



SAFEGUARDS MONITORING REPORT

AHAFO ANO SOUTH - ATWIMA MPONUA - ATWIMA NWABIAGYA HIA

**JULY – DECEMBER
2023**

**CLIMATE CHANGE DIRECTORATE
(NATIONAL REDD+ SECRETARIAT)**

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

COCOBOD	Ghana Cocoa Board
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CRMC	Community Resource Management Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
ESMF	Environmental and Social Management Framework
ESMP	Environmental and Social Management Plan
FC	Forestry Commission
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
FR	Forest Reserve
GCFRP	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
GoG	Government of Ghana
HFZ	High Forest Zone
HIA	Hotspot Intervention Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NRS	National REDD+ Secretariat
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, the role of conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
SESA	Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WB	World Bank

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) is the premier emission reductions programme fully developed from a 25-year Ghana REDD+ Strategy (GRS) by the Government of Ghana through the Forestry Commission and Ghana Cocoa Board (Cocobod) with funding support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank. The programme seeks to significantly reduce carbon emissions resulting from cocoa expansion into forests through the promotion of appropriate climate-smart cocoa production approaches, including intensification and yield enhancement. The programme spans a mosaic landscape that produces commodities of international and national importance - cocoa, timber, palm oil, and food crops. However, the dominant crop in the landscape and also of national importance is the cocoa from which the programme derives the name "Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme."

Cocoa is Ghana's most important agricultural commodity, accounting for 57 per cent of all agricultural exports and supporting the livelihoods of about 2.5 million rural farmers and their dependents. Cocoa production is predominant in the High Forest Zone (HFZ) of Ghana. The Western Region holds the largest area of remaining primary forest in Ghana and produces over 50 percent of the country's cocoa beans. However, Ghana's forests have come under severe threat from agricultural expansion, which is the major cause of forest loss, driven by cocoa production. This makes cocoa production the single biggest driver of deforestation in the landscape¹. Underlying causes for this include limited financial and technical support for sustainable cocoa production leading to expansion into forest areas; legal disincentives to maintaining trees on farms; a lack of land use planning and landscape management; and a lack of collaboration amongst cocoa stakeholders.

In line with the goal of GCFRP, on-the-ground implementation of GCFRP is routed through Hotspot Intervention Areas situated within the GCFRP operational area. The Ahafo Ano South - Atwima Mponua - Atwima Nwabiagya HIA is one of the designated landscapes where GCFRP implementation is underway with the support of Forestry Commission, COCOBOD, World Cocoa Foundation (WCF), Solidaridad, Mondelez and Olam, among

¹ Partnership for Productivity Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL) – Touton
<https://3prcocoalandscapes.com/about/intro-background>

others. The partnership adopts a jurisdictional approach which ensures that all stakeholders across the cocoa sector commit to and collaborate on achieving Climate Smart Cocoa which is tied to Ghana's Emission Reduction Programme. Key activities implemented in the HIA include restoration (Enrichment Planting, Modified Taungya System, Tree on Farm), livelihoods improvement interventions and Climate Smart Cocoa. All these interventions are primarily aimed at helping farmers with the necessary ecological and economic investments to ensure sustainable optimum cocoa production.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) requirements as stipulated in the Warsaw Framework for REDD+ recognize that safeguards are a key part of REDD+ implementation and link the Cancun safeguards to results-based payment. This requires that countries implementing REDD+ should demonstrate how they have addressed and complied with safeguards requirements through the implementation of their REDD+ interventions. One of UNFCCC's key priorities is ensuring that social and environmental safeguards are adhered to, throughout the REDD+ process. In addition, since the Carbon Fund via the World Bank will be purchasing the ERs generated from the GCRFP, environmental and social risks associated with the GCRFP activities would be mitigated and addressed using the World Bank safeguards policies and procedures. To comply with the World Bank's safeguards requirements, Ghana has conducted a Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment (SESA) to better understand the environmental and social concerns of the programme, and to better define the necessary mitigation mechanisms and safeguards compliance issues associated with activities to be implemented in the GCFRP. Specifically, it details the risks and opportunities and identifies the World Bank Safeguards policies triggered. The SESA report resulted in an Environmental and Social Management Framework (ESMF) to guide the implementation of the proposed ER programme. The National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) of the Forestry Commission (FC) ensures that mitigation measures and recommendations in the ESMF applicable to the ER Programme area are implemented.

Table 1: World Bank Operational Procedures triggered by the GCFRP.

World Bank Safeguards Policy	Potential to be Triggered under REDD+ in Ghana
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OP 4.01: Environmental Assessment	GCFRP will engage in activities that use forest resources in the HIAs and potentially impact other environmental areas. These activities may have environmental impacts on a limited scale, but a safeguards screening checklist has been prepared to screen activities under the programme and ESMPs subsequently prepared to guide in addressing or mitigating potential impacts.
OP 4.04: Natural Habitats	Some of the HIAs contain critical ecosystems. GCFRP will enhance the quality of the management of these critical ecosystems and reduce risks associated with cocoa and other agroforestry practices. The ESMP provides guidance on avoiding or mitigating impacts on natural habitats.
OP 4.36: Forests	Forest policy and management are a primary focus of this project, in addition to trees in the agroforestry landscape. The screening done provides guidance on managing forest ecosystems and their associated resource as reflected in the ESMF.
OP 4.09: Pest Management	The project will not directly finance the use of pesticides but will promote integrated pest management (IPM) and climate-smart practices and resilient 'shade' cocoa. The project-specific Pest Management Plan has been prepared. The ESMF provides identification of IPM activities linked to cocoa enhancement activities. In addition, key environmental and social issues and risks associated with chemical applications in cocoa have been analyzed in the ESMP.
OP 4.11: Physical Cultural Resources	The ESMF and Process Framework incorporate screening to ensure that the project would not have any negative impact on sacred sites. Screening of sites for pilot activities will include specific screening under the ESMF.
OP 4.12: Involuntary Resettlement	No involuntary resettlement is expected. However, as part of plans for ensuring that forests are protected and well managed, there will be efforts to reduce encroachment due to the expansion of cultivated areas. These restrictions of access will be negotiated with farmers. Inputs and incentives will be offered to increase agricultural productivity within the historical boundaries of admitted farms. Process Framework will be used to guide and ensure participatory processes during implementation.

This Safeguards Monitoring Report has been developed to demonstrate how environmental and social safeguards requirements of the World Bank, as well as the relevant national laws and regulations, policies, and institutional requirements, are being adhered to throughout the implementation of activities/interventions in the Ahafo Ano South - Atwima Mponua – Atwima Nwabiagya HIA.

1.2 Monitoring protocol

Objectives

1. To monitor the implementation of environmental and social safeguards as outlined in the Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP)
2. To ensure compliance with World Bank operational policies
3. To assess the effectiveness of mitigation measures and identify areas for improvement.

Monitoring Activities

The monitoring activities are structured around key interventions in the HIA: Restoration Activities and Climate Smart Cocoa practices. Each activity was monitored for compliance with relevant safeguards policies.

Data Collection Methods

- Interviews: Interviews with farmers, community members, and stakeholders to gather qualitative and quantitative data.
- Field Observations: On-site inspections and observations to verify compliance and implementation.
- Reporting: Regular progress reports, audit reports, and compliance reports submitted to the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) and relevant stakeholders.

Roles and Responsibilities

- National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS): Overall coordination and oversight of the monitoring protocol.
- Forestry Commission: Implementation of field activities and compliance monitoring.
- Cocobod: Support in monitoring cocoa-related activities and compliance with climate-smart practices.
- Local NGOs/CSOs, private sector and Community Groups: Participation in data collection, community engagement, and reporting.

2.0 ACTIVITIES/INTERVENTIONS IN AHAFO AND SOUTH HIA

2.1 Restoration Activities

Restoration consists of activities that lead to tree planting in on-reserves and off-reserves. Under the emission reduction programme, three main restoration activities are recognised in the HIA namely: Modified Taungya System (MTS), Enrichment Planting and Trees on Farm (ToF).

2.1.1 Modified Taungya System (MTS)

Nkawie forest district

Under the Nkawie forest district, 478,841 seedlings were planted under MTS. These seedlings were planted within the Asenayo river, Tano Offin (south), Offin shelterbelt and Jimira forest reserves. The species planted were Cedrela, Mahogany, Ofram, Emire, Teak and Gmelina. The MTS communities which planted these seedlings are Nipa Nkyemea, Akurakese, Domeabra, Pekyi, Mantukwa, Akwaboraso, Pamuruso, Bofaaso, Kramokrom, Asuontaa, Nyinahin, Brepro, Botrampa, Aboabo and Betinko.

Mankraso Forest district

MTS was implemented in the Northern portion of the Tinte Bepo, Tano Offin forest reserve. 310,000 seedlings were supplied to fifty farmers (44 females and 6 males). The species supplied were Teak, Cedrela, Ofram, Emire and Mahogany. 309,457 seedlings were planted. Fifteen trainings were carried out on MTS. There was one recorded incident of bushfire under this activity.

2.1.2 Enrichment Planting

Mankraso Forest District

Enrichment planting was done in the Tinte Bepo forest reserve, compartments 3 & 4. The number of seedlings supplied for this activity was 28,000, of which Ofram consisted of 20,000 and Mahogany, 8,000. The number of verified planted seedlings was 27,595. The ha of degraded areas that need this enrichment planting were Compartment 3 (115.47) and Compartment 4 (171.05). The total ha planted was 286.52. 15 stakeholder engagements have been done under this activity to sensitize stakeholders on the need for and importance of enrichment planting. There were two recorded incidents during the implementation of this activity; one scorpion bite and one cutlass cut. The victims

were given first aid and taken to the hospital to be treated. The district office also followed up to check on them and provide support, after they were discharged from the hospital..

2.1.3 Trees on farms (ToF)

Mankraso Forest District

Mankraso Forest Services Division (FSD) distributed some seedlings to farmers for planting on their farms. The farms are located in Adadekrom, Mpasaaso No 1 & 2, Oforikrom, Wioso, Ofrikrom, Oseikrom, Abonsuaso, and Adiembra communities. 26,720 seedlings were supplied, of which 26,000 were planted. The species supplied were Ofram and Mahogany. The beneficiary farmers consisted of 300 females and 500 males.

2.2 Climate- Smart Cocoa

Under COCOBOD's Productivity Enhancement Programme (PEP) various activities were implemented, with some still ongoing, during the reporting period. COCOBOD since 2017 has rolled out the PEPs to shore up cocoa production in the country and consolidate its position as the leading producer of premium quality cocoa beans in the world. The objective of the PEPs is to roll out a set of measures that will improve productivity per hectare and increase cocoa production levels well above 1 million metric tonnes per year (versus an average of 800,000 tonnes per year over the last ten years). The PEPs mainly entail measures to sustainably increase plant fertility; develop irrigation systems; rehabilitate aged and disease-infected farms; increase warehouse capacity; and create an integrated farmer database.

Some of the activities implemented under the PEPs were the Cocoa Rehabilitation Programme, Cocoa Diseases and Pest Control Programme (CODAPEEC), Cocoa HiTech (Fertilizer) Programme, Free Hybrid Cocoa Seedling Distribution, Artificial Hand Pollination, Cocoa Management System (CMS), Irrigation. The only activity under the PEP that was not carried out during this reporting period was the Mass Cocoa Pruning. This was done earlier in the year.

Table 2: Results of monitoring of activities in the HIA

ACTIVITY	RISKS	OP TRIGGERED	MITIGATION MEASURES	VERIFICATION
Modified Taungya System	Poor records of MTS beneficiaries	4.01 Environmental Assessment 4.04 Habitats 4.36 Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of MTS beneficiaries are kept and updated as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of MTS beneficiaries are being kept at the district FSD office.
	Unavailability and no/limited use of personal protective equipment		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workers wore suitable Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Education and sensitization were done on the need for and proper usage of PPEs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The district FSD office keeps records of PPEs that have been given out to farmers MTS beneficiaries who received PPEs from the district FSD make use of them when they come to work. Those who did not receive PPEs wear clothing that covers the body like PPEs would. These include long sleeved shirts, long pants or

ACTIVITY	RISKS	OP TRIGGERED	MITIGATION MEASURES	VERIFICATION
				jeans, long socks and shoes or boots.
	Disturbance of flora and fauna			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The species supplied and planted were Cedrella, Ofram, and Teak. On site observation confirmed the species planted as reported.

ACTIVITY	RISKS	OP TRIGGERED	MITIGATION MEASURES	VERIFICATION
Enrichment planting	Poor records keeping of hired workers	4.01 Environmental Assessment 4.04 Habitats 4.36 Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of hired workers are kept and updated as appropriate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Records of hired workers are being kept at the district FSD office.

ACTIVITY	RISKS	OP TRIGGERED	MITIGATION MEASURES	VERIFICATION
Trees on Farms	Disturbance of flora and fauna	4.01 Environmental Assessment 4.04 Habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planting was designed to include both exotic and indigenous plants (desirable trees) in the right proportions and positions. A labour-intensive approach using simple farm tools like hoes and cutlasses was employed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sites that were visited had both exotic and indigenous plants. The species planted were Ofram, Coconut, Palm Tree, Orange, Teak, and Cedrella. Farmers were observed using simple farm tools such as hoes and cutlasses on their farms
	Destruction from harvesting of timber resources on farm	4.09 Pest Management 4.36 Forests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timber contractors make sure little damage as possible occurs during timber harvesting. Timber contractors are bound by the contract they sign. The contract has both the approval of the farmer and the Forestry Commission. It makes provision for compensates for damages that occur during timber harvesting. A grievance mechanism has been established to ensure any complaints/comments regarding the Project were received and responded to on time, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FGRM is operationalized. FGRM book has been opened at the FSD district office to record any grievances/feedback. FSD office makes sure any compensation that needs to be paid is done accordingly.

ACTIVITY	RISKS	OP TRIGGERED	MITIGATION MEASURES	VERIFICATION
			providing solutions and taking corrective measures as appropriate.	
	Failure to register trees in the name of farmers		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitisation on tree ownership scheme • Records of farmers are kept 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FSD staff sensitise farmers on the tree ownership scheme. The FSD usually educate farmers when they engage them on MTS, engage communities as a whole, go on monitoring, and when NRS or partners facilitate engagement with farmers in the form of trainings and workshops. The farmers that we engaged confirmed this and are aware of what it entails. • Records of farmers who have been supplied

ACTIVITY	RISKS	OP TRIGGERED	MITIGATION MEASURES	VERIFICATION
				with seedlings are kept at the FSD district office

NB: With regards to Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), stakeholders are entreated to protect themselves as much as possible even in the absence of industrial grade PPE. That is, clothing that covers most of the body like PPE would (long sleeved shirts, jeans, boots/footwear, mask).

3.0 OPERATIONALISATION OF FEEDBACK AND GRIEVANCE REDRESS MECHANISM (FGRM)

NRS has made provisions for FGRM hotlines and stakeholders have been made aware of this through sensitization and awareness creation. While activities are being implemented within the Ahafo Ano South HIA, there have been a few reports on grievances, and feedback has been received.

Support is provided by the private sector, NGOs/CSOs, and other stakeholders necessary for helping local actors submit their grievances.

For the period covering July to December 2023, 1 grievance and 15 feedbacks were recorded (12 males and 4 females). The grievance has been resolved.

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS AND NEXT STEPS

The proponents of GCFRP as well as implementing partners (from the government, private sector, and CSOs/NGOs) have exhibited strong dedication to sound environmental and social safeguards measures in the implementation of interventions/activities under GCFRP by demonstrating robust compliance to both national and the World Bank safeguards policies. By involving communities in methods that provide them with environmental and financial benefits, the programme has a strong potential to increase carbon stocks (achieve emissions reductions) in the High Forest Zones by reducing deforestation and forest degradation. Certain negative environmental and social effects (soils, water supplies, biodiversity, and some socioeconomic issues) that result from GCFRP implementation have been identified and mitigated thereby maximizing the reputational, economic, and social benefits of the programme

The recommended mitigation measures are sufficient to protect the environment and promote social growth.

Some recommendations to further enhance programme implementation were drawn based on monitoring the implementation of safeguards:

- There is a need to strengthen partnerships and coordination with key stakeholders at the HIA level
- Regular and timely monitoring of activities/interventions undertaken by partners is encouraged
- Continuous stakeholder engagement with project proponents on safeguards implementation is recommended

ANNEXES

Annex 1: List of stakeholders engaged



AAS



ATTENDANCE SHEET

SAFEGUARDS MONITORING

Date: 18/DEC/2023

NAME	M/F	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	CONTACT	SIGNATURE
Afia Konadu	F	Beposo Biakoye	Beposo		
Kwesi Mahamq.	M	Biakoye	Beposo		
Kwado Apraku	M	Biakoye	Beposo	055612130	Apraku
Peter Agyei Barfi	M	Adinkrafo	Beposo	0540715588	Barfi
Amina Isakrah	F	Adinkrafo	Beposo	0556714420	A. M.
Alia Apomaa	F	Farmer	Beposo		
Cecilia Achiamaa	F	Adinkrafo	Beposo	05547339733	Achiamaa
Abena Kuma	F	Adinkrafo	Beposo		
Abanga Israh	M	Odo	Beposo	0048261078	Israh
Haruna Saffah	M	Adinkrafo	Beposo	0248237483	Saffah
Lambah Peter	M	Odo	Beposo	0242820046	Peter



ATTENDANCE SHEET
SAFEGUARDS MONITORING

Date: 16/DEC/2023

NAME	M/F	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	CONTACT	SIGNATURE
Mensah Yengba	M	Odo	Beposo	0556393368	
Laar Elisha Maigbarin	M	Adikanto	Beposo	024 74 91 444	
Augustine Dabo	M	Abesewa	Abesewa	0245683572	
AVOKA FRANCIS	M	HMB	Tepa	0540524242	
Anane Seidu	M	Brakoya Odo	Beposo	0246252590	
Stephen Ayorkor	M	Odo	Beposo	0549229491	
ASAMOAH LAWRENCE	M	HMB	Akunpim	0552452890	
Adizatu Salifu	F	Cocoa	Beposo	0555 07484	
Masorile uni	M	Cocoa	Beposo	0548649239	
Forasi	M	Brakoya	Beposo		
Danguah David	M	HIC	Befinko	0244214053	

AAS (ManKranso)

ATTENDANCE SHEETSAFEGUARDS MONITORING

Date: 19th DEC, 2023

NAME	M/F	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	CONTACT	SIGNATURE
Ishmael Boskye Aggremang	M	F.S.D	ManKranso	0249192655	
Seth Amponsah	M	FSD	ManKranso	0244201073	
Peter Anane Fimpong	M	FSD	ManKranso	0244771686	

AAS (Nkansi)

ATTENDANCE SHEETSAFEGUARDS MONITORING

Date: 19/12/2023

NAME	M/F	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	CONTACT	SIGNATURE
Nimako Gifty	F	HMB Member	A-Takoradi	0559510998	Cy
Anthony Osei	M	ZRMZ	A-Takoradi	0243818926	mbmt



AAS (Nkwame)



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ATTENDANCE SHEETSAFEGUARDS MONITORING

Date: 19/12/2025

NAME	M/F	ORGANIZATION	LOCATION	CONTACT	SIGNATURE
Mercy Konadu	F	F.S.D	Nkwame	024315374	
Abraham Edje	M	F.S.D	Nkwame	054857271	
Joseph Abilla	M	F.S.D	Nkwame	0243229731	

Annex 2: Activities undertaken by the FSD district office – Nkawie



FSD staff monitoring MTS site



Seedling planted at MTS site



FSD staff at an MTS site