

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study <i>(should be concise and within approximately 25 words)</i>			
Community sacred forest in the Effutu traditional area, Central region, Ghana			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
A Rocha Ghana			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
Jacqueline Kumadoh (A Rocha Ghana)			
Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords <i>(3-5 key concepts included in the case study)</i>			
Aboakyir festival, Bushbuck, Biodiversity, Cultural heritage, Effutu traditional area			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>	25 August 2016		
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:5769/SEPLS_in_Africa_FINAL_lowres_web.pdf		

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Ghana									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Central Region									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.com/maps/@5.36622,-0.9092696,10z?hl=en									
Ecosystem(s) <i>(please place an “x” in all appropriate boxes)</i>									
Forest		Grassland	x	Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	x
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other <i>(Please specify)</i>			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area <i>(within 50 words)</i>									
The area lies west of Accra and east of the Cape Coast. The southern boundary follows the shoreline of the Gulf of Guinea. The vegetation type can be classified as coastal savannah grassland, which is suitable for vegetable cultivation or dry season irrigation farming. However, the soils are dominated by highly saline clay; hence, limited agricultural activities are practiced in the area.									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area <i>(land-use, traditional resource management practices etc. – within 50 words)</i>									
Fishing and fish mongering are the predominant occupation of locals, being practiced by 54% and 46% of the population, respectively. The dependence on the surrounding ecosystem is also high, with approximately 40% of people also participating in charcoal production, wood selling, and subsistence farming of maize, vegetables, and other food crops, which are either sold or used for household consumption.									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	2014 to 2015
Rationale (<i>why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed – within 50 words</i>)			
Over the years, although the rate of biodiversity decline has been investigated, local participation in addressing causes of decline has not been fully explored. The losses can be attributed to outdated information on current underlying causes of biodiversity losses, inadequate awareness of threats, inadequate alternative livelihood systems, and weak traditional institutions, norms, and laws.			
Objectives (<i>goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study – within 50 words</i>)			
The "Restoration of Community Sacred Forest to Enhance Socio Ecological Landscape in the Effutu Traditional Area, Ghana" project engaged community members through various collaborative biodiversity conservation initiatives, thereby integrating indigenous traditional knowledge and modern approaches to identify and address direct threats as well as underlying causes responsible for the loss of biological and cultural diversity of the area.			
Activities and/or practices employed (<i>within 50 words</i>)			
Community engagement through consultative fora, conservation education, and public awareness; Sightings, collections of animal scats, and hunter survey; Hunting grounds were demarcated and planted with 4,000 seedlings; 15 community members were trained in making soap			
Results (<i>within 50 words</i>)			
The activities led to strengthening of traditional conservation norms that 1) affords chiefs and traditional heads the power to punish offenders; 2) increased awareness, leading to behavioral change; 3) reduced habitat degrading activities and illegal poaching, thereby contributing to the achievement of Aichi Target 1 and IPSI objective 2.			
Lessons learned (<i>factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities – within 40 words</i>)			
One important lesson through this project is that if communities are well informed and empowered, they can take steps to protect their environment. Institutional collaboration is also an essential tool when building synergies. In general, the impacts of the project in an environmental context centers on the replanting of degraded areas, which would in the long-term provide a secure habitat for biodiversity in the area.			
Key messages (<i>within 40 words</i>)			
In the past, communities and governmental bodies in charge of resource management worked in isolation. However, collaborative efforts through projects such as the Satoyama Development Mechanism have broadened the opportunities to bridge the gaps between conservation and community development.			
Relationship to other IPSI activities (<i>if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.</i>)			
This case study originally appeared in the publication "Socio-ecological Production Landscapes and Seascapes in Africa".			
Funding (<i>any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study</i>)			
The project received funding through the Satoyama Development Mechanism (SDM).			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
■	■			■	●	■			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
■							●	●	■

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

■	■						●	
				●	■			