

Enhancing Territorial Governance, sea turtle conservation and sustainable livelihood in Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site

Pays	Ghana
Bénéficiaire	The Development Institute (The DI)
Montant total du projet	59 379 €
Montant de la subvention	29 060 €
Partenaires financiers	Both ENDS
Durée du projet	15 mois
Signature de la convention	03/03/2020

CONTEXT

The Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site (KLCRS) is located in the Volta Region in the south east of Ghana and covers two municipalities (Keta and Anloga). The KLCRS is the largest lagoon in Ghana with different ecosystems like brackish water, flood plains, marshland and mangrove swamps and magnificent beaches. The site is home to important biodiversity with about 80% of Ghana water birds, three out species of threatened sea turtles (Green Turtle, Leatherback Sea Turtle, Olive Ridley) the West Africa Sitatunga, West Africa Manatee, different species of fishes, crabs, shrimps, crocodiles etc. The Leatherback recognized by IUCN as critically endangered is the most commonly seen especially between November-February during night surveys.

Environmental issues in the entire KLCRS are enormous such as the presence of salinity, high storms, plastic pollution, semi-finished houses, lack of fresh drinking water, and lack of other sources of fuel wood, haphazard fishing, poaching of sea turtles and cutting of mangrove. These situations are deteriorating due to the lack of proper coordination of governance and skills i.e. weak governance and skills of local communities and their involvement. Some government authorities such as the police, Navy, Judges, and Magistrates are not informed about the environmental law governing marine and sea turtles and therefore allowing defaulters to go free without punishment and/or sanctions. Besides poaching, picking of eggs from their nest by humans, dogs and pigs is also a major threat.

Although this project will be based at the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site, its main area of intervention will be at the south western corner covering five communities: Akplortoskor, Agbledomi, Atiteti, Fuveme, and Dzita.

GOALS

The general purpose of the project is to improve community-led governance of The Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site (KLCRS) to catalyse long-lasting conservation of local biodiversity. Communities will be grouped at community's levels using the Community Resources Management Area (CREMA) approach. This project, therefore, plans a reconnaissance phase based on three main goals : Strengthen local governance of natural resources and biodiversity, reinforce the effectiveness of community-led management of natural resources and biodiversity and promote sustainable grass-cutter farming value chain as incentive for both livelihoods and conservation of KLCRS

MAIN ACTIVITES

- 300-500 people sensitized on CREMA and sea turtles and mangrove protection issues in 5 communities;
- 5 Community Resource Management Committee (CRMC) reactivated and 1 CREMA Executive;
- Committee (CEC) set up and 5 action plans regarding sea turtle and its habitat conservation developed;
- 2 000 hectares of land (as the CREMA area) are demarcated and mapped out for conservation purposes;
- At least 100 people composed of judiciary, Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission officers, the Navy, Marine Police, etc. are trained on national legislation regarding environmental crime to allow them appropriately prosecute offenders;
- Effective patrols will be undertaken on the 20 kilometers of beach within the project area mainly during the peak nesting season;
- A grasscutter farming value chain is promoted through : 5 starter kits composed of matured animals and cages, support of the trainer and support to farmers to sell their products;
- A CREMA conservation fund will be set up with funds derived from the value chain.



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