

ITTO

**WOMEN AND TROPICAL FOREST
DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME**

FINAL PROJECT REPORT
DECEMBER, 1999

PROJECT COMPLETION REPORT

- a) **Title:** Women and Tropical
Forest Development
Programme
- b) **Serial Number:** PD 27/94 Rev. 2(F)
- c) **Executing Agency:** The Forestry
Department and 31st
December Women's
Movement
- d) **Host Government :** Ghana
- e) **Date Of Commencement:** 1st April 1995
- f) **Duration:** 51 months
- g) **Total project Costs:** \$714,823

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART I - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

	Pages
1.0 Project Background	1
1.1 Forest Resources and the Involvement of women	1
1.2 Specific Objectives	2
1.3 Specific Outputs	2
1.4 Strategies Adopted in Carrying out the Project	3
1.4.1 Identification and Designation of Project	3
1.4.2 Selection of Project Staff	3
1.4.3 Project Management	4
1.4.4 Reporting	4
1.4.5 Financial Management	4
1.4.6 The Project Planned Duration & Planned Overall Cost	5
1.4.7 Planned Overall Costs	5
2.0 Project Achievements	5
2.1 Output Achieved	5
2.2 Specific Objectives Achieved	6
2.3 Contribution to the Development Object	9
2.4 Target Beneficiaries Involvement	10
3.0 Lessons Learned	10
3.1 Development Lessons	10
3.1.1 Aspects of Project Design which Contributed in Achieving the Development Objectives	10
3.1.2 Changes in Inter-sectoral Links which Affected The Project's Success	11
3.1.3 Factors which will most likely affect Project Sustainability and After Completion	11
3.2 Operational Lessons	11

	Pages
3.2.1 Project Organization and Management	11
3.2.2 Project Organization System	11
3.2.3 Project Management Regulation	11
3.2.2 Project Documentation	11
3.2.3 Monitoring and Evaluation	13
3.2.4 Quality of Project Planning	13
3.2.5 Definition of the Roles and Responsibilities of the Institutions Involved in the Project Implementation	13
3.2.5.1 The Role of I.T.T.O.	13
3.2.4.2 The Role of Forestry Department & 31 st December Women's Movement	14
3.2.6 Action Taken to Avoid Variation Between Planned and Actual Implementation (Schedule, Cost, etc.)	14
3.2.7 External Factors that Influenced the Project that Could Have Been Seen	14
3.2.8 External Factors that Influenced the Project Implementation That Could Not Have Been Seen	15
5.0 Recommendations	15
B - PART 2: MAIN TEXT	
1.0 Project Content	16
2.0 Project Context	16
3.0 Project Design & Organization	19
3.1 Sound Conceptual Foundation of the Project	19
3.2 Adequacy of Time and Other Resources for Project Formulation	20
3.3 Understanding and Appropriateness of The Roles and Responsibilities of the Institutions Involved With the Project Implementation	20

	Pages	
4.0	Project Implementation	21
4.1	The Most Critical Differences Between Planned and Actual Project Implementation	21
4.2	Measures and Actions Which Could Have Avoided These Variations	21
4.3	Appropriateness of the Assumption Made and Correct Identification of the Risks Involved	21
4.4	Project Sustainability After Project Completion As a Result of Project Implementation	21
4.5	Appropriateness of Project Inputs (Quality & Quantity)	22
5.0	Project Results	22
5.1	Situation Existing at Project Completion As Compared To the Pre-project Situation	22
5.2	Extent to Which The Project's Objective was Achieved	23
5.3	Impact of the Project: Results on The Sectoral Programme on the Physical Environment, on the Target Beneficiaries	24
5.4	Project Sustainability After Completion as a Result of Project Conceptualization made & Conditions Prevailing at Completion	24
6.0	Synthesis Of The Analysis	25
6.1	Specific Objectives Achievements	25
6.2	Outputs	25
6.3	Schedule	25
6.4	Actual Expenditures	25
	C - PART III: CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS	26
1.0	Development Lessons	26
2.0	Operational Lessons	26

3.0 Recommendation For Future Projects

27

- 3.1 Identification
- 3.2 Design
- 3.3 Implementation
- 3.4 Organization
- 3.5 Management

PART 1:

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PROJECT BACKGROUND

1.1 FOREST RESOURCES AND THE INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN

The forest resources of Ghana provide enormous benefits to the people. In addition to fuelwood and charcoal, the forest provides fruits, leaves, gums and oil and medicinal products. However due to a number of reasons, this resource has been put under extreme pressure in recent years. This has come about because of the increase in population, expansion of agricultural land, excessive logging and bushfires among other factors.

Women in Ghana, particularly rural women, actively engage in the gathering, processing and marketing of these forest resources and utilise many of these non-timber forest products (NTFPs). For many women in rural communities the collection, processing and marketing of these non-timber forest products serve as a means of livelihood. However, despite the crucial role of women in forestry, they are rarely recognised for it. It is therefore important that women are integrally involved in the protection of the forest and in the creation of new ones.

The 31st December Women's Movement (31st DWM) is a well-organised women's non – governmental organisation (NGO) concerned about the dwindling nature of the nation's forest and its effects particularly on women and children. The 31st DWM has consequently been actively involved in promoting afforestation programmes particularly among women. Upon this background and with sponsorship from the International Tropical Timber Organisation (ITTO), the 31st DWM together with Forestry Department organised a 5-day workshop PD.19/91 Rev.(F) under the theme '**Women and Forest: A look at the African Experiences**' in October, 1992. The meeting provided an opportunity for consultation and exchange of views and

experiences amongst women involved in the sustainable development of tropical forest in ITTO member nations. Various recommendations were made stressing the need to follow-up on, and strengthen the ideas developed at the workshop. Among the recommendations was a call for the design of a specific country level, or regional programme to provide women with training and logistics required for sustainable management of forests.

In order to promote women's involvement, improve and intensify activities in afforestation and widen the scale of operations, the 31st DWM submitted a proposal for embarking on an afforestation programme country-wide, hence the birth of the Women and Tropical Forest Development Programme (WTFDP).

The WTFDP was in consonance with the national forestry sector policy which aims at (i) managing industrial forestry production and export earnings in accordance with sustained yield policy (ii) promoting conservation and tree planting on farms to counteract fuelwood shortage and ecological degradation and deterioration, and (iii) strengthening the structural base of the sector and its institutions to enable them carry out the necessary policy reforms, increase revenue generation and improve protection and management of forest and wildlife resources. Again Ghana is undertaking an industrial forest plantation programme under which establishment and management of new plantations in the High Forest Zone is being implemented. This project was conceived to involve women in the establishment of nurseries and plantations to support this initiative.

1.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

The Specific objectives of the project are to:

- 1) Enable women to establish and sustainably manage nurseries for NTFPs, timber and fruit trees to supply community-based DWM and private sector tropical reforestation initiatives.
- 2) Demonstrate the potential for women to support reforestation.
- 3) Encourage the involvement of women in West African sub-regional consultation on tropical reforestation.

- 4) Support the establishment of community-based NTFP, timber and fruit tree plantations through an extension programme.
- 5) Create employment opportunities for women.

1.3 SPECIFIC OUTPUTS

By the completion of the project, the following would be accomplished.

- a) Three (3) nurseries established and operated on a sustained basis by the 31st DWM.
- b) Demonstration NTFP, fruit and timber tree plantations established in the 3 zones.
- c) West African sub-regional workshop on reforestation held.
- d) Extension programme developed and operated by 31st DWM.
- e) Increased knowledge about the cultivation of NTFPs accomplished.

1.4 STRATEGIES ADOPTED IN CARRYING OUT THE PROJECT

The strategy adopted in carrying out the project was primarily to ensure that the activities under the project were implemented smoothly based on the workplan for project implementation. The main strategies and measures were as indicated below.

1.4.1 Identification and Designation of Project

Selection of staff and personnel namely; Project Co-ordinator, Counterpart Project Co-ordinator, Consultants, Regional Facilitators, and the Project Administrative Manager was done by the Executing Agencies in consultation with ITTO. The Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Project staff as specified in the Project Document were properly emphasised.

1.4.2 Selection of Staff

The Staff and personnel of the project were frequently reminded of the completion objectives, the activities to be undertaken and expected output after the project. The Project Co-ordinator emphasised that it was very important to have planned activities completed as was

indicated in the workplan. Both the Project Co-ordinator and the Counterpart Project Co-ordinator conducted frequent visits to the project sites to monitor activities. In addition to this, Regional Facilitators were required to submit quarterly, biannual, and annual reports to the Project Co-ordinator.

1.4.3 Project Management

A Project Implementation Committee (PIC) consisting of a representative from 31st DWM, a representative from the Ministry of Lands and Forestry, the Chief Conservator of Forest, the Project Co-ordinator and the Counter-part Project Co-ordinator met monthly to evaluate the implementation of the project. The PIC gave recommendations and directions to the Project Co-ordinator on how to improve the work being done in order to achieve set objectives. There was also a Project Steering Committee composed of the representatives from ITTO, the Ministry of Lands and Forestry, Forestry Department, 31st DWM who met biannually to monitor, review and evaluate the progress of project implementation. Issues and problems hindering the implementation of the project were discussed and appropriate measures were recommended to help the smooth implementation of the project.

1.4.4 Reporting

A biannual project progress report, minutes of Steering Committee meetings and a statement of accounts were compiled and submitted to ITTO for their information. ITTO subsequently only released funds based on the submission of the reports mentioned.

1.4.5. Financial Management

The ITTO guidelines for Procurement and Payment of Services together with that of the Ghana Government were followed during the procurement of supplies and materials for the project. Procedures for request of funds to travel by the project personnel followed Ghana Government procedures. The Chairperson of the PIC and the Chief Conservator of Forests were signatories to all vouchers, documents or

papers relating to procurement of supplies and materials. Funds received from ITTO were deposited at the Agricultural Development Bank (Foreign Branch), Accra, Ghana and the Chairperson of the PIC and the Chief Conservator of Forests signed all cheques to warrant withdrawal of money. The bank regularly provided the Project Co-ordinator with an update on funds remaining.

1.4.6 **The Project Planned Duration and Planned Overall Costs**

The planned duration of the project was for four years and was extended for another three months.

1.4.7 **Planned Overall Costs**

The overall planned cost of the project was **US\$ 714,823** and **US\$ 617,473** was received from ITTO.

2.0 PROJECT ACHIEVEMENTS

2.1 OUTPUT ACHIEVED

- 2.1.1 Selected members of the 31st DWM were trained in Nursery management and the following;
- Techniques of budding and grafting
 - Forest Extension
 - Mushroom cultivation and snail rearing
 - Plantation management
 - Identification, collection and cultivation of non-timber forest products.
- 2.1.2 Three nurseries were established and operated within the three ecological zones of Ghana.
- 2.1.3 Demonstration plots of tree plantations and NTFPs were established in the three ecological zones of Ghana.
- 2.1.4 Educational materials on establishment of plantations, establishment of nursery and rearing of snails were produced.
- 2.1.5 Publicity materials in the form of posters and jingles were produced and distributed.

- 2.1.6 Publicity programmes in the form of durbars, mobile van, and television programmes were conducted.
- 2.1.7 A sub-regional workshop on afforestation was organised with seven West African countries participating.

2.2 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ACHIEVED

The specific objective of women's involvement has been achieved and a number of women involved are putting what they have learnt into practice.

- 2.2.1 Forty (40) members of the 31st DWM had training in nursery bed preparation, types of seeds and how to raise them; timing of seedling production and care for seedlings when being transported to the field was covered.
- 2.2.2 Training of 35 women in techniques of budding and grafting of citrus, mangoes and avocado pear was accomplished. Since the demand for these fruits was high, it was necessary to raise these seedlings alongside forest tree seedlings for income generation.
- 2.2.3 Seventy (70) members of the 31st DWM at the district level were trained in forestry extension. They were equipped with skills required to reach out to local people. For example it was emphasised that women are quite busy and hence the appropriate time should be inquired in order to make any headway in the extension programmes.
- 2.2.4 Training was conducted for 35 members of the Movement on mushroom cultivation and snail rearing. The women were taught how to cultivate two types of mushrooms – the oyster and 'domo'. They had hands-on training on the preparation of the medium for growing these species of mushrooms. The humidity and light requirements were emphasised. Construction of snail paddocks were demonstrated and a simplified version which requires cutting of a single board of 'Dahoma' (1x2x12) into four pieces to construct a paddock was also demonstrated.

- 2.2.5 Thirty (30) women were trained in plantation management. The women had practical training on pruning of trees with the aid of bow saws. It was explained that if the objective of planting was for telegraphic/electricity, timber poles, then there was the need to prune constantly to avoid forking of the trees. The different ways of preventing and controlling fire were demonstrated. Fires are rampant during the dry seasons and it was advisable to practice the methods taught during these periods. A field trip was organised to the School of Forestry to observe some of the practices.
- 2.2.6 Fifty members of the Movement were trained in the identification, collection and cultivation of non-timber forest products. The training took place in a forest reserve in the Eastern region of Ghana (Esuboni Forest Reserve). Rural women in the community who had skill on uprooting and cultivation of NTFPs gave the Movement members one-on-one training. The types of NTFPs consisted of Marantaceae (áworom'/wrapping leaves), canes ('demire' and 'mfia'), bathing sponge ('sapow'), chewing sponge ('sawire'), pestles ('woma') and raphia palm.
- 2.2.7 Three (3) nurseries were established in the Guinea Savannah, High Forest and Coastal Savannah zones. Types of species raised were, *Acacia* spp., *Aningera robusta*, Cashew, *Cedrella odorata*, *Eucalyptus* spp., *Magnifera indica*, *Senna siamea*, *Tectona grandis*, *Terminalia ivorensis*, *Terminalia superba*, *Triplochiton scleroxylon*, Citrus and Avocado pear among others. A total of 1,943,937 seedlings were produced during the project period. This exceeded the target quantity for the project period.
- 2.2.8 Demonstration plots were established in the 10 regions of Ghana. Some of these plots were plantations of *Senna siamea*, mixed plantations of *Triplochiton scleroxylon*, *Cedrella odorata* and *Tectona grandis*. Demonstration coupes on snail farming and mushroom cultivation were also established.

- 2.2.9 Publicity materials on the need to involve women in forestry were prepared, produced and distributed. There were posters on women growing trees, maintaining and encouraging other women to get involved. A jingle on women's involvement was produced and it contained information on the need to involve women and also directions to the three central nurseries to buy seedlings. Video van facilities were used to announce the availability of seedlings in the various nurseries. Radio broadcast and television broadcasts were also used to reach out to people on availability of seedlings for sale and the need to grow trees.
- 2.2.10 Educational materials in the form of pamphlets, leaflets and brochures were prepared and published. It contained technical information on how to establish nurseries and plantations. Five thousand copies each of five different types of materials were distributed to the 10 regions of Ghana.
- 2.2.11 A sub-regional workshop to encourage and involve women in the West African consultation on tropical reforestation was organised. Seventeen (17) women from 7 West African countries attended the workshop. In summary, it was concluded at the workshop that in order to improve the sustainable management of forest, issues on land, education, funding, involvement of communities and training must be addressed. That more women should be exposed in these areas. A report on the workshop was compiled and circulated to sector organisations. The need for communities to provide direct support to afforestation projects was expressed at the workshop. This should be in the form of moral and labour support as well as protection of the existing resource.

2.3 CONTRIBUTION TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE

The project did run for 4years 3months and the level of interest and skills of members of the Movement has risen considerably. The training sessions were organised such that they always went back to impart the knowledge and skills acquired to others. An open learning attitude was adopted and the women were eager to change their situation. This rendered it easy to impart technical skills to the women. Many of the project outputs and achievements have produced direct and indirect benefits to members of the Movement as well as government's afforestation programme.

The establishment of three central nurseries to produce tree seedlings for use in the three ecological zones, namely; the coastal savannah, high forest and Guinea savannah zones was accomplished. Establishment of demonstration plots to show how the women could go about their plantations was accomplished. Educational materials in the form of pamphlets and leaflets on nursery management and plantation establishment, rearing of snails and cultivation of mushrooms were produced.

Publicity material in the form of posters, jingles and documentaries were produced to boost the extension programmes. Television broadcast on WTFDP programmes, its aim, objectives and achievements took place in six different Ghanaian languages and were broadcast nation-wide.

In brief, there has been a tremendous increase in participation, acquisition of knowledge and skills and strengthened extension skills of 31st DWM members engaged in afforestation as well as some rural women, communities and individuals they extended the afforestation message to. This situation is not similar to the situation before the implementation of the project. After the completion, more women continue to carry out afforestation in the regions.

2.4 TARGET BENEFICIARIES INVOLVEMENT

The project was implemented in collaboration with 31st DWM, individuals, groups, NGOs such as AFERM and Ghana Timber Industries. The Forestry Department provided tools, motorbikes and truck for transportation of seedlings as and when it became necessary. There was a harmonious relationship between the target beneficiaries. Rural women participated in extension programmes and adopted some of the practices undertaken by the 31st DWM. Although the rate at which the Timber Industry did not patronised the sale of seedlings was low, it is expected that this will change for the better since it is now obligatory for Timber Utilisation Contract owners to carry out afforestation before timber rights are allowed.

4.0 LESSONS LEARNED

4.1 DEVELOPMENT LESSONS

4.1.1 Aspects of Project Design which Contributed in Achieving the Development Objectives

The design of the project was simple and rational. After the approval of the project proposal by ITTC and the release of funds by ITTO Secretariat, a Project Implementation Committee was formed. This comprises of the 31st DWM, Forestry Department and the Ministry of Lands and Forestry. During the first meeting, the workplan of the project was thoroughly discussed as well as staff to work on the project. Subsequently this Committee was to meet monthly to assess progress of work. A Steering Committee was also formed with all the PIC members serving on the committee. The activities of this committee were co-ordinated with the Project Monitoring, Review and Evaluation being conducted by the ITTO Representative.

After 4 years 3months of implementation of the project, it was observed that the project workplan was carried out smoothly and as per planned target. It is quite clear that the development objective of the project was attained based on the outputs obtained.

4.1.2 Changes in Inter-sectoral Links which Affected the Project's Success

No changes in intersectoral links affected the project's success. A strong linkage and co-operation existed between Forestry Department, the 31st DWM and ITTO. The International Tropical Timber Organisation rendered every needed support to the project in the aspect of release of funds, monitoring, review and evaluation of the project's activities. This relationship should be maintained in the future.

4.1.3 Factors which will most likely affect Project Sustainability after Completion

One of the factors that may affect the sustainability of the project after completion is the ability of the public to purchase tree seedlings from the nurseries. It is however hoped that the current Legislative Instrument on timber rights that states that if one grows a tree, it belongs to him will save the situation. Another factor that may affect the sustainability of the project is the high cost involved in the maintenance of plantations. It is along these lines that the project hammered on the need to intercrop the tree crops with food crops until the tree canopy is closed.

4.2 OPERATIONAL LESSONS

4.2.1 PROJECT ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The major experience gained on the successful implementation of the project was the effective and efficient guidance of the Project Steering Committee and the local Project

Implementation Committee. The dedicated services rendered by the Project Co-ordinator, Counterpart Co-ordinator and the Regional Facilitators in the management and implementation of the project led to the attainment of the goals and objectives. The full co-operation of 31st DWM as a collaborating institution contributed very significantly to the success of the project.

4.2.1.1 Project Organisation System

The order of the project organisational systems was as follows:

- Project Steering Committee
- Project Implementation Committee
- Project Co-ordinator and Counterpart Project Co-ordinator
- Project Consultants
- Project Facilitators/Project Staff

The project staff originally had an office at the Forestry Department headquarters, Accra, Ghana but the office was later on moved to the 31st DWM headquarters Accra, Ghana.

4.2.1.2 Project Management Regulations

The project management regulations and procedures were followed.

- Project Activity Implementation
- Project Financial Management
- Project Assets Management
- Project Monitoring and Evaluation

4.2.2 PROJECT DOCUMENTATION

The project document was the project proposal with the number ITTO PD 27/94 Rev. 2(F). All documents relating to the project were filed and retained in the Project Office.

4.2.3 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

On biannual basis, the Project Steering Committee met to review and examine the progress of the project. Discussions were held on the important issues needed for the success of the project and decisions were taken for implementation. During such meetings, the Project Co-ordinator reported on activities undertaken, the action plan for the next half-year and constraints encountered during implementation. The local Project Implementation Committee however does meet monthly to discuss progress of work.

4.2.4 QUALITY OF PROJECT PLANNING

A quality and desirable project planning approach was adopted. A chart which indicates the percentage target achieved for each activity was drawn biannually to keep track of which targets were short of being met as planned as well as those which were ahead of the planned target. A three-member sub-committee on purchasing and supplies chaired by the Chief Conservator of Forests properly co-ordinated procurement of necessary supplies and materials. The monitoring and evaluation of the project was properly planned and co-ordinated with ITTO Secretariat.

4.2.5 DEFINITION OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

4.2.5.1 The Role of ITTO

The ITTO contributed an amount of US\$ 617,473 for the implementation of the project. Monitoring and evaluation of the project was conducted by ITTO on biannual basis and ensured that the project was

completed and the objectives and expected output were satisfactorily achieved.

4.2.5.2 The Role of Forestry Department and 31ST DWM

The Forestry Department implemented the Project in collaboration with 31st DWM and under the supervision of a Project Steering Committee in accordance with ITTC Decision 2(X), Annex 2 paragraph 3. The Forestry Department contributed an amount of about US\$100,000 in cash and in kind towards the running of the project. The contribution included tools, motorbikes, office space and land. The Forestry Department furnished ITTO with the required technical progress and completion reports and periodic statement of budget, expenditure and balances.

4.2.6 ACTION TAKEN TO AVOID VARIATION BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACTUAL IMPLEMENTATION (SCHEDULE, COST, etc.)

Release of funds by ITTO were on schedule whenever a request was made. Materials required for implementation of the project were purchased on time.

4.2.7 EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION THAT COULD HAVE BEEN SEEN

The Agricultural Development Bank delayed the release of funds and the claim was that they had not received any such funds in the accounts. The project activities therefore commenced later than expected.

4.2.8 EXTERNAL FACTORS THAT INFLUENCED THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION THAT COULD NOT HAVE BEEN SEEN

The Ghana-Cedis depreciated against the US Dollars throughout the project period and hence supplies and materials required had to be prioritised and some cut of.

5.0 RECOMMENDATION

1. On promotion and sale of seedlings: Although the current law on timber rights encourages the public and makes it obligatory for Timber companies to establish plantations, the promotion/marketing of seedlings must be dynamically intensified in order to improve sales to keep the nurseries operating.
2. On Cultivation of NTFPs: Since the gestation period for the cultivation of some NTFPs is quite long, other short term crops should be cultivated on the fields to support the growing of NTFPs for income.
3. On the establishment of plantations: One of the major problems identified on the growing of trees was the maintenance by weeding, incorporation of short term crops on the field during the initial years would be highly recommended. Again some income would be obtained while the tree crops would be cleared of weeds alongside the food crops.
4. On socio-economic effects: Since the nature of the project dealt more with technical issues on forestry, marketing of seedlings and NTFPs, 31st DWM members with strong background in Forestry/Agriculture and marketing should be made facilitators. This will improve the quality of similar projects.
5. On leaflets and manuals for seedling and NTFP cultivation: There is the need to consult the nearest Forestry Department for interpretation if it becomes necessary. The field assistance of people from the Forestry Department is indispensable.
6. On land acquisition: The necessary ground work on land required for plantation establishment should be done before the project take-off time. This is because the land acquisition process could be cumbersome.

B. PART 2: MAIN TEXT

1.0 PROJECT CONTENT

The project specifically relates to objectives (a), (c) and (f) of Chapter 1, Article 1 of ITTA.

- (a) To provide an effective framework for co-operation and consultation on all relevant aspects of the tropical timber economy through workshops on reforestation.
- (b) To support research and development which improves forest management and wood use through research into NTFP cultivation.
- (f) To encourage tropical timber reforestation and forest management through support to community based and private sector tropical reforestation initiatives.

In addition, the project satisfies the criteria set out in Article 26 of ITTA. The project contributes to the industrial tropical timber (criteria a) and by supporting private and community-based reforestation will yield benefits to the timber industry in Ghana and its export markets (criteria b). The project related to ITTO action Plan and Priorities by conducting of the following activities:

- ◆ Establishment of field demonstration projects where sustainable production of timber and non-timber products may be combined.
- ◆ Promoting and financing demonstration projects for different management models, and regional networks of such projects.
- ◆ Help to finance exchange visits and workshop participation by technical personnel.

The main objective of the project was to support community-based and private sector tropical reforestation so as to alleviate pressure on tropical forest resources and to improve the standards of living of women in rural

communities. The other objective was to involve women in the development of the country's forest resources.

The rationale and relevant background of the project indicates that Ghana's forests play an indispensable role in the economy of Ghana. Over the years, timber harvested and processed from Ghana's forest has been contributing about 6% of the Gross Domestic Product. One cannot also underrate the immense contribution of the forests towards provision of the country's energy requirements, environmental benefits, providing food and fodder. Again, due to the ever-increasing demand for wood and wood-based products, there is the need to expand the resource-base of the timber industry in particular.

Women are actively involved in the forest resource gathering, processing and marketing throughout the African rural society. In addition to fuelwood and charcoal, women utilise many other non-timber forest products, which serve as a livelihood. Bearing in mind this special relationship between women and the forest, it is important that they are integrally involved with the protection of the forest and creation of new ones. However, despite the crucial role of women, they are rarely recognised for it.

The 31st DWM is a Ghanaian women's NGO with a membership of 1.5 million throughout the country. It operates at the unit, district, regional and national levels and enjoys co-operation with state agencies and private organisations. The Movement is involved in the development programmes including health, education and forestry among other fields.

The Forestry Department that manages the forest estates have some of the major constraints it encounters in undertaking Ghana's forestry programmes such as inadequate budgetary appropriations, scant public education on what to plant, where to plant and how to nurture trees to maturity. Another constraint was the inability to fully meet the public demand for planting materials and inadequate involvement of NGOs particularly women's organisations, individuals and village communities.

In 1992, the Forestry Department in collaboration with the 31st DWM and ITTO organised the workshop, PD.119/91 Rev.1(F), Workshop on Women

and Forestry: A Look at African Experiences in the Sustainable Development of Tropical Forest, key areas for women's involvement in tropical forestry in Africa was identified. This workshop was sponsored by ITTO and was attended by senior Forestry officials from Ghana and other African countries and by prominent figures in the women's movement in Africa.

Subsequent to this workshop, the Forestry Department submitted a project proposal for the implementation of some the findings at the workshop hence the implementation of this project.

Under the project three central nurseries were established. The choice of species for the establishment of the nurseries was based on a demand survey conducted by the Marketing Specialist on the project. Majority of women preferred to plant fruit trees and Teak. Some other species were also raised at the nursery. It was acknowledged that there is a lag-time between the planting of seedlings and the harvesting of trees. The project therefore encouraged rural women to cultivate appropriate vegetables (based on the ecological zone) together with the tree crops.

After the completion of the project, the following output have been accomplished:

- ◆ Three (3) central nurseries in the three ecological zones established
- ◆ Demonstration plots of NTFP, fruits and tree plantations established in the three ecological zones.
- ◆ The 31st DWM equipped with skills and knowledge to carry out forestry extension.
- ◆ West African sub-regional workshop on reforestation held to share experiences gained on the project.
- ◆ Information on cultivation of NTFPs disseminated in the form of manuals and leaflets.
- ◆ Preferred tree species to be planted by women established.
- ◆ Skills and knowledge required for establishment and maintenance of nurseries have been acquired by the 31st DWM.
- ◆ Improved contact between 31st DWM and rural women.
- ◆ Increased awareness among women about the need to grow trees.

The required input for the project's implementation were the support personnel, the financial resources provided by the ITTO and the executing agencies and the equipment and tools for establishment of the nurseries.

2.0 PROJECT CONTEXT

The forest resources of Ghana has been put under extreme pressure in recent years due to expansion of agricultural land, excessive logging and bushfires among other causes. Cognisant of the various benefits obtained from the forest, the Government has committed itself to conserve the remaining forest and increase the tree cover to ten per cent of the total land area by the year 2010. This commitment is backed by the forest policy of the country as well as the Forest Development Master Plan 1996 – 2020.

Although women are major users and caretakers of the forest resources, they are often not recognised.

In this context, the Forestry Department planned and conceived to implement this development project in collaboration with the 31st DWM to encourage rural women to take the initiative to contribute to reforestation in a way that will benefit themselves, as well as the country as a whole. The establishment of nurseries will help the women obtain seedlings for planting. Training programmes will help them acquire skills and knowledge in tree seedling production as well as production of NTFPs. Ultimately, this will help boost plantation establishment and contribute towards conservation of the country's forest resources.

3.0 PROJECT DESIGN AND ORGANISATION

3.1 SOUND CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATION OF THE PROJECT

Specifically, the project's concept was to involve women in reforestation in order to alleviate pressure on remaining tropical forest and to improve the standard of living of women and rural communities. This concept followed a sequence of activities which include (a) establishment of three central nurseries in the three ecological zones of Ghana, (b) training workshops in nursery establishment, (c) training workshop in budding and grafting, (d) establishment of demonstration

plots, (e) training workshop on extension, (f) training workshop on non-timber forest products, (g) publicity programmes including distribution of posters, radio and television broadcast, (h) dissemination of information on cultivation of NTFPs, (i) West-African sub-regional consultation workshop.

The above activities were properly and effectively conducted with the support and co-operation of other government and private institutions. These efforts ultimately led to the successful attainment of the specific and development objectives of the project.

3.2 ADEQUACY OF TIME AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR PROJECT FORMULATION

The time for the project formulation was sufficient and the project plan was practicable. The project proposal was conceptualised and formulated by the Chief Conservator of Forests, Forestry Department together with the 31st DWM. This project proposal was submitted to ITTO Secretariat for ITTC's consideration. After a critical evaluation by the committee, the project was approved and funded by ITTC. Execution date for the project was 1st April 1995.

3.3 UNDERSTANDING AND APPROPRIATENESS OF THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED WITH THE PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project was executed by the Forestry Department in collaboration with 31st DWM and was responsible for the management, administration and technical aspects of the project's implementation. With approval from ITTO, the Project Co-ordinator and the Counterpart Project Co-ordinator were designated to manage and supervise the implementation of the project. The curriculum vitae of consultants on the project were submitted for ITTO's approval before they were engaged.

Financial aspect of the project on the other hand was provided by ITTO and it released funds to the executing agency based on

submission of biannual reports and financial statements of accounts. The International Tropical Timber Organisation designated a representative to the Project Steering Committee meetings and a report on the project meetings held was later submitted to ITTO. The institutions involved in the project strictly followed their roles and responsibilities as stated in the project document throughout the implementation period of the project.

4.0 PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 THE MOST CRITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PLANNED AND ACTUAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The activities indicated in the workplan were carried out swiftly and desirably. It can be stated that, but for the planting target which could not be attained under the extension programme, the actual implementation did not vary significantly with the original planned targets. The inability to achieve the extension programme planting target had to do with the land tenure problems existing in some communities.

4.2 MEASURES AND ACTIONS WHICH COULD HAVE AVOIDED THESE VARIATIONS

A favourable land policy on lease or acquisition of land could have avoided these variations.

4.3 APPROPRIATENESS OF THE ASSUMPTIONS MADE AND CORRECT IDENTIFICATION OF THE RISKS INVOLVED

The timely release and transfer of funds enhanced the smooth implementation of the project workplan.

4.4 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AFTER PROJECT COMPLETION AS A RESULT OF PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The project implementation period was 4 years 3 months and the focus was on establishment of nurseries in 3 ecological

zones Information on establishment of nurseries and NTFPs was also prepared and published. Although the nurseries were supposed to operate on sustainable basis, the willingness for people to purchase seedlings was low. However, the new Legislative Instrument on acquisition of timber rights makes it obligatory for timber companies to establish plantations hence these resources would be tapped to keep the income level at the nurseries high. Training of women to acquire skills and knowledge in reforestation, publicity and education and awareness programmes to reach out to rural women and other local people were accomplished. With such knowledge and skills acquired, a number of women are currently cultivating mushrooms and snails for sale. Some are also engaged in the establishment of woodlots and timber plantations.

4.5 APPROPRIATENESS OF PROJECT INPUTS (QUALITY AND QUANTITY)

The quality and quantity of the project inputs were reasonable. The ITTO provided the required funds on time, Forestry Department provided the technical support and staff, and the 31st DWM members were very enthusiastic and participated enormously. It can safely be stated that considering the overall inputs provided, implementation of the project can be considered as very rational and appropriate in attaining the set objectives.

3 PROJECT RESULTS

5.1 SITUATION EXISTING AT PROJECT COMPLETION AS COMPARED TO THE PRE-PROJECT SITUATION

The situation during the pre-project period differ with the situation after the completion of the project (please refer to Section 2.3 of Part 1 of this report). In addition there has been improved contact between the rural poor, the Forestry

Department and the 31st DWM. The level of awareness among women about the need to grow trees has increased. During the pre-project situation the knowledge and skills required for nursery and plantation establishment was limited. Seedlings for planting out on the field were not available. On the other hand, after the project completion, the interest level of 31st DWM and some other women in the communities have increased as well as some knowledge and skills in nursery management and afforestation. Seedlings are also available in large quantities. Knowledge and skills on cultivation of non-timber forest products such as snails, mushrooms, canes, sponges was acquired and put into practice in the various regions. A number of women are growing mushrooms to generate income. Leaflets and simplified manuals on cultivation of NTFPs and establishment of nurseries was prepared and distributed to remind them of the techniques required in raising such products.

5.2 EXTENT TO WHICH THE PROJECT'S OBJECTIVES WAS ACHIEVED

The specific objectives of the project have been achieved to a large extent. Three nurseries were established and currently being operated by the 31st DWM. Money realised from the sale of seedlings was quite low but it is expected that with the new Legislative Instrument, timber contractors and the general public are likely to patronise the sale of seedling much better than before. The potential for women to support reforestation has been demonstrated through the establishment of demonstration plots of fruit and NTFPs. This has also been shown through extension of the ideas to cultivating tree on other plots in the three ecological zones of Ghana. Women's involvement in sub-regional consultation on tropical reforestation was achieved through the organisation of a sub-regional workshop on afforestation in April, 1999. The results

of the project were discussed and future strategies required to be adopted for implementation in various countries present were adopted. The 31st DWM encouraged a number of communities to undertake afforestation through extension programmes.

5.3 IMPACT OF THE PROJECT RESULTS ON THE SECTORAL PROGRAM, ON THE PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT, ON THE TARGET BENEFICIARIES.

The results of the project have some impact on the sectoral programs of the governments particularly on the wood industry, promoting conservation and tree growing on farms to counteract fuelwood shortage and ecological degradation and deterioration. It will contribute to the supply of wood materials for housing constructions, utility poles, fuelwood, and provide NTFPs for livelihoods. It will also augment the government's commitment to increase the country's tree cover by 10% of its total land area.

On the social environment, forest depletion has an adverse effect on agricultural productivity through increased exposure of soils to erosion. This project will assist reverse this problem. On the target beneficiaries, it is anticipated that they will pay for seedlings in order for the nurseries to be maintained to supply quality seedlings required for planting.

5.4 PROJECT SUSTAINABILITY AFTER COMPLETION AS A RESULT OF PROJECT CONCEPTUALISATION MADE AND CONDITIONS PREVAILING AT COMPLETION

The period of implementation of the project was 4 years 3 months. The expected outputs of the project were basically achieved which is indicative of the fact that the conceptualisation made would contribute to the sustainability after completion.

6.0 SYNTHESIS OF THE ANALYSIS

6.1 SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES ACHIEVEMENTS

Realised

6.2 OUTPUTS

Realised

6.3 SCHEDULE

On time

6.4 ACTUAL EXPENDITURES

As per request submitted to ITTO

PART III: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

1.0 DEVELOPMENT LESSONS

During the implementation of this project, which was funded by an international organisation like ITTO, it was a requirement to have a clear view and understanding of the project aim, objectives, expected outputs and implementation of strategies. These aspects were desirably taken care-off by the project. Detailed workplans and its corresponding activities have been followed properly and implemented effectively and efficiently. There was extension of time hence the project plans worked out smoothly and considered as a very useful development experience. The project budget and expenditure was properly budgeted and expenditure properly monitored and controlled through a very good financial management regulations.

2.0 OPERATIONAL LESSONS

In the implementation of the project, the high level of co-operation between the Forestry Department and the 31st DWM enhanced the smooth flow of information and all resources required.

The project management offered strong support to the regional facilitators, technical staff and this created the right atmosphere for work. Some rules and regulations of Ghana Government service was adopted for managing the project personnel and this proved to be worthwhile.

The Project Implementation Committee and the Project Steering Committee ensured that all activities have responsible persons to accomplish them on time. Similarly, these two committees held meetings to conduct monitoring and evaluation of progress of work and financial situation of the project. All these above-mentioned factors among others contributed to the achievements and subsequent completion of the project.

3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FUTURE PROJECTS

3.1 IDENTIFICATION

Projects in the field of plantation establishment of fast growing species being nursed at the nurseries should be vigorously pursued.

3.2 DESIGN

The required activities to be undertaken as well as the needed manpower and financial resources to meet the expected output should be incorporated in the design.

3.3 IMPLEMENTATION

The needed strategies for the implementation of the project should cover the activities to be undertaken together with the planned duration of each activity. In addition to this, the manpower requirements, their qualification and specific duties and actual responsibilities in the project should be categorically spelt out.

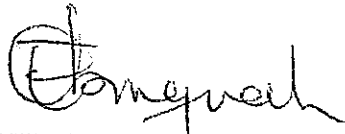
3.4 ORGANISATION

The number of project personnel and project cost should vary based on the required activities to be undertaken in the project.

3.5 MANAGEMENT

It will be desirable to incorporate new applicable management tools in future projects. This will further improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the project implementation.

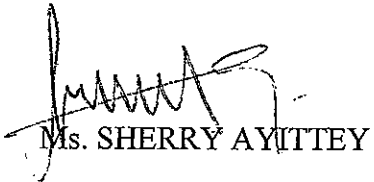
RESPONSIBLE FOR THE REPORT



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Chairperson --
Project Implementation Committee

DECEMBER, 1999