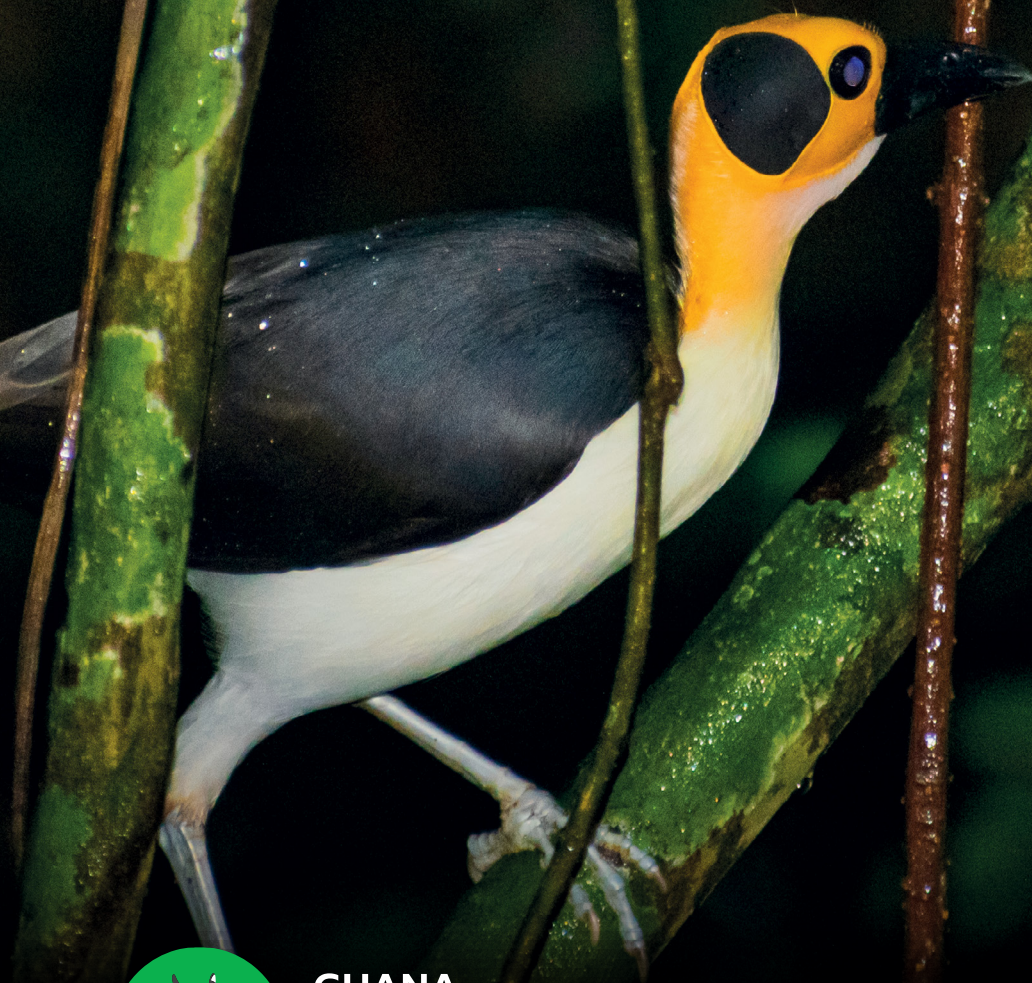


# For Nature & People

ANNUAL REPORT 2021



GHANA  
WILDLIFE  
SOCIETY





# Inside the Report

## 04 Organizational Profile

## 08 Message from President

### Research and Conservation Science

10

- Improving Conservation Status of the Critically Endangered Endemic Species (*Talbotiella gentii*) in Ghana using in Situ Conservation Strategies
- Ankasa Conservation Area Ornithological Assessment
- Promoting Biodiversity Protection in Ghana through the Key Biodiversity Area Approach
- Identifying the Home Range of the White-necked Picathartes Using Radio Telemetry
- Strengthening Conservation of Migratory Shorebird Populations through Monitoring and Community Participation in Ghana

### Empowering Communities

24

- Workshop on Conservation Agriculture
- Sustainable Beekeeping

### Savannah Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Initiative

18

- Updating the Management Plan of the Mole National Park
- Socio-economic and Ecological Assessment of the Mole Landscape
- Establishing Participatory Processes and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas Into District/Municipal Development Plans
- Fostering Transboundary Collaboration to Establish Ecological Connectivity Between Mole National Park and Adjoining Protected Areas
- Promote Knowledge Sharing on Protected Areas through Dialogues, Exchange Visits Across Sectors, and Cross-Regional Platforms for Sharing Best Practices
- Support Strategic Environmental Assessment for Policies, Development Programmes and Sector Plans to Mitigate Negative Impacts on the MNP

### Monthly Birdwalks

14

### Digital Communications

32

### Publications

33

### Conservation Education

28

- World Migratory Bird Day
- International Day of Biodiversity
- International Vulture Awareness Day
- World Environment Day
- World Cleanup Day

### Policy and Advocacy

36

- CREMAs in the Mole Landscape Trained in Forest Monitoring Technology
- Review of Ghana's Legal Framework on Protected Areas, Agriculture and Environmental Assessment
- Campaign on Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Birds into Renewable Energy Development in Ghana

### Corporate Membership

38

- Endangered Animal Species Fence
- Corporate Membership Event

### Financial Report

40



# Organization Profile



## About us

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 123 autonomous NGOs around the world.

Our vision is to promote the conservation (protection, management and wise-use) of nature in all its forms (plants, animals and their habitats). We operate based on the model that stipulates that conservation actions must hinge on credible scientific evidence. GWS is governed by a five member council, which is the highest decision making body within the organization. The institution has a Secretariat headed by an Executive Director who takes charge of day-to-day management, monitoring, and coordination of the society's policies, strategies and programmes as directed by the Council.

Under the Executive Director, exists a management team comprising four programme heads who work closely with their technical staff.

## Our history

GWS was first formed in the early 1970s but functioned for few years and became dormant. It was not until 1991, when it was revived by the 'Save the Seashore Birds Project - Ghana' (SSBP-G) supported by the UK based Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), a project that aimed at protecting the sea shore birds and their coastal wetland habitats in Ghana. When the SSBP-G ended in June 1994, the Society was incorporated on 19th May 1995 and subsequently took over and continued the conservation activities initiated by the project.

## What drives us to work

Weak governance, economic growth and infrastructure expansion, increased consumption and poor public support for conservation, illegal mining and logging, human population growth triggering domestic demand and unsustainable agriculture patterns are some of the eminent conservation challenges that drive us to use our power to act.

Our response to some of these challenges include research into threatened species, facilitating interactions between people and biodiversity in different landscapes, impacts of development on biodiversity, and how land use changes affect

patterns of migration of birds along their migratory routes. To contribute to ease the growing global pressure on the corporate world to reduce their ecological footprints, we currently work in partnership with several private sector players to fashion out business models that safeguard biodiversity.

Our activities (research, policy work and site interventions) focus on conserving species, sites and landscapes that span different ecosystem realms (terrestrial, marine, wetlands, freshwater, mangroves and tropical forests). We work closely with government, the private sector and civil society organizations to find solutions to local, national and regional environmental problems. We tackle these challenges by initiating projects with the support of international foundations, corporate bodies, members, supporters and individuals.

We execute our mandate through four programme areas: Research and Conservation Science; Conservation Education; Membership/Marketing; and Community Based Natural Resources Management. The Society has dedicated Managers and technical staff with post-graduate degrees in conservation science, climate science, biodiversity management, tropical forestry, economics and project management.

## Our achievements over the years

Our activities over the years have led to the ban on trade in Grey Parrots and provided models for community conservation actions. This is demonstrated by two of our flagship projects: Amanzuri Conservation and Integrated Development (ACID) Programme which led to establishment of the Nzulezu Tourists Centre and our long-term monitoring scheme on marine turtles and marine mammals. Our science work on Important Bird Areas (IBA's) has produced information for several national programmes and policies.

We believe that businesses have a role to play and must be supported to reduce their footprints to conserve biodiversity. Our current corporate engagement spans mining (Goldfields, GHACEM), oil and gas (ENI Ghana Exploration Ltd), forestry and agriculture (LUSH and GOPDC), Transport (Ghana Airport Company Ltd, China Harbour and Engineering Ghana Ltd) and the renewable energy sector (NEK-Ghana Ltd -Ayitepa and Konikablo).

We raise awareness and work with the youth through the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG) - a junior wing of the Society. We have developed long-term conservation partnerships with GHACEM, Toyota Ghana, Mövenpick Ambassador Hotel, Royal Senchi Hotel. Ghana Wildlife Society also serves on the national MABS Committee.



# Our Council



**Prof. Yaa Ntiemoa-Baidu (PhD)**

Founder / President

Prof. Ntiemoa-Baidu has served in various leadership roles. She served as Deputy Head (Research) in the erstwhile Ghana Wildlife Department; Executive Director of the Ghana Wildlife Society (Founder); Professor and Head of the Zoology Department, University of Ghana and the Director of WWF International Africa and Madagascar Programme. She is currently the chairperson of the Centre for African Wetlands, which she established in 2000 and also chairs the board of the Millennium Development Authority.



**Prof. Erasmus H. Owusu (PhD)**

Technical Advisor

Prof. Erasmus Owusu is an Associate Professor in Conservation Science at the Department of Animal Science and Conservation Biology of the University of Ghana. He has a PhD in biodiversity management from the Durrell Institute of Conservation and Ecology (DICE) of the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK. He is the current Director for the University of Ghana Centre for Climate Change and Sustainability Studies.



**Mr. Gerard H. Osei Boakye**

Member

Gerard is currently the Group Corporate Affairs Manager at Golden Star Resources Ltd. Until then, he was consulting in corporate and public relations, sustainable development and marketing for not-for-profit organizations. He was appointed Commissioner to the Forestry Commission representing wildlife trade and export issues, between 2009 and 2016. He has a Bachelor of Marketing degree from the Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration and a Diploma in Natural Resources and Management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.



**Mr. Kofi Anku**

Member

Mr. Kofi Anku is a graduate of the Columbia University, USA. He is a private businessperson and real estate developer. He is currently a member of the board of Directors for the Ayi Mensah Park (Mercury Estates Ltd). He has been the Executive Director of Premium Vegetables Ltd since 2015. Kofi has keen interest in maintaining a balance between business and environmental sustainability.



**Mr. Charles Adjei Sefa**

Member

Mr. Adjei Sefa is an elected representative of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana. He is a conservationist and been at the forefront of coordinating wildlife club activities since 2005 and currently the Wildlife Clubs Coordinator for the Ashanti Region. He is a Physical Education Teacher of Mansoman Senior High School. Charles has executed very successful tree planting programmes one of which can be sited at Toase Secondary School.

# Our Team



**Richard Appoh**

Director (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



**Nana Kwakyewaa Adu**

Finance & Administrative Officer



**Louisa Kabobah**

Conservation Education Officer



**Faisal Elias**

Policy & Advocacy Officer



**Thomas Gyimah**

Officer (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



**Solomon Kenyenso**

Officer (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



**Kwame Boafo**

Officer (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



**Martin Kusi Manu**

Officer (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



**Raymond Agyepong Antwi**

Officer (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



**David Daramani**

Principal Programs Assistant



**Raphael Nii Laate Lartey**

Communications Officer



**Bernadine Gillian Naakuma**

Assistant Finance Officer



**Georgina Antwi**

Conservation Education Assistant



**James Braimah**

SIBCI Project Facilitator



**Edith Ludu**

Receptionist/Admin Assistant

**Perpetual Abeyie**

Librarian

**Issac Osei**

Driver

**Simon Vondee**

Driver

**Alhassan Abu**

Driver (Damongo Office)

**Abudu Sakara**

Security Guard (Damongo Office)

**Adongo Atibire**

Security Guard

**Shadrack Ayitey**

Security Guard

**Benjamin Blankson**

Security Guard

**Joseph Guard**

Security Guard

**Mardia Adams**

Intern

**Dorothy Ayisi**

National Service Personnel



# Message from the President



**“Sailing towards sustainability: Strengthening partnerships, empowering communities, and conserving our nation’s biological resources for a healthier future.”**

Dear colleagues and partners in conservation, we have successfully sailed through another year of remarkable achievements through our highly committed team of young conservationists and researchers. During the year under review, we forged additional partnerships and added new projects to our existing portfolio. We have strengthened relationships with our stakeholders and deepened our research work to better contribute to efforts to conserve our nation’s biological resources.

We have witnessed the expansion of innovative and impactful conservation programmes in the northern savannah, particularly around Ghana’s largest wildlife-protected area, the Mole National Park. Our projects in the north, implemented through grants kindly provided by the European Union and the German Government and the Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU), have provided opportunities for international collaborations between GWS and its local partners with conservation organizations in neighbouring countries (Burkina Faso and Cote d’Ivoire). Such partnerships will help to strengthen our ability to protect and manage transboundary wildlife migratory corridors within the highly fragmented savannah landscape of the West African Sub-region.

Our work this year has contributed to species protection, habitat, and ecosystem conservation, to mitigate the impact of climate change, and to enhance the resilience of the major ecological landscapes where we work. Our interventions strengthen food security and promote sustainable livelihood options for the largely natural resource-dependent, relatively poor communities living around protected areas, thereby minimizing pressure on protected areas. Additionally, our interventions have empowered disadvantaged and poor rural women, who can now farm all year round through the irrigation schemes provided through our projects, to improve their household income and food security.

Human populations are increasing everywhere, resulting in the earth’s natural resources being inadequate to support the human population if consumption patterns do not change and conservation efforts significantly increased. Natural resource-dependent communities are particularly at risk, with some communities already experiencing hunger and diseases resulting from environmental disasters. Developing countries, such as Ghana, with a significant proportion of their populations living in rural communities where livelihoods are tied to healthy ecosystems, suffer the most from ecological degradation.

Therefore, with our local partners and support from our international partners, the Society must continue to engage and support local communities to participate in community natural resource conservation initiatives, sustainable agricultural practices, and ecologically friendly enterprises. At the same time, as we look forward to another fruitful year, we should not relent in our engagement with policymakers and industries. Together we can secure healthy ecosystems and a healthy environment for the well-being of Ghana and Ghanaians.

**Prof. Yaa Ntiemoa-Baidu (PhD)**  
President (GWS Council)





# Research & Conservation Science

## Improving Conservation Status of the Critically Endangered Endemic Species (*Talbotiella gentii*) in Ghana using in Situ Conservation Strategies

“Improving the conservation status of the Critically Endangered Endemic species (*Talbotiella gentii*) in Ghana using in-situ conservation strategies” is a project being implemented by the Ghana Wildlife Society and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology with funding from Foundation Franklinia.

The project collaborates with the Forestry Commission, Ghana Cement (GHACEM) and local communities. The project aims to protect the extant populations of *Talbotiella gentii* from going into extinction through in-situ methods and address the main threats facing the species' survival in Ghana.

### Planting of *Talbotiella gentii* seedlings

One of the objectives of the project is to increase the sizes of the population

and number of populations of *Talbotiella gentii* using in situ methods and improve genetic diversity among the homogeneous stands. In that regard, 35,000 seedlings out of the 50,220 seedlings raised in the nurseries were planted. This was due to higher mortality recorded in the nurseries and during transportation. The seedlings were planted in six sites occupying an area of about 36 hectares. Below are the details of the sites and the number of seedlings planted.

No.	Planted-out Area	Number Planted
1	Yongwa Forest Reserve	500
2	Aboden	3,000
3	Volta Block 1	1,500
4	Bandai Hills (A&B) (Abrewapong)	16,000
5	Sapawusu Forest Reserve	10,000
6	Akuamufie	4,000
Total		35,000

### Integrate *Talbotiella gentii* seedlings into existing agroforestry farming schemes

The project also aims to integrate the *Talbotiella gentii* seedlings into agroforestry practices in the project locations. As such 15 farmers were trained and assisted in integrating the *Talbotiella gentii* seedlings into their existing agroforestry farming schemes. About 8,500 seedlings were planted by farmers, mostly on their farms and degraded natural occurring stands. The plan is to reinforce the planting of the species. To further strengthen the protection of the species in the project locations, awareness creation was carried out to farmers on the importance of managing well the planted seedlings. Community sensitization programmes were also organized for farmers, hunters, and other interest groups in the project locations to raise awareness about the conservation values and threats causing the decline in populations of species such as use of chemical, fire, cattle grazing etc.

### Formation of Community Fire Volunteers for Forest Protection

Fires have been identified as a threat to forests in the project locations and have an impact on the population and diversity of *Talbotiella gentii*. In that regard, GWS organized a 3-day workshop to train 74 community members. These trained volunteers were selected from eight communities: Odumase, Somanya, Yongwa, Sapawusu, Ajena, Anum, Abrewapon and Akuamufie. This was done to ensure volunteers are well equipped to help prevent wildfires, which have been identified as one of the main threats to the species. Report from the inventory survey revealed that the fire belt is mostly needed at Abrewapon and Sapawusu. Hence, a fire belt of 5-10m in width and 350m in length were constructed at Abrewapon and Sapawusu.



Training of selected volunteers on wildlife prevention in project sites.



## Ankasa Conservation Area Ornithological Assessment

As part of GWS effort in assessing legacy KBAs against the KBA standards and adding biodiversity elements to existing KBA triggers at sites, a bird survey was commissioned at the Ankasa Conservation Area. The Ankasa Conservation Area was confirmed as a KBA in 2018. The trigger species for its classification as a KBA is a Critically Endangered site endemic Amphibian called puddle frog (*Phrynobatrachus intermedius*).

The study, therefore, was undertaken to establish the site's ornithological importance and whether it qualifies as a KBA based on avian species present. Specifically, the study provided a recent bird species list for the site, assessed the diversity and relative abundance of avian species occurring there, examined the composition of bird communities at the site and most importantly assessed the attributes that qualify the area as KBA.

The data collected would be used to assess the site against the KBA standard based on a different taxonomic group to increase its ecological importance. The data also contributes to monitoring and updating the Important Birds and Biodiversity Area status of the site.



# Promoting Biodiversity Protection in Ghana through the Key Biodiversity Area Approach

As part of the Identification and Validation of West African Key Biodiversity Areas project, GWS with funding support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) held a workshop from 15th to 18th February 2021 that brought together more than 30 stakeholders from the private, public, academia and civil society.

The diverse background of participants provided a good spread of taxonomy, and conservation sciences. The workshop focused on training stakeholders in the identification and assessment of areas that may or may not qualify as KBAs and initiating the establishment of a National Coordination Group (NCG) for KBAs in Ghana.

At the workshop, participants were taken through the criteria needed to be triggered to classify a site as a KBA as well as the steps or processes required to submit a proposal for classification. At the end of the workshop, processes for delineating the Lower Volta Basin as a KBA was started.

Also, an Interim Coordinating Group was formed to facilitate the establishment of the KBA NCG in Ghana. Members of the Interim Coordination Group comprise GWS, BirdLife Africa, Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, A Rocha Ghana, and the Environmental Protection Agency.



**Breakout session:** Participants during a group working session.



**Breakout session:** Participants holding a discussion on the KBA criteria.



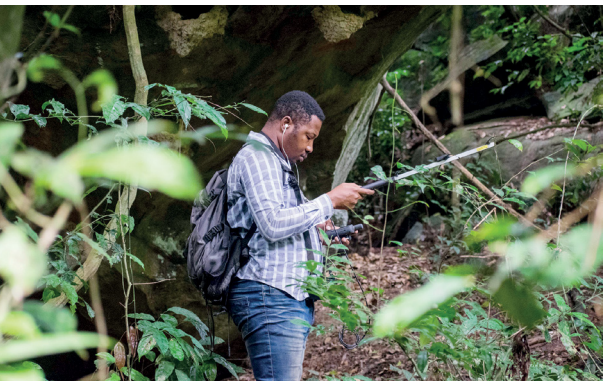
**Breakout session:** Participants undergoing a site scoping for a KBA.

# Identifying the Home Range of the White-necked Picathartes Using Radio Telemetry

With funding support from the A. G. Leventis Foundation, GWS continues its research and conservation effort on the White-necked Picathartes. We are currently on the second phase of the radio tracking experiment of the White-necked Picathartes in the Nkrabea Forest Reserve, while still monitoring activity in all known nests and documenting the different stages of nesting activity within the other reserves such as Bosomtwi Range Forest Reserve.

Data have been collected on habitat parameters on each of the triangulated points. We focus on a 25 m radius of the point. At each point, we collect data on the following nature and density of the habitat, anthropogenic activities like illegal logging and charcoal production, the nature of the soil and the water regime.

This research will help in reviewing the national species action plan for better conservation of the species. There are plans to build the capacity of selected local communities to undertake ecotourism so as to enable them earn income.



**Top:** Radio tracking the White-necked Picathartes in the field.  
**Bottom:** Radio tagging the White-necked Picathartes in the field.

# Strengthening Conservation of Migratory Shorebird Populations through Monitoring and Community Participation in Ghana

Each year many millions of shorebirds and land birds migrate from their northern breeding grounds in Europe and Asia to wintering areas in western and southern Africa. Many of these birds travel thousands of kilometres along the flyway and rely on a series of high-quality coastal and inland sites as stopover points to feed and rest.

The East Atlantic Flyway is the network of stepping stone sites used each year by these migrating birds. The BirdLife International partnership, therefore, established the East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI) to facilitate the monitoring of birds and sites, identify conservation priorities, and increase conservation capacity for their protection along the Flyway.

In line with this initiative, GWS was awarded the BirdLife International East Atlantic Flyway Initiative Small Grants Fund via the Vogelbescherming Nederland (VBN) to implement its new project on migratory shorebird populations in Ghana. The project seeks to enhance the

conservation of shorebirds at Muni-Pomazde and Songor lagoons, two wintering grounds along the coast of Ghana by ensuring reduced threats through monitoring, public education, and awareness creation as well as evidence-based citizen science.

As part of activities to ensure the success and sustainability of the project, stakeholder engagements at the two project sites were carried out. Chiefs and community members from four communities fringing the Songor and Muni-Pomazde Lagoons were engaged. These communities include Pute and Wasakuse (Songor) and Akosua village and Warabeba (Muni-Pomazde).

The Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission was also engaged as key stakeholders in the project. Currently, the project is ongoing and involve the monitoring of migratory and resident shorebird population counts and observations at vantage locations within the project sites.



# Monthly Birdwalks



For the past decade, GWS has been organizing monthly bird walks as part of its activities to promote the conservation of birds as well as promote the knowledge and conservation of the species through evidence-based citizen science.

With over 748 bird species in Ghana, bird watching is fast growing in the country with the potential of boosting the tourism sector. Also, bird watching is therapeutic; connecting you with nature, improving your mental health and keeping you fit.

The monthly birdwalk is organized every first Saturday of each month. It generally involves birding around several sites in the Greater Accra and the Eastern Regions of Ghana. These sites include Dawhenya Irrigation Area, Densu Delta Ramsar Site, Sakumo Lagoon Ramsar Site, Legon Botanical Gardens and Obosomase. The birdwalks usually start in the

morning and end just before mid-day and include experienced and new birders as well as nature enthusiasts and a few local people. In addition to bird watching, participants are engaged in discussions about nature and other environmental issues. In this way GWS is promoting birdwalk and education and awareness creation.



**Legon Botanical Garden:** Participants start their birdwalk journey at the stunning Vaughn Pond.



**Legon Botanical Gardens:** Participants take in the splendour of avian life through the lenses of their binoculars and a telescope.



**Legon Botanical Gardens:** Participants appreciating avian wonders at during the start of the birdwalk.



**Panbros Salt Industries:** Participants lock focus of their telescope on water bird.



**Panbros Salt Industries:** Participants enjoying a stroll through the salt ponds and gazing through binoculars and a telescope.



**Legon Botanical Gardens:** Participants immerse themselves in the bird-filled beauty of legon botanical gardens.



**Legon Botanical Gardens:** Participants of the birdwalk event referencing from the Birds of Ghana field guide.

## QUICK GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS



birdwalk locations were visited in 2021



birdwalk events were organised



individuals averagely, participate in each birdwalk





## AfriEvolve: Capacity Development for Green NGOs in Africa

NGOs often play a critical role in civil society worldwide. They advocate for the interests and needs of local communities and minorities and secure access and maintenance of natural livelihoods. Nevertheless, local NGOs in Africa often face challenges: Restrictive national NGO laws often prohibit political involvement and restrict fund access.

Consequently, many NGOs are struggling to secure long-term funding and see their influence on political decision-makers for conservation topics limited – both at the national and regional levels. To strengthen NGOs in Africa, Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) is funding six NGOs including the Ghana Wildlife Society in setting up regional cluster networks for enhancing organizational development and capacity building.

Also, these NGOs will introduce climate-resilient farming methods to local farmers at six selected sites in their countries. GWS has, therefore, been working in Mognori, a community fringing the Mole National Park, to introduce Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA). The project is expected to end in December 2023.



# Savannah Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (SIBCI)



## Updating the Management Plan of the Mole National Park

The Mole National Park is a vital protected area in Ghana that serves as a critical habitat for many flora and fauna. Despite its importance, the park has not seen a significant update to its management plan in over a decade. To address this issue, the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) has led support in developing a new management plan in collaboration with the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission and other stakeholders.

The development of the new management plan for the Mole National Park is part of the larger Savannah Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (SIBCI) project, which aims to promote the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in the region. Developing this new plan involved a series of workshops, meetings, field missions, and community and stakeholder engagements. These activities aimed to ensure that the new management plan considers the needs and perspectives of the local communities and other stakeholders.

The development process for the new management plan for the Mole National Park is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. This updated plan will provide the framework for effectively managing and conserving this important protected area. With the implementation of this new plan, it is hoped that the Mole National Park will continue to be a thriving habitat for the diverse species that call it home and a source of enjoyment for visitors for many years to come.



**Top:** Participants deliberating on scientific findings to update the plan. **Middle:** Discussions continue to validate research works and activities of NGOs to plan. **Bottom:** Participants reflect on the way forward to update the management plan.

## Socio-economic and Ecological Assessment of the Mole Landscape

A key component of the Savanna Integrated Biodiversity Conservation Initiative (SIBCI) is to undertake a socio-economic and ecological assessment in and around the Mole National Park.

The socio-economic survey aimed to assess the socio-economic conditions in identified communities to understand the human-nature interactions and in particular the socio-economic dynamics that underlie such interactions to inform an effective and more efficient resource governance mechanism.

The survey was conducted through a broad survey of critical stakeholders within the scope of the project sites. The ecological assessment, on the other hand, involves the biological and ecological assessment including the fauna and flora assemblages as well as ecosystem and habitat types in the Mole National Park.

The team of experts commissioned for the ecological assessment was drawn from areas such as Herpetofauna, Avifauna, Entomofauna, Large and Small Mammals, Terrestrial Invertebrates and Flora or vegetation.

The study was underpinned by rigorous scientific methods and took several months to complete. The results of the socio-economic and ecological assessment served as a critical input to updating the management plan of the Mole National Park.



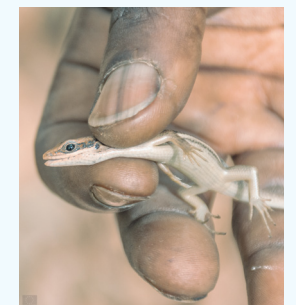
**Small mammal survey:** Inspecting Sherman trap for small mammals.



*Small mammals and Herpetofauna team at the Mole National Park.*



**Herpetology survey:** Setting up drift fence.



Species captured at the Mole NP (left: *Heliobolus nitidus*, right: *Atelerix albiventris*).



## Establishing Participatory Processes and Mainstreaming of Sustainable Management of Conservation Areas Into District/Municipal Development Plans

Among other things, SIBCI seeks to address the challenge of the general lack of integration and coordination of biodiversity conservation in the development plans of the various municipalities/districts of the project jurisdiction.

The University for Development Studies (UDS) led visits to each of the five Municipal/Districts Assemblies in the Mole Landscape. They are the West Gonja Municipal Assembly, North Gonja District Assembly, Sawla/Tuna/Kalba District Assembly, Wa East District Assembly and Mamprugu Moagduri District Assembly. The SIBCI project was introduced to the district administrative staff, particularly the District Planning Officers (DPOs).

The discussions bordered on issues about the Mole National Park and how the districts should incorporate the Park management into their Medium-Term Development Plans.

Subsequently, a two-day planning workshop was organised in Damongo from the 12th to 14th of July 2021 for participants to deliberate on key issues of the Mole National Park and how to mainstream them into the District Medium Term Development Plans. The workshop stimulated discussion on how each district would incorporate conservation of the natural resources in their upcoming Medium-Term Development Plans.

Participants at the workshop included representatives from the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), District Planning Officers and District Directors of Agriculture of the five Districts, Management of the Mole National Park, the Environmental Protection Agency, Traditional Authorities, Civil Society Organizations, and the Media.



Group photograph of participants at the workshop.



**Breakout session:** Group discussion session with some participants at the workshop. **Discussion session:** Assessment of group work by other group members at the workshop. **Breakout session:** Group working of some participants at the workshop.



**Discussion session:** Presentation of group work by participants at the workshop.



## Fostering Transboundary Collaboration to Establish Ecological Connectivity Between Mole National Park and Adjoining Protected Areas

SIBCI explores the possibility of formulating complementary management plans that will safeguard the corridors between the Mole-Comoe and Mole-Nazinga parks and facilitate the movement of wildlife populations to reduce the possibility of local extinction.

As such a virtual meeting was held on the 27th of July, 2021. The meeting aimed to establish stronger sectorial and transboundary collaboration towards sustainable management of the Mole-Comoe and Mole-Nazinga corridors.

Thirty-nine (39) persons made up of directors, managers and officers of Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS), the Director for Nature and Development Foundation (NDF), representatives of the University for Development Studies (UDS), COSPE, Wildlife Division (WD) of the Forestry Commission, Comoe National Park, PO Nazinga Game Ranch, Mole National Park and the European Union (EU) participated in the virtual meeting.

## Support strategic environmental assessment for policies, development programmes and sector plans to mitigate negative impacts on the MNP

SIBCI also sought to develop a robust framework for monitoring and reporting on the performance of Strategic Environmental Assessments (SEAs) within Metropolitan/Municipal/District Assemblies (MMDAs). This will ensure that the development programmes and sector plans of the five MMDAs will consider mitigating the negative impacts on MNP and the environment.

UDS worked closely with the Ghana Wildlife Society and build on their past similar working relations with the NDPC in coordinating this activity. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the NDPC was developed to facilitate this action. A consultant was then hired to develop a monitoring framework to set the tone for the technical working group (EPA, NDPC, UDS and GWS) which met and reviewed assemblies' development plans including its implementation plan. A workshop was organised in Damongo from 22nd to 24th August 2021.

The purpose of the workshop was to allow the five District Assemblies to subject their sector plans and development programmes outlined in their Medium-Term Development Plans to strategic environmental assessment. The SEA process was facilitated by staff of the National Development Planning Commission with support from the staff of UDS. Each district subjected their plans through the SEA process and eventually completed the SEA process for its MTDPs.

Participants included District Planning Officers and District Directors of Agriculture from the five Districts, Civil Society Organisations, Management of the Mole National Park, Environmental Protection Agency Media and Traditional Authorities.



Group photograph of participants at the workshop.



### Promote Knowledge Sharing on Protected Areas through Dialogues, Exchange Visits Across Sectors, and Cross-Regional Platforms for Sharing Best Practices

Addressing the challenges associated with knowledge and information sharing on best practices among stakeholders to ensure better management of the Mole National Park and adjoining protected areas (Nazinga-Mole Corridor) through improved governance was one of the activities implemented under SIBCI.

Nature and Development Foundation led a workshop to promote experience sharing among seven CREMAS around Mole National Park.

The aim was to share experiences in the formation and management of the CREMAS, potential challenges, team building, and group management. Participants also shared their thoughts on their understanding of the applicable by-laws and how they are applied.



**Discussions sessions:** Asst. Park Manager of MNP giving a brief speech on participatory park governance through team building.



**Discussions sessions:** Participants share information on best practices, lessons and experiences in CREMA management.



**Field visits:** Participants on a field visit to some CREMA sites fringing the Mole National Park Landscape.



Group photograph of participants at the workshop.





# Empowering Communities



## Workshop on Conservation Agriculture

Under this activity, SIBCI sought to introduce conservation agriculture to the farmers to protect the environment and the MNP.

Two hundred and fifty-two (252) farmers (165 males and 87 females) in 7 communities (Jelinkon, Ducie, Gurumbele Tantala, Mogduri, Mankarigu and Murugu) in the 5 districts (West Gonja, North Gonja, Sawla/Tuna/Kalba, Wa East and Mamprugu-Moagduri) have completed farmer-schools on conservation agriculture.

Two (2) Agriculture Extension Officers from each of the 5 districts facilitated the training. Currently, the extension officers are monitoring the farmers to ensure that they adopt and implement the recommended best practices, as part of an agreement signed with each of the district's Department of Agriculture.



**Training Session:** Facilitator taking participants through various sustainable agricultural practices



Group photograph of participants at the training



**Training Session:** Facilitator taking participants through various sustainable agricultural practices

## Sustainable Beekeeping

As part of the SIBCI project, beekeeping is supposed to be established in selected communities within the Mole landscape. Beekeeping as an enterprise fits very well with small-scale farmers' livelihoods. Bees provide pollination services to the flora found within the ecosystem. It is an enterprise that can provide employment, income, and economic security for households in rural areas.

The University for Development Studies (UDS), an implementing partner, conducted reconnaissance visits to 10 communities located within 4 districts to identify potential beneficiaries for bee farming. They are North Gonja, Sawla/Tuna/Kalba, Wa East and Mamprugu-Moagduri Districts. Following the visits, a comprehensive needs assessment of potential beneficiaries was conducted based on expert knowledge and experience. Subsequently, 4 beekeeping training sessions were organised in Jelinkon, Ducie, Mankarigu and Tantala.

The training centred on the following key topics: apiary site selection, apiary setup equipment, beehive installation, apiary management, honey harvesting, packaging, marketing and record keeping. Ten (10) beneficiaries were selected from each of the 10 communities to benefit from the training.

Start-up packs were also provided to the beneficiaries. These included 2 beehives, 2 fabricated metal stands, bee suits, veils, hats, wellington boots, smokers, hand gloves and wax.



**Donation Session:** Beekeeping items donated to selected beneficiaries within the Mole landscape.



**Training Session:** Facilitator taking participants through various measures to ensure sustainable, climate-smart honey production.



**Donation Session:** Hazmat suit donated to selected beneficiaries to support safe harvesting of honey.

### QUICK GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS



**100**

were trained on sustainable bee production.



**200**

beehives and accessories were donated to the farmers





## Squacco Heron

*Ardeola ralloides*

**LC** Least Concern

The Squacco Heron is a beautiful wading bird native to the wetlands and riverbanks of Ghana. It is a medium-sized bird with a distinctive long neck, rounded head, and rich brown and white plumage. During the breeding season, the Squacco Heron can be seen nesting in reed beds, where it feeds on a variety of aquatic prey such as fish, frogs, and insects. The bird is highly dependent on the quality of its wetland habitat, which is threatened by activities such as deforestation, pollution, and damming of rivers.



# Conservation Education



## World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day 2021 was celebrated under the theme “Sing, Fly, Soar – Like a Bird!” on 8th May 2021. It was seen as an invitation to people everywhere to connect and reconnect with nature by actively listening to and watching birds wherever they are. At the same time, the theme reached out to people around the world to use their voices and creativity to express their shared appreciation of birds and nature.

The Ghana Wildlife Society organized an outdoor activity with school children. Three schools were visited to educate young people in Wildlife Clubs on bird conservation. At least 150 school children, 5 teachers and 1 volunteer participated in the activity.

The schools visited were the Prince of Peace Presby School in Tema, the Sakumono School Complex “2” J.H.S, and the Mexico “2” JHS also in Tema. The main purpose of the visit was to get the Wildlife School Club Members and Teachers to learn more about the ecological importance of migratory birds, to show more concern for birds, and their habitats and to take action to conserve them and the environment.



**Presentation:** Educating students on the importance of migratory birds.



**Group photograph:** Students at Sakumono School Complex “2” JHS.



## International Day of Biodiversity

The Ghana Wildlife Society, in partnership with the A Rocha Ghana, organised an art contest to commemorate World Biodiversity Day under the theme “We are part of the solution”, #ForNature on 22nd May 2021.

The art competition aimed to contribute to promoting sustainable and nature-based solutions towards addressing biodiversity loss and encourage young people to use their artistic skills to raise public awareness and act toward biodiversity restoration.

Over 20 schools were engaged in this Art contest that highlighted the theme. Prizes such as Art supplies and educational materials were presented to the winners.



**Group photograph (Top & Bottom):** Student participants posing with their artworks.

## International Vulture Awareness Day

Every first Saturday in September each year, the world celebrates International Vulture Awareness Day to raise awareness about the plight of vultures and educate the public on the essential role of these species in the ecological health of the environment.

To mark the celebration for the year 2021, GWS adopted the theme “conserve vultures” with several activities that took place from 4th to 9th September in Accra. The objective of the celebration was to create awareness about the plight and importance of vulture species. Two major activities were organized to mark this day.

They included a colouring competition and a series of interviews granted to the media outlet to educate the public. The colouring competition was organized for 60 school children (ages 15-18) at the “Akosombo Afrikiko River Front Resort” with awards presented to the winners. This competition was organized to educate children about vulture species and their importance to society.



**Image Top & Bottom:** School children displaying their colouring work during the IVAD celebrations.



## World Environment Day

GWS in partnership with Street Sense Organisation, the Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA), the Forestry Commission, the Ghana Recycling Initiative by Private Enterprises (GRIPE) and “Let’s Do It Ghana” organised a tree planting exercise along the High Street of Accra in commemoration of World Environment Day 2021 under the theme “Ecosystem Restoration”.

World Environment Day 2021 marked the launch of the United Nations Decade on Ecosystem Restoration 2021 – 2030 (UN Decade) with a clear message that resonated across the globe: The planet is ailing but humanity still has time to undo decades of environmental destruction and recalibrate its relationship with nature! The event aimed at creating awareness and education on ecosystem restoration and tree planting.

Over 1000 trees were planted along the principal streets of Accra. Also, as part of the WED 2021, GWS in partnership with Ghacem organised a tree planting exercise in the Tema Metropolis to support the green Ghana project. Over 500 trees were planted by GWS and GHACEM.



**World Environment Day:** Volunteer watering a newly planted seedling.



**World Environment Day:** Group photograph of some participants after the tree planting exercise.



**World Environment Day:** Group photograph of some participants after the tree planting exercise.

## World Cleanup Day

The Ghana Wildlife Society, in partnership with Let’s Do it Ghana organised a clean-up exercise at Laboma Beach in Accra to commemorate World Cleanup Day 2021. The cleanup exercise aimed to contribute to promoting a cleaner, safer, and greener marine environment for all and help sea turtles along the coast of Accra from plastic pollution.

At the end of the cleanup exercise, over 2 tonnes of wastes (mostly single-use- plastics, metals, glass bottles, discarded fishing gears, car tyres, flip flops, rice bags etc.) were collected from the beach by over 300 volunteers, nature lovers and organizations who turned up in their numbers to help to clean the beach. The waste collected was sorted into various categories for a brand audit.

The brand audit documented the brands found during the cleanup exercise to identify the companies responsible for plastic pollution on our beaches and to hold these businesses accountable for their plastic packaging. The brand audit aimed to get businesses to show more commitment and adopt more sustainable and innovative packaging methods to prevent their products from polluting our marine ecosystem. The plastic wastes were later collected by “Gladys”, a recycling company.



**Top:** Volunteers picking plastic waste during the cleanup at the Laboma beach. **Bottom:** Group photograph of some volunteers after the cleanup exercise.



**World Cleanup Day:** Carting collected waste for sorting after the cleanup exercise at the Laboma beach.



**World Cleanup Day:** Sorting collected plastic waste after the cleanup exercise at the Laboma beach.





# Digital Communications







The Society effectively reaches its key audiences through various communication channels, including the primary website: [ghanawildlifesociety.org](http://ghanawildlifesociety.org), the blog site: [blog.ghanawildlifesociety.org](http://blog.ghanawildlifesociety.org), and a variety of social media platforms.

While the website and blog remain our number one sources of information and consumption, the significance of social media in communication has significantly grown.

Below is a summary of user engagement on channels managed by the GWS communications unit. Facebook was the most engaging social media platform, with 9,841 interactions (likes, comments, and shares) from 3,810 followers.

The society's audience tends to engage with content on convenient platforms and, increasingly, with visually appealing content, such as images and videos. The number of followers and engagement on social channels is continuously increasing.

## SOCIAL MEDIA FOOTPRINT

 <b>4.5K</b> WEBSITE PAGE VISITS	 <b>386</b> NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIBERS
 <b>3.8K</b> FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS	 <b>877</b> TWITTER FOLLOWERS
 <b>893</b> INSTAGRAM FOLLOWERS	 <b>75</b> YOUTUBE SUBSCRIBERS



# Publications

## AS SEEN IN THE MEDIA



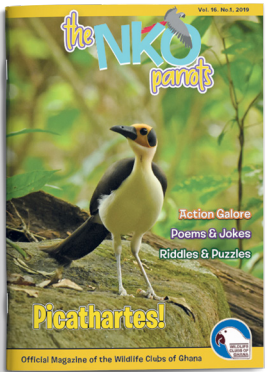
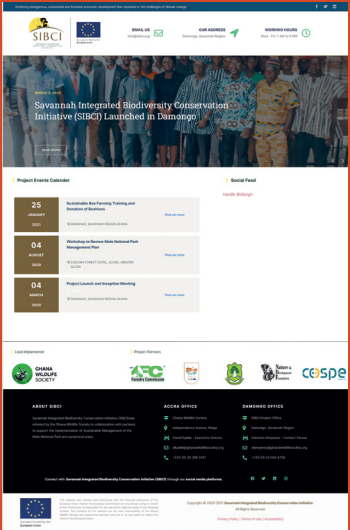
The Society expresses gratitude for being showcased on various television and radio stations in 2021. We were featured on the Breakfast Show on GTV to commemorate International Vulture Awareness Day. We also appeared on United Television's mid-morning program to raise awareness against the killing of vultures in Ghana.



## PUBLISHED SIBCI WEBSITE

The website for the SIBCI project was designed and published on January 1, 2021, with the aim of boosting visibility and enhancing interactions with target audiences, partners, and relevant stakeholders.

Visit and check it out:  
[sibci.org/](http://sibci.org/)



### MAGAZINE: THE NKO PARROTS

(Official magazine of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana)

This magazine is not a scientific journal but expected to help you discover more about the environment and the things that impact on it. We all have the responsibility to learn about the things that impact on the environment and how we can help protect the planet.

Please scan the QR code to download and read the full magazine.

Alternatively, you can visit  
[www.ghanawildlifesociety.org/publications](http://www.ghanawildlifesociety.org/publications) to read.





## African Swamphen

*Porphyrio madagascariensis*

**LC** Least Concern

The African Swamphen, also known as the African Purple Swamphen, is a unique and colourful bird species found in the wetlands of Ghana. With its bright blue and purple plumage, red bill, and distinctive long toes, it is a striking sight in its natural habitat. The African Swamphen is a highly adaptable bird that can be found in a variety of wetland habitats, including freshwater marshes, ponds, and rice fields. It feeds on a variety of plant and animal material, including aquatic vegetation, seeds, and insects. Although it is not considered a threatened species, the African Swamphen is facing challenges from habitat destruction, degradation, and disturbance from human activities. Conservation efforts are necessary to protect this fascinating bird and its wetland habitat for future generations.



# Policy and Advocacy



## CREMAs in the Mole Landscape Trained in Forest Monitoring Technology

The Society with support from the US-based Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA), has trained members of four Community Resources Management Areas (CREMAs) in the Mole Landscape in forest monitoring using the TIMBY app. The TIMBY app is an android-based software application used in gathering evidence and reporting incidences, which is often used for forest and environmental crimes around the globe.

For some time now, Ghana has been witnessing widespread forest and environmental illegalities, especially illegal logging of rosewood and illegal mining (popularly called galamsey). In our quest to contribute toward protecting our forest and curbing illegal logging (especially rosewood) in Ghana, GWS is implementing the “community forest monitoring project in the Mole Landscape.”

The project, among other things, seeks to strengthen and support CREMAs in protecting the Mole National Park and peripheral landscapes. In this regard, four CREMAs fringing the Mole National Park were trained in the use of the environmental crime reporting app to gather evidence and report illegalities. The CREMAs are Murugu-Mognori, Moagduri-Wuntanluri-Kuwumsaasi, Jelinkon and Chakali-Sungmaalu. While two of these CREMAs are in the Savannah Region, the others are in the North-East and Upper West Regions of Ghana.

Twenty-five (25) CREMA members in all were trained in the use of TIMBY tools and capacities built in identifying and reporting

forest illegalities. The project also provided equipment to enable them to sustain the campaign as well as to assist in their daily activities. Each of the 25 CREMA members received a Samsung smartphone, a raincoat, a pair of wellington boots, a cutlass, and a water bottle. The participants will be reporting illegalities such as illegal logging, poaching and charcoal production in and around the forest, as well as other forest offences.

GWS and EIA hope to use the report generated to continue their campaign against forest illegalities, advocating for better monitoring and equipping the Forestry Commission and other state agencies to protect our natural resources and push for better enforcement of the laws.



**Top:** Training selected participants on the use of the TIMBY app at Ducie.

## Review of Ghana's Legal Framework on Protected Areas, Agriculture and Environmental Assessment

GWS has been engaging the government to adopt the findings and recommendations of the project that reviewed Ghana's legal framework on protected areas, agriculture and environmental assessment. One of the recommendations prioritised in the review report was to advocate for the passage of the Wildlife Resource Management Bill.

Advocacy actions have been initiated to draw stakeholders' attention to the relevance of the Bill and the need to fast-track its passage into law. As part of the advocacy, GWS published a position statement on why the Bill needs to

be passed and engaged some stakeholders. Another recommendation is the transformation of the current Riparian Buffer Zone Policy into law. GWS has developed a relationship with the Water Resource Commission, the authority mandated with the responsibility of managing Ghana's water resources.

Engagement with the Commission is ongoing regarding the transformation of the riparian policy into law. The progression of the process has been slow due to COVID-19 and the protracted dialogue being held with traditional authorities.

Read the full report: [bit.ly/AR1920LPreview](https://bit.ly/AR1920LPreview)



**Top:** Demonstrating the use of the TIMBY app at Murugu.  
**Bottom:** Donation of items to participants at Ducie.

## Campaign on Mainstreaming Biodiversity and Birds into Renewable Energy Development in Ghana

Following the publication of the GWS position paper entitled 'Wind Energy Development and Power Transmission in view of Bird and Biodiversity Conservation in Ghana', we continue to engage stakeholders in the sector to create awareness and push for the adoption of environmentally-friendly measures in renewable energy development. Stakeholders engaged included the Volta River Authority (VRA), the Energy Commission and the Ghana Grid Company.

The VRA, subsequently, made available two Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs) for their planned wind farm project. This was subsequently reviewed for compliance with national and international best practices and also provided recommendations to ensure bird-friendly measures are adopted and implemented.

Read position paper: <https://bit.ly/2Wf2peE>



# Corporate Membership



## Endangered Animal Species Fence

The celebrated endangered animal species project was launched by GWS in 2003 with the aim of educating and creating awareness among the public on the plight of rare, vulnerable and threatened animal species in the bush meat trade in Ghana. It was setup to also compliment fundraising efforts for our conservation activities.

The impact has been enormous, raising many inquiries and requests for further information and reference materials on endangered species.

Through partnership with corporate institutions, the fence provides organisations and businesses the opportunity to fulfil their corporate social responsibilities by committing funds towards the Society's conservation activities whilst projecting their corporate image.



The Society currently has nine (9) corporate partners.



**Endangered Species Fence:** The species fence facing the independence avenue was renovated and updated to reflect our new corporate partners.

## Corporate Membership Event

In 2021 GWS brought together its corporate members in an event dubbed "Corporate Cocktail Membership Night".

The event was aimed at bringing together GWS staff and members under its Corporate Membership Scheme to network, keeping them up to speed on the organization's conservation work and sustaining their interest in nature to continue contributing to our fundraising efforts.

At the event were the Environmental Protection Agency, Movenpick Ambassador Hotel, Accra City Hotel, Ghana Chamber of Mines, GH Media, Golden Star Resources, La Villa Boutique Hotel, and many others.



**Corporate Membership Event:** Interaction between GWS staff and a corporate member.



**Corporate Membership Event:** A view of the venue before the arrival of guests.



**Corporate Membership Event:** Interaction between corporate members from Golden Star Resources.



**Corporate Membership Event:** Interaction between corporate members from Golden Star Resources.

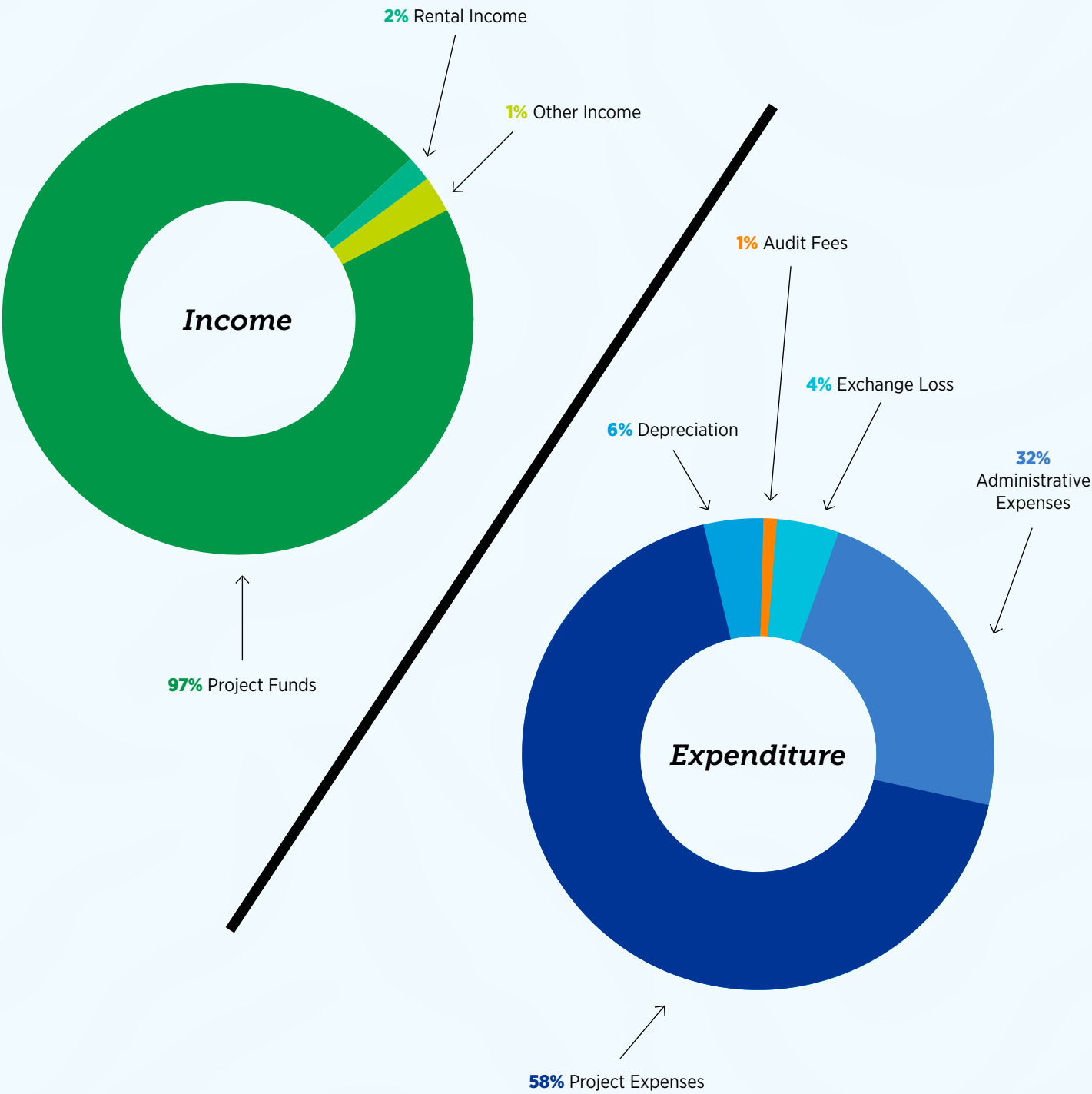


**Corporate Membership Event:** Interaction between GWS staff and a council member.



# Summarised Financial Statements

Ghana Wildlife Society Statement of Income and Expenditure and Accumulated Fund for the year ended 31st December, 2021			2021 (GH¢)	2020 (GH¢)
<b>Income</b>				
Rental Income			33,500	18,000
Project Funds			1,449,839	1,444,334
Sponsorships			-	16,974
Other Income			19,157	451,036
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>			<b>1,502,494</b>	<b>1,930,344</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Administrative Expenses			770,852	532,406
Project Expenses			1,390,916	1,719,187
Depreciation			141,650	102,347
Audit Fees			14,310	12,000
Exchange Loss			88,288	-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>			<b>2,406,016</b>	<b>2,365,940</b>
<i>Excess of Income over Expenditure</i>			(903,521)	(435,596)
<b>Accumulated Fund</b>				
Balance as at 01/01/2020			6,901,761	7,491,768
Prior Year Adjustment			9,944	(154,411)
Excess of Income over Expenditure			(903,521)	(435,596)
<b>BALANCE AS AT 31/12/2020</b>			<b>6,008,185</b>	<b>6,901,761</b>







BREEDING ADULT © Joseph Afrifa

Our work is firmly rooted in partnerships, and relies on science that inspires positive conservation actions in collaboration with communities, civil society groups, businesses, universities and the government.



[www.ghanawildlifesociety.org](http://www.ghanawildlifesociety.org)



[info@ghanawildlifesociety.org](mailto:info@ghanawildlifesociety.org)



+233 (0) 30 266 5197



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Relying on science to  
inspire conservation  
actions for the benefit of  
**people and nature**

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Yellow-headed Picathartes

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