



CONFERENCE REPORT

Promoting Green Value Chains and Community-based Biodiversity Conservation Best Practices and Smart Solutions

June 11, 2019

Paloma Hotel, Accra – Ghana



Conference funded by



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Acknowledgement

The conference was possible by the funding support provided by the French Development Agency (AFD) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). We greatly appreciate this support. We are also deeply grateful to the keynote speakers Mr. Joseph William Osei of Resource Trust and Mr. Bernard Asamoah-Boateng of Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, whose experiences and knowledge helped set the tone for the conference stimulating discussions.

We are especially thankful to our partners: A Rocha Ghana, Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC), NorthCode, West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) and le Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS) whose expertise, inputs and recommendations helped shape and frame the conference concept and programme.

Finally, we extend our profound gratitude and deepest appreciation to the story tellers, panelists and all the conference participants for their willingness and courage to openly share their experiences, ideas and contributions which made the conference a great success. Thank you all for fully participating in and contributing to this conference, which made it our collective success and achievement.

We hope that this conference report and related conference materials will further stimulate our thinking around green value chains development and community-based biodiversity conservation.

Conference Organizers:

Noé - Man and Nature in partnership with A Rocha Ghana, Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC), NorthCode, West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA) and le Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire (CSRS).

Executive Summary

The conference on green value chains and community-based biodiversity conservation took place on June 11, 2019 at Paloma Hotel in Ghana. It was organized by Noé and its implementing partners in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire under the EconoBio project entitled: *“Development of green value chains for the benefit of local communities living on the outskirts of biodiversity-rich areas”*. The EconoBio project supports community-driven conservation and environmentally friendly economic solutions. It aims at developing sustainable value chains for the benefit of communities living on the outskirts of three Protected Areas while contributing to the restoration and conservation of biodiversity. It is one of the projects being supported by Noé in West Africa under its global [Man and Nature programme](#).

The conference was held under the theme: *“Promoting Green Value Chains and Community-based Conservation Best Practices and Smart Solutions”* for three main reasons:

- to showcase and accelerate best practices and smart solutions for biodiversity conservation and improved economic growth;
- to exchange ideas and experiences and generate knowledge on the impact of green value chains on biodiversity and local's livelihoods;
- to foster partnerships and create a space for networking among the various stakeholders.

It brought together over 70 participants (30 females and 42 males) from government, private sector, universities, local communities, civil society organizations, and the donor community including international organizations. It provided a safe space for practitioners and local community groups to share and exchange ideas on best practices. It further offered the platform for the multiple stakeholders to reflect on their roles and commitment to strengthening local community livelihood and environmental sustainability. Three key questions were explored, and this helped the conference participants to question current practices and solutions.

The main highlights from the interactions indicate the fundamental need to adopt a cross-sectoral approach to biodiversity conservation and the development of green value chains. It also pointed out the need to consider the context and traditional knowledge, profitability and sustainability, diversification, quality, and innovation in the development of GVC. The interactions also supported the need to develop a strong governance structure and financial mechanisms to strengthen community-based conservation actions. The key lessons drawn from this conference, summarized in section 3, build on the results from the [National CREMA Dialogue](#) held in Ghana in October 2018.

As green value chains and biodiversity issues are quite broad, there is still so much to learn; this conference is in no way exhaustive on the best practices and smart solutions for improving biodiversity. It has only provided a building block for further understanding the issues and making meaningful connections that would drive our collective actions towards impact. As such, it is hoped that the readers of this conference report will find insight and motivation from the lessons learned to expand their understanding of the issues and contributions to biodiversity conservation and green economic growth.

1. Introduction

This report summarizes the main lessons and outputs of the conference on green value chains and community-based biodiversity conservation, which took place on June 11, 2019 at Paloma Hotel in Ghana.

1.1 Noé – Man & Nature

Although crucial for the well-being of human beings, biodiversity is under threat in many parts of the world including Protected Areas of West Africa. Even though many cultures recognize the importance of conserving their natural resources, the protectionist approach for the preservation of the natural resources does not generate the economic incentives for local populations living around the resources to conserve them. The lack of economic alternatives further drives illegal logging, poaching, overexploitation, unsustainable agricultural practices, deforestation among others. To generate a win-win for both people and nature, a collaborative approach which combines nature conservation and economic development is essential.

Created in 2001, Noé is a French non-profit organization whose mission is to safeguard biodiversity around the world. Noé's Man & Nature programme aims at developing Green Value Chains (GVCs) in and around Protected Areas. This programme operates by providing technical and financial support to local Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to implement projects combining community development with biodiversity conservation. Overall, the programme recognizes that it is only by integrating nature conservation and economic development and placing local populations at the heart of the solution that the success of conservation programmes is guaranteed.

1.2 About the Conference: Context and Purpose

Threats to biodiversity is becoming increasingly complex; local communities who depend on the natural resources consistently bear the brunt of the multiplexity and the complexities of biodiversity loss. Since 2000, the Ghanaian State via the Wildlife Division has authorized the creation of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs), a mechanism enabling the delegation of the management authority of natural resources to communities. The success of the community-based management model depends on the economic interest the population may find in its implementation. By improving their income through the development of green value chains, the local communities would accept and support the preservation of the natural ecosystems and adopt sustainable management practices. The development of GVCs thus optimizes the economic and social opportunities in an environmentally sustainable manner.

The CREMAs and GVCs interventions are implemented in different locations; some of which have failed whilst others have greatly succeeded. To re-examine and question our fundamental assumptions as agents of change in the implementation of these interventions, Noé and partners facilitated this multi-stakeholder conference to discuss the different community-based biodiversity conservation practices and the impact of green value chains development on biodiversity.

2. Conference Proceedings and Outcomes

The conference¹ opened with an introduction, welcome and purpose of conference with two keynote speeches and a short presentation on the EconoBio Project detailing key highlights and results of the project. This was followed by ten minutes presentation/story telling by each implementing Civil Society Organizations and/or Community Groups on best practices and smart solutions for biodiversity conservation and GVCs. The presentations highlighted most significant stories of change (successes and/or failures) on CREMAs and GVC development projects. Three key questions were explored, which helped the

¹ See conference programme in Annex 1

conference participants to question current practices and solutions as well as inspired new ideas. These include:

- How do we boost the contributions of local communities for conservation & restoration of biodiversity and green value chain development projects?
- How does the development of green value chains impact biodiversity conservation and communities' livelihood?
- How do we improve external support (eg. NGO work) and strengthen collaboration with local communities to ensure sustainability and transformative changes on the ground? What practices should be avoided, and which should be strengthened?

Over 70 participants² (30 females and 42 males) from government, private sector, the academia, local communities, civil society organizations, and the donor community including international allies participated in the conference.

2.1 Introduction to the Conference and Welcome Note

We are in a time when there is growing exposure to vulnerabilities to extreme climatic conditions and economic hardships because of our own actions as humans. Our production and consumption patterns negatively impact environmental sustainability, economic growth and productivity. Unsustainable consumption and reckless use of natural resources on daily basis is causing depletion of natural resources, which impacts negatively on ecosystem services and livelihoods of communities who largely depend on these services. The development of green value chains in combination with the adoption of the Community Resources Management Areas (CREMAs) approach, is a great way to restore biodiversity and provide the economic incentives for local populations living at the outskirts of biodiversity rich areas to protect the resources. It has the potential to reverse the threats to our environment.

The success of the CREMAs depends critically on how governance mechanisms unfold to support sustainability actions. It depends on how politically committed our governments are to this approach. It depends on community ownership and multi-sectoral coordination. It depends on adequate financing to leverage on its impact. Ensuring environmental sustainability depends on the commitment of all stakeholders to adopt new pathways and re-examine new and more efficient approaches to development and the governance of natural resources. The current framework of the global goal for sustainable development gives us enough grounds and leverage to move away from business as usual and to undertake actions that are truly transformative.

2.2 Keynote Speeches

2.2.1 Mr. Bernard Asamoah-Boateng, Regional Manager of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana pointed out that, biodiversity loss and poverty are linked problems and that conservation and poverty reduction should be tackled together. He further enumerated some factors that contribute to biodiversity loss:

² See participants list in Annex 2

- **limited livelihood and economic bases** for local people whose survival depends directly on the natural capital;
- biodiversity conservation interventions and livelihood initiatives are mostly carried out through **short term donor or benevolent projects** that do not ensure full cycles of technical and financial support until the sustenance is achieved. Therefore, as soon as source funding ceases the “fragile achievements” begin to deteriorate;
- **inadequate socio-economic benefits** to motivate the local people toward a balance between biodiversity conservation and wellbeing;
- **inadequate involvement of the local people in the governance** and management of natural resources on Protected Areas;
- **non-inclusion of indigenous technical knowledge** in contemporary biodiversity conservation; and
- **rapidly increasing population** in and around biodiversity places and spaces and the lack of reproductive health education in the communication and message strategies deployed by conservationists to sensitize local people.

“The positive impacts of CREMA benefits greatly from genuine support and commitment of the local communities and their external allies in biodiversity conservation and local livelihood improvements.”

He further noted that clear conceptual frameworks are needed if policies in these two areas are to be combined and that this was the backdrop for which the Wildlife Division of Forestry Commission designed the Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) mechanism. He explained the conceptual framework for CREMAs and emphasized that the positive impacts of CREMA benefits greatly from genuine support and commitment of the local communities and their external allies in biodiversity conservation and livelihood improvements.

2.2.2 Mr. Joseph William Osei, the Executive Director of Resources Trust, situated the discussion in a 2019 World Bank Global Value Chain Development Report, which indicates that more than two-thirds of world trade now occurs through global value chains. He pointed out that natural resources provide the key inputs to value chains and are impacted by value chains, hence the urgency to address unsustainable use of natural resources in production and consumption of goods and services and their attendant negative impacts as accentuated in the global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). To bring the discuss home, he highlighted some of the constraints to natural resources management and Ghana’s development noticing that the relative share of total GDP has declined over the past decade for the crops sub-sector although Ghana’s medium-term national development policy framework (2018-2021) recognizes the need for “well management” of natural resources.

As such, he underscored the need to investigate the value chain structural and the dynamic elements (especially the end market) of each of the five green value chain commodities (shea, cocoa, honey, coconut oil and cassava); noting that the end markets are not locations but the people. Since at certain phases of a crop in the value chain journey, **the project approach to supporting targeted communities will not be adequate and may require a programme approach** of support which will also require the need for extensive network of actors. Another crucial element is the **need to understand how laws and regulations facilitate or hinder the functioning of value chains** and the necessity to know where and how to intervene. For instance, it is imperative to investigate how the current Ghana Tree Crops Development Bill facilitates or hinders the five green value chains objectives and how to intervene.

He called to attention on the fact that community producers are risk averse and question what they stand to gain when they change – to take on new practices, adopt new technologies among others. Projects should be designed to address these risk perceptions through **demonstration and presentation of business cases of change to inspire and influence community smallholder producers to change**. For example, rewarding the smallholder commodity groups for progress made in green value chains such as premiums for certified products leverages resources from profits from the downstream actors and this has been effective in moving community smallholder producer to participate in green value chains.

“...success will require continuous learning to identify what works well and what does not work so well, adapt and change within the given context.”

He concluded that as projects are implemented in dynamic contexts and each actor along the value chain responds differently depending on their risk levels, skills, experiences among others we cannot make accurate predictions and respond with project interventions. Hence, success will require **continuous learning** to identify what works well and what does not work so well, **adapt and change within the given context**.

2.3 Presentation on EconoBio Project and Key Results

In Ghana and Cote d’Ivoire, Noé is implementing the “EconoBio” project, supporting community-driven conservation and environmentally friendly economic solutions. It is a 3 year project (January 2018 - December 2020) aiming at developing sustainable value chains in the surroundings of Protected Areas, by supporting five NGOs: A Rocha Ghana, Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC), West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA), NorthCode and le Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte d’Ivoire (CSRS). It specifically seeks to:

- Contribute to the development of **five main sustainable value chains around three protected areas**: shea butter and honey around the Mole National Park, cocoa around Kakum Conservation Area, and coconut oil, cocoa and cassava around the Kwabre-Tanoé transboundary forest.
- **Improve community-based biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources**. The project supports the establishment and the strengthening of Community-based governance mechanisms (CREMAs) to ensure the sustainable management of natural resources.
- Strengthening the civil society players, generating knowledge and sharing best practices to help meet the present and future challenges of biodiversity and economic development.

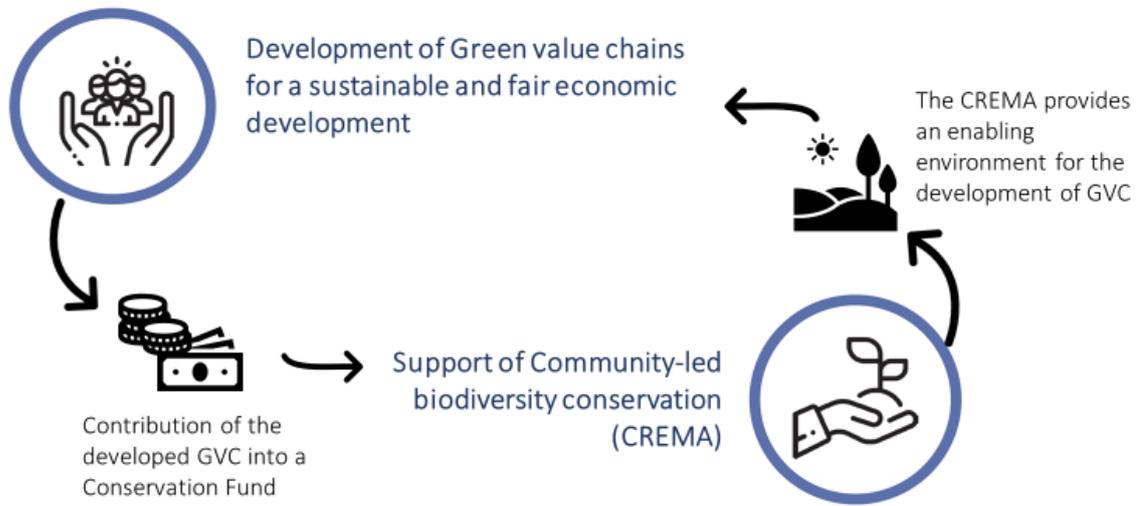
By combining the CREMA³ and Green Value Chain development⁴ model, the following results are expected:

- 200,000 hectares of land sustainably managed by local communities
- 5 green value chains developed
- 5500 producers empowered with increased livelihood (of which 50% are women)
- 200 elected community members trained and supported
- 100 patrollers trained and supported

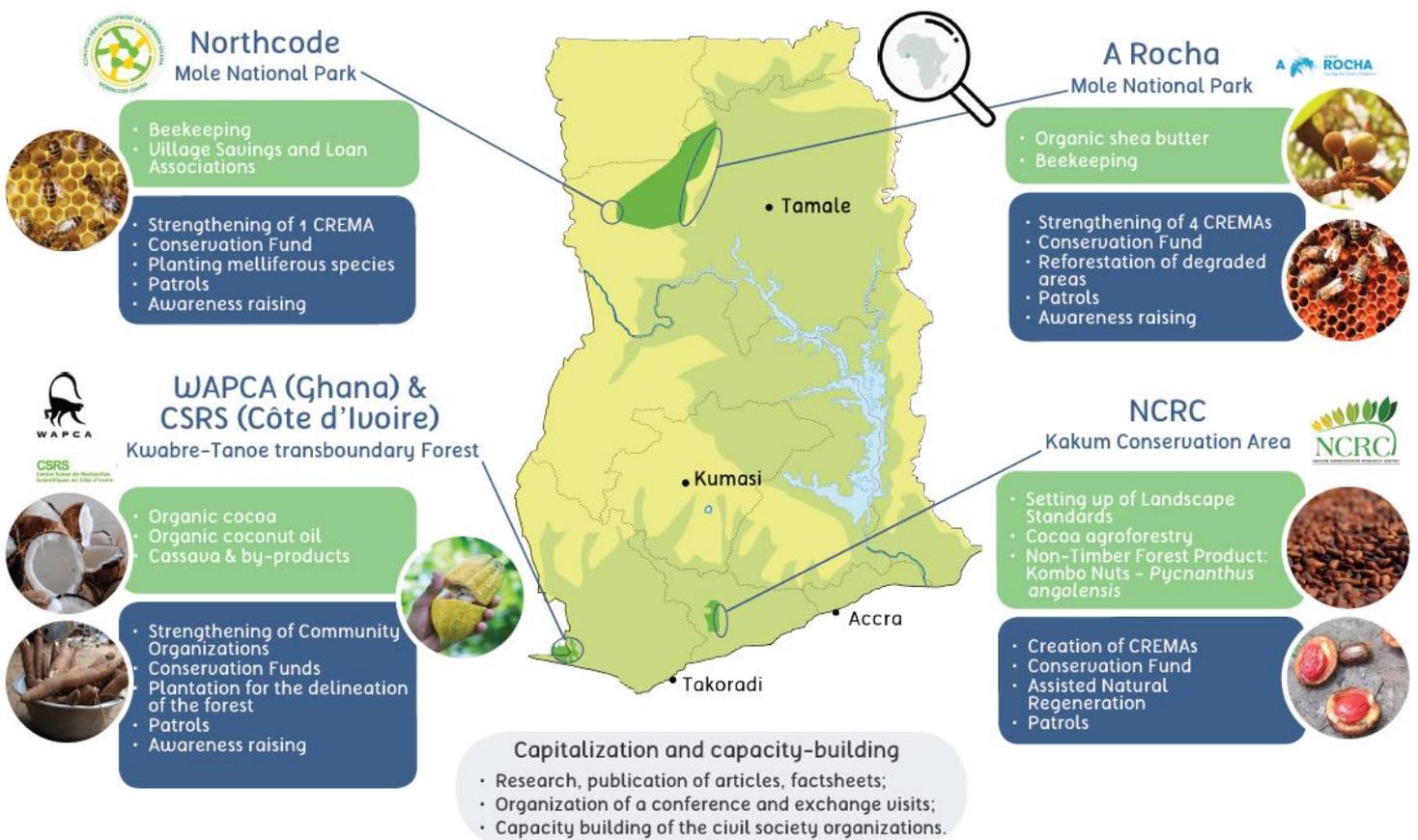
³ The Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) is a community-based natural resources governance and management mechanism. The CREMA holds the power to manage its natural resources through the devolution of governance and management responsibility and authority by the Minister of Land and Natural Resources.

⁴ The development of green value chains includes optimizing the economic and social opportunities in an environmentally sustainable manner to improve standards of living of the local people.

The underpinning rationale is presented as follows:



The map below gives a snapshot of the project:



2.4 Highlight and Key Lessons Learned

Insight and lessons from the panel and group discussions, keynote speeches, presentations and stories shared are highlighted below. These lessons should be explored further to inspire better understanding of the issues and contributions to biodiversity conservation and green economic growth.

Green Value Chains (GVC)



SOUND PROJECT DESIGN

Project design and implementation should support **existing value chains** and build upon **traditional knowledge** and context. Many initiatives have failed by trying to start something new without proper understanding of the context.

It is also necessary to bring new knowledge and **innovation** – which can be inspired by local knowledge and practices – but this should be accompanied with education and awareness. Innovation is key to increase production, ensure a better quality and diversify end-products. (noting that traditional practices may not always be good neither does new technologies and innovations fits every context). *“Profitability is sustainability”* – it is key to develop **economically sound GVC**.

GVC development offers significant job opportunities in which the **youth** as well as **women** should be involved (even if they are not owning land or farms).



INVOLVING PRIVATE SECTOR

Binding private companies and CREMAs is key to create a positive win-win relationship, ensuring the viability of the developed GVC (as the NGO should exit at some point). **Conservation Agreement** (initiated by Conservation International) is a great example. It formalizes the relationship between the private entity and the Community-based organization. The CA describes the commitments and incentives for each party (e.g. CREMA side: conservation of the forest, implementation of good practices in line with certification standards, ensure good governance / Private sector side: contribution to the Conservation Fund, premium, technical support, etc.), how it will be monitored and what are the sanctions.

Video to discover the Conservation Agreements:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vVh6tnyknE>



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Any value chain development project developed or carried out in a CREMA should always be led by the CREMA. To **prevent adverse impact on biodiversity** and overexploitation of natural resources, GVC development projects must strengthen good practices and should contribute to the **CREMA financial sustainability**, by ensuring that:

- CREMA management plan and regulations are developed and implemented;
- Part of the benefits contributes to the CREMA Conservation Fund, from the producers and/or from the private partner (e.g. Conservation Premium);
- The monitoring teams are adequately trained and do biomonitoring, which should include the monitoring of sustainable practices related to GVC;
- Organic certification standards include sustainable exploitation criteria which can be implemented even if the GVC is not certified (e.g. leave a percentage of nuts under and on the shea trees).



ENSURING CONTRIBUTION

Mechanisms ensuring **contributions from communities/beneficiaries** should be set up to avoid providing equipment for free. It creates sense of ownership and counters the development of a “dependency culture”. Different approaches can be implemented, regarding the amount (e.g. counterpart funding, full or partial phased reimbursement, contribution for maintenance and for future investment, etc.) and the payment scheme (e.g. pay to use the equipment, membership, benefit-sharing on the product sales price, etc.).

- Depends on the type of equipment provided (small equipment, or “unaffordable” equipment such as tractors or processing centres);
- The contribution scheme should fit the local context and be agreed before the equipment or any other resource is provided;
- Always prepare the exit plan - how will the equipment be financed over time to cover operation costs (fuel and maintenance costs).



DEMONSTRATE

There is the need for **demonstration** considering that farmers/producers might be risk-averse – they know what they have today and might prefer not to take the risk of changing their practices even if it could increase their income. Demonstration plots, pilot projects, exchange visits, awareness raising or deep explanation and access to data and information are possible ways to effect change.



DIVERSIFY

Encourage diversification to **increase income streams** as well as **reduce risks and pressure** in specific resource (e.g. develop other Non-Timber Forest Products, such as Kombo nuts in cocoa agroforestry). Depending on the natural resources base in a specific CREMA, ecotourism can be developed and marketed.

Community Resources Management Areas (CREMAs)



SUPPORTING THE ENFORCEMENT OF CREMA BYLAWS

- Building a strong governance system and leadership is key to dealing with the external influences hindering CREMAs effectiveness. The **CREMA executives must be firm and should not be compromised**; this is the only way they can stand against illegalities especially in areas where the chiefs and local government authorities are compromised (e.g. seized chainsaw handed over to the chiefs or management authorities can go back to the perpetrators again - seized equipment should then rather be kept in the custody of the CREMA executives).
- CREMAs need to be **professionalized and institutionalized** (e.g. establishing offices, providing identification cards and/or uniforms for patrollers);
- The devolution of management authority on “natural resources” to CREMAs is not always acknowledged by stakeholders or can be misinterpreted. It is critical to push for the passage of the Wildlife Resources Management Bill and ensure the enforcement of the Tenure Reform to facilitate effectiveness of CREMAs.
- Adequate support is needed to ensure the **effectiveness of monitoring teams** (enough patrollers and number of patrols) as well as the safety of the patrollers.



ENSURING COMMUNITY INVOLVMENT

- The CREMA establishment process takes time. Awareness raising around the CREMA concept and **capacity building of CREMA executives** is key, as it might be difficult to understand and as there is also a risk for the communities to feel that their land is being taken away from them. Video documentary by A Rocha Ghana on CREMAs around Mole National Park: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q4N5yn_4b-S
- **Environmental awareness raising**, education and capacity development **of community members** are essential to cause a shift in paradigm. Experiences show that illegal activities can be conducted due to ignorance of the law or ignorance of the impact of such activities.
- Rewards or certification schemes should be integrated in community resource management to **incentivise the local farmers** or producer groups to conserve trees on their farms and preserve forests.



CREMA FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

- Adequate financing schemes must be designed and implemented, e.g. the developed value chains should contribute to the financing of the CREMA activities, by setting up a **Conservation Fund**.
- This must be accompanied by in-depth **capacity building of CREMA executives in financial and project management**.



FURTHER INSIGHTS

The [National CREMA Dialogue](#) held in Ghana on October 2018 provides further insight into what is needed to make CREMAs more effective.

External Support – what practices should be avoided or strengthened?

In complement to GVC and CREMA highlights



MULTI-STAKEHOLDER INVOLVEMENT IN PROJECT DESIGN

- “Indigenise” and localise the projects and ensure that projects are addressing real needs locally (one size doesn’t fit all). This requires **involving communities in the design of the project**; the danger of not doing this is that the social background, traditional knowledge, real needs and aspirations of the local people might be ignored, and this often results in the project failing;
- Always **include traditional and governmental authorities** – community-based conservation projects have higher chances of success when the relevant stakeholders are involved;
- A **wide range of stakeholders** should be involved in the design of the project as it ensures ownership and buy-in and prevents the development of a “NGO-focus” project.



COLLABORATION

- Need to break the silos – work in collaboration and move from only NGO thinking to a **broader stakeholder base and cross-sectoral approach** (research, government, private sector, NGO, traditional authorities, communities) and **scale-up**;
- Complementary NGOs must work together (e.g. smaller better rooted NGOs working with more international or bigger NGOs to scale-up);
- Look for **support of universities/research** students to carry out analysis (e.g. the University for Development Studies (UDS) has students going into communities to carry out research and undertake community development work; NGOs can benefit greatly from this opportunity).
- **Exchange of knowledge, skills and experience** (failures and successes) must be fostered, communication should be improved (e.g. more exchange visits)

3. What Participants Think of the Conference

Ruth Akagu of Birdlife International (Implementation Team for the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)) shares her experience: “the conference is a positive vibe for us as an organization because it shows that the multi-stakeholder approach that CEPF is promoting is working and this was evident in this conference. And not just that, we didn’t come here to do business as usual. We came to discuss the challenges and the solutions, and we had the results. In most conference, it is so much of a ‘talk show’ but this conference is different – it is more about identifying the results and building on it to fill in the gaps. I find this fantastic – because we are trying to move from business as usual to change the status quo, fill-in the gaps and deal with what is really needed to ensure that our conversations around the issues are resulting in conservation of biodiversity.”



Emmanuel Nvojo, Secretary of Ankasa-Tano CREMA (Jomoro District in the Western Region of Ghana) shares his thoughts: “Everything that has been discussed here in this conference is of great benefit to the various CREMAs and fits so well into the objectives of the CREMAs and the NGOs that we are working with. One thing that I am happy about is the fact that we are all working towards the achievement of one aim which of course is conservation. We have different things that we are supposed to do for the various communities so when one NGO is dealing with a certain community, it is very good that they learn from other NGOs to improve on the things they are trying to do for the community. As we noticed from this conference, we have different expertise from different NGOs. As we go, there is capacity to add this knowledge and experiences to improve what we are already doing. I think this is very great and beneficial to us! What is also interesting is the benefit that communities tend to get for their conservation effort; when communities get to know what they will get when they conserve, it gives them the motivation to conserve. I think the conference has been a good and a successful one; we should have more of this learning platforms so that we can abreast ourselves with the necessary information that we need.”



Annexes

Annex 1: Final Conference Programme

This conference seeks to provide a safe space for practitioners to share and exchanges ideas on best practices for enhancing green growth and biodiversity conservation and restoration. It will further explore the means for strengthening community-based conservation and provide the platform to question our work as external stakeholders supporting community initiatives.

09:00 am – 9:30 am Arrival and Registration of Participants

09:30 am – 9:45 am Opening

Noé

Mabel AGBA

Opening, welcome and introduction to conference

Mabel is Programme Coordinator at Noé. She coordinates the EconoBio Program aimed at developing sustainable value chains around three protected areas.



Wildlife Division

Bernard ASAMOAH-BOATENG

Welcome note

Mr. Bernard Asamoah-Boateng is the Regional Manager for Eastern, Volta and Greater Accra Wildlife Regions of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission.



9:45 am – 12:30 am Session 1 – Sharing Insights from EconoBio Project and Best Practices
All presentations will be followed by plenary Q&A

Keynote Address

09:45 am – 10:15 am

Resource Trust Ghana

Dr. Joseph OSEI

Joseph Osei was Rainforest Alliance Regional Manager for Africa and the Chairman of the Working Group on Forest Certification, Ghana and currently the Director of Resourcetrust. He is a Lead Assessor under the High Conservation Value Resource Network and Auditor Licensing Scheme programme.



Noé

Cécile RENIER

Presentation on Key Highlights of EconoBio Project

10:15 am – 10:30 am

Cécile Renier is the Programme Manager in Ghana for Noé.



10:30 am – 11:00 am Snack Break

Story telling on Best Practices and Smart Solutions for Biodiversity Conservation and Green Value Chains

11:00 am – 12:30 am

Story tellers A representative of each partner of the EconoBio Programme will tell a Story of Change about the project.

12:30 pm – 13:30 pm Lunch Break

13:30 pm – 15:45 pm Session 2 – Exploring Means for Accelerating Green Growth and Community Conservation

Group Discussions exploring three key questions

13:30 pm – 14:30 pm

- How do we boost the contributions of local communities?
- How do green value chains impact biodiversity and livelihood?
- How do we improve external support to ensure transformative changes?

Panel Discussion and Consolidation of the Group Discussions

14:30 pm – 15:30 pm

facilitator
NCRC
Rebecca ASARE

Rebecca Asare is the Director of Programs and Research at Nature Conservation Research Centre (NCRC). She is a continental leader on cocoa agroforestry and REDD+ and is well-known for her commitment to achieving impacts through research, collaborative processes, and integrated natural resource management approaches.



Panelists:

Murugu-Mognori CREMA
Mahama ABUBAKARI

Mahama Abubakari is the secretary of the Executive Committee of Murugu-Mognori CREMA in the Mole Landscape. He has been with the CREMA since its start in 2008. He is also the Manager for Mognori Eco-village.



Savannah Fruits Company
Raphael GONZALEZ

Raphael Gonzalez co-founded The Savannah Fruits Company in 2006. Its main focus was production of community process shea butter from women cooperative in Ghana. SFC is now also exporting organic virgin coconut oil, black soap and baobab oil. SFC's mission is to produce sustainably quality products, empowering African women.



Tropical Forest Alliance 2020
Joseph Lumumba

Joseph Lumumba is the Africa Regional Coordinator for Tropical Forest Alliance 2020 (TFA 2020), a global public-private partnership in which partners take voluntary actions, individually and in combination, to reduce the tropical deforestation associated with the sourcing of commodities such as palm oil, soy, paper, etc.



CEPF
Peggy PONCELET

Peggy Poncelet is the Grant Director for the Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot and the Cerrado Hotspot of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF). She also supports the monitoring and evaluation program of CEPF.



UDS
Dr. Conrad WEOBONG

Dr. Conrad Atogi-Akwoa Weobong is Senior Lecturer/ HoD at the Department of Biodiversity Conservation and Management of University for Development Studies. His area of specialty is Biodiversity Conservation and Management as well as Natural Resource Conflict Management.



Wildlife Division
TBD

Representative of the Collaborative Resource Management Unit of Kakum Conservation Area.

Noé
Cécile LACHAUX

Closing Words

15:30 pm – 15:45 pm

Cécile Lachaux is the Director of the Programme Man & Nature of Noé.



15:45 pm – 16:30 pm

Apéro & Networking