

## Final Evaluation Report

---

Your Details	
<b>Full Name</b>	Marshall Alhassan Adams
<b>Project Title</b>	Biodiversity conservation through cocoa agroforestry systems: How to support smallholder farmers manage integrated landscape in Ghana.
<b>Application ID</b>	35669-2
<b>Date of this Report</b>	September 30, 2022

**1. Indicate the level of achievement of the project's original objectives and include any relevant comments on factors affecting this.**

Objective	Not achieved	Partially achieved	Fully achieved	Comments
This research brings together diverse stakeholders from various levels (international policy experts, cocoa sector stakeholders in Ghana, and cocoa farmers) to inform policy about the vital role of the Living Income Differential in cocoa sustainability and anti-deforestation efforts in Ghana.				

**2. Describe the three most important outcomes of your project.**

**a).** Farmer capacity building. This project helped raised awareness on cocoa driven deforestation and European Union new Regulation on Deforestation. We used community fora as a platform for building the capacity of cocoa farmers, especially community youth in five forest-dependent communities, in avoiding expansion of their own cocoa farms in deforestation hotspots of Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve and Bia Biosphere through farmer-based field school interactions. We also provided training support on Q methodology and data collection to two undergraduate students as research assistants, from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, Kumasi-Ghana and University of Energy and Natural Resource, Suyani-Ghana.

**b).** Scientific publication and policy brief: We have developed a research article and a policy brief to inform policy about the role of the Living Income in improving cocoa sustainability and anti-deforestation efforts in Ghana. See the link to the policy brief: <https://thecocoapost.com/report-stakeholder-perspectives-on-cocoas-living-income-and-sustainability-trade-offs-in-ghana/>

**c).** Stakeholder workshop for knowledge dissemination. The findings of the Q study were shared with Q participants for joint reflection, feedback, and validation during a stakeholder (n=31) engagement workshop in Accra in April 2022. This workshop was helpful in deriving policy implications from our results.

**3. Explain any unforeseen difficulties that arose during the project and how these were tackled.**

Even though we combined the strengths of both qualitative and quantitative approaches to probe the explanatory power of Living Income Differential (LID) implementation from stakeholder perspectives on sustainability, it is important to indicate that about 47% of the three factors remained unexplained. Also, most stakeholders interviewed offered a top-down perspective with only six of the 32 Q participants being cocoa farmers. This limitation may undercut some of the insights of our study. To fill this gap, we triangulated different data from the literature review, interviews with eight global experts, a stakeholder engagement workshop (comprising

of comprising 20 men and 11 women) and six cocoa farming community outreaches in Benchema, Briekrom, Seniagyakrom, Juaboso Nkwanta, Asempanaye, and Kunkumso, Western North Region, Ghana. Triangulating of these data sources helped explain the underlying perspectives and provided a more nuanced understanding of LID. Along the same line, we caution against detailed comparison, extrapolation, or generalisation of our findings on LID implementation to different cocoa production geographies and policy contexts.

#### **4. Describe the involvement of local communities and how they have benefitted from the project.**

The involvement of local communities in this project include participation in cocoa living income research, stakeholder engagement workshop, community outreach and on-farm interactions. First, cocoa farmers participated in cocoa living income and sustainability trade-offs, providing valuable insights and contributions to enrich our study. Second, our research approach included a stakeholder engagement on cocoa Living Income Differential. The workshop objectives were to gather feedback on the preliminary findings of this research from key stakeholders, especially cocoa farmers and farmer cooperatives within the cocoa forest landscape and to collectively identify policy implications as well as advocacy actions targeting at key cocoa sector stakeholders: government, industry, civil society and farmers and farmer cooperatives (see Table 4 of the policy brief). Community outreach (Benchema, Briekrom, Seniagyakrom, Juaboso Nkwanta, Asempanaye, and Kunkumso) and consistent participation of cocoa farmers in activities helped improve the understanding and commitments of cocoa farmers to sustainable cocoa production and anti-deforestation efforts at farm level. Third, this project has further strengthened the capacity and local community engagement of our project partners, SEND-GHANA advocacy strategy and actions on zero cocoa deforestation.

#### **5. Are there any plans to continue this work?**

Yes. This project provides the foundation for community-based cocoa farmland conservation planning and education that integrates and disseminates Krokosua Hills Forest Management Plan objectives, data, and priorities at the critical buffer scale. I have plans to continue this work in this direction.

#### **6. How do you plan to share the results of your work with others?**

To ensure the dissemination of the research findings and facilitate policy advocacy work, we organised a stakeholder engagement workshop on the Living Income and what it means for conservation and poverty alleviation in the cocoa sector of Ghana. This 1-day workshop in April 2022 was coordinated by SEND-Ghana. Approximately 31 participants from the Ghana Civil Society Cocoa Platform and local farmer cooperative leaders from Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve and Bia National Park of Ghana and policy expertise gathered along with SEND-Ghana staff. The goal of the workshop was to further our collective understanding of the Living Income approach to achieving conservation goals and identify how knowledge transfer can inform policy to improve Ghana's cocoa sector conservation goals. It provided an invaluable forum for the cocoa farmers to share their work and experience with other cocoa and

forest sector stakeholders. This work has also been presented at two international conferences (Oxford University, UK and International Forestry Meeting, Germany) and a Global Talk on Cocoa Living Income and Sustainability trade-offs at University of Victoria's Centre for Global Studies. We have also developed a research article and a policy brief to inform policy about the role of the Living Income in improving cocoa sustainability and anti-deforestation efforts in Ghana (see the link above). The research article is forthcoming in the World Development Journal.

### **7. Looking ahead, what do you feel are the important next steps?**

The most important steps are to finalise the Policy brief and research article for publication. This is critical in disseminating and uptake of our research findings. I have also started developing the next project on Krokosua Hills Forest Community Conservation Partnership with Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, where I have been employed as a Research Scientist, Forest Policy, Governance and Livelihoods.

### **8. Did you use The Rufford Foundation logo in any materials produced in relation to this project? Did the Foundation receive any publicity during the course of your work?**

Yes, the Rufford Foundation logo was used in all conference presentations and the. We have respectfully acknowledged Rufford Foundation as our sponsor in our publications and in all stakeholder engagements.

### **9. Provide a full list of all the members of your team and their role in the project.**

**Dr. Marshall Adams**, a Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Victoria's (UVic) CFGS and now a Research Scientist at Forestry Research Institute of Ghana. I led all stages of the project: reviewing policy documents, developing and implementing qualitative interview protocols and analyzing data, conducting community outreaches and, as well as supporting knowledge mobilization by planning stakeholder engagement workshop, developing the research article and a policy brief.

**Dr. Sophia Carodenutor**, Professor at the University of Victoria's (UVic) Department of Geography. With a PhD in Environment and Natural Resources Sciences from Freiburg University, her research covers climate change, global supply chains, forest governance, and public policy in diverse settings, from the tropical rainforests of Cameroon to the coastal rainforests in British Columbia, Canada. Sophia provided guidance on the overall direction of this project. Specifically, her expertise was very useful in terms of guiding and training of the postdoctoral researcher (Marshall) to collect, analyze data and interpret the findings in the context of current literature on zero cocoa deforestation. She brought rich experience in leading interdisciplinary teams to conduct analytical work on complex topics, including through field work and stakeholder engagement workshop.

**SEND-Ghana** led by the Country Director and their staff invested time and contributed in-kind (e.g., expertise such as stakeholder engagement and knowledge mobilization through policy dialogue and community outreach in their operational areas).

## 10. Any other comments?

Special thanks to The Rufford Foundation and its entire team for their generous financial support. We grateful to Rufford Foundation whose support contributed to the professional development and postdoctoral training that University of Victoria offered the lead researcher, Marshall Alhassan Adams.



Field work: Farmer-based field school interactions.





**Field work: Community outreaches and interactions around Krokosua Hills Forest Reserve, Ghana.**



**Stakeholder engagement workshop in Accra, Ghana (April 12, 2022).**



**Session 1: Dr. Sophia Carodenuto and Dr. Adams Marshall presenting on workshop objectives and key research findings.**



**Session 4: Working groups strategizing on policy advocacy actions targeted at government, industry, civil society and farmer cooperatives.**



A participant presenting on behalf of farmer and farmer cooperatives group on policy advocacy actions targeted at the government.



CEO of SEND West Africa, Mr Siapha Kamara, giving his closing remarks.