



For Nature & People

ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Ghana Wildlife Society

SAVING SPECIES | CONSERVING SITES & HABITATS
EMPOWERING PEOPLE | ENSURING ECOLOGICAL SUSTAINABILITY



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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 120 autonomous NGOs around the world. Our vision is to promote the conservation (protection, management and wise-use) of wildlife 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 (5) 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.



Ghana Wildlife Society

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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: [Amazuri 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 several national programmes and policies.

We believe that businesses have a role to play and must be supported to reduce their own 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 solely rely on our scientific evidence through research projects to engage businesses and decision makers to influence business practices and national policies, respectively. We have developed long-term conservation partnerships with GHACEM, Toyota Ghana, Movenpic Ambassador Hotel, Royal Senchi Hotel and the State Insurance Company (SIC). Ghana Wildlife Society also serves on the national MABS Committee.

We raise awareness and work with the youth through the [Wildlife Clubs of Ghana \(WCG\)](#) - a junior wing of the Society.

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.

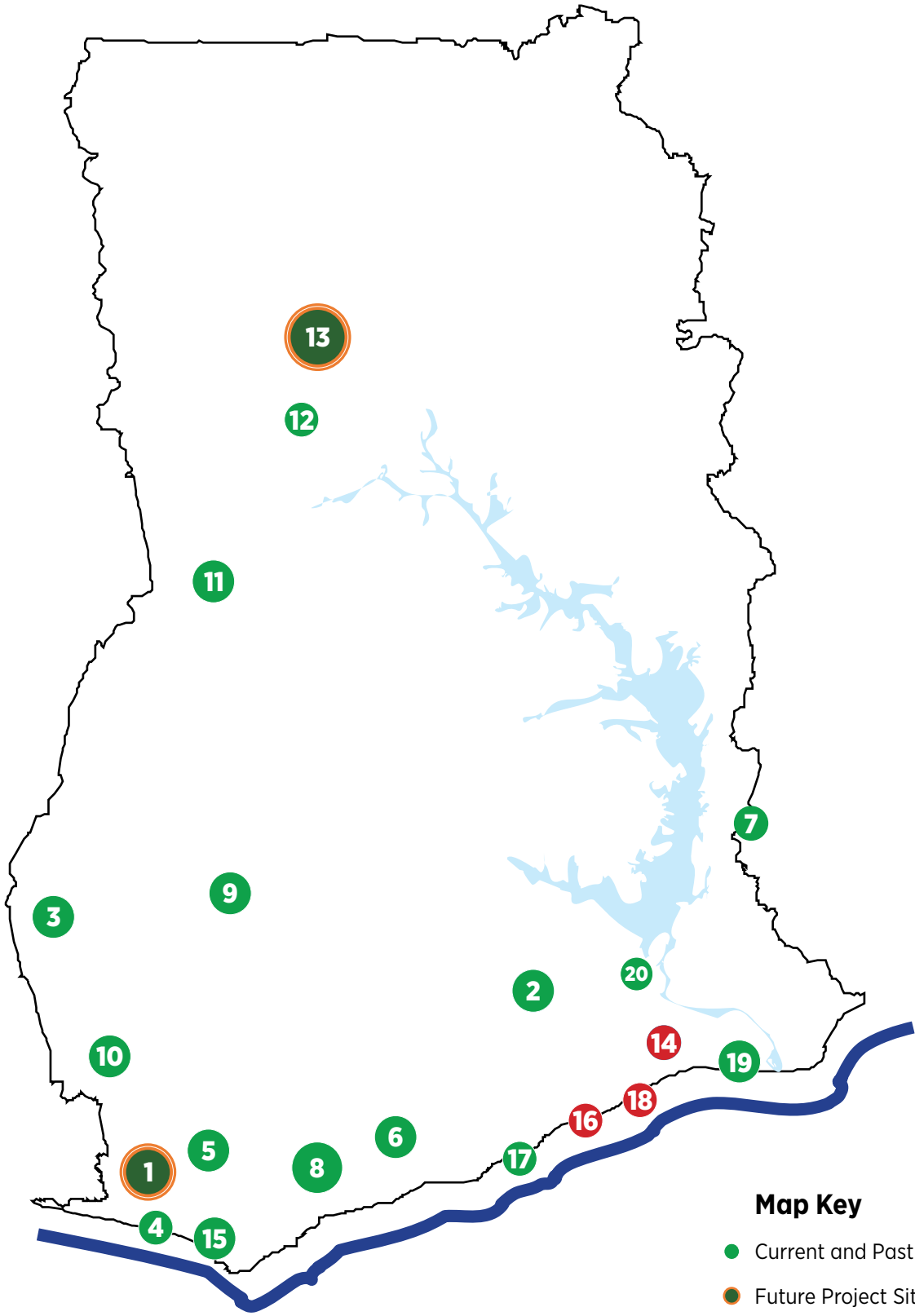
Our response to some of these challenges is to research into threatened species, facilitate interactions between people and biodiversity in different landscapes, impacts of development on biodiversity, and how land use changes affect patterns of migration of birds along their migratory routes. To contribute to ease the growing global pressure on the corporate world to enhance 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 conservation of species, sites and landscapes which 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 conservation 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 six programme areas: Research and Conservation Science; Conservation Education; Membership/Marketing; Digital Communications; 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.



In the last quarter of 2018, GWS signed a MOU with Tumpaani TV to be our official media partner

Where we work



Current and Past Project Sites

- GWS1** Ankasa Game Reserve & Nini-Suhien Natioal Park
- GWS2** Atewa Forest Range Reserve
- GWS3** Bia National Park and Resource Reserve
- GWS4** Cape Three Points Forest Reserve
- GWS5** Fure River Forest Reserve
- GWS6** Kakum National Park-Assin Attandaso Resource Reserve
- GWS7** Afadjato-Agumatsa Forest Range Reserve
- GWS8** Subri River Forest Reserve
- GWS9** Tano-Offin Forest Reserve
- GWS10** Yoyo River Forest Reserve
- GWS11** Bui National Park
- GWS12** Damongo Scarp Forest Reserve
- GWS13** Mole National Park
- GWS14** Legon Botanical Gaderns
- GWS15** Amansuri Wetlands
- GWS16** Panbros Salt Industries
- GWS17** Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site
- GWS18** Sakumo Lagoon Ramsar Site
- GWS19** Songor Ramsar Site
- GWS20** Yongwa Forest Reserve

Birdwalk Sites

- GWS14** Legon Botanical Gaderns
- GWS16** Panbros Salt Industries
- GWS18** Sakumono Lagoon

Future Project Sites

- GWS1** Ankasa Game Reserve & Nini-Suhien Natioal Park
- GWS11** Bui National Park
- GWS13** Mole National Park



Assessment and establishment of a national baseline on marine mammal by-catch along the coastline of Ghana.

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.



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 Conservation management from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology.



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. 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.



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. Eric Lartey PMP®
Secretary / Executive Director

Eric's professional interests have revolved around project management, conservation related policy work and NGO fundraising. He has led over 16 project teams for large and medium-sized grants in countries in West and Central Africa. He holds master degrees in Tropical Forestry from Bangor University (UK), and Development Policy and Planning (KNUST). He serves on BirdLife's East Atlantic Flyway Initiative (EAFI) Taskforce representing BirdLife West Africa Partners and a member of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere National Committee in Ghana.

Our Team



Eric Lartey PMP®
Executive Director



Sandra Owusu-Gyamfi
Manager (Research. & Cons. Sci.)



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.)



David T. Daramani
Prin. Programs Assistant



Raphael N.L. Lartey
Communications Officer



Leonard Anaman
Finance Officer



Perpetual Abeyie
Librarian



Edith Ludu
Receptionist / Admin Assistant

Afrifa Yamoah Dankwa
Peter Morkeh
Moses Awimbere
Shadrack Ayitey
Denis Nortey

Driver
Driver
Security Officer
Security Officer
Security Officer

Alfred Akwandor
Bernadine G. Naakuma
Sylvester Nbowurah
Anthony Mba
Vida Konadu

Security Officer
National Service Personnel
National Service Personnel
Volunteer
Volunteer

Message from the President



“...let us factor in the environmental cost of all development projects so that Ghana’s development can be sustainable...”

Dear colleagues, it is heart-warming to see another year (2018) of achievements made by the young and dedicated team of the Society. The year saw a relatively small, but encouraging, increase in grants secured by the Society to undertake various conservation projects. I commend the leadership for the hard work. The Society continues to engage actively in public discourse on the numerous environmental challenges that confront our country, with various staff serving on committees set up by the government and other networks to find solutions to such problems. Our policy has always been not to be confrontational, but rather to engage, advise and support both government and the private sector to find solutions while encouraging other Civil Society Organisations and the public to adopt responsible environmental stewardship.

I am very happy to see the expansion of our corporate engagement, spanning from mining, cement, oil and gas, renewable energy, agriculture and forestry. My desire is for the Society to develop long- term relationships with such companies that will encourage them to want to maintain lasting partnerships to support conservation projects initiated by the Society. We believe that businesses have a role to play and must be supported to reduce their own footprints on biodiversity and the environment.

The world today is experiencing unprecedented environmental challenges, extreme climatic events – too much rain leading to flooding or too little rain coupled with high temperatures leading to drought, raging bushfires, pollution, rapid loss of biodiversity as a result of habitat degradation and over-exploitation - the list is very long. While some of the problems arise from nature’s own cycles, majority of the problems are caused by human activities. In our quest for development to increase human well-being, we undermine the very foundations that can ensure that the development is sustainable.

The scale and complexity of the environmental challenges facing the world today is mind-boggling. For a developing country like ours, the challenges become even more complex by the socio-economic dynamics that keep changing at a very fast rate, putting more pressure on natural resources. The solutions require concerted action from everyone: the government, businesses and civil society, acting together to secure the future of the human race. We applaud the ambitious development agenda of the current government of Ghana; by all means, let Ghana forge ahead to move our country beyond aid, but let us factor in the environmental cost of all development projects so that Ghana’s development can be sustainable. We at GWS look forward to another year of productive partnerships around working for nature and promoting nature-based solutions to secure our country’s rich natural heritage for the well-being of our people.

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

Message from the Executive Director



“...We must all stand up to highlight the vital role played by important plant and animals, their habitats and to the disturbing consequences of our failure to conserve them...”

As the dangers posed by economic development to biodiversity keeps on heightening, the Society firmly believes that all stakeholders must still keep the issues facing biodiversity on the national agenda. We must all stand up to highlight the vital role played by important plant and animals, their habitats and to the disturbing consequences of our failure to conserve them. In this context, the important place occupied by the Ghana Wildlife Society as the largest conservation NGO in Ghana has become more relevant than ever before.

It appears unfair to single out individual stories of accomplishment, but it is worth highlighting few of our notable achievements. Our business and biodiversity programme keeps on expanding as we still maintained partnerships with reputable businesses that are providing diverse services and products across different sectors of the Ghanaian economy. We believe that businesses have a role to play towards reducing the threats to nature and maintain balance between economic gains and the environment. On the research front, we completed a full-scale assessment of ecosystem services (global climate regulation, water-related services, nature-based recreation, cultivated goods and harvested wild goods) at the Cape Three Points and Tano-Offin Forest Reserves. We took our research work on migrant birds further by collaborating with the RSPB to investigate the habitat and tree associations of Afro-Palaearctic migrants. We also launched a new project to carry out a nation-wide survey on marine mammal bycatch along the entire coast of Ghana.

The Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG) remains one of the Society’s hallmarks and their activities could not be left out. Notable events that involved the participation of the WCG include celebration of World Wetlands Day, World Wildlife Day, World Environment Day, and end of year wildlife games. More than 3,000 children, teachers and volunteers from 30 Clubs actively participated in 2018 activities.

Since we re-established the communications, and policy and advocacy unit of the Society last year, the Society has become more visible through our social media platforms, press conferences, and policy briefs on diverse policy issues. Our key campaigns and engagements include persuading the Ghana government to: reverse its decision to mine bauxite in the Atewa Range Forest Reserve; vote in favour of sustaining the ban on commercial whaling at the 67th International Whaling Commission’s meeting in Brazil; consider environmental and social issues in formulation of the Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC) Act. The Society made inputs to the national report on the implementation of Ghana’s NBSAP.

The Amansuri Conservation and Integrated Development Programme (ACID) has been our flagship for community based ecotourism and conservation. I am glad that we now have new leadership which translated into better management of the tourist centre.

I am mindful of the fact that the Society’s success finally hinges on the contributions made by our donors, partners, volunteers and members. The Society is indeed grateful to everyone who supported us.

Let us confidently walk into 2019 with the hope of taking more actions to save nature for the benefit of people.

Cheers!

Eric Lartey, PMP®
Executive Director

Research and Conservation Science

Habitat Use and Tree Preferences of Afro-Palearctic Migrants in West Africa

GWS collaborated with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), University of Cambridge and BirdLife International to investigate the habitat and tree associations of Afro-Palearctic migrants in the humid tropic zone, building on existing RSPB and GWS’ research on Afro-Palearctic migrants. Migrant birds of interest were Garden warbler (*Sylvia borin*), Melodious Warbler (*Hippolais polyglotta*), Pied flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*), Spotted flycatcher (*Muscicapa striata*), Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*), Tree pipit (*Anthus trivialis*) and Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*). The study has gathered information currently being used to model the economic costs of different conservation options. Models being considered include: protecting or restoring trees through carbon funded payments; or payments for areas of interest to privately managed protected lands.



Tree Pipit (*Anthus trivialis*)



Nightingale (*Luscinia megarhynchos*)



Whinchat (*Saxicola rubetra*)



Pied Flycatcher (*Ficedula hypoleuca*)

Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana

The total economic cost of degradation of natural resources and poor environmental management has been estimated to be at least 10% of Ghana’s GDP. In spite of this, there is insufficient site-specific information to demonstrate the economic cost of the loss of forest ecosystems. On this premise and in line with the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Funds’ investment priorities, GWS initiated the project, “Mainstreaming Site-Scale Ecosystem Values into Local Decision-Making in Ghana,” to assess ecosystem services using The Tool-kit for Ecosystem Service Site-based Assessment (TESSA) to:

1. Provide local government with site-specific information on the value of forest ecosystem services.
2. Support local government and the private sector to integrate this information into their planning, decisions and management practices.

A full-scale assessment of global climate regulation, water-related services, nature-based recreation, cultivated goods and harvested wild goods obtained from the project sites, Cape Three Points and Tano-Offin Forest Reserves and their plausible alternative states were conducted by the Ghana Wildlife Society. Should these two sites be lost to the economically favoured cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*) or rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*) for Tano-Offin and Cape Three Points Forest Reserves respectively, as the project identified to be the plausible alternative states, there could be significant reduction in the quality of ecosystem services derived from these two biodiverse areas.

From the assessment, an ecosystem service such as harvested wild goods could reduce to as much as 90% in Cape Three Points and 75% in Tano-Offin Forest Reserves. This translates to a benefit for only a few stakeholders as against a majority often being women and the youth. In considering climate regulation, the total carbon calculated to be sequestered by the two KBAs is estimated at 9,398,469.54 tons C with Cape Three Points Forest Reserve contributing 1,962,551.23 tons C and Tano-Offin Forest Reserve 7,435,918.31 tons C.



A section of the stakeholders at the validation workshop on mainstreaming site-scale ecosystem values into local decision making in Ghana

Comparatively, should Cape Three Point Forest Reserve become a rubber plantation, it is estimated that the potential carbon that could be stored is equivalent to 40% of what is currently being stored. In the case of Tano-Offin FR, conversion of the forest to cocoa plantation will result in carbon storage of 42.8% of what the current state sequesters.

A workshop was further organised for thirty (30) stakeholders from both the public and private sectors to validate draft reports.



Cocoa (*Theobroma cacao*)



Rubber (*Hevea brasiliensis*)



Monitoring of Marine Mammals and Sea Turtles Offshore and Onshore of Ghanaian Waters

Ghana Wildlife Society in collaboration with our partners conducts our first ever shipboard-monitoring of marine mammals and sea turtles in Ghanaian waters (onshore and offshore).

Areas for this monitoring falls within the Eastern coast of Ghana (area of influence is the new port expansion project) whilst the second lies offshore within Cape Three Points (the west of Ghana).

The goal of this monitoring is to increase the level of understanding of threatened species (marine mammals and sea turtles) that occupy the Project's Area of Influence (AoI) and how they will be potentially impacted by developments. During the studies, frequency of species occurrences and behaviours were systematically recorded over time.

PHOTO CREDIT | © SOLOMON KENYENSO



GWS launches a project to establish a national baseline on cetacean by-catch.

Dolphins, among other marine mammals, feature prominently in the illegal wildlife trade in West Africa. Ghana being one of the countries within the sub-region, has been ranked high both in terms of species caught and landed. Currently, dolphin meat is now being processed for sale in various fish market centres in Ghana and is gradually becoming a lucrative business. They are freshly landed after entanglement, killed with piercing lance-like metals, cutlasses and sticks when retrieved

In light of this, GWS (with financial support from the Anderson Cabot Centre for Ocean Life at the New England Aquarium) has initiated a project to assess and establish a national baseline on marine mammal by-catch along the coastline of Ghana.

The aim of the assessment is to increase the level of understanding of Cetaceans' by-catch and socio-economic contribution along the entire coastal areas of Ghana.

The specific objective the project include:

- To investigate by-catch and key fishing method that influence cetaceans to establish a baseline for subsequent monitoring in Ghanaian coastal waters.
- To update the species composition of the by-catch on cetaceans and investigate the socio-economic contribution of the cetaceans.
- To provide current field data for national planning and policy towards better conservation of cetaceans in Ghana.

← **Short-finned Pilot Whale** (*Globicephala macrorhynchus*)

The short-finned pilot whale is one of the two species of cetaceans in the genus *Globicephala*. Although its behaviour is closer to that of the larger whales this species is part of the oceanic dolphin family Delphinidae.

PHOTO CREDIT | © SOLOMON KENYENSO

Business and Biodiversity



ENI Ghana: Onshore/Offshore Monitoring and Implementation of World Bank Group Guidelines

GWS has since 2017 systematically monitored the impact of ENI onshore activities on avian biodiversity within their project area of influence at Sanzule in the Western Region. This area falls within Amansuri wetlands, which is a critical habitat and an Important Bird Area (IBA). The scope of this work is to provide an efficient and effective plan to achieve zero net loss to turtles following gas pipeline laying from ENI's onshore receiving facility (ORF) to their oil extraction field, 60 km offshore. GWS is currently implementing a plan to ensure that nesting female turtles and their eggs are not poached.



NEK (Ghana) Ltd: Reducing Impacts of Wind Farms on Migratory Resident Birds

NEK (Ghana) Ltd is in the process of developing a 200 MW wind energy project (Konikablo Windfarm Project) in the Greater Accra region. As part of the development process and in compliance with the requirements of environmental standards, GWS was engaged to conduct ornithological monitoring and bat screening for the proposed wind farm. GWS has consistently collected data to estimate the number and density of birds regularly present or resident within the study area of the project prior to construction and to formulate a risk profile of the observed species based on their conservation status, typical behaviour and population.



↑

GHACEM: Forest Restoration and Conservation Education

Deriving from the existing partnership between BirdLife International Europe and Heidelberg Cement signed in 2015, the Ghana Wildlife Society entered into a partnership to work together to promote best sustainable practices and conservation of biodiversity in GHACEM's quarry operations. As part of measures to empower children and the youth to take actions for nature and the environment, GWS launched wildlife clubs in ten (10) selected schools located around the Yongwa Quarry operated by GHACEM, near the Yongwa Forest Reserve in the Eastern Region. The schools include Klo-begro M/A Primary, Bueyonye M/A JSS, Yongwase M/A Primary and JHS, Bueyonye M/A K.G. and Primary and Oborpah West M/A Primary and J.H.S., Oborpah East M/A Primary and J.H.S. and Oborpah Djerkiti M/A Primary and J.H.S. To sustain the interest of young people in conservation and environmental protection, the Wildlife Clubs at Yongwa participated in demonstration sessions at the model tree nursery established by GWS to support reforestation activities in the Yongwa Forest Reserve near the Yongwa quarry. The Clubs also embarked on tree planting exercises in their respective schools.

GHACEM provided financial support to GWS to raise four thousand tree seedlings to contribute to the restoration of degraded areas of the Yongwa Forest Reserve, which houses few stands of *Talbotiella gentii* (a critically endangered tree species).



↑

LUSH Swedru Biodiversity Assessment: Permaculture Site and Ylang Ylang (*Cananga Odorata*) Plantation

Biodiversity baseline study was carried out to establish the composition, abundance and occurrence of targeted taxa (flora, herpetofauna, avian and mammals) on each of the Swedru-LUSH Ylang ylang plantations. The social and economic needs of neighbouring communities (e.g. firewood, bushmeat, water, etc.) from the plantation areas were assessed.

The study provided a baseline information on the high conservation value areas within the landscape and made recommendations on further conservation actions in the plantations. Three flora species; *Nesogordonia papaverifera*, *Albizia ferruginea*, and *Terminalia ivorensis* are listed as "Vulnerable" due to their over-exploitation for timber. In addition, four species of large mammals were identified as 'Lower Risk/Near Threatened'. Other nationally protected species (Ghana Wildlife Regulations) of medium to large mammals were also recorded. The survey recorded 481 individuals of avians belonging to 67 species and 28 families. Among the species recorded, the African Goshawk (*Accipiter tachiro*), Cattle Egret (*Bubulcus ibis*), Lizard Buzzard (*Kaupifalco monogrammicus*) and Red-necked Buzzard (*Buteo auguralis*) are protected under the Ghana Wildlife Conservation Regulations, 1971, and Ghana Wildlife Conservation (Amendment) Regulations, 1988; 1995). The herpetofauna survey did not identify any species of conservation interest except the African python (*Python sebae*), which is listed for partial protection according to the Ghana Wildlife Conservation regulations Schedule II, as well as in CITES appendix II for limited trading.

Based on the results from the assessment, enrichment planting and permanent preservation of identified areas of conservation priority were recommended to promote the implementation of LUSH's sustainability policy.



Takrowanua (*Talbotiella gentii*)

Talbotiella gentii is a critically endangered species, one with the highest conservation priority in Ghana. The species has limited geographical distribution and is endemic to Ghana. The tree is known to occur in tiny stands in the rocky areas of three dry forests including Yongwa, Sapawusu and Bandai Hill forest reserves.

Activities threatening this species include logging, wood harvesting, residential and commercial developments, etc.

GWS, in collaboration with GHACEM and the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission, is currently intensifying conservation efforts to restoring the degraded portions of the Yongwa Forest Reserve by integrating the species into the Modified Taungya System (MTS).

PHOTO CREDIT | © PATRICK EKPE

Empowering Communities

To contribute to better management and protection of the Atewa Range Forest Reserve, Ghana Wildlife Society with support from Rainforest Trust provided logistical support to the Forest Services Division, Begoro as a means of contributing towards the strengthening and enforcement of laws in and around the Forest area.



Sign post being mounted at the boundary of the Atewa Range Forest Reserve by an officer of the Forest Service Division

Bauxite Mining in the Atewa Range Forest Reserve

Towards contributing to better management and protection of the Atewa Range Forest Reserve, GWS with support from Rainforest Trust undertook the following activities:

Consultations were held with the Forest Services Division, Begoro to contribute to strengthening law enforcement at the Forest.

Further consultations were held with the District Assembly and selected communities to highlight plight of endangered species towards advocacy and conservation of such species. Forums and high level meetings were organised with traditional leaders in eight communities (Akwadum, Potroase, Asiakwa, Segyimase, Obouho, Anum Apapanum, Awenire and Asamang Tamfoe) around the Atewa Range Forest Reserve. These activities were to lobby and canvass support for declaration of the forest reserve as a national park.

Logistics and equipment to the tune of US\$ 15,000 were donated to the Forest Services Division of the Forestry Commission, Begoro towards the strengthening of law enforcement in and around the Atewa Range Forest Reserve.

The equipment donated by GWS includes; GPS handsets, camp beds, headlamps, tents, and the production and mounting of 30 sign posts at vantage and entry points to the Forest that highlights the plight of endangered species towards conservation of such species.

← The Executive Director of GWS (middle) presenting equipment to the Operations Manager of the Forest Service Division, Begoro (left) at a ceremony in Segyimase.

PHOTO CREDIT | © DAVID ESIOME



White-naped Mangabey (*Ciconia ciconia*)

Thought to be confined to forests in the far west of Ghana, the White-naped mangabey has now been confirmed to be sighted in the forest of eastern Ghana, most notably in the Atewa Forest Range Reserve.

Although listed as Endangered by the IUCN, recent evidence shows that the species may now meet the criteria for Critically Endangered.

The white-naped Mangabey has been the subject of intensive conservation efforts in Ghana, with captive breeding facilities established in Accra and Kumasi zoos, as well as zoos around the world.

PHOTO CREDIT | © ZSL LONDON ZOO



Conservation Education

The Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG) is the junior wing of the Society. The Clubs consist of groups of young people interested in animals and plants as well as the environment. The WCG was launched on March 11th 1987 and can now boast of 300 clubs from 60 schools and communities in 5 regions of the country.

In the past few years, the main challenges confronting Wildlife Clubs have been low availability of funds to support activities, lack of the required human resources to coordinate activities and low motivation of Club and Regional Coordinators. These challenges have caused some Clubs to become inactive whilst others have collapsed entirely.

World Wetlands Day

On the 2nd February of every year, people from nations across the globe celebrate World Wetlands Day to raise global awareness about the important role of wetlands for people and the planet. This year’s theme “Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future,” highlights the important role of wetlands for sustainable urbanization. Prior to the 2018 WWeD, GWS promoted an online campaign to target social media followers (Facebook and Twitter). We organised a clean-up exercise along the Songor Ramsar site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, a coastal wetland of international importance situated at Ada-Foah in the Greater Accra Region. Two coastal communities, Ayigbo and Lolouyakope actively participated in the activity. Key institutions that participated were members of the District Assembly, Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, Environmental Protection Agency and Ghana Wildlife Society (GWS).

Fifty school pupils and six teachers from the Ada-Foah Roman Catholic School were sensitized on the essentials of urban wetlands for sustainable future at the Forestry Commission’s Marine Turtle Hatchery and Conservation Centre located at Songor. Forty flyers on 2018 WWeD were distributed to increase school pupils’ knowledge on wetlands.



A view of the beach after it was cleaned up by the wildlife club members with help from participants from other civil society organisations



A section of the wildlife clubs members and their teachers after the beach cleanup at the Songor Ramsar site and UNESCO Biosphere Reserve, situated at Ada-Foah in the Greater Accra Region of Ghana

World Environment Day

The World Environment Day (WED) is observed on June 5 every year to raise global awareness on positive environmental action to protect planet Earth. The WED is run by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and since it began in 1974, it has grown to become a global platform for public outreach widely celebrated in over 100 countries.

To mark the 2018 World Environment Day (WED), GWS took action together with the Australian High Commission, the US Embassy, the USAID funded West Africa Biodiversity and Climate Change (WABICC) Program, and Kali Etch to raise awareness on the plastic crises. We jointly celebrated the 2018 World Environment Day under the theme “Beat Plastic Pollution.” Annually, Ghana produces 1.7 million tons of plastics, most of which are discarded after being used once. Plastic bags block waterways which exacerbate natural disasters and provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes and pests; block the airways and digestive tracts of hundreds of species; release toxic chemicals into animal tissues thereby entering the human food chain; and damage the nervous system, lungs and reproductive organs.



(Left) Cordie Aziz (Environment 360) and (Right) Prof. Chris Gordon (University of Ghana) giving a presentation at the event



(Left) Andrew Barnes (the Australian High Commissioner to Ghana), (Middle) Mr. Joseph Kofi Adda (Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources) and (Right) Robert P. Jackson (US Ambassador to Ghana)



Exhibition of recyclable single use plastics by members of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG)



A section of WCG members standing in front of the WED pledge cloth with a staff of the Australian High Commission, their teachers and the GWS team

Dignitaries present at the event included their Excellencies Andrew Barnes (the Australian High Commissioner to Ghana) and Robert P. Jackson (US Ambassador to Ghana), Mr. Joseph Kofi Adda (Minister for Sanitation and Water Resources) and showbiz celebrities/ media personalities. The event brought together 35 Wildlife Club members and 120 other participants from both the private and public sectors. There were exhibitions from Wildlife Clubs of Ghana that highlighted both the beauty of marine life juxtaposed with images of their vulnerability to plastic pollution. The schools that participated were St. Martin de Porres School, Sakumono School Complex and Mothernest Montessori School.

At the event, Government announced the allocation of GH¢ 200 million (US\$42 million) for the management of sanitation in Ghana. Forty-five (45) schoolchildren received professional training through an art workshop to upgrade their skills in converting discarded plastics into sellable products. The event served as a platform for 60 participants to pledge and commit to reducing their plastic use to protect Ghana’s environment.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS

45

Pupils were trained convert discarded plastics into sellable products.

60

Participants pledged to reduce their plastic use and to protect Ghana’s environment.

42M

US dollars allocated for the management of sanitation in Ghana by the government.



Tree seedlings revived at a nursery in Liatì-Wote used to carry out the tree planting exercise



A section of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG) members at Afadjato ready to plant tree seedlings on their school compounds

Reforestation and Environmental Education

With support from the New England Biolab Foundation, GWS launched a project titled “Promotion of community participation in natural resource management” to work closely with wildlife clubs and traditional authorities in five communities fringing the Afadjato-Agumatsa Community Forest Range. The project was implemented in five (5) communities: Gbledi, Gbogbame, Chebi, Liatì Wote and Liatì Soba.

The key activities of the project include the formation of new wildlife clubs in 7 schools within the five communities, fostering of cordial relationships with the traditional authorities towards conservation, printing and distributing educational materials, training Wildlife Clubs to establish tree nurseries, tree planting exercises in schools and environmental in the communities. Achievements of the project are that seven Wildlife Clubs are now actively functioning within the Afadjato-Agumatsa Community Forest Reserve area, awareness was raised among at least 2,000 people on conservation of the Afadjato-Agumatsa Community Forest Reserve, 100 pupils from 7 Wildlife Clubs were trained in basic nursery standards and 5,000 tree seedlings raised to rehabilitate a total of 3 ha of degraded community landscape. At least 10,000 people were reached through radio discussions on the need to protect the environment.

QUICK GLANCE AT THE NUMBERS

100

Pupils from seven wildlife clubs were trained on basic nursery standards.

5K

Tree seedlings were raised to rehabilitate three hectares of degraded community landscapes.

Wildlife Games

An end of year Wildlife games and an excursion were held at the Aburi Botanical Gardens on 26th November, 2018. Activities included tour guiding and competitions in lime and spoon, tug of peace, treasure hunt, lucky dip and sack race. Three hundred (300) members participated in the activity. Kay-Billie Klaer School emerged ultimate winners in the games competition, Prince of Peace placed second and God is Good Preparatory emerged third.



World Wildlife Day

World Wildlife Day is a United Nations official event, celebrated on March 3 every year. The day was declared out of the concern that wildlife crime was having negative economic, environmental and social impact worldwide. Globally, World Wildlife Day is celebrated to raise public awareness on endangered wildlife species and illegal trade in wildlife species. To mark the 2018 edition of the WWD, GWS collaborated with WABICC, ARocha Ghana and the Wildlife Division.

The event brought together 150 WCA members to educate and raise awareness on the theme “Big Cats-Predators under Threats”. A presentation and quiz competition were organised for five schools in the Greater Accra Region. Gag Blessed Home School emerged winners, St. Martin de Porres came out second and Transform Child School placed third. Awards were presented to schools together with medals to the participants in the quiz.



A section of the participants of the Big Cats quiz competition battling it out during the World Wildlife Day 2018 celebration



Winners of the quiz competition displaying their action cards during the World Wildlife Day 2018 celebration

Recycling Project

GWS started a paper-recycling project with the Gag Blessed Home School. The project sought to recycle used toilet-roll holders into pencil/pen cases and holders for sale to schoolmates, teachers, parents and family friends. The used toilet-roll holders were collected from homes and school washrooms. This project aimed at generating funds to sustain the activities (excursions, refreshments etc.) of the school Club. The Club has 85 members and 2 Club coordinators.



Volunteers assisting WCG members recycle used tissue roll holder in to sellable stationery holders



Exhibition of some of the stationery holders made from used tissue roll holders by members of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana (WCG)



A section of the participants of the paper recycling training



African Lion (*Panthera leo*)

Many experts believe that the Ghanaian lion population is most likely extinct. A study conducted by Angelici in 2015, in the most important parks and other protected areas of Ghana, mainly focusing on Mole National Park revealed that a couple of lions have been sighted by poachers near the Gbatala Camp.

Lions are mainly threatened by hunting and persecutions by humans. They are considered a threat to livestock, so ranchers usually shoot them or poison carcasses to keep them away from their livestock. Since they need large territories to thrive and hunt, habitat loss is pushing lions towards extinction as their habitats are being converted to human settlements.

PHOTO CREDIT | © PIXABAY



Digital Communications

The Ghana Wildlife Society communicates with key audiences via our website ghanawildlifesociety.org as well as via blog.ghanawildlifesociety.org and through social media. While the website and blog are still our largest communication platforms in terms of content and consumption, the role of social media in our communications has increased immensely.

For channels managed by the GWS communications unit, here is a summary of user engagement over the past year. Facebook emerged as our most-engaged social media platform, with total engagement at 3,461 (likes, comments and shares) from 1,209 followers. Our audiences engage with our content on channels they find handy — and increasingly, with visually appealing content (pictures or videos). Followership and engagement on social channels are steadily growing.

SOCIAL MEDIA AUDIENCE

3.1K



WEBSITE

UNIQUE PAGE VISITS

1.2K



FACEBOOK

PAGE FOLLOWERS

141



TWITTER

PAGE FOLLOWERS

61



INSTAGRAM

PAGE FOLLOWERS

61



YOUTUBE

SUBSCRIBERS



Front view of the AG Leventis Library

AG Leventis Library

As an integral part of the Accra Conservation Education Centre, the A.G Leventis library serves as an information hub for the Society, its wildlife club members, supporters and a learning centre for individuals seeking a serene environment to do their private studies.

The primary aim of the library is to support biodiversity conservation research and education activities in Ghana by providing reference facilities and other essential library services to students in conservation biology as well as the public.

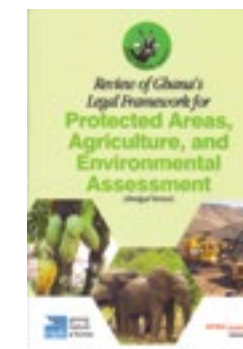
The A.G Leventis library is well stocked and resourced with various materials (books) on birds, wildlife, conservation and other relevant text books, quarterly journals, project flyers and posters of wildlife and conservation to take care of any conservational level whether at the junior or senior level.

The library has a seating capacity of 22. Comprising two 4-in-1 desks, one 8-in-1 desk and a round table for 6. Every registered member can have access to the facilities the library provides for learning including seating, internet access and sometimes research assistance for students. Wildlife club members on the other hand gets free access to use the library as part of being the junior wing of Ghana Wildlife Society. Council members and individuals who support the society also get free access to the library.

Publications

A report and three policy briefs were published to provide insight into the requirements that exist within current legislation and policies in the afore-mentioned themes. The report proposes key amendments that could strengthen the effectiveness of the identified legal and policy requirements, both in legislation and in implementation, to deliver sustainable land use and conservation of biodiversity in Ghana.

Ghana has so many legislations and policies as well as commitments to international conventions in the three areas covered by the legislative review report i.e. agriculture, protected areas and environment. The launched report was generated from a review that was inspired by efforts and programmes that are targeted at migratory birds of the African-Eurasian Flyway, which migrate through or use the landscapes of West Africa as their wintering grounds. Government of Ghana is party to very important conservation related international agreements and conventions such as the African-Eurasian Waterbirds Agreement (AEWA), the Action Plan for African-Eurasian Migratory Land birds (AEMLAP) that complement the conservation agenda within African-Eurasian flyways, Convention on Biological Diversity, Ramsar, CMS and the SDGs. The Minister considered the report as timely because, it unravels the relevant legal and regulatory requirements that relate to government's programme of work in all the thematic areas analysed.



Policy and Advocacy

GWS finalized a new Policy and Advocacy strategy highlighting five priority areas and spanning from 2018 to 2020.



GWS welcomed Mr. Faisal Elias as our new Policy and Advocacy Officer

FIVE KEY PRIORITY AREAS

PROTECTION OF THREATENED SPECIES

CONSERVATION OF IMPORTANT BIRD AREAS

PROTECTION OF MIGRATORY BIRDS

CONSERVATION OF MARINE MAMMALS AND SEA TURTLES

COHERENT AND CONSOLIDATED LEGISLATIVE REGIME

Legislative Review

Our forest reserves and protected areas are currently faced by a myriad of threats, such as illegal mining, illegal logging, agricultural expansion and intensification which have become the most significant drivers of land use change in Ghana and this is negatively impacting on the biodiversity and ecological health of our forest and savannah landscapes, and the environment in general. Despite the existence of extensive legislation, weak governance structures, inadequate implementation of existing laws, and loopholes and gaps within current legislation has not effectively fulfilled Ghana's ambition of sustainable development. Biodiversity remains in sharp decline and many of the country's natural ecosystems continue to be degraded. This trajectory is unsustainable.

Ghana Wildlife Society, working in partnership with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) in the UK, commissioned TaylorCrabbe Initiative to review the legal framework governing three key thematic areas: Protected Areas, Agriculture and Environmental Assessment.



Hon. Benito Owusu-Bio , Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources (right) being assisted by Mr. Andrew Callender, RSPB (left), and Prof. Erasmus Owusu, University of Ghana (far left), to unveil the report



Section of participants present at the launch of the legislative review report. Front row (left-right): Mr. Andrew Callender of RSPB, followed by Mr. Luri Kanton, Mr. Eric Lartey of GWS, Hon. Benito Owus-Bio and Prof. Erasmus Owusu

Campaign on International Whaling

GWS joined a host of conservation organisations around the world to campaign in favour of establishing a South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary. GWS published a position paper titled “Our Whales and Dolphins in Danger” in August 2018. This paper was in response to Ghana’s participation at the 67th International Whaling Commission’s meeting, which was held in Brazil in September 2018. The paper provided justification for Ghana to vote in favour of the establishment of the South Atlantic Whale Sanctuary and maintaining the ban on commercial whaling. To gain more traction, the position paper was followed by press briefing. The print media, radio, TV as well as online news portals covered this briefing.



CSOs on a peaceful demonstration to highlight the potential environmental damage to Atewa forest if the government of Ghana decides to carries on with mining plans

Campaigns on the Atewa Range Forest Reserve

Ghana Wildlife Society joined the NGO coalition during consultations with Parliament towards the passage of the Ghana Integrated Aluminium Development Corporation (GIADEC) Act. This Act is supposed to facilitate the establishment of a corporation to manage the extraction of bauxite and any related activities. GIADEC is supposed to identify strategic partners for the extraction and refining of bauxite reserves, creating an integrated aluminium industry.



Osprey (*Pandion haliaetus*)

Known to be the second most widely distributed raptor species, after the Peregrine Falcon, The Osprey has a worldwide distribution and is found in temperate and tropical regions of all continents except Antarctic.

In Ghana, it is usually found along the Volta lake.

Although listed as Least Concern on the IUCN Red List, Ospreys face so many threats including; death by power lines, hunting, poisoning and the loss of forested habitat along major waterways.

PHOTO CREDIT | © PIXABAY



Amansuri Conservation & Integrated Development Programme

The Nzulezo tourism initiative, a component of Amansuri Conservation, and Integrated Development (ACID) Programme is an initiative by the Ghana Wildlife Society in partnership with five fringe communities within the Jomoro Traditional Area. The ultimate goal of the project is to manage and enhance the conservation of the Amansuri Wetland through ecotourism to generate income for community development.

OUR ACTIVITIES





Front view of the Nzulezo Stilt Village

Administration

New management runs the Amansuri Office, actively discharging their duties. As part of efforts to improve on the governance, the project committee met a number of times to review progress of activities.

Committee Engagement

To strengthen and establish good relations with project and tourism sub-committee members, several meetings were held to discuss current challenges and to deliberate on the way forward with respect to the tourism initiative. The meeting witnessed the announcement of new tour guide .

Renovation

The visitor’s centre was given a facelift through a renovation. Different parts of the building were renovated including selected doors and windows and fixing of leaking parts of the roofing and the ceiling. Furniture in the offices were also replaced and the entire building was painted.



Tourists enjoying the view of the Amansuri wetland on their boat ride to the Nzulezo Stilt Village



Tourist enjoying a boat ride around the Nzulezo Stilt Village

Tourist Population

The project recorded a total of 18,000 individual tourists. This included both domestic and foreign tourist. Of the total number, 11000 representing 61% were domestic tourists (Ghanaians), whilst 3,000 were Europeans, 1,800 Americans, 1200 Asian and 1000 for other nationalities representing 5%.



Side view of the Nzulezo Stilt Village

Financial Summary

Total income accrued from tourism for the period under review totalled GH¢ 169,936 with project expenses amounting to GH¢ 94,900.

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 as well as, raise funds to sustain 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 eight (8) corporate partners.





Yellow-casqued Hornbill (*Ceratogymna atrata*)

This striking bird species can be found in the primeval rain forest of coastal regions of Ghana and has been predominantly recorded in the wholly-protected Ankasa Game Reserve.

It is currently listed Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List as observations regarding threats and the disappearance of the species from many areas strongly imply that it is undergoing a rapid population decline owing to on-going and unsustainable hunting pressure, habitat loss and fragmentation.

The Society in collaboration with the Accra City Hotel in 2018, adopted the Yellow-Casqued Hornbill on the Endangered Species Fence to fund research and raise awareness on the status and threats faced by the species.

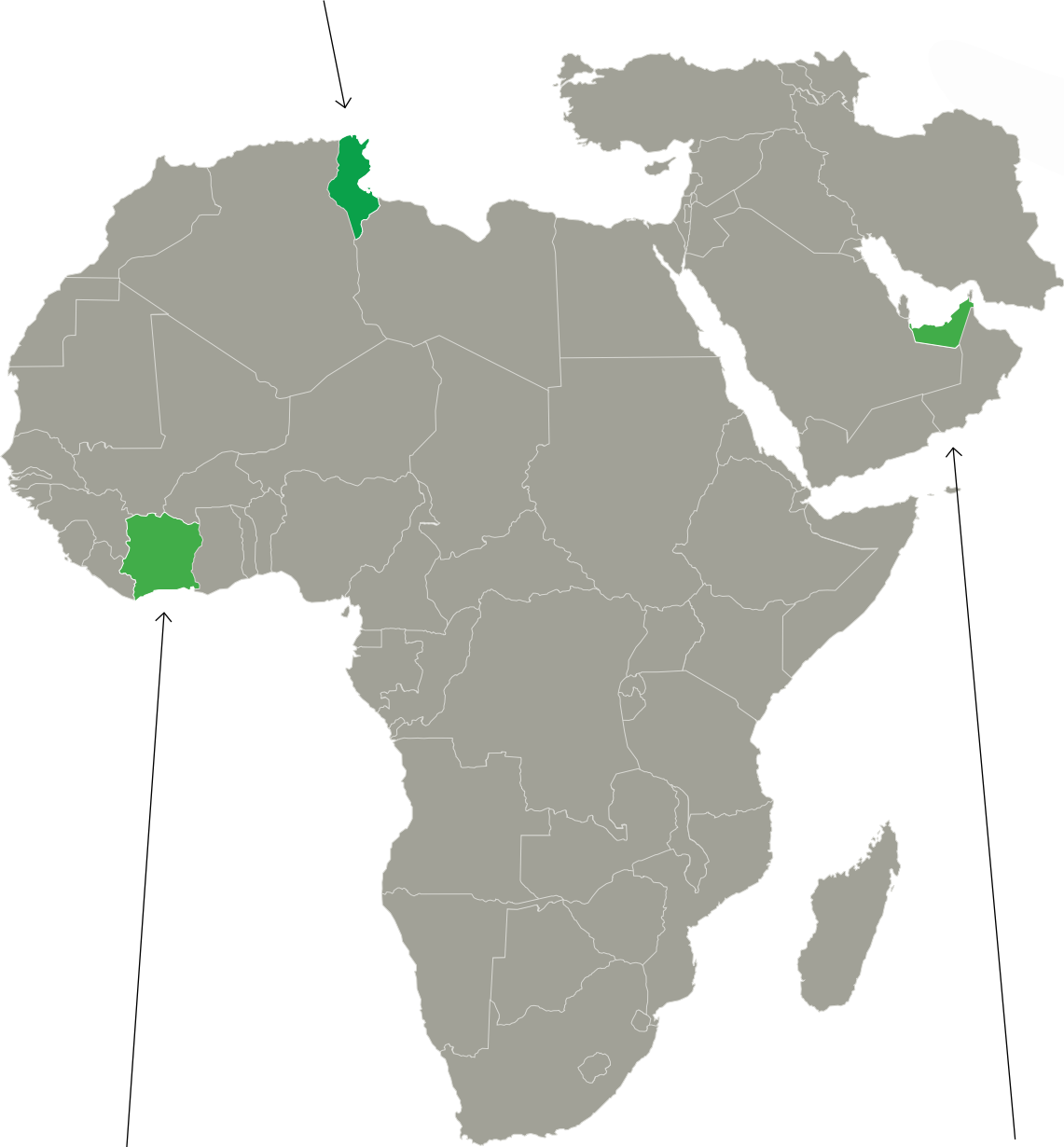
PHOTO CREDIT | © DENISE CHAN

International Meetings

19th - 22nd January 2018

Tunis, Tunisia

East Atlantic Flyway Taskforce Meeting
Attended by: Mr Eric Lartey PMP®



5th - 7th December 2018

Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire

IUCN Turtle Conservation Conference
Attended by: Mr Solomon Kenyenso

05th - 09th February 2018

Abu Dhabi, UAE

Global Flyway Summit
Attended by: Mr Eric Lartey PMP®



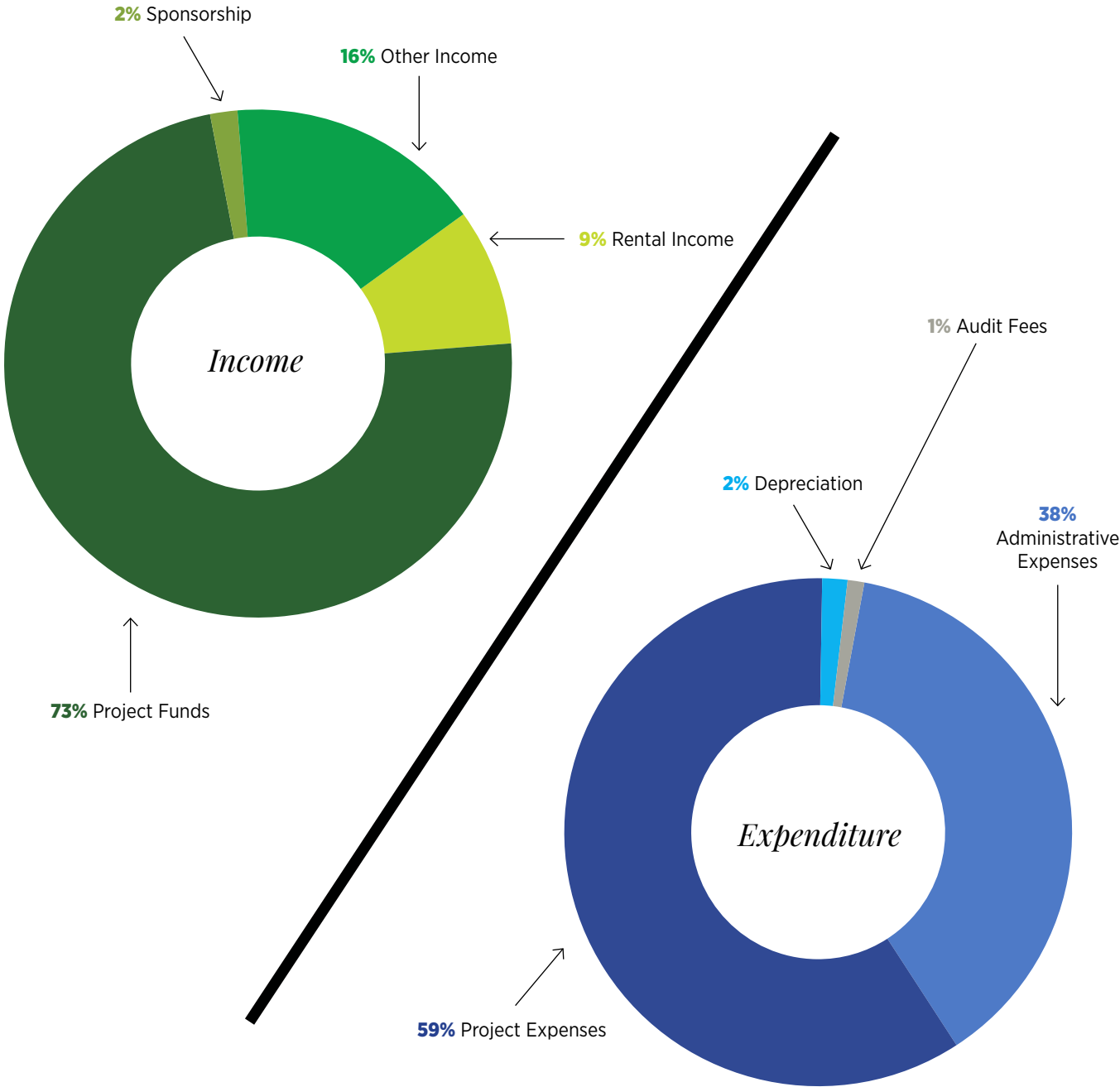
An artwork made out of recycled material by students of the Wildlife Clubs of Ghana.

PHOTO CREDIT | © RALPH LARTEY

Summarised Financial Statements

Ghana Wildlife Society Statement of Income and Expenditure and Accumulated Fund
for the year ended 31st December, 2018

	2018 (GH¢)	2017 (GH¢)
Income		
Rental Income	125,477.00	47,303.20
Project Funds	1,052,083.89	978,095.30
Sponsorships	25,000.00	23,000.00
Other Income	234,100.63	86,537.26
TOTAL INCOME	1,436,661.52	1,134,935.76
Expenditure		
Administrative Expenses	421,246.61	514,437.54
Project Expenses	660,374.11	173,523.86
Depreciation	17,819.20	14,618.27
Audit Fees	11,784.00	7,200.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	1,111,223.90	709,779.67
<i>Excess of Income over Expenditure</i>	355,437.54	425,356.09
Accumulated Fund		
Balance as at 01/01/2018	2,288,406.09	1,863,250.00
Prior Year Adjustment	584,039.94	
BALANCE AS AT 31/12/2018	3,197,883.57	2,288,606.09





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

©

COVER PHOTO | © PIXABAY

West African Dwarf Crocodile (*Ciconia ciconia*)

This globally threatened species which is vulnerable to extinction
can be found in the swamp on the Atewa Range Plateau

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