

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study	Conserving Biodiversity and Livelihood Enhancement; the case of Saviefe Communities on the Weto Landscape in Ghana		
Submitting IPSI member organization	Greenglobe Ghana		
Other contributing organization	Forestry Commission, Volta Region Beekeepers Association Environmental Protection Agency, and Ministry of Agriculture.		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	Samuel Deh, Frederick Gaitu (Greenglobe Ghana), Gershon Amaglo Tordey (Forestry Commission)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Livelihoods, Biodiversity, Ecosystems, Traditional knowledge		
Date of submission	6 July, 2018	Web link	-

Geographical Information

Country	Volta Region Ghana, Ho West District		Location	Volta Region					
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
<p>The mountain range is a narrow belt of ridges and hills in the Volta Region of Ghana, The people are of different ethnic groups with different settlement histories who have settled and interacted in diverse ways in relative peace for decades and have developed by way of life and culture. Farming, hunting and petty trading are the main subsistence activities of these people.</p>									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
<p>The landscape communities have been together for centuries in harmony with nature, and have interacted and maintained systems that provide humans, their habitation with goods and services for their wellbeing. The deep culture and beliefs of the people have aid them in maintaining conservation of biodiversity and protection of the area to their benefit.</p>									

Contents

Status	Completed	Period	September 2016
Rationale			
<p>The rationale for this project is to halt the degradation of Weto landscape resources with COMDEK/GEF/SGP grants and community resources. The need to promote sustainable resource management and utilization underpins this project .Also community institution to promote prudent natural resource management are lacking hence the need for this project to build capacity of existing groups and form new ones where possible to promote diverse ideas sharing for accelerated management.</p>			
Objectives			
<p>The goal of this project is to see a thriving socio-ecological production landscape where the local communities are actively involved in the sustainable management and utilization of natural resources for increased production, the restoration of biodiversity, wealth and continuous flow of ecosystem services.</p>			
Activities and/or practices employed			
<p>Train/assist Saviefe communities to carry out various activities that would help conserve the landscape for resilience within carrying capacity, Build the capacity of 6 organizations and develop systems and best practices in the resource use and sustainable land management in the landscape based on the COMDEK/GEF/SGP approach.</p>			
Results			
<p>The project recorded a significant improvement in the ecology of the landscape, two nursery sites were established to produce 500,000 species of Cocoa, Coffee, Wawa, Mahogay and other indigenous tree species; Farmers were trained in sustainable agriculture techniques, protected areas as sacred groves, traditional caves, shrines and</p>			

ecological sensitive areas improved; Livelihood support as livestock rearing introduced; Established village saving schemes in all project communities.	
Lessons learned	
Communities now realize importance of land use planning, the importance of development of sacred sites for ecotourism, and the essence of rehabilitation of degraded areas and encouraged afforestation. They also realize there was the need for collaborating with duty bearers for development. Challenges were some community members were more interested in their daily activities that can give immediate income than participating in project activities.	
Key messages	
The indigenous knowledge of the people developed to know the value of conserving biodiversity and ecosystems; and know the actions that affect deforestation and forest degradation. Activities should enhance the benefits derive from socio-ecological production lands and seascapes (SEPLS) for the benefit of life; sustainable and cyclical use of resources for improved livelihoods.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	
The activities of this project contribute actively to support the strategic objectives of IPSI and its action plan. The project emphasized on improving the indigenous knowledge and understanding the functions of socio-ecological production landscapes and seascapes (SEPLS). They were sensitized about the benefits and values of conserving biodiversity and its importance to life on earth. Objective 2. Addresses the effects of deforestation and forest degradation, by establishment of tree nurseries of economic and indigenous species for enrichment planting of degraded areas and establishment of woodlots. Objective 3. Stresses on enhancement of benefit from sustainable management of resources, and promote afforestation and sustainable participatory land use management for increase in agriculture productivity. Objective 4. Also acts on capacity building of resource management groups, livelihood enhancement activities was built in the areas of livestock rearing, beekeeping, as financial support for community members.	
Funding	The project was funded through COMDEK/SGP/GEF

Contributions to Global Agendas

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

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

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>)

■	●	■						
			■		●			

