

2019

CIVIC RESPONSE ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by Civic Response

CONTENTS

About Civic Response.....	3
Meet the Team.....	9
Our Activities & Successes.....	11
Resource Mobilization.....	28
Donors & Partners.....	30
Contact Details.....	31



ABOUT CIVIC RESPONSE

Civic Response is a leading natural resource and environmental (NRE) governance policy advocacy organisation working to entrench resource rights.

Founded in 2003 in Accra, Ghana by a group of activists with experience in resource rights campaigns both locally and globally, Civic Response undertakes activities which address the policy needs of communities who depend directly on natural resources, particularly forests.

Our Mission

Civic Response seeks to change social arrangements that entrench marginalisation, exclusion and division as well as provide advocacy and networking support to self-organised citizens' groups in the natural resource and environment sector.

Our vision

We envision a just, productive, pluralistic and tolerant society collectively in control of its resources and systematically improving development opportunities for all citizens' and communities.

Our History

Civic Response is a product of the thoughts of the founding members on how to contribute to the country's development. The original concept as the name reflects is broadly about helping Ghanaian communities. The focus was on individual rights (not necessarily on resource rights) and promoting power of civic institutions.

'Student Parliament Project' was one of the first projects Civic Response embarked on in 2003. The aim was to improve the politics of student movement. However, following a workshop convened by CARE Ghana in Kumasi in the same year, seeking to create a forest sector advocacy group,

the need arose to provide a secretariat for this forest sector advocacy group (now called FWG) and Civic Response was unanimously agreed on by the participants in that meeting to host the FWG secretariat. This caused Civic Response to shift into the natural resources sector and remained as such with focus on forest governance. It became logical to remain in the natural resources sector as it employs lot of Ghanaians in both the informal and formal sector.

Our Work

Currently, our work is divided into three main programmes:

Forest Governance: Forests are at the core of Civic Response's work.



Under the Forest Governance programme we advocate for forest sector policy and legislative reform based on community tenure, management and enterprise. We seek forest management systems that provide just, democratic and sustainable development at local and national levels. We are also concerned about Chinese involvement in illegal natural resource exploitation especially Rosewood and working with communities to monitor, document and publish findings for advocacy. Lack of tree tenure for farmers and landowners is promoting deforestation. Civic Response is advocating for farmers and landowners to receive significant financial benefits from nurtured trees as an incentive to maintain trees on farm.

Minerals Governance: The focus of Civic Response in the minerals sector is the salt sub-sector. This sub-sector has many community rights challenges but little advocacy attention.

Nevertheless, from the year 2016, we started paying attention to mining in forest reserves and have become a major part of the campaign against mining in forest reserves. We are again



concerned about Chinese involvement in the promotion of illegal surface mining and consequent environmental degradation and educating communities on how all these will come back later to affect their health and livelihoods negatively.

Climate Governance: In 2006, Civic Response got involved in the climate change/REDD+ discourse because of the impact of government decisions on communities in the long run but also to understand the on-going global discussions on climate change and their consequences for forest-owning communities.



The overall objective for our climate governance work is that democratic and development-rights based responses are adopted and implemented. It is worth mentioning though that, our climate governance programme focuses on mitigation. We are working with communities to understand the causes of climate change, impact, how communities' activities contribute to climate change, and how communities can support mitigation efforts. Over the last couple of years, we have also followed the discussions on National Determined Contributions (NDCs) with specific interests in restoration and the involvement of communities and the private sector.

Apart from the three main areas, other areas Civic Response has worked at over the years are:

- Water rights campaign (access, distribution, privatization)
- Campaign by the people of Ada to regain control of their Songhor Lagoon which has been their main source of livelihood
- Frequency spectrum: this is directly linked to the struggle by the people of Ada over broadcasting right to operate a community radio; an awareness that communities' access to frequency spectrum as a natural resource is an issue. We have also promoted community

radios as a vehicle for communities to report wrongdoing, discuss and make inputs into policy issues and make their voice heard.

- Health delivery, national health insurance
- Education

Land Governance: Current major challenges in the land sector include large-scale land acquisition for plantation development against carbon offsetting, biofuel development, as well as other agricultural commodities. Large-scale land acquisition by companies and individuals deprives community members, whose livelihood depends on access to these lands, their source of livelihood and getting further entrenched into poverty. Large-scale land acquisition has been on the ascendency in recent times, especially across Sub-Saharan Africa.



To regulate the spate of large-scale land acquisition, the Lands Commission has developed a draft national guideline on large-scale land acquisition, which spells out the roles and responsibilities of investors in large scale land acquisition, as well as the limits of the size of land that can be acquired. It however, does not limit multiple acquisition of large scale land acquisition. The guideline has no legal backing. Studies conducted by Civic Response into some of the large scale land acquisition in Ghana has revealed that Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) was not applied in the large scale lands acquired by investors and farmers were left at the mercy of the investors who decided how much to compensate affected farmers. The study revealed that farmers were compensated for cash crops and food crops were considered by the companies as flowers and not compensated for. The farmers were also not compensated for loss of access to their lands in situations where their lease had not expired before the land was taken away from them. Some farmers who were employed on the lands the companies had taken away from them indicated they earn less than 50% of what they used to earn when the land was in their care.

Security of land tenure for most farmers is an issue because they have no documented title deeds/agreements with the landowners on their farmlands. This makes them very vulnerable, insecure and the reason why they can easily lose the lands they are farming on to investors. Farmers are not able to undertake any long-term investments like growing trees because they lack secure land tenure. The insecurity of land tenure for farmers is one of the drivers of deforestation. Civic Response's land governance campaign focuses on advocacy for a national land governance framework that is climate conscious and socially just.

Our programme activities can be grouped under four main approaches:

Research

We undertake research in various programme areas (forest governance, minerals governance, climate governance) to generate evidence for our advocacy campaigns.

Capacity Building

We organise training activities for our partner organisations in the forest sector in order to ensure consistency in the work we do. Our training activities also ensure that the community-based organisations we work with are able to identify and take up critical natural resource rights issues emanating from their own engagement with stakeholders at the local level. Our training activities also extend to local communities.

Networking and Coalition Building

Civic Response currently hosts Forest Watch Ghana, the foremost coalition of organisations and individuals in the forest sector working to promote community-based resource management. We also work with networks both locally and internationally on resource rights issues. In Ghana, Civic Response is a member of the National Coalition on Mining (NCOM) and the Network for Women's Rights in Ghana (NETRIGHT). We also work with the Rights and Resources Initiative (RRI) on land tenure issues and FERN on Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) issues. Civic

Response is also a founding member of the Africa Community Rights Network (ACRN), a vehicle for community tenure rights campaign in Africa.

Advocacy

Advocacy is at the core of all our programmes. Civic Response campaigns for rights-based policy formulation and implementation in the areas of forests, climate change, and minerals. We believe that communities must be effectively engaged in making decisions about their land and other natural resources, which serve as their livelihood. They must also have an equitable share of the benefits that accrue from the exploitation of these resources.

MEET THE TEAM

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

	
Kyeretwie Opoku	Dzodzi Tsikata
	
Eiblin Ni Chleirigh	Coleman Agyeyomah

OUR STAFF

	
Kafui Denkabe Administrator	Albert Katako Head of Programme
	
John Azumah Kebir Accountant	Elvis Oppong-Mensah Programme Officer
	
Jemima Opere-Henaku Communications Officer	Samuel M. Mawutor Programme Officer

OUR ACTIVITIES & SUCCESSES IN THE YEAR

FOREST GOVERNANCE

Forest governance is a key advocacy area for Civic Response and therefore it received a lot of attention during the reporting period. Below is a summary of activities implemented in 2019 as part of Civic Response's forest governance campaign:

1. Real Time Monitoring

Although progress has been made in tackling illegal logging in Ghana through the systems developed under the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA), there is still the need for robust monitoring of forest activities as illegalities are still pervasive, especially illegal chain activities, companies logging outside allocated yields and undersized trees. In addition, illegal Rosewood logging and trading was very pervasive in 2019. Effective forest monitoring requires the involvement of communities whose main source of financial benefit from forest management are timber companies' compliance with Social Responsibility Agreements (SRAs). While SRA compliance by timber companies has generally improved because of the massive cooperation from FSD, some logging companies still fail to fulfil their social responsibility obligations to communities within the stipulated 5-kilometre radius of their logging operations, or fail to negotiate and pay farmers compensations for crops destroyed during logging. Some companies transport logs outside the legally acceptable period putting communities at risks. In recent times, illegal mining in forest reserves has escalated; a major threat to communities' livelihood, health of the general populace and massive pollution of water bodies.

Some illegalities at the community level appear to happen on the blind side of the Forestry Commission (FC) hence the need for CSOs/communities involvement in forest monitoring since they are with the actions. As a result, Civic Response in collaboration with Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) is implementing *the Embedding community*

real time monitoring to sustain livelihoods and forests in Central and West Africa project, which is building the capacity of communities to be actively involved in forest monitoring so as to assert their rights and hold duty bearers accountable. The project deploys the use of a mobile application on the Forestlink platform for Real Time Monitoring (RTM), which enables communities to report forest infractions via SMS, videos and photos. Under this project, communities become conscious of their rights and responsibilities and assert them while being conscious of the rights and responsibilities of the other forest stakeholders. Communities also become aware of what constitutes legal infractions.

Capacity Building for Forest Fringe Communities for forest monitoring

In 2019, Civic Response organised legality awareness trainings for 175 representatives



Group photograph of participants

from 35 forest-fringe communities from seven districts (Kade, Akim Oda, Assin Fosu, Goaso, Nkawie, Jasikan and Dormaa) in forest law and advocacy. The selection was done in conjunction with FSD district managers because they know where active logging would be taking place in their

districts.

Civic Response further trained, and equipped 50 community monitors with android phones to undertake community-level forest monitoring by sending alerts on infractions using the Forestlink platform.

Training Of Institutional Partners in the Use and Management of Forestlink

As part of efforts to institutionalise real time monitoring (RTM), In December 2019, 65 Forestry Services Division (FSD) officials comprising 58 males, 3 females and 2 Timber Validation Division (TVD) auditors were taken through a one-day training on the use of the Forestlink platform. This involved building their capacity to navigate the platform and access infractions reported by community monitors. This



Participants taking notes at the training

would facilitate their work. The training which was facilitated by Civic Response, was also attended by staff of NDF and EcoCare Ghana.

2. Preparing Media towards Issuance of FLEGT Licences



Group photograph of participants

Civic Response, with support from its partner Fern, in September 2019 organised a capacity building workshop for journalists from across the country. This was part of efforts to enhance their knowledge on natural resources governance issues in Ghana, and most

importantly to prepare them towards the issuance of FLEGT licences in Ghana, under the auspices of the Forest Law Enforcement Governance Trade-Voluntary Partnership Agreement (FLEGT-VPA).

The FLEGT-VPA is a bilateral agreement between the European Union (EU) and wood exporting countries, which aims to improve forest governance and to ensure that timber trade in both the domestic market exported into the EU has complied with the legal requirements of Ghana. In 2009, Ghana signed the VPA with the EU and proceeded to develop systems for trade in legal timber in both the domestic and export market. As part of FLEGT-VPA, timber exports from Ghana into Europe need to be covered with a special licence (FLEGT licence) as evidence of complying with Ghana's Legality Assurance System.

The three-days' capacity building workshop, which was held in Accra for 30 journalists from across the country, therefore, focused on equipping the media towards informed and reliable reportage on issues relating to FLEGT licences and FLEGT-VPA processes. The training also focused on enhancing the knowledge of the media practitioners on Ghana's natural resources and environment sector to:

- Build the capacity of the journalists towards an informed and reliable reportage of issues in Ghana's natural resources and environment sector, especially with regards to FLEGT-VPA processes. Specific objectives are:
- Enhance the policy and legislative knowledge of the media personnel in forest, mining and oil and gas sectors to differentiate between the current practices by private sector companies and enforcement agencies and the requirements of the policies, laws and the 1992 Republican Constitution;

- Enhance ability of media personnel to use knowledge to ask probing questions when infractions occur and demand answers from public officials and companies;
- Enhance the knowledge of selected journalists on natural resources-related issues so they can provide accurate, reliable, captivating articles on natural resources-related issues;
- Publish natural resources-related issues so as to provide accurate, reliable, captivating articles / information on natural resources-related issues through thorough research;
- Develop a strategic media practitioners engagement document;
- Improve the quality of coverage of the issuance of FLEGT licences in Ghana;
- Engage in informed and accountable reportage of issues in Ghana's natural resources and environment sector, particular the FLEGT-VPA processes.



Dr. Steve Manteaw taking participants through a session on Ghana's oil and gas sector

Astute environmentalists including Dr. Steve Manteaw and legal practitioners from Taylor Crabbe Initiative (TCI), who facilitated various sessions of the training took participants through the legal, social, and environmental frameworks environments governance in Ghana.

3. Collecting Data to Contribute to the Implementation of Ghana's VPA Impact Monitoring Framework

Article 17 of the VPA enjoins the parties to develop better understanding of the livelihoods of potentially affected stakeholders. The Parties through the Joint Monitoring



Launching of the project in Accra

and Review Mechanism (JMRRM) tasked a Joint Team on Impact Monitoring (JTIM) to develop a VPA Impact Monitoring (IM) framework to monitor impact in seven main areas: i. Livelihoods, ii. Forest Conditions, iii. Forest Governance, iv. Market Performance, v. Forest Management, vi. Revenue Generation and vii. VPA

Stakeholder Deliberative Process. It is assumed that identifying expected and unexpected VPA implementation impacts will help define strategies to mitigate the negative impacts and sustain the positive ones.

In October 2019, Civic Response in partnership with Resource Trust launched the VPA Impact Monitoring project under the auspices of the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme with funding from the EU, UKAid and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency. Civic Response and ResourceTrust Network will be collecting baseline information on identified data gaps in three VPA impact areas, namely: livelihoods, VPA stakeholder deliberative processes and one aspect of forest condition (FC 10 - volume of illegal timber and confiscated timber as “illegal removals”).

Livelihood Data would be collected under the following livelihood indicators:

- a. L2 - Income levels in forest fringe communities in forest window districts

- b. L3 - Amount of revenue delivered through the implementation SRAs
- c. L4 - Ratio of revenue disbursed by OASL to funds spent by district assemblies on development projects.
- d. L5 - Farmers are compensated according to market values
- e. L8 - Number of registered employees in the formal timber industry in window forest districts
- f. L10 - Average price of timber in local markets in selected window districts

Below are the nine indicators for which the project will be collecting baseline information on National VPA Multi stakeholder processes:

- a. **NVP.1** Clear and relevant mandate to convene stakeholders
- b. **NVP.2** The capacity (finance, human resource) to convene stakeholders
- c. **NVP.3** (once convened) Inclusive engagement for agenda setting and debate
- d. **NVP.4** Inclusion of all [key] stakeholders and interest group
- e. **NVP.5** Legitimacy of representatives to speak for their constituencies
- f. **NVP.6** Ability of representatives to consult /engage/lead constituencies as the shape of collective decisions emerge
- g. **NVP.7** Quality (validity, shared-ness and relevance) of the evidence that stakeholders engage with and use to reach collective decisions
- h. **NVP.8** Significance and 'importance' of the outcomes of collective decisions made for stakeholder interests
- i. **NVP.9** Number of policy and practice recommendations adopted

4. Guidelines to Ensure Transparent and Accountable Use of Forest Royalties by District Assemblies



Section 6.1.1 of the 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy reads, “Decentralize forestry governance systems to local levels to ensure transparency, accountability and equity and to define the roles of Traditional Authorities, local government (district assemblies), NGOs, Community Based

Organizations (CBOs) in forest and wildlife management.” District Assemblies are one

of the constitutional beneficiaries of timber royalties; receiving 55%. However, the Constitution did not prescribe what the district assemblies should use the timber royalties for. Studies conducted by Civic Response in 2017 shows that most district assemblies have used the timber royalties to fill in the gaps in their administrative overheads and have hardly been transparent or accountable in its use.

Civic Response led on-going discussions among forest stakeholders on the need to develop guidelines for District Assemblies' use of forest royalties which should address issues of transparency, accountability, ensure provision of social infrastructure to communities as well as ploughing back part of the



At validation workshop in 2018

forest royalties into forest resource governance and management. A draft guideline for District Assemblies use of Timber Royalties developed in 2017 with a team from eight district assemblies and validated in 2018 by a cross-section of stakeholders is available to continue and finalize the process. Civic Response has in 2019, engaged the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) to liaise with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to plan and convene the zonal workshops for all district assemblies who receive timber royalties to solicit their inputs to finalize the draft and use the final output to seek cabinet approval.

In November 2019, Civic Response made an official presentation of the draft Guidelines to the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR) for further discussions and

understanding to enable MLNR engage MLGRD., I. The inputs made by MLNR enabled the review of how the 55% timber royalties received by the district assemblies should be allocated between communities' infrastructure provision, district assemblies' recurrent expenditure and environment.

5. Developing National SRA Database to Continuously Monitor Timber Companies' Compliance with Their Social and Fiscal Obligations

Timber companies' compliance with Social Responsibility Agreements (SRAs) has become an important component of forest law enforcement. Unlike in the past when timber companies could take advantage of the ignorance of communities and evade SRA fulfilment, now the onus lies on timber companies to ensure they fulfil SRA before they can be issued FLEGT licences or export permit.



In this regard, Civic Response and Forestry Commission jointly embarked on developing an SRA database to provide information on SRA for all Timber Rights issued effective 2017 as the baseline. Analysis of SRA compliance information collected from FSD offices for 11 districts in 4 regions showed

299 communities had received GHC760,000 in 2017 - 2019, an average of GHC2500 per community ranging from GHC300 (for the depleted and less endowed) to GHC10,000 for communities in the resource rich areas). We also followed up to some of the communities who received over GHC2500 to document what they had done with the SRA money and how they had been transparent and accountable in the use of the monies received. It is interesting to observe that while most communities had very impressive projects to show as evidence of the SRA monies, others had almost nothing to show. However, not all the communities who did well with SRA projects had

supporting documents like receipts, bids analysis etc. to show. Civic Response will develop simple transparency and accountability templates to help community leaders demonstrate transparency and accountability.

6. Forest Watch Ghana

In 2019, Civic Response continued to serve as the secretariat of Forest Watch Ghana (FWG), the national campaign vehicle of civil society organisations and individuals committed to the rights of poor forest users.

In its capacity as the Coalition's secretariat, Civic Response successfully organised the FWG annual general meeting and two general meetings, during which issues relevant to the forestry sector were discussed. Also members shared updates on their works.



FWG General Meeting

During the July 2019 general meeting, a capacity building session was held on FLEGT Watch, an innovative tool used to monitor illegal logging and other forms of forest cover change. There was also a capacity building session on Green Climate Fund (GCF) during the last general meeting in November 2019 after which

members agreed to cooperate with other CSOs interested in GCF in order to access this funding.

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

1. Climate Adaptation Finance Tracking

In 2019, Civic Response implemented the Climate Adaptation Finance tracking project in Ghana with funding from CARE Denmark and under leadership of CARE Denmark and CARE Netherlands. This project was undertaken in six developing countries: (Ghana, Uganda, Ethiopia, Nepal, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

The concept of the project is that Development Partners have invested funds into a number of adaptation projects in developing countries across the world as part of efforts



to mitigate climate change impacts as well as enable people adapt to impacts of climate change. Ghana happens to be one of the recipient countries of such adaptation grants. Available data showed that a total of 405 climate-related projects were committed to Ghana from 2013 to 2017 with a total climate commitment of USD 776 million. CARE

Denmark and CARE Netherlands worked with local partners in recipient countries to track climate finance for adaptation activities to verify that it reflects the reality. Civic Response led this activity in Ghana. The purpose of the project were to:

- Check if OECD donors' reporting of climate finance for adaptation activities in the selected developing countries reflected reality on the ground, i.e. no over-reporting of funding takes place.
- Investigate if the supported adaptation activities targeted the poorest and most climate vulnerable parts of the population, and if the activities were gender sensitive.
- Develop a methodology that makes it easier for civil society organizations (CSO's) in other countries to perform similar analysis.

In Ghana, with the help of a 25 member Advisory Group and a 7 member Working Group, Civic Response selected and assessed 20 projects out of the 405 projects based on an agreed criterion. The 20 projects included the 10 largest project funded (for which project documents could be accessed)

The three largest providers of climate finance to Ghana are the European Union (EU) institutions (excluding the European Investment Bank), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the United States. The EU institutions, AfDB, and United States provided around 23%, 18% and 12% of all climate-related finance flows over the period, respectively.

Summary of Key findings:

- The breakdown of adaptation and mitigation finance received by Ghana was 43% and 57%, respectively, with 228 million USD and 331 million USD committed for adaptation and mitigation projects. Representing a significant imbalance between the objectives of 103 million USD over the 5-year analysis period. Thus climate finance received by Ghana predominantly targets mitigation.¹
- Only 35% of adaptation projects in 2016 have a Gender Equality marker and that this trend decreased from 2013-2016. The analysis also showed that 37% of adaptation finance received in Ghana had no consideration of gender equality.
- The IMF finds that Ghana is at high risk of entering into debt distress, yet around 28% of all climate finance commitments received in Ghana from 2013-2017 were in the form of loans. Providers of climate finance should increase their provisions of grant-based support for climate change in Ghana to prevent the negative impacts related to debt².

¹ A large portion of adaptation projects in Ghana are concentrated in the northern regions, and in the agricultural sector, which is a good indication of the vulnerability of the north and of the sector in question (Dazé and Echeverria, 2016).

² Research commissioned by UN Environment in 2018 found that climate impacts and risk significantly increase the cost of borrowing in vulnerable developing countries.² In effect, this makes the interest repayments attached to climate-related loans more expensive to return. To

- Donor Transparency - Accurate and independent analyses of adaptation finance, and climate finance more generally, was hindered by a lack of willingness of donors to make project documents public. This lack of transparency made it difficult for recipients of climate finance to determine if it suitably met national, regional and local needs and priorities.
- Projects which effectively considered the relevant context of climate vulnerabilities, were found to develop activities addressing the identified risks, vulnerabilities and impacts. Similarly, projects which fail to outline an adequate vulnerability context, often fail to meet the adaptation needs of those affected by the project's activities
- Donor agencies and local stakeholders need to develop detailed contexts regarding climate change risk, vulnerability and adaptation for projects planned in other parts of Ghana, as they currently exist for the north. It is recommended that Ghana intensifies its data and information collection and management, to help donors acquire the relevant data to inform where funds are directed, and how effectively to put those funds to use.
- The team estimated that of the 216 million USD of adaptation finance reported by donors across the 20 assessed projects, 31.7 million USD, or 15%, can be considered as over-reported. Over-reporting originate in projects provided by the EU (9.3 million USD), CIF (9.2 million USD), the WB (4.6 million USD), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (3.6 million USD) and the AfDB (3.6 million USD). This highlights the potential for inflated adaptation finance figures, and a significant level of inaccuracy in current donor reporting methods.
- Additional to the estimated USD 31.7 million of over-reported adaptation finance the team also found that USD 26 million of climate finance has been over-reported by the International Finance Corporation, in its "Construction Policy and Administrative Management" project which involves the building of hotel, office and retail space in Accra. The team finds no evidence in the project's documentation, to any degree, to suggest that this project targets either climate change mitigation or adaptation.

finance climate activities in countries such as Ghana – vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and at high risk of debt distress as defined by the International Monetary Fund (IMF)² – through loans, jeopardises financial stability and the ability of public entities to invest in social infrastructure. Despite these risks, we estimates that from 2013-2017, 28% of total climate finance commitments received in Ghana, were provided as loans.

- The team also found that USD 4.4 million of adaptation finance, primarily resulting from cross-cutting projects with both mitigation and adaptation objectives, was under-reported by donors. This finding highlights that mitigation and adaptation finance reported in cross-cutting projects, as estimated using current climate finance accounting methods, is a further source of inaccuracy in climate finance figures.
- The team found that 15 of the 20 projects assessed had poverty reduction considerations. However, the integration of Human Rights Based Approaches and access to poverty mapping and data to support the prioritization of pro-poor groups, communities and policies remained limited. Projects recognise that poverty determines the level of a society's climate change vulnerability and so to ensure resilience and increased adaptive capacity, poverty must be addressed.
- A total of 13 out of 20 projects focused their activities to target groups most vulnerable to climate change. This is necessary and positive in the Ghanaian context as there remains a significant portion of the populace that are regarded as such.

2. Capacity Building for Communities: Civic Response also organised capacity



Capacity building session ongoing

building for local communities on climate change. This comprised 175 representatives from 35 forest-fringe communities from seven districts (Kade, Akim Oda, Assin Fosu, Goaso, Nkawie, Jasikan and Dormaa).

In order these sensitize community members about climate change, first their level of understanding about the topic was ascertained. So the lessons start with engagement of participants in a discussion about climate change during which the following pertinent questions are asked: what is weather? What is climate change? What is the difference between weather and climate change?

Other topics explored at these meetings include the main causes of climate change (deforestation, degradation, and industrialisation), effects of climate change, as well as adaptation and mitigation measures. REDD+ and REDD+ safeguards were also discussed.

LAND GOVERNANCE

Civic Response’s land governance campaign is focused on advocacy for a national land governance framework that is climate conscious and socially just. Civic Response, therefore, campaigns to ensure that the acquisition of land for commercial purpose does not affect the rights of vulnerable community members.

In 2019, Civic Response in collaboration with members of the Land Coalition in Ghana monitored the land bill. Currently the land bill is at the consideration stage in parliament. Civic Response is still monitoring this bill to ensure that it gives guidelines on large-scale land acquisition, and to ensure that it is gender sensitive. The land bill has been in a draft form for almost six years now. Civic Response is collaborating with the Land Coalition and other CSOs to advocate for its implementation this year (2020).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

In the 2019, Civic Response continued to serve as Forest Watch Ghana’s representative on the CSO Platform on SDGs. The Ghana Civil Society Platform on



SDGs was established in October 2015 to bring together civil society groups in Ghana to plan, strategize and coordinate initiatives for the achievement of the SDGs. The Platform was institutionalised in May 2016.

Also, Civic Response continued to serve as the convener for Goal 15 of the SDGs, which seeks to protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. As the convener, Civic Response organised two

general meetings for the Platform in 2019, which was used to build members' capacity on the SDG indicators and update them on the SDGs implementation process in Ghana. In addition, Civic Response co-ordinated the input of Goal 15 members into the shadow report presented by the Ghana Civil Society Platform on progress report of the implementation of the SDGs in Ghana.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION



In 2019, Civic Response undertook the following projects:

- Civic Response in conjunction with Rainforest Foundation UK (RFUK) is working together to enhance and consolidate the work on Civil Society-led independence forest monitoring began under the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme. Under this project, Civic Response will support about 50 communities to monitor and report forest infractions with the use of a mobile app. This project is being implemented in conjunction with the Forestry Commission as part of its efforts to ensure law enforcement and reduce illegalities.
- Civic Response in conjunction with Resource Trust is implementing the project entitled *Collecting Data to Contribute to the Implementation of Ghana's VPA Impact Monitoring Framework* under the auspices of the FAO-EU FLEGT Programme. This project aims at collecting baseline information on identified data gaps in three VPA impact areas, namely: livelihoods, forest condition (FC 10 - volume of illegal timber and confiscated timber as “illegal removals”) and VPA stakeholder deliberative processes in order to assess the impact of the VPA implementation in these three areas.
- Civic Response in conjunction with Fern (based in Brussels and London) is working on Consolidating good governance, tackling illegalities in Ghana's forest

sector. Under this project, Civic Response will be working with two sector ministries to develop guidelines for District Assemblies' use of timber royalties; document timber companies' compliance with forest sector laws, especially SRA fulfilment, and compensations for destroyed crops.

- Civic Response is also working with CARE Ghana under the Yensore programme which seeks to strengthen core partners' capacity to influence government and private companies in the mining, oil & gas and forest sectors. The programme will deepen the focus on rights and access to productive resources and economic opportunities as well as community resilience and adaptation to climate change. The capacity of core partners will be strengthened to systematically collect and document evidence, rights abuses by extractive companies and other power holders.

DONORS		
<p>FAO - EU FLEGT PROGRAMME</p> 		
OUR PARTNERS		
		
		



CONTACT US

9 Hibiscus Road, East Legon.
P.O. Box LG 1086, Legon
Accra – Ghana
+233 302 521 905
info@civicresponsegh.org
civicresponsegh.org

Social Media



Civic Response



@CivicResponse



Civic Response



Civic Response