IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study	COMDEKS Project: Weto Range		
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Other contributing organization(s)	Ministry of the Environment Japan (MOEJ), SCBD, UNU		
Author(s) and affiliation(s)	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)		
Format of case study	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords	Agriculture, Forests, Ecosystem conservation		
Date of submission	6 March 2017		
Web link	http://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:6011/communities_in_action_comdeks.pdf#page=78		

Geographical Information

Country	Ghana			Location(s)		Volta Region			
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link	https://www.google.com/maps/@6.9102081,0.3197596,10z?hl=en								
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water	x	Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain	x	Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			

Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area

The Weto range is well-endowed with a diversified natural resource base in the form of high biodiversity, hydrological systems, rich soils, and a conducive climate, all of which form a strong base for economic activities and sustainable development. As part of the Guinean Forest of West Africa, the Weto range has been identified by IUCN as a biodiversity hotspot of global significance.

Description of human-nature interactions in the area

Farming, hunting, and petty trading are the main subsistence activities. The range is highly heterogeneous in agricultural biodiversity and food systems. The traditional slash-and-burn practice is still in use, with a fallow period of not less than 3 years needed to restore soil fertility. Locally cultivated food forms the basis of more than 70 percent of the local dishes eaten.

Contents

Status	Ongoing	Period	06/2011 – 12/2017

Rationale

The main environmental challenges confronting the landscape are increasing habitat destruction; unsustainable farming practices; inadequate livelihood support systems and weak institutional capacity to support conservation and production. Lack of adequate livelihoods is one root cause for the area's environmental challenges, as people turn to the forest to meet their subsistence needs.

Objectives

Conserve natural and semi-natural habitats and ecosystem services; Implement sustainable agricultural practices across the landscape to enhance and revive traditional conservation and production practices and adoption of new technologies; Sustain and enhance livelihoods and well-being of target social groups through the development of livelihood enterprises in line with local traditions and culture; Strengthen institutional capacity at the landscape level to integrate conservation and production in landscape management

Activities and/or practices employed

Restoring forests and rehabilitating degraded land; Establishing community protected areas; Cataloging and assessing sacred sites; Promoting agroforestry and integrated resource management, and training farmers in sustainable agricultural practices; Introducing alternative income opportunities such as fish farming, bee-keeping, and ecotourism; Supporting local organizations and improving environmental governance; Influencing local planning and land management policies; Teaching environmental awareness in schools

Results

Communities have established 18 tree nurseries; An estimated 5,000 ha have been put under strict protection; Communities have biologically surveyed and documented 20 sacred sites; Cash crops under agroforestry cultivation have been established; Rural enterprises have been established; Some 125 community groups have been established; Eight community land use plans have been prepared and endorsed by traditional authorities; Over 50 environmental clubs have formed in public and community schools	
Lessons learned	
Introducing new cash crops has been important; Improving the governance structure has promoted community ownership of the project and has encouraged the citizens to take up other activities; Efforts to promote ecotourism and cultural tourism have begun to revitalize local culture; The participatory land use planning concept is not always well understood by community members; Managing community expectations has been challenging.	
Key messages	
All of the projects in the portfolio have stressed adoption of agroforestry and other sustainable agricultural practices, and creating new agricultural enterprises. Since similar activities have been implemented throughout the landscape, connections and synergies should emerge relatively quickly. The most significant development has been the Weto Platform, which has been recognized by the government and granted considerable power over natural resource management policies.	
Relationship to other IPSI activities	This case study is part of the COMDEKS Project
Funding	Funding of USD 480,000.00 was provided by the Japan Biodiversity Fund through the GEF Small Grants Programme for COMDEKS Ghana.

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					
●	●		●	●	■	●			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Strategic Goal C			**Strategic Goal D**			**Strategic Goal E**			
●	■		●	●			●	●	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20

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

●	●			■			■	
1 NO POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
		●	■		●	●		
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION	13 CLIMATE ACTION	14 LIFE BELOW WATER	15 LIFE ON LAND	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS	17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS	