

FINDING COMMON CAUSE IN CLIMATE SMART COCOA THROUGH THE 'ENHANCING NATURAL FOREST AND AGRO-FOREST LANDSCAPE PROJECT (ENFALP)' IN GHANA



GHANA ENFALP OVERVIEW

- ➔ **PROJECT COST:**
USD 32.5 MILLION
- ➔ **FUNDERS:**
FIP, WORLD BANK,
GOVERNMENT OF GHANA
- ➔ **IMPLEMENTING AGENCIES**
MINISTRY OF LAND AND
NATURAL RESOURCES,
GHANA COCOA BOARD,
FORESTRY COMMISSION
- ➔ **PROJECT DURATION:**
2015-2020
- ➔ **COUNTRY SERVED:**
GHANA

THE ENHANCING NATURAL FOREST AND AGRO-FOREST LANDSCAPE PROJECT:

The Enhancing Natural Forest and Agro-Forest Landscape Project (ENFALP) aims to improve forest and tree management practices among key forest stakeholders to reduce forest loss and degradation in selected landscapes in Ghana's high forest zone. It is a core cocoa production area with significant forest degradation.

The Ministry of Land and Natural Resources (MLNR), along with the Cocoa State Company (COCOBOD) and the Forestry Commission are the primary implementers of this five-year project, supported by the Climate Investment Funds (CIF), under the Forest Investment Program (FIP), and the World Bank. Approved in February 2015 and scheduled to conclude in June 2020, the project includes a grant of USD 29.5 million, in addition to a USD 3 million Government of Ghana contribution, for a total budget of USD 32.5

Development context:

Unsustainable forest management practices have cost Ghana almost half of its forest cover since 2000. Ghana's deforestation rate is about 2 percent per year, representing a loss of 135,000 hectares (ha) per year. To blame are agricultural expansion, particularly cocoa production; harvesting for fuel wood and charcoal, illegal logging, wildfires, and biomass burning; population and development pressure; and mining and mineral exploitation.

million. FIP-supported activities in Ghana aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, while reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity. The project aims to foster cooperation among MLNR, the Forestry Commission, and COCOBOD to improve policy implementation, management practices, capacity building, and communication. It also is working to pilot community-based planning and management, as well as testing alternative models for devolving rights and responsibilities to communities and farmers.

DELIVERY CHALLENGES:

The project encountered two major delivery challenges. First, there was an initial lack of coordination between the COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission. Historically, these two institutions have had competing mandates: COCOBOD was focused on increasing cocoa production, while the Forestry Commission was mandated to protect the forest.

Second, there were delays in creating local Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), which are intended to build ownership among local populations to sustainably manage forests at the decentralized level. Limited participation of local farmers and communities in project implementation compromised the uptake of sustainable forest management practices.

OVERCOMING DELIVERY CHALLENGES:

The project was able to foster greater coordination between COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission. The institutions began to reconcile their mandates as their awareness of and interest in climate change challenges in cocoa production increased. COCOBOD decided to commit to supporting climate smart cocoa through ENFALP and the Forestry Commission decided to pursue REDD+ initiatives. Within the project, both COCOBOD and the Forestry Commission have shown leadership

by working together to identify, prioritize, and achieve joint, effective climate change responses. Both organizations saw the value of working together to achieve improved inter-institutional cooperation, thanks to their respective, proactive roles in the ENFALP. To accelerate the development of CREMAs and improve community participation in natural resources management, the project promoted an innovative fast-track approach by partnering with community-based organizations (CBOs). Thanks to these interventions, the project exceeded the target of 50,000 ha to be designated and set up under CREMA management, with the project only midway through implementation.

EMERGING LESSONS:

- 1. The common goal of adapted cocoa production helped to align competing approaches to natural resource management.** The project has fostered a shift in the relationship between cocoa production and forest management in Ghana. It has helped COCOBOD, the Forestry Commission, and MLNR demonstrate how to align national and international interests on sustainable forest management and capitalize on them in the cocoa market.
- 2. Linking sustainable natural resource management with development opportunities ensured better results.** Projects promoting community-based resource management should remain accountable to the local communities they intend to serve.
- 3. Consistent messaging ensured effective awareness raising.** The use of clear, consistent messages by project implementers is crucial to aid delivery effectiveness, identify delivery gaps, reduce overlapping activities, and promote effective coordination at both the national and decentralized levels.

- 4. Partnering with CBOs made local communities part of the solution.** Working through CBOs accelerated both the process of CREMA creation and result achievement in terms of community resource management in the project area, changing their perception of forest management and promoting sustainable action in the medium term.

LOOKING AHEAD:

Despite the satisfactory implementation of ENFALP, challenges still exist. Work is still required to ensure a timely and adequate provision of trees to farmers by the Forestry Commission. Trees, an integral part of shade-grown climate smart cocoa, must be planted in time for the rains. Also, some technical components are still lacking, such as the prolonged absence of a training manual for extension officers on climate smart cocoa practices. The effective implementation of the tree registration process, both for planting new trees under the project and for naturally occurring trees, is also crucial to the continuous engagement of local communities. ■

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