

MINUTES
ORIENTATION MEETING FOR THE RDA STEERING COMMITTEE
HELD AT ACCRA CITY HOTEL, ACCRA
(FRIDAY, AUGUST 5TH 2022)

ATTENDANCE:

MEMBERS PRESENT	ORGANIZATION	DESIGNATION
Madam Yvonne Quansah	Ministry of Finance	Chair
Oseadeeyo Kwesi Enin IV	National House of Chiefs	Member
Madam Mercy Owusu Ansah	Tropenbos Ghana	Member
Vincent Awotwe -Pratt	World Cocoa Foundation	Member
Isaac Kwadwo Gyamfi	Solidaridad West Africa	Member
Albert Katakua	Forest Watch Ghana	Member
Surveyor Ebenezer Arthur	Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands	Member

IN ATTENDANCE (OBSERVERS):

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Madam Roselyn Fosuah Adjei	FC – CCD
Michael Ekow Amoah	COCOBOD
Justice Odoi	World Bank
Thomas Yaw Gyambrah	FC – CCD
Charles Sarpong Duah	FC – CCD
Helen Fosuhemaa Wiafe	FC – CCD
Stephen Ofori	FC – CCD
Samuel Agyemang Tutu	FC – CCD
Kingsley Obeng	FC – CCD
Joanita Akakpo	MoF

LIST OF ACRONYMS ACRONYMS

Acronym	Meaning
BSP	Benefit Sharing Plan
CCD	Climate Change Directorate
COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
ERP	Emission Reductions Payment Agreement
ERs	Emission Reductions
FC	Forestry Commission
FFM	Fund Flow Mechanism
GCFRP	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
HIAs	Hotspot Intervention Areas
HIC	HIA Implementation Committee
HMB	Hotspot Management Board
MoF	Ministry of Finance
NRS	National REDD+ Secretariat
OASL	Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands
RDA	REDD+ Dedicated Account
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation plus conservation, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
WB	World Bank
WCF	World Cocoa Foundation

ITEM /ISSUE	DISCUSSIONS
<p>1.0 Opening/ Opening Remarks</p>	<p>The RDA Steering Committee orientation meeting started at 10:00 am with an opening prayer by Mr. Charles Sarpong Duah.</p> <p>1.1 Opening Statement by Director of Climate Change Ms. Roselyn Fosuah Adjei, Director - Climate Change, opened the meeting and welcomed everyone. She explained that the purpose of the meeting was to orient the RDA Steering Committee members on their roles and responsibilities. Ms. Roselyn read the profiles (see annex 2) of the committee members. The names and the respective designations of the RDA Steering Committee members are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chairperson - Madam Yvonne Quansah - Director, External Resource Mobilization and Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance. • Member - Oseadeeyo Kwesi Enin IV, National House of Chiefs • Member - Madam Mercy Owusu Ansah, Tropenbos Ghana • Member – Mr. Vincent Awotwe -Pratt, World Cocoa Foundation • Member - Isaac Kwadwo Gyamfi, Solidaridad West Africa • Member – Mr. Albert Katak, Forest Watch Ghana • Member - Surveyor Ebenezer Arthur, Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands <p>Madam Roselyn also informed the Committee that the National REDD+ Secretariat would play a secretarial function for the Committee and also as an observer. She also introduced Mr. Michael Ekow Amoah to the Committee as an observer that would represent Ghana Cocoa Board.</p> <p>1.2 Opening Statement by Chairperson The chairperson in the person of Madam Yvonne Quansah expressed her appreciation and enthusiasm for the orientation organized for the RDA Committee members. She looked forward to the orientation being able to provide clarity and understanding of expectations and roles assigned to the Committee including meeting modalities (e.g., the number of times the committee was expected to sit). She observed that the committee had the right mix of expertise (representing various sectors; government, CSO/NGO, traditional authority, and private sector) to deliver on their mandate. According to her, the inclusive nature of the committee would ensure that discussions and deliberations of the committee would serve the interest of all the beneficiary groups. She</p>

	<p>encouraged committee members to work together as a team, indulge in fruitful discussions, and ask relevant questions. She enjoined the National REDD+ Secretariat to support the work of the committee.</p>
<p>2.0 Presentation on the Overview of the GCFRP</p>	<p>Mr. Thomas Gyambrah from the National REDD+ Secretariat made a PowerPoint presentation on the overview of the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) summarized as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Ghana REDD+ Strategy identified GCFRP as the premier emission reductions program with the goal to improve land-use and socio-economic development in the High Forest Zone (HFZ) and cocoa growing areas of Ghana by increasing cocoa yield on farmlands through intensification with climate-smart practices whilst preventing the expansion of cocoa farms into forest lands, by undertaking forest restoration activities. • The Forestry Commission and the Ghana Cocoa Board are the co-proponents of GCFRP. • GCFRP spans seven (7) regions of Ghana namely: Ahafo, Ashanti, Bono, Eastern, Central, Western, and Western North. • Six (6) Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs) have been delineated (areas with high deforestation rates) within the broader GCFRP area to focus interventions that would result in Emission Reductions (ERs). The HIAs include: Juaboso-Bia, Asunafo-Asutifi, Ahafo-Ano, Kakum, Atewa, and Sefwi-Wiawso Bibiani. • A considerable number of communities have been identified and mobilized across the HIAs through the HIA governance structures and as such have promoted inclusive participation of local communities in GCFRP implementation. • Some key achievements highlighted during the presentation included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signing of Emission Reduction Payment Agreement of US\$50 million with the World Bank; • Signing of a framework agreement with Juaboso-Bia, Ahafo-Ano, and Asunafo-Asutifi HIAs; • Development of governance structures for five (5) out of six (6) HIAs (Juaboso-Bia, Asunafo-Asutifi, Sefwi-Wiawso, Ahafo-Ano, and Kakum); • GCFRP Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) finalized and disclosed; • Increased cocoa yield from 450kg/ha to 600kg/ha through the implementation of Climate Smart Agricultural practices;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of GCFRP Engagement Principles; and • First Monitoring Report submitted and verified.
3.0 Questions/ Answers/Statements by Committee Members	<p>At the end of this presentation committee members had the opportunity to ask the following questions:</p> <p>3.1 How much ERs are expected for the \$ 50 m?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer- In total, Ghana is expected to deliver 13.5 mtCO_{2-e} ERs; 10 mtCO_{2-e} ERs (@ \$5/ton) as actual and the remaining 3.5 mtCO_{2-e} ERs earmarked for buffer (which is to ensure permanence; serving as 'insurance' for the program). <p>3.2 Will the slides of the presentation as well as other relevant documents be shared with the committee and will the secretariat confirm their availability to provide clarity to the committee when needed?</p> <p>Answer: Yes, all source documents would be shared with the committee. NRS will be available to provide further explanation and support to enhance the work of the committee.</p> <p>3.3 What is the tenure of office for the committee?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer: The answer was deferred, as the Agenda had made provision to discuss the tenure of office for Committee members. <p>3.4 What happens if any of the parties that have signed the GCFRP framework agreement do not perform?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer: Benefit Sharing Options paper has been developed to guide the determination of the relative performance of each HIA, which will translate into the benefits that each HIA will receive. This implies that if any HIA underperforms, that HIA will receive its commensurate benefits and vice versa. <p>3.5 How are the Traditional Authorities engaged in the program?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer: The Traditional Authorities (TAs) have always been playing key roles in Ghana's REDD+ implementation. At the national level, the representative from the National House of Chiefs who was the paramount chief of Agona Ashanti in the person of Nana Anokye Ababio (late) had the opportunity to co-chair the apex Ghana REDD+ Working Group. His inclusion in the Working group allowed him to share regular updates with the members of the National House of Chiefs. Additionally, the RDA Steering Committee benefits from the inclusion of another paramount chief, a representative of the

National House of Chiefs. According to the BSP, 3% of the HIA-level benefit has been earmarked for the traditional authorities.

3.6 The Chair implored the committee members to share their perspectives and views on the presentation. The following were the feedback from the committee members:

- According to **Solidaridad West Africa**: The framework developed for the community governance system is robust and could be used for the implementation of new programs/projects although a few adjustments and realignment may be needed.
- According to **Forest Watch Ghana**: It is good to know that Traditional Authorities have been included in the GCFRP BSP. This will serve as a motivation for the TAs to play their roles and to ensure that the communities are respecting the rules of the game (contributing to reducing deforestation, promoting forest growth, etc).
- According to **Tropenbos Ghana**: The presentation has delivered a well-structured governance arrangement, making it easy to deliver benefits to communities. The governance arrangements make provision for the community to manage the benefit themselves.
- According to **World Cocoa Foundation**: WCF has been part of the process from the onset and every step of the way. WCF has been engaged in achieving key outputs including witnessing the signing of the GCFRP Framework Agreement and MOUs. The implementation of GCFRP has the support of WCF and WCF is optimistic that the governance arrangement promotes inclusion and gender considerations. It also dissolves power and promotes trust and comfort in the local communities for their effective engagements.

3.7 Justice from the World Bank enquired whether the members of the committee will have the opportunity to engage local actors at the HIA level.

- **Answer:** Yes, the committee members would be allowed to engage the landscape actors and this would form part of the next steps. A proposed schedule will be communicated to the committee.

	<p>3.8 The committee enquired about whether synergies and partnerships could be built around the private sector and/or CSOS/NGOs projects (e.g., Solidaridad and SNV) in the bid to secure more emission reductions payments? If yes, could that be captured in the reporting of the committee?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer: The secretariat has already been working with and has signed a formal MOU with most of the organizations with presence in the GCFRP Area, including the CSOs cited. The HIA governance architecture creates space for stronger partnerships and synergies to be built through the formation of the consortium. And yes, the committee could capture other initiatives in their reporting. <p>3.9 Would the World Bank give carbon credit for the other initiatives/interventions?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Answer: Yes, the program design has a program level accounting and so the Bank will pay for credits issued so far as it is within the GCFRP area.
<p>4.0 Presentation on the BSP and Fund Flow Mechanism</p>	<p>Mr. Gyambrah made a second presentation on the GCFRP Benefit Sharing Plan and Fund Flow Mechanism (FFM). His presentation highlighted the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BSP describes the various beneficiaries, their eligibility, roles, and responsibilities while specifying the scale and modalities for distribution. • It also describes the type of benefits to be transferred to the beneficiaries, the timing of the distribution, the conditions (roles and responsibilities) to be satisfied for the payment of the benefits, and the appropriate indicators for monitoring, measuring, and verifying compliance with modalities for distributing benefits to beneficiaries. • The three (3) main identified beneficiary groups included the following: HIA level stakeholder groups (farmers, communities, and traditional authorities), government agencies (Forestry Commission, Ghana Cocoa Board; Metropolitan, Municipal, Districts and Assemblies), and private sector (cocoa companies and others). • The government agencies, as well as Traditional Authorities, shall receive monetary benefits whereas farmers and communities will also receive non-monetary benefits. The private sector will not benefit from the carbon benefits but rather the non-carbon benefits.

Commented [JASA1]: SNV in full. Its appearing for the first time.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final BSP has been disclosed in the national dailies. • According to the BSP arrangement: 4% has been apportioned to PMU to cover fixed costs, HIA level stakeholders would benefit from 69% of the carbon benefit while government agencies, 27%. However, 3% of the HIA level and government benefits would be set aside as a buffer. • The HIA level stakeholders would split their allotment according to the following percentages: [farmer groups (58%), Traditional Authority (3%), & HIA communities (39%)]. • Government agencies would split their allotment according to the following percentages: Forestry Commission (85%), COCOBOD (7.5%), and MMDAs (7.5%). <p>Roles of key Fund Flow Mechanism Structures are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HIA Implementing Committee (HIC) composed of reps from HMB, private sector, CSO/NGO, and the government would be responsible for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the BSP; ○ Disbursing the benefits from the Carbon Fund payments to Farmer Groups and Communities; and ○ Supporting community project selection. • RDA Steering Committee would; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Monitor and implement the Benefit Sharing Plan; and ○ Disburse Carbon Fund payments to Government Agencies and HIAs. • Programme Management Unit (PMU) in implementation of BSP would be responsible for; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Estimating ER payments for beneficiaries based on relative performance.
<p>5.0 Questions / Answers</p>	<p>At the end of this presentation, committee members had the opportunity to ask the following questions:</p> <p>5.1 What is the framework put in place for auditing (monitoring of funds utilization) by the Audit Service which is a key requirement or is it captured under the project funds?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Forestry Commission auditing process, an auditor would be engaged at both national and sub-national levels to produce an auditing report that would be shared

	<p>with the appropriate quarters including the World Bank. Additionally, the FFM consultant is expected to produce a manual to guide the auditing framework.</p> <p>5.2 How different is the HIC from the consortium?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The HIC is composed of selected representatives from HMB, private sector, CSOs/NGOs, and government representatives while the consortium is made of the private sector, CSOs/NGOs, and government representatives only.
<p>6.0 Presentation on the Funds Flow Mechanism for BSP/Terms of Reference for RDA Committee by the FFM Consultant</p>	<p>Mr. Ernest Afram on behalf of the lead consultant (Yaw Osafo) made a PowerPoint presentation on the Fund Flow Mechanism for Benefit Sharing of Emission Reduction Payments from GCFRP. His presentation elaborated the following key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Terms of Reference of the RDA Steering Committee • The governance arrangement for the Fund Flow • Core principles that the committee is expected to abide by such as accountability, integrity, transparency & conflict of interest, social accountability, efficiency & effectiveness, independence and, code of conduct/ethics. • Terms of office: a staggered rotation or tenure of Committee members to guarantee institutional knowledge retention was proposed. • Scope of work for the committee: it was discussed that the main role of the RDA Committee of Trustees was to oversee the monitoring and implementation of the Final BSP, and manage the disbursement of the performance-based benefits from the Carbon Fund payments to the beneficiaries. Details of the scope of work at the program and HIA levels were shared with the committee. • Remuneration of RDA Steering Committee: the consultant disclosed that the Committee shall receive taxable sitting allowance as may be approved by the Ministry of Finance, the NRS, and the World Bank.
<p>7.0 Discussions/ Suggestions/Other Matters</p>	<p>7.1 Term of Office</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The committee suggested to the consultant to review the structure of the terms of office to include a mechanism that would allow retention of institutional memory, as the one proposed would not ensure this. In this case, it was proposed that the committee should be allowed to serve two (2) terms with their terminal date occurring on the 2nd term using a stepwise rotational system. In contributing to this discussion, the NRS concurred with the proposal of the committee

serving two terms. However, the NRS was of the view that the consultant could explore a framework that would integrate incoming committee members to their first function/meeting as observers, allowing them to assimilate and learn all the processes/procedures before taking full charge. The NRS again was of the view that the representative (Chair) (occupying a top hierarchy position) of the Ministry of Finance should be made a permanent member of the committee without a terminal date. In this case, the MOF representative may be replaced when he/she is no more acting in the top hierarchy position or proceeds on retirement.

7.2 Co-Chair

- The committee opposed the consideration given for the CSO/NGO representative to occupy the position of co-chair. The reason was that, having the CSO/NGO representative occupying the position of a co-chair would bring about a conflict of interest or breach of neutrality.

7.3 Signatories to RDA Account

- The committee supported the consideration of having two signatories (i.e., the chair and one CSO/NGO representative) to the RDA account to promote transparency and accountability.

7.4 Chairing of meetings

- The committee suggested to the consultant to clearly define the rules of engagement whenever the designated chair was not available.

7.5 Perspective of the World Bank Observer (Justice) on the discussion on the fund flow process:

- Stakeholders are the ones to make decisions and the consultant should take the committee's concerns/comments into consideration including the issue of 'co-chair'. Based on this comment, the Chair indicated that before any possible signing could be made by the signatories, the committee must approve first with an indicative minute stating the agreed resolution (approval) of the committee. Justice again commented that the roles of the committee members should be specified as well as the procedures/ processes that lead to decision making. The procedures could spell out how a committee member could be selected to chair meetings in

	<p>the absence of the chairperson, or a vice chairperson could be considered.</p> <p>7.6 Forming a quorum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Two (2) or three (3) of the committee members with two of the CSO/NGO reps being present forms the quorum. <p>7.7 Secretary of the committee?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Governance and Benefit Sharing Officer in the person of Mr. Samuel Agyemang Tutu from the PMU/NRS would serve as the Secretary to the committee. However, he will be assisted by Ms. Helen Fosuhemaa Wiafe, Administrative Head of the PMU/NRS. <p>7.8 Does the tenure of office apply to the person being nominated or the institution?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The institutions on the committee are fixed however; the tenure applies only to the person nominated. <p>7.9 What if the person nominated to be on the committee is no more active/working on his/her agency's behalf?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A new nominee would replace such a person and would only serve to complete the remaining tenure. <p>7.10 What if a CSO/NGO is no more active, how would you manage it?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The selection of the CSO/NGO reps is done through a public call for nominations and so inactive CSOs/NGOs (no more functioning) would be automatically disqualified and the spot would be replaced. <p>7.11 What happens to the suggestions/feedback from the committee?</p> <p>Answer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Everything would be consolidated and submitted to the World Bank.
<p>8.0 Recommendations/Update</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Chair implored NRS to consider building the capacities of the MoF team to enable them to harness more carbon/climate-based opportunities through their engagement with multilateral donors. This recommendation was seconded by one of the committee members.

	<p>Concerning the above, the NRS was of the view that the Chair's request could be catered for using the Forestry Commission funding and this would mean integrating the capacity building into NRS Workplan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NRS recommended that, in the future, any Benefit Sharing Plan should have an expanded scope to include other beneficiaries (MoF, Private Sector, etc).
9.0 Action Points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HIA accounts to be opened for the receipt of HIA level payments beginning with HIAs that have requisite documentation in place (e.g., HIA constitution). Table of acronyms should be developed for committee members to apprise themselves. NRS to share relevant documentation on the GCFRP with the committee. The FFM consultant is to share the manual for the operation of the committee.
10.0 Closing	<p>The committee agreed to hold the next meeting on the 16th of September, 2022. The Chair thanked everyone for their active participation and closed the meeting with a prayer by Samuel Agyemang Tutu.</p>

Annex 1: Meeting Agenda

AGENDA		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
10:00 am	Opening Prayer	Mr. Charles Sarpong Duah, CCD
10:05 am	Opening Remarks/ Statement of purpose	Ms. Roselyn Fosuah Adjei, CCD
10:15 am	Self-introduction of participants	All
10:25 am	Introduction of members of the RDA Steering Committee	CCD

10:35 am	Statement from RDA Steering Committee Chairperson	Yvonne Quansah, Chairperson
10:55 am	Presentation on GCFRP, Benefit Sharing Plan and Fund Flow Mechanism	Thomas Gyamrah, CCD
11:35 am	Discussions	All
11:50 am	Orientation on roles and responsibilities of RDA Steering Committee	Ernest Afram
12:10 pm	Discussions	All
12:25 pm	Lunch	
1:25 pm	Orientation on rules of procedure and others	Ernest Afram
2:05 pm	Discussions	All
2:20 pm	Closing Remarks/ Next steps	Ms. Roselyn Fosuah Adjei, CCD
	Closing prayer	Samuel Agyemang Tutu, CCD

Annex 2: Profile of RDA Steering Committee Members



YVONNE QUANSAH

Yvonne Quansah is the Director of External Resource Mobilization and Economic Relations, in charge of development cooperation and external financing from all the bilateral development partner countries. She is an economist with good understanding of contemporary macroeconomic and financial sector issues, with extensive knowledge and experience in aid and public debt management for over 20 years. Yvonne has also acquired extensive knowledge and experience internationally and locally in negotiations and has participated in several major negotiations on behalf of the Government of Ghana. She has also presented and featured in a number of local and international studies, reviews and papers. Yvonne joined the Ministry of Finance in 1990 with the then Debt Management Unit, reaching the position of Acting Director of the Debt Management Division. She has also headed the Financial Services Division of the Ministry.



OSEADEEYO KWESI KENNIN IV

Proactive businessman with 35 years in timber processing and marketing, construction and civil works. He is a methodical, customer focused approach to work and strong drive to see things through to completion. Currently, He is the paramount chief of Atti Mokwaa Traditional Area, he has established Senior Secondary School in his locality which has been absorbed by the government of the republic of Ghana and many other projects have been carried out in his community during this period.



VINCENT AWOTWE-PRATT

Vincent Awotwe-Pratt works at the World Cocoa Foundation as the Program Manager for the Cocoa & Forest Initiative (CFI). He coordinates and supports all private sector efforts on the CFI Ghana Framework for Action and National Implementation Plan. Vincent has been working in the Agroecological space for nearly 12 years in academia, non-profit, and private sectors.

Prior to joining WCF, Vincent worked as a consultant for several NGOs including Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation, Biodiversity Heritage Associates, and Rural Support Network. He also worked with Conservation Alliance International first as Project Coordinator and left in 2015 as Senior Program Manager. Vincent holds a BSc in Zoology and an MPhil in Animal Biodiversity Studies from the Department of Animal Biology and Conservation Science, University of Ghana, Legon. His experience spans the Upper Guinean Forests of West Africa particularly in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana. He is a member of the Society for Conservation Biodiversity, a member (Associate) of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM). Vincent loves to play around with data and has competencies in GIS & Remote Sensing, Statistical Analysis, and Ecological Modelling.



SURVEYOR EBENEZER ARTHUR

SURV. EBENEZER ARTHUR is a valuation and Estate Surveyor and an expert in Land Administration and Management. His work as a Land Administrator started in 1997 when he joined the Lands Commission, Cape Coast on attachment where he mastered the skill of land inspections and technical report writing. He joined the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL) as an Assistant Stool Lands Officer in Cape Coast, Central Region in January, 1999 to be in charge of Operations. His duty tour took him to the Brong Ahafo Region in March, 2008 as the substantive Regional Stool Lands Officer responsible for Stool Land Management generally in the Region. He was posted to OASL, Eastern region in September, 2012 responsible for Eastern and Volta Regions. He later became the Regional Stool Lands Officer for Ashanti Region in 2016. He has risen through the ranks from an Assistant Stool Lands Officer to become a Chief Stool Lands Officer. He is currently the Director of Policy and Planning for the Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands at Head Office.



ISAAC KWADWO GYAMFI

Isaac Kwadwo Gyamfi is the Regional Director for Solidaridad West Africa. With 27 years' experience in development management, Isaac has extensive experience in working with international organizations and donor relations.

He has managed USAID, EU, USDA and KFW funded programmes in rural setting, market, environment, agriculture, socio-economic infrastructural and sustainable developments. His work spans across the public sector, academia, civil society organizations and private sector.

He was the Regional Programme Manager (Cocoa) in Solidaridad West Africa before assuming the directorship of the West Africa Region in 2012. He worked as the Country Representative (Ghana) and Program Manager in the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA) on various programmes and projects including the "Sustainable Tree Crops Programme (STCP)"; "Unleashing the Power of Cassava in Africa (UPoCA)"; "Intensification of Cereal-based Systems in the Sudano-Sahelian Zone" (also known as Africa RISING).

He holds a Master of Science (MSc.) Degree in Development Planning and Management from KNUST and post-Graduate diploma in spatial planning from University of Dortmund (Germany) and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) Degree in Economics/Sociology from the University of Ghana.



MERCY OWUSU ANSAH

Since 2018, Mercy is currently the director of Tropenbos Ghana. She has a background in Natural Resources Management and is also a forester by training. She is experienced in engaging communities in developing and implementing sustainable livelihood schemes. She has executed projects that have promoted community management in biodiversity conservation by facilitating multi-stakeholder dialogues and platforms at local, national and policy levels. Mercy furthermore has experience in policy formulation, review and implementation, the identification and analysis of gender roles in natural resource management, climate resilient landscapes approaches, and knowledge of the context, principles and relevance of integrated landscape approaches for natural resource governance.



Albert Katako

Albert Katako is currently Head of Programmes at Civic Response and Coordinator of Forest Watch Ghana. Albert is a forest resource policy and community rights advocate with over 20 years experience in sustainable forest resource management practice, forest landscape restoration approaches (such as CREMA and farm forest systems); sustainable farming systems and community-based land administration systems. He was one of the CSOs representatives in the discussions on Ghana's R-PIN development. Albert was part of the CSO team that advocated for the review of the 1994 Forest and Wildlife Policy and contributed inputs into the 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy as well as its implementation strategy, the Forest Master Development Plan. Has good knowledge of forest sector issues, forest policy and legislations in Ghana. He has been involved in Ghana's FLEGT VPA processes since 2005 and represents Civil Society on Ghana's VPA Multi Stakeholder Implementation Committee which is now spearheading governance transformation in the forest sector. He has been involved in building communities capacity to understand climate change in their local context, how their own actions contribute to it and what they can do to reduce climate emissions. He holds a BSc Biochemistry with Chemistry and an M.Sc in Environmental Science and Technology. Albert has tremendous passion for forestry and environment.