

Project Update: May 2008

Community / school conservation education

The focus was on catchment settlements whose activities impact negatively on the project site. These include some island communities and schools. This has been the very difficult aspect of the project. Most of these schools and communities were reached by speed boat on the Volta River. A joint conservation education, interaction and knowledge sharing was also organized between a well endowed school, Lincoln Community school from the capital, Accra and a less endowed school within the project area. A total of 15 schools and 6 communities were educated during the period. The kids expressed desire for a group tour of the site to see restored areas and migratory species like turtles and birds. It is hoped that future funding may be sought to support this request of the pupils in the project area.

Ecological / Biodiversity monitoring

This is done monthly since the inception of the project. Altitudinal change, bird numbers and aquatic parameters are monitored to critically assess the long term influence on the project area. After a year positive attitudes are evident. There is no evidence of bird persecution and high sense of community resource ownership and policing are advertised. However ecological health was influenced by the prevalent weather conditions. This is reflected in the growth of tree seedlings planted. Mangroves planted showed stunted growth due to low brackish water flows through the creeks.

Alternative livelihood and value addition to wetland products

The women were trained to add value to finished mat, crab basket and fan to increase market value. Hybrid mangoes planted within the project area are growing steadily.

Environmental management / sustainable resource utilization

Participants were trained in the construction of fuel efficient stoves using locally available materials. Hands on demonstration were done for the practical introduction of ecological farming – use of animal waste as manure and tree leaves for pest control. Meanwhile, there were other gaps and challenges identified during the project implementation.



Left: Committee leader showing land boundaries to be planted. Right: Unsustainable farming practices exposing soil to erosion.



Left: Unsustainable resource utilization and mangrove depletion. Right: Some threats to ecological habitats at project area.