

Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve Agroforestry Buffer Zone

OKO Forests

Ashanti Region, Ghana

Plan Vivo PIN Application

June 2021

Summary Information

Project Title	Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve Agroforestry Buffer Zone
Project Location – Country/Region/District	Ghana, Ashanti Region, surrounding the Kogyae Strict Nature Preserve.
Project Coordinator & Contact Details	<p>Kofi Debrah kofi@okoforests.com Phone: +23 3544059968 Partner and Managing Director of OKO Forests</p> <p>Emil Fisher emil.bidg@gmail.com Phone: +41 76 280 57 28 Managing Director of Bamboo for Integrated Development-Ghana</p> <p>Vincent Awotwe-Pratt vawotwepratt@gmail.com Phone: +23 3243242859 Partner - Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation</p>
Summary of Proposed Activities (Max 30 words)	Implementation of a community managed landscape governance structure, bringing the people who live in Kogyae’s vicinity together to create an agroforestry buffer zone that will protect the reserve.
Summary of Proposed Target Groups (Max 30 words)	Our target group is smallholder farming families and the traditional authorities who are the legal custodians of all land in Ghana.

Part A: Project Aims & Objectives

The mission of OKO Forests highlights the problems the project will address:

- To increase yields per hectare, alleviating poverty, mitigating the need to clear rainforests;
- Improve soil fertility through the adoption of agroforestry practices, initiating the diversification of the farming system and increasing biodiversity;
- To implement sustainable practices at scale, becoming a major player in Africa's sustainable land use management;
- Add value to farm produce raising incomes in communities;
- Put in place local and regional supply chains, enhancing growth opportunities.

The project includes several partnerships with in-country teams as well as organizations abroad. Within Ghana, the following organizations have partnered with OKO Forests to ensure the success of the project: Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation, Forestry Commission of Ghana, Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, and the Kokrobitey Institute. Additionally, an external partner exists in the United States, Provision Power and Gas, a company of Elevation Energy Group based in Austin, Texas.

The project is expected to cover a 20-year life cycle with several phases and long-term management. Phases and long-term management details can be found in Attachment A: *Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve Commercial Agroforestry Buffer Zone Concept Note (Concept Note)*. Additionally, the project will align the interests of the private sector, civil society, traditional authority, and community people.

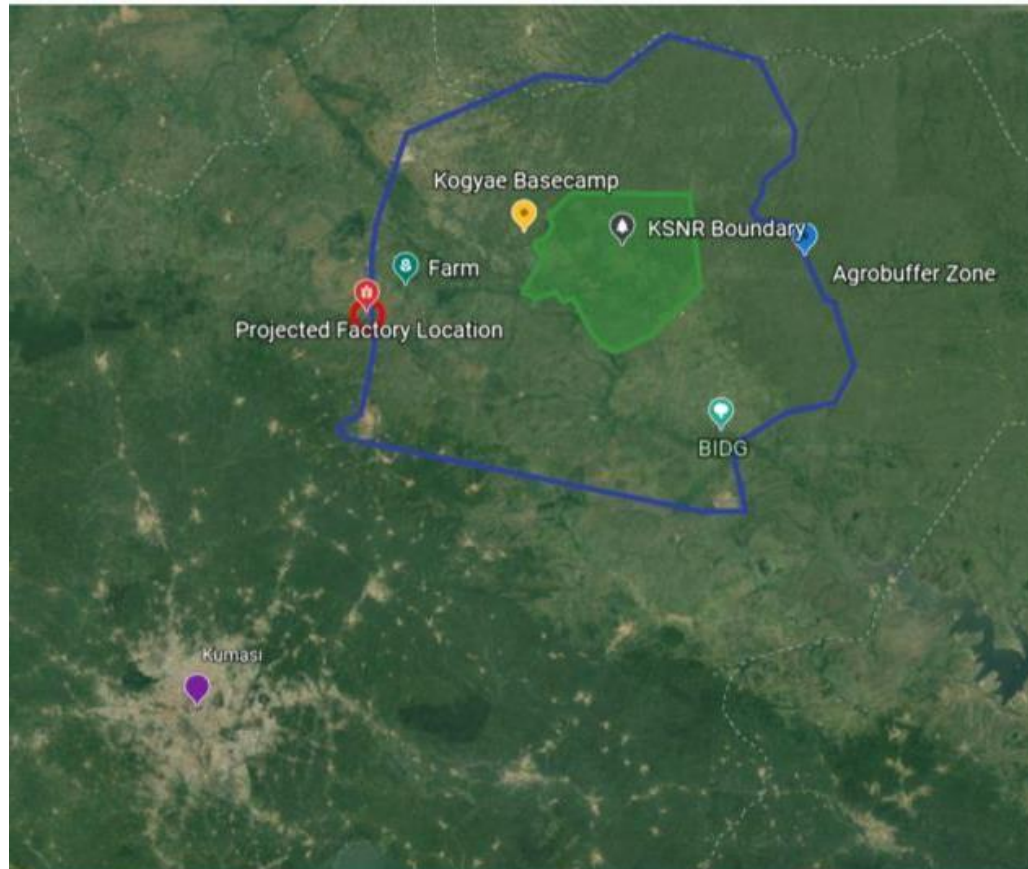
Part B: Proposed Project Area

Description of Project Location

The OKO Forest pilot project aims to create an agroforestry buffer zone that surrounds Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve (KSNR) in the Forest Transition Zone (FTZ) of Ghana. This is in the Ashanti region with the nearest municipality of Mampong. An initial map was created on explorer.land.com, a program created by OpenForests.¹ An updated map can be found below, which indicates project areas and boundaries. Attachment A includes information regarding adjacent designated conservation areas. The project consists of a 40-hectare nucleus farm,

¹ <https://explorer.land/x/project/kogyae/>

adjacent to the KSNR, which is roughly 386,000 hectares in size. The habitat consists of Southern High Forest and Northern Savannah Zones with several animal species present within KSNR. Land use includes but is not limited to any known local land degradation processes or trends, including the main drivers of these processes (E.g., charcoal production, conversion for agriculture, and illegal logging).



Accomplishments so far have been building relationships with key national institutions such as the Forestry Commission, and Traditional Authorities such as the office of the King of Ashanti who has an existing landscape restoration program.² We have also successfully piloted the planting of 22,000 trees and 3,000 bamboo seedlings across 25 acres with partner farmers.

Our project partners, Bamboo for Integrated Development Ghana, have an additional pilot site within the landscape, where they have built extensive links within the community.³

Description of Socio-Economic Context

According to the Ghana Census, agriculture is the largest employer of Ghanaians, accounting for roughly 21% of Ghana's national gross domestic product (GDP). Within the Mampong municipality, agriculture employs roughly 67.3% of the labor force. The Living Income Report for Ghana estimates a living income in rural farming areas of Ghana (Ashanti, Central, Eastern, and

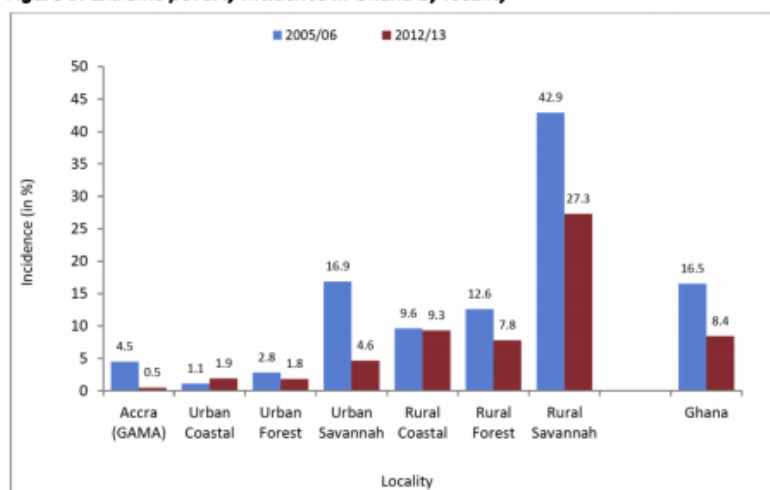
² <https://greenasantekingdom.org/>

³ <https://explorer.land/x/project/kogyae/site/DWJGZq/news>

Western Regions) of GHS 1,464 (\$329 USD) per month for a family of five.⁴ This is the net monthly income required for a decent standard of living for a typical family of two adults and three children. The estimate is based on actual costs of living at a basic standard of decency and indicates the amount of profit from all sources of household income (i.e., minus business expenses) that would be necessary to cover living expenses for the family.

Based on the 2014 Demographic and Health Survey report from the Ghana Statistical Service, extreme poverty is most acute within the Rural Savannah (titled Figure 3 below).⁵ The Mampong municipality has vast, arable land which inhabitants propagate for subsistence food production. Higher agricultural productivity for local consumption and export would greatly improve income generation and foreign exchange both for the inhabitants and the country at large. A regional development plan highlights opportunities to pursue moving forward.⁶

Figure 3: Extreme poverty incidence in Ghana by locality



Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2014a.

The following table illustrates the occupational distribution of the region.⁷

⁴ <https://cocoainitiative.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/LIVING-INCOME-REPORT-FOR-GHANA.pdf>

⁵ <https://www2.statsghana.gov.gh/docfiles/publications/2014%20GDHS%20%20Report.pdf>

⁶ https://new-ndpc-static1.s3.amazonaws.com/CACHES/PUBLICATIONS/2016/04/04/AR_Mampong+Municipal_2014-2017+DMTDP.pdf

⁷ https://new-ndpc-static1.s3.amazonaws.com/CACHES/PUBLICATIONS/2016/04/04/AR_Mampong+Municipal_2014-2017+DMTDP.pdf

Part C: Identification of Target Groups & Communities

Ghana is a constitutional republic with a unicameral parliamentary system. Local government is included in the Ghanaian constitution, as participation by the people is encouraged. Traditional leaders are given important roles in local government and nine percent of assembly seats are reserved for traditional leaders as well as the Regional Coordinating Councils. Each region has a regional minister, which is appointed by the president. There are three types of assemblies as well as sub-structures. The sub-structures do not hold any legislative power; however, they oversee activities delegated to them by the assemblies.

The Ashanti Region has one metropolitan assembly, eighteen municipal assemblies, and twenty-four district assemblies for the estimated six million residents. Assemblies are the highest unit of local government. The Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development is responsible for local policy, monitoring local government, advising the government on local issues, and acts as an advisory organization.

Ghana is home to several ethnic groups, including the Akan, the Ewe, the Ga-Adangbe, the Mole-Dagbani, the Guan and the Gruma. The Akan includes the Ashanti and Fanti people. The Ashanti region is the ancient territory of the Asante people, where the ancient capital of Kumasi is located. The region is famous for gold, cocoa, and cloth production and has the largest open-air market in West Africa. It is considered a cultural hotspot of the country with several festivals, including multiple religious festivals. The region is roughly forty percent rural.

The communities specific to the landscape we are working in are Fulani, Chokorsi, Frafra, Dagaati, Kusasi, Ewe and Asante people who form the majority of the population. Asante people also tend to be landowners with the other communities being settler farmers with fewer land rights.

Within the region lies a large tropical rainforest as well as reserves and wildlife sanctuaries to protect the natural beauty.

The Kokrobitey Institute (KI) has identified educational opportunities through targeted groups. Gender differences for farming roles will be highlighted. Respect for and the empowerment of women goes hand in hand with the project's entrepreneurship model. Through agricultural training, communal planning and regenerative business education workshops with staff and the growing community, the project is committed to ensuring all voices and hands are valued for their contributions and are equal in their potential. Additionally, the project seeks to provide equitable training opportunities.

The project seeks to work with Pastoralists and to empower women. As Pastoralists are considered a marginalised group, the project aims to include them into specific grazing areas as well as work with community leaders and the wider community to coordinate with the Pastoralists grazing locations.

Part D: Land Tenure & Carbon Rights

Land Tenure

The project will require participating farmers to sign land tenure agreements with OKO Forests. The long-term goal of the project is to form a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) of the lands surrounding the KSNR. The CREMA mechanism serves as a resource management and landscape-level planning tool for community initiatives. CREMA was initially developed by Ghana's Wildlife Division, an arm of the Forestry Commission, in combination with its partners to support community resource management in off-reserve (un-gazetted) lands. The CREMA is meant to fill a gap by providing communities with the right to manage and economically benefit from their natural resources, in this case, the OK Tree Project.

The Forestry Commission of Ghana has set up a National Forest Monitoring System that we aim to be a part of. This system is still being developed and OKO Forests plans to work with the Forestry Commission to help monitor the KSNR.

Ghana's Constitution vests ownership of the land in the Stool or Skin,⁹ the traditional leadership structures that preside over a particular ethnic group, clan or tribe and the associated land and resources. Because of this, the government has the right to manage the naturally occurring resources for economic gain. This has resulted in a series of perverse incentives, which over time have tended to drive illegal resource uses, and degradation or deforestation of the forest resources. The CREMA would create a policy shift by permitting communities, landowners, and land users an opportunity to govern and manage forest and wildlife resources within the boundaries of the CREMA and to benefit financially or in kind.

The land itself falls under a communal land ownership system where the land is collectively owned by an extended family, clan, or community of ancestrally related people with control or administration vested in the leader or his appointee. The leader or appointee may give out portions of the land to the community or non-community members to be used on an individual basis. This is more or less a nucleated family basis, on a cooperative basis or through some other such recognized arrangement, for variable lengths of time. In the communities surrounding the KSNR, individual community members enjoy free usufructuary rights over the communal land on the basis of kinship.

Traditionally, any indigenous person who needs land for either farming or residential purposes has had the right to use land anywhere provided it is within the jurisdiction of their local sub-chief. Once the land is not being used by another person, the local inhabitants do not need any

⁹ http://www.fao.org/gender-landrights-database/country-profiles/countries-list/land-tenure-and-related-institutions/en/?country_iso3=GHA

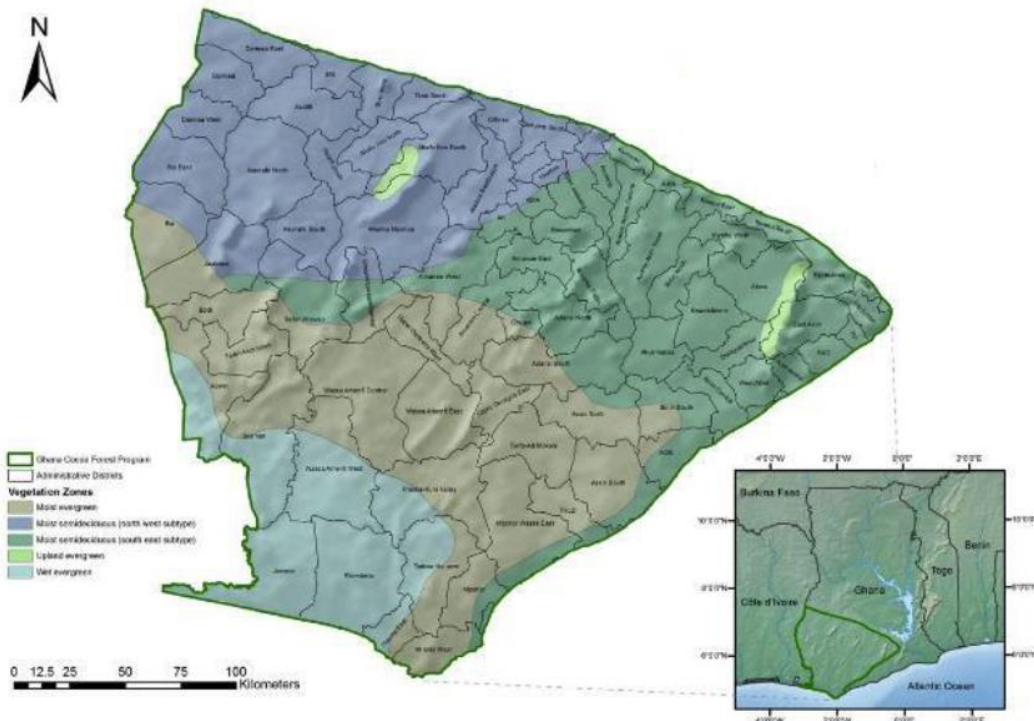
prior approval from the local chief. Settlers wishing to acquire land seek permission from traditional heads to settle in an area and thereupon acquire land on contractual basis.

Carbon Rights

The Ghanaian government does not have claim to the expected carbon rights of this project. OKO Forests is in the process of reaching out to relevant authorities for letters confirming the land and carbon rights of this project. Please see Attachment C: *OKO Tree Project Formal Notification Letter Example* for an example of a letter being sent to the Forestry Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Asantehene, IUCN – Ghana, and Mampong Municipal Authority for verification.

Ghana's vision includes significantly *reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation* (REDD+) and to enhance carbon stocks through sustainable forest management and forest restoration over the next 20 years. The country also aims to address threats undermining ecosystem services and environmental integrity. By doing so, REDD+ will become a pillar of action for the national climate change agenda and a leading pathway towards sustainable, low emissions development. The program focuses on mapping all land uses, including cocoa farms; implementing climate smart cocoa practices to increase yields and sustainability; improving access to finance to foster good practices by farmers and communities; initiating legislative and policy reform to support program execution and coordination; and measuring, reporting, and verifying. Ghana's REDD+ Program is focused on the High Forest Zone cocoa landscape with a view to expanding into the Northern shea Savannah area, leaving the Forest Transition Zone where our project is located open to develop carbon credit projects. Ghana's REDD+ Program structure has influenced the development of our project in the Forest Transition Zone.

The map below show's Ghana's REDD+ area which is subject to restrictions on carbon sales.¹⁰



Part E: Project Interventions & Activities

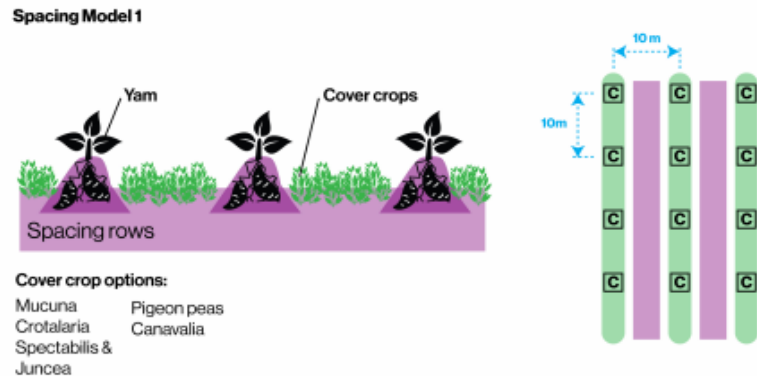
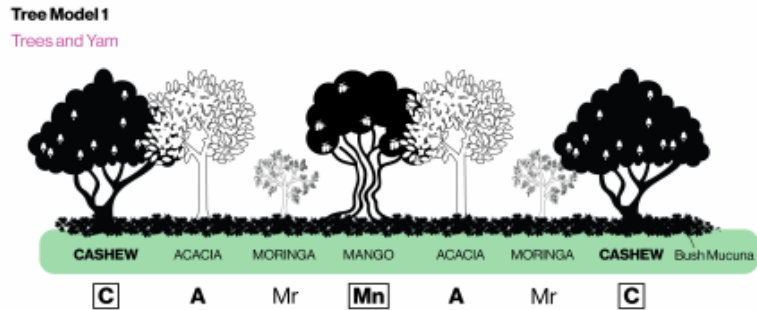
Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve is being heavily degraded by the communities who surround the reserve. This project aims to provide a buffer to prevent additional degradation as well as an educational institute to preserve the area.

Education, storytelling, and community engagement will be designed to prevent degradation, while restoring and improving land use by building a knowledge base in our staff and surrounding communities which encourages a sense of pride, care, and a reciprocal beneficiary relationship with nature within traditional agricultural practices native to the region. Curriculums, education material and in person events/workshops will build critical thinking, environmental literacy, and entrepreneurial incentives through display of Argo-forestry business models and information sharing.

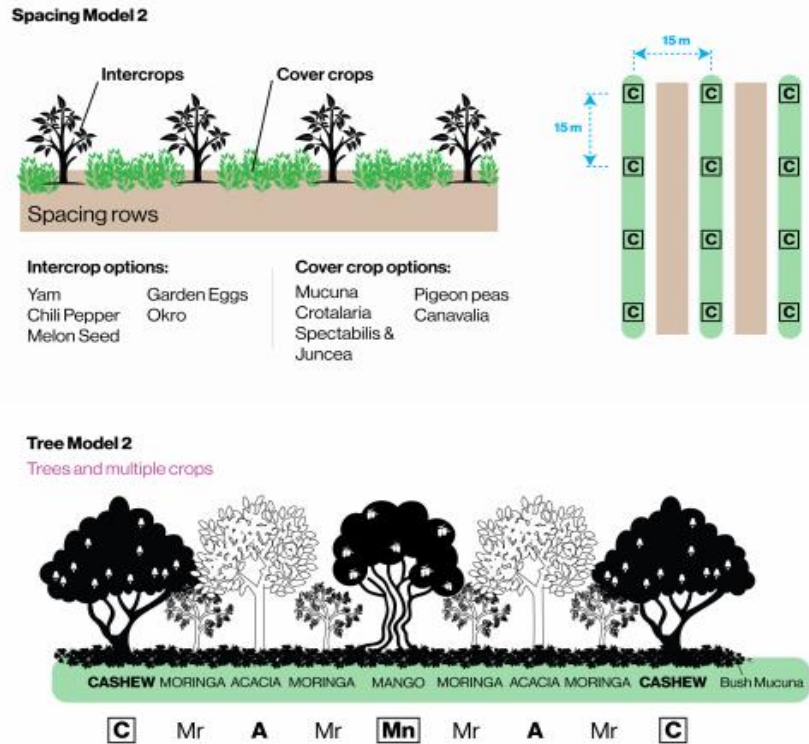
The KI's Project Outlook: "For us, storytelling and education cannot be separated from the success of this growing agroforestry project. Looking at the past global and local happenings around deforestation, drought, and pollution, we cannot risk misunderstanding with our staff and surrounding communities. Through documentation, media creation, education supplements, and in person workshops and events, we will chronicle our activities and be able to communicate with all necessary stakeholders not only the importance of sustainable Argo-forestry, but the exciting potential it holds."

Additionally, OKO Forest is focusing on a farmer managed agroforestry concept (FMAC) with two models shown below. Both models are expected to increase income for farmers as well as prevent future risks associated with climate change. These systems are expected to cooperate with existing and the created biological systems in a symbiotic relationship where the trees and crops mutually benefit each other. As part of OKO's goal to increase education, this includes the use of organic farming methods that will regenerate the soil and increase crop yields as well as prevent farmers from cutting down existing trees. The organic methods will aid in preventing soil erosion and enhance soil fertility all while reducing additional carbon from being released into the atmosphere.

- Model 1: Tree crops with cassava / yam as cover crop



- Model 2: Tree crops with multiple crop varieties



Additional information regarding the FMAC, crop analysis, sourcing, and future livelihood estimations can be found in the *Farmer Managed Agroforestry - Towards a Commercial Agroforestry Buffer Zone Surrounding Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve*, document Attachment D (*Farmer Managed Agroforestry*).

Part F: Identification of Any Non-Eligible Activities

An additional goal of the project is to provide economic opportunities locally. One consideration includes utilizing the cashew crops through crop aggregation and in partnering with cashew buying companies. The project has studied market opportunities associated with global cashew growth, demand, and price trends. A second aspect supporting the project's success is the recently developed tree nursery, which provides employment and educational opportunities in the near term. As part of the nursery, OKO employs a permaculture certified farmer as they incorporate permaculture principles into their plant selection as they continue to expand and refine their crop choices.

Additional projects are also being studied and connections are being made as the project develops. This includes heavily emphasizing educational opportunities including, but not limited to, gender equity projects to promote opportunities for women to lead.

Part G: Long-term Sustainability Drivers

The project has dedicated commodity off-takers for the cash crops grown within the carbon project. These off-takers also offer training specific to their commodity to ensure sustainability and long-term success of the farmers. Land management and partnerships with local and regional authorities will aid in the long-term success of this project, including support from the King of Ashanti.

OKO is dedicated to creating a farmer cooperative, encouraging additional membership of new farmers. This cooperative will aid the farmers in working with off-takers of the commodities. Additionally, the cooperative, alongside OKO, hopes to expand opportunities for the farmers and participants by creating new opportunities as investments can be made. This includes, but is not limited to commercial honey production, moringa oil processing, cassava processing, mushroom production, and vegetable packing.

Part H: Applicant Organization & Proposed Governance Structure

OKO Forests Limited is a limited liability organization.

OKO's integrated business model approach is based on two main aspects:

1. Improvement of knowledge and productivity
2. Gaining better access to market information and organization of selling the products.

OKO is focused on: Cocoa Forest Landscape Restoration Program, Farmer Managed Agroforestry with AgDevCo, and the KSNR pilot project. As part of this pilot project the KSNR agroforestry buffer zone will be developed. The pilot project currently includes 60 hectares with 30 farming families (Phases 1 and 2) with Phase 3 expanding the project to 80 hectares and 40 farming families. Additional information can be found in the *Farmer Managed Agroforestry* document and the *Concept Note* (Attachments D and A).

Project personnel with years of project management and relevant forestry experience can be found below. Contact information for all project personnel can be found in **Part M: Project Partners**.

Kofi Debrah

Partner and Managing Director of OKO Forests

Bsc in Social Anthropology with six years of experience on the ground developing agroforestry systems with small holder farmers across Ghana.

Emil Fischer

Director, Bamboo for Integrated Development (BIDG)

Emil began his career with an apprenticeship as a Precision Mechanic in Switzerland before being a goldsmith, furniture designer, and woodworker. He became interested in bamboo after researching sustainable building and construction materials. He worked on bamboo farming across Asia before moving to Ghana to direct the BIDG. The BIDG partners with the Environmental Bamboo Foundation and the Bamboo4Future-Association in Switzerland. BIDG

focuses on food security, reducing poverty through bamboo agroforestry programs, and mitigating climate change.

Vincent Awotwe-Pratt

Director of Cocoa and Forests Program Manager for Ghana, World Cocoa Foundation
Vincent has been working in the Agroecological space for nearly 12 years in academia, non-profit, and private sectors. Vincent holds a BSc in Zoology and an MPhil in Animal Biodiversity Studies. His experience spans the Upper Guinean Forests of West Africa particularly in Liberia, Sierra Leone, Côte d'Ivoire, and Ghana. He is a member of the Society for Conservation Biodiversity, a member (Associate) of the Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management (CIEEM).

Renée C. Neblett

Renée C. Neblett, artist /educator is Founding Director of the Kokrobitey Institute in Ghana. She is a former Bunting Fellow at Radcliffe College, and a Visiting Scholar at the Graduate School of Education, Harvard University. She holds a BFA from the Kunst Akademie, Düsseldorf, and a M. Ed from Goddard College. She has taught at the primary, secondary and tertiary levels in both public, private, and international institutions in the U.S, Europe, the Caribbean, and Africa. Over the past 30 years she has dedicated her life to establishing Kokrobitey. The Institute is a dynamic inter-cultural learning space in Ghana that uses the arts to explore the traditions and intelligence of African culture(s).

Today, the Institute in collaboration with its orbit of local and international partners, combines resourceful design, experiential learning, environmental sustainability with development. The recently constructed Alero Olympio Design Center has become an international hub of creative enterprise where local people and students collaborate with an inter-cultural community of professional artists, artisans, ecologists, designers, and educators to build sustainable, social entrepreneurship models.

Elise McMahon

Project Partner, Kokrobitey Institute

Elise McMahon is an artist, designer, and teacher based in New York and Kokrobitey. Elise holds a BFA from the Rhode Island School of Design. She has spent the last 10 years teaching furniture skills & resourceful design courses in various schools and studios. Alongside teaching she has maintained an independent art and design career, designing, and making custom furniture and interior spaces for clients like Artsy, Kwambio, Basilica Hudson, and showing installation work in galleries in Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco & Chicago.

She has a deep interest in how designed spaces and systems can improve quality of life for creators, consumers, and observers. With each object & project she aims to challenge the mass-produced interiors and experiences that we commonly accept in our modern world.

Tri Vo

Founder, Elevation Energy Group & Provision Power and Gas

Tri is the founder and president of Elevation Energy Group. Tri holds an MFA in Industrial Design from The New School's Parsons School of Design, and a BBA, Finance from the

McCombs School of Business at The University of Texas at Austin. His career in energy spans over 10 years, where he worked his way up from entry-level analyst to later founding Energy 95, the precursor to Elevation Energy Group, Provision's parent company. During his career Tri has led teams trading natural gas, power, natural gas liquids, crude oil, renewable energy credits, and carbon credits. Tri has repeatedly witnessed the devastating effects of climate change as he guided his energy business through the complicated logistics created by climate aberrations like polar vortexes and record-setting warm winters. These experiences have fueled his passion for helping companies navigate their own transition to net-zero before it is too late.

Part I: Community-led design plan

One important characteristic about the municipality is its ethnic diversity. Settlements within the municipality are made up of various ethnic groups within the country. Each group has a unique culture in terms of building styles, physical appearances and the kind of food eaten. The municipal area is however dominated by Akans who constitute about 92.6% followed by ethnic groups from the northern part of the country constituting about 6.8%, Ewes 0.4% with other ethnicities remaining 0.2% as shown in the table below. However, there is a higher representation of groups from the Northern part of Ghana in farming communities.¹¹

OKO has already instigated collaboration and discussion with the various leaders within the communities and will continue to build those relationships. With KI's assistance we will host (minimum) quarterly information sessions and engaging workshops that invite participation, first with our staff and then growth toward our larger communities, building knowledge and support. We will build incentives into our workshops, drawing the connection between financial success and sustainable forest stewardship. Examples include, but are not limited to:

- product development: utilizing our forest harvest for value added design and craft outcomes;
- curious science: dissecting and experimenting with our plants and trees at various stages of growth, awakening awe and wonder in our surroundings;
- Health/Wellness Workshops: emphasizing the value of traditional knowledge towards our own well-being and the potential of 20th Century business models that can reflect such practices;
- Children's games, workbooks and flashcards that allow kids to bring their lessons home to share with family and build context and confidence.

The project will also focus on creating a Community Resources Management Area (CREMA) of the lands surrounding the reserve. The CREMA mechanism is an innovative natural resource management and landscape-level planning tool for community initiatives. It was developed by Ghana's Wildlife Division, an arm of the Forestry Commission, together with its partners, to support community resource management in off-reserve (un-gazetted) lands. CREMAs fill a

¹¹ https://new-ndpc-static1.s3.amazonaws.com/CACHES/PUBLICATIONS/2016/04/04/AR_Mampong+Municipal_2014-2017+DMTDP.pdf

critical gap by providing communities with the right to manage and economically benefit from their natural resources.

Part J: Additionality Analysis

The project began in 2016 by a private entity, OKO Forests, in coordination with several partners, including but not limited to Bamboo for Integrated Development and Advocates for Biodiversity to create a reforestation project as well as a campaign to organize farmers into an association with the aim of developing a restorative economy around the KSNR.

There are approximately 50,000 smallholder families surrounding the periphery of KSNR with the majority of their livelihood dependent on the reserve. This project and its goals are focused on working with local government, not as part of a legislative decree, to provide landscape governance, coordinated land use planning before development of the CREMA.

The main barrier in the region is land ownership. Land in the region is mainly controlled by stools, families, and clans. The acquisition of such lands is normally done through the chief. Family land acquisition is also governed by customary law of descent and distribution. Land users typically become “tenants” where they pay for use of the land or share the yield with the landlords. In this project, OKO Forests is already working with local leadership to ensure long-term usage of the land and success.

Additional information can be found in the following documents: *Farmer Managed Agroforestry* and the *Concept Note*. To illustrate OKO’s commitment to guaranteeing these will not be barriers for project success, Attachment C is an example of the letter sent to all organizations and government agencies that have been contacted for letters of support, as summarized in the following table.

Organization Name	Name	Title
Forestry Commission	Climate Change Director	Chief Executive of Forestry Commission Ghana
Environmental Protection Agency	Daniel Amlalo	Executive Director
Office of the Asantehene	Fred Kyei Sarpong	Director of Oheneba Poku Foundation
Mampong Municipal Assembly	Thomas Appiah-Kubi	Mampong Municipal Chief Executive

Ghana has clear carbon sequestration goals; there is a very robust project across the high forest zone and parts of Northern Ghana. However, this project falls within the Forest Transition Zone where there are no government interventions, laws, or regulations to regenerate the degraded land surrounding KSNR. This makes it difficult to gain the much-needed institutional support from key governmental institutions such as the Ministry of Environment, Science, technology & Innovation, Forestry Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, and the local municipal authorities that the project area covers. We have an abundance of verbal support

from the above-mentioned institutions; however, they do not have the financial muscle to support the project. In addition, enforcement on the KSNR itself is lacking due to limited resources to fight illegal loggers and mining activities, the communities surrounding KSNR need to urgently network and form alliances to protect the reserve with their eyes and ears to raise awareness to the Forestry Commission.

The project will enable barriers to be overcome by providing an incentive for farmers to adopt better farming practices that sequesters a greater amount of carbon. We plan to help the farming communities form formal cooperatives that will ultimately pay taxes to the Government of Ghana thus enabling the relevant governmental institutions to allocate more resources in the fight to reduce the country's emissions.

Barrier Analysis

Type of barrier	Description of Specific Barriers	How barriers will be overcome by project activities
Financial/economic barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of financial resources to develop project. - No system of community payments for ecosystem services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have secured funding to kick start the project that covers project management and transaction costs.
Technical barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The current Project Coordination team does not have the capacity to implement the project. - The communities including local level traditional authorities are not sufficiently educated on the benefits of carbon farming. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruitment of additional qualified staff to fill the skills gap. - Training and education initiatives will be carried out by the project coordination team, site coordinators, field workers to educate on the benefits of carbon farming.
Institutional/political barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of community and institutional cohesion regarding planning at the landscape level. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of Community Resource Management Areas that will give local communities the ability to develop their own by-laws for the development of a community forest.

Ecological barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Soil degradation, overgrazing from pastoralists, prolonged dry seasons, concentrated rainfall, unpredictable rainfall. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Use of technology to assist with weather forecasting. - Coordination with traditional authorities to create cattle grazing areas.
Social barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community groups are not organised to fight climate change. - Remoteness of some community groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Capacity development for community groups.
Cultural barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Traditional knowledge of agroforestry is mostly lost. Farmers are not directly connected to markets, middle (wo)men largely control prices. - Farmers use outdated inefficient technology. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Encourage farmer groups to form cooperatives to enable them to influence prices and pool resources to purchase high end technology.

Park K: Notification of Relevant Bodies & Regulations

The project team is currently working with the King of Asante’s land regeneration secretary to initiate this process. Working with the King will be most beneficial to ensure all relevant bodies are included and approve the project. Attachment E highlights this process in an email exchange with the King of Asante’s landscape regeneration secretary.

Additionally, we are keeping track of correspondence in a spreadsheet to ensure we contact everyone necessary. Meanwhile, draft letters are being put together for all relevant bodies and regulations, an example letter can be viewed in Attachment C.

Part L: Identification of Start-up funding

OKO Forests has received a grant from the World Bank Climate Innovation Center for non-tree planting funding. The planting phases so far have been self-funded through the Founder of OKO Forests.

Elevation Energy Group has provided funding for Phase One of tree planting and will provide funding for Phase Two of tree planting. Information regarding this partnership can be found in Attachment B, *Contract*.

Part M: Project Partners

Carbon certificates for this project, which are expected to be certified by Plan Vivo, are owned and marketed by Provision Power & Gas. These rights have been identified and secured through a mutually agreed upon contract, signed by OKO Forests and Elevation Energy Group (parent company of Provision Power & Gas) in April 2021. This contract can be found in Attachment B: *Partnership and Certification Contract (Contract)*.

Name of Organization	Contact Name & Title	Contact Information
OKO Forests	Kofi Debrah, Founder	kofi@okoforests.com ; +233 54 405 9968
BIDG	Emil Fisher, Managing Director	emil.bidg@gmail.com ; +41 76 280 57 28
Asante Kingdom Landscape Restoration Programme	Fred Kyei Sarpong	info@greenasantekingdom.org +233 24 423 9026
Advocates for Biodiversity Conservation	Vincent Awotwe-Pratt, Managing Director	vawotwepratt@gmail.com vincent@biodiversityadvocates.org
Forestry Commission of Ghana	John Atingah, Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve, Park Manager	055 395 4245 050 761 5774
Forestry Research Institute of Ghana	Dr. Daniel Ofori, Managing Director	odaniel8@yahoo.fr +233266006551
Kokrobitey Institute	Renée C. Neblett, Founder and Director; Elise McMahan, Project Partner	r.c.neblett@kokrobiteyinstitute.org ; elisemcm@gmail.com
Elevation Energy Group, Provision Power & Gas	Tri Vo, Founder	tri@elevationeq.com

List of Attachments

- A. Kogyae Strict Nature Reserve Commercial Agroforestry Buffer Zone Concept Note
- B. Partnership and Certification Contract
- C. OKO Tree Project Formal Notification Letter Example
- D. Farmer Managed Agroforestry
- E. Email exchange OKO & King of Asante's Secretary (landscape regeneration secretary)
- F. Draft Letter for Asante Kingdom Landscape Restoration Project