



Ghana Wildlife Society

SAVING SPECIES | CONSERVING SITES & HABITATS
EMPOWERING PEOPLE | ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

ANNUAL REPORT

2017



Partnership for
nature and people

GWS is a partner of BirdLife International.



CONTENTS

3

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

4

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

6

ABOUT GHANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

About Wildlife Clubs of Ghana

The GWS Council

8

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION SCIENCE

Saving Species

Conserving Sites and Habitats

Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision Making in Ghana

Paleartic Migrants

White-necked Picathartes

White-backed Vulture

8

BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY

20

CONSERVATION EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

World Wildlife Day

Environmental Awareness Art Competition

International Drawing Competition

Spring Alive 2017

World Environment Day

WCG Leaders Meeting

A.G. Leventis Library

Commuication

26

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & CAPACITY BUILDING

Monthly Bird Walks

Workshop Review of Section 93 of the Fisheries Act 625

Fundraising and Proposal Writing Workshop

The Arcadia/BirdLife Conservation Partnership Fund

Mainstreaming Biodiversity into the Heart of Government Decisions

Collaboration with Alliance Francaise and Birdlife

28

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS & MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Partnership

Adult Membership

31

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Monitoring Framework: Arcadia-BirdLife Conservation Partnership Fund Meeting

BirdLife's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative

Africa Regional Committee, BirdLife International Meeting

Policy and Advocacy Workshop

32

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

We express our sincere appreciation to our corporate supporters and the Society's adult members whose commitment and interest in conservation contributed enormously to GWS progress.

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A.G. Leventis Foundation | BirdLife International | Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) | ENI Ghana | GHACEM - HeidelbergCement | GIZ | Goldfields Ghana | GRIDCO | IUCN | Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel | New England Biolab Foundation | Newmont Ghana | Royal Senchi Hotel | Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB - UK) | The International Osprey Foundation | Toyota Ghana | Wienco Ghana.

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President and Founder: Prof. Yaa Ntiama-Baidu

Members: Dr. Erasmus H. Owusu, Mr. G. Osei Boakyee, Mr. Kofi Anku, Mr. Charles Adjey Sefa | **Secretary:** Mr. Eric Lartey (Ex-officio)



GHANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY SECRETARIAT

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

"GWS has gone through ups and downs over the years, but things seem to have stabilised now with strong leadership, paving the way for progress in the delivery of various conservation programmes"

Dear friends and colleagues, I am very happy that we are here celebrating another year (2017) that brought with it many conservation challenges, but on the whole, turned out to be a successful year. I would therefore like to express my profound gratitude to the Council of GWS and the young and dedicated staff for working tirelessly under severe funding constraints to maintain the Society as the largest and one of the most credible conservation NGOs in Ghana.

GWS has gone through ups and downs over the years, in terms of staffing and finances, but I am glad that things seem to have stabilised now with strong leadership, thus paving the way for progress in the delivery of various conservation programmes. Presently, GWS can no longer be considered to be synonymous with “bird conservation”, the organisation has diversified its portfolio of projects and is recognised as a major partner in all discussions involving natural resources management in Ghana. I would like to take the opportunity to thank our corporate partners for their support in diverse ways that has made this possible.

As Ghana continues to rely heavily on natural resource exploitation to sustain economic growth and development, GWS as an NGO, will continue to stand by what we believe in, but at the same time constantly encourage government and its agencies to promote and implement policies that will safeguard the future of our environment. In doing so, our watch words will continue to be good environmental stewardship, ensuring that the aspirations of our generation and that of the future are not jeopardized. In this direction, we shall continuously remind government of its responsibility in terms of environmental management and continue to advocate for the concept of wise-use to be applied in all forms of exploitation of our resources to ensure sustainable utilization. We would encourage government to adopt a more proactive approach in implementing its natural resource management strategies. Also,



government policy must not focus only on providing the enabling environment for efficient resource management, but must ensure also that policy implementation is more focussed and targeted at the most critical areas in the country.

It is my hope that GWS will become more visible and vibrant as it was in the 1990s when it was established, so that we can garner more public support to achieve conservation objectives for the country.

Prof. Yaa Ntiama-Baidu
President
GWS Council



Ghana Wildlife Society

SAVING SPECIES | CONSERVING SITES & HABITATS
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MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

"I am pleased to say that 2017 signaled the commencement of a promising chapter in the life of the Society".



It was indeed an honour, yet, a daunting challenge to have joined the Ghana Wildlife Society barely a year ago at a time when the Society crucially needed stability and steady leadership. My first few months in my position went to facilitating team cohesion, aggressive fund-raising, and the elaboration of an ambitious strategy (2016-2020) with my team. This was shortly followed by a fund-raising strategy and more recently a communication strategy. I am pleased to say that 2017 signaled the commencement of a promising chapter in the life of the Society. Insufficient financial resources has indeed limited our ability to deliver all our expected conservation outcomes at the national scale. In spite of the difficulties, we left 2017 with healthier bank balances compared to the previous year, with an increased annual revenue of 43% over 2016 figures.

We fostered better ties with some Partners within the BirdLife fraternity and few other donors and businesses in the private sector. We initiated several collaborations with key actors from the private sector to mainstream conservation into their management practices.

In the realm of conservation education, over twenty wildlife clubs were revived through environmental art competitions for basic schools, spring alive activities that aimed at strengthening conservation education among Wildlife Clubs of Ghana, parents, teachers and volunteers. GWS joined the rest of the world to celebrate special days on the international environmental events calendar such as World Environment Day and International Vultures Awareness Day. We held our first national wildlife clubs leaders meeting in five years to review Wildlife Club activities across the country. As part of our strategy to improve engagement with the citizenry and garner the needed public support towards conservation, we re-launched our membership drive by recruiting individual members and volunteers.

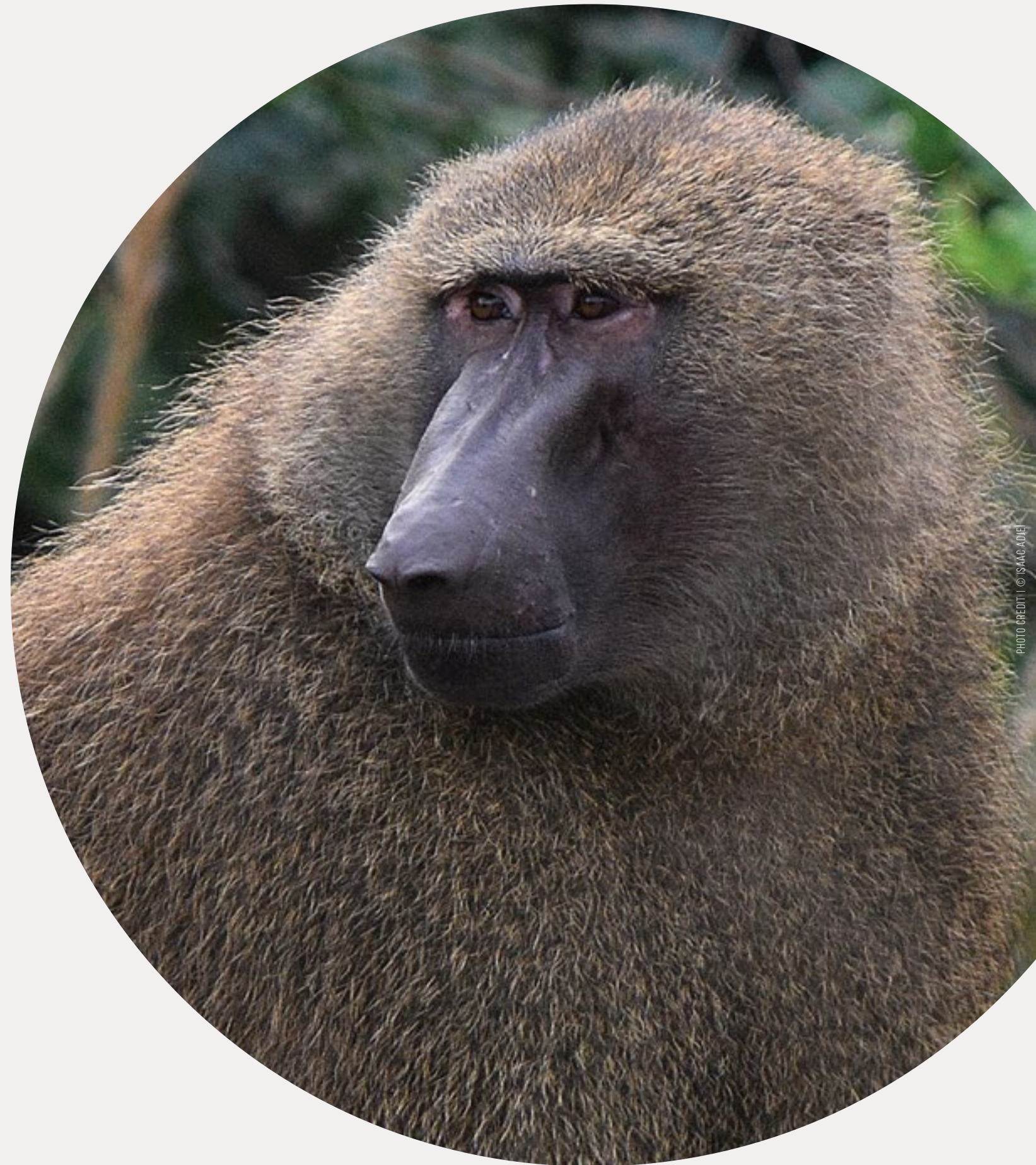
We were fortunate to win a large grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund for the Guinean Forests of West Africa Hotspot in 2017 that led us to start the assessment of forest ecosystem services in two key biodiversity areas: Tano Offin and Cape Three Points Forest Reserves. Funds from other foundations include the AG Leventis Foundation, The International Osprey Foundation and the New England Biolab Foundation. We successfully expanded our corporate support base through engagement with selected businesses from the private sector that showed interest in reducing their environmental footprints. We sustained our long-standing partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds on joint research and conservation projects to protect resident and migratory land bird species, largely the wood warblers.

It has been very exciting out in the field too with research projects that delivered towards species conservation. We successfully identified and prioritized eight (8) species across different taxa for short and medium-term conservation actions. Research on Palearctic migrants occupied a core part of the Society's work in the forest and transition zones. We continued our Picathartes research work supported by the AG Leventis Foundation, and conducted population studies on the White - Backed vulture, one of the critically endangered vulture species in the Mole National Park. We also sustained our long-term monitoring program on marine turtles and cetaceans offshore the western coast.

I will attribute the strides we have made to a reinvigorated Council, very dedicated staff, volunteers and all donors who supported our conservation activities. With optimism and hard work, let us all look forward to better years ahead of us.

Long live GWS!


-Eric Lartey, PMP®
Executive Director



ABOUT GHANA WILDLIFE SOCIETY

The Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) is a non-governmental, non-political and non-profit making conservation organization located at the Accra Conservation Education Centre near the Efua Sutherland Children's Park. Our mission is to conserve wildlife in all its forms to ensure a better environment and for improved quality of life for all people.

We belong to BirdLife International, the world's largest nature conservation partnership of 121 autonomous NGOs around the world. Our vision is to promote the conservation (protection, management and wise-use) of wildlife in all its forms (plants, animals and their habitats). Our work is firmly rooted in partnerships, and relies on science that inspires positive conservation actions in collaboration with communities, civil society groups, businesses, research institutions and the government.



WILDLIFE CLUBS OF GHANA



The Wildlife Clubs of Ghana is the junior wing of Ghana Wildlife Society

The Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG) consist of groups of young people interested in wild animals and plants as well as the environment. The WCG started with just two clubs in 1987 but by 2017 has 305 clubs in schools and communities throughout the country.

FIND OUT MORE AT : GHANAWILDLIFESOCIETY.ORG

GOVERNANCE

We are made up of a six-member governing Council presided by the Founder, Prof. Yaa Ntiama-Baidu of the University of Ghana. GWS has a secretariat which is headed by an Executive Director who takes charge of the day-to-day running of the Society.

THE GWS COUNCIL

Three (3) Council meetings were held in 2017 and one of the recommendations of the Council was to elect a Wildlife Club leader to join the Council. Following the recommendation of the GWS Council, Mr. Charles Adjei Sefa (A teacher from Mansoman SHS) was elected during the Annual Leaders Conference in November 2017. We are hoping that Mr. Sefa will bring on board his experience to complement expertise of other Council members.

NEW STAFF



The Society welcomes **Miss Sandra Owusu-Gyamfi** as the new Manager for the Research and Conservation Science Unit, who replaced Japheth Roberts. Sandra graduated with MSc. Environmental Conservation from the University of Greenwich. The entire management staff wishes Sandra a successful career with GWS.

RESEARCH AND CONSERVATION SCIENCE

In fulfilment of the strategic objectives of the Ghana Wildlife Society, the Research and Conservation Science Unit leads studies to improve knowledge on the distribution, trends, population and status of threatened species. The Society successfully identified and prioritized five (5) species group across different taxa for short and medium-term conservation actions.

These include:

- The Old World Vultures
- Grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)
- White-necked Picathartes (*Picathartes gymnocephallus*)
- Pangolins
- *Talbotiella gentii*

Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana

The total economic cost of degradation of natural resources and poor environmental management is estimated to be at least 10% of Ghana's GDP. However, this loss does not actually reflect the true cost of forest loss/degradation due to insufficient site-specific information on the economic cost of loss of forest ecosystem services. Lack of integration of biodiversity issues into development planning and weak institutional coordination and capacity is a challenge to the effective maintenance of Ghana's permanent forest estate and biodiversity. The Society received a large

grant from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) to provide government with site-specific information on the value of forest ecosystem services provided by two key biodiversity areas (KBA): Cape Three Points and Tano-Offin Forest Reserves. The project is expected to support the government and the private sector to integrate information on ecosystem services into planning, decision making and management practices. This project runs until the beginning of 2019 and we are deploying the Toolkit for Ecosystem Service Site-Based Assessment (TESSA) for the assessment.

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM
PARTNERSHIP FUND



A close-up photograph of a Wood Warbler (Phylloscopus sibilatrix) perched on a thin, light-colored branch. The bird is facing left, with its head tilted upwards and its beak open as if it is singing. It has a bright yellow-green head and back, with a distinct yellow stripe above the eye. The underparts are a pale, creamy white. The wings and tail show dark, fine-lined patterns. The background is a soft, out-of-focus green, suggesting a forest or woodland setting.

RESEARCH ON PALEARCTIC MIGRANT BIRDS

WOOD WARBLER

Phylloscopus sibilatrix

Populations of long-distance migrant birds are declining but it is unknown, what role land cover change in non-breeding areas may be playing in this process. In West Africa, an estimated 83% of original rainforest cover has been lost which could be responsible for the decline in the population of migrant birds. Through our long-standing research collaboration with the RSPB, a joint research team continued to investigate the habitat use of declining Palearctic migrant, the Wood Warbler (*Phylloscopus sibilatrix*), to understand the socioeconomic drivers of land-use change on its wintering grounds in Ghana. The project involved seasonal (wintering) data collection to form the basis to provide well informed recommendations for conservation measures. Our research revealed that on the fine-scale, habitat preferences of radio-tagged Wood Warblers was an optimum number of around 66-143 trees per hectare, at which estimated probability of occupancy was 0.5. This figure dropped to a probability of 0.2 at only 25 trees per hectare. It was concluded that although wintering Wood Warblers were able to utilize degraded habitats such as well-wooded farmlands, the continued loss of trees, from both forest and farmland, is ultimately likely to have a negative impact on the species in the long term.



PHOTO CREDIT | © NICK BRAY - ZOOTHERA BIRDING

RESEARCH ON WHITE-NECKED PICATHARTES

PICATHARTES

Picathartes gymnocephallus

Previous studies conducted by GWS and supported by the A.G. Leventis Foundation sought to identify and document nesting sites of this vulnerable bird species and to build the capacity of site support groups for sustained monitoring of the bird populations and threats. The study conducted in 2017 sought to understand the breeding ecology, movement and home range of the species while investigating the presence of human activities/disturbance. Bonkro and Dotom Camps were chosen as study sites because of the expected additional protection from community initiatives. Our study identified signs of disturbances such as felling of trees and burning from the previous season. Our next step is to complete the home range studies and movements with radio transmitters in the two forest reserves (Nyameben Bepo and Nkrabea). GWS will continue to collaborate with the Forest Services Division to increase forest protection in both sites by sustaining the interest of the local communities through awareness raising and appropriate incentive mechanisms.



RESEARCH ON WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

WHITE-BACKED VULTURE

Gyps africanus

Vulture populations have declined drastically over the past decades as a result of deliberate poisoning, land use changes, and trapping for belief-based use and human consumption. The Society contributed to address the situation through a baseline study of populations of the White-backed vulture at the Mole National Park with support from the RSPB/Birdfair Research Fund for Endangered Birds. We recorded a total of 93 individuals using road transects covering a distance of 268 km in the study area. This is the highest ever recorded of the species in Ghana. The survey further recorded the Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*) and White-headed vulture (*Trigonoceps occipitalis*). Other raptor species encountered include the near threatened Bateleur (*Terathopius ecaudatus*) and the least concern Africa Harrier Hawk (*Polyboroides typus*). As a result of the significant numbers of the White-backed Vulture and the occurrence of other globally threatened vulture species in the Mole National Park, the Society intend to spearhead the development of species-specific management plans to secure their populations.

THE SOCIETY WORKS IN CLOSE COLLABORATION WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY SECTORS TO SAFEGUARD THE EAST ATLANTIC FLYWAY FOR MIGRANT BIRDS AND REDUCE COLLISION AND ELECTROCUTION.



PHOTO CREDIT: © ISAAC BOAKYE

BUSINESS AND BIODIVERSITY



Ghana Wildlife Society has been working in partnerships with businesses. Why are we partnering businesses? Businesses and their impacts on biodiversity form an integral part of our strategy in the few coming years. We continue to promote partnerships with large businesses and financiers of such businesses across a wide range of sectors of the Ghanaian economy. Our intention is to bring transformation into business practices to contribute towards the protection and conservation of biodiversity. We believe that one of the most effective ways to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services is to work together with businesses that pose high risks to biodiversity. In doing so, businesses can minimize their impacts on the environment.

How are businesses benefiting from our partnerships?

Businesses are benefitting by the increasing consumer confidence. Our partnerships have built solid NGO-private sector-community relationships which have reduced the reputational risks of our partners and helped them to be greener. Through our partnerships, several businesses have been empowered to successfully implement corporate sustainability commitments. Such actors include GHACEM, Eni Ghana Exploration and Production Ltd., China Harbour Engineering (Gh) Ltd, and GIZ. There are a number of private sector business as we are currently engaging. They include LUSH (a large global cosmetic company) and the Ghana Rubber Estates Ltd.

Construction: China Harbour Engineering Company Ltd



What are we doing in the realm of mainstreaming biodiversity into construction/transport?

GWS signed a contract in late September 2017 with the China Harbour Engineering Co. (GH) Ltd (CHEC) in collaboration with the Meridian Port Services and AECOM in relation to the construction of the new harbour terminal at Tema. GWS carried out pre-construction survey of both marine and terrestrial fauna spanning different taxa, develop a Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Management Plan and monitor cetaceans and marine turtles before, during and after the construction phase of the project.

We completed the preparation of marine mammals and sea turtle management plan for the project which was accepted by the International Finance Corporation (IFC). We supported CHEC to partially satisfy the requirements specified in the Safeguard Policies and Procedures of the IFC Performance Standards 6. This giant step is hoped to protect marine life in our waters. The Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Management Plan (MMSTMP) has provided a more structured set of protocols to monitor impacts of construction activities on marine mammals and sea turtles.

We carried out monitoring of cetaceans and marine turtles inshore and along the Sakumono-Tema-Ningo-Prampram stretch. Our preliminary results pointed the high incidences of poaching which could be attributed to the influx of people and construction workers to the areas as a result of the project.

We have so far empowered through training, 38 project staff and managers of the vessel crew on protocols to follow to minimize fatal mortalities of marine cetaceans and turtles.



Mining: GHACEM - Heidelberg Cement



BirdLife International Europe and Heidelberg Cement have had a long-standing relationship with a common purpose of providing better protection for biodiversity and promoting sustainable development. In 2015, this relationship was scaled down to Ghana through a partnership between the Ghana Wildlife Society- a partner to BirdLife International, and Ghana Cement (GHACEM) - a subsidiary of the Heidelberg Cement Group in Ghana.

The purpose of the GWS/GHACEM partnership is to enhance the position and reputation of GHACEM as an industry leader that demonstrates the role of responsible mining in the conservation of biodiversity and improvement of community livelihoods and to highlight GWS' role in biodiversity conservation. GWS supported GHACEM to adopt best practices of biodiversity conservation in its operations at all levels by promoting forest restoration through the implementation of standards towards tree nursery establishment, environmental awareness through wildlife clubs and engagement with local communities. GWS supported the development and implementation of site biodiversity management plans at GHACEM's Yongwa and Popotia concessions and carried out awareness campaigns among 1,200 people in 21 communities on two flagship species (*Talbotiella gentii* and the Hooded Vulture).

Avifauna survey conducted at the Porpotia concession confirmed 59 bird species representing a significant 8.13% of the total bird species present in Ghana. With the exception of the African Pied Hornbill, Klaas's Cuckoo and Village Weaver which have not been assessed, all the other birds recorded are of least concern. The survey further confirmed the presence of mammal species including the vulnerable Long-tailed Pangolin (*Phataginus tetradactyla*) and the blotched Genet (*Civettictis civetta*). We recorded 527 butterflies and 354 other insects. Of the 97-plant species recorded, only 1% of the total number was vulnerable according to the IUCN classification. However, with nearly all the plant species being native, this makes an important feature necessary to form the ecological basis to preserve the area for birds and insects. It was therefore, recommended that GHACEM creates buffer areas around the quarry sites to serve as vital wildlife corridors.



Energy: GRIDCO - Avian Baseline Survey



Electrocution and collision of birds with power lines is one of the major causes of death to many avian species. To understand and mitigate the impacts of the proposed construction of 330 kV Dawa-Juale-Bolgatanga II Transmission Line, which passes through two IBAs; Tankwidi and Gambaga Scarp Forest Reserves, GWS was engaged to estimate the number/density of birds regularly present or resident within the study area before pylon construction; Investigate the patterns of bird movements in the vicinity of the line route before construction; and to determine the presence, abundance and use of habitats from endemic and threatened species.

Using count and observation stations, a total of 120 bird species representing 16.55% of the entire bird species in Ghana was recorded. Aside from the critically endangered Hooded Vulture (*Necrosyrtes monachus*), the near threatened Pallid Harrier (*Circus macrourus*), and twelve (12) birds of prey species, protected by the Wildlife Laws of Ghana, the rest were all least concern. However, there were at least, four biome restricted species and Palearctic migrants within the checklist including *Pocephalus senegalus*, *Musophaga violacea*, *Corvinella corvina*, *Eremomela pusilla*, which makes these areas of high conservation value.

Large birds such as birds of prey, are also known to be susceptible to strikes and electrocution by powerlines. With the presence of the Hooded Vulture, Black-bellied Bustard (*Lissotis melanogaster*), Hammerkop (*Scopus umbretta*) and herons within the project area, probabilities of strikes could increase with the establishment of the powerlines. It was therefore, recommended that a bi-annual impact monitoring should be conducted during and after the construction of pylons especially within the two IBAs.



Oil and Gas: Eni Ghana



Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) was contracted by Eni Ghana Exploration and Production Ltd to monitor impacts of Eni Ghana's onshore/offshore activities as per the requirement of the World Bank Group Performance Standard 6 (WBG PS6) when operating in a critical habitat. The goal of this engagement was to reduce the regulative impacts of onshore activities on flora, fauna and their habitats to a minimal level. The Society carried out monitoring of shorebirds, vultures, marine mammals and turtles.

As opposed to what was recorded during pre-construction surveys by WRM (1,000 Sanderlings (*Calidris alba*), over 800 Royal Terns (*Thalasseus maximus*) and over 100 Sandwich Terns (*Thalasseus sandvicensis*), GWS recorded 238 Sanderlings, and 10 Sandwich Terns along the shore and at the Amanzuri Estuary during the monitoring. Although there have been no records of nesting activities or vulture nests within in the ENI project area, groups of roosting vulture populations were identified. The greatest threat to the hooded vulture within the area is hunting and persecuting by local people.

Although construction of the pipeline from the Onshore Receiving Facility (ORF) to the sea is in progress resulting in bright lights, vibrations and noise pollution onshore, these disturbances were still minimal during the time of the study. Beach littering was identified as the major disturbance along the coast especially within the communities and at the fish landing beaches which compromises the quality of beach habitat for shorebird and turtles nesting sites. Though beach littering is not directly linked with ENI's project activities, the influx of people in the area as a result of the construction project could be the reason for the increase in waste generation. Keeping clean beaches will contribute to ENI's objective to achieve no net loss of shorebirds.



Agriculture: Green Innovation Centre - GIZ



Birds are one of the taxonomic groups that are present in almost every habitat type. In Ghana, birds constitute significant and important component of the fauna resources of all ecological zones and have proven to be resilient to most habitat changes and developmental impacts. The ecological importance of birds include their use in identifying priority areas for biodiversity conservation action, indicators of terrestrial biological richness and environmental conditions, control of pests, and pollinators of several crops. However, certain birds can also be economic pests of agriculture. Birds affect rice farms to various degrees, especially in the dry savannah climate in Ghana. The most damages occur in the dry season when seeds from wild grasses become scarce thus, turning to alternative food sources including rice. Birds are rapidly developing adaptation capacities making it more difficult to manage them especially in agriculture fields. The traditional ways of scaring them (e.g. scarecrows, shouting and beating tins) have become ineffective.

On the premise of the aforementioned challenges of controlling bird pests, GIZ sought to introduce other environmentally friendly methods to reduce the destructive activities of bird pests on their

rice fields. GIZ entered into an MOU with the Ghana Wildlife Society to identify all bird pests within commercial rice fields in parts of the Volta and Eastern Regions of Ghana and establish accordingly, their natural predators for effective control. The collaboration enhanced the gross margin of smallholder rice farmers by lowering the loss generated by small birds before harvesting. The basic idea was to empower Ghanaian bird experts to train birds of prey. The trained birds of prey will then become a natural control of the small birds that reduce rice yields. During the survey a combination of methods (vantage point counts, mist netting and structured interviews) were employed. Our study confirmed the Village Weaver (*Ploceus cucullatus*) as the dominant bird pest with the Yellow-billed Kite (*Milvus migrans parasitus*) and Black-shouldered Kite (*Elanus caeruleus*), as the commonest birds of prey. It was discovered during the survey that the Red-eyed dove was often active during seed broadcasting.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

During the year 2017, the main focus of the Society was to revamp clubs in the Greater Accra Region. The main WCG activities which attracted participation from active clubs were World Wildlife Day, Environmental Awareness Arts Competition, World Environment Day, Spring Alive Project, International Drawing Competition and WCG Leaders meeting.

World Wildlife Day

World Wildlife Day is a United Nations official event which is celebrated on March 3 every year. Globally, World Wildlife Day is celebrated to raise awareness to endangered wildlife and illegal trade in wildlife species. In Ghana, GWS used the occasion to raise awareness on the consequences of destroying wildlife habitats through illegal logging, illegal mining and indiscriminate hunting of wildlife for food and trophies. GWS collaborated with the School of Natural Resources, of the University of Energy and Natural Resources to commemorate the day. A symposium was organized to highlight the destruction to reserves in the Brong Ahafo Region. A presentation on wildlife conservation was given after which 4 new Wildlife clubs from the invited schools were launched.

Environmental Awareness Art Competition

In collaboration with the New Vision Arts college in Amanokrom, an environmental awareness arts competition was organized for Wildlife Clubs in the Akropong and Amanokrom area of the Eastern Region. This was aimed towards revamping selected clubs within the vicinity. The schools include: Amanokrom Presby Primary, Nana Awuku Bram 1 Primary, Amanokrom Presby JSS, Apostolic Church School and Obosomase Primary. The main activities for the programme were arts/drawing competition, music and poetry competition. Awards were presented to winners of the competitions.



International Drawing Competition

The contest is organised by BirdLife International annually with the aim of encouraging children to protect birds and their habitats. To participate in the contest in 2017, WCG members up to the age of 16 years submitted handmade drawings or painting showings how one should proceed with an encountered nestling or fledgling that fell out of its nest. In total, twenty-four drawings were submitted by WCG for the contest.



Spring Alive 2017

Spring Alive began in 2006 as a European project which soon spread to Africa in 2010, where from September onwards children look out for the return of five easily recognizable migratory birds called the Spring Alive birds (European Bee-eater, Common Cuckoo, Common Swift, Barn Swallow and White Stork) from their breeding grounds in Europe and Asia. The Spring Alive project is a collaboration between the Ghana Wildlife Society and BirdLife International with funding from the Mitsubishi Corporative Fund for Europe and Africa. The project is aimed at strengthening conservation education among WCG, parents, teachers and volunteers. The theme for 2017 was “Don’t take chicks with you”.

To raise awareness on the theme, a Wildlife Clubs’ day out was held at the Swiss Hall of the Ghana Wildlife Society. In attendance were ten (10) Wildlife Clubs in Accra with a total of 250 participants including teachers, parents and volunteers.



During presentations, pupils were asked to develop interest in the conservation of nature and migratory birds and the need for their conservation. The children were also taken through all the life stages of a bird (Hatchling, Nestling, Fledgling and Adult) to identify the various physiological and morphological adaptations and steps to take when found outside its mothers’ nest at the various stages.



Poetry recitals were also organised which saw the performance of fifteen (15) different beautifully-crafted poems by nineteen (19) pupils on the topic, “I found a baby bird! What should I do”. Christine Kludje, 13-year pupil from the Sakomono Complex School emerged the ultimate winner of the poetry contest. She received educational materials and books. Maame Yaa and Princess Allanu from Mothers’ Nest Montessori School and Ohene Dickson of Transform Child Development School emerged as first and second runners up respectively.

World Environment Day

The World Environment Day (WED) is observed on June 5 every year to raise global awareness on positive environmental action to protect planet Earth. The WED is run by the United Nations

Environment Programme (UNEP) and since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach widely celebrated in over 100 countries. The theme for the celebration of the 2016 WED was “Join the race to make the world a better place”. The celebration brought together 200 WCG members from 8 clubs (Deks Educational Complex, Transform Child Development Centre, St Martin De Porres school, Amanokrom Presby Primary, Nana Awuku Bram 1 Primary, Amanokrom Presby JSS, Apostolic Church School, Obosomase Primary) to participate in birdwatching, art/photo exhibition by the children/adult artists, and wildlife documentary titled “Nature+ Human Connection”.

The main aim of the event was to increase the visibility of wildlife clubs among the public, encourage activeness in dormant clubs and help children to learn more about wildlife outside their schools, network with other children and become aware of how connected they are to nature and the environment. Some of the birds that were spotted include the Cattle egret, Yellow billed kite, Western grey plantain eater, Pied crow, Yellow billed shrike and the Africa thrush. The art/photo exhibition centered on nature and how they are connected to humans. Exhibitions were mounted by some wildlife club members and adult artists. There were also displays of GWS posters and major wildlife species found in Ghana to educate the children on the need to protect nature.





Mr. David Daramani briefing a section of wildlife club members before a bird walk during the World Environment Day 2017 celebration.

WCG Leaders meeting

As part of the Society's efforts to streamline conservation education programmes into schools and communities, the Society organized an annual Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG) leaders' meeting to review WCG activities in the past 30 years, discuss best ways to enhance conservation education and wildlife activities within clubs and elect a representative to the GWS Council.

The meeting was held at the Swiss Hall of the Society on the 18th November, 2017. The theme was, "Mainstreaming conservation education programmes into schools and communities". In attendance were selected club leaders from six (6) regions across the country. A total of 50 participants attended the workshop. The Executive Director, Mr. Eric Lartey addressed the workshop and took participants through a presentation on raising funds for club activities. A presentation on "Wildlife Clubs, 30 years on" was delivered by Ms. Louisa Kabobah highlighting activities in the past 30 years, the challenges, successes, opportunities and way forward for conservation education in schools. Mr. Dovlo Evans, the Upper Volta representative from the Volta region and club member for 20 years, also gave a presentation on, "Successes and opportunities as a WCG leader".

Elections were held to elect representatives to serve on the GWS Council and to coordinate club activities in the Greater Accra Region. Mr. Charles Adjei Sefa, the Ashanti Regional Coordinator of the WCG, was elected as the GWS Council Representative, while Rev. Anthony Benibengor was elected as the Greater Accra Regional Coordinator for Wildlife Clubs.



Annual Wildlife clubs of Ghana Leader's Meeting. Discussing mainstreaming conservation education programmes into schools and communities.



PHOTO CREDIT | © ISSAC ADJEI
Long-tailed Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax africanus*)



OUR WORK RELIES ON SCIENCE THAT INSPIRES POSITIVE CONSERVATION ACTIONS FOR THE BENEFIT OF PEOPLE AND NATURE.

PHOTO CREDIT | © INILAAATE CARTEY



A.G. Leventis Library

As an integral part of the Ghana Wildlife Society, the A.G Leventis library serves as an information hub for wildlife club members, supporters and a learning center for individuals seeking a serene environment to do their private studies. The primary aim of the library is to support biodiversity conservation research and education activities in Ghana by providing reference materials and other essential library services to students in conservation biology as well as the public. The A.G. Leventis library is well stocked and resourced with various materials (books) on birds, wildlife and conservation.

The library has a seating capacity of 22. There are two 4-in-1 desks, one 8-in-1 desk and a round table of 6. Every registered member can have access to the facilities for learning including internet access and research assistance for students. Wildlife club members forming the junior wing of the Society gets free access to use the library. Council members and individuals who support the Society also gets free access to the library. The library recorded 52 registered users in 2017.

Communication: GWS Website and Facebook Page



Website

In the previous years, the GWS website has been dormant due to little and/no updates to the pages. The Society launched a new website in January 2017 to boost communication with all stakeholders.



Facebook Page

A new Facebook account was created in the first quarter of the year. The page can currently boast of 291 followers. This was achieved through regular uploads of activities, news and events in addition to promotion of activities and pages. These measures were taken to increase the Society's visibility and facilitate real time engagement with followers and supporters.

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS & CAPACITY BUILDING

GWS IS DEDICATED TO BUILDING THE CAPACITY AND EXPERTISE OF PEOPLE AND INSTITUTIONS TO CONSERVE BIODIVERSITY



A section of birders with a GWS staff, after a bird walk at the Legon Botanical Gardens.

Monthly Bird Walks

We organise monthly birdwalks to develop the interest of the public in birds and to help them realise the close connection between man and nature. Monthly bird walk is organized every last Saturday of each month (except in December). Volunteers from the Society took a total of 102 participants on expeditions to different sites in the Greater Accra Region. Areas visited include Pambros, Legon Botanical Gardens, Sakumono Ramsar site and the Dawanya Irrigation sites. Participants gained the opportunity to witness the diversity of birds in Ghana including the wildly loved Red-billed Hornbill (*Tockus erythrorhynchus*) and the Green Turaco (*Turaco persa*).

Workshop to Review Section 93 of the Fisheries Act 625

GWS was engaged as a key stakeholder to provide inputs to the amendment and assessment of enforceability of Section 93 of the Fisheries Act 2002 (Act 625). The Act provides a pre-requisite for activities other than fishing that substantially impact on fish ecology within the waters of Ghana. As noticed, nearly all companies involved in the oil and gas sector did not conduct exclusive Fisheries Impact Assessment (FIA). Admittedly, Section 93 and other provisions are themselves insufficient to exhaustively address the challenges that oil and gas exploration pose to Ghana's fisheries.

Fundraising and Proposal Writing Workshop

We hosted our Nigerian friends from the Nigerian Conservation Foundation during a week training programme organized by BirdLife International - West Africa Regional Office with support from the RSPB. The training was targeted at all programme staff from the Ghana Wildlife Society to boost fund-raising to support conservation actions of the Society.

The Arcadia/ BirdLife Conservation Partnership Fund

For 2017, we targeted to build the capacities of staff and partners and engage government, private sector and communities to better manage selected IBAs, i.e. Cape Three Points, Fure and Afadjato Forest Reserves. Forty-three (43) local communities were empowered to protect IBAs in danger from further degradation especially from mining activities as in the case of Fure River Forest Reserve. Ten (10) local people at the Afadjato Forest Range, were trained and tasked to clean the reserve boundaries to reduce incidences of wildfires. In response to last year's management recommendation. We recruited ten (10) local volunteers to form part of the IBA monitoring team to produce frequent updates on the current state of the site.

Mainstreaming of Biodiversity into the Heart of Government Decisions

To address the lack of integration of biodiversity information in national planning and development, the National Biosafety Authority and the UNEP-WCMC organised a workshop for key stakeholders who either are users or protectors of natural resources to connect already existing biodiversity data with organisations and individuals to make a case for government to consider nature at the heart of decision making. We showcased our project "Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana" by sharing lessons and experiences with diverse stakeholders.



Collaboration with Alliance Francaise and BirdLife.

The Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), in partnership with Alliance Française and BirdLife International, organised a panel discussion and cocktail event to bring participants together to discuss conservation issues and learn about environmental degradation practices in Ghana. A photo exhibition was held to give participants the opportunity to deliberate further on the issues discussed and network with other corporate partners.



A section of the participants at the workshop to discuss mainstreaming biodiversity into the heart of government decisions.

CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS & MEMBERSHIP

Corporate Partnerships

The celebrated endangered animal species fence project was launched by GWS in 2003 with the aim of educating and raising awareness among the public on the plight of rare, vulnerable and threatened animal species in the bush meat trade in Ghana as well as, raise funds to sustain our conservation activities. The impact has been enormous resulting in several inquiries and requests for further information and reference materials on endangered species. Through partnerships with corporate institutions, the fence has provided organisations and businesses the opportunity to fulfil their corporate social responsibilities by showing commitment towards wildlife conservation in Ghana while projecting their products, services and corporate image. GWS' current partners include: Goldfields Ghana, Newmont Ghana, Movenpick Ambassador Hotel, Royal Senchi Hotel, Wienco Ghana, Toyota Ghana and GHACEM.



Adult membership

The adult members are individuals who support the Society's conservation work through volunteering for conservation activities such as monthly bird walks, IBA monitoring, WCG activities and sharing relevant knowledge in their fields of study or work with GWS. Nine members were recruited to support in the Society's conservation activities and programmes.



PHOTO CREDIT | © ISAAC ADJEI

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

Arcadia-BirdLife Conservation Partnership Fund Meeting



Mr. Solomon Kenyenso of the Research Unit was nominated to attend a workshop in Nairobi, Kenya. BirdLife International together with 17 national Partners have been working on a 10-year programme of work to build capacity of national conservation organizations across the world. GWS has been part of this programme which is funded by the Arcadia Foundation, with the aim of strengthening the organisations to become stable, and sustainable leading to higher conservation impacts for nature conservation.

GWS contributed to the design of a monitoring framework to track progress against performance indicators for the Arcadia-BirdLife Conservation Fund. During the workshop, fundamental principles for building a successful supporter-base. Membership is a key variable for the BirdLife partnership subscription.

Policy and Advocacy Workshop

On behalf of the Society, **Miss Louisa Kabobah** participated in the Policy and Advocacy Workshop organized by DOF in Nairobi, Kenya to strengthen the Society's capacity to influence national policy.

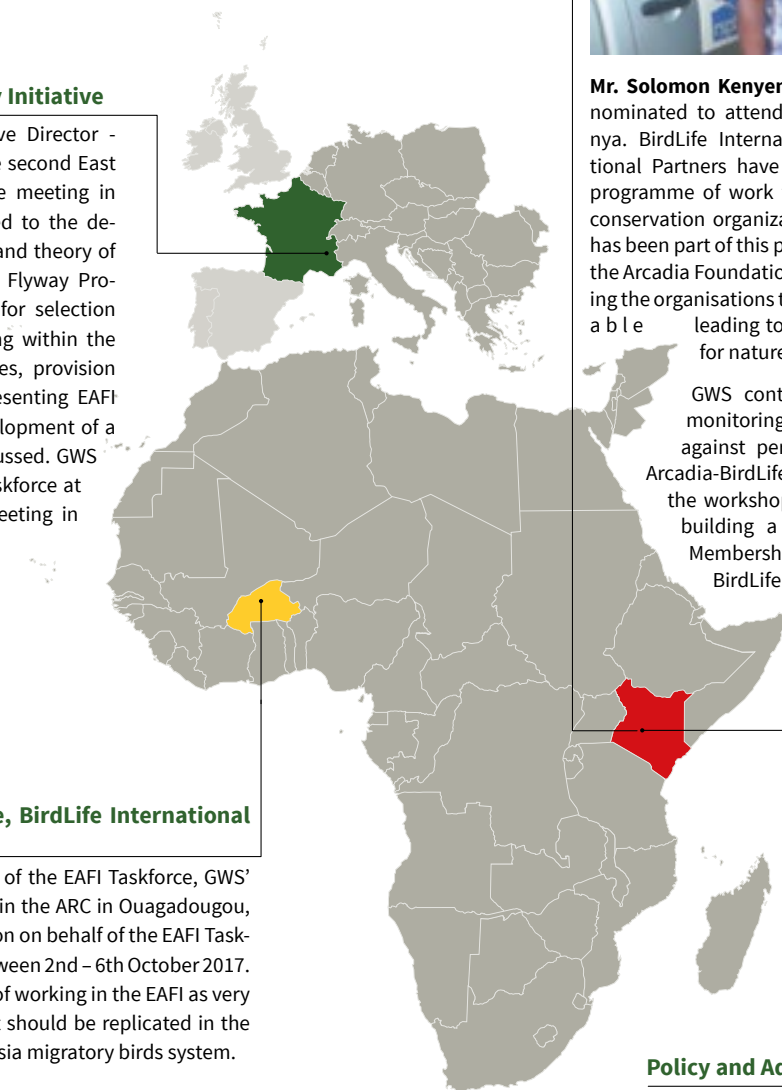


BirdLife's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative

GWS, represented by the Executive Director - **Mr. Eric Larthey**, participated in the second East Atlantic Flyway Initiative Taskforce meeting in Rochefort, France. GWS contributed to the development of a logical framework and theory of change for BirdLife's East Atlantic Flyway Programme. At the meeting, criteria for selection of projects, modalities for engaging within the taskforce, choice of priority species, provision of policy capacity to partners, presenting EAFI at Regional meetings and the development of a communication strategy were discussed. GWS was mandated to represent the Taskforce at the Africa Regional Partnership meeting in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso.

Africa Regional Committee, BirdLife International Meeting

Based on the recommendation of the EAFI Taskforce, GWS' Executive Director participated in the ARC in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso to do a presentation on behalf of the EAFI Taskforce. The meeting was held between 2nd – 6th October 2017. The ARC considered the model of working in the EAFI as very good and recommended that it should be replicated in the other Flyways in the Africa-Eurasia migratory birds system.



■ Nairobi, Kenya

■ Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

■ Rochefort, France



PHOTO CREDIT | © ISSAC ADJEI

Splendid Sunbird (*Cinnyris coccinigastrus*)

Not globally threatened. Common throughout most of range. Found in several protected areas, such as the Mole National Park, in Ghana



PHOTO CREDIT | © CONGERDESIGN / PIXABAY

African Grey parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*)



PHOTO CREDIT | © ISSAC ADJEI
Malachite Kingfisher (*Alcedo cristata*)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

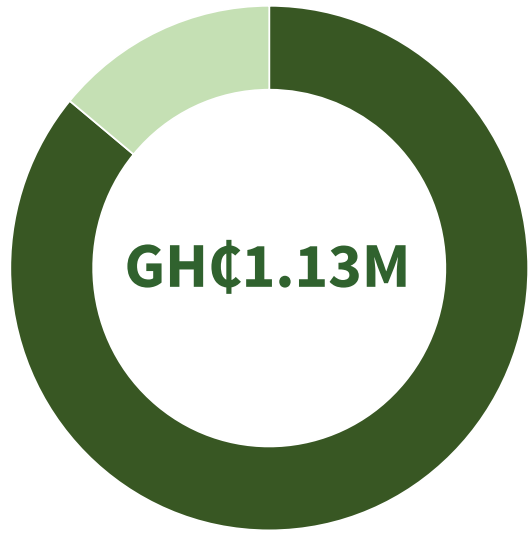
	2017 GH¢	2016 GH¢
Income		
Administrative Surcharges	47,303.20	54,457.00
Project Funds	978,095.30	711,096.00
Sponsorships	23,000	25,000.00
Other Income	86,537.26	1,882.00
TOTAL INCOME	1,134,935.76	792,435.00
Expenditure		
Administrative Expenses	153,420.72	393,676.00
Project Expenses	534,540.68	463,058.00
Depreciation	14,618.27	9,136.00
Audit Fees	7,000.00	6,000.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	709,579.67	871,870.00
Accumulated Fund		
Balance as at 01/01/2017	1,863,250.00	1,942,685.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure	425,356.09	79,435.00
Balance as at 31/12/2017	2,288,606.09	1,863,250.00

SUMMARISED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2016-2017

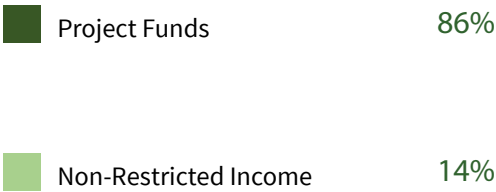
Ghana Wildlife Society in 2017, recorded 43% increment in revenue over 2016 figures. The Society considerably reduced its administrative expenses by almost 50% as part of our strategy to optimise financial resources.

Kwarteng Kwadwo
Kwadwo Kwarteng
Partner Signing
K and A Accounting Services
(ICAG/F/2018/089)

FINANCES



INCOME



EXPENDITURE

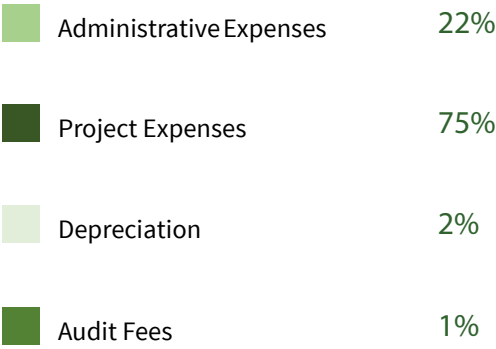




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COVER PHOTO | © ALEXANDRA / PIXABAY

White stork (*Ciconia ciconia*)

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