

Forest Services receives logistics for Shea Landscape project

By Timothy Ngenbe

THE Forestry Commission has presented logistics and equipment to the Forest Services Division (FSD) to facilitate the implementation of the Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (GSLERP) in the five regions in northern Ghana.

The Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reductions Project (GSLERP) is targeted at directly strengthening the livelihoods and climate resilience of 100,200 people within the Savannah zone, comprising 78,850 women and 21,350 men.

It is funded by the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and implemented by the Forestry Commission, with the technical support of the Global Shea Alliance and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Logistics

The items, made up of 22 tricycles, 42 motorbikes and 190 watering cans, are meant to help actors in the shea value chain in metropolitan, municipal and district

assemblies (MMDAs) in the Savannah zone to carry out their activities.

The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Forestry Commission, John Allotey, presented the items to the Executive Director of the FSD, Hugh Brown, in Accra.

Present at the event were the Executive Director of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, Dr Joseph Boakye, and the Director for Climate Change at the commission, Roselyn Fosuah Adjei.

Monitoring

Mr Allotey explained that the tricycles would be distributed to the various districts covered under the project to facilitate the carting of grafted shea seedlings to the fields for planting.

The Forestry Commission CEO urged the beneficiaries to take proper care of the machines to ensure that they serve the purpose for which they were acquired.

He also asked the FSD officials to ensure that the items were properly deployed to serve their intended purpose.

Good step

Mr Brown described the procurement of the machines as a boost to the effective implementation of the GSLERP. He assured Ghanaians that the items would be put to good use and properly maintained to help restore shea parklands.

He also assured the Forestry Commission that the FSD would ensure that the materials were distributed to the beneficiary districts to facilitate their work.

The project

The GSLERP's key objective is to ensure the restoration of trees, decreased deforestation and fire management covering almost 500,000 hectares with the view to help retain soil moisture, reduce evapotranspiration and maintain soil fertility.

The project aligns with the National Adaptation Strategy for Climate Change which emphasises the need to enhance the adaptability of vulnerable ecological and social systems by enhancing the capacity of susceptible groups to sustainably utilise land

resources, enable value addition in the utilisation of forest resources and contribute to building an economy that is capable of withstanding shocks and ensure sustainable development.

GCF funds and co-finance supports women collectors to re-stock 1.75 million trees in the parklands with higher and quicker yielding varieties of shea.

The project seeks to enhance forest carbon stocks across the Savannah landscape by restoring 200,000 hectares of off-reserve savannah forests or woodlands and place them under self-financing community management in Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA).

It is also targeted at restoring 100,000 hectares of degraded shea parklands; creating 25,500 hectares of modified taungya system or forest plantation in severely degraded forest reserves; and implementing an integrated monitoring system and completing the national REDD+ architecture for safeguards, forest monitoring and reporting systems.