



Conserving our heritage



ANNUAL
REPORT
2019

It is possible to bring
a halt to further degradation
of forest resources and loss of
biodiversity across West Africa.

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Overview of NDF

About us

Nature & Development Foundation (NDF) was born out of the presence of the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF). In 2013, WWF decided that a local NGO would be better equipped to work on forest and related conservation issues across the sub-region in the long term. With support from WWF, NDF was established in Ghana in November 2013. For over five years, the foundation has been working to ensure legality compliance within the timber industry in Ghana and the West African sub-region.

MISSION

To build a society in which human development and nature conservation complement each other.

VISION

A future in which the degradation of forest resources and loss of biodiversity across West Africa, are brought to a halt.

Our approach



Mobilising key players, such as industry, local communities, consumer markets and governments in relevant countries in West Africa to create the conditions and solutions that can drive sustainable natural resource utilization on the ground.



Creating partnerships with key organisations, such as industry and governments in relevant countries in West Africa plus other strategic civil society organizations in REDD+ dialogue and developing market mechanisms to act as stimuli for positive change.



Engaging in activities around other land-uses impacting the forest landscape in West Africa, focusing on sustainable forms of land use in appropriate locations.

Our achievements over the years

Over the years, we have:

- Improved forest governance leading to organized timber sector with increased capacity to produce and supply legal timber.
- Motivated communities protecting their forests through monitoring and provision of independent evidence of infractions.
- Established a network of active forest monitors who would influence FLEGT and REDD+ processes.
- Implemented innovative solutions to increase supplies of legal, and ultimately sustainable, timber and wood products destined for the EU and other international and local markets.
- Created a national dialogue on the passage of the public procurement policy on timber and timber products (PPP) in Ghana.
- Developed implementation guidelines for the public procurement policy on timber and timber products.
- Improved the capacity and engagement of non-state actors (NSAs) in the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) processes.
- Established partners in Liberia and Cote d'Ivoire working on forest conservation in those countries.

Message from the Director



Mustapha Seidu
Director, NDF

“...in the midst of rapid deforestation of Ghana’s forest estate, communities have found renewed motivations to engage in independent forest monitoring...”

December 2019 marked six years anniversary of the formation of Nature and Development Foundation with enviable achievements in advocacy and capacity building in the forest sector in West Africa. This 2019 annual report summarises the activities implemented over the period. We are excited to have embarked on the journey of advocating for sustainable practices in the forest and forest risk commodities sector.

We have no doubt that the achievements of 2019 will chart a new path for impactful advocacy and engagement with stakeholders. We are particularly excited that in the midst of rapid deforestation of Ghana’s forest estate, communities have found renewed motivations to engage in independent forest monitoring despite the risks to themselves. Some members of the communities have realised that forest is more than the timber. Their relationship with the forest dates several generations back – and that is irreplaceable.

It is important to note that the benefits of forest transcend national borders. This is why as nation states, the countries of West Africa ought to be interested in effective forest governance regimes in the subregion. If not anything at all, the effect of the forest micro-climate is partly the reason West Africa remains the world leading producer of cocoa. Admittedly, on that score alone, we ought to cherish the invaluable contribution of forest to our economies than any other region of the world. We cannot continue to play the victim all the time and should as a sub-region take steps to reduce our footprint on forest through sustainable production and consumption of forest risk commodities.

Advances in Independent Forest Monitoring

Communities have started benefiting, for the first time, from social responsibility agreements after extensive advocacy and training

Real-time forest monitoring

Community monitors continue to be anchors upon which many issues on forest governance and revenue accountability are discussed. In Ghana, a nifty system has been set up for community-based real-time monitoring of forestry activities and governance. Using the ForestLink app on smartphones, trained monitors collect community-level evidence about compliance with social responsibility agreements (SRAs), illegal logging in forests and issues of compensation. The information gathered is verified and processed by intermediary civil society organizations (CSOs) and other relevant institutions for remediate actions.

>200 monitors
across more than **50** communities

450 alerts
relating to illegal mining, compensation, timber harvesting and illegal farming, were sent in 2019

≈40%
of these alerts have been verified

>30 communities
are now **benefiting** directly from **Social Responsibility Agreements**

NDF supports intermediary CSOs with donations to facilitate their monitoring at the community level.

As a result of monitoring, training and advocacy, some communities are receiving SRA benefits for the first time or continuously.





Accounting for forest revenue usage

NDF and partners facilitated four Town-hall meetings on the utilization of timber royalties and the need for communities to protect their surrounding forests. Over 350 community representatives, forest services division staff and District Assemblies' staff participated in these meetings.

As a result of these meetings, most forestry revenue conflicts have now been resolved. Forest fringed communities now have access to redress on matters of SRAs, leading to more SRA funded projects.



Civil society-led independent forest monitoring



2019 saw the national launch of the civil society-led independent forest monitoring (CSIFM) platform. This platform comprises seven CSOs who are collaborating in deploying community-based real-time monitoring with a large network of community monitors in eight political districts in Ghana.

This platform is harmonizing efforts on forest monitoring, building the capacities of relevant stakeholders and spearheading discussions on independent monitoring of Ghana's forests, leading to greater reforms in the sector.

Project

Strengthening the capacity of non-state actors to improve FLEGT-VPA and REDD+ processes in Western Africa

Implementing partners

Nature & Development Foundation; Tropenbos Ghana; Tropenbos International; VOSEIDA, Liberia; GNT, Cote d'Ivoire.

Promoting forest governance and legal timber trade

NDF is committed to enhancing the capacities of small-medium forest enterprises to supply and trade in legal timber

Enhancing legality compliance in local timber companies

In 2019, NDF conducted mock audits for sixty selected timber companies using checklists provided by the Timber Validation Department of the Forestry Commission of Ghana. This action made the companies aware of the gaps in their legality compliance and the need to shift from the “business-as-usual” approach towards emerging legal compliance reforms that help curb illegal timber trade.

The companies also benefited from training aimed at addressing the legality gaps that were evident during the mock audits. They also received training on the process of applying for and obtaining a timber utilization contract.

Supply and purchase of legal timber in Ghana

The supply of legal wood to the domestic market in Ghana has been fraught with several challenges. As a result, NDF conducted a study to determine the factors impeding the supply of legal wood in Ghana. We are advocating for the implementation of the study recommendations since removing these bottlenecks would mean an increased supply of legally sourced timber to the domestic market.

To facilitate the purchase of legal timber in Ghana, we are in the process of developing a mobile and web-based application. This application will link buyers to vendors of wood by a click or tap of a button.

About **60%**

of the project beneficiary companies have signed and are implementing **Social Responsibility Agreements**





Promoting knowledge sharing within the timber industry

There is value in the exchange of ideas. As part of activities undertaken within the year, NDF facilitated a knowledge-sharing workshop amongst players within the timber industries of Ghana and Liberia. The Domestic Lumber Traders Association (DOLTA), the Domestic Lumber Millers Association of Ghana (DOLMAG) and the Ghana Sawn Timber Sellers Association (GSTSA) hosted their counterparts from the Liberia Chainsaw and Timber Dealers Union (LICSATDUN) for a period of four days in Ghana. The discussions centred on their preparations for FLEGT licensing.



Empowering women in the timber sector

A gender-responsive approach was employed by NDF to create a platform for women in the timber sector. The platform comprises women from ten timber trade associations and is building their capacities to advocate and take action on issues that confront them in the sector.



Project

Building the capacities of Small-Medium Forest Enterprises in Ghana and Liberia to supply and Trade in Legal Timber.

Implementing partners

Nature & Development Foundation; Kumasi Wood Cluster; Liberia Timber Association; Liberia Chainsaw and Timber Dealers Union.

Climate-smart farming practices

Improving the livelihoods of farmers while creating a sustainable environment

Dynamic Agroforestry in Ghana

The Dynamic Agroforestry (DAF) system involves the planting of food crops, biomass trees, and carbon relevant timber species on the same piece of land. The concept of this practice is to improve the livelihoods of farmers and create conducive environmental conditions that contribute to climate mitigation. The sustainability of cocoa production is essential to many stakeholders, including; governments, producers, businesses, and consumers. Different measures have been adopted to improve yields while enhancing the livelihoods of farmers.

Sankofa also aims to be certified for Gold Standard Voluntary Emission Reduction (VERs). This vision and the vision to improve farmer livelihoods through crop diversification and improved yields in a biodiverse environment makes Sankofa a very interesting project.

In 2019, project partners in collaboration with some private seedling producing firms grew and distributed tree seedlings (biomass seedlings, fruit seedlings, timber seedlings, cocoa seedlings) to farmers for free. The project also helped farmers to prepare their lands and plant the seedlings they received. All benefits go to the farmer after harvest, as the project looks to improve their livelihoods.

250

 DAF plots

were **successfully** mapped in the Ashanti, Ahafo, and Western North regions



Project

Sankofa - Empowered by the Alliances for Action.

Implementing partners

Nature & Development Foundation; South Pole; International Trade Centre; WWF Switzerland; Ecotop Consult; Fair Trade Africa; Kuapa Kooko Limited; Chocolats Halba; Coop.





Publications

Experiences & Lessons from Implementing a timber industry based project

This report provides an understanding and the necessity of building capacity of industry for effective implementation of FLEGT/VPA. The report outlines the benefits and experiences of cross-border exchanges with timber industries in Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia, particularly on the implementation of VPA. The report also draws attention to the core issues affecting the industry and helps inform key stakeholders about developments in the industry.



To read report, please visit ow.ly/eQP250Cs7QV

The FLEGT Newsletter

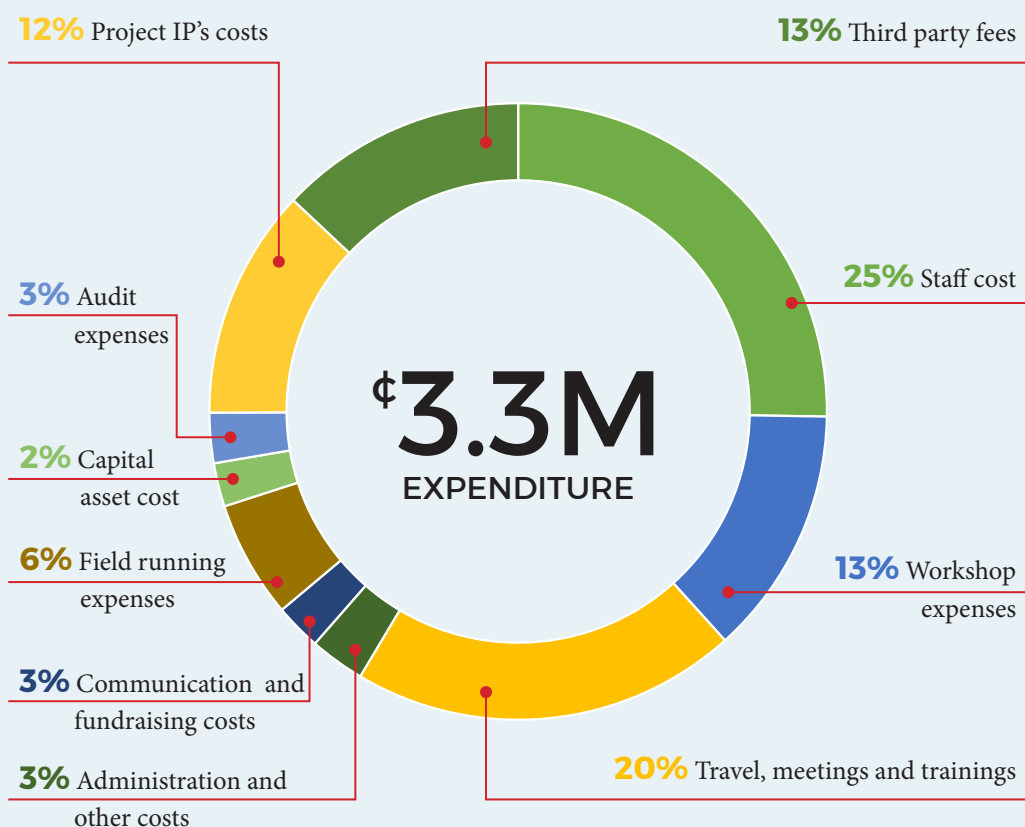
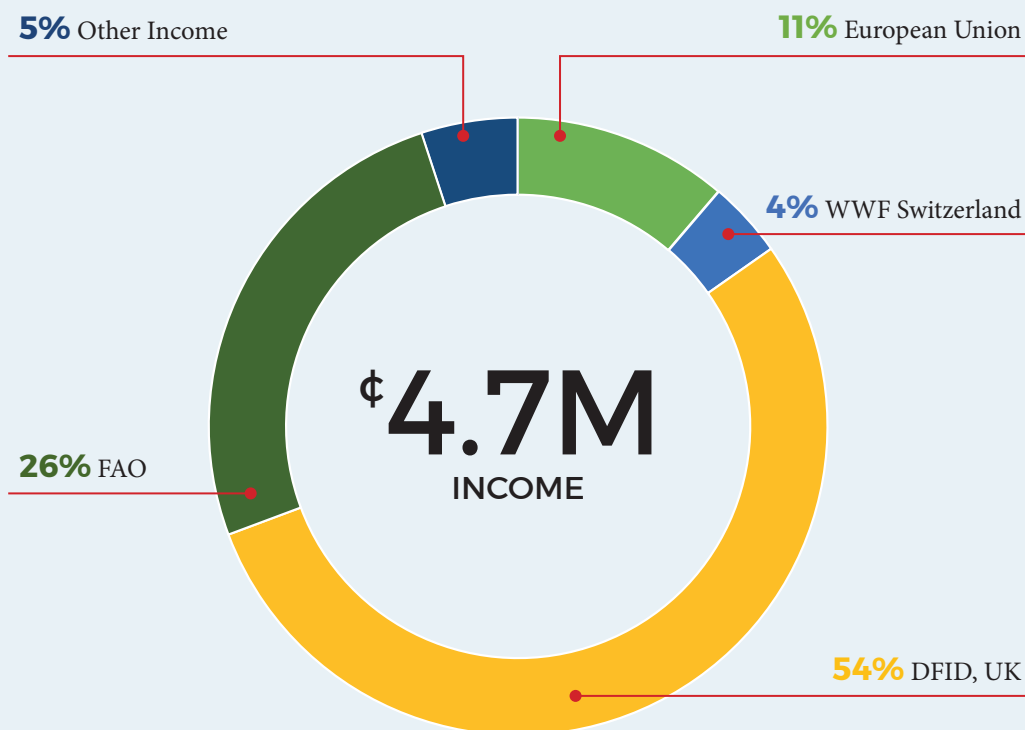


NDF published three editions of the FLEGT newsletter in 2019. The FLEGT newsletter reports on FLEGT/VPA activities in Ghana and is distributed free-of-charge to individuals and organizations. It is also available on our website.

[Link to newsletters
ow.ly/HbAG50Cs765](https://ow.ly/HbAG50Cs765)

Financial summary

NDF Income and Expenditure 2019



Income received	2019 (GH¢)	2018 (GH¢)
European Union	537,316	715,915
WWF Switzerland	191,377	-
Department for International Development, UK	2,583,309	-
Client Earth	-	3,634
Food and Agriculture Organization	1,226,641	550,786
Other Income	240,369	370,710
Total Income	4,779,012	1,641,045
Operating Expenses		
Staff cost	836,078	774,297
Workshop expenses	431,922	162,459
Travel, meetings and trainings	669,449	462,263
Administration and other costs	95,589	74,391
Communication and fundraising cost	80,720	31,422
Field running expenses	203,476	243,666
Capital asset cost	75,649	174,075
Audit expenses	87,118	11,500
Project IP's costs	399,672	-
Third party fees	429,585	53,898
Total Expenses	3,309,258	1,987,971

A thank you to our donors



It is possible to build a society
in which nature conservation
and human development
complement each other.

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