

Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project

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Our story



- Established in 1987 by a group of forestry professionals
- First project in response to the famine in Ethiopia
- Wanted to provide a long-term solution to support communities once emergency relief efforts had ended
- Projects tackle poverty, the effects of the climate crisis, and food security through the power of trees across the drylands of Africa





The project so far

Overview and progress update
January – December 2023



Project need



- The Northern Region has the highest poverty rates in Ghana, affecting 1.3 million people
- Rural women (71%) are more likely than men (37%) to be engaged in unpaid family work and non-agricultural self-employment activities than rural men
- There is a high number of **shea trees** in the region, but trees are not exploited sustainably and are cut to create space for farming and charcoal processing



Encroaching desert



Project Overview



Donors: Global Shea Alliance with match funding from the Soroptimists and Ecosia

Aims: Grow 2 million trees in riparian buffer zones, open parks and farmlands near 61 villages

Dates: June 2022 to June 2025

Districts: Gushiegu Municipal District, Mion District, and Yendi Municipal District, Northern Region Ghana

**Global
Shea
Alliance**



A changing landscape



Output 1: Restore and sustainably manage shea parkland

- 2 nurseries established and 2 upgraded
- Nurseries equipped with mechanised water delivery systems, poly tanks, tools and equipment for nursery tree seedling production
- GSA visited the completed nurseries on 31st March 2023 to approve the standard of the sites received mechanised water delivery systems, poly tanks, tools and equipment for nursery tree seedling production
- 40 women elected to manage the nurseries (10 from each community)

Project Progress



Output 1: Restore and sustainably manage shea parkland

- Low shea germination and survival rate for year 1
- Aim to produce 140,000 shea seedlings during the 2023 growing season
- 168,000 poly pots have been filled and seeded with shea seeds
- Between April and June 2023, the project facilitated the production of 63,000 non-shea seedlings in the nurseries, with species including ceiba, mahogany, cassia, local mango, cashew, baobab, and moringa.
- Over 300,000 non shea seedlings have also been grown in local nurseries supported by another Tree Aid project
- Refilling polypots also took place in October 2023

Photos



Shea Seedling production



Photos

Shea Seedling production



Photos



Tree planting



Output 2: Strengthen value chains for shea processing

- 30 Village Tree Enterprise Groups established
- These groups will form the project's 4 Cooperatives
- Capacity building training on the following topics has taken place for Cooperative members:
 - ✓ Cooperative development (345 participants)
 - ✓ Group dynamics and cooperative governance (563 participants)
 - ✓ Business management (1,223 participants)
- Warehouse tender document submitted and bids received
- 285 people took part fuel saving stove training and 293 cook stoves have been produced

Photos



Community training



Photos



Women taking part in training to construct fuel-efficient stoves



Update on Key Performance Indicators



Activity 2: Strengthen value chains for shea processing	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Actuals
# of women cooperatives set up and registered	0	0	3	0	4
# of women cooperatives trained on group dynamics and cooperative governance	0	0	3	0	4
# of women trained on shea aggregation, marketing, auditing and warehousing	0	600	600	0	1,379
# of women trained on improved technologies and efficiency (technical training and product quality)	0	600	600	0	0
# of women trained on improved business management including contact management and market linkages	0	600	600	0	1,223
# of warehouses constructed	0	0	1	0	0
# of improved cookstoves supplied to women groups	0	300	600	600	293

Challenges and learnings

- Rainstorm damaged shade nets erected at Lakaldo community nursery, nursery women and community members worked together to reinforce the nets to mitigate against any further damage.
- Challenges with shea seedling raising at the beginning of the project.
- Prolonged period of drought May - June 2023 meant that community members were preoccupied with their farm work hence limiting their availability to take part in other project activities.
- Poor road network to project communities, especially during the raining season due to streams, muddy areas, and flooded roads, has made trips to some communities difficult for the project team.
- It takes a very long time for Department of Cooperatives to process certificates for cooperative societies after all documentations and requirements have been fulfilled.
- Poor coverage of national electricity distribution in project communities has restricted the allocation of processing centres to strategic project communities.





Next steps

Looking ahead to the year ahead



Upcoming activities



Tender documents for the warehouse have been received from prospective contractors and will be opened and a provider selected in the coming weeks, with support from a consultant.



Further work on supplying improved cookstoves to women took place in February.



Ghana Country Manager, Jonathan Naaba, and Director of Programmes, Georges Bazongo, attended GSA Annual Conference to present our project and learn more about domesticating shea.



Paulina's Story

“Unity is strength – this is what we say. Being in the group is like a broom. If there was only one bristle it wouldn't work. But together we are useful.”

Paulina Mademoube lives in Tatale, Northern Ghana. Before the project, Paulina supported her family by growing and selling soya bean crops, spending hours farming the land every day. Selling this produce only brings in around thirty-five pounds a year -which must suffice to send her children to school. But in the past few years, the rainy season has become less predictable due to the growing threat of climate change.

In 2019, Paulina joined a Tree Aid project and started earning an income from trees, specifically shea trees which are a tree native to Ghana. When asked about the tools and training that Paulina received from the project to make shea butter, she exclaimed that “there was too much to mention” and began making a list with her fingers!

Thanks to Tree Aid's training, she can now produce five basins of shea butter every week – over sixty kilograms, and it's selling for a good profit in local markets. The money generated from this project for Paulina has been transformational for her and her family's welfare.

Paulina's hope for the future is that she can keep improving her living conditions. Explaining that: “I know that because of this project I can support myself. I can stand alone. I have created a legacy for my children.”

Thank you

Any questions?

