



# AN AID TO UNDERSTANDING THE GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAM (GCFRP) AND ITS BENEFIT SHARING PLAN

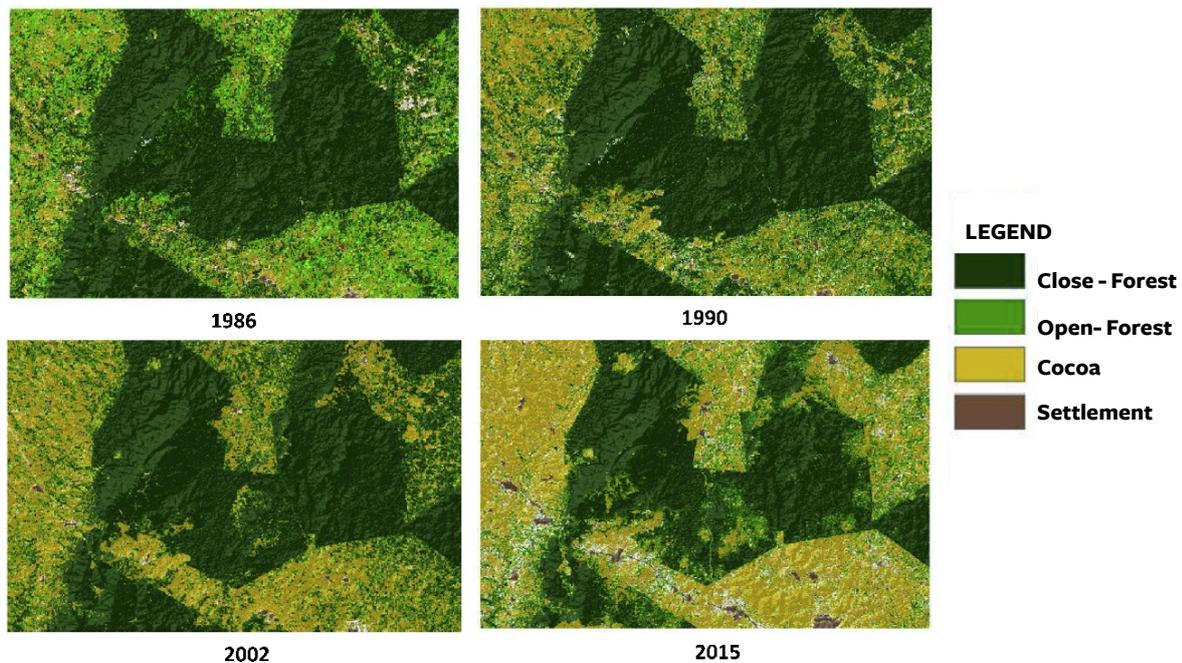
FOR COMMUNITIES IN GCFRP INTERVENTION AREAS



## WHY IS THE GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAM BEING IMPLEMENTED?

Currently, a lot of cocoa farms are being illegally cultivated in forests, chainsaw operators are cutting trees in cocoa farms, while farmers plant few trees within their cocoa farms. These practices make us lose the benefits forests and trees give to people and the cocoa we cultivate. We lose benefits such as:

- i. Rainfall and good climate that makes the cocoa grow well and produce more beans
- ii. Low temperature that prevents cocoa from drying up
- iii. Trees planted in cocoa farms providing shade to the cocoa
- iv. Loss of revenue and other benefits from future ownership of timber trees planted in cocoa farms
- v. Trees absorbing carbon dioxide to minimize the impacts of high temperature and low rainfall on cocoa farms and livelihoods.



**Figure 1:** A satellite image of parts of the Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve showing forest conversion to cocoa FROM 1986 to 2015

## WHAT SHOULD A PERSON DO TO BENEFIT FROM THE GCFRP?

To benefit from the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program, ensure the following activities:



i. Participate in tree planting exercises in farmlands and forest reserves



ii. Don't plant cocoa in forest reserves



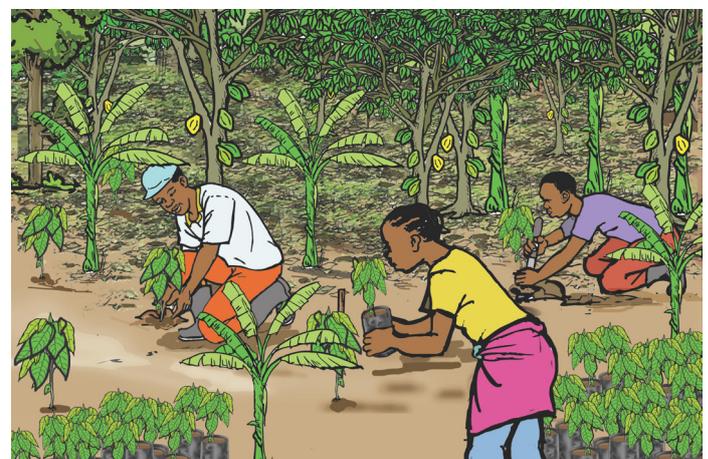
iii. Don't cut trees but plant them in cocoa farms



vi. Register your trees with the Forestry Commission



v. Practice climate-smart cocoa production



vi. Instead of expansion, practice cocoa intensification

## WHAT SHOULD A PERSON DO TO BENEFIT FROM THE GCFRP?

To benefit from the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ program, ensure the following activities:



vii. Remove old and diseased cocoa trees and replant



ix. Join and be an active member of a cocoa farmer cooperative/association



viii. Don't give your cocoa farms for small-scale mining (Galamsey)

x. Actively participate in CREMA activities

xi. Respect social and environmental safeguards including buffer zone protection, not spraying into water bodies, using recommended agrochemicals, practising integrated pest management, etc

## WHAT BENEFITS ARE WE GOING TO GAIN NOW UNDER THE GCFRP?

By participating in GCFRP activities, cocoa farmers and their communities are going to enjoy some benefits.

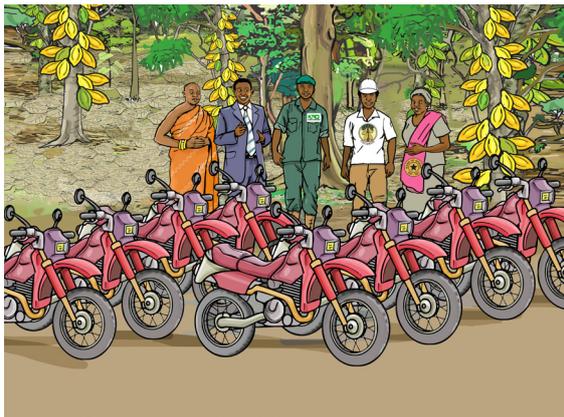
Benefits would accrue because farmers and other cocoa stakeholders have engaged in cocoa farming practices that have avoided deforestation, increased timber trees in cocoa farms, improved tree planting in forest reserves and minimized illegal chainsaw operations.

There are two types of benefits under the program namely, **carbon** and **non-carbon benefits**.

### CARBON BENEFITS

The carbon benefits are primarily focused on incentivizing and appreciating farmers and key stakeholders for contributing to changing behavior of farmers and other stakeholders on cocoa farming practices that do not deforest but encourage the adoption of agroforestry, improving yield on the same land without expanding and avoiding illegal harvesting of timber.

Carbon benefits may be **monetary** or **non-monetary goods and services** which have been generated because of the improvements associated with the implementation of the GCFRP.



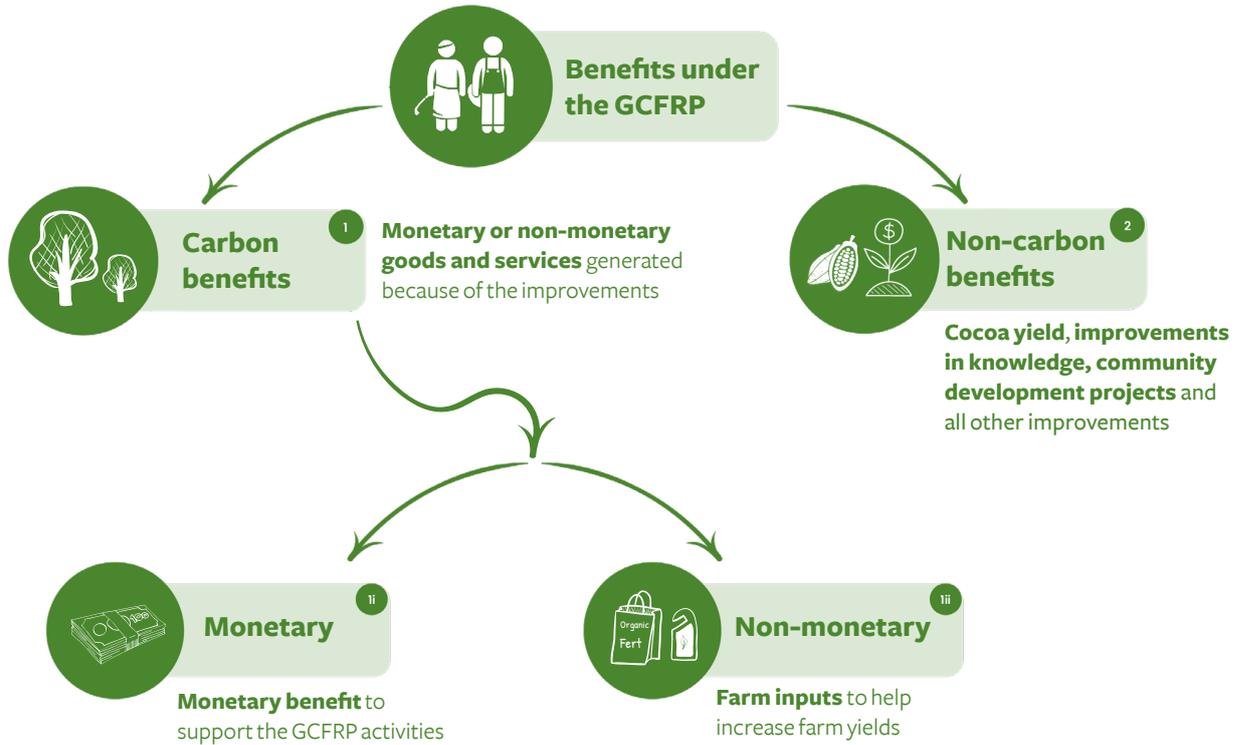
### NON-CARBON BENEFITS

Non-carbon benefits are intangible benefits which include cocoa yield, improvements in knowledge and all other improvements which were co-generated as a result of the implementation of the GCFRP.



**Generally, the following are some examples of the GCFRP benefits to farmers:**

- HIA farmers benefit from increased yields
- HIA farmers benefit from income diversification
- HIA farmers benefit from increased climate resilience
- HIAs benefit from improved protection of the forest
- HIA farmers, communities and Traditional Authority benefit from Carbon Fund



The beneficiaries of the carbon benefits are grouped into **primary and secondary beneficiaries**.

The primary beneficiaries are GCFRP stakeholders who contributed directly to the following:



i. Avoiding cocoa encroachment into forest reserves



ii. Planted timber trees in cocoa farms according to COCOBOD recommendation (incorporated agroforestry trees in cocoa farms)



iii. Secured trees in their cocoa farms.

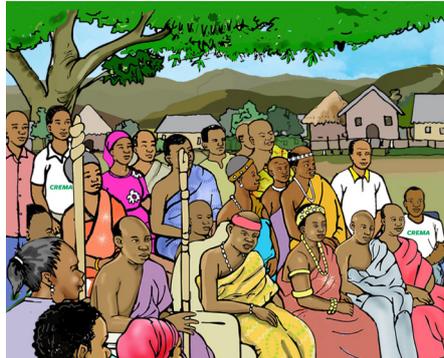
**The primary beneficiaries include the following:**

**Registered farmers in HIA groups:**



They will receive non-monetary benefits in the form of farm input packages to support climate-smart cocoa production, community development initiatives such as boreholes and other community projects

**Traditional councils:**



They will receive monetary benefits

**Forestry Commission:**



They will receive monetary benefit in the form of logistical support for HIA monitoring and law enforcement, restoration of degraded forest reserves, implementation and monitoring of social and environmental safeguards and general coordination of GCFRP

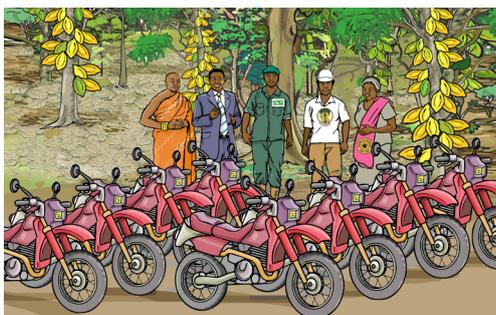
**The secondary beneficiaries are GCFRP stakeholders who provided indirect and supporting roles in avoiding cocoa encroachment into forest reserves, planting trees in cocoa farms according to COCOBOD recommendations and secured trees in their cocoa farms. The secondary beneficiaries include the following:**

**HIA and Sub-HIA communities:**



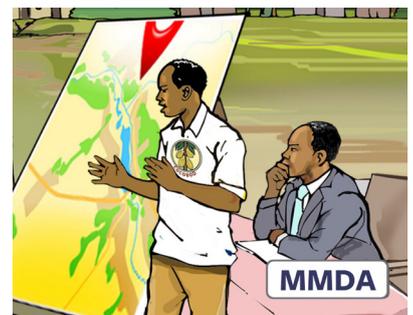
They will receive non-monetary benefit in the form of community development projects

**COCOBOD:**



These include Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme, Cocoa Diseases and Pest Control Programme (CODAPEC), Cocoa HiTech (Fertilizer) Programme, Free Hybrid Cocoa Seedling Distribution, Artificial Hand Pollination, Mass Cocoa Pruning, Cocoa Management System (CMS) and Irrigation

**MMDAs (Local government):**

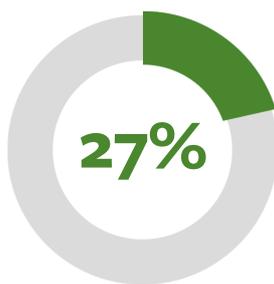


They will receive non-monetary benefits to support their effective participation in landscape management and enforcement of laws to safeguard trees from illegal harvesting and farmer encroachment into cocoa farms.

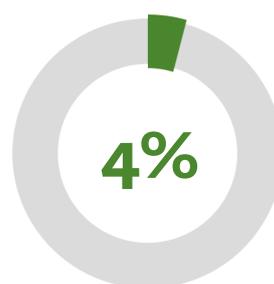
Of the total money accruing from the carbon benefits,



will go to **farmers, traditional authorities** and their communities



will go to the **government**



will go to the **Forestry Commission**

**HOW WILL THE BENEFITS REACH YOU AND WHO WILL ENSURE THAT IT IS DONE RIGHT?**

1.



A **secured account** (REDD+ Dedicated Account) has been created at the **Bank of Ghana** for the receipt of carbon payments from the World Bank. The account is being managed by a committee of trustees known as the RDA Steering Committee. The committee is represented by the government, civil society, traditional authorities, and World Cocoa Foundation. The members will ensure that the funds are distributed transparently in line with the GCFRP outcomes.

2.



HIA accounts have been opened at the **landscape level** for the receipt of carbon payments from the RDA

3.



Based on the **relative performance of the HIAs**, funds are released to the accounts.



This HIA account will be **governed by The HIA Implementation Committee**, which is made up of **HIA Management Board** Members who are mostly community people and, Consortium Partners (Government, NGOs/CSOs and Private Sector).

5.



The HIA Implementation Committee, also known as the HIC, will **vet applications received from the HIC to ensure due diligence before funds are released for community projects as well as for the purchase of farm inputs/services and their distribution.**

6.



Funds received from the RDA will be used in line with the activity/action plan. Once this committee accepts the application, the funds in the form of **farm produce and farm services** will be released to the applying community or farmer group.



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**For more information, please contact:**

- 1. Forestry Commission: [www.fcghana.org](http://www.fcghana.org)
- 2. Solidaridad West Africa: [www.solidaridadnetwork.org](http://www.solidaridadnetwork.org)