

Kakum consortium meeting

Joee's Plaza hotel conference room

23rd September, 2020

A total of 23 participants (9F; 14M) attended the 2020 Q3 consortium meeting. There was representation from institutions including the FSD, WD, Cocobod, DA, Ecom, Olam, NCRC and the REDD+ secretariat. Similar to earlier meetings of the consortium, various institutions shared progress of work in the landscape and up-coming planned activities.

NCRC

NCRC outlined their recently completed and upcoming activities in the landscape.

1. Development of Governance structures
 - a. Finalized and signed constitutions and elected substantive executives for Bosomadwe and JABDA CREMAs. This indicates the completion of the governance structures for all four CREMAs in the landscape. The next line of action is therefore
 - i. To compile and review constitution for the first Sub-HIA in the landscape
 - ii. Conduct Elections to select SHEC membership and leadership
 - iii. Inaugurate the SHEC, SHEC leadership and Sub-HIA constitution
2. Development of CREMA regulations
 - a. The NCRC team have completed consultation and validated regulations for Etsi Abease and Kruwa CREMAs and started consultations on regulations for Bosomadwe and JABDA CREMAs. The next steps in the CREMA regulations therefore are to
 - i. Complete consultation and validate regulations for Bosomadwe and JABDA CREMAs
 - ii. Consolidate regulations of the four CREMAs into bye-laws for the Sub-HIA
3. Monitoring and Evaluation

On M&E, NCRC conducted a test-run of the draft monitoring plans for HIAs as well as established a monitoring team for the first Sub-HIA in the Kakum landscape. The next line of action will ;

 - I. seek expert review of the draft monitoring plan
 - II. train a monitoring and patrol team
4. Climate Smart Cocoa production
 - a. In the quarter under review, NCRC distributed 3,000 shade tree seedlings to cocoa farmers in the landscape. The seedlings were provided by the FSD as follows;
 - 1,500 from Abura Dunkwa FSD_ 700 ofram & 800 mahogany
 - 1,500 from Dunkwa Offin FSD_ 700 ofram & 800 mahogany
 - b. NCRC also finalized report on Land use and Land use map for the Kakum landscape. These maps are available to inform and guide interventions of all partners working in the landscape.
5. NCRC, led by the director of Programs and Research, Rebecca Asare, was also happy to introduce Olam who is working with Lindt with whom agreement has been signed to move forward activities to the North of the Kakum Park. The Director of Programs indicated that plans

are far advanced to start at least 3 new sub-HIAs of which Hershey will fund 1 sub-HIA in its next phase while Lindt will fund the other 2 sub-HIAs.

Wildlife Division

The Wildlife Division, represented by the Kakum Park Manager and his assistant, outlined activities including;

- a. the law enforcement unit continued patrols and maintenance of park boundaries;
- b. Tourism unit reopening the park for tourists (there is however very low patronage because most guests are local tourists);
- c. The outreach unit continued with sensitization in fringe communities (sometimes taking advantage of local communication centers in various communities), capacity development of community wildlife volunteers; activities towards establishment of woodlots in collaboration with FSD.

The Park manager also recounted the special case of upsurge in cases of elephant raiding along some sections of the park. To this, education on mitigation measures are ongoing and they are currently assisting 10 farmers with materials to establish pepper fences. This is done in collaboration with NADMO who are providing them with bails of used clothing for that purpose. It was noted that, the Consortium need to start discussions with LBCs and other private sector players on ways they can assist the farmers to protect their livelihoods since current wildlife policy does not provide any room for compensation to affected farmers. Consequently, only livelihood support programs are pursued including starting stock for livestock and vegetable production. Suggestions were also that some portion of the Trust Fund for the CREMAs/Sub-HIA can be allocated, with additional funds from private sector, to serve as an insurance mechanism to support victims of crop raiding. This can come to farmers as payment for ecosystem services.

National REDD+ Secretariat

The NRS was happy to announce that the benefit sharing plan for the carbon fund has been finalized and made public both in the dailies and the secretariat's website. A summary of it disclosed indicate that government benefits 27%, 67% goes to NIA (traditional leaders being given modest cash and registered CSC farmers given in-kind support) and the remaining 4% is retained for administrative cost.

The secretariat has also secured an upfront advance payment of \$1.3million to carry on activities with MTS, NIA, etc. The unit indicated that sensitization workshops are being planned for 19th to 30th October to brief stakeholders on the upfront advance payment (what it will be used for) and the benefit sharing plan.

The Ghana version of REDD+ is comprised of 3 modules (GCFRP, GCF and the coastal basin unit) of which the GCFRP is far advanced. But the unit was also happy to announce that the GCF has also been approved (accepted into the green climate fund) which will implement REDD+ in the shea landscape of the Savanna. To prevent leakages of undesirable activities, the Ghana REDD+ is planned around commodities_ GCFRP is based on cocoa in the forest zone; GCF is based on shea in the savanna landscape; programs for the transition belt, Togo Plateau and mangroves along the coastal zone are being developed.

Other activities at various stages of completion include;

- I. The safeguards monitoring protocol is undergoing final stages of review and will soon be submitted and also the safeguard action plan will soon be released. The safeguard action plan is basically, policies to ensure that implementation of activities does not cause unintended harm to beneficiaries and the landscape. A safeguard team will therefore be instituted to monitor program activities.
- II. A monitoring and evaluation framework is being developed of which a draft is ready.
- III. The forest reference level is also undergoing review with an exploration of a new method (sample based approach).

Cocobod

The Central Regional Manager attended in the company of her assistant and three other staff including the Assin Fosu District Manager. The assistant Central Regional Manager of Cocobod outlined activities of the board in the region including:

1. Cocobod has been conducting community sensitizations on general environmental issues as well as trainings on CSC, CSA and environmental management in line with the Environmental, Social and Sustainability Program (ESSP) recently rolled out. The unit has had an increase in its field staff strength in the region from 25 to 125. The Climate Change Directorate will spearhead the training of Community Extension Agents and mini rallies will be organized to sell the idea.
2. They also distributed a total of 200,000 shade tree seedlings and over 5 million hybrid cocoa seedlings to cocoa farmers this year each cocoa district in the region distributing 40,000. They however noted that, the number of shade trees seedlings distributed is inadequate judging by the requirement of 15 trees/ha of hybrid cocoa. Indicating 340,000 seedlings was required to match the number of cocoa seedlings distributed.
3. Plans are far advance to introduce solar-powered irrigation facilities to mitigate the impact of long periods of drought, due to climate change, on cocoa production. He lamented the growing effect of inadequate water for cocoa trees during cherele formation which results in wilting of the chereles after being pollinated. This, he observed is a contributory factor to the dwindling cocoa output in the country.
4. They are also gearing up for the cocoa rehabilitation program in the region and an aggressive treatment program for CSSV disease. The Cocobod is also designing a program to roll out the use of organic manure as alternative to the import of inorganic fertilizers for the cocoa. They will collaborate with local poultry farmers to supply poultry droppings for the program

Assin South District Assembly

The ASDA was represented by the District Planning Officer. He briefed the consortium mentioning recent activities including:

- I. Public sensitizations on bushfires in six area councils
- II. Distribution of avenue tree seedlings to communities for planting in prevention of rain storms
- III. Provision of motorbikes to the Agric department for Agric extension activities
- IV. Capacity building of disaster management volunteer groups ongoing

Plans are far advanced for the distribution of vetiver grasses to communities for flood management. As the dry season approaches, plans are also advanced for the training of local communities in the creation of fire belts. The district assembly also distributes cocoa seedlings to victims of elephant crop raiding and has begun tracking of raided farms in their monitoring system. Data from these monitoring activities is essential in rolling out targeted interventions and support to victims.

Ecom

Ecom as an LBC has in the course of this cocoa season distributed 30,000 shade tree seedlings to their farmers. They also established the model agroforest cocoa farm with the provision of cocoa seedlings (482 cocoa seedlings) and labor for cutting and replanting. Unfortunately 72 seedlings died due to the long dry season experienced. They have also paid premiums to their cocoa farmers.

Olam

Olam also distributed hybrid cocoa seedlings and 45,000 shade tree seedlings to their farmers within the Central Regional operation zone. They also rolled out the Olam traceability program for which trainings are ongoing. This program is to monitor and ensure deforestation free cocoa in its supply chain as well as ensure the use of properly calibrated scales in purchase of cocoa beans and on payments to cocoa farmers. This will engender transparency to all partners in the cocoa supply chain. They also paid premiums in the form of inputs to their farmers.

Forest Services Division

The FSD was represented by the Central Regional Manager and District Managers of the Cape Coast and Assin Foso Districts. The unit have continued with its patrol activities to curb illegal activities. The Division readjusted its planned target of 100 ha of plantation to 87ha due to the impact of Covid-19, of which 43ha has so far been realized and activities are at various stages with the remaining 44ha. The central regional unit also raised 70,000 tree seedlings of which 30,000 are tree-on-farm species. These, they have distributed to farmers and other partner organizations including the WD for its woodlot activities. On continued sensitization, the Division targeted 15 communities in the quarter under review out of which 11 has been accomplished so far.

Appendix: List of participants

CONSORTIUM MEETING, SEPTEMBER 2020 23/09/2020

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No	Name	Institution	Contact	Sign/thumb print
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