

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



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Foreword

As we reflect on the achievements and challenges of 2022, it is with a deep sense of pride and gratitude that we present this Annual Report. The year marked another pivotal chapter in the journey of Green for Change Ghana (GCG), as we continue to work towards our mission of empowering communities, restoring ecosystems, and combating climate change.

In a year defined by both opportunity and adversity, we remained steadfast in our commitment to sustainable development, environmental stewardship, and the well-being of the communities we serve. Through our flagship initiatives, such as the Addressing Behavioral Barriers Associated with Tree Planting (ABBAT) Project, we have made meaningful strides in understanding the socio-cultural factors that influence environmental practices, while also pioneering innovative solutions to overcome these barriers.

Our work in 2022 was not just about planting trees or protecting the environment—it was about building lasting partnerships, fostering community engagement, and championing the transformative power of collective action. We have seen firsthand the impact of working alongside local communities, be it in the Mole National Park buffer zone or other landscapes, where collaboration and trust have been at the heart of our programs.

As we look ahead to 2023 and beyond, we are more determined than ever to expand our reach and deepen our impact. Our efforts will continue to be guided by the knowledge that sustainable change is driven by people—by their understanding, their values, and their commitment to a shared future. The year 2022 has set a solid foundation for this journey, and we are excited to take the next steps with the continued support of our partners, stakeholders, and the communities we serve.

We extend our deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported us throughout the year. Together, we are building a more resilient and sustainable future, one step at a time.

John Balankoo Sumbo
Executive Director
Green for Change Ghana

ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

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.

1.1. Legal Status

GCG is legally registered with the Registrar General Department in 2019 bearing the 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 with registration number DSW/9560.

Vision and mission

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.

Key Areas of GCG

As a conservation-oriented organization, we are committed to working with communities and initiating programs that benefit both communities and the environment. 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. Key areas of GCG work include:

- Habitat and Landscape Management and Restoration
- Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation
- Environmental Conservation Education and Advocacy
- Collaborative Natural Resource Governance

- Conservation Agriculture
- Natural Resources Conflict Management
- Green Value Chain Development, and
- Behaviour Change

Board of Management

The leadership and direction of GCG are overseen by a dedicated Board of Directors. Additionally, the organization benefits from the expertise of technical advisors who provide guidance on strategic issues and ensure the successful execution of GCG's programs.

Key Program Highlight: ABBAT Project (2022)

In 2022, Green for Change Ghana, in partnership with Ranas Ltd., launched the exploratory phase of its flagship landscape restoration project, "Addressing Behavioral Barriers Associated with Tree Planting" (ABBAT). This initiative seeks to identify and address the psychosocial and cultural barriers to tree planting and forest conservation in the Mole Landscape. The project is funded by the Swiss Development Cooperation (SDC) and focuses on exploring the barriers surrounding tree planting practices and developing effective strategies to overcome them.

Project Activities in 2022

Focus Group Discussions (FGDs):

A total of 10 FGDs were conducted in 2022, with each session involving 8-12 participants. These discussions aimed to explore the beliefs, attitudes, and perceived challenges related to tree planting in the communities surrounding the Mole National Park (MNP). The participants included a diverse range of individuals, such as farmers, charcoal burners, community leaders, and beekeepers. The FGDs were strategically conducted in 5 communities (Mognori, Kaden, Seyiri, Jelinkon, and Yolyiri), gathering a broad spectrum of community perspectives.



Pictures of Focus Group Discussions

Community meetings

Five community meetings were organized, reaching 151 participants (81 male, 70 female). These meetings involved community leaders and representatives from local organizations, including beekeeping associations, farmer-based organizations, and youth and women's groups. The discussions helped the project team understand local livelihoods, tree tenure systems, and potential alternatives to charcoal production, while also identifying social factors that influence tree planting behaviors.



Pictures of community meetings

Key Informant Interviews

Twenty KIIs were conducted with stakeholders from NGOs, government agencies, CREMAs, academic institutions, and local farming communities. These interviews provided valuable insights into the challenges and barriers to successful tree planting initiatives, as well as potential solutions and livelihood opportunities that could support the success of these projects.

Interdisciplinary Exchange Workshop

On October 25, 2022, GCG hosted a stakeholder forum in Damongo, near Mole National Park, to discuss the findings from the FGDs and KIIs and validate the identified behavioral barriers. The workshop engaged 23 representatives from various organizations, including local district assemblies, environmental agencies, academia, and conservation organizations. This forum helped to refine the understanding of the social, cultural, and economic factors influencing tree planting practices.



Pictures of the interdisciplinary workshop

Key Achievements in 2022

- **Exploratory Phase Completion:** Successful completion of the exploratory phase of the ABBAT project, gathering valuable data on the psychosocial and cultural barriers to tree planting and forest restoration.
- **Increased Community Engagement:** Engaged over 240 individuals (combining FGD, community meetings, and workshops) in 5 communities surrounding the Mole National Park, enhancing their awareness of tree planting and natural resource management.
- **Stakeholder Collaboration:** Strengthened relationships with local government bodies, NGOs, and academic institutions through collaborative events like the Interdisciplinary Exchange Workshop.
- **Informed Decision-Making:** GCG utilized insights from FGDs, KIIs, and workshops to inform the design of more effective behavioral change interventions and strategies for landscape restoration.

Looking Ahead

In 2023 and beyond, GCG plans to scale up its conservation efforts, focusing on:

- Expanding the ABBAT project to include larger landscapes and more communities.
- Further promoting sustainable agriculture and natural resource management practices.
- Enhancing the capacity of local communities to adapt to climate change and engage in climate-resilient livelihoods.
- Strengthening collaborations with national and international stakeholders to enhance the impact of environmental conservation initiatives.

Acknowledgments

Green for Change Ghana would like to express its gratitude to all partners, stakeholders, and communities for their unwavering support and collaboration in 2022. Special thanks go to our donors, including the Swiss Development Cooperation, for their continued financial support.