

COMDEKS NEWS April, 2012 No. 1

COMDEKS Launched In Ghana

The UNDP-supported project, “Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative” (COMDEKS), financed by the Japan Biodiversity Fund, was launched at a global inception workshop held in Accra, Ghana on 24-26 September 2011. The workshop brought together representatives of SGP Country Programmes from eight of the first eleven COMDEKS countries.



Participants at Inception Workshop in Accra Sept'11

Opening the workshop, Ms. Fumiko Fukuoka, UNDP/GEF Senior Technical Advisor,

Communities, Livelihoods and Markets, said the purpose of the workshop was to discuss the Satoyama Initiative concept and integrated management of socio-ecological production landscapes (SEPLs) and to identify the COMDEKS implementation strategy and the necessary technical tools and resources for operationalizing the concept.

The WETO Range is the Targeted Landscape for COMDEKS in Ghana

The SGP Ghana National Steering Committee (NSC), in consultation with local environmental stakeholders, has selected the WETO range as the socio-economic landscape for the Satoyama Initiative in Ghana. The landscape varies widely due to its unique adaptations to local climatic, geographic, cultural, and socio-economic conditions and biodiversity. Being part of the Guinea Forest of West Africa, the landscape is identified as an important biodiversity hotspot, as it contains “at least 1,500 species of vascular plants (> 0.5 percent of the world’s total) as endemics, and has lost at least 70 percent of its original habitat” (Conservation International, 2000). In addition to its rich endemic flora, it has rich wildlife, birds, bats, rodents and monkeys, water buck and butterflies.

The main objective of the COMDEKS project is to develop sound biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood

activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild, and revitalize socio-ecological production landscapes in accordance with the following five perspectives of the Satoyama Initiative:

- Resource use within the carrying capacity and resilience of the environment
- Cyclic use of natural resources
- Recognition of the value and importance of local traditions and cultures
- Natural resource management by various participating and cooperating entities
- Contributions to local socio-economies

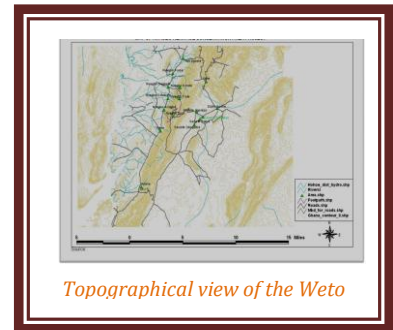


Aerial View of the WETO range

Description of the Weto Socio-Ecological Production Landscape

The WETO socio-economic ecological production landscape includes five traditional areas – Goviefe, Nyagbo, Avatime, Logba, and Leklebi in the Volta Region. It is a narrow belt of ridges and hills which forms part of the Togo-Akwapim ranges (the Atakora Range).

The range extends in southwest-northeast line for about 320 km from the Densu River mouth (near Accra) on the Atlantic coast to the boundary



Topographical view of the Weto

with Togo. Averaging 460 m in height, the landscape stretches eastward to the Togo Mountains in Togo and as the Atakora Mountains in Benin. The area has tropical climate, characterized by moderate temperature, 12 °C—25 °C for most of the years. The rainfall pattern is bi-modal, with two rainfall regimes in the year. The annual rainfall ranges from 713.9 mm and 1099.88 mm as is spread throughout the

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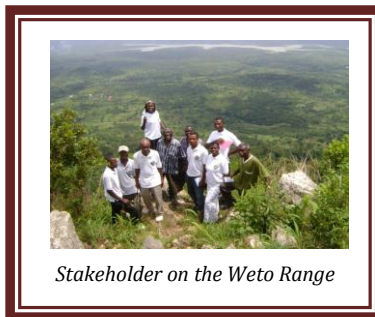
year. Structurally, the vegetation along the range is largely covered with deciduous forests, and their higher elevation provides a relatively cooler, pleasant climate.

Kick-off Stakeholders Consultation Meeting held in Kpeve

The SGP Ghana Country Programme, in collaboration with the three District Assemblies within the Weto Landscape, held an initiation workshop in Kpeve to discuss the *Satoyama* Initiative as well as the concept of integrated management of socio-ecological production landscapes (SEPLs), and to identify the COMDEKS implementation strategy.

The workshop, which was funded by the District Assemblies, was attended by over 50 stakeholders made up of civil society organizations operating within the landscape, traditional rulers, government socio-economic service providers, opinion leaders, District Assembly members, religious groups and farmers.

The participating civil society groups agreed to initiate a WETO platform to galvanize resources to support the implementation of the project.



Participatory WETO COMDEKS baseline Study begins

The NSC has selected Development Institute (DI), from a list of six equally competent organizations to conduct a baseline study of the WETO landscape. The objective of this assignment is to assist SGP National Coordinators and National Steering Committees a) to conduct a landscape-wide baseline based on a developed set of indicators for resilience in socio-ecological production landscapes; b) to develop the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy, following the template and guidelines provided for

this purpose; and c) to synthesize lessons learned from the consultation process and baseline assessments.

Development Institute is currently assisting SGP Ghana to clearly identify the landscape and its boundaries, and analyze any existing experience, resources, and networks in sustainable landscape management on which the Country Programme can build, and gaps, if any, where the Country Programme can complement. By mid-May, a consultative workshop that will engage the local communities in a participatory analytical and Country Programme Landscape development process will be conducted. A cross-section of stakeholders from the landscape will participate in this workshop.

World Environment Day to be used to officially launch WETO COMDEKS

Barring any hitches, it is expected that this year's world environment Day will be used to officially launch the Weto COMDEKS.

First Year grant of US\$127,000 to Implement Weto COMDEKS

An amount of US\$127, 000 has been allocated to Ghana as grant to implement the first year actions under the country programme landscape strategy for the WETO COMDEKS.

The project seeks to bring about community development, learning and knowledge sharing by making available small grants to community organizations to help them maintain and manage more resilient socio-ecological production landscapes.

Look out for more information!!!! Contact
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