

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



GREEN FOR CHANGE GHANA

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Forward

As we reflect on 2021, we are reminded of the resilience, adaptability, and unwavering commitment that have defined Green for Change Ghana's journey over the past year. Despite the challenges brought on by the ongoing global pandemic, climate variability, and resource constraints, GCG has remained steadfast in its mission to foster sustainable environmental practices and community empowerment in Ghana.

In 2021, we witnessed significant strides in our key focus areas, from habitat and landscape restoration to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Our collaboration with the Tree Aid Ghana Rural Agriculture Cashew Enterprise (GRACE) Project, demonstrated the power of collaboration and community-centered approaches. These initiatives have not only helped improve the livelihoods of thousands of smallholder farmers, particularly in the West Gonja District, but they have also built the capacity of local communities to adapt to the changing climate and embrace sustainable practices.

This year, we have continued to nurture critical partnerships with both local and international stakeholders, ensuring that our work is impactful and aligned with national and global environmental goals. Our research and advocacy efforts have contributed to informed policy discussions, while our educational programs have empowered communities to take ownership of their environmental future.

At the heart of our success in 2021 is our dedicated team and the local communities with whom we work. Their passion for change and their active participation have been instrumental in driving the positive outcomes we celebrate today. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, volunteers, and beneficiaries for their ongoing support. Your collective efforts have been the cornerstone of our progress.

Looking ahead, we are excited about the opportunities that 2022 holds. We remain committed to creating the needed impact, particularly in habitat restoration, sustainable agriculture, and natural resource governance. We also open for collaboration and strategic funding to implement our green value chains initiatives to support local economies while conserving vital ecosystems.

Together, we are building a more sustainable and resilient future for both people and the planet. As we continue our work, we are inspired by the possibilities for transformation, knowing that the changes we make today will ripple through generations to come.

Thank you for being a part of our journey.

Sincerely,

John Balankoo Sumbo
Executive Director
Green for Change Ghana (GCG)

About Green for Change Ghana (GCG)

Green for Change Ghana (GCG) is an environmental non-governmental organization committed to working with communities and initiating programs that benefit both communities and the environment. We discover and promote effective environmental practices and policies for the benefit of local communities and the planet. These include providing practical conservation interventions aimed at contributing to the sustainable management of important ecological habitats and strengthening the capacity of communities to be resilient and adapt to current trends in climate change and other environmental threats.

Legal Status

Green for Change Ghana (GCG) began operations in 2019 and was officially registered with the Registrar General Department in 2019, holding registration number CG123652019 and tax identification number C0030464005. The organization is also licensed by the Non-Profit Organization Secretariat Ghana to operate as a national NGO, under registration number DSW/9560.

Mission and Vision

Vision:

The vision of GCG is to see a world where local communities thrive in harmony with the planet through the discoveries and implementation of innovative environmental practices and policies.

Mission:

GCG aims to tackle climate change, protect natural resources, and conserve ecosystems through community-focused initiatives, fostering a sustainable and resilient environment that empowers and benefits humanity.

Our Key Focus Areas at Green for Change Ghana (GCG)

At Green for Change Ghana (GCG), we tackle crucial environmental and social issues through programs designed to foster sustainability, resilience, and ecosystem vitality. Our main focus areas include:

- **Habitat and Landscape Restoration:** We are committed to restoring degraded ecosystems and promoting biodiversity by sustainably managing natural landscapes. Our projects rehabilitate forests, wetlands, and other essential ecosystems to preserve habitats and support long-term resilience.
- **Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation:** GCG empowers communities to reduce carbon emissions and adapt to climate impacts. We promote renewable energy, climate-smart agriculture, and disaster preparedness to lower vulnerabilities and enhance resilience in both rural and urban areas.

- **Environmental Conservation Education:** Central to our mission is education. Through outreach, workshops, and school-based programs, we cultivate environmental stewardship, raising awareness and mobilizing action to protect resources and combat climate change.
- **Research and Advocacy:** We conduct research to uncover insights into environmental issues and advocate for sustainable practices and policy reforms. Our research informs evidence-based advocacy, influencing policymakers at local, national, and regional levels for transformative change.
- **Collaborative Natural Resource Governance:** Sustainable resource management requires collaboration. Using the Community Resource Management (CREMA) approach, we promote partnerships among government, communities, and stakeholders to ensure equitable access and responsible resource use.
- **Conservation Agriculture:** GCG supports farmers in adopting practices like no-till farming and crop rotation to conserve soil health, protect water resources, and enhance productivity while reducing environmental impact.
- **Natural Resources Conflict Management:** Recognizing the challenges in resource competition, GCG facilitates dialogue and conflict resolution to encourage peaceful coexistence and fair resource access, helping to build sustainable communities.
- **Green Value Chain Development:** GCG fosters green economic opportunities by developing sustainable value chains in honey, cashew, shea, and non-timber forest products, supporting job creation and ecosystem conservation.

2021 Project Highlights

Tree Aid Ghana Rural Agriculture Cashew Enterprise (GRACE) Project

In 2021, GCG worked with Tree Aid Ghana under the UKAID-funded GRACE Project, aimed at improving the livelihoods of cashew farmers in the West Gonja District. This project directly benefited 3,000 cashew farmers and engaged 600 women and youth. A total of 14,400 indirect beneficiaries were impacted.

GCG was tasked with training Agricultural Extension Agents (AEAs) on negotiation skills, entrepreneurship, and market access. This training took place from September 23rd to 24th at the West Gonja Department of Agriculture Conference Hall in Damongo. The training aimed to enhance the capacity of cashew cooperative members and field staff to negotiate better business deals and access improved markets for their produce.

Training Outcomes:

- Empowered AEAs to build stronger cashew cooperatives.
- Provided participants with tools for effective negotiation with buyers.
- Equipped field staff to transfer these skills to farmers.



Challenges in 2021

Despite our progress, 2021 was not without its challenges. Key obstacles included:

1. **COVID-19 Pandemic:** Restrictions and safety protocols affected the timing and logistics of several outreach and training programs.
2. **Resource Limitations:** Limited financial resources hindered some of our larger-scale interventions, especially in the expansion of our green value chain initiatives.
3. **Climate Variability:** Erratic weather patterns disrupted some agricultural projects, impacting yields and overall project timelines.

Key Partnerships in 2021

Throughout 2021, GCG continued to collaborate with key stakeholders to expand our reach and impact:

1. **Tree Aid Ghana** – Collaborated on the GRACE project for cashew farmers in the West Gonja District.
2. **Local Government and Communities** – Active participation in local resource management and restoration projects.

Looking Ahead: 2022 and Beyond

As we move into 2022, GCG remains committed to scaling our impact through sustainable environmental practices, education, and community engagement. Our key goals for the upcoming year include:

1. Expanding our habitat restoration projects across Ghana.
2. Increasing training opportunities for farmers on climate-smart practices.

3. Strengthening partnerships with local and international stakeholders to drive large-scale environmental change.

Acknowledgments

We would like to express our deepest gratitude to our donors, partners, volunteers, and community members who have supported our mission throughout the year. Your unwavering commitment to sustainable development has been key to the success of our programs.