May 2024

Ghana: Emission Reductions Program

OVERVIEW

Ghana's cocoa forests and landscapes have some of the highest deforestation rates across the African continent. Each year, nearly 3.2% of the forest is lost or degraded due to cocoa farm expansion, agriculture, and, more recently, illegal mining and logging, in part to increase cocoa yields.

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program is the first of its kind in the cocoa sector, supporting the production of sustainable, climate-smart cocoa beans while reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and boosting livelihoods of local communities.

Outcomes of the Ghana Emission Reductions Program:

- Institutional coordination and Measurement, Reporting, and Verification (MRV)
- Landscape planning within Hotspot Intervention Area (HIA)
- Increasing yields through climate-smart cocoa farming
- Risk management and finance
- Legislative and policy reforms

REDD+ activities (forest protection and enhancement):

- Sustainable, climate-smart cocoa farming that increases yield
- Forest protection
- Community-based landscape governance
- Multi stakeholder collaboration

AT A GLANCE

Crediting period: June 2019 – December 2024

Annual Forest Emissions Baseline (Reference Level): 4.6 million tCO2e

Total estimated emission reductions under the Program (gross): 13.5 million tCO2e

Scope of FCPF ER Payment Agreement: 10 million tCO2e / $50 million

Key impacts: Improved sustainable cocoa farming; reducing forest degradation and deforestation; increased production

CORSIA Eligible: No

PROGRAM LOCATION

PROGRAM GOALS

- **Lower rates of deforestation and forest degradation**
- **Sustainable cocoa farming**
- **Boosting climate-smart agriculture**
- **Promoting nature-based livelihoods**
- **Improving community-based landscape management**

COUNTRY PROFILE

33.5	227.5	73.8	35.1	-0.2	14.8
POPULATION millions	LAND AREA 1,000 square kilometers	GDP $ billions	FOREST AREA % land area	DEFORESTATION avg. annual %	TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS % of total land area

Based on most recent World Bank data available.

WORK TO DATE

- **ERs generated to date:** 4.4 million tCO2e net
- **Estimated emission avoidance:** 85%
- **Estimated emission removals:** 15%
- **Vintage:** 11 June 2019 - 31 December 2021

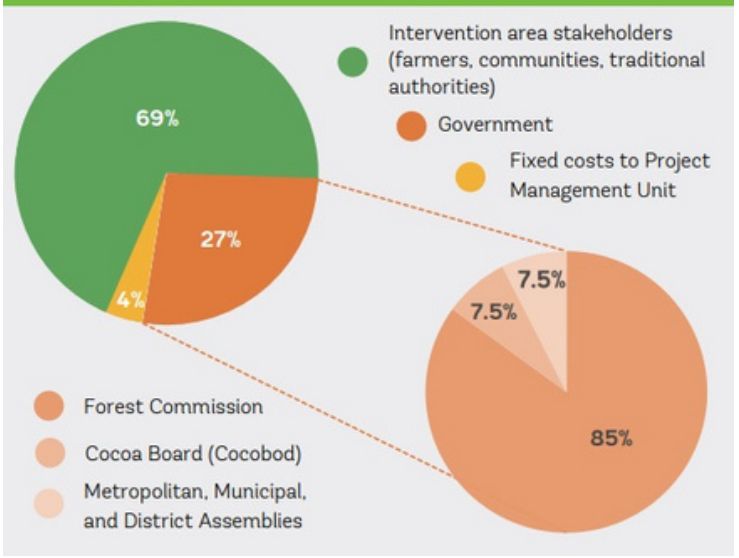
Safeguards system:

- Strengthen capacity of the mediation group at community and village levels
- Enhance the operation of legal and administrative support systems for effective implementation of grievance mechanisms
- Enhance the monitoring and recording system of grievance and make it available for use by the public

Non-carbon benefits:

- Increased yields
- Tree tenure reform and improved resource use rights
- Improved law enforcement
- Improved landscape management
- Improved capacity in on-farm tree management and climate-smart cocoa practices
- Mandatory inclusion of women and marginalized groups in decision-making bodies
- Improved watershed management

BENEFITS SHARING AGREEMENT



Main reversal risks identified and mitigated (additionally, a discount to reported emissions is applied to compensate)

- Lack of broad and sustained stakeholder support
- Exposure and vulnerability to natural disturbances such as forest fires

Registry:

- Ghana uses the World Bank's Carbon Asset Tracking System (CATS) as its transaction registry

Transfer of title:

- Ghana has the authority to transfer title to generated and verified FCPF ER credits.

CASE STUDY: SUSTAINABLE COCOA-FOREST PRACTICES

The Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program is helping cocoa farmers improve yields and mitigate climate change by helping them to adopt climate-smart cocoa practices.

Adwoa Akyaa, who has a farm in the southern Ashanti region, is among 140,000 farmers adopting innovative practices:

"We were taught how to grow shade trees on our cocoa farms. And due to this, my cocoa trees are very healthy and strong. If you are a farmer, you need to grow shade trees because they nourish the soil, and in turn, you will get a lot of yield."

ABOUT THE FCPF

The Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) is a global partnership of governments, businesses, civil society, and Indigenous People's organizations focused on reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, forest carbon stock conservation, the sustainable management of forests, and the enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries, activities commonly referred to as REDD+.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Ghana Country Profile
Emission Reductions Program Document
1st ER Monitoring Report (ER-MR)
Country Partnership Framework

COUNTRY CONTACTS

Neeta Hooda

Learn more about the FCPF Standard:

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