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Mobile App for Tree Registration in Cocoa Landscapes

The current policy on tree tenure/ownership in Ghana requires people planting trees to register all off-reserve trees (both planted and naturally-occurring trees), with the Forestry Commission, to secure proof of ownership. Tree registration has therefore become important for multiple benefits including securing tree tenure rights for farmers/those who plant trees. This is to be an incentive to enhance the conservation of biological diversity in the landscape and the maintenance of the ecological and environmental conditions necessary for optimum production of cocoa.

To facilitate the process, UNDP and Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), with support from Mondelez Cocoa Life Program, has developed a mobile application to register planted trees in off-reserve landscapes in the Asunafo North and Suhum Municipalities. 45 community-level enumerators have been trained to embark on the tree registration process. They were particularly trained on the application of the mobile app and how to collect biodata, farm size, and tree data for each farmer and farms. It is expected that about 300,000 trees would be registered for farmers in the 2 districts.

The trees registration initiative falls under a project entitled “Environmental Sustainability Project (ESP II) in Cocoa Landscapes.” The project, has since 2014, supplied over 1.5 million economic tree seedlings to more than 10,000 farmers in 560 communities across 5 regions of Ghana for planting, to increase tree and carbon stocks on their farms. This falls in line with the project’s principal objective to help cocoa farmers adopt environmentally sustainable and climate change resilient cocoa production practices, and to conserve ecosystems and natural resources in cocoa landscapes.
KEY FACTS ON UNDP PROGRAMMES

UNDP Strategic Focus Areas (6 Signature Solutions: 2018-2021)

- Poverty Eradication
- Transparent and Accountable Governance
- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate Action
- Affordable and Renewable Energy
- Gender Equality and Women Empowerment


**Inclusive, Equitable and Accountable Governance**

Aims at:
- Strengthening Governance Institutions to deepen Inclusive Democracy, Peace and Rule of Law in Ghana.
- Increasing Social Mobilization, Equity, Data, and Accountability for SDGs attainment.

**Green, Equitable and Resilient Development**

(Environment & Climate Action)

Seeks to:
- Strengthen public institutional capacities to reduce environmental degradation and implement climate action.
- Facilitate access to information, knowledge and tools that promote green jobs, citizen participation in environmental conservation, and community resilience.
- Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships and platforms to ensure better access to renewable energy and environmental services in a more inclusive green economy.

Training for Peace Keepers in West Africa

Dry season garden initiative beneficiaries planting okro. This forms part of our climate change adaptation programme.
Environment and Climate Action

Chiefs Trained to Support Community Resources Management

A training seminar was organized for members of the Mim Traditional Council including Chiefs from 36 Communities that formed the Ayum-Asuokw Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) in the Asunafo North Municipal Assembly, Brong Ahafo Region. The training aimed to improve the understanding of the traditional leaders on the CREMA concept, their roles and responsibilities, to enhance the functionality and sustainability of the CREMA. The event was chaired by Dr. Nana Okortfoobour Yaw Agyei II, Mim Omanhene and President of the Council.

The seminar followed a recommendation from a National Policy Dialogue on CREMA development in Ghana, which recognized the need to strengthen stakeholders' capacities for effective community resource management.

Speaking at the opening session, Dr. Nana Okortfoobour Yaw Agyei II urged his subjects to take the CREMA concept seriously, hold CREMA executives accountable and be involved in the management of the CREMA. He also asked his sub-chiefs to act in his stead to enforce CREMA by-laws in their respective communities and re-enact and enforce customs that sought to protect the environment.

To sustain the CREMA and enable it to be fully independent, the executives agreed that moving forward, local chiefs would be actively involved in the day-to-day running of the CREMA to enable the chiefs to fully back actions to protect the environment. In terms of resource mobilization, the communities agreed on an annual levy of Ghs10 per an adult of 18years and above, in all the 36 communities. Other revenue avenues agreed on include collaborative partnerships with cocoa buying companies and the district-level Forest Services Division.

Gender and Climate Change Actions

Research has shown that women are more affected by climate change. The roles of women as primary caregivers and providers of food and fuel make them more vulnerable to changes in climatic conditions such as severe weather events that cause intense droughts, floods, and rising sea levels. In line with this, the 2015 Paris Agreement, which seeks to combat climate change, has made specific provision for the empowerment of women.

At a National Validation Workshop to review a Gender Analysis Report of Ghana’s Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Support Programme, UNDP called for concerted efforts to consider the special needs, concerns, knowledge and experiences of both male and female in climate change adaptation/mitigation planning, and implementation.

Not neglecting women’s voices in decisions and policy making on climate change is imperative for sustainable development. Similarly, studies have shown that closing the gap in access to land and other productive assets for women would increase agricultural outputs by up to 20% in Africa.
Idrisu Aboubakar is in his early 40’s. He has been farming since 2001. For 13 years, he traveled about 12km to his farm located in Pashiguni, near Tamale in the Karaga district of the Northern Region of Ghana. Northern Ghana has only one farming season and it is much drier than the South. Because of this, Idrisi and his colleague farmers were farming only once in a year. To farm all year round, they had to rely on a petrol-powered machine to irrigate their crops, which they said is expensive and made farming unprofitable.

The unsustainability of the fuel-powered irrigation process in the face of climate change was forcing Idrisi and the other smallholder farmers, to rely on rain-fed agriculture.

Thanks to support from UNDP, in partnership with the Energy Commission of Ghana and NewEnergy, a local NGO, Idrisi’s farming career is now a different story.

Solar-powered irrigation pumps provided by UNDP and the Energy Commission is supporting Idrisi and 77 other farmers in Northern Ghana to irrigate their vegetable and fruit fields all year-round, resulting in increased yields.

The Governments of Ghana and Ecuador signed an Aide Memoire (agreement) expressing interest to cooperate on environmental protection, with focus on forestry development. The signing took place in Quito, the capital of Ecuador, during a South-South Knowledge Exchange which was facilitated by UNDP.

The cooperation between the two countries will be centered on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). REDD+ links the protection of forests to the fight against climate change. Among the key agreed activities, both countries will facilitate learning and exchange of best practices in agroforestry. They will also jointly explore public-private partnerships, setting up agreements with international corporations involved in commodities supply chain (cocoa, palm oil, coffee).

UNDP is expected to act as the partnership facilitator and the broker in the transfer of this knowledge, ideas, expertise, products, services and resources.
Environment and Climate Action

Towards a Low Carbon Development in Ghana

Ghana has a bold climate action plan, captured in its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) Implementation Plan, containing a set of 31 climate actions with a budget of $22.6 billion for a 10-year period. It is imperative to have relevant policies put in place and innovative sectoral programmes to enable the government to achieve its goals.

In the past months, UNDP, under the NDC Support Programme, has been supporting the country’s climate action efforts by assisting with a situational analysis focusing on gender in climate perspectives; facilitating training, and institutional capacity building through policy advisory services. These supports fall in line with the new approaches to the international cooperation on emission reduction of the Greenhouse Gases (GHG) under the Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, which offers Parties the opportunity to cooperate with one another when implementing their NDCs.

A training, held from 27th-30th November, 2018 in Aburi with support of UNDP, funded by the New York Community Trust and facilitated by the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), provided about 40 business leaders and policy advisors including representatives of financial institutions, entrepreneurs, program/product developers, government officials, with knowledge and capacity and laid the foundation for a one year incubation programme for low carbon development. Such innovative projects can be nurtured to bridge gender inequality gaps.

Highlights from the discussions at the training encouraged participants to develop innovative projects to contribute to climate actions in the country. The importance of partnerships among the various stakeholders, as well as the critical role of the private sector in supporting the national climate action plan, was emphasized and this is to further intensify efforts towards sustainable development.

Dam Protection in Northern Ghana

Tampion is a town located in the Savelugu district of the Northern region of Ghana. It is about 30km from Tamale, the capital city and has a population of 5000. The people’s major source of water is the Tampion Dam. They use this river for all their domestic needs, including drinking, washing and bathing. According to the community members, the dam almost gets dried up during dry seasons and becomes muddy, making it difficult to get clean water for use.

To protect the dam, the Government of Ghana and UNDP, with support from the Adaptation Fund, have supported the community to plant about 1500 trees on one-hectare land, fenced with galvanized chain, along the banks of the river to serve as buffer zone. Small as it may sound, the intervention is obviously a welcoming gesture, as this is protecting the dam from pollution.

The buffer zone intervention is one of the many initiatives being provided for 50 communities in 10 districts of the Upper East, Upper West and Northern Regions of Ghana, to help protect water bodies and improve livelihoods. Other supports for the communities include the provision of boreholes, support for vegetable farming, fish farming, beekeeping, nurseries and agro-processing.
Governance

**Strengthening Peacekeepers’ Capacity on Terrorist Attacks**

The Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and UNDP, with support from the Government of Japan undertook two separate trainings to enhance the operational effectiveness of peacekeepers against terrorist attacks.

The 1st training, which took place at the KAIPTC in Accra, on 22nd October-2nd November 2018, brought together participants from eight African countries (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, and Togo). The 2nd training, from 26th November - 30th November 2018 was held in Nigeria, with participants from within Nigeria. The trainings used both theoretical and simulation exercises to enable participants to gain better understanding of possible terrorism scenarios and strategies to handle different situations.

These trainings fall within a project entitled “Improving Response Capacities to Terrorism in Peacekeeping Theatres in Africa”, which is focusing on training 100 personnel from the training units of the eight Police/Troop Contributing Countries, stated above.

The project recognized the changing nature of conflicts and the increasing challenges and risks to peacekeepers and their missions, and thus using research and training models that can improve their response capacities to attacks. The project has so far trained 62 participants including 10 females. The final training is expected to be in January 2019.

**SDGs Achievement Requires Partnerships from All Sectors**

Increased partnership from all stakeholders will drive maximum support for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This was a key message emphasized by the Assistant Country Director of UNDP Ghana, Mr. Louis Kuukpen in a remark at the Ghana Finance Summit 2018 held on the theme, “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals through Innovative Financing”. He underscored the need for greater commitment across all sectors and industries to strengthen and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development, as stressed by the SDG 17.

Citing statistics from the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Mr. Kuukpen stated that an annual investment of between $5-7 trillion is required globally for the achievement of the SDGs by 2030, hence the need to mobilize funds through innovative ways including partnerships with the private sector and philanthropy locally. He also called for domestic resources mobilization, accountability, transparency, targeted and equitable allocation of resources, as well as the judicious use of the country’s natural resources towards development.

Section of Participants of the Ghana Finance Summit
SDGs Outreach

Innovative Solutions for SDGs: Role of Young People

Cross section of participants at the Summit

Young people have a key role to play in developing innovative solutions to help address social, environmental and economic challenges that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) seek to address. In this regard, the youth are expected to harness new technologies to address challenges in various sectors particularly in areas such as health, environment and education for the achievement of the SDGs.

This call was made at the 2018 Social Good Summit held by UNDP in partnership with All Nations University College on the theme “Leveraging Technology and Innovation towards the Achievement of the SDGs”. The Social Good Summit is an annual UNDP event held during the United Nations General Assembly week, to create awareness on the SDGs. The 2018 global summit focused on how to unlock the potential of technology to make the world a better place. The Ghana event had about 500 participants from various schools in the Eastern Region of Ghana.

Leaving No One Behind in SDGs Implementation

Ms. Cynthia Prah, National Information Officer of UNIC Accra & Ms. Praise Nutakor, Communications Analyst of UNDP, sensitizing students of GIS

Over 10000 students have been sensitized and encouraged to take actions on the SDGs, during outreach events held between October-December 2018. The outreach involved 15 schools in Eastern, Greater Accra and the Northern region of Ghana, covering Junior High, Senior High and Tertiary institutions students.

The SDGs sensitization events fall within joint UN4U outreach activities organized by the United Nations Communications Group (UNCG) in the country. UN4U has been adopted by the UNCG as one of its core advocacy events to reach out to the youth and share knowledge about the work of the UN, the SDGs and other global and national development priorities. The platform is also used to encourage the youth to explore opportunities to make meaningful impact in societies.

The outreach activities in the North had UN representatives from UNDP, UNHCR, UNAIDS and UNIC Accra, who ceased the opportunity to brief the students on the work of their various agencies. The Northern Schools were Tamale Senior High School (SHS), Northern School of Business, Tamale Islamic SHC, Anburiya SHS, Kalpohin SHS, Ghana SHS, Business SHS, Vitting SHS and Tamale Girls SHS.

Similarly, UNDP and UNIC Accra, partnered with Young Visionary Leaders, an NGO, to carry out the outreach in St. Martins Senior High (Eastern Region) and Adjen Kotoku Senior High School (Greater Accra Region). SDGs Clubs have been formed in these schools, adding to existing SDGs Clubs.

The club members were tasked to come out with innovative solutions to resolve SDGs challenges. They were also urged to serve as champions of the global goals in their various schools and communities. Other schools sensitized within the quarter were Morning Star School and Ghana International School (GIS) in Accra, whose outreach events marked the 72nd UN Day Celebration.
Re-engaging the Private sector for Sustainable Development

By Stephen Kansuk

The important role of the private sector in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is duly recognized by the Member States of the United Nations (UN). However, the ambitious nature of the goals places a huge task on governments to forfeit. Statistics show that, the total investment needs estimated for the SDGs in developing countries alone is averagely between $3.3 to $4.5 trillion per year with focus on critical infrastructure, while these countries are already facing an annual gap of $2.5 trillion in levels of investment in key SDGs sectors.

As the saying goes “it takes two to tango”, so Governments alone cannot address this funding gap, there is a need for support from the Private sector.

But, to effectively engage and unlock private sector finance especially in the area of climate finance, Governments must understand the needs and the business actions of the private sector in connection with the SDGs. The challenge with this has been the absence of data and information about the private sector particularly the indigenous or wholly Ghanaian owned business enterprises. Most private sector businesses in Ghana do not have proper websites, and where these exist, the data quality or the content of the websites are not useful to assist in developing tailor-made strategic framework for Private Investment in the SDGs and the African Union’s Agenda 2063, which seeks to accelerate the socioeconomic transformation of the continent. This challenge is not only prevalent in the private sector but also in the public sector.

Nevertheless, experiences with private sector engagement on UNDP programmes in Ghana revealed interesting experiences about the structure and operations of private sector businesses in Ghana. It was discovered that, there are huge potentials to increase private sector investment in Ghana, but the setback has been the weak corporate governance structure and less strategic direction of some of the businesses.

Efforts must therefore be made to set a clear business case to attract private sector interest in the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana.