

# SAFEGUARDS REPORT



## GHANA EMISSION REDUCTIONS TRAINING PROGRAM, WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS TRAINING

CLIMATE CHANGE DIRECTORATE

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**Acronyms**

AccelREDD	Accelerated REDD
AfDB	African Development Bank
BSP	Benefit Sharing Plan
CEC	CREMA Executive Committee
COCOBOD	Cocoa Board
CRMC	Community Resource Management Committee
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
E&S	Environmental and Social safeguards
FC	Forestry Commission
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
FCTC	Forestry Commission Training Center
FGRM	Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism
GCFRP	Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
GRS	Ghana REDD+ Strategy
HIA	Hotspot Intervention Area
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NRS	National REDD+ Secretariat
PER	Preliminary Environmental Report
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation plus conservation,

	sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks
HMB	HIA Management Board
SAP	Safeguards Action Plan
SHEC	Sub-HIA Executive Committee
UAP	Upfront Advance Payment
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank
WCF	World Cocoa Foundation

## **Executive Summary**

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) is the premier emission reduction programme developed from the Ghana REDD+ Strategy (GRS) by the Government of Ghana through the Forestry Commission (FC) with funding support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank. The programme seeks to significantly reduce carbon emissions resulting from cocoa expansion into forests through the promotion of appropriate climate-smart cocoa production approaches, including intensification and yield enhancement. It also seeks to promote socially inclusive rural livelihoods development.

The World Bank with funding support from the project dubbed Accelerated REDD+ (AccelREDD) organized a three-day capacity building workshop on the World Bank safeguards policies for relevant stakeholders to strengthen safeguards implementation in the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme. The workshop was held at the Forestry Commission Training Center (FCTC) at Akyiakrom in the Ashanti Region of Ghana from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The training brought together representatives from the Government (Forestry Commission, Ghana Cocoa Board (COCOBOD), the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)), Private sector (World Cocoa Foundation (WCF) and Olam), Non-Governmental Organizations/ Civil Society Organizations (Proforest, and Tropenbos Ghana), Development Partners (UNDP) and local actors including executives of HIA functional Units. The first day of the workshop was a Training of Trainers' workshop where the environmental and social safeguards focal points from the FC regional and district Forest Services Division (FSD) offices within the Asunafo – Asutifi and Ahafo Ano South Hotspot intervention Areas (HIA) and those from the National REDD+ Secretariat (NRS) were trained on the World Bank safeguards policies and procedures, with a particular focus on those that were triggered as a result of the ER program. On the second and third day, the other stakeholders joined.

For the three-day training, a number of training topics were discussed in a participatory manner to include overview of GCFRP, World Bank Safeguards Policies, GCFRP Benefit Sharing Plan, Ghana's Country Approach to Safeguards, Feedback Grievance Redress

Mechanism (FGRM) and, the Role of the Environmental Protection Agency in safeguards implementation. Group exercises on GCFRP activities vis-à-vis the safeguards policies triggered generated useful discussions and understanding of how to use the safeguards instruments to address and mitigate adverse impacts and risks. In addition, discussions generated a number of questions that would be used to screen social and environmental risks associated with the activities, which resulted in revising the screening checklist. It is expected that this screening checklist as well as the revised SAP will be shared with all proponents that implement GCFRP activities to be used as the common framework for implementing and monitoring safeguards. The workshop concluded with many useful lessons including improved understanding about the national and World Bank safeguards policies, which ensured cross-exchange of knowledge and information sharing amongst diverse representatives from government, private sector, local communities as well as NGO/CSOs.



## **Introduction**

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme (GCFRP) is the premier emission reduction programme fully developed from a 25-year Ghana REDD+ Strategy (GRS) by the Government of Ghana through the Forestry Commission with funding support from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) of the World Bank (WB). The programme seeks to significantly reduce carbon emissions resulting from cocoa expansion into forests through the promotion of appropriate climate-smart cocoa production approaches, including intensification and yield enhancement.

In a bid to build the capacities of REDD+ project implementers and proponents particularly institutions/organizations and local communities, the World Bank with funding support from the project dubbed Accelerated REDD+ (AccelREDD) organized a three-day capacity building workshop for relevant stakeholders to strengthen safeguards implementation in the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme. The workshop was held at the Forestry Commission Training Center (FCTC) at Akyiakrom in the Ashanti Region of Ghana from 8<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> March 2022. The training brought together representatives from the Government (Forestry Commission, Ghana Cocoa Board, and the Environmental Protection Agency), Private sector (World Cocoa Foundation and Olam), Non-Governmental Organizations/ Civil Society Organizations (Proforest, and Tropenbos Ghana), and local actors including executives of HIA functional Units such as Hotspot Intervention Area Management Board (HMB), Sub-HIA Executive Committee (SHEC), CREMA Executive Committees (CEC) and Community Resource Management Committees (CRMC) who mainly represent local communities, Traditional Authorities and farmers. The training was attended by 58 participants in total. Of these, 45 (77.5%) were males and 13 (22.5%) were females. The list of the participants and the agenda of the workshop are attached in the annexes.

## Proceedings

### First Day

The first day of the workshop was exclusively dedicated to discussing issues related to safeguards implementation in the context of the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ programme amongst the World Bank Safeguard Team and the GCFRP government proponents (mainly, staff of Forestry Commission). It provided the opportunity to discuss the Country Approach to Safeguards vis-à-vis the World Bank Safeguards Operational Policies to enhance increased understanding about the WB expectations of safeguards operationalization. This frame the basis for discussions in the subsequent days where other key partners were targeted. Table 1 provides the list of presentations for the day.

*Table 1: Presentations for the first day*

Presentation	Presenter (s)
Overview of the Emission Reduction program in Ghana	Mr. Charles Duah, FC – NRS
Overview of the World Bank safeguards policies	Justice Odoi, World Bank Haddy J. Sey, World Bank
Overview of E&S Implementation (SAP Implementation)	Samuel Kenneth Salami, FC – NRS

### Presentation by the National REDD+ Secretariat

The Ghana REDD+ team opened up the conversation by making a presentation on the overview of GCFRP. The objectives of GCFRP was explained in summary to achieve 10 million tons of emission reductions by 2024 through landscape restoration, promotion of Climate-Smart Cocoa practices and provision of alternative and additional livelihoods to farmers. The presentation also discussed the six main pillars Ghana has adopted in addressing the known drivers of deforestation and forest degradation namely: Forest Reserve Rehabilitation and Restoration; Institutional Coordination & MRV; Landscape Planning within HIA areas; Implement CSC to increase yields & sustainability; Risk

Management & Finance; and Legislative & Policy Reforms. Participants present were also informed about the GCFRP interim achievements including the following:

- Receipt of \$1.3m negotiated Upfront Advance Payment (UAP) from the World Bank
- Signing of framework agreement with three Hotspot Intervention Areas (HIAs): Juaboso-Bia, Ahafo Ano South and Asunafo-Asutifi HIAs
- Development of HIA governance structures for four out of six HIAs (Juaboso-Bia, Asunafo-Asutifi, Ahafo-Ano South and Kakum)
- Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP) finalized and disclosed
- Additional and Alternative Livelihood support to farmers
- Increased cocoa yield from 450kg/ha to 600kg/ha through implementation of Climate Smart Agricultural practices
- Launch of GCFRP Engagement Principles
- Submission of first Emission Reductions Monitoring Report for the GCFRP
- Increased partnership with private sector reflecting in the signing of MoU with World Cocoa Foundation.

### **Presentation by the World Bank Team**

The WB team started off by emphasizing the World Bank Group's twin goals and sustainability focus which is to end poverty and promote shared prosperity by protecting the environment and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people which aligns with the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme. The World Bank Safeguards Operational Policies including the scope and requirements under each operational policy that must be adhered to in the implementation of GCFRP was also explained.

Participants were informed that the programme triggers the following policies: OP 4.01 Environmental Assessment, OP 4.04 Natural Habitats, OP 4.09 Pest Management, OP 4.36 Forests, OP 4.11 Physical Cultural Resources, and OP 4.10 Involuntary Resettlement. The WB team also elaborated the steps involved in operationalizing the WB safeguards involving the setting up of a functional Feedback, Grievance and Redress Mechanism, Environmental and Social Management Plan development characterized by screening, safeguards action plan development and monitoring.

**Plenary discussions:** the resettlement safeguards policy dominated discussions among the participants. Particularly, the participants were of the view that the resettlement policy involving compensating “illegal farmers”, whose farming activities have been extended into forest reserves serve as a disincentive and, promote further deforestation and forest degradation. In a contrary view, the WB safeguards team explained the Bank’s safeguards policies puts emphasis on not leaving communities worse off in any development process including farmers. The discussion centered on those farmers who have encroached and live in forest reserves based on the national policies/ forestry law as well as other regulations in dealing with the situation at hand. The Bank explained that as part of the resettlement policy the World Bank Team has to conduct due diligence by doing survey to identify the number and the socio-economic background of the forest encroachers. This would serve as a baseline to guide the operationalization of the resettlement policy. The question of when is the cut off period to know who benefits from compensation was asked, the response from the Bank was that only those captured in the baseline/census data would benefit from any compensation where resettlement is triggered. Any encroachers after the census cut of period will not receive any compensation. Guidance was provided on the information and data to be collected during the assessment. It was concluded that the Bank Team would carry pit this survey in the immediate future in order to advice NRS on recommendations emanating from the survey.

Furthermore, some of the notable comments and discussion points include: i) how to apply the process framework for those farmers that might face access restrictions for forest products, ii) how to address the issue of land tenure security given the different land, forests, agriculture policies/regulations on land; iii) what mechanisms should be in place for voluntary resettlement of farmers living in forests reserves, iv) issue of certified timber under the voluntary partnership and FLEGT was also discussed, v) How does the WB safeguards policies conform to the Ghana national safeguards policies, vi) Is REDD+ prioritizing just the WB safeguards policies or other International Safeguards are considered, vii) difference between the ESMP and the SAP.

*Table 2: Discussion points (Q&A) from Day 1*

Questions	Answers
Does the WB safeguards policies conform to the Ghana national safeguards policies?	Yes, it very much conforms to national policies. However, the WB safeguards policies seek to strengthen gaps in policies that may exist in the implementation of WB related activities.
Is REDD+ prioritizing just the WB safeguards policies or other International Safeguards are considered?	REDD+ conforms to various safeguards policies in addition to the WB policies such as the national safeguards policies, Cancun and AfDB.
What is the difference between the ESMP and the SAP?	The SAP is not different from the ESMP. Ghana has opted to refer to the ESMP as SAP and so it is purely country preference and no difference in content.

### **Presentation on Overview of Environmental & Social Safeguards Instruments in Ghana's Redd+ Programme**

The Ghana REDD+ team made a presentation narrating the processes in responding to both national and international safeguards including the WB safeguards policies. The team indicated that Ghana subscribes to the seven Cancun Safeguards, the ten World Bank Operational Policies, the five Operational Safeguards policies of the African Development Bank as well as Ghana's safeguards policies. The team explained Ghana's Country Approach to Safeguards (CAS) and Safeguards Information System (SIS). The participants were informed about the following achievements:

- the development of the Strategic Environmental and Social Assessment completed in 2014,
- the formation of safeguards sub-working group in 2015, SESA review and update conducted in 2016 resulting in the development of Environmental and Social Management Framework & Resettlement Plan,

- the development of country approach to safeguards and clarification of Cancun safeguards in accordance with Ghana’s circumstances in 2017
- the development of Principles, Criteria and Indicators in 2018
- development of safeguards action plan for the Juaboso-Bia HIA the Partnership for Productivity, Protection and Resilience in Cocoa Landscapes (3PRCL) project and monitoring in 2019
- launch of Safeguards Information System in 2020 and,
- the development of safeguards mobile application

### **Tree Tenure and Tree Registration**

The Forestry Commission indicated that, through the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), steps are being taken to provide farmers with rights to trees on their farms. This Tree Tenure regime has been necessitated due the continued deforestation though royalties were paid to land owners. This Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Framework being developed by the MLNR seeks to provide rights and benefits to farmers who plant trees and those that are naturally occurring. The rights and benefits accruing from planted trees has been finalized with over 95% benefits to the tree planter once it was registered. For naturally occurring trees the MLNR has developed a concept on a “tree tending benefit” which is a token to be paid to the farmer who tended the tree until harvest. What leaves to be decided is who to pay this token and it will be rolled out.

## Second Day

The second day of the workshop also had presentations coupled with plenary discussions, which were led by the World Bank and NRS. Key stakeholders including COCOBOD, CSOs/NGOs, EPA, the Private sector and HMBs joined in the workshop. Table 2 provides the list of presentations made for the day.

*Table 3: Presentations for the second day*

Presentation	Presenter (s)
Overview of the Emission Reduction program in Ghana	Mr. Charles Duah, FC - NRS
Overview of the World Bank safeguards policies	Justice Odoi, World Bank Dr. Darimani, World Bank
E&S Instruments prepared	Samuel Kenneth Salami, FC - NRS
BSP and FGRM	Samuel Agyemang Tutu, FC - NRS

## Presentation on Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP)

The REDD+ team made a presentation on GCFRP Benefit Sharing Plan to increase awareness on the expected emission reductions payments and conditions for accessing the benefits and their distribution. It was explained that the BSP elaborates an equitable benefit sharing mechanism that is intended to effectively distribute carbon and non-carbon benefits. The various beneficiaries, their eligibility, roles and responsibilities, scale and modalities for distribution and the type of benefits to be shared were explained.

Beneficiaries of the GCFRP Benefit Sharing Plan (BSP), includes various stakeholders/entities whose activities contribute to emission reductions as follows: farmers, traditional authorities, Forestry Commission, COCOBOD, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) as well as cocoa companies (who only benefit from non-carbon benefits). These beneficiaries must be registered in order to receive carbon

benefits when due. The farmer beneficiaries (cocoa farmers) are important to the GCFRP programme as they hold customary rights to farmlands based on various customary agreements. Again, they have direct impact on ERs by agreeing to change behaviour with respect to forest conversion and on-farm shade-tree management, resulting in reduced deforestation from cocoa farm expansion and reduced degradation from no-shade cocoa system or illegal logging.

The Fund Flow Mechanism was also explained as the process through which results-based payments will flow from the Carbon Fund to the various beneficiaries. It was mentioned that a special ring-fenced REDD+ Dedicated Account has been created into which the payments would be deposited and later rechannelled to various designated beneficiaries based on percentage terms. Figure 1 below gives a snap shot of the agreed percentages of benefits for the beneficiaries as per the BSP.

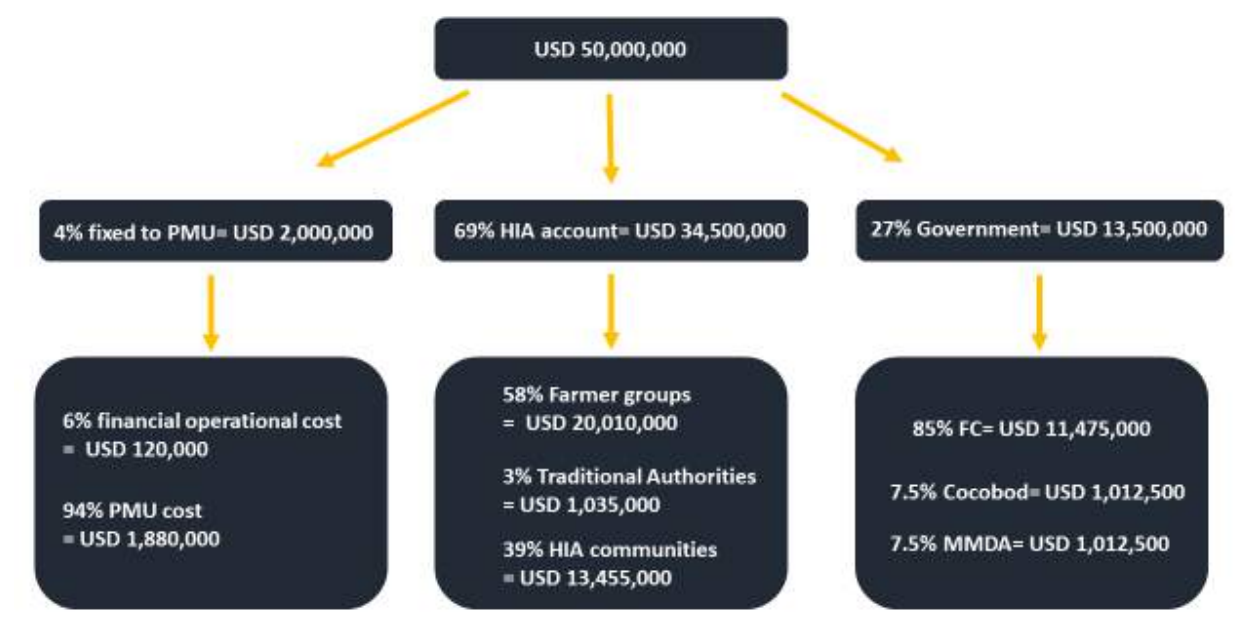


Figure 1: GCFRP Benefits Sharing Plan fund flow

There was Q&A following the benefit sharing presentation. Some of the salient issues raised by the participants include how NRS would ensure that the targeted beneficiaries



especially farmers will receive both carbon and non-carbon benefits, what will be the safeguard mechanisms, what strategies will be in place to ensure gender equity in accessing benefits. These issues were well discussed to the satisfaction of the participants. The World Bank provided ideas on how other countries like Vietnam and Fiji will be implementing their benefit sharing plans.

Some other discussion points included: how the other proponents who are not mentioned as beneficiaries of the BSP would benefit; whether carbon benefits will be in cash or in kind; the need to preserve and respect cultural resources and archaeological sites; How to handle a farmer who lives in the forest reserve either legally as admitted farms or illegal farmers; does all HIAs have their SAPs developed. Satisfactory responses were provided for all these questions which was done participatorily.

*Table 4: Discussion points (Q&A) from Day 2*

Questions	Answers
Will the EPA benefit from the carbon benefits?	The final GCFRP BSP does not allocate carbon benefit directly to EPA. However, plans are that the BSP would be revised to accommodate other stakeholders including EPA, in due course.
Will money be paid directly to farmers as part of carbon benefits?	According to the BSP, farmers will benefit from farm inputs as part of their contributions to the emission reductions.
Why must cultural resources and archaeological sites be respected?	The sites should be respected in order to secure coordination and acceptance from the people in the community among others.
How do you handle a farmer who lives in the forest reserve?	First, engage them and establish their interest. After that assess the risk that their presence there poses and provide alternative support or livelihoods.

How many SAPs do you have?	<p>SAPs are to be developed across all HIAs.</p> <p>Currently, draft SAPs have been developed for Juabeso-Bia, kakum and Asunafo Asutifi.</p>
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### Third Day

The third day covered series of presentations and discussions on the role of EPA in safeguards implementation, safeguards operationalization and presentation on Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM).

*Table 5: Presentations for the third day*

Presentation	Presenter(s)
Environmental Impact Assessment for Forestry Sector	Jackson A. Nyantakyi, PHD, Regional Director, EPA Ahafo Region Samuel Oteng, Ashanti Region
Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM)	Samuel Agyemang Tutu – FC-NRS

### Presentation by Environmental Protection Agency

The presentation provided an overview of the Environmental Protection Agency's history and the purpose of its existence. The EPA, formerly known as the EPC (Environmental Protection Council) was founded in 1974. In its early stages, the function was to make recommendations to the government on environmental sustainability measures/actions. The EPC was later transformed into an enforcement agency, hence bears its current name, the Environmental Protection Agency commissioned in 1994. The Environmental Protection Agency presented on the EPA's mandate on environmental protection, which broadly is categorized under regulatory, compliance, investigation, research and advisory. In line with this, it was learned that the mission of EPA is therefore, to co-manage, protect and enhance Ghana's environment. Articulating their support towards GCFRP, EPA outlined the processes of screening projects structured under three main categories depending on their impact levels similar to the Bank structure. Category A is applicable to projects/activities such as Enrichment Planting and Modified Taungya System with limited impacts which is permitted without any detailed assessment after completion and

submission of EA 1 form. Category B relates to projects/activities with insufficient information provided in the EA 1 form to enable EPA and proponents to determine the significance of impacts, therefore preliminary environmental report (PER) is required. Category C also relates to projects/activities with significant impacts which cannot be predicted and mitigated and must be subjected to a comprehensive EIA. EPA mentioned that in driving their core mandates, EPA is guided by three main factors including social, environmental and economic considerations which just as in the case of the Bank.

The presentation also listed the major EPA environmental protection functions, which bear many commonalities with the functions of the Bank including:

- Environmental education
- Environmental impact assessment
- Strategic environmental assessment
- Environmental governance
- Monitoring of industry and mines
- Natural-resource management
- Legal compliance and enforcement
- Environmental performance rating and public disclosure
- Reporting on the state of the environment
- Research on environmental sustainability

Some key discussions that emanated out of this section were: does the EPA investigate the samples of agrochemicals before permitted to be used; does EPA register Cocoa farms; how is the EPA dealing with chemical operators who deal in and sell unapproved chemicals to farmers in the ER programme area. Responses were provided to explain how EPA's roles cover all these aspects and beyond to the satisfaction of participants.

*Table 6: Discussion points (Q&A) from Day 3*

Questions	Answers
Does the EPA investigate the samples of agrochemicals before permitted to be used?	Permit are given after Certification by Ghana Standard Authority.
Does EPA register Cocoa farms?	Yes, if the farm is more than 40ha, one must register with EPA for EIA to be undertaken
How is the EPA dealing with chemical operators who deal in and sell unapproved chemicals to farmers in the ER programme area?	The EPA intends to identify and build the capacities of such individuals who deal in unapproved agro-chemicals. Moreover, EPA intends to provide training in chemical usage among chemical dealers and farmers.

### **Presentation on Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM)**

Ghana has established a Feedback and Grievance Redress Mechanism (FGRM) for receiving, evaluating, and addressing project-related grievances from affected communities or stakeholders at the community or project level, district, regional and national level. The Ghana REDD+ team introduced participants to the practical operationalization of the transparent, accessible, collaborative, expeditious, and effective GCFRP FGRM that has been set up. Its operationalization involves resolving concerns/grievances through dialogue, joint fact-finding, negotiation, and problem solving. Broadly, the FGRM will be operationalized in five steps:

- Parties seeking to have any REDD+ dispute resolved would first have to report issues of grievance to the HIA Functional Units for a possible redress at the community level with findings and resolutions processes documented.
- Parties seeking to have any REDD+ dispute resolved would file their complaint at the district safeguards focal point, for unresolved issues that were handled at the community level, within the ER project area where it will be received, and processed before it is communicated to the National FGRM coordinator:

- If the parties are unable or unwilling to resolve their dispute through negotiation, fact-finding or inquiry, a mediator chosen with the consent of both parties would be assigned to assist the Parties to reach a settlement.
- Where the mediation is successful, the terms of the settlement shall be recorded in writing, signed by the mediator and the parties to the dispute and lodged at the FGRM registry. The terms of the settlement will be binding on all parties.
- If the mediation is unsuccessful, the Parties will be required to submit their dispute for compulsory arbitration, by a panel of 5 arbitrators, selected from a national roster of experts.
- The awards of the arbitration panel will be binding on the Parties and can only be appealed to the Court of Appeal. All questions of law would be referred to the High Court

Key discussion points included: the arrangement made or platform created at community level to receive, process and attempt to resolve grievances; the role of traditional authorities and community dispute resolution arrangements in the FGRM.

*Table 7: Discussion points (Q&A) from Day 3*

Questions	Answers
Can a farmer be able to report grievances at the community level?	Yes, that system exists. FC has Range managers and forest guards who work very closely with community members and they are first port of call at the community level. They attempt to resolve grievances at the community level first using community governance structures
What roles can the community structure play in FGRM	The traditional authority in the local community system set up handles these disputes before the centralized one

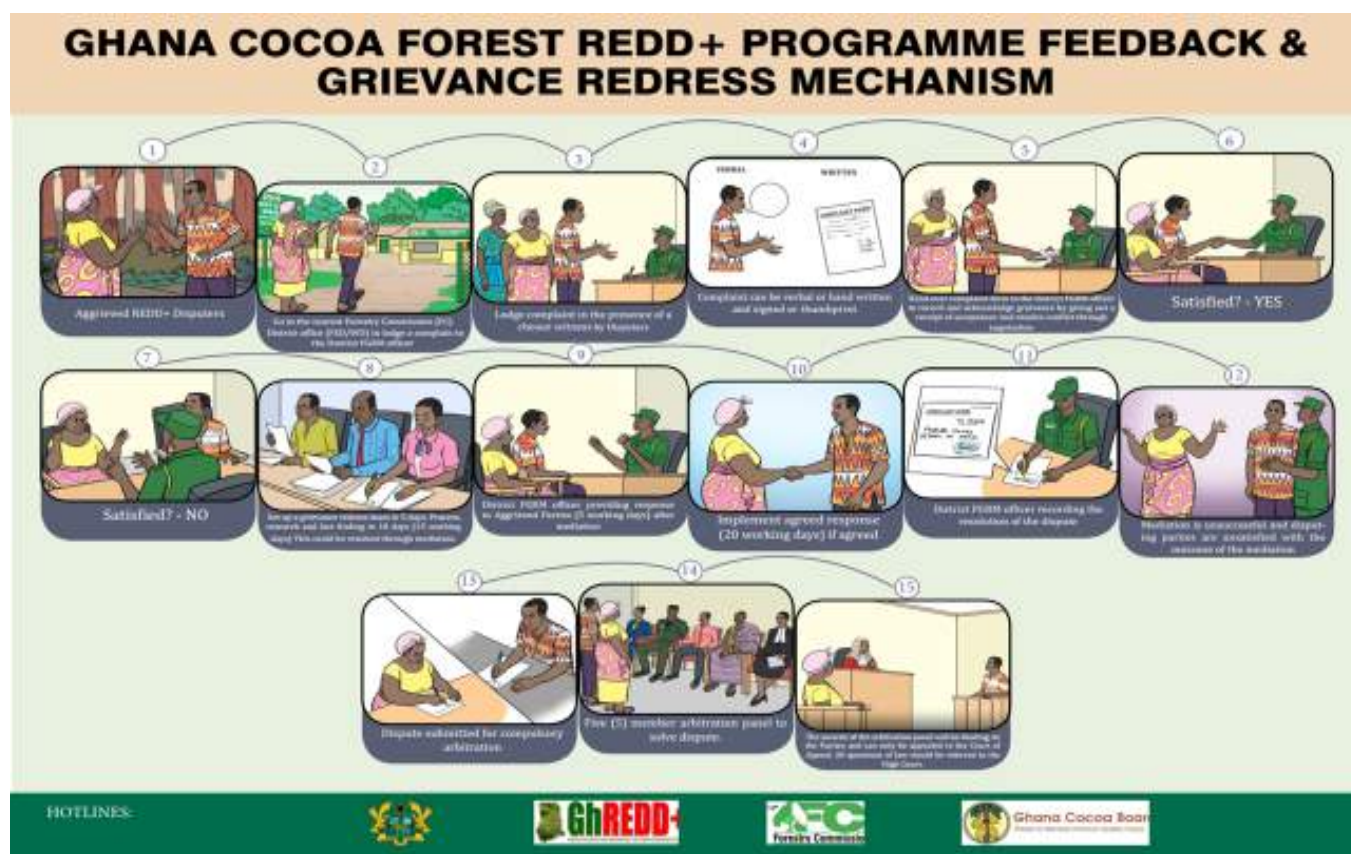


Figure 2: GCFRP FGRM Schematic Diagram

### Group work on Safeguards Operationalization

The presentations identified above was followed by hands- on group exercise, which was quite participatory and contributed to ensuring the project implementers appreciate the practicalities of safeguards implementation. The participants were grouped and assigned specific tasks (intervention/activity) to screen and identify possible risks/triggered safeguards policy and also propose mitigation actions. Following this, the groups presented their respective findings at the plenary as shown in tables 4-6 below.

*Table 8: Group A: Screening of COCOBOD Cocoa Rehabilitation activity*

<b>Identified Risks/Impacts</b>	<b>Proposed Mitigation</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Water pollution</li> <li>2. Health issues</li> <li>3. Killing of living organisms in the river</li> <li>4. Generation of fumes from chainsaw</li> <li>5. Generation of emissions</li> <li>6. It creates an odour</li> <li>7. Human injuries</li> <li>8. Economic hardships</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Creation of buffer zones</li> <li>2. Use of more efficient machines</li> <li>3. Wearing of PPEs</li> <li>4. Regular servicing of machines</li> <li>5. Creation of alternative livelihoods</li> </ol>

*Table 9: Group B: Screening of Modified Taungya System (MTS)*

<b>RISK</b>	<b>MITIGATION</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Exposure of officers to accident</li> <li>2. Accident</li> <li>3. Air &amp; water pollution</li> <li>4. Loss of habitat</li> <li>5. Erosion</li> <li>6. Loss of vegetation</li> <li>7. Destruction of ecosystem</li> <li>8. Pollution from poly pots</li> <li>9. Planting of inappropriate species</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provision of safety education and equipment</li> <li>2. Avoid slash &amp; burn</li> <li>3. Planting of fast-growing species</li> <li>4. Proper disposal of poly pots</li> <li>5. 3rs (recycle, reduce, rethink)</li> </ol>



*Table 10: Group C: Screening of integration of trees on farms*

<b>RISK</b>	<b>MITIGATION</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pest infestation</li> <li>2. Wind throw</li> <li>3. Destruction to cocoa crops when trees are matured to be harvested</li> <li>4. Competition for nutrients</li> <li>5. Choice of species to be planted</li> <li>6. Tree ownership (litigation)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Use trees that will not serve as breeding grounds for insects</li> <li>2. Adopt good agricultural practices (gaps)</li> <li>3. Select wind resistant tree species</li> <li>4. Avoid felling of trees where necessary</li> <li>5. Follow gaps by correct spacing of tree species 6 – 8 trees/ha</li> <li>6. Use recommended species that will prevail in the area (ecological adaptation)</li> <li>7. Documentation of trees</li> <li>8. Sensitization (capacity building)</li> </ol>

## **Key Lessons**

- ❖ The REDD+ SIS has a role to play in capacity building i.e. it could serve as important centerpiece for assessing training materials and offer the opportunity for feedbacks.
- ❖ There is the need to distinguish or draw an analogy between the carbon benefits and other existing forest-based benefits such as the Modified Taungya System particularly amongst farmers.
- ❖ Bringing diverse groups of stakeholders offered a very good cross-exchange of knowledge and information sharing.
- ❖ The training was highly attended with diverse representatives proving the relevance of the training.

- ❖ The workshop created a clear understanding of GCFRP safeguards including identification of safeguards triggers and, even managed to come up with mitigatory measures.
- ❖ Integration of local structures in the operationalization of FGRM was identified as an important component.
- ❖ It is observed that there is a need for small handbills and posters, which could be distributed at various events to enhance awareness creation.
- ❖ There were considerable requests from participants on expediting the actions on tree tenure and tree registration.
- ❖ Continuation of the safeguards trainings at landscape levels was announced and much appreciated. NRS will follow up
- ❖ Dissemination of the screening checklist and SAP to all the companies supporting the implementation of activities was also mentioned and appreciated NRS will follow up

## **Conclusion and Evaluation**

In the closing session, the HMB members, COCOBOD, EPA, FC staff and the NGOs/CSOs representatives thanked the organizers for organizing this workshop and providing the platform for active discussions. The participants gave assurance that the knowledge acquired would help them to carry out activities effectively and in appropriate manner. They indicated that the workshop was a wonderful opportunity to gain and share facts, knowledge and insights for the implementation of project activities.

The Forestry Commission staff and World Bank consultants thanked everyone for their continuous efforts for the successful organization of the workshop. They stressed on the importance of having a collaborative team approach going forward and indicated that the Bank will continue providing support where necessary.

Evaluation of the effectiveness of the training was conducted on the final day to assess how well the training was perceived and solicit any further inputs or recommendations

from participants for subsequent workshops. Fifty-three (53) percent of the participants indicated they were very knowledgeable in safeguards required for the Emissions Reduction Program before this training, with 15 percent indicating they were somewhat knowledgeable. On how participants felt about applying what was learnt in their position, work or job role, 85 percent indicated they were very confident.

Some recommendations that were provided include provision of training materials before and after the workshop, more time for group work and plenary discussions, more time to be allocated in the future to discussed social and gender aspects, adding field activities and bringing on board more stakeholders.

## Annexes

### Annex 1: Picture Gallery – Day 1





## Annex 2: Picture Gallery – Day 2









### Annex 3: Picture Gallery - Day 3

#### Group work



#### Closing remarks and group picture





## Annex 4: Agenda

### REDD+ Safeguards ToT Training Outline Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (Date: Tuesday March 8, 2022)

Course Summary		
Objective	Participants Trained on the implementation of the Safeguards Action Plan (SAP) for the Ghana ER Program	
When	Tuesday March 8, 2022	
Type of training	Face-to-Face delivery	
Participants	approx. 15 participants (NRS, and FC Regional/District Safeguards Focal persons in the Two HIAs whose governance structures have been set up.	
Package	Soft copies of all training materials will be made available to the participants after the training	
Activities	Presentation, Focus Group Discussions, and open discussions through Q&A	
Detailed Agenda		
Time	Topic:	Session Facilitator(s)
9.00am to 9.20am	Welcome and Introductions	NRS
9.20am to 9.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overview and Objectives of the ToT</li></ul>	Haddy
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brief overview of the ERP Activities</li></ul>	NRS
9.30-11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Brief overview of the WB Safeguards Policies</li></ul>	Haddy/Justice
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Elements of a SAP</li></ul>	Haddy/Justice
11am-11.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Health Break</li></ul>	
11.30-12.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overview of E&amp;S Implementation (SAP Implementation)</li></ul>	NRS Team
12.30pm 1.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Review and identification of gaps in the SAP (group work)</li></ul>	Haddy/Justice
1.30pm -2.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Lunch</li></ul>	
2.30pm-3.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Plenary</li></ul>	
3.15-4.15pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Filling in the GAP in the SAP</li></ul>	Haddy/Justice
4.15pm-5pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Effective ways to operationalizing and reporting on the SAP</li></ul>	Haddy/Justice
5.00pm	Closing Remarks	

**REDD+ Safeguards Training for Stakeholders**  
**Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program**  
**(date: March 9-10)**

Course Summary		
Objective	Participants learn key WB safeguards Policies triggered by the Ghana ER Program, implementation requirements and roles and responsibilities of stakeholders.	
When	Wednesday and Thursday, March 9-10, 2022	
Type of training	Face-to-Face delivery	
Participants	approx. 60 participants (NRS, and FC Regional/District Safeguards Focal persons, Reps from HMB/Communities, COCOBOD, EPA, CSO/Private sector). Except the NRS, all participants will come from the Two HIAs whose governance structures have been set up.	
Package	Soft copies of all training materials will be made available to the participants after the training	
Activities	Presentation, Group work, plenary, open discussions through Q&A	
Detailed Agenda		
Day 2		
Time	Topic:	Session Facilitator(s)
9.00am to 9.20am	Welcome and Introductions	NRS
9.20am to 9.40am	Overview and Objectives of the Training	Review objectives, rules of engagement WB
9.40am to 10.25am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Overview of the Ghana ER Program</li></ul>	NRS

10.25am to 10.30am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A Session</b></li> </ul>	
10.30am-11am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health Break</b></li> </ul>	
11am-12.30pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• World Bank Safeguards Policies triggered by the ER Program</li> </ul>	Haddy/Justice/Darimani
12.30pm -1pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A Session</b></li> </ul>	
1pm -2pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lunch</b></li> </ul>	
2pm-3pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of E&amp;S Instruments Prepared (ESMF, RPF, SAP, FGRM)</li> <li>• Role of Stakeholders in the Safeguards Implementation process</li> </ul>	NRS
3.pm-3.20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A Session</b></li> </ul>	
3.20-3.50pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ER safeguards Implementation and monitoring to date- role of stakeholders (Group work)</li> <li>• Ensuring Gender Equity in GCFRP Implementation Activities (group work)</li> </ul>	Parelle Session (NRS/Dr. Darimani)
3.50pm-4.20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Plenary</b></li> </ul>	
4.20pm-4.50pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Q&amp;A Session</b></li> </ul>	Dr. Darimani/NRS
5pm	<b>Wrap-up and Closing</b>	WB
<b>Day 2:</b>		
<b>Time</b>		<b>Session Facilitator(s)</b>
9.00am - 9.10am	<b>Welcome and recap</b>	
9.10am - 09.30am	Screening E&S risks and impacts and implementation of the SAP	NRS
9.30am – 09.50am	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	World Bank and NRS

10.30am-11.00am	<b>Health Break</b>	
11.00am-1pm	Overview and operationalizing the FGRM and Natural Resources Conflict Management	NRS
	Monitoring and reporting by stakeholders	Justice and Dr. Darimani
	<b>Q&amp;A Session</b>	NRS/WB
1pm- 1.30pm	<b>Wrap-Up and Evaluation</b>	
1.30pm	<b>Closing Remarks</b>	NRS
1.30pm -2.30pm	<b>Lunch</b>	

## Annex 5: List Of Participants



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**GHANA EMISSIONS REDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM, WB SAFEGUARD TRAINING**  
**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**  
**VENUE: FCTC, EJISU**

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**GHANA EMISSIONS REDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM, WB SAFEGUARD TRAINING**  
**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**  
**VENUE: FCTC, EJISU**

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**GHANA EMISSIONS REDUCTION TRAINING PROGRAM, WB SAFEGUARD TRAINING**  
**DATE: THURSDAY, 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2022**  
**VENUE: FCTC, EJISU**

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## Annex 6: Preview Of Presentations



# BENEFIT SHARING PLAN FOR THE GHANA COCOA FOREST REDD+ PROGRAM

GHANA REDD+ SECRETARIAT





1

## DESIGN PROCESS

It was designed based on:

Extensive field study (focus group discussions and key informant interviews)

- Precisely, thirty focus group discussions were conducted comprising about 413 individuals. This includes 304 men and 109 women.
- In addition to the focus group discussions, twenty-seven (27) key informant interviews were conducted at the local level for informed individualized perspectives

Broad stakeholder consultations at the local and national levels and multiple expert reviews.

In all seven different consultative and expert review meetings were conducted




## PURPOSE OF THE BSP


- 1


The BSP elaborates an equitable benefit sharing mechanism that is intended to effectively distribute carbon and non-carbon benefits
- 2

It describes the various beneficiaries, their eligibility, roles and responsibilities while specifying the scale and modalities for distribution.
- 3

It describes the type of benefits to be transferred to the beneficiaries, the timing of the distribution, and the conditions (roles and responsibilities) to be satisfied for the payment of the benefits, and the appropriate indicators for monitoring, measuring and verifying compliance with modalities for distributing benefits to beneficiaries.







2

## BENEFICIARIES

**HIA landscape stakeholders**



Groups of farmers registered under the program



Communities



Traditional Authorities

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**Government agencies**



Forestry Commission

Cocoa Board

Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies

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**Private Sector**



Cocoa Companies



Other private sector companies



# OVERVIEW OF E&S INSTRUMENTS PREPARED

PRESENTATION  
BY  
NATIONAL REDD+ SECRETARIAT



MARCH, 2022



## – WHY REDD+ SAFEGUARDS



- Land and tree conflicts
- Elite capture
- Conversion of natural forests
- Gender inequality
- Non-inclusiveness
- Pesticide use
- Restricted access to forests
- Loss of livelihood
- Water Pollution
- Health and safety
- Lack of Enforcement



- Better Agric Production
- Additional livelihoods
- Carbon sequestration
- Forests restoration
- Watershed management
- Community development
- Better Forest Governance
- Integrated NRM



## – REDD+ SAFEGUARDS BEING APPLIED IN GHANA

### \* CANCUN SAFEGUARDS

- Seven (7) safeguards.

### \* WORLD BANK SAFEGUARDS

- 10 Operational Policies.

### \* AfDB SAFEGUARDS

- Integrated Safeguards System of Policies and Procedures, (5 Operational Safeguards).

### \* NATIONAL SAFEGUARDS

- Environmental Impact Assessment for certain thresholds of projects.

### POLICY AND LEGISLATIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR REDD+ IN GHANA

- Forest and Wildlife Policy, 2012
- National Climate Change Policy, 2013
- National Environment Policy, 2013
- National Gender and Children Policy, 2015
- Wildfire Policy, etc.



## – GHANA'S COUNTRY APPROACH TO SAFEGUARDS (CAS) AND SIS [THE PROCESS]





# OVERVIEW OF THE GHANA ER PROGRAM

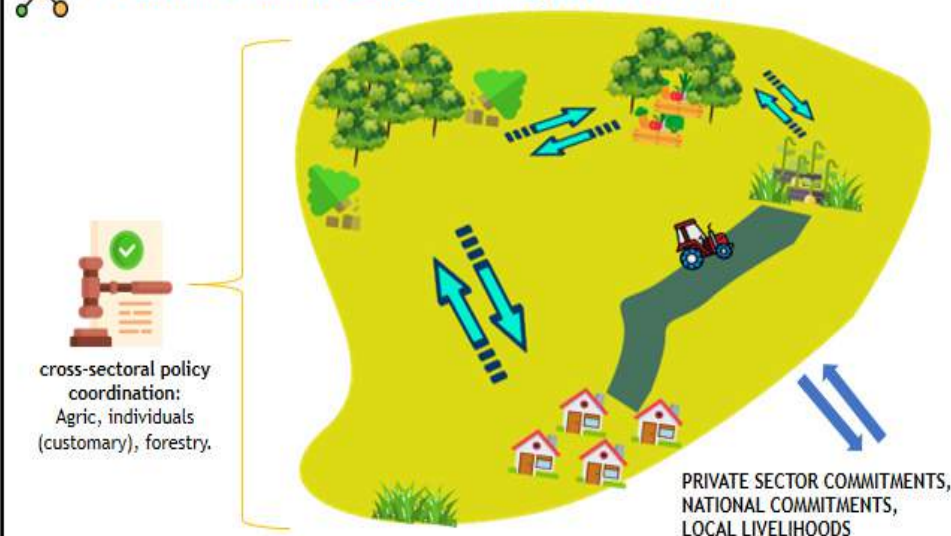
PRESENTATION  
BY  
NATIONAL REDD+ SECRETARIAT



MARCH, 2022



## THE GHANAIAN LANDSCAPE DYNAMICS/CONNECTIVITY



## THE GHANAIAN CHALLENGE

### Drivers of Deforestation and Degradation:

- Conversion to agriculture
- Cutting for timber and wood fuels
- Fires

### Cocoa production causing Deforestation and Forest Degradation (D&FD)



### Cocoa led D&FD didn't start today, it has taken many years, still "present"



No one single entity has contributed solely to Cocoa led D&FD



ONE OF GHANA'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE CHANGE, FOREST DEGRADATION AND DEFORESTATION IS REDD+

## WHY REDD+ IS IMPORTANT FOR GHANA



Our economy is highly dependent on the agriculture sector which is climate-sensitive and also relies heavily on ecosystem services (e.g. pollinators, soil nutrient recycling, generation of rainfall, wind breaks, etc);



REDD+ provides an opportunity to mitigate climate change and make our agriculture and forestry sectors more resilient to its impacts, while establishing other sources of revenue for the country



REDD+ is a game-changer: performance-based mechanism requiring tangible results that can attract carbon finance.

## World Bank Safeguard Policies



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1

## Understand the Program

Understand the proposed activities  
Why is the activity being proposed?  
What is being proposed?

ALL E&S Assessment processes begin with understanding WHAT is being proposed, and WHY. The question "WHY IS THE ACTIVITY BEING PROPOSED?" is answered with the development objective (D.O.).

"Plantation"  
"Reduce Deforestation"

✗ Not a D.O.  
✓ Is a D.O.



"If we don't understand it, we can't assess it!"

We must understand the Development Objective to identify environmentally sound alternatives

Once we understand the development objective, we must fully understand WHAT is being proposed.

To make payments to the Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program (or 'the Program') for measured, reported and verified Emission Reductions related to **reduced deforestation, forest degradation and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks (ER payments) in target landscapes of Ghana (or 'Program Area')**, and distribution of ER payments in accordance with agreed-upon Benefit Sharing Plan.

## The World Bank Group's Twin Goals and Sustainability

- ❖ To **end poverty** and **promote shared prosperity**, all aspects of social and environmental sustainability must be taken into consideration
- ❖ Protecting the environment and the world's poorest and most vulnerable people in our projects are central to this vision
- ❖ Environmental and social policies help ensure that people and the environment are protected from potential adverse impacts in investment projects. Such policies also improve the outcome and effectiveness of projects.



2

## Why the Bank is concerned about Safeguards

- To ensure that the Bank is not causing any negative impacts through its funding support
- That the support given does not compromise its mission of poverty reduction through sustainable development
- That the WB is not creating reputational risk that will compromise its legal commitments to member countries
- That its support maximizes positive impacts whilst minimizing/avoiding negative impacts
- To ensure social and environmental sustainability of WB supported projects





Environmental Protection Agency

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT FOR THE FORESTRY SECTOR



□ JACKSON A. NYANTAKYI, Ph.D. (Regional Director, EPA Ahafo Region)

&

□ MR. SAMUEL OTENG (Regional Director, EPA Ashanti Region)

[www.epa.gov.gh](http://www.epa.gov.gh)

1



Environmental Protection Agency

## INTRODUCTION

### ➤ The Evolution of EPA

- The growing world-wide concerns on the dangers posed to the environment through careless human activities called for measures to deal with it.
- A conference was organized in Stockholm in 1972 by the UN
- During the Conference remedial measures and guidelines for action by government to curb the menace were adopted.
- The Environmental Protection Council (EPC) was formed by Ghana

[www.epa.gov.gh](http://www.epa.gov.gh)

2



Environmental Protection Agency

## INTRODUCTION

### ➤ Evolution of EPA

- Based on the National Redemption Council (NRC) Decree 239 on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 1974 and inaugurated on 4<sup>th</sup> June 1974.
- The EPC's role was to coordinate all environmental matters in the country and advise the government.
- Environmental Protection Agency Act, 1994 (Act 490) transformed the EPC into an Agency having inter alia, regulatory and enforcement roles.

[www.epa.gov.gh](http://www.epa.gov.gh)



Environmental Protection Agency

## Introduction cont'd.

- EPC was then changed to EPA on the 30<sup>th</sup> December, 1994 by the EPA Act 1994, (Act 490). The Act prescribes 19 + others statutory functions
  - Regulatory
  - Compliance
  - Investigation, Research
  - Advisory

[www.epa.gov.gh](http://www.epa.gov.gh)

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## Annex 7: Training Evaluation Form

### Safeguards Training Emission Reduction March 8-10, 2022 Training Evaluation Form

#### Indicate your Role:

Government/Regulator	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs, CSOs)	<input type="checkbox"/>
Private Sector	<input type="checkbox"/>
Farmer	<input type="checkbox"/>

1. How would you rate your knowledge of safeguards required for the Emissions Reduction Program?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How confident do you feel about applying what you have learnt in your position, work or job role?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. How often do you expect to be able to apply your learning in your job role?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. What things might you need to help you use your learning in your job?

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5. How did you find the content of the training?

<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have any further comments about the content of the training, please add them here.

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6. How useful did you find the following in helping you to learn?

<b>Presentations</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Questions and Discussions</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Group Work or exercises</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have any further comments about the training methods, please add them here.

8. Please rate the following aspects of the event facilities and administration:

<b>Administration &amp; enrolment</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Room/venue</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Convenience of location</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Technical support</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Meals/Catering</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

If you have any further comments about the event facilities or administration, please add them here.

### Final comments

9. What do you like about training?

10. What do you dislike about training?

11. Would you recommend this training to your work colleagues?

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ Not sure