

THE GREEN LETTER

TO THE MINISTER OF LANDS
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



YOUTH
LEGACY
GHANA

PROJECT INSIGHT.

The Green Ghana Day is an initiative of the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources mobilizing citizens for a nationwide tree planting exercise. The project was launched on 23rd March 2021 by the Hon. Samuel A. Jinapor the Minister designated for the Ministry. In the *status of the preparatory activity's* presentation, it is stated that a minimum of 5million trees will be planted across the country by various stakeholders. One million fruits/ornamental plants were to be planted as well as four million forest/shade and multi-purpose. In this document, we have assessed and provided recommendations on the objectives of the project to serve as a guide for the Ministry in subsequent implementation and/or furtherance of the project.

THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE.

The objectives of the project are to;

- Green/ beautify our communities and towns;
- Protect watersheds; Mitigate climate change;
- Create enhanced national awareness on the necessity for collective action towards the restoration of degraded landscapes in the country; and
- Inculcate in the youth the values of planting and nurturing trees and their associated benefits.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROJECT OBJECTIVE WITH OBSERVED OUTCOMES.

Unarguably, the project is riveting because it sparks a nationwide engagement towards greening Ghana and the restoration of loss rich-biodiversity. It also increases the countries chances towards afforestation and reforestation of deforested reserves (*Adu Mensah Junior*). To our volunteer **Abigail Gyamfuah**. The Green Ghana Project is a good initiative because the planting of the tree enables us to restore our forests which are lost to illegal mining “Galamsey”. The next paragraph of the document discusses the objectives with the observed outcomes within our region.

1. **Green/Beautify our homes:** Youth Legacy Ghana volunteers joined the Department of Geography Education and the Geography Students Association of the University of Education, Winneba to plant some ornamental plants and mango fruits around the North Campus of the University. We can therefore allude that, the project will indeed the initiative to ensure greener homes and provide food as well.

2. ***Protect Watersheds:*** Some of our team members joined the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission Winneba at the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Site. We planted some Acacia Plants along with some of the rivers that join the Muni Lagoon. If the entire nation plant trees around river banks, it will mean that rivers shall be protected and act to reduce flooding and stormwater runoffs.
3. **Mitigate Climate Change.** It is worthy of note that, the initiative will contribute to a reduction in Carbon dioxide concentration in the atmosphere as trees will consume CO₂ concentrated in the atmosphere in the process of photosynthesis. The objective will be met but in a marginalized way.
4. **Inculcate in the youth the values of planting and nurturing trees and their associated benefits.** This objective was practicalized in real-time as many youths were engaged cross country to join the exercise. We observed Primary Schools, High Schools, and Tertiary institutions joining the initiative in happiness.

OBJECTIVES GAPS/PROBLEMS IDENTIFICATION AND RECOMMENDATION.

1. **Green and Beautify our Homes.** We observed one main challenge that can hinder the attainment of the objective: Poor Individual Attitude towards plant nurturing and growth. Uneducated people lack a true understanding of the importance of plants and how to nurture plants. It is therefore imperative that, before the subsequent tree planting projects, the forestry commission along with environmental-based organizations partner to educate people on tree planting. The actions taken by the Ministry to use social media to address the basic means and procedure of tree planting were well named among users of social media. We must extend this education to various individual(s) households and communities to provide answers to questions. This, therefore, calls for an extension of the timeline for planning and implementing the project.
2. ***Protect Watersheds.*** The only problem that impedes the achievement of this objective is sustainability and regular monitoring. At the Muni-Pomadze Ramsar, grazing normally happens which affects flora in the region just like some other related areas. Our organization has tasked itself to conduct the weekly check but a more efficient measure could be undertaken by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources. Thus, we recommend the Ministry partner with existing community-based youth fronts to be regularly checking

on trees planted and nurture them until they become self-sustained. District forestry commission centers could act as agents of support to such teams

3. **Mitigation of Climate Change.** As important as tree planting is, site and place selection is the most important thing for us to note. We saw the exercise as a highly commendable afforestation agenda. In the regulation of climate change, we thus suggest that trees could have been concentrated more in urban sprawled regions mainly Accra, Kumasi, Takoradi, and Tamale. Research denotes increasing urban temperature in Accra and Kumasi explained by the theory of Urban Heat Islands. Our urban regions are heated as compared to peri-urban areas because of the lack of trees within the urban structures to regulate the climate. We recommend to the ministry that; urban greening is the solution we need to support climate change mitigation in Ghana relative to temperature regulation. We further recommend the use of the “Urban Small Forestation Initiative” to support the Green Ghana Project.
4. **Inculcate in the youth the values of planting and nurturing trees and their associated benefits.** Values and innate attitudes can be built rightly over some time. We recommend on this objective that linking tree planting and nurturing into education can ensure that the objective is well achieved. We observed that though students participated in the exercise, the right experiences and desired culture of tree planting will not be well rooted in them. Sinking tree planting in the educational process either as a subject or a regular mandatory exercise will ensure that the project objective is well achieved.