Forest Landscape Restoration Interventions

Forestry Commission

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Presentation Outline

➢Introduction/Background

➢The Main Landscape Restoration Strategies

➢Achievements of the Main Strategies

➢Landscape Restoration Interventions & Projects

➢Other Catalytic Landscape Restoration Initiatives

➢Conclusion

Introduction/ Background I

❏ The Forestry Commission was established by Act 571 of 1999 with three (3) Divisions namely Forest Services Division (FSD), Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) and Wildlife Division (WD)

❏ The Forestry Commission is responsible for the regulation of the utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources and the coordination of policies related to them

❏ The Commission reports to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) for Policy Direction.

Introduction/ Background II

❑Ghana, through Forestry Commission has commitments to international agreements relevant for planting trees or Forest Landscape Restoration including:

➢United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (UN-SDG)

➢Paris Agreement on Climate Change

➢Ghana's Nationally Determined Contribution

➢Bonn Challenge

➢African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative (AFR100)

➢New York Declaration on Forests

➢United Nations Strategic Plan for Forests

Introduction/ Background II

❑Relevant National Policies and Strategies In Support of Forest Landscape Restoration:

➤Forest and Wildlife Policy (2012)
➤Forestry Development Master Plan (2016 — 2036)
➤**Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy (2016 -2040)**
➤Ghana REDD+ Strategy
➤Ghana Climate Policy
➤Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
➤Paris Agreement — Climate Action
➤United Nations Strategic Plan on Forests (2017-2030)
➤ECOWAS Forest Convergence Plan

Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy (2016 -2040)

❑The Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy (GFPS) provides an overarching framework for forest restoration that is well-fitted to Ghana's Development Agenda, relevant national policies, and our international commitments.

❑These interventions are geared towards:
- ➢enhancing the recovery, resilience, functionality, and sustainability of the country's diverse landscapes
- ➢offsetting the prevailing timber supply deficit, enhancing food security
- ➢economic opportunities for the rural communities, while at the same time, creating opportunities for the country to access the emerging carbon and ecosystem services markets

The Main Landscape Restoration Strategies

The GFPS is implemented through three (3) main forest landscape restoration strategies namely:

❑ **Forest Plantations (FP)**

❑ **Enrichment Planting (EP)**

❑ **Trees-on-Farm (ToF) or Farm Forestry**

The Main Landscape Restoration Strategies

❑Forest Plantations (FP):

➢Long-term investments that are expected to yield returns greater than or equal to returns on land under alternative uses (e.g., oil palm, cocoa, citrus, etc.)

➢Requires accessibility to land without disputes and the application of best practice to attain high growth rates for the selected species.

➢Application of best practice and principles to ensure the maintenance of a balance of environmental, social and economic considerations and the minimization of economic and ecological risks (pests, diseases, forest fires)

❑Enrichment Planting (EP):

➢Aimed at enhancing the commercial productivity and functionality of a degraded forest

➢Undertaken where there are insufficient numbers of economically valuable trees in the natural stand.

➢Accelerate the recovery of degraded forest with respect to its stocking, functions and resilience.

❑Trees-on-Farm (ToF) or Farm Forestry:

➢The purpose is to optimize the productivity and sustainability of smallholder farming systems by developing appropriate technologies that involve trees

➢Enhance connectivity between the agricultural and forest landscapes and improves biodiversity conservation.

Main Strategies Forest Restoration Interventions

❑The overall progress made since the implementation of the GFPS in 2017 stands at 633,147.2 ha as at the end of 2021

❑The cumulative achievements under the three main components of forest landscape restoration are
  ➢forest plantation (91,001.2 ha)
  ➢enrichment planting (22,037.7 ha)
  ➢trees-on-farm (520,108.3 ha)

❑In 2021, a total area of 95,719.8 ha of degraded lands were brought under restoration through various interventions
  ➢**incorporating trees within farming systems (trees-on-farms)**
  ➢**commercial forest plantation development**
  ➢**planting of degraded watersheds**
  ➢**enrichment planting within degraded and understocked forest reserve compartments**

Main Strategies Forest Restoration Interventions

YEAR	PLANTATION ESTABLISHMENT (ha)	ENRICHMENT PLANTING (ha)	TREES-ON-FARM	
			No. of seedlings	Est. Area (ha)
2017	8,7250	4,4889	4,169,475	126,348.0
2018	20,1692	4,7246	3,417,098	103,549.0
2019	25,0042	4,5631	2,261,247	67,823.9
2020	19,1714	3,1156	5,010,261	150,307.8
2021	18,4947	5,1455	2,252,877	72,079.6
TOTAL	91,564.5	22,037.7	17,110,958	520,108.3

Main Strategies Forest Restoration Interventions – 2021

CATEGORY	ANNUAL TARGET	2021 ACHIEVEMENT
Plantation Establishment On & Off Reserve (ha)	16,000	18,4947
Plantation Maintenance On & Off Reserve (ha)	101,000	69,5064
Enrichment Planting (ha)	5,000	5,1455
Farm Forestry/Trees-On-Farm (No of seedlings)	5,000,000	2,252,877
Green Ghana Day	5,000,000	7,193,424
Number of Seedlings Planted	Variable	32,800,899
Plantation Timber Harvested On & Off Reserve (m3)	150,000	203,9919
Food Crop Production (tonnes)	25,000	101,9977
Jobs (No of Person Engaged)	62,500	80,378

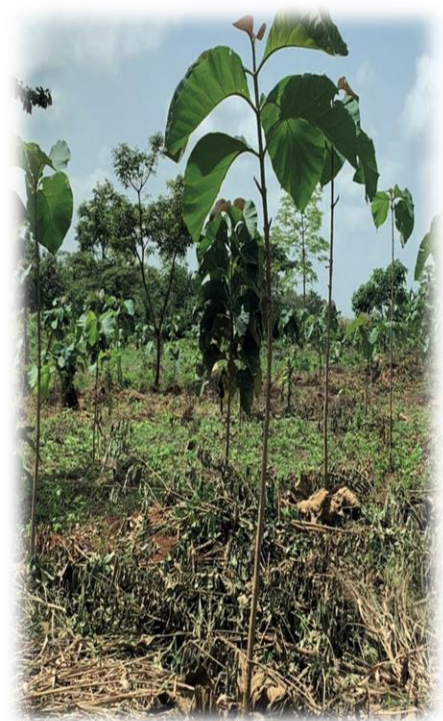# Other Catalytic Landscape Restoration Initiatives

Other Catalytic Landscape Restoration Initiatives I

❑Youth in Afforestation/Reforestation Project (YAP)

➢It is a government-funded landscape restoration intervention that involves the engagement of predominantly young people as beneficiaries to undertake rehabilitation of degraded and deforested landscapes nationwide and also support forest protection and management operations

❑The Youth in Forest Plantation Enterprise Project (YFPEP)

➢It is an initiative of the Forest Plantation Development Fund Management Board (FPDFMB)

Other Catalytic Landscape Restoration Initiatives II

❑**Reforestation Offset Project by Golden Star Limited/Future Global Resources Limited**

➤The company established 50 ha of allocated land under a reforestation offset project to mitigate the impact of mining being undertaken by the company on a 16ha land in the Opon Mansi Forest Reserve in the Dunkwa Forest District

❑**The Green Ghana Initiative**

➤The target for the 2021 Green Ghana Day was planting of five (5) million tree seedlings on the designated day while that of 2022 was twenty (20) million seedlings

Landscape Restoration Interventions & Projects

Landscape Restoration Interventions & Projects

❑ **Ghana Forest Investment Programme (GFIP):**

➢ This is aimed to improve forest and tree management practices by cocoa farmers, CREMA communities and **forest reserve managers to reduce forest loss and degradation and demonstrate rehabilitation** of mined-out sites in selected landscapes in Ghana's High Forest Zone (HFZ).

➢ The Additional Financing (AF) to the Project was signed in January 2020, bringing US$20 million more for sustainable forest management in Ghana

➢ A total of eight (8) sites have been selected for further studies particularly the environmental and social impacts and mitigation actions. The sites are located in Bekwai and Bibiani Forest Districts.

➢ Five (5) Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) in ecological corridor in the Western and Western North Regions have been established and are fully operational

➢ To sustain the CREMAs and also enhance the livelihood of the members, the Project procured and delivered start-up kits for the operationalization of the CREMA preferred additional livelihood scheme

Landscape Restoration Interventions & Projects

❏ **Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP)**

➢ The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme is the world's first commodity-based emission reductions programme

➢ The GCFRP will also make Ghana's cocoa and forestry sectors more resilient, while establishing a new asset class and revenue stream from climate-smart cocoa beans, validated against a landscape standard

➢ In 2021, 320,698 seedlings, mainly Mahogany, Emire, and Ofram, were distributed to farmers through COCOBOD district offices and other private sector entities across 5 Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs)

➢ Over the period, 834.6 ha of enrichment planting undertaken in 2021 was maintained or tendered

➢ Out of the 130 farms mapped in Asunafo-Asutifi, Ahafo Ano-Atwima, and Kakum HIAs, the average survival rate was estimated to be 70.563%

➢ Out of the 122 farms mapped in Sefwi Wiawso and Juaboso- Bia HIAs, the average survival rate of the planted trees species was estimated at 60.7%.

Landscape Restoration Interventions & Projects

Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project (GSLERP)

❑ The project will directly strengthen the livelihoods and climate resilience of 100,200 people (78,850 women and 21,350 men).

❑ The GSLERP seeks to enhance forest carbon stocks across the landscape by:

  ➢ **Restoring 200,000 hectares of off-reserve savannah forests/woodlands and place them under self-financing community management in Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA)**

  ➢ **Restoring 100,000 hectares of degraded shea parklands**

  ➢ **Creating 25,500 hectares of modified taungya system/forest plantation in severely degraded forest reserves**

  ➢ **Implementing an integrated monitoring system and completing the national REDD+ architecture for safeguards, forest monitoring and reporting systems**

Landscape Restoration Interventions & Projects

Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project (GLRSSM)

❑ It is a multi-agency project and builds on the implementation successes and lessons of the Ghana Sustainable Land and Water Management Project (SLWMP) and the Ghana Forest Investment Programme (FIP)

❑ The Project Development Objective (PDO) is to strengthen integrated natural resource management and increase benefits to communities in targeted savannah and cocoa forest landscapes

❑ The project will be implemented over a six (6) year period and will focus on the following interventions:
  ➢ Land-use planning for integrated landscape management to optimize land use
  ➢ Formalization of Artisanal Small-Scale Mining(ASM) for sustainable mining
  ➢ *Restoration of degraded lands for agricultural productivity*
  ➢ Strengthening of sustainable management of forest landscapes for biodiversity conservation and ecosystem services

Conclusion

❑These initiatives among others are supporting Ghana's efforts to combat deforestation estimated to 3% annually and by extension climate change

❑It is envisaged that the Commission will seek to:

➢to increase the availability of human and financial resources

➢to coordinate with necessary organizations and entities for sustainable management, development and utilization of forest and wildlife resources

Emerging Issues and Implications on Forest Landscape Restoration Interventions

- **Galamsay**

- **Illegal logging**

Issues for Consideration

- Policy Dialogue?
- Innovative Strategies?
- Legal, Regulatory and Institutional Review and reforms ?

Thank you