered or threatened species of indigenous wildlife (flora and fauna)

Areas of unique historic, religious, cultural, archeological, scientific or educational interest

Areas which provide space, food, and materials for people practicing a traditional style of life

Areas prone to disaster (geological hazards, floods, rainstorms, earthquakes, landslides, volcanic activity etc)

Areas prone to bushfires

Areas classified as prime agricultural areas

Recharge areas of aquifers

Water bodies characterized by one or any combination of the following conditions:

Tapped for domestic purposes

Within controlled/ protected areas

Which support wildlife and fishery activities

Mangrove areas characterized by one or any combination of the following conditions:

With primary pristine and dense growth

Adjoining mouth of major river system

Near or adjacent to traditional fishing grounds

Which acts as natural buffers against shore erosion, strong winds and storm floods

Estuaries and lagoons

Other coastal areas of ecological, fisheries or tourism importance or which are subject to dynamic change

Wetlands

Rivers

Areas of high population density