

For Nature & People

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



GHANA
WILDLIFE
SOCIETY



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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 Biology and Conservation Science of the University of Ghana. He has a Ph.D. 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



Rev. David Guba Kpelle

Executive Director



Richard Appoh

Director (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



Nana Kwakyewaa Adu

Finance & Administrative 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.)



Joseph Kwasi Afrifa

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

Lawrence Kumesi

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 Vifa

Security Guard

Winston Kanyi

National Service Personnel

Gideon Osei Nyamekye

National Service Personnel

Enerstina Ahema

National Service Personnel

Message from the President



“Significant strides have been made in implementing our projects within Ghana’s largest wildlife protected area, the Mole National Park, and its fringe communities. Our projects in other parts of the country have also recorded tremendous successes.”

Dear Friends, Partners, and Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure to present to you the annual report for GWS. The report gives highlights of the tremendous strides and accomplishments made in 2022. During the year under review, we successfully forged new partnerships aimed at conserving biodiversity and empowering local communities to achieve conservation objectives. The approach adopted was to consolidate collaborative natural resource management actions towards our shared goal of protecting Ghana’s natural heritage, while fostering sustainable community development.

We strengthened our commitment to work closely with government agencies, donors, partners, and project beneficiaries in advancing our conservation efforts. This strategy has fostered deeper connections and garnered increased support for conservation within the various landscapes where we work.

Significant strides have been made in implementing our projects within Ghana’s largest wildlife protected area, the Mole National Park, and its fringe communities. Our projects in other parts of the country have also recorded tremendous successes. These initiatives have contributed significantly to sustainable environmental practices, benefiting both biodiversity and local communities across the country.

In line with our mission to safeguard biodiversity, we continue to develop new projects to expand our impact and address evolving conservation challenges. Our commitment to research remains unwavering, with a focus on deepening our understanding of key wildlife species and habitats. This research forms the bedrock of our conservation strategies, enabling evidence-based interventions.

Our participation in significant global conservation events, such as World Earth Day, World Migratory Bird Day, World Environment Day, and World Clean-Up Day, was augmented by working with our partners. This also enhanced the image of the Society as a leading conservation NGO. In all these events, we demonstrated our commitment to global environmental causes and continued to advocate for biodiversity conservation through non-confrontational campaigns.

At the local level, our monthly bird walks have been used to engage bird enthusiasts and the public as part of our conservation education and awareness strategy.

As we reflect on our achievements, I extend my deepest appreciation to our dedicated team, donors, partners, and members. Together, we have made substantial progress in our mission to conserve biodiversity, empower communities, and advocate for a sustainable future.

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



Red-billed Quelea © Joseph Afrifa

Research & Conservation Science



Promoting Biodiversity Protection in Ghana through the Key Biodiversity Area Approach

In line with promoting and advancing the Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) concept in Africa, GWS organized a three-day workshop in April 2022 to build capacities and assess areas based on the KBA criteria.

The workshop was part of the “Building Networks for KBA Monitoring and Protection in the Guinean Forest of West Africa” project funded by the Royal Society funded for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) and the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF).

Participants in the workshop included representatives from the Universities, Researchers, Representatives from the Forestry Commission, Ministries, NGOs, and Civic Society Organizations to broaden the understanding of the KBA process.

Different presenters presented several modules tailored to achieving the objective of the workshop. Further, the Terms of Reference for the National Coordinating Group (NCG) were developed, and nominations for membership of the NCG were also concluded.

Further, participants were taken through site assessment and completion of a KBA proposal form for a site to be designated as a KBA. Participants at the workshop also conducted a gap analysis of KBAs in the country and recommended all legacy KBAs need re-assessment, but the NCG must be prioritized.



Breakout session: Participants during a group working session.



Presentation session: Participants during a presentation session.



Conserving the White-necked Picathartes through Research and Community Participation

For over a decade now, GWS has been conducting research and implementing conservation actions to safeguard the White-necked Picathartes, its habitats, and sites in Ghana, with financial support from the A. G. Leventis Foundation.

In 2022, GWS continued its field research using radio tracking to find the species' home range. A reconnaissance survey of the species nesting locations was conducted as part of the field study. Also, two training workshops were organized to improve the skills of twenty site support group members as tour guides toward developing a sustainable ecotourism scheme.



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

A social survey in the forest communities of Bonsa Ben and Akwamu Hill Forest Reserve was also conducted to evaluate the impact of non-timber forest products (NTFPs) on the conservation of the Picathartes species. This allowed the researchers to prioritize developing a well-targeted awareness creation initiative and areas of support needed in the forest communities.

The project also engaged various stakeholders, especially experts who contributed to developing the species action plan for the White-necked Picathartes. This action is a precursor to the effort to develop new or review the outdated species action plan.



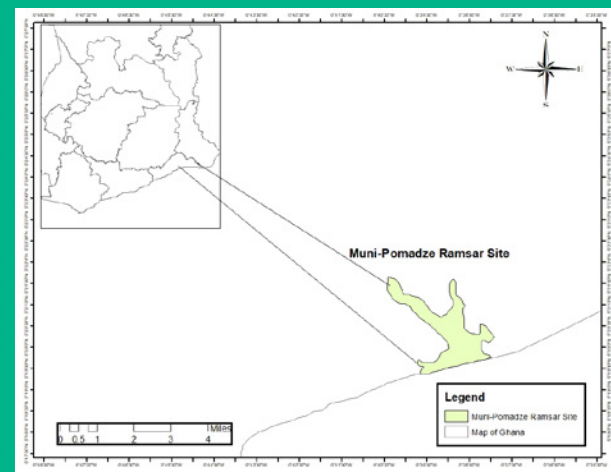
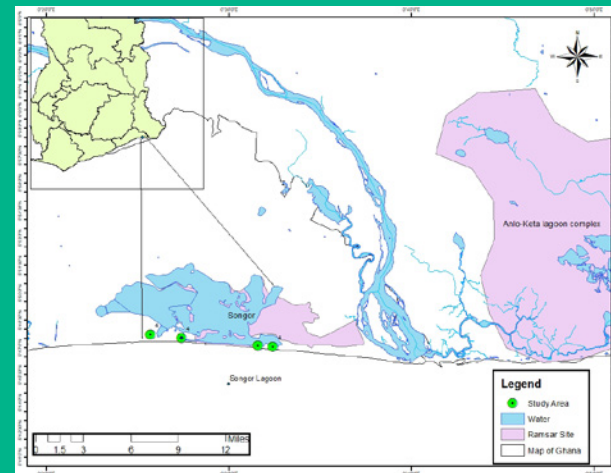
Stakeholder Engagement: Engaging community stakeholder in developing the Picathartes species action plan.

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

The coastal wetlands of Ghana serve as critical habitats for a diverse array of water-bird species, encompassing both migratory and resident populations. These wetlands have been subject to consistent monitoring efforts since 1985, initiated by the Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS) and subsequently taken over by the Centre for Biodiversity Conservation Research (CBCR), formerly known as the Centre for African Wetlands (CAW). This extended period of observation has yielded invaluable long-term data on water-bird populations within the West African sub-region and along the East Atlantic Flyway.

In a collaborative endeavour, GWS and CBCR conducted intensive monitoring of both migratory and resident shorebird populations. Additionally, we provided training to local volunteers residing in fringe communities adjacent to the Songor and Muni-Pomadze Ramsar wetland sites. Over the course of the year spanning September 2021 to August 2022, a remarkable total of 90,679 birds were recorded at these two sites. Muni-Pomadze saw 19,141 birds across 50 different species, while Songor recorded a staggering 71,538 birds belonging to 53 species.

The training sessions, held at the Songor Wildlife Office in August and September 2022, played a pivotal role in this successful monitoring endeavour. Practical field sessions further enriched volunteers' abilities to identify multiple



Pan-African Ornithological Congress

The Pan-African Ornithological Congress (PAOC) is organized once every four years, and it brings together hundreds of professionals and early-career scientists in the field of ornithology. The fifteenth PAOC was held in November 2022 at the Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe.

Mr Joseph Afrifa, a Project Officer, represented GWS at the Congress and gave a presentation on aspects of the GWS' work on conserving migratory land birds in Ghana. Mr Afrifa also presented an overview of IBAs/KBAs criteria in Ghana.

The Congress provided an opportunity to share GWS' work, rekindle old collaborations and develop new ones to advance the conservation of birds, their habitats and sites.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) funded our participation at the PAOC 15.



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

In 2020, Foundation Franklinia provided \$203,300 in financial support to a collaborative effort between the Ghana Wildlife Society and the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST). The aim of this initiative was to enhance the genetic diversity of the Critically Endangered Endemic species, *Talbotiella gentii*, in Ghana.

The project, which ran from January 1st to December 31st, 2020, focused on the eastern Upper Guinean Forest, including various reserves and locations.

The project had three primary objectives:

1. To gain a comprehensive understanding of the current population distribution of *Talbotiella gentii*, its significance, and the threats it faces.
2. To increase the size and number of *Talbotiella gentii* populations using in situ conservation strategies.
3. To enhance the protection of forest stands inhabited by *Talbotiella gentii* from existing threats.

By the project's conclusion, they had assessed the status of existing *Talbotiella* populations, creating distribution maps and increasing the occupied area from 34.53 hectares to 74.03 hectares after in situ restoration.

Notably, they successfully germinated 45,000 seedlings from seeds collected from trees with high genetic diversity, achieving a 75% germination rate and a 94% survival rate.

The project also involved the transplantation of 10,000 indigenous tree seedlings and training 74 community fire volunteers to safeguard against wildfires.

Education and awareness efforts reached approximately 1,000 people in eight communities, emphasizing the conservation importance of *Talbotiella gentii*, reducing wood exploitation for charcoal, and promoting its cultural and ecotourism value. A video documentary highlighting the species' conservation status and ongoing efforts was produced as part of the project.



GWS staff engaging participants during a training and awareness exercise on fire management, and wood exploitation reduction.



Talbotiella gentii seedlings at the GWS nursery in Buenye - 1 km from the Yongwa Forest Reserve.



Please scan the QR code to watch the full video of the meeting on our YouTube Channel.

Alternatively, you can visit

<https://youtu.be/2AxCBHnOeJo>



Monthly Birdwalks



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

With over 758 bird species in Ghana, bird watching is fast growing in the country, potentially boosting the tourism sector. Also, bird watching is therapeutic; connecting with nature improves your mental health and keeps you fit.

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

The birdwalks usually start in the morning and end just before midday and include experienced and new birds, nature enthusiasts, and a few local people. In addition to bird watching, participants are engaged in discussions about nature and other environmental issues.



Legon Botanical Gardens: Participants immerse themselves in the bird-filled beauty of the Legon Botanical Garden.



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



Shea nuts © Raphael Nii Laate Lartey

AfriEvolve

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)



Operationalize of anti-poaching systems and annual monitoring of management efficiency

GWS collaborated with the Wildlife Division (WD) of the Forestry Commission to organize a workshop to train and build the capacity of law enforcement managers and officers. This was designed to be interactive and practical to ensure the fullest participation of the present.

Wildlife Division senior managers were engaged as resource persons to conduct the training. The workshop was organized in April 2022 Mole National Park.

The practical session, which was in turn afterwards, involved the deployment and patrol at hotspots to collect SMART data within and around the park. Thirty-two (32) participants selected for the programme were key law enforcement personnel of the park made up of Law Enforcement (LE) range managers, range supervisors, patrol reporters, and data entry clerks.

These categories form the core of staff responsible for key decision-making, data collection, entry and analysis in the SMART system. Some CREMA members were also invited to benefit from the training.



Practical Training Session: Participant analysing SMART data collected within the Mole National Park during the training exercise.



Northern Red Bishop © Joseph Afrifa

AfriEvolve: Capacity Development for Green NGOs in Africa

In his welcome address, the Assistant Park Manager of the Mole National Park, Mr. Bona Kyiire, said the cordial relationship between the Mole National Park and the Mognori community is yielding many fruits, as evidenced by the number of NGOs supporting the community. He thanked the Ghana Wildlife Society, NABU, and BMZ for implementing such an initiative to improve women's livelihoods in the catchment of the Mole National Park.

Mr. David Guba Kpelle, the Executive Director of the Ghana Wildlife Society, explained that the facility is intended to support women's livelihoods to improve food security and reduce poverty. He said the Mognori community will always be considered for such projects because of their continuous support of the park in wildlife protection through the CREMA and commended the CREMA executives for their effort. He explained that the CREMA concept was initiated by the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission to encourage communities bordering protected areas to manage and sustainably utilize wildlife resources within a defined area through a participatory community approach.



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



Peer-to-peer visit Session: Participants discussing and sharing ideas during a visit at the Mole National Park.



Donation Session: Assistant Manager of Mole National Park handing over the keys of the garden to the Chief of Mognori Community.

The Chief of Mognori, the Tindanaa, and the people of the Mognori community witnessed the event. It also coincided with the AfriEvolve Peer-to-Peer visit to Ghana, with representatives of NABU, Birdlife, SOS Forests, and NATURAMA witnessing it.

The peer-to-peer exchange visit served as a learning and knowledge-sharing platform among partners implementing the AfriEvolve project in their respective countries.

Project Information

AfriEvolve is a project led by Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union (NABU) with financial support from BMZ and NABU. The project aims to enable the six local East African and West African NGOs to use newly gained capacities for improved civil society cooperation and climate adaptation of smallholder agriculture.

GWS, as part of the six NGOs in this project, is working in Mognori, a community fringing the Mole National Park, to introduce Climate Smart Agriculture (CSA).

Inauguration of the Climate Smart Agriculture Training Hub

GWS inaugurated and handed over a Climate Smart Agriculture Training Hub to the Chief and Executives of the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) of Mognori, a farming community fringing the Mole National Park in northern Ghana. The hub is a fenced garden equipped with a borehole, solar powered-pump, overhead tank with stand, and a drip irrigation system. The women's group will use the hub in Mognori to cultivate dry-season vegetables to supplement their household consumption and incomes and serve as the venue for all AfriEvolve climate-smart agriculture training.



AfriEvolve Project: A view of the solar powered irrigation system that powers the garden.



AfriEvolve Project: Project signpost mounted at the Mognori community



Empowering Communities



Mango Agroforestry for Landscape Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation

The “**Mango Agroforestry for Landscape Restoration and Biodiversity Conservation**” project in the Savannah Region of Ghana, funded through a grant from the Embassy of France in Ghana under the French Solidarity Programme, commenced in June 2022. Its primary objective is to restore approximately 500 hectares of degraded land surrounding the Mole National Park, promoting income generation and resilience through mango agroforestry.

Five communities—Murugu, Mognori, Larabanga, Grupe in the West Gonja District, and Jelinkon in the Sawla-Tuna-Kalba District—have been selected to participate in the project. One hundred beneficiaries from these communities were carefully chosen by the Community Resources Management Area (CREMA) committees, ensuring fairness by selecting no more than one beneficiary per household. Special attention was given to women and youth, with approximately 30% adult men, 30% adult women, and 40% youth among the selected beneficiaries.

GWS provided the beneficiaries three thousand mango seedlings of Kent and Keitt varieties to support the project. A technical officer and a field assistant are actively training and assisting the communities in transplanting mango seedlings. Transplanting has been completed in Murugu and Mognori, and the team is currently working in Jelinkon.



Planting Session: Farmers planting mango seedlings in their farms.



Donation Session: Mango seedlings en route to be distributed.

The seedlings are being transplanted at a spacing of 7m by 6m, in line with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture's recommendations, resulting in a total plant population of 40 per acre. In collaboration with the Regional Agricultural Extension Officer of the Department of Agriculture, Savannah Region, GWS is working to assign five agricultural extension officers with expertise in agroforestry to each beneficiary community.

These officers will provide essential technical support to the beneficiaries, ensuring the project's success. A memorandum of understanding will be signed to formalize this partnership and facilitate the implementation of this crucial activity.



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



Donation Session: Farmer carrying mango seedlings ready to be planted in his farm.



Planting Session: GWS field officer walking farmers through the planting mango seedlings in their farms.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS



100

beneficiaries were trained on sustainable agroforestry.



3,000

mango seedlings were distributed to the farmers.



50%

women farmers were trained on sustainable agroforestry.



1,200

plants have been planted in three communities.

GWS expresses its gratitude to the Embassy of France in Ghana for their generous grant, which has made this project possible.

This project exemplifies our commitment to sustainable practices, community engagement, and the restoration of degraded land.



African Pygmy Kingfisher

Ispidina picta

LC Least Concern

The African Pygmy Kingfisher is a small, vibrant bird species known for its striking appearance and remarkable fishing abilities. With its emerald-green back, bright orange throat, and a distinctive turquoise crown, this kingfisher is a true gem among birds. Found in various habitats throughout sub-Saharan Africa, it primarily resides near water bodies such as streams, rivers, and ponds. Its diet primarily consists of aquatic insects and small fish. Despite being categorized as “Least Concern” by the IUCN, the conservation of freshwater habitats is vital to ensure the continued presence of this diminutive yet enchanting kingfisher in the wild.

Conservation Education



World Migratory Bird Day

World Migratory Bird Day 2022 was celebrated in May 2022 under the theme of “**Light Pollution.**” GWS organised an outdoor activity for the public and school children from DPS School, including a bird-watching excursion to the Densu Delta Ramsar site and the Shai Hills Resource Reserve.

Over 50 students, two teachers, and ten volunteers participated in the event. The GWS technical team guided the students and taught them about bird identification, ecological importance, and conservation actions.

The event also featured an essay competition for the Wildlife Club of Ghana (WCG) members from May to June. The topic, “Light Pollution: A significant threat to migratory birds. Discuss,” aimed to improve writing skills and raise awareness of the impact of light pollution on migratory birds.

This successful event highlighted GWS’ commitment to conserving migratory birds. The bird-watching excursion and essay competition provided educational opportunities, empowering participants to contribute actively to bird conservation. GWS’ efforts to organise impactful events and competitions contribute to protecting migratory birds and the environment.



World Migratory Bird Day: Group photograph of students from DPS school after the excursion at the Shai Hills Resource Reserve.



World Migratory Bird Day: A section of some adult participants during the birdwalk at the Densu Delta.

World Wildlife Day

GWS, in partnership with the Ghana Recycling Initiative by Private Enterprise (GRIPE), commemorated World Wildlife Day 2022 on the theme “**Recovering Key Species for Ecosystem Restoration**”. GWS organized two events to celebrate the day.

The education unit conducted a school outreach programme with wildlife clubs members in the Tema and Dawhenya areas. The main objective was to create awareness and educate students on the significance of wildlife (plants and animals) in our ecosystem, to acknowledge their contribution and the threats they face.

Two (2) schools were visited, the DPS School and Prince of Peace. A total of 250 club members and ten teachers were educated through presentations on the need to reverse the fate of the most critically endangered species, support the restoration of their habitats and ecosystems, and promote their sustainable use by humanity.

To reach more people with the World Wildlife Day message, selected club members shared speeches with the GWS team via video and on placards which were later shared on our social media platforms. Certificates of participation each were awarded to headteachers of the schools, and ten story books to each school.



World Wildlife Day: GWS Education Officer giving a presentation to the students of the DPS school.



International Vulture Awareness Day

To mark the celebration for 2022, GWS adopted the theme “**Vultures; Our Garbage Crew**” with some activities that took place in Accra.

The objective of the celebration was to create awareness about the plight and importance of vulture species. Two significant activities were organized to mark this day.

They included an interview, newspaper publication and social media awareness campaign. GWS granted an interview by the Spectator newspaper as part of the celebration of the IVAD to highlight the need to protect it. The newspaper was also used to create awareness of the current plight of vultures in Ghana.



International Vulture Awareness Day Article

World Environment Day

In collaboration with the Forestry Commission and the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, we orchestrated a remarkable tree-planting exercise at the Shai Hills Resource Reserve to commemorate World Environment Day. The event was held under the theme “**Only One Earth**” and aimed to raise awareness and educate individuals about environmental restoration and the significance of tree planting.

Two hundred (200) seedlings were planted during the exercise, attracting around 120 participants, including students, volunteers, and nature enthusiasts. As a token of appreciation, refreshments and souvenirs were distributed after the event, fostering a sense of camaraderie and gratitude among the attendees. In addition to the planting at the Shai Hills Resource Reserve, more than 1,000 trees were planted along the main streets of Accra.

These impactful tree-planting exercises exemplifies GWS’ commitment to environmental conservation. The collaborative efforts with esteemed partners and the active participation of students, the public, and government officials contributed to Accra’s greening, promoted environmental awareness, and inspired sustainable actions.



(Top): Group photograph of GWS and Forestry Commission staff after the planting exercise. **(Bottom):** Student volunteer planting seedling.



World Environment Day: Section of student volunteers during the planting exercise.



World Environment Day: Section of student and adult volunteers watering tree seedlings during the planting exercise.

World Cleanup Day

GWS collaborated with Let’s Do It Ghana to organize a beach clean-up at Laboma Beach in Accra on September 17th, commemorating World Clean-up Day 2022. The objective was to create a cleaner and greener marine environment while addressing plastic pollution’s impact on sea turtles along the Accra coast.

Over 300 volunteers, nature enthusiasts, and organizations participated in the event, collecting over 2 tonnes of waste. The waste included single-use plastics, metals, glass bottles, fishing gear, tires, etc.

The waste was sorted for a brand audit to address plastic pollution, documenting the responsible companies and urging them to adopt sustainable packaging practices. Recycling company “Gladys” managed the plastic waste, while organic waste was disposed of safely.

Key partners provided support, including the Labadi Municipal Assembly, Street Sense Organisation, CMA, CMA CGM, Decathlon Ghana, and the European Union. The event showcased GWS’ commitment to environmental preservation, raising awareness about plastic pollution, and inspiring sustainable actions to protect the marine ecosystem.



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



World Cleanup Day: Packing collected organic waste for composting after the cleanup exercise at the Laboma beach.



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



African Striped Ground Squirrel

Xerus erythropus

LC Least Concern

The African striped ground squirrel is a charismatic rodent species known for its distinctive markings and active lifestyle. Sporting a coat of sandy-brown fur adorned with prominent black and white stripes running along its back, this ground squirrel is well-adapted to its terrestrial habitat. Found across various regions of sub-Saharan Africa, from savannah to scrublands, it is often seen foraging for seeds, fruits, and insects on the ground. Despite its 'Least Concern' status on the IUCN Red List, habitat loss and fragmentation pose ongoing threats to its populations. Conservation efforts focused on preserving its natural habitat are crucial for ensuring the continued survival of this delightful squirrel species.



Digital Communications

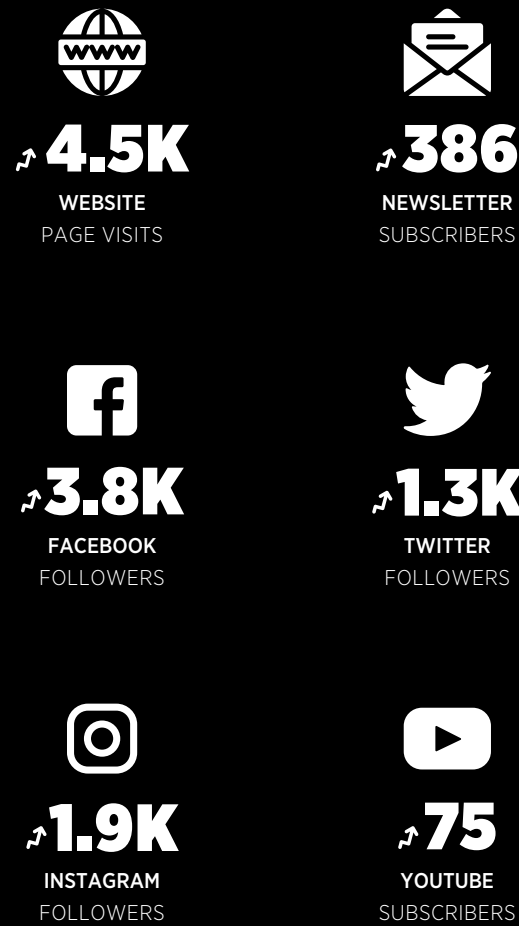
The Society effectively reaches its key audiences through various communication channels, including the primary website: ghanawildlifesociety.org, the blog site: blog.ghanawildlifesociety.org, and a variety of social media platforms.

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



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/



Northern Red Bishop © Joseph Afrifa



Mourning Collared Dove

Streptopelia decipiens

LC Least Concern

The Mourning Collared Dove is a small and widespread bird species known for its distinctive appearance and mournful cooing call. With a soft grey plumage, a signature black “collar” mark on its neck, and striking crimson eyes, this dove is a common sight in various habitats across its range in Africa. It primarily feeds on seeds and grains and is often found in open woodlands, farmlands, and urban areas. While it is currently listed as “Least Concern” on the IUCN Red List, continued monitoring and conservation efforts are essential to ensure the well-being of this peaceful and adaptable bird species.

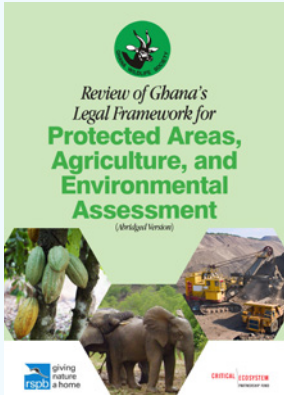
Policy and Advocacy



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 prioritized in the review report was to advocate for the passage of the Wildlife Resource Management Bill.

GWS continue to advocate and monitor the progress of the Wildlife Resource Management Bill. The Bill has been presented to Ghana's Parliament. It is currently under consideration by the Parliamentary-Select Committee on Lands and Forests. Two stakeholder consultations have been conducted so far by the Committee; one was attended by the Executive Director, who provided input to the Committee. All issues raised by the Committee have been addressed, and we hope that the Committee will recommend its passage.



AVAILABLE
FOR FREE
DOWNLOAD



**REVIEW OF GHANA'S LEGAL FRAMEWORK
FOR PROTECTED AREAS, AGRICULTURE, AND
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT** (Abridged Version)

Please scan the QR code to download and read the full position paper. Alternatively, you can visit bit.ly/AR1920LFreview to read.

Engaging with the government to promote BirdLife policies in the run-up to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

GWS contributed further to the draft National Biodiversity Policy through a stakeholder workshop of Civil Society Organisations. In the end, all stakeholders led by Conservation Alliance drafted a policy brief submitted to the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation (MESTI), the national focal point for CBD in Ghana.



Bateleur © Joseph Afrifa

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.



HEIDELBERGCEMENT Group
...The Nation Builder



GOLDEN STAR



TOYOTA



wienco



NEWMONT
GHANA



ACCRA CITY
HOTEL



The Royal
SENCHI



MÖVENPICK
AMBASSADOR HOTEL
ACCRA



Xylo
Works

The Society currently has nine (9) corporate partners.



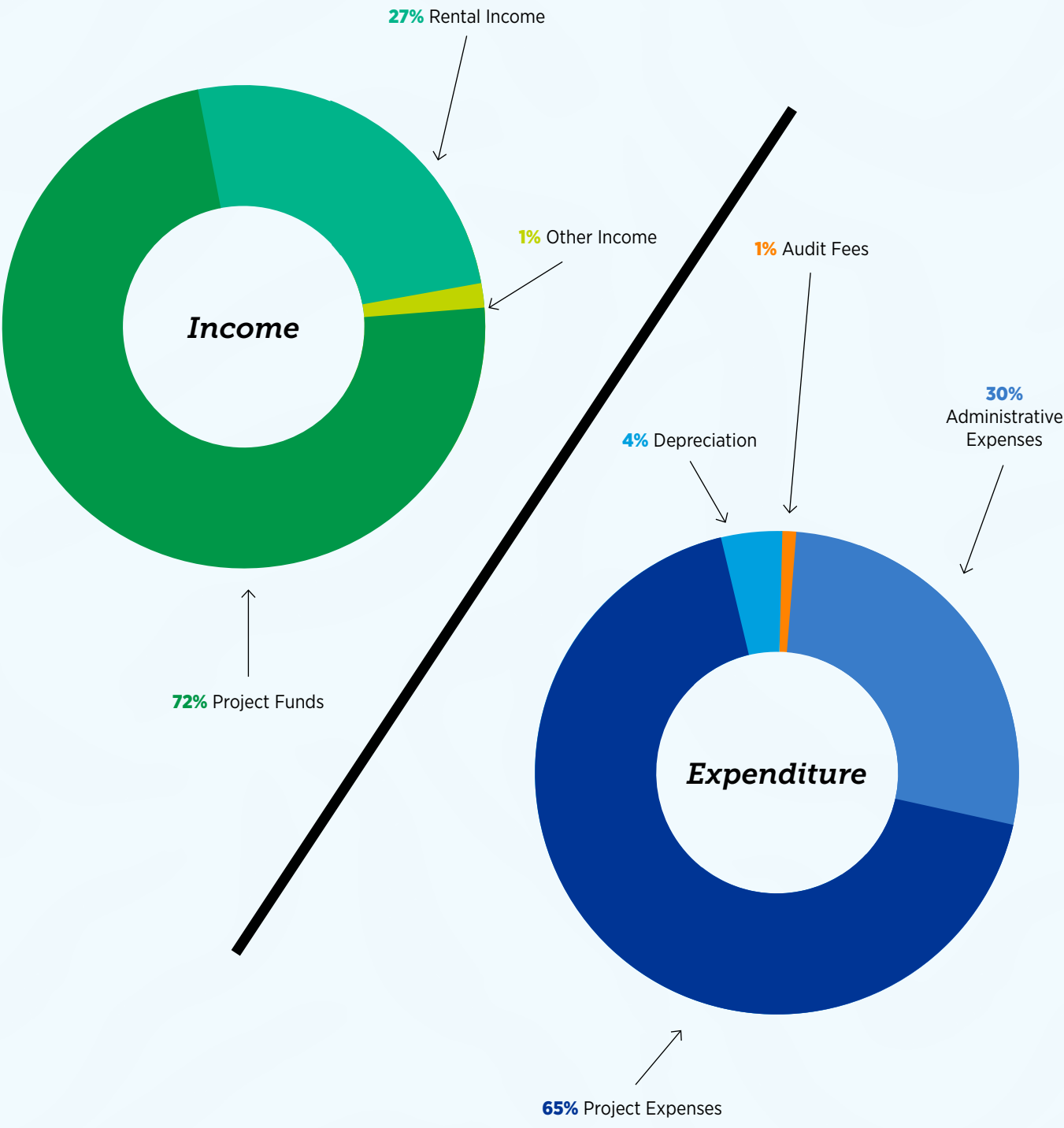
Endangered Species Fence: The species fence facing the independence avenue was renovated and updated to reflect our new corporate partners.



Black-headed Weaver © Joseph Afrifa

Summarised Financial Statements

Ghana Wildlife Society Statement of Income and Expenditure and Accumulated Fund for the year ended 31st December, 2022			2022 (GH¢)	2021 (GH¢)
Income				
Rental Income			33,665.00	33,500.00
Project Funds			5,344,598.00	1,449,837.00
Sponsorships			-	-
Other Income			2,305,965.00	19,157.00
TOTAL INCOME			7,684,228.00	1,502,494.00
Expenditure				
Administrative Expenses			1,113,124.00	770,852.00
Project Expenses			2,410,573.00	1,390,916.00
Depreciation			160,130.00	141,650.00
Audit Fees			24,380.00	14,310.00
Exchange Loss			-	88,288.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE			3,708,207.00	2,406,016.00
<i>Excess of Income over Expenditure</i>			3,976,019.00	(903,521.00)
Accumulated Fund				
Balance as at 01/01/2022			6,008,184.00	6,901,761.00
Prior Year Adjustment			699,944.00	9,944.00
Excess of Income over Expenditure			3,976,019.00	(903,521.00)
BALANCE AS AT 31/12/2022			10,684,147.00	6,008,185.00





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.



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instagram.com/ghanawildlifesociety



blog.ghanawildlifesociety.org

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

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COVER PHOTO | © JOSEPH AFRIFA
Yellow-billed Oxpecker

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