

## Ghana - Fact Sheet – Environment Project

### History and Background

In response to severe land degradation and deforestation in Ghana, Peace Corps started an environmental rehabilitation program in 1989. Since then, the program has evolved to meet emerging issues facing Ghana's natural resources.

Currently, more than 25 Environment volunteers work in rural communities throughout Ghana.

### Mission Objectives

The mission of the Environment program is for PCVs to build local capacity so that:

*Ghanaians will conserve natural resources and increase food security through agroforestry and alternative livelihood activities.*

To advance their mission, Peace Corps Volunteers work with Ghanaian counterparts in a variety of activities:

#### Establish Tree Nurseries

Farmers are encouraged, through technical assistance and resources, to establish nurseries for income generation and environmental conservation. The trees and plants produced from these nurseries are used for forest regeneration, establishing fruit orchards and woodlots, agroforestry practices, propagating medicinal plants, and conserving natural resources.

#### Build Capacity through Networking

Farmers are networked with development organizations so they may access more technical assistance resources. They learn agroforestry techniques, small business skills, and alternative livelihood practices such as growing mushrooms; raising grasscutter; and keeping bees.

#### Train Farmers in Agroforestry Strategies

Farmers integrate tree planting in their farming systems to build soil fertility and stabilize the land. Farmers experiment with alley cropping, tree buffers, and windbreaks to demonstrate the benefits of agroforestry to their neighbors.

#### Empower Environmental Groups

Groups of people of all ages learn about and teach environmental conservation. They serve as peer educators in their communities and promote bush fire reduction, tree planting, erosion control, and the value of biodiversity. The groups establish alternative

livelihood projects as a means to educate others about the environment.

### Environment Partners

Peace Corps works closely with community, district, national, and international partners to ensure that volunteer activities meet the collaborative environmental priorities of Ghana. Some of Peace Corps's environment partners include:

- Ghana Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA)
- Forest Services Division
- CARE International
- Community Based Organizations
- Coastal Resources Centre
- Millennium Development Authority (MiDA)
- Wildlife society of Ghana
- Trees for the Future
- Ministry of Local Government (MDAs)
- Crops Research Institute
- Soils Research Institute
- Forest Research Institute of Ghana (FORIG)

### Accomplishments

Peace Corps Volunteers and their counterparts have successfully implemented a variety of environmental activities in Ghana:

- Facilitated agroforestry and alternative livelihood workshops for farmers and communities;
- Established rain water catchments and drip irrigation systems for dry season gardening;
- Planted tens of thousands of nutritional Moringa trees and nitrogen fixing trees throughout Ghana;
- Trained 150 women's groups in fuel efficient stove construction and charcoal production;
- Protected hillsides from soil erosion using Vertiver grass and contour planting;
- Conducted workshops about organic farming; and
- Established goat and snail rearing projects.



For more information on the Environment project, contact Nicolas Nyagle: [nnnyagle@gh.peacecorps.gov](mailto:nnnyagle@gh.peacecorps.gov)