

Mike Blevins

From: Bill Davis <BillD@kingwoodcable.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 24 January, 2018 9:20 AM
To: Bill Davis
Subject: GG 1638774 Ghana \$105,000
Attachments: GG 1638774 ARG ARI narrative report January August 2017 Final.docx; Ghana GG 1638774 Funders.xlsx

Dear funders of GG 1638774 in Ghana;

In my enthusiasm to submit a report on the progress of this project I distributed a "draft" of the report and now attach the final version. My apologies.

I am pleased to submit the first interim report on the grant to provide food sustainability and livelihood in Northern Ghana.

This is a project brought to us by our Global Scholar Anja Nikolova who is from Macedonia and studied for two years at Yale on scholarships funded by Districts 5770, 5840, 5890, 5930 and 7980.

The partner clubs on this grant are Techiman in Ghana and Pasadena in Houston with ARocha Ghana serving as the Co-operating organization.

I have also attached the list of funders for this project and we thank them for their generous financial support.

Some \$52,000 was advanced for this first phase of the project.

Sincerely,

Bill Davis
Rotary Cadre Technical Adviser
The Rotary Foundation
International Service
District 5890
2319 River Rock Trail
Houston, Texas 77345
281 543-4521



ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

ROTARY CLUB OF TECHIMAN

PO BOX 462, TECHIMAN,
BRONG AHAFO REGION, GHANA, WEST AFRICA



ROTARY FOUNDATION GLOBAL GRANT

Project Progress Report

Project Title: Sustainable food security and livelihoods with diverse and inclusive local economy in Mole Ecological Landscape, Northern Ghana.

Reference Number: GG 1638774

Period: 1 January – 15 August 2017 (Year 1)

Host and International Sponsor Information:

Host Sponsor: ROTARY CLUB OF TECHIMAN	International Sponsor: ROTARY CLUB OF PASADENA
Primary Contact: Mr Joseph Owusu Yeboah District: 84931 Club: Rotary Club of Techiman, Ghana, West Africa (D9102)	Primary Contact: Mr Robert Gebhard District: 2001 Club: Rotary Club of Pasadena, USA (D5890)

Cooperating organizations:

Mrs. Sarah French
Director of Operations
A Rocha International
arocha.org

Mr. Seth Appiah-Kubi
National Director
A Rocha Ghana
ghana.arocha.org



1. INTRODUCTION

The **goal** of this two-year project is to contribute to improved livelihoods and enhancement of the local economy of fringe communities around Ghana's largest protected area: the Mole National Park. This work is done through investments in green value chains, for livelihoods and ecosystem benefits. The project area, located in the North of the country, spans 120,000 hectares of community-managed areas and it is known as a 'Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)'. Approximately 30 communities live and depend directly on the natural resources available around and within the Park for their livelihoods. Local people currently farm the land, gather and process wild fruits, harvest wild honey, hunt game and trade local products and services. The natural resources around and within the Park are critical to sustain life and provide a basis for sustainable livelihoods and form a critical element of individual and community wellbeing. If the natural resources are exploited unsustainably, the very foundation of prosperity and wellbeing will have been irretrievably undermined. Over the years, the Park has contributed significantly to the national economy through tourism and supported the protection of biodiversity, scientific research and education.

Following the signing of the Rotary Foundation Global Grant Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in September 2016 and the disbursement of the first grant installment, A Rocha International and A Rocha Ghana proceeded with the implementation of the agreed project activities from the beginning of 2017.

This report provides a brief update on the work that was completed from January to August 2017 in pursuit of the following objectives:

Objective 1: Improve food security of 80 households by increasing diversity and yield.

Objective 2: Build capacity of 800 women in shea nut collection and processing to increase trade and value addition.

Objective 3: Equip the youth for improved honey production and markets.

2. MAIN ACTIVITIES

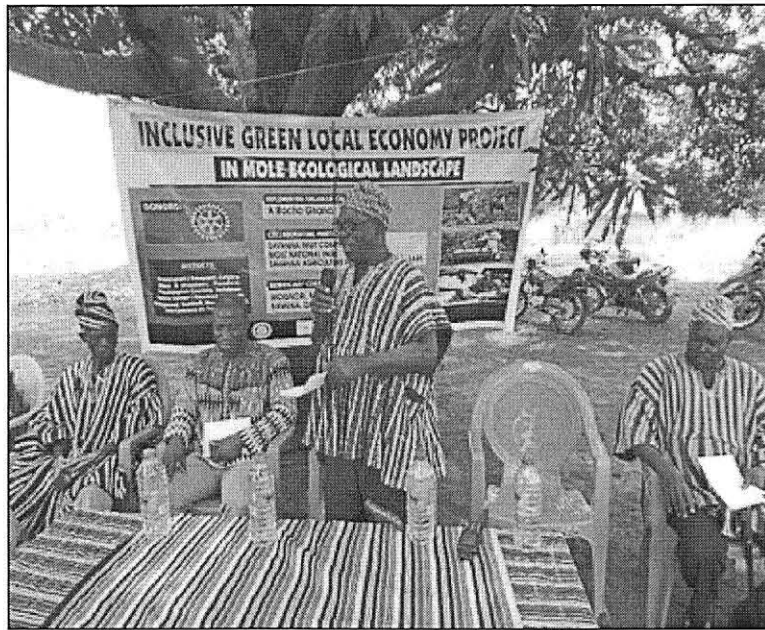
2.1 Project launch

After a number of stakeholder engagement initiatives carried out within the operational areas of A Rocha Ghana in the Northern Region of the country, the Project was formally launched in the Murugu Community (West Gonja District) on 24th March 2017. The launch event was chaired by Mr. Gabase-Wura (a Sub-Chief of the Wasipe Traditional Area) and facilitated by Mr. Daryl Bosu, A Rocha Ghana's Deputy National Director (Operations). Approximately 45 key stakeholders, including members of the beneficiary communities, traditional authorities, District and Local Assembly members, Mole National Park managers and also representatives from the media, Civil Society groups and the Private Sector, attended the launch event. It was a great opportunity to explain the Project's objectives and gain additional support and media exposure. The Deputy Coordinating Director for West Gonja District, Mr. John Osman, confirmed that the District and Local Assemblies were ready to give full support to the Project and asked the communities to "forge ahead in unity to make the Project a success". Media coverage of the event was provided by Radio Peace and Development (PAD FM), Modern Ghana and A Rocha Ghana itself.

*Project launch
event,
24th March 2017.*



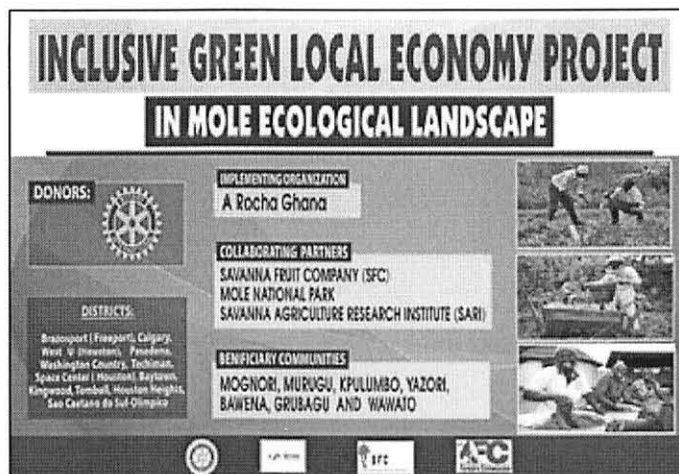
*Sub-Chief Gabase-
Wura giving his
speech at the
Project launch
event.*



*Cultural display by
the Mognori
Cultural Troupe at
the Project launch
event.*



*Project launch
banner & poster.*



2.2 Training in conservation agriculture and setting up of demonstration sites **[Relates to Project Objective 1]**

The aim of this activity is to strengthen the capacity of small-scale farmers in resource-saving agricultural crop production that strives to achieve acceptable profits together with high and sustained production levels while concurrently conserving the environment and maintaining biodiversity. This innovative approach, which is also known as 'agro-ecology' or 'family agriculture', has proved to be highly efficient in helping local communities mitigate climate change and adapt to it.

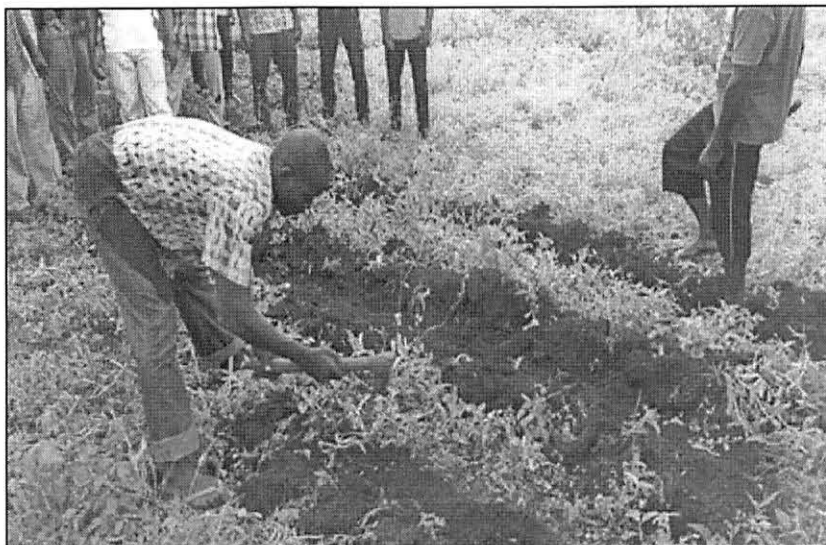
Two hundred and ten **(210) small scale famers (64 women and 146 men) from seven CREMA communities*** were introduced to a number of appropriate conservation agriculture innovations through a series of training workshops and sessions which were held at the end of July and at the beginning of August 2017. Each community selected at least 8 women to take part in the training and we hope that an even higher number of women will take part in the training in the later stages of the Project. To make it more practical and appropriate, all the training workshops and sessions were conducted on selected farms close to each community so that participants did not have to travel long distances and be away from their families for long. Demonstration sites were also set up and fences were built around them. Over time, we aim to support as many as 4500 small-scale farmers through the Project.

The **main topics** covered in the training workshops and sessions were: available tillage practices, burning and mulching effects, soil erosion control, soil water conservation, soil fertility management, natural pest control and farmer compost manufacture and use.

After the training, each participant received 10 grafted mango seedlings, ready to be planted on their plots or by their houses.

*** CREMA beneficiary communities:** Bawena, Kpulumbo, Grubagu, Wawato, Yazori, Murugu and Mognori (all located in the West and North Gonja Districts in the Northern Region).

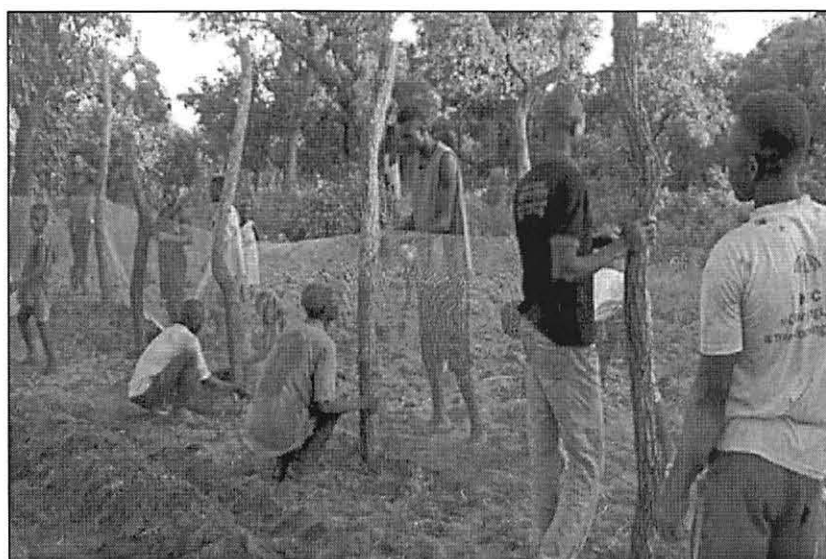
Land Preparation.



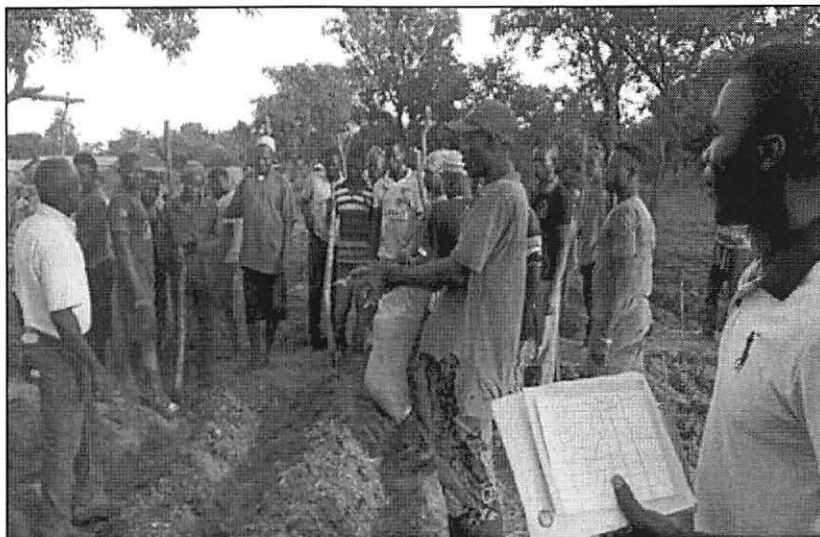
Manure application.



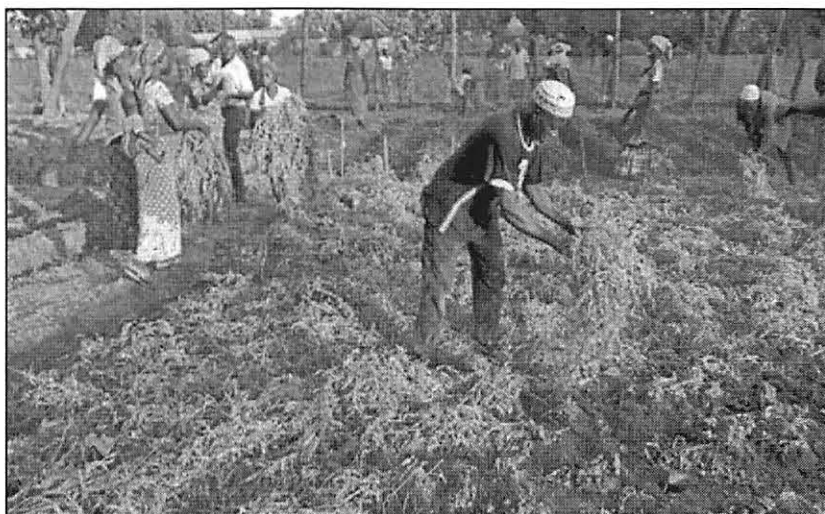
Fencing of a demonstration site.



Discussions with farmers on site.



Mulch application.



Grafted mango seedlings, ready to be planted.



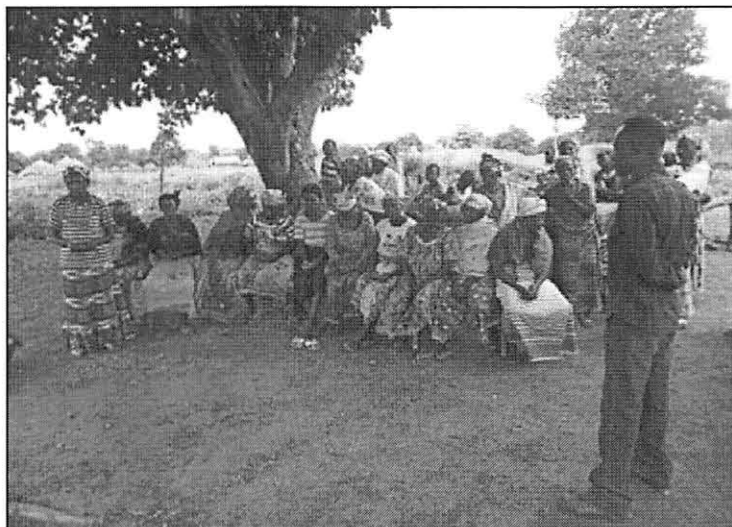
2.3 Building the capacity of women in certified organic shea nut collection, processing, storage and trade [Relates to Project Objective 2]

With the support and advice of Savanna Fruits Company (an A Rocha Ghana local partner), we were able to introduce 567 women (out of a total of 800 / 71%), from the same seven CREMA communities*, to the organic shea nut certification rules. Local and experienced

resource people facilitated training workshops and demonstrations on the highly regulated processes of shea nut collection, processing, storage and trade. Over time, this will enable project beneficiaries to access high end niche markets of organic and fair traded products and be paid premium rates for them. Refresher training sessions were also offered to already enlisted female shea nut collectors and traders in the same communities.

* Number of trained shea nut collectors and traders: Bawena (179), Grubagu (115), Kpolumbo (31), Mognori (48), Murugu (82), Wawato (80) and Yazori (32).

*Training of women
at Bawena
Community -
certified shea nut
collection,
processing, storage
and trade.*



*Interaction with
shea nut collectors
from Kpulumbo.*



Additional top-up training and engagement sessions for new shea nut collectors are planned for the second half of 2017, subject to satisfactory project progress and the disbursement of additional funds by the Rotary Club of Techiman.

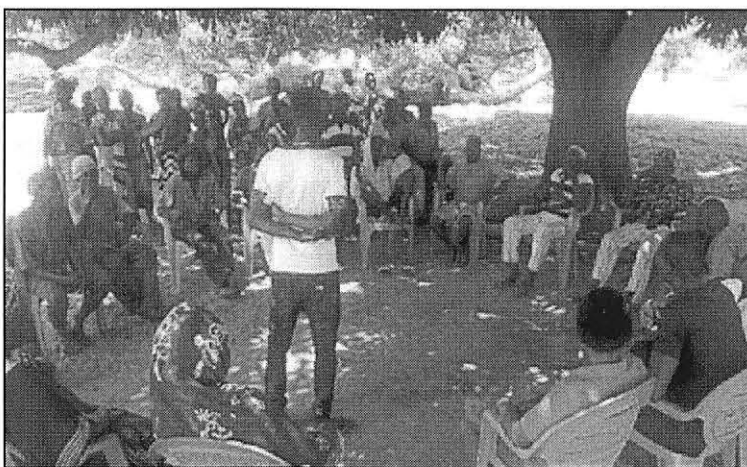
2.4 Equipping young people for improved honey production and greater access to consumer markets [Relates to Project Objective 3]

The Integrated Apiculture and Environment Protection Program (IAEPP), another A Rocha Ghana local partner, was contracted to supply suitable beehives and associated beekeeping clothing and equipment to 140 beekeepers from the same beneficiary communities,

following previously agreed criteria. Beekeeping training was provided to all 140 people (49 women and 91 men) - a great encouragement to everyone! They also learned about the importance of reducing the incidence of bushfires, land degradation and deforestation. The training was provided by James Adongo, an experienced beekeeper himself who won 'The Best District and National Beekeeper Awards' in 2015 and 2016. Two members of A Rocha Ghana staff supported James in delivering the training. Two highly acclaimed beekeeping training manuals by Pam Gregory (Waterloo Foundation) were adapted to our local context and widely used. We had the additional challenge of providing the training not only in English but also Gonja, Hanga and Tampluma. The main topics were: the importance of bees, beekeeping and honey; biology of bees; siting and baiting of hives; apiary and hive maintenance; and harvesting. All 140 trainees received 3 beehives each, including top bars and metal stands. Each community received six sets of harvesting kits (overall, pair of gloves, veil, smokers and spray guns).

We aim to train as many as 800 people in honey production, to increase the volume and quality of honey and its by-products, and also in honey processing, value addition and marketing. In turn, this will enable them to obtain the necessary certification, access high-end consumer markets and increase their financial returns.

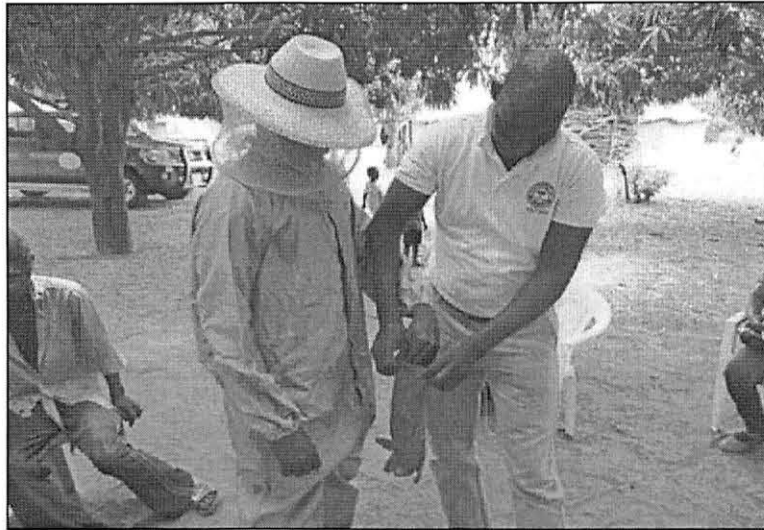
*Selection of
beekeeping
beneficiaries
with the CREMA
Management
Committee.*



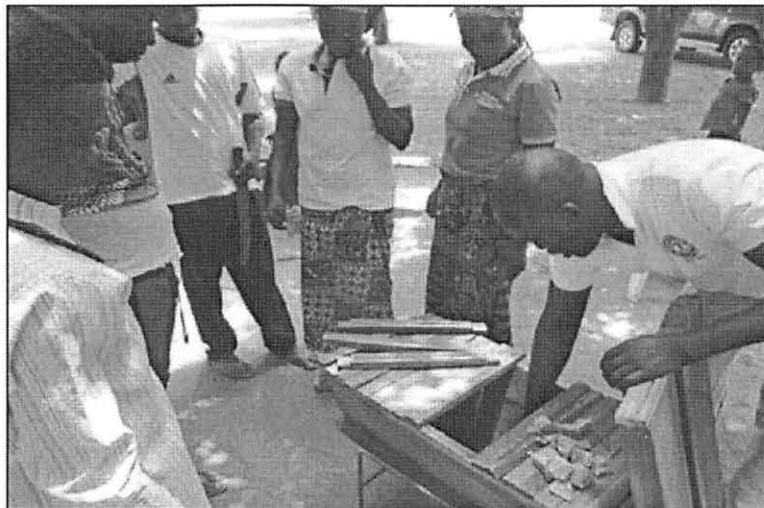
*Delivery of
beehives,
Murugu Organic
Warehouse.*



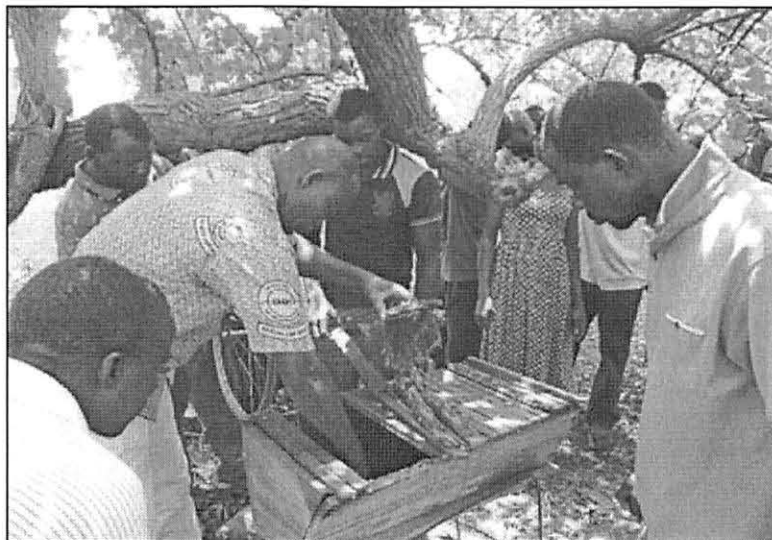
*Project beneficiary
learning how to
use the honey
harvesting kit
donated to his
community.*



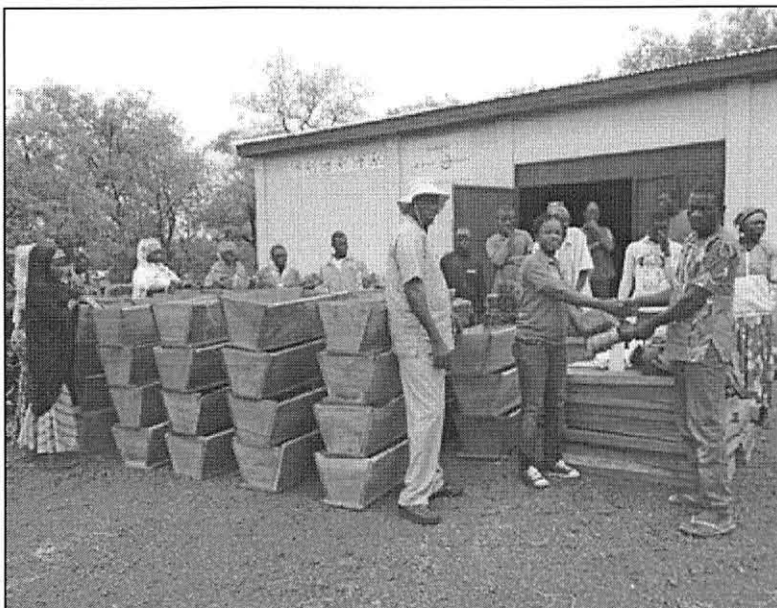
*Practical
demonstration
on baiting of
beehives.*



*Demonstration at
an established
beehive.*



*Handing over of
beehives and
beekeeping
equipment to
representatives of
beneficiary
communities.*



3. PROJECT IMPACT

It is too early to make a detailed assessment of the Project impact but based on what we have observed in the beneficiary communities so far, these are some of the early indications of impact:

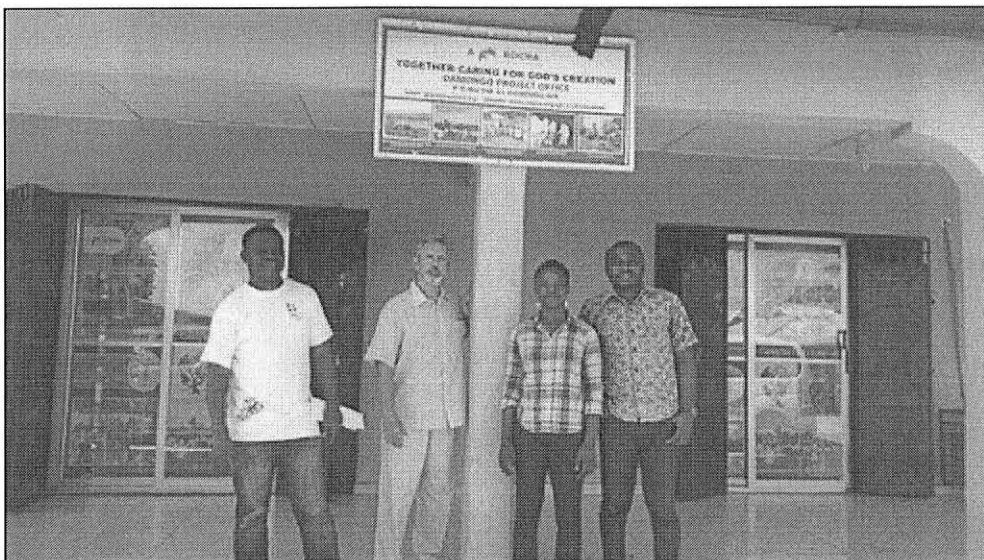
Environmental impacts: improved beekeeping and organic shea nut collection, processing storage and trade practices are starting to contribute to the conservation of local biodiversity by preserving the bee population in beneficiary communities. Local people are also starting to understand the importance of not felling or burning trees for honey hunting. Key environmental messages included in our training workshops and other interactions with key stakeholders are gradually helping them recognize the importance of protecting their natural resources. As reported above, 140 beekeepers have learned about the importance of reducing the incidence of bushfires, land degradation and deforestation and, hopefully, they will share this knowledge with their families and peers.

Economic impacts: the continuation of this Project is key to ensure that longer-term positive economic impacts are achieved. Local people are highly motivated to continue learning and apply their newly acquired knowledge and skills in order to meet the necessary bee-keeping and shea nut certification requirements and standards of potential consumer markets. The initial training provided to project beneficiaries has given them clear examples of what they can achieve together if they continue to work hard and invest in their own development. The establishment of a local honey-processing center is also expected to give project beneficiaries easier and quicker access to buyers, as well as the opportunity to expand their individual enterprises, if they wish. Honey provision shops are also expected to bring in a regular income for local entrepreneurs.

Social impacts: We have observed that many project beneficiaries are starting to express greater desire to collaborate and work with their peers. Our training workshops seek to empower local people by giving them hope, valuing them as people and showing them practical ways of overcoming poverty and some of the practical problems they face.

Through the Project, many women and young people are starting to express their views, preferences and dreams more freely and openly. They are hopeful that, over time, their improved practices and increased income will help them improve their family members' health and education. This is something we want to continue monitoring and evaluating. Female project beneficiaries, in particular, are starting to feel less vulnerable as they get to know their peers, share their experiences, work together and have increased self-worth. We hope that, over time, this will contribute to greater gender equality and more opportunities for girls and women in the beneficiary communities.

*Rotary visit
to A Rocha
Ghana's
Damongo
project
office.*

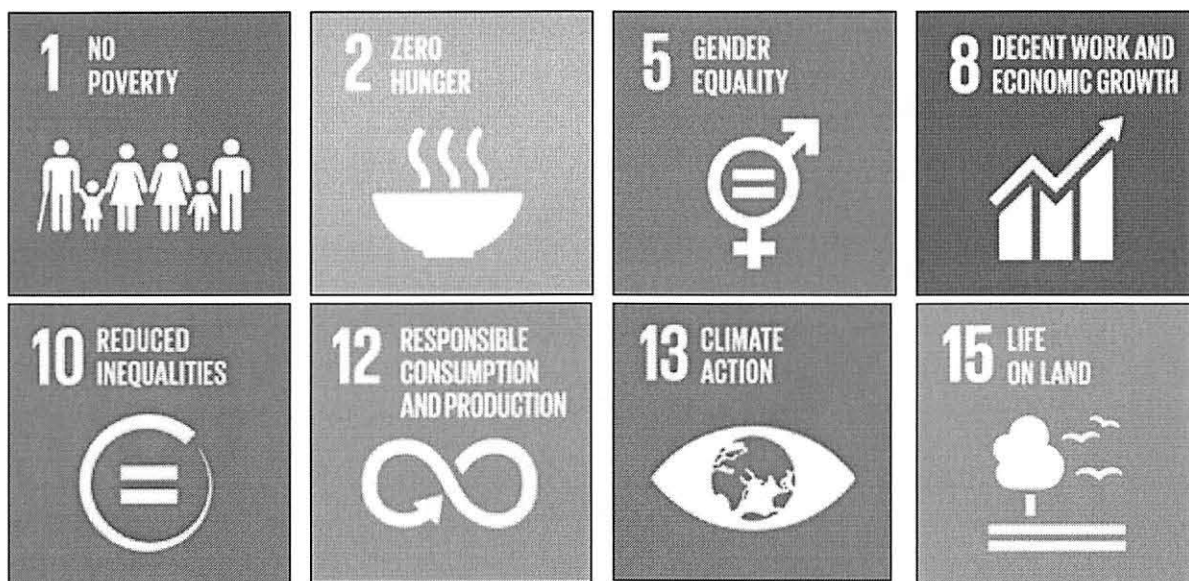


*Rotary visit
to Wawato
Community.*



Sustainable Development Goals

This Project makes a direct contribution to the following United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), as well as poverty alleviation and environmental commitments made by the Government of Ghana:



Project Funding

We and the project beneficiaries are very grateful for Rotary's generous financial support in the first half of 2017.

Additional funding for mobilization and capacity building of local communities for the establishment and management of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) has come from: IUCN Netherlands Committee, IUCN PACO, FFEM, Wetlands International, Both Ends and private sector operators such as Savannah Fruits Company (SFC). IUCN and IUCN Netherlands continue to support the implementation of landscape management practices and maintenance of natural resource governance structures. It has been very encouraging to see local people working together, protecting their local environment and overcoming difficulties.

22 January 2018.

11/8/2016 8:19 AM

Bill Davis

Ghana funders GG1638774

Districts:

	5890	Houston, Brenham	10,000
	5890	from D 5810-Dallas	2,500
	5730	Texas	2,500
	6200	Louisiana - Baton Rouge	2,000
	5150	San Carlos, CA.	3,640
	9920	New Zealand	5,000
	5910	Texas	2,500
	5710	Kansas	2,350
	5770	Oklahoma	5,000
10	4420	Brazil- part of Sao Paulo	<u>4,000</u>

Total Districts	39,490
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Clubs:

Brazosport		2,000
West U		1,500
Calgary	10,000	7,832
Pasadena		1,000
Washington County		500
Techiman		500
Space Center		1,500
Baytown		1,200
Kingwood		500
Tomball		1,000
Houston Heights		1,000
de Sao Caetano do Sul Olimpico BR		<u>144</u>
		18,676
Rotary fee	0.05	<u>-933.8</u>

Total Clubs	17,742
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Global Fund:

Districts		39,490
Clubs	0.5	<u>8,871</u>

Total	105,593
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