Overview of Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP)

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GCFRP Overview

- Programme coordinated jointly by Ghana COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission.

**GOAL**

It aims to significantly reduce carbon emissions resulting from cocoa expansion through forests conversion by promotion of appropriate climate-smart cocoa production approaches, including intensification and yield enhancement.
Ghana aims to secure the future of its forests and make the cocoa sector climate-resilient, whilst sustaining and enhancing income and livelihood opportunities for farmers and forest users across the program area.

Cocoa intensification to increase yield.

In the long term, the GCFRP will also contribute to the attainment of Ghana’s Nationally Determined Contribution targets.

Curb illegal timber harvesting and mining, while incorporating shade trees in cocoa systems.
GCFRP Pillars

A. Forest Reserve Rehabilitation and Restoration
- Enrichment planting
- Modified taungya system
- Assisted natural regeneration
- Job creation

B. Institutional Coordination & MRV
- Functional JCC
- Operations of PMU
- Monitor activities/MRV/Data mgt
- Law enforcement
- Create CSC HIAs

C. Landscape Planning within HIA areas
- Est. CSC consortia for HIAs
- Complete HIA landscape mgt plans
- Implement HIA landscape mgt plans
- CSC landscape validation in HIAs
- Create CSC good practices guidelines
- Implement HIA landscape mgt plans
- HIA CSC consortium implement with farmers
- Increase transparency in cocoa purchases
- Branding ER Cocoa/Est. Gh CSC Standard

D. Implement CSC to increase yields & sustainability
- Access to financial credit for CSC
- Access to yield insurance
- Marketing additional ERs above FCPF
- Sustainable finance of HIAs

E. Risk Management & Finance
- Passage of legislation on tree tenure etc.
- Reform and implementation of gov’t policies
- Revise input supply policy

F. Legislative & Policy Reforms
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CSC Standard Sustainable finance of HIAs
The Programme area covers 5.92 million ha; (79% off-reserve and 21% on reserve)

- Includes 5 forest types: Wet Evergreen, Moist Evergreen, Moist Semi-Deciduous (NW), Moist Semi-Deciduous (SE) and Upland Evergreen.

- Total population of 12 million people, almost evenly split between urban and rural.

- Target farmers/farms of about 800,000

- The HFZ forms part of the West Africa Guinean Forest Biodiversity Hotspot

- The Programme covers 7 Regions; Western, Western North, Central, Bono, Ahafo, Ashanti and Eastern Regions.
Key GCFRP Activities

The GCFRP seeks to achieve the following:

1. Climate-smart cocoa production
2. Landscape-level governance and land-use planning,
3. Monitoring of forests and increased patrolling (rapid response units)
4. Monitoring of social and environmental safeguards.
5. Increased collaboration amongst stakeholders at landscape scales
6. Benefit-sharing to the landowners and land-users who help reduce deforestation
Achieving the multidimensional objectives of GCFRP is not the responsibility of one entity. It therefore calls for all hands on deck— the contributions and efforts of all relevant stakeholders to address the complex and Objectives of GCFRP.
Who are the stakeholders?

How can efforts and contributions be harmonized?

How can stakeholders work together?
The genuine question to ask is who should make decisions in landscapes and how and why those decisions should be made?

LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE

Provides the unique vehicle and space to accommodate everyone to achieve shared and multi-dimensional objectives
A landscape is defined as a mosaic of different land uses with multiple components and functioning interactions between and across ecological, social and social-ecological processes (functional interactions), made up of multiple actors and stakeholders with varying interests (negotiated spaces), and made up of nested components occurring on different scales (multiple scales).
WHAT IS LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE
LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE: the rules and decision making processes that affect actions in the landscape. In other words, landscape governance refers to the combination of rules and decision-making processes of civic, private, and public actors with stakes in the landscape, that together shape the future of that landscape.

A key assumption underlying the LG is that achieving multifunctional landscapes (i.e., simultaneously achieving agricultural, livelihood, conservation, and climate objectives) requires that decision-making processes are inclusive.
Envisage the Asunafo-Asutifi HIA (landscape) that should deliver the GCFRP goal.
Key Elements of Landscape Governance

- Multi-level, multi-sector and multi-actor in nature—often characterized by diverse perspectives, interests and goals.

- Assumes democratic or good governance principles to structures, rules and decision-making processes i.e. inclusion, transparency and accountability.

- Strive to generate and communicate requisite knowledge and information for stakeholders as well as strengthen capacities.

- Pre-requisite for achieving inclusive, sustainable and climate smart cocoa-forest landscape.
WHY LANDSCAPE GOVERNANCE

- Positive results in natural resources management are better achieved via jurisdictional approach than in silos
- Empowers communities to pursue their interest in their natural resources (rights, access, land use planning)
- Multi-stakeholder participation in landscape governance
- Empowering / strengthening mechanisms for forest protection
- Deepening understanding and appreciation of the impacts of deforestation and climate change
- Supporting Forestry Commission and COCOBOD in discharging their core mandates at local level (forest monitoring, tree planting, CSC etc.)
- More effective approach towards forest protection
- Decentralized governance (decision-making over resources)
Landscape Governance Under GCFRP

- The GCFRP has adapted the well-established CREMA model for the purpose of landscape governance of cocoa farming areas (hotspot intervention area).

- Selection Criteria
  - Aggregation of Political Districts
  - Existing initiatives and investments
  - Drivers of deforestation / forest degradation

- It is specifically designed to support forest protection, transform cocoa production and potentially cocoa sourcing as well.

- Such landscapes has been prioritized for the implementation of REDD+ and sustainable, climate-smart cocoa production activities under the GCFRP program.
HIA Governance Process

- Rapid Assessment of HIA Landscape: rapid analysis of the social-ecological status of a target area
- Committee Formation Process:
  - Developing the constitution
  - Defining the HIA and Sub-HIA boundaries
  - Preparing the HIA and Sub-HIA bye laws
  - Entering Agreement with FC and Cocobod
  - Preparing an HIA Landscape Management Plan
- Undertake Roles and Responsibilities under the Agreement
Understanding Hotspot Intervention Area (HIA)

HIA means:

- Hotspots of cocoa, threatened forests and with multiple stakeholders and actors.
- HIAs constitute 100,000-200,000 ha landscapes with farms, forests, and rivers, and other resources.
- Made up of communities, farmers and traditional leaders who voluntarily enter into a process to govern the natural resources on their land and in the landscape.
- HIAs are target landscape for implementation of REDD+ and sustainable, climate-smart cocoa production.
Schematic representation of HIA Governance Structure
Role of HIA functional units (HMB, SHEC, CEC/ZEC, CRMC) in GCFRP

- To bring communities and stakeholders within the Sub-HIA under one umbrella to advocate for peace and development
- Commits to implement ‘CREMA-type’ landscape planning and management processes
- Commits to building local governance institution to manage the cocoa landscape
- Commits to support farmers in the adoption of climate-smart cocoa practices, with attention to gender and youth
- Commits to participate in identification of cocoa farms in the landscape including on-reserve
- Commits to lead in the drafting and implementation of by-laws that support sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming, forest protection, and tree tenure reforms towards on-farm planting of shade trees and farmer assisted natural regeneration
- Commits to participate in of GCFRP activities within the landscape
- To educate communities on the importance of conservation of the natural and cultural resources and to stem further habitat degradation.
- To promote alternative livelihoods to community residents through sustainable NTFP harvesting and other income generating initiatives.
- To ensure the survival of biodiversity through effective implementation of land-use planning.
Challenges

- Inadequate logistical support
- Slow process of change/ uptake of activities
- Inadequate funding
- Time consuming
- Apathy and delinquency

Threats

- Non-adherence to safeguards measures
- Late or delay in redressing grievances
Practical guide for effective functioning of HIA functional bodies

- continued learning and adaptation,
- Common concern entry point,
- multiple scales,
- multifunctionality,
- multiple stakeholders,
- Negotiated and transparent change logic
- clarification of rights and responsibilities,
- Participator and user friendly monitoring,
- resilience, and
- strengthened stakeholder capacity

Working together as one functional unit
THANK YOU!