

HOW ORGANIC SHEA BUTTER AND HONEY VALUE CHAINS CAN BUILD CLIMATE RESILIENT COMMUNITIES?

The largest National Park of Ghana, Mole National Park, is also one of the richest in terms of biodiversity with numerous elephants, monkeys, antelopes and other species. But these amazing species are threatened by poaching and deforestation caused by anthropic activities.



The project will strengthen local participation in the sustainable management of the periphery of this emblematic protected area, and will support the local population in increasing their revenue thanks to the production of organic shea butter and honey.



GHANA

Full cost : **150,000 euros**
Duration : **3 years**
Start : **january 2018**



A project implemented by :



And supported by :





The site and its biodiversity

Located in northwestern Ghana, the Mole National Park was created in 1971 after being a hunting reserve from 1958. Covering a land area of 4577 km² of savannah, it is the largest protected area of the country.

It is known for its rich biodiversity, sheltering numerous fauna species such as elephants, buffalos and monkeys, and has one of the biggest concentrations of antelopes in Africa. This is also an important touristic site of Ghana.

Major issues

Created with the aim to protect its abundant fauna and flora, the National Park is still threatened by the hunting of game around and within the Park, mainly antelopes for provision of bush meat.

The Park though well protected has in recent times suffered from targeted well planned incursions to log Rosewood, a species of high timber value in Ghana.

Limited livelihood options compel neighboring communities to enter the park to access Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), which is an important source of income during the lean season.

Surrounding areas of the park are under threat from the increasing production of charcoal, clearing for agriculture and bush fires.

Committed partners

A Rocha and **Northcode**, partners already strongly involved in the area, work since several years with local populations to improve their livelihoods and protect Mole National Park.

The NGO **A Rocha Ghana** has a strong experience in establishing Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) – local governance structures – on the outskirts of protected areas in Ghana, including the Mole National Park where it has set up four CREMAs.

Located in the southwestern area of Mole National Park, **Northcode** supports the empowerment of women by strengthening their economic capacities. Its specific focus is the development of beekeeping and the reforestation of degraded areas.

The project and the prospects for change

The project will ensure the sustainable and community-led management of Park periphery, through the development of green value chains benefitting communities and strengthening the local governance structures (CREMAs).

The objectives of the project are the following:

- Contribute to the development of sustainable economic sectors. These green value chains will benefit to

the communities by increasing their income and will participate to the protection of the Park.

The sector of certified shea butter will be supported by setting up a shea-processing unit to produce organic butter and create an economic added value. Beehives will be provided and beekeepers trained to generate additional income; the honey of this region is highly sought for its taste and its particular properties.

- Ensure a better biodiversity conservation and the sustainable use of natural resources by (1) strengthening the CREMAs already in place and creating a new one in the southwest area of the Park; (2) setting up a Conservation Fund aiming at ensuring the long-term self-financing of the CREMAs; (3) reinforcing the forest patrols; (4) restoring degraded areas.
- Ensure the capacity building of civil society and disseminate the project lessons-learned.



Main achievements in 2019

Biodiversity Conservation

- 1- **A Rocha**
 - 10-year resources management plans drafted for 3 CREMAs;
 - 1 Landscape Conservation Trust Fund with a seed fund of €8,600 established;
 - Over 20,000 seedlings raised with over 4,200 planted;
 - 168 farmers (42M/126F) trained on tree planting and landscape restoration best practices;
 - 35 patrollers trained and involved in ecological monitoring (250 patrols conducted);
- 2- **Northcode Ghana**
 - 10 community-level committees and 1 CREMA executive committee inaugurated to oversee management of the Jelinkon CREMA;
 - 1 CREMA management plan being drafted;
 - 1000 seedlings of native tree species planted on degraded areas and in agroforestry.

Socio-economic Development

- 1- **A Rocha**
 - Honey value chain analysis and business plan elaborated;
 - 680 bags of shea nuts sold with a total of over €16,500 income generated;
 - 1 organic shea warehouse completed and 2 commenced;
 - Construction of eco-friendly Shea Butter Processing Centre commenced;
 - 328 shea collectors and 450 beekeepers (274M/176F) trained on business and financial management.
- 2- **Northcode Ghana**
 - 1 Honey Processing Centre completed;
 - Additional 100 beehives with beekeeping equipment provided (total of 300 hives installed);
 - 20 groups of 200 beekeepers (50M/150F) strengthened;
 - 4 new Village Savings and Loans Associations (VSLAs) established.