Ghana’s Outcome Story
Toward Pro-poor REDD+ Project Phase II:
Promoting Rights-Based Approaches to Strengthen the Conservation, Governance and Management of Landscapes in Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, Papua Province of Indonesia and Uganda

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The Toward Pro-poor REDD+ Project Phase II is a follow-up to the previously executed project “Toward pro-poor REDD: Building synergies between forest governance, equitable benefit sharing and reduced emissions through sustainable forest management in five tropical countries”. The five countries include Cameroon, Ghana, Guatemala, the Papua Province of Indonesia, and Uganda.

Phase II of the project sought to support the five countries to incorporate principles of **Pro-Poor Approaches (PPAs)** and **Human Rights-Based Approaches (HRBAs)** in national climate change mitigation initiatives so as to deliver policies and implement programs that reduce deforestation and forest degradation whilst simultaneously contributing to the improvement of local livelihoods and long term security of forest carbon stocks in key forest-rich regions.

**What does this brochure contain?**
This brochure provides an evidence-based narrative of the project’s achievements, contributions to change and impacts on Ghana’s REDD+ process. It also presents recommendations for sustainability of the project’s successful outcomes. The brochure was developed through a systematic review of project reports, meeting and workshop reports, policy documents, and other sources of information highlighting the project’s contributions and impact on Ghana’s journey toward an effective implementation of REDD+.

It is worth noting that, in Ghana, the project’s interventions were targeted at integrating HRBAs and PPAs in landscape processes, and national REDD+ policies and programmes.

**Who can benefit from this brochure?**
This brochure will be beneficial to REDD+ project/programme implementers, development partners/donors, CSOs and other actors in the natural resource management and REDD+ space.
Ghana’s REDD+ Process

Ghana’s REDD+ process started in 2008, with an enlistment on the World Bank’s Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) REDD+ Readiness Programme. Following approval of its Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) in 2010, Ghana secured funding from the FCPF to support the implementation of readiness activities which commenced in 2012. Since then, Ghana’s efforts have culminated into the development of three (3) priority REDD+ programmes, namely:

- Emission Reductions Programme for the Cocoa Forest Mosaic Landscape (The Ghana Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme-GCFRP)
- Emission Reductions Programme for the Shea Landscape of the Northern Savanna Woodlands (The Ghana Shea Landscape REDD+ Programme-GSLRP)
- Ghana’s Programme for Policy and Legislative Reforms on Tree Tenure and Carbon Rights (Policy and Legislative Reform Programme)

The 20-year Ghana Cocoa-Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) (2016-2035) has been approved for a 5-year piloting period (2017-2021), with funding from the World Bank’s Carbon Fund.

What are the barriers to effective implementation of REDD+?

For a successful implementation of the REDD+ programmes in Ghana, key natural resource governance issues such as tenure security/resource use rights of vulnerable groups, equitable benefit sharing, forest law enforcement, sustainable livelihoods of forest dependent communities, etc. need to be addressed. These gaps need to be tackled at local and national level through enabling policies and interventions. Three (3) broad strategic interventions have been developed to address these gaps, namely: policy and legislative reforms; land-use and socioeconomic development; and sustainable wood harvesting and agricultural practices. The “Natural Resources and Environmental Governance Programme (NREG)” implemented by the Government of Ghana is the main national vehicle that is being used to carry out the policy and legislation reforms.
Box 1: Key Barriers to Successful Implementation of REDD+ in Ghana

Vulnerability and certain inequities
Gender inequality: Under traditional or customary laws and practices, women are granted very limited control rights to land and trees. This significantly limits their participation in decision-making and negotiation for benefits. It also raises issues of safeguards for implementation of REDD+.

Tenant farmers/sharecroppers: Management rights of tenant farmers/sharecroppers who nurture and tend naturally-occurring timber trees is not recognized by land owners and thus, limits their access to the economic benefits that accrue from the trees.

Inequitable benefit sharing
The constitutionally-prescribed benefit sharing arrangement pertaining to naturally occurring timber trees does not recognize the contribution and efforts (management rights) of farmers who nurture them. Nonetheless, it is the farmers’ decision to retain and nurture these trees that ensures the stock of tree resources in off-reserve areas (particularly, farmlands).

Carbon rights definition: Ghana’s property rights regime does not define carbon rights. This gap has consequences for identification of potential beneficiaries, carbon trade or transaction and performance-based benefit sharing.

Insecure tenure
Naturally occurring timber trees in off-reserve areas are vested in the President. Thus, farmers and other land users, who nurture and manage such trees, do not own them and are alienated from appropriating economic benefits the trees generate. Although planters of trees exercise ownership rights over ‘registered’ trees, there is no legally robust framework for tree title registration particularly for on-farm timber trees.

Effective community participation in natural resources governance
Ghana acknowledges and supports local level participation in natural resource governance. For example: Community Resource Management Area (CREMA). However, building and sustaining the capacity of local community members to contribute to effective decision making in the management and use of natural resources has been challenging. Strong community participation in natural resource governance is crucial for successful implementation of REDD+.

Photo credit: William K. Dumenu, CSIR-FORIG
Role of IUCN’s Toward Pro-poor REDD+ Project and Ghana’s REDD+ Process

The Toward Pro-poor REDD+ project phases I&II have played a significant role in the REDD+ process in Ghana. The contributions and impact of the project are seen in the proposition of REDD+ benefit sharing options, strengthening of natural resources governance structures such as CREMA, and enhancement of REDD+ discourse in Ghana. Others include the identification of viable sustainable nature-based livelihood options for forest dependent communities, and gender mainstreaming by supporting the establishment of a National REDD+ Gender Sub-Working Group (GSWG) and the provision of an action plan to guide the implementation of the gender and REDD+ roadmap that was developed under phase I. The roadmap and action plan have provided a foundation for the integration of gender issues into Ghana’s REDD+ process. These contributions and impacts are felt in the process leading to the design of the Ghana REDD+ Strategy document, Emission Reduction Programme Document (ERPD), development of REDD+ Safeguards frameworks and proposals of intended policy and legislative reforms.

How were the project’s contributions delivered to influence the REDD+ process?
The project’s contributions and impacts were delivered through dissemination of results of analytical studies, policy briefs, info sheets, organized capacity building workshops, and piloting of some of the project interventions at the landscape and national levels. The project team also capitalized on their involvement in consultative platforms and IUCN’s representation on a number of policy or national level working groups such as the National REDD+ Safeguards Sub-Working Group (SSWG), the REDD+ Consultation and Participation Sub-Working Group, the GSWG, the National Task Force for the GSLRP, etc. as entry points for effective dissemination of lessons and outcomes of the project and facilitation of the integration of these outcomes into policy and national frameworks. Table 1 presents key contributions and impacts of the project, and the process and approaches used to achieve these outcomes.

Table 1. Project’s Achievements, Contributions and Impacts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Key contributions</th>
<th>Process/Approach/Tools</th>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>Achievements</th>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>Target level of project outcomes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Clarification, codification and protection of tenure rights</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Knowledge and field based insights towards clarification of tree tenure for local application.</td>
<td>Intensified awareness on tree registration process and land documentation at the landscape level.</td>
<td>Increased understanding of national policy on tree tenure, tree registration process and land documentation at the landscape level.</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
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<td>Analytical studies</td>
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<td>Policy brief</td>
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<td>Pilot study</td>
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<td>Advocacy</td>
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<td>Strengthening of natural resources governance</td>
<td>Workshops</td>
<td>Sensitization and capacity building of CREMAs in the</td>
<td>Management plan for the Murugu-Mognori CREMA in Mole Ecological landscape</td>
<td>Improved capacity and strengthening of CREMAs. CREMAs have been spotlighted</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>Report</td>
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Toward Pro-poor REDD+ Project Phase II: Ghana’s Outcome Story
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<tr>
<th>Frameworks and Structures</th>
<th>Policy Brief</th>
<th>Action Learning</th>
<th>Pilot Study</th>
<th>Multi stakeholder processes and dialogues</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
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<td>Development of management plans, fire prevention and control, fund raising/proposal writing, and conservation agricultural practices.</td>
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<td>Technical and financial assistance provided to two (2) multi stakeholder platforms (MSP) to enhance natural resources governance. The beneficiary MSPs were the CREMA in Wassa Amenfi and Protected Area Management Advisory Units (PAMAU) of North and West Gonja Districts in the Mole Ecological landscape.</td>
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<td>Capacity of CREMAs and stakeholders within the landscape built in fire management and control and climate smart agriculture</td>
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<td>5 year action plan developed for Achichire-Sureso-Pebaseman (ASP) CREMA; their CREMA Constitution revised; District Assembly bye-law that gives legitimacy to the CREMA’s constitution and operations reviewed and gazette through financial support from IUCN and Busac Fund; Governance structures of the CREMA strengthened through multi stakeholder processes that have led to establishment of the 11 Community Resource Management Committee (CRMCs) and reconstitution of the CREMA Executive Committee</td>
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<td>as an important delivery mechanism for REDD+ actions. This has led to the adoption of the CREMA structures for implementation of Ghana’s Cocoa Forest REDD+ programme.</td>
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<td>Enhanced capacity and reorganisation ASP CREMA towards sustainability and enhanced capacity of PAMAU’s in the development of management plans and funding raising for conservation activities.</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
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<td>Enhanced capacity and reorganisation ASP CREMA towards sustainability and enhanced capacity of PAMAU’s in the development of management plans and funding raising for conservation activities.</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
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<td>The scoping of equitable REDD+ benefit sharing discourse and proposal of REDD+ benefit sharing institutional mechanisms influenced the design of Ghana’s draft REDD+ Benefit Sharing Plan included in Ghana’s ERPD approved by the World Bank for funding under the FCPF Carbon Fund.</td>
<td>National</td>
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Toward Pro-poor REDD+ Project Phase II: Ghana’s Outcome Story
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender mainstreaming</th>
<th>Workshops</th>
<th>Advocacy</th>
<th>Analytical studies</th>
<th>Brief note</th>
<th>Report</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Identification of viable nature-based livelihood options to support communities’ long term engagement in REDD+ in the forest and savanna zones of Ghana.</td>
<td>Consultations initiated towards the development of a Conservation Trust Fund for the Mole Ecological Landscape, which will provide an avenue for long term sustainable funding to support biodiversity conservation, livelihoods and other related sustainable development objectives.</td>
<td>Identified viable nature-based livelihood options to support communities’ long term engagement in REDD+ in the forest and savanna zones of Ghana.</td>
<td>Mole Ecological Landscape Conservation Trust Fund Proposal and Framework</td>
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<td>Strategic Objective 4 of Ghana’s Forest Plantation strategy captured as focal areas for capacity building the identified sustainable nature-based livelihood options.</td>
<td>National Landscape</td>
<td>Technical and financial support for the development of a Gender Action Plan. The technical support came from the IUCN Global Gender Office (GGO) and financial support from DANIDA.</td>
<td>Provision of financial and technical support towards establishment of a National REDD+ Gender Sub-working Group (GSWG).</td>
<td>Establishment of a National REDD+ GSWG and an Action Plan to operationalize the implementation of the Gender Roadmap.</td>
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<td>Establishment of the GSWG, the gender Roadmap and action plan have provided critical guidance to ensuring integration of gender considerations in all aspects of Ghana’s REDD+ process and implementation.</td>
<td>National</td>
<td>Technical support and contribution of lessons</td>
<td>Establishment of the GSWG, reviewed and provided inputs into Ghana’s national REDD+ Strategy, the Grievance Redress Mechanism, and other REDD+</td>
<td>National</td>
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<td>The National REDD+ Secretariat has designated a Gender and Safeguards focal person who is also serving as the coordinator of the GSWG.</td>
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<td>Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources has established a gender desk to support gender</td>
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<td>Activity</td>
<td>Impact</td>
<td>Outcome</td>
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<td>Learned as inputs into the development of the Ghana REDD+ strategy and other frameworks and processes such as the development of Ghana’s REDD+ safeguards information system (SIS).</td>
<td>Frameworks hence ensuring that these documents and processes are gender responsive.</td>
<td>Mainstreaming into the Forest Investment Programme (FIP). Provision of technical backstopping to FIP on gender and safeguards issues by the coordinator of the GSWG.</td>
<td>National Landscape</td>
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<td>Broadening the scope, focus, and influencing the discourse, conception and design of REDD+ Workshops, Seminars Sensitization programmes using print and electronic media Analytical studies</td>
<td>The project has helped to shape national discourse on REDD+ benefit sharing through stakeholder dialogues/consultations at both local and national level, and analytical studies.</td>
<td>Results of these studies have helped to build understanding among government and non-state actors on options for benefit sharing schemes that are rights and pro-poor oriented.</td>
<td>National Landscape</td>
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<td>Civil society engagement and participation Workshops and Meetings Report Policy Brief Action learning</td>
<td>Technical support and information to civil society groups at the national level, to spearhead advocacy on tenure, benefit sharing, livelihoods and gender issues for policy formulation using the KASA Initiative, Forest Watch Ghana and other CSO platforms.</td>
<td>Generated relevant lessons on strategies for establishing and strengthening CREMAs in Ghana. For the first time, human rights issues in the forest sector have been included in Ghana’s United Nations Universal Periodic Review process. Capacity building of two NGOs (i.e. Codesult and A Rocha) on HRBAs and REDD+ issues at the landscape level.</td>
<td>National Landscape</td>
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<td>Collaborative Resource Management Unit of the Wildlife Division has indicated plans to replicate these strategies and/or employ the lessons learned from this process in other areas. Human rights issues in the forest sector highlighted in the UN universal peer review processes in Ghana.</td>
<td>Strengthened community structures for improved forest governance.</td>
<td>Landscape</td>
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Toward Pro-Poor REDD+ Project: Ghana’s Outcome Stories and Case studies

Case study 1: Mainstreaming gender considerations into Ghana’s REDD+ process

What was the issue?
The central role of women as contributors to forest management and conservation has traditionally been unrecognized. This is so because, the forestry sector has historically been a male dominated field, with very few women actively engaged in decision making. This could be reinforced by REDD+ if such inequities are not addressed. As a result, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and the Forestry Commission of Ghana (FC) envisaged the need to mainstream gender considerations into the REDD+ process as a means of safeguarding the rights and interests of both men and women, with particular attention to women and children, who are often disadvantaged in such processes.

What processes were involved in addressing the issue?
In September 2011, IUCN, in collaboration with the Forestry Commission, and with technical support from the IUCN Global Gender Office (GGO) in Washington DC and Women’s Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), embarked on an initiative to develop a roadmap for mainstreaming gender considerations into REDD+ efforts in Ghana. This was with funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA). The gender roadmap was developed through participatory multi-stakeholder workshops involving policy makers, women’s organizations, gender experts, and other actors. The workshops provided a platform for training on gender and REDD+, dialogue about specific gender issues, and the proposal of actions needed for a gender-sensitive national REDD+ process.

What were the project’s outcomes and impacts?
A key outcome was the Gender and REDD+ Roadmap for Ghana dubbed “A Roadmap to Mainstream Gender Considerations into Ghana’s REDD+ Process”. It was officially launched on 13 November 2012. This outcome from phase I, provided a good foundation for the subsequent development of a Gender Action Plan in 2015, to guide the implementation of the Gender and REDD+ Roadmap. These documents have provided the much-needed national framework and guidance for effective mainstreaming of prioritized activities, identified by key stakeholders.

In 2015, a Gender Advocacy Group was established as a national REDD+ Gender Sub-Working Group (GSWG), with support from UNDP and IUCN GGO. The objective of the GSWG is to provide inputs to ensuring an inclusive, robust and gender responsive national REDD+ process and frameworks. Ghana’s gender mainstreaming efforts have been acknowledged both locally and internationally. E.g. UNREDD has recognized Ghana’s approach to gender mainstreaming into REDD+ process as a best practice for REDD+ implementing countries.
Case study 2: Sustainability of conservation activities - Mole Ecological Landscape Conservation Trust Fund

What was the issue?
The Mole Ecological Landscape encompasses the Mole National Park, which is the largest protected area in Ghana, as well as communities and CREMAs fringing the park. Lack of long-term investment for increasing conservation needs in the landscape is hampering the effectiveness of conservation activities. Thus, the need for a long-term financing model/mechanism.

What processes were involved in addressing the issue?
In September 2014, IUCN, in partnership with A Rocha Ghana, within the framework of the DANIDA supported Toward Pro-Poor REDD+ Phase II Project, initiated processes to bring on board all stakeholders to deliberate and provide inputs into the design and establishment of a Mole Ecological Landscape Conservation Trust Fund.

What were the project’s outcomes and impacts?
Following initial engagements, an appropriate investment package and fund manager have been identified to provide the needed technical support for operationalization of the Fund. The next step is to conduct community sensitization and consultations on modalities for the establishment of the Fund. After successful consultations, the Fund’s management structures will be developed, management board members determined and engaged.
Case study 3: Strengthening of natural Resources Governance Frameworks and Structures – Achichire-Sureso-Pebaseman (ASP) CREMA

What was the issue?

The Achichire-Sureso-Pebaseman (ASP) CREMA located in the western region of Ghana covers an area of 9,107ha. It consists of 11 key communities and 18 Satellite communities. ASP CREMA had critical governance challenges such as unaccountability, inability to operationalize democratic principles enshrined in its Constitution, and overdependence on external funds. These challenges had rendered the CREMA dormant and affected the discharge of its mandate of spearheading collaborative natural resource management.

What processes were involved in addressing the issue?

In early September 2014, a series of multi-stakeholder processes including scoping studies were initiated to reflect on the current state of the CREMA and how it can be strengthened to achieve its mandate. These processes churned out significant outcomes.

What were the projects outcomes and impacts?

In April 2015, a 5-year Action Plan was developed to guide the operations of the CREMA. Subsequently, in August 2015, the ASP CREMA Constitution was revised and adopted. The Amenfi West and Central District Assemblies CREMA Bye-laws giving legitimacy to the ASP CREMA’s constitution and operations was also revised and published in the government bulletin on 20th April, 2016.
This was achieved with funding from IUCN and the Busac Fund, and facilitation by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and Codesult Network.

Lessons learned from the CREMA engagement processes facilitated by the project are providing evidence-based and tested approaches for replication in other parts of the country for REDD+ and FIP. For example, a member of the CREMA in the Wassa Amenfi Landscape said “we are happy that our District Assemblies (i.e. Amenfi West and Amenfi Central District Assemblies) have adopted the bye laws we drafted. All stakeholders understand and so they are supportive”. Another CREMA member also said “the sensitization that IUCN supported us to undertake has ensured that majority of our people understand forest management better and willingly comply with the rules of the Forestry Commission”.

Following the revision of the CREMA constitution and gazettement of the District Assembly Bye-Laws for the CREMA, a multi-stakeholder process was initiated by IUCN in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, and Codesult Network to reconstitute or strengthen the Community Resource Management Committees (CRMCs) of the CREMA, as identified in the Constitution. This was carried out using a phased approach which targeted five (5) Pilot CRMCs as part of an initial Pilot Phase. Lessons learned from this phase have fed into a Replication Phase which has led to the revamping of the remaining six (6) CRMCs, and subsequent reconstitution of the CREMA Executive Committee (CEC).

Six (6) main activities/processes were carried out to revamp the ASP CREMA. These were implemented from November 2016 to May 2017 under the pilot phase and replicated from September 2016- November 2017 as part of the replication phase. The activities included:

i. Briefing meeting and training workshop for a three to five-member committee (volunteers) for each of the eleven (11) CRMCs of the ASP CREMA to equip them to disseminate the CREMA Action Plan, Constitution and Bye-Laws in their respective communities/CRMCs.

ii. Initial visits by a facilitator/ 3rd party to the eleven (11) CRMCs to introduce the volunteers to their respective community members.

iii. Field monitoring visits to the CRMCs to assess progress and performance of the interim CRMC members/Volunteers.

iv. Election of legitimate members of the 11 CRMCs of the CREMA and publication of the elected members in their respective communities for approval.

v. Two-day training workshop for the newly elected CRMC members and their inauguration in their respective communities.

vi. Reconstitution and Inauguration of a CEC for the CREMA.
Steps to Sustaining Achievements and Outcomes of the Project

Through the Toward Pro-Poor REDD+ project, IUCN in collaboration with implementing partners, has had significant impact on Ghana’s evolving REDD+ process. To sustain the project’s achievements and outcomes, the following recommendations are made:

• **Leverage on related on-going/proposed REDD+ programmes:** The close alignment of the ‘Toward Pro-Poor REDD+’ project with the focus of Ghana’s REDD+ process helped in achieving significant impact. This is so because, the various outputs and deliverables under the project were tailored to complement approaches and methodologies for delivering on the nation’s REDD+ strategy. To sustain the project outcomes, IUCN should leverage on on-going/proposed REDD+ programmes and initiatives such as the GCFRP, GSLRP and Policy and Legislative Reform Programme. All the different actors played different roles in achieving the project’s results and have been sensitized on how the results could contribute to improved forest governance. Capacity building workshops could be organized for these stakeholder groups on HRBAs and PPAs to climate change mitigation mechanisms such as REDD+ at the landscape and national levels. This would enhance sustainability of outcomes and processes initiated by the project as the beneficiaries will serve as advocates and duty bearers of the relevant concepts and lessons.

• **Continuous capacity building, technical and livelihood enhancement support to CREMAs and other community groups at the landscape level:** A Good foundation has been established with regards to natural resource governance at the local level through technical and capacity building support to the CREMAs and other frameworks such as the Protected Area Management Advisory Units (PAMAU). It is critical that, this foundation is built up on by moving on to more concrete interventions in terms of testing and/or support for livelihood enhancing programmes. This will sustain interest and commitment of communities and incentivize their contribution to sustainable management of natural resources.

• **Conduct training on HRBAs and PPAs to climate change mitigation mechanisms such as REDD+:** IUCN worked with different stakeholders from the public and private sectors including CSOs and NGOs to implement the project. Two local NGOs played a central role as local implementing partners in the two project landscapes; i.e. A Rocha Ghana (Mole Ecological Landscape) and Codeseult Network (Wassa Amenfi Landscape). Continuous partnership with key national institutions: Key national institutions such as the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) and the Forestry Commission are critical to policy change and the implementation of natural resources management and climate change mitigation initiatives. It is important that IUCN maintains its relationship with these institutions through provision of technical support and inputs on issues of tenure, gender and safeguards, and capacity building of multi-stakeholder natural resources governance platforms, etc. Such relationships provide avenues for uptake and upscaling of some of the project’s outcomes, for long term benefits.
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