



ANNUAL REPORT 2015
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ABBREVIATION

AfDB	: African Development Bank
APR	: Annual Performance Report
ARIC	: Audit Report Implementation Committee
BCDRP	: Business Continuity Under Disaster Recovery Plan
CAGD	: Controller and Accountant General's Department
CBAGs	: Community Biodiversity Advisory Group
CERSGIS	: Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services
CHQ	: Corporate Headquarters
COTVET	: Council for Technical and Vocational Education and Training
CREMA	: Community Resource Management Area
CRMC	: Community Resource Management Council
DoLMAG	: Domestic Lumber Millers Association of Ghana
DOLTA	: Domestic Lumber Trade Association
DotNET	: Domestic Lumber Trade Network
ECOWAS	: Economic Community of West Africa States
EMT	: Executive Management Team
ERPD	: Emission Reduction Programme Document
EUCSMP	: European Union Chainsaw Milling Project
FAO	: Food and Agriculture Organisation
FC	: Forestry Commission
FCTC	: Forestry Commission Training Centre
FFC	: Forest Fringe Communities
FLEGT	: Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade
FSD	: Forest Services Division
GhLAS	: Ghana Land Administration System
GIS	: Geographic Information System
GNA	: Ghana News Agency
GOG	: Government of Ghana
GREL	: Ghana Rubber Estate Limited
GSBAs	: Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas
GSGDA	: Ghana Shared Growth Development Agenda
GTMO	: Ghana Timber Millers Organisation

HHC	: Hand Held Computers
HRIMS	: Human Resource Information Management System
IGF	: Internally Generated Funds
ISO	: International Standards Organisation
IUCN	: International Union for Conservation of Nature
JMRM	: Joint Model and Review Mechanism
LIs	: Legal Instruments
LLC	: Limited Liability Company
LULUCF	: Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry
LUS	: Lesser Used Species
MLNR	: Ministry of Land and Natural Resources
MRV	: Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NDPC	: National Development Planning Council
NFAP	: National Forest Assessment Protocol
NFPDP	: National Forest Plantation Development Programme
NFPDP	: National Forest Plantation Development Programme
NLBI	: Non-Legally Binding Instrument
NLBI	: Non-Legally Binding Instrument
NLC	: National Labour Commission
NLG	: National Liaison Group
NREG	: Natural Resource and Environmental Governance
NVTI	: National Vocational Training Institute
PADP	: Protected Areas Development Programme
PAs	: Protected Areas
SMEs	: Small and Medium Scale Enterprises
SNV	: SNV Netherlands Development Organization
SOS	: Scheme of Service
TBI	: Tropenbos International
TREC	: Timber Rights Evaluation Committee
TRMR	: Timber Resource Management Regulations
UNDP	: United Nations Development Programme
VPA	: Voluntary Partnership Agreement

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

The Forestry Commission was established in 1999 under Act 571 as a corporate body charged with the mandate of managing, protecting and developing the forestry and wildlife resources of Ghana. In 2015, the Commission undertook major programmes, projects and activities to meet its strategic objectives.

Human Resource

The total workforce of the Commission as at December 2015 was three thousand eight hundred and ten (3,810) consisting of five hundred and thirty-four (534) senior staff and three thousand two hundred and seventy-six (3,276) junior staff. This compared to three thousand six hundred and ninety-four (3,694) in 2014 representing an increase of 3% in the total workforce.

Forest Services Division

The Commission is mandated to protect, manage and develop the forest resources of Ghana. In line with this, 20,472km of Forest Reserve boundaries and 24.67km GSBAs boundaries were cleaned by Forest Guards and Contract labour respectively, 20,484km of forest boundaries were inspected and 391,440km of forest reserves patrolled. A total of 1,004,065m³ consisting of 572,746m³ On-reserve and 431,319m³ Off-reserve natural forest timber harvesting was regulated. Plantation timber harvesting resulted to 153,794m³ comprising of 70,338m³ On-reserve and 83,456m³ Off-reserve.

Wildlife Division

The Commission executed the mandate of protection and conservation of the nation's wildlife resources through the routine activities of law enforcement and boundary cleaning in the Protected Areas to secure their integrity. Two hundred and forty-nine (249) Effective Patrol Man-Days per Officer per year was achieved in the seventeen (17) Protected Areas.

On Ecotourism development, the Commission recorded two hundred and nine thousand and fifty Four (209,054) visitors to Protected Areas and Zoos. Three hundred and fifty (350) beehives and snail pens were also constructed and distributed to fringe communities around Bia National Park and Gbele Resource Reserve.

Timber Industry Development and Trade

The Commission provided specialized services in terms of promoting efficiency, product quality assurance and value – addition in Ghana's timber industry and trade consistent with the best environmental practices. The export volume and value were 367,061m³ and €187.6 million respectively. An estimated volume of 181,758m³ of lumber was supplied to the domestic market. The major markets for the export of Ghana's timber are grouped into three namely; Africa/ECOWAS, Europe and Asia/Far East.

Resource Management and Support Centre

The Commission is responsible for the exploration, development, facilitation, institutionalization, implementation and monitoring of effective and affordable forest and wildlife management systems in Ghana in accordance with the 2012 National Forest and Wildlife Policy.

Forestry Commission Training Centre

The Commission provides the required knowledge, skills and attitudes needed for staff to function effectively in their various roles to ensure the sustainable use and management of Ghana's forest and wildlife resources. This resulted in the training of two hundred and fifty-two (252) industry operatives in AutoCAD, Production Management, Costing and Pricing, Health and Safety, Knock-down and Glazing as well as training five hundred and thirty-four (534) members from Anloga Small Scale Carpenters Union under the COTVET training programme.

Rapid Response (Law Enforcement)

The Commission safeguards the integrity of the forestry and wildlife resource base of Ghana for the benefit of all segments of the society and future generations. To this effect, fourteen (14) Rapid Response Teams were deployed to combat illegalities in forest reserves and wildlife protected areas. The operations of the teams resulted in the destruction of four hundred and fifty seven (457) ha of illegal farms, the confiscation of thirty five thousand and five (35,005) assorted lumber, fourteen (14) gold detector machines, One Hundred and Seventy Eight (178) chainsaws and the eviction of Six Hundred and Seventy Eight (678) illegal miners.

Climate Change

The Commission made significant progress in developing the Emissions Reduction Programme (ERP) document and provided training for about thirty (30) participants from FC, IUCN, CERSGIS and COCOBOD on Estimating Carbon Emissions for REDD+. Subsequently, the National REDD+ Strategy (2016-2035) was validated and with the support of UNDP, the Commission launched the first National REDD+ Forum and "REDD EYE" Campaign through which about one thousand (1,000) students from second cycle institutions were sensitized on climate change and REDD+ readiness activities.

Timber Rights Administration

The Commission pursued the administration and implementation of competitive bidding and other timber rights allocation processes for value creation and good governance promotion. A total of eighty five (85) plantation permits constituting a volume of one hundred and twenty-five thousand nine hundred and sixty seven metric cube (125,967m³) was vetted and processed for tree species including Teak, Cedrela, Wawa, Ofram, etc. One hundred and eighty nine (189) Salvage Permits were also granted in both On and Off forest reserve areas.

Corporate Affairs and Media Relations

The Commission implemented strategies that depicted its positive image. To ensure effective dissemination of information about the Commission to the domain of the public, all activities and operations were fully covered. The media was engaged in instances such as Greening Ghana Day Celebration, National REDD+ Forum, REDD EYE Campaign launch and National REDD+ Ambassadors Forum.

Internal Audit

The Commission is mandated to provide independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and to improve operations. Ninety eight (98) divisional and outstations audit were performed after which reports were issued to auditees. Issues requiring the attention of the Executive Management and the Board were consolidated into quarterly reports and submitted for their actions.

Timber Validation

The Commission is mandated to coordinate key activities that will enable Ghana issue FLEGT/Legality license under the Ghana-EU VPA. In respect of this, training was conducted for nine (9) selected auditors in ISO 19011, GhLAS Procedures and Protocol. Checklist, verification protocols and related audit procedures were developed and nation-wide legality audits conducted and report on compliance.

Information and Communication Technology

The ICT Team of the Commission prepared a draft ICT User Policy which is to ensure that computer facility users become aware of their responsibilities and the potential consequences of a breach of these responsibilities with respect to the usage of FC's ICT infrastructure (PCs, E-mail, and Internet etc). An internet-based comprehensive corporate e-mail system was procured, installed and configured on FC's hosting site. Geo-Spatial portal for National REDD+ Secretariat was also designed for publishing and sharing spatial data (LULUC) on the internet for easy accessibility to all relevant stakeholders.

Legal

The Commission registered Professional Chamber that provides all legal services of a law firm in accordance with the Legal Profession Act, 1960 and the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct and Etiquette) Rules, 1969. The Commission was legally represented in court on thirteen (13) different legal suits and two (2) of them have been decided in favour of the Commission, one (1) dispensed with by way of an amicable settlement and four (4) of the cases been discontinued by the Plaintiffs.

Projects

The Commission undertakes programmes and projects to enable it achieve its mandate of protection, conservation, development and regulation of forest and wildlife resources in the country. A total amount of GH¢7.5million was realised from the Donor Partners of the Commission. The main Donor sources included NREG programme, REDD+ and VPA processes.

Corporate Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation

The 2015-2018 FC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan was reviewed by all Business Planning Managers and representatives of Departments and Units of the Corporate Headquarters. FC Performance Review workshop for 2014 was planned and organized successfully. The 2014 Annual Performance Report (APR) was prepared and submitted to the sector Ministry and NDPC as input to the 2014 National APR.

Finance and Administration

The Government of Ghana provided for the compensation of the staff of the Commission which amounted to GH¢48,645,385. In terms of revenue generation, an amount of GH¢57,664,262 comprising of GH¢50,120,167 Internally Generated Fund (IGF) and GH¢7,544,095 Donor funds were generated. The total expenditure of the Commission on Goods and Services as well as Assets was GH¢43,122,230 and GH¢5,034,808 respectively.

Challenges

The major challenges encountered were the rampant increases in illegalities in the forest reserves, inadequate release of funds to undertake planting and restoration of degraded areas within the forest reserves as well as coppices management activities and other operational activities, coupled with investment activities by the private partners.

The Commission, although struggling to keep pace with illegalities in the forest reserves and wildlife protected areas, the vision will plainly not be met unless progress is greatly accelerated where more funds are made available for plantation and maintenance activities, coppices management and other operational activities, targeted sensitization of the major communities, collaborative resource management intensification, awareness creation, provision of alternative livelihood support programmes for communities and tightening of technical work force in addition to improving private investments.

Conclusion

The Commission is on track to meet the vision of leaving future generations and their communities with richer, better and more valuable forest and wildlife endowments than inherited– though it is struggling to keep pace with illegalities in the forest reserves and wildlife protected Areas. However, the relatively slow progress in addressing issues of illegal mining and other illegalities in Ghana’s forest reserves and protected areas should be resolved through energetic means that will accommodate citizenry interest in meeting its strategic policies.

ORGANIZATION OF THE REPORT

Chapter one (1) provides the legal mandate and the strategic policies of the Commission. It provides an overview of the Board of Commissioners as well as the structure and functions of Divisions, Departments and Units of the Commission.

Chapter two (2) presents activities undertaken and achievements in regard to the corporate objectives of the Commission.

Chapter three (3) provides a summary of programmes and projects being implemented.

Chapter four (4) is the financial performance of the Commission.

Chapter five (5) summarises the key challenges and draws a conclusion.

The audited financial statement for the period is appended.

CHAPTER ONE

ORGANIZATIONAL DIRECTIONS

1.1 Background of the Forestry Commission

The Forestry Commission is a Public Service institution, set up subject to the provisions of the 1992 Constitution, Chapter 21, Article 269, sub-section 1. The Commission was re-established by Act 571 of 1999 in order to take along the main public bodies and agencies implementing the functions of protection, development, management and regulation of forests and wildlife resources and to provide for related matters.

1.2 Legal Mandate

The mandate of the Commission is as follows:

- The Commission shall be responsible for the regulation of the utilization of forest and wildlife resources, the conservation and management of those resources and the co-ordination of policies related to them.
- Without limiting the scope of sub-section (1), the Commission shall:
 1. Regulate the use of forest and wildlife resources
 2. Manage the nation's forest reserves and protected areas
 3. Assist the private sector and other bodies with the implementation of forest and wildlife policies and
 4. Undertake the development of forest plantations for the restoration of degraded forest areas, the expansion of the country's forest cover and increase in the production of industrial timber.

1.3 Strategic Policies

The Commission is guided by the following vision and mission statements as well as six (6) strategic objectives and core values.

1.4 Vision Statement

To leave future generations and their communities with richer, better, more valuable forestry and wildlife endowments than we inherited.

1.5 Mission Statement

To sustainably develop and manage Ghana's forestry and wildlife resources.

1.6 Corporate Strategic Objectives

The FC is steered by six (6) strategic objectives that when implemented will lead to the achievement of the stated mission and vision of the organization. The objectives are:

1. Implement the framework for the sustainable management, development and protection of forest and wildlife resources
2. Secure and enforce a policy and legal framework that ensures a liberated Forestry Commission

3. Activate a diversified portfolio of sustainable revenue sources without compromising the integrity of the resource
4. Attract, develop and retain well motivated, skilled and efficient workforce
5. Create an enabling environment for forest and wildlife stakeholders (especially industries, communities and landowners) to thrive and
6. Develop and implement an efficient and effective organizational infrastructure and culture

1.7 Core Values

The FC's operations and services are guided by the following organizational core values and behaviours.

- Be business oriented
- Create a mindset of interdependency
- Become customer focused
- Embed a culture of integrity and honesty
- Create trust at all levels
- Promote transparency and fairness
- Become accountable to self and to all
- Be committed to delivery of goals
- Promote diversity and
- Communicate effectively.

1.8 Organizational Structure

The Commission is made up of three (3) Divisions, a Corporate Headquarters and two (2) Special Units (Figure 1.0), which comprises of:

Divisions

- Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD)
- Forest Service Division (FSD)
- Wildlife Division (WD)

Special Units

- Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC)
- Forestry Commission Training Centre (FCTC)

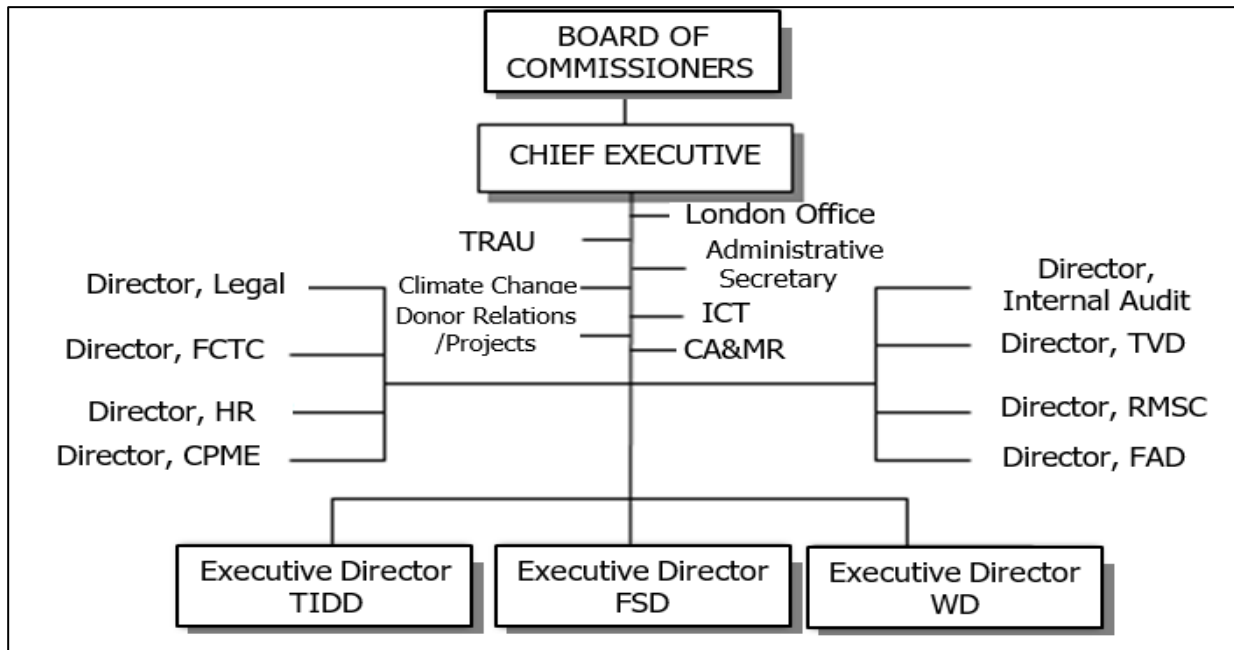
Corporate Headquarters

- Board of Commissioners
- Chief Executive Secretariat
- Human Resources Department (HRD)
- Rapid Response Unit
- Information and Communication Technology Unit (ICT)
- Corporate Planning and Monitoring and Evaluation Department (CPME)
- Finance and Administration Department (FAD)
- Timber Rights Administrative Unit (TRAU)
- Legal Affairs Department
- Climate Change Unit (CCU)

- Timber Validation Department (TVD)
- Internal Audit Department
- Corporate Affairs and Media Relations Unit
- Donor Relations/Projects Unit

The organizational structure of the Commission has three (3) Executive Directors, eight (8) Directors and five (5) Units. The FCTC and RMSC are located in Kumasi. All these report to the Chief Executive.

Figure 1.0 Organogram of the Commission



1.8.1 Board of Commissioners

The Forestry Commission is governed by an eleven (11) member Board of Commissioners, which was inaugurated in May 2009 in line with Act 571 of 1999. Table 1.0 shows the list of the Board members and their respective roles

Table 1.0 List of Board Members and their respective Roles

	Name	Role
1	Mr. Eddie Prah	Chairman
2	Mr. Samuel Afari Dartey	Chief Executive
3	Naa (Dr) Puoure Puobe Chiir VII	National House of Chiefs
4	Mr. Richard Duah Nsenkyire	Timber Trade and Industry
5	Mr. Gerad H. O. Boakye	Wildlife Trade and Industry
6	Mr Kingsley K. F. Ghartey	Institute of Professional Foresters
7	Dr Ernest Asare Abeney	NGO's in Forest and Wildlife Management
8	Dr. Winfred Anim-Odame	Lands Commission
9	Awulae Attibrukusu III	Government Appointee
10	Alhaji Alhassan Moomen	Government Appointee
11	Madam Agnes Bertha Amenuvor	Government Appointee

1.9 Key Functions of the Divisions and the two Special Units

The key functions of the Divisions and the two special units are elaborated in Table 2.0 as follows:

Table 2.0: Key Functions of the Divisions and the two Special Units

Divisions and Special Units	Key Roles/Functions
Forest Services Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest protection and conservation • Forest production and regulation • Forest plantation development • Implement prescriptions of FR management plans
Wildlife Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation and law enforcement in wildlife Protected Areas (PAs) • Regulation and utilization of wildlife resources • Maintenance and rehabilitation of PAs infrastructure • Ecotourism development and revenue enhancement
Timber Industry Development Division	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timber trade/industry development and modernization • Timber trade/ industry regulation • Wood products inspection and grading • Market development and promotion
Forestry Commission Training Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide short-term and refresher training courses for FC staff and the forestry sector • Assist the wood industry with appropriate technology in downstream processing • Provide consultancy and extension services in forestry, wildlife, wood industry environmental issues • Introduce staff to new technical tools and emerging issues in the forestry sector
Resource Management Support Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve on the operational capacity of the Forestry Commission • Develop systems and standards to improve forest and wildlife management that report on the state of the forests • Test and certify externally developed systems on forest and wildlife management for adoption • Promote strategies to improve forest governance

CHAPTER TWO

PERFORMANCE REVIEW

2.1 Review of performance of Divisions/Departments/Units

The performance of the Commission to achieve its strategic objectives is presented below:

2.2 Human Resource Department

The role of the Corporate Human Resource Department is to design, develop and monitor the implementation of human resource management policies, strategies and systems within the Forestry Commission to ensure consistency, fairness and equity to empower employees' engagement and commitment. Whereas the role of the Divisional Human Resource Units is to coordinate and monitor the implementation of Human Resource Management Systems and Policies by Line Managers to effectively manage people under their supervision.

2.2.1 Human Resource Functions

The functions of the Human Resource are concentrated on the development, implementation, review, monitoring and evaluation, but not limited to the following:

- Human Resource Development
- Employee Resourcing
- Reward Management
- Organizational Development
- Performance Management
- Human Resource Information Management System

Human Resource played a critical role in achieving the strategic imperatives of the Forestry Commission in respect of attaining the strategic thrust of the Commission which are:

- To attract, develop and retain well motivated, skilled and efficient workforce.
- To develop a least cost, enabling organizational infrastructure that inspires and drives value.

2.2.2 Staff Demography

The total number of FC employees at the end of December, 2015 stood at three thousand eight hundred and ten (3,810). This consists of five hundred and thirty-four (534) senior staff and three thousand two hundred and seventy-six (3,276) junior staff. Table 3.0 provides the breakdown of the staff for the period.

Table 3.0 Staff Demography

	SENIOR STAFF		SUB TOTAL	JUNIOR STAFF		SUB TOTAL	TOTAL
	MALE	FEMALE		MALE	FEMALE		
CHQ	50	14	64	16	11	27	91
FSD	217	37	254	1,998	263	2,261	2,515
RSMC	22	8	30	41	10	51	81
TIDD	61	17	78	65	25	90	168
WD	77	16	93	775	51	826	919
FCTC	10	5	15	18	3	21	36
TOTAL	437	97	534	2,913	363	3,276	3,810

2.2.3 Staff Training

A total of three hundred and thirty-six (336) staff benefitted from the Commission's training programmes. One person was trained through the Self-Initiated training programme, two (2) through the Commission Initiated Training (CIT), twelve (12) through Human Resource Development Cooperation Programme with China and three hundred and eleven (311) through other professional training programmes, workshops and forums, both local and international.

2.2.4 Recruitment

The total employee recruitment in the year was five (5) across all the divisions and job grades in the Commission.

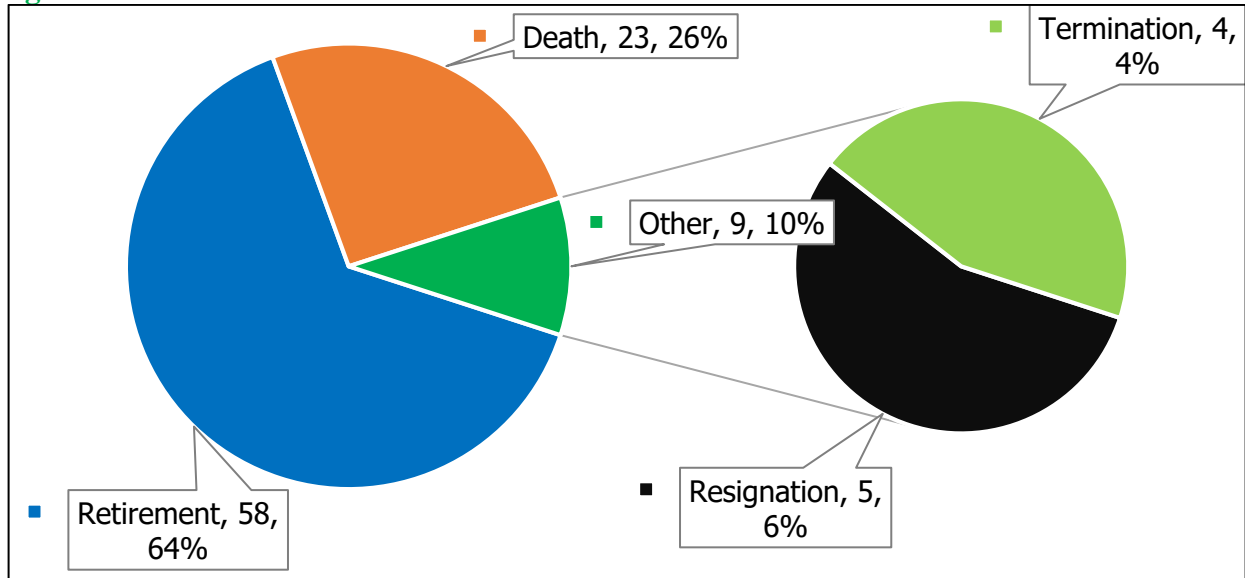
2.2.5 Upgrading

A total of Twelve (12) employees were upgraded in 2015. This included one (1) junior staff from the Forest Services Division and eleven (11) senior staff consisting of seven (7) Forest Services Division staff, two (2) Wildlife Division staff and two (2) staff of the Forestry Commission Training Centre.

2.2.6 Staff Turnover

The year recorded total of ninety staff turnovers. This occurred in four categories namely, retirement, resignation, death and appointment termination. Figure 3.0 below provides the details per the various aspects of the turnover.

Figure 2.0 Staff Turnover



2.2.7 Reward Management

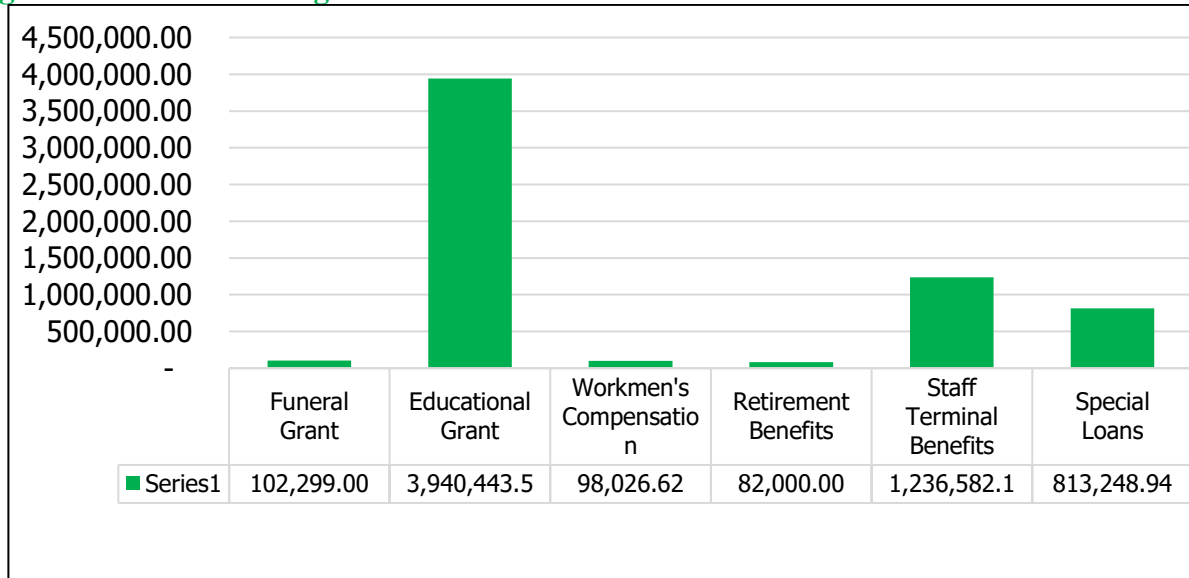
The FC reviewed its payroll data and re-organised its management Units to reflect the relevant operational areas as follows: Corporate Head Office, Divisional Head Offices, Regional Offices, District/Area Offices, Units, Parks for effective validation and management of the payroll.

The Board of the Forestry Commission at its 4th meeting approved the implementation of the following reviewed allowances, pending Fair Wages and Salaries Commission's approved categories 2 & 3 allowances:

- Out – of – Station Allowance
- Retirement Package (relocation award inclusive)
- Meetings that attract allowances
- Other benefits i.e. Death of staff, Bereavement of staff and Death in Service etc.

Figure 3.0 present the various rewards awarded to staff during the period.

Figure 3.0 Reward Management



2.2.8 Organizational Development

The Department undertook the following activities to improve the functionality of the Commission.

2.2.8.1 Scheme of Service

The FC Scheme of Service was officially approved in July 2015 by the Public Services Commission for implementation. The Scheme of Service was officially launched on October 17, 2015 at the FC Auditorium. Alignment of FC Job Titles to the FC Scheme of Service – ongoing

2.2.8.2 Forestry Week Celebration

The 4th Forestry week celebration was held at Dodowa in the Greater Accra Region in May 2015. A Grand Durbar was held on Friday May 29, 2015 under the theme: ‘Healthy Forests Mitigates Climate Change’.

2.2.8.3 Electronic Clock – In System

Electronic Clock – In System was introduced at the FC Head Office Complex in February 2015 to ensure efficiency and eliminate all human interference in recording staff attendance.

2.2.8.4 Electronic Filing System

The ICT Unit in collaboration with HR department developed and trained staff on the use of the electronic storage system to ensure all incoming and outgoing correspondences are stored in electronic format for easy retrieval and also as electronic back up of the same correspondence.

B. DIVISIONS

2.3 Forest Services Division

The Forest Services Division (FSD) of the FC is mandated to protect, manage, and develop the forest resources of Ghana. With the 2010 strategic direction of the FC, the FSD is guided by seven (7) strategic objectives agreed by its management team. The objectives are:

- Improve the protection and management of biodiversity in forest reserves to enhance ecosystem integrity, resilience and productivity.
- Enhance forest carbon stock through afforestation and restoration to mitigate climate change
- Diversify and maximize FSD's revenue sources
- Align FSD job structures to its business processes
- Strengthen cooperation with key stakeholders to sustain forest reserve integrity and guarantee sustainable forest management
- Promote sustainable alternative livelihood for forest fringe communities for poverty reduction
- Improve and sustain effective and efficient FSD business units through the timely provision of adequate infrastructure and logistics

Operations of the Division are undertaken by the High Forest Department and Plantations Department. These two (2) Departments are supported by Functional Units, namely Finance, General Services, Human Resources, Training, and Business Planning.

2.3.1 Strategies to Improve Performance

- **Improve the protection and management of biodiversity in forest reserves to enhance ecosystem integrity, resilience and productivity**

The Natural Forest Operations Department engaged community-based labourers to clean the external and internal boundaries of forest reserves to complement work assigned to Forest Guards. These labourers also maintain the boundaries of the specially designated Globally Biologically Significant Areas (GSBAs) in forest reserves.

In order to sustain the integrity of forest reserves and GSBAs, the Community Biodiversity Advisory Groups (CBAGs) that have been dormant were resourced to complement the efforts of Forest Guards and Range Supervisors. In addition, Forest Guards and Range Supervisors have been resourced to undertake regular field visits of forest reserves and the GSBAs.

Planting activities however decreased within the year due to limited funds. The Plantation Department planted 5,495 ha of degraded forest lands through Public Private Partnership and 32ha of Rosewood plantations in Ashanti, Northern and Brong Ahafo regions. The Plantation Department further established 76ha of Kihuwahi Seed Orchard at Nkawie Forest District.

2.3.2 High Forest Department

The High Forest Department has operational responsibilities of management and protection of the natural forest. The regions that fall under this Department are Western, Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo,

Eastern, Volta and Greater Accra. It also has oversight responsibility over Northern, Upper East and Upper West Regions of Ghana.

The Department is engaged in the protection and management of natural forest resource in both off- and on- forest reserves. Some of the activities include:

- Maintaining of forest reserve boundaries
- Controlling of illegal offences in forest reserves
- Regulating the harvesting of natural forest timber and
- Collaborating with our stakeholders in managing and protecting the forest estate

Table 4.0 Forest Protection

ACTIVITY	2014	2015
Clean FR boundaries using Forest Guards	20,471.69 km	22,380.712 km
Clean GSBA's using contract labour	24.67 km	61.61 km
Inspect FR boundaries	17,886.28 km	23, 353.712 km
Destroy illegal farms	416.82 ha	623.131 ha 80 cases
Control of illegal harvesting of plantation timber	58 cases (800 trees)	9 cases (795 trees)
Control of illegal harvesting of natural forest timber	(2,117 trees)	144 cases (2,303 trees/ 1131 billets, 94 cases)
Control of forest fires	81 cases (6,3496.65 ha)	76 cases (8,442.65 ha)
Boundary planting	67.28 km	387.8 km
Prevent illegal mining and sand winning	30 cases	37 cases
Prevent illegal chain sawing	194 cases	266 cases (355 trees/17,802,8 billet/ 21,234 lumber)
Squatting in Forest Reserves	13 cases	10 cases
Control of illegal charcoal production	2 cases	7 cases (9 trees)
Control canoe/mortar carving in Forest Reserve	8 cases	2 cases
Patrol on and off-reserve	391,440.37 km	491,475.64 km

Table 5.0 Forest Production

ACTIVITY	2013	2014	2015
Property Mark Renewal	583 marks	609 marks	264 marks
Natural Forest production	1,001,100 m ³	1,056,125 m ³	1,056,022 m ³
On- reserve	577,676.25 m ³	651,257.15 m ³	647,078 m ³
Off- reserve	423,424.05 m ³	404,867.46 m ³	408,9434 m ³
Stock survey of forest reserves	56 compartments	1,761 compartments	163 compartments

2.3.3 Plantations Department

The Department is responsible for the development and management of forest plantations using appropriate silvicultural strategies for both on and off forest reserve areas.

The Department does the following:

- Ensures that adequate seedlings for planting are available
- Facilitates the establishment of new plantations
- Rehabilitates failed plantation areas
- Manages coppicing stands and
- Makes available plantation timber for harvesting

Table 6.0 Forest Development

ACTIVITIES	2014	2015	REMARKS
Seedlings raised by FSD	136,158	1,824,984	
Facilitate the procurement of seedlings for planting in the Expanded Forest Plantation Programme	-	-	
Establishment of plantation both On and Off reserve	8,283 ha	2,916.5 ha	
Undertake ecological restoration through enrichment planting of 500 ha of FR convalescence areas	-	-	

ACTIVITIES	2014	2015	REMARKS
Undertake coppice management of 2,000 ha of harvested Teak plantation	-	-	
Tend 52,000 ha establish plantations.	481.71 ha	21,005 ha	
Harvest 50,000 m ³ of plantation timber both on and off-reserve	On reserve: 70,337.92 m ³ Off reserve: 83,456.10 m ³	26,702.44 m ³	

2.4 Wildlife Division

The Division re-prioritised its activities in the key areas of operation. Almost all the activities carried out during the reporting period were under the following five broad areas.

- Law enforcement in Protected Areas.
- Conservation Education and Creation of Public Awareness.
- Collaborative Resource Management.
- Maintenance and rehabilitation of Protected Area infrastructure.
- Ecotourism development and revenue enhancement.

2.4.1 Field Operations and Law Enforcement in PAs.

The Wildlife Division continues to execute its mandate of protecting and conserving the nation's wildlife resources. This is being done through the routine activities of law enforcement and boundary cleaning in the Protected Areas (PAs) to secure their integrity.

- Two hundred and forty-nine (249) effective patrol man days per officer per year was achieved in the 17 Protected Areas.
- One hundred and forty-six (146) poachers arrested and One hundred and twenty-six (126) of them were prosecuted.
- Thirty (30) firearms and fourteen (14) gin traps, ten (10) chainsaw machines were confiscated in various Protected Areas.
- Seven hundred and sixty-two (762) wire snares were destroyed in Bia National Park.
- Nine hundred and ninety-one kilometres (991 km) of Protected Area boundaries were cleaned.

2.4.2 Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Protected Area Infrastructure

- Three (3) mechanized bore holes were constructed in Mole and Kakum National Parks.
- Four (4) camp sites were maintained at Kyabobo and Kakum National Parks.
- One (1) middle grade quarters was maintained at Bia National Park.
- Building of New Museum in Mole National Park was completed.
- Awunabotan and Hwanyaso camp buildings were maintained in Digya National Park.
- 100m wooden footbridge was constructed on the Owam River in the Bomfobiri Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Four (4) cages were repaired in Kumasi Zoo.
- Construction of Kagyaworase camp in the Bomfobiri Wildlife Sanctuary was completed.
- Construction of 2-bedroom Rangers quarters (including living room, kitchen and office) were completed at Digya National Park.
- Electrical wiring of Antwikwa Camp was carried out in Kakum National Park.
- Five (5) Stone Drifts (Bridge) was constructed in Mole National Park.
- One (1) New Sign Post was erected at Bombobiri Wildlife Sanctuary.
- 2000 litres Poly Tank was installed at Kagyaworase camp in Wildlife Sanctuary.
- A collapsed 2-room Asisiwa camp building was reconstructed in Digya National Park.
- Three (3) camping sites were maintained in Ankasa Resource Reserve.
- 569km of access roads were maintained in Mole, Bia, Gbele, Shai Hills and Kogyae Conservation Areas.

2.4.3 Development of Eco-Tourism Facilities

- 40km of visitor trails were maintained in three (3) Protected Areas
- Two (2) waterholes were constructed in Mole National Park by the Eco-lodges Ghana Ltd. to improve Wildlife viewing at the new tented lodge
- WIENCO and Ecolodges Ghana Limited have expressed interest in rehabilitating the Mole Airstrip under a PPP agreement. Processes are ongoing to finalise the agreement for the project to take off.
- 170km viewing roads were maintained at Mole National Park and Shai Hills Resource Reserve
- Ecolodges Ghana Limited has started commercial operation in October 2015 on the 17 ecolodges completed at Mole National Park.
- Car Parks at the Mole Motel and Park Headquarters have been paved.
- Ecolodge Ghana Limited has been given approval to operate second concession in Mole National Park Tree house and a camp site in Kakum National Park has been rehabilitated
- Contract agreement on the Achimota Eco-park has been concluded and sent to the Attorney-General's Department for approval.

2.4.4 Conservation Education and Creation of Public Awareness

- One Hundred and Forty-Three (143) first and second cycle schools and Two hundred and Five (205) communities around wildlife Protected Areas and Ramsar Sites were educated on the importance of wildlife conservation.
- Thirty two (32) radio programmes were carried out in wildlife Protected Areas and Ramsar Sites.

- Participated in five (5) public awareness events including trade and policy fairs

2.4.5 Collaborative Resource Management

- Forty nine (49) Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)/ CRMC/ PAMAU's meetings were organised in three (3) Protected Areas
- Three hundred and fifty (350) bee hives and snail pens constructed and distributed to fringe communities around Bia National Park and Gbele Resource Reserve.
- Wildlife Division in collaboration with NGO'S (SNV and AROCHA) planted seventy two thousand, four hundred and seventy five (72,475) seedlings of mangrove species and other species on degraded lands in Ankasa Resource Reserve Songor and Muni-Pomadze Ramsar Sites.
- Thirty two (32) farmers were trained in chilli/grease method to control elephant marauding at Kakum and Bia National Parks.
- Twelve (12) acres pepper farms and 3.2km chilli/grease fence were established in communities around Kakum and Bia National Parks to control elephant marauding

2.5 Timber Industry Development Division

The Division implemented programmes and activities in the two (2) major facets of its mandate – operations and monitoring. The operational programmes were geared towards ensuring sanity in the production and sale/export of endangered species such as rosewood and others while the monitoring programmes involved the inspection, grading and marketing of timber and wood products both locally and overseas.

Programmes and policies implemented during the year 2015 aimed at the following:

- Controlling illegalities in production and marketing of timber and wood products
- Improving revenue generation and its collection
- Vetting and issuing contract and permit for the production and export of timber and wood products.
- Strengthening monitoring and operational activities

2.5.1 Performance of Timber Industry and Trade

Ghana's timber export trade recorded a marginal increase in volume from 356,036.0m³ in 2014 to 367,060.723m³ in 2015 representing a percentage increase of 3.1%.

Export revenue also recorded €187,624,643.02 in 2015 compared to €138,215,617.88 achieved in 2014 representing a percentage appreciation of 35.7%. The details can be seen on the Table 7.0 below.

Table 7.0 Comparative Export Values for 2014 & 2015

Export	2014	2015	% Change
Volume (m ³)	356,036	367,061	3.1
Value(€)	138,215,618	187,624,643	35.7

2.5.2 Export Markets for Ghana's Timber Products

The ECOWAS market recorded a volume of 56,017m³ with a value of €20.19 million in 2015 representing 82% of the total export volume of 67,950 m³ and 75% of total export value of €26.93 million to Africa.

The Asia/Far East markets in 2015 continued their dominance of the trade, importing 59% of the total export volume with 215,343 m³ and 57% of the total export value with €107.78 million of Ghana's total exports.

Europe the traditional market of Ghana including Italy, France, Germany, Belgium and UK accounted for €29.55 million from a volume of 54,734m³ in 2015 compared to €34.52 million from a volume of 68,670 m³ of Ghana's total wood exports in 2014 representing a decline of 20% in volume and 14% in value.

Table 8.0 Comparative Major Export Market Share (Vol. /Val) – 2014& 2015

Market	Export Volume			Export Value		
	2014	2015		2014	2015	
	Volume (1000m ³)	Volume (1000m ³)	% Change	Value (€m)	Value (€m)	% Change
Africa ECOWAS	82.69	68.0	(17.8)	28.61	27.0	(5.6)
Europe	68.67	55.0	(20.0)	34.52	29.6	(14.3)
Asia/ Far East	177.29	215.3	21.4	60.72	107.8	77.5

With the exception of the emerging markets of Asia/Far East which recorded an increase in the trade and dominated Ghana's wood exports with €107.8 million and 215.3m³ of Ghana's total export revenue and volumes respectively all the major markets recorded decline compared to 2014.

2.5.3 Kiln and Air Dried Lumber Export

Air dried lumber continued its dominance in the export trade increasing from 129,443m³ in 2014 with value of €51.6 million to 152,630 m³ with a value of €86.0 million in 2015 in spite of heavy penalties to discourage its export in air dried lumber.

Kiln dried lumber export for 2015 also recorded some increase albeit marginal from 59,443m³ to 62,471m³ representing an increase of 5%. The corresponding value also marginally increased from €27.4 million to €36.7 million as depicted in Table 9.0

Table 9.0 Comparative Kiln & Air Dried Exports – 2013 & 2014

Period	Kiln Dried Lumber		Air Dried Lumber	
	Volume (m ³)	Value (€)	Volume (m ³)	Value (€)
2014	59,443	27,379,580	129,443	51,624,745
2015	62,471	36,712,712	152,630	86,071,280
% Change	5	34	18	67

2.5.4 Overland Lumber Export

Overland export of lumber for the year 2015 recorded a decrease from 2,898 m³ with value of €571,592 in 2014 to 1,298 m³ with export value of €350,866 representing a drop of 55% in volume and 39% in value respectively.

2.5.5 Overland Plywood Export

Overland export of plywood recorded a volume of 48,874m³ in 2015 compared to 57,642m³ in 2014 with respective export values of €17.8 million and €18.4 million. Table 10.0 shows the trend for 2014 and 2015.

Table 10.0 Overland Plywood and Lumber Export (2014 and 2015)

Year	Plywood		Lumber	
	Vol. (m ³)	Val.(€)	Vol.(m ³)	Val. (€)
2014	57,642	18,427,081	2,898	571,592
2015	48,874	17,845,798	1,298	350,866
% Change	(15)	(3)	(55)	(39)

2.5.6 Contracts and Permits Processed and Issued

During the year, the overland export went to the ECOWAS market

2.5.6.1 Contracts Processed and Issued

There was an increase of 2% in contract volumes approved during the year 2015 compared to 2014. The year 2015 recorded 505,879 m³ compared to 497,364 m³ recorded in 2014.

Contracts for primary products including Teak poles billets and Gmelina logs processed and approved during 2015 was 51,240 m³ as against 78,255 m³ recorded in 2014.

Contracts for lumber, both air and kiln dried lumber processed and approved in 2015 was 388,238m³ compared to 387,725 m³ recorded in 2014.

2.5.6.2 Permits Processed and Issued

A total of four thousand six hundred and ninety (4,690) permits with a volume of 330,897 m³ were processed, approved and issued to exporters during the year 2015 for shipment of timber and wood products for both overseas and overland exports compared to four thousand five hundred and four (4,504) export permits with a volume of 356,036 m³ approved in 2014.

2.5.6.3 Direction of Trade

Most of the tertiary products went to the EU market. The US market was the major market for Mahogany lumber, Cedrella lumber and rotary veneer.

The Middle East and the Egyptian markets are emerging as a major destination for backing grade in veneer. India continued its dominance in the Teak (Lumber and Logs /Billets) and Gmelina trade.

2.5.7 Shipment of Billets

Three hundred and five (305) permits with a volume 28,983m³ were issued for the shipment of Teak Billets, Poles and Logs to India in 2015 as against one hundred and fifty five (155) export permits with a volume of 39,176 m³ issued in 2014 representing an increase of 97% in nominal export permits but a decline of 26% in volume respectively over 2014.

2.5.8 Overland Exports

In 2015, eight hundred and fifty-seven (857) permits with a volume of 81,275 m³ were processed and approved to export lumber and plywood overland to neighbouring countries including Nigeria, Niger, Benin, Mali etc as compared to five hundred and eighty-six (586) with a volume of 57,505 m³ issued in 2014 representing an increase of 46% in nominal permits and 41% in volumes.

2.5.9 Registration of Buyers

During the year 2015, one hundred and twenty nine (129) buyers were registered. Out of this number, 50 were registered for Asia representing 39%, Europe recorded thirty six (36) registered buyers representing 28%, and Africa recorded thirty one (31) registered buyers representing 24%. The buyer composition was dominated by the three (3) key markets of Asia, Europe and Africa, recording one hundred and seventeen (117) buyers, representing 90% of the total. The remaining twelve (12) registered buyers representing 9% coming from other markets.

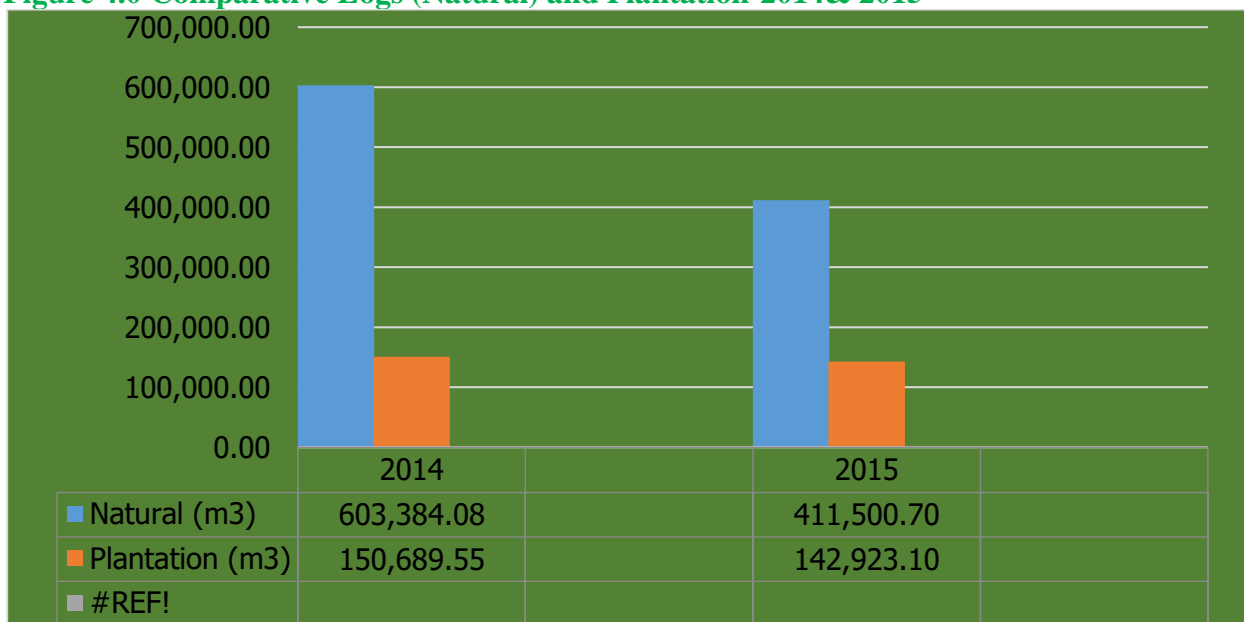
2.5.10 Processed Timber Inspection and Grading

Logs and processed timber inspected and graded in 2015 amounted to 1,074,072 m³ with logs constituting 554,424 m³ compared to 1,208,250 m³ with 754,074m³ logs recorded in 2014. Processed timber accounted for 519,648m³ with lumber (354,928m³) being majority as against 454,177 m³ with 342,797 m³ as lumber recorded in 2014.

2.5.11 Logs Inspection and Grading

A total of 554,424 m³ logs was inspected in 2015 with 411,501 m³ coming from natural forest and 142,923 m³ from plantation compared to 754,074 m³ logs with 603,384 m³ and 150,689 m³ from the natural and plantation forests respectively recorded in 2014.

Figure 4.0 Comparative Logs (Natural) and Plantation-2014& 2015

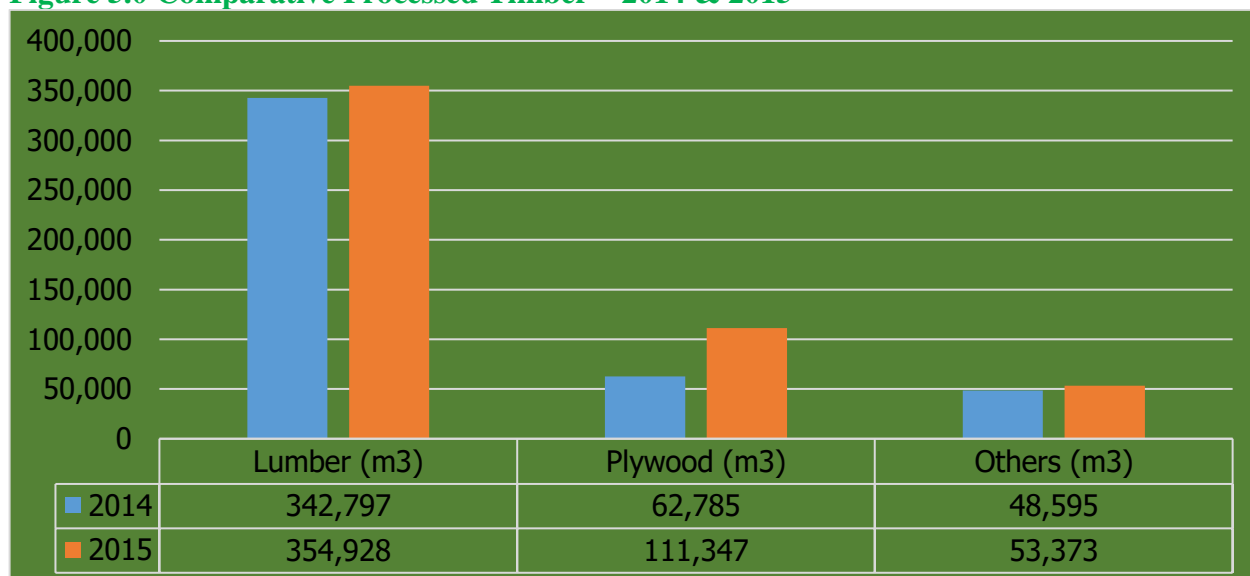


2.5.12 Inspected and Graded Processed Timber

In 2015, processed timber (lumber, mouldings, sliced and rotary veneers and plywood) achieved 519,648m³ compared to 454,177 m³ recorded in 2014. Lumber constituted 354,928 m³ of processed timber in 2015 while in 2014 lumber constituted 342,797m³.

Plywood was 111,348m³ with other wood products constituting 53,373 m³ in 2015 compared to 62,785 m³ of plywood and 48,594 m³ of other products recorded in 2014.

Figure 5.0 Comparative Processed Timber – 2014 & 2015



2.5.13 Domestic and Export Lumber and Plywood

Domestic lumber for 2015 showed 40% improvement in production, supply and data capturing over 2014. 181,758 m³ was recorded for the local market compared to 130,253 m³. Lumber for overseas export for 2015 was 170,155 m³ as against 212,544 m³ recorded in 2014. Plywood captured for the local market in 2015 was 66,702 m³ as against 16,510 m³ in 2014. Overseas plywood export for 2015 was 11,870 m³ compared to 46,275 m³ in 2014.

Table 11.0 Comparative Domestic and Export Lumber and Plywood- 2014 & 2015

Year	Domestic		Export	
	Lumber (m ³)	Plywood (m ³)	Lumber (m ³)	Plywood (m ³)
2014	130,253	16,510	212,544	46,275
2015	181,758	66,702	170,155	11,870
% Change	40	304	(20)	(74)

2.5.14 Timber Industry Development and Stakeholders Activities

The Commission undertook various activities including the following to facilitate the development of the industry and the timber trade.

2.5.14.1 Visit to Wood Processing Companies

The Division visited Nadess Ventures Limited, an up and coming rubber wood processing company established by a group of Chinese. The company which has been in operation for the past

six (6) months and had exported three (3) containers of lumber to Shanghai is based at Dunkwa-on-Offin, with a staff strength of about twenty (20).

2.5.14.2 Workshop on the Supply of Legal Timber

The Division in collaboration with Tropenbos International (TBI)/ European Union Chainsaw Milling Project (EUCSMP) and Resource Management Support Center (RMSC) of FC organized a workshop for Domestic Lumber Millers Association of Ghana (DoLMAG) and Domestic Lumber Trade Association (DOLTA) on the Domestic Timber Trade Network (DotNet) process.

2.5.14.3 Training Workshop on Occupational Safety

TIDD in collaboration with the Department of Factories Inspectorate organized a 2-day workshop for the timber industry at the Forestry Commission Training Center (FCTC), Ejisu-Akyawkrom, and Queen Elizabeth Hotel at Sefwi-Wiawso to educate them on how to enhance safety in their organization.

2.6 Resource Management Support Centre

The RMSC is the technical wing of the Forestry Commission. It is responsible for the exploration, development, facilitation, institutionalization, implementation and monitoring of effective and affordable forest and wildlife management systems in Ghana in accordance with the 2012 National Forest and Wildlife Policy.

Achievements

- Developed TORs for Off reserve plantation, soil carbon enhancement and trees in faming systems for ELCIR+ under FIP II
- Monitored wildfire management activities in Eastern and Brong Ahafo Regions
- Developed the criteria for Savanna vegetation condition scoring and held a stakeholder workshop
- Undertook feasibility studies on Biodiversity Offset Programme in Tano-Offin Reserve
- Carried out flora assessment in seven (7) forest reserves (Chiana Hills, Yakombo, Mawbia, Ambalara, Kulpawn Tributaries, Fure Headwaters and Tinte Bepo)
- Reviewed fifteen (15) forest reserves management plans in Ashanti ,Western & Brong Ahafo Regions (Kokotintin, Onuem Bepo, Nyamebe Bepo, Onuem Nyamebe Shelter Belt, Afia Shelterbelt, Ben West, Bowiye, Muro, Auro, Bonkoni, Bia Shelter, Supuma, Bona River, Bia-Tano, Fum Headwaters)
- Prepared land cover maps for thirty (30) forest reserves for management plans
- Resurveyed and updated the numbering of compartments in Tain II and Buomfum Forest Reserves
- Illegal farms were mapped in Upper Wassaw and Laboni Forest Reserves
- Carried out fauna assessment of seven (7) forest reserves in the three (3) Northern Regions, Western and the Ashanti Region for the development of management plans
- Identified existing and potential alternative livelihood enterprises in the Brong Ahafo and the Western Regions of Ghana to provide support to them as a means of alleviating poverty in these communities under FIP.
- Evaluated the Asunafo North CREMA under the UNDP Environment and Sustainability Project for necessary recommendation to be made to the Minister for the issuance of certificate of devolution.
- Developed and implemented guidelines for managing wildfire off-reserve

2.7 Forestry Commission Training Centre

Well- trained and motivated people are considered strategically important in achieving the ends of any sustainable forest and wildlife policy.

This makes the training and development of people (both internal and external stakeholders) a critical pre-requisite for the successful execution of FC’s mandate.

It is against this background, that the FCTC has been established to provide the requisite technical training to all staff of FC and other key stakeholders.

The FCTC is thus to provide the staff with the required knowledge, skills and attitudes needed to function effectively in their various roles to ensure the sustainable use and management of Ghana’s forest and wildlife resources.

Table 12.0 Achievements of FCTC

N0	Programme/ Project	Objectives	Achievements
1	Improve industry capacity in human resource and technology in downstream processing	To improve industry capacity in human resource and technology in downstream processing	<p>192 industry operatives were trained in AutoCAD, Production Management, Knock-down and Glazing.</p> <p>60 members of the Freedom Furniture Association were trained in AutoCAD, Costing and Pricing, Health and Safety and Production Management.</p> <p>399 members of the Anloga Small Scale Carpenters Association were trained in glazing, kiln drying and quality control management and modern trends of panel doors.</p> <p>60 FC staff were trained in Basic Forestry for Non Foresters</p>
2	Provide extension services and technology transfer	To improve industry capacity in human resource and technology in downstream processing	<p>Trained three (3) FCTC technical staff on the operation of the wood-mizer and one (1) staff on wood-mizer sharpening machine.</p> <p>Trained 534 Anloga Small Scale Carpenters Union members in drying of wood as part of the COTVET training programme.</p> <p>Trained 60 Freedom Woodworkers Association members in Occupational Health and Safety under the COTVET training programme.</p>
3	Provide training facilities and	Provide training facilities and equipment to FCTC.	The Centre in collaboration with Tropenbos International procured LT40 wood-mizer machine.

	equipment to FCTC.		<p>Procured a sharpening machine for saw shop for sharpening wood-mizer saws.</p> <p>Repair works were carried out on the following machines; Table saw – sawmill, Dimension saw – furniture shop, Moulding machine – moulding shop, Table saw – furniture shop, Mortising machine – furniture shop, Circular saw sharpening machine – saw shop, Renovation of Audio visual block on-going</p>
4	Provide ICT training to the public	To provide ICT training to the public	Activity Completed
5	Develop new Business Plan for FCTC.	To develop new Business Plan for FCTC	The activity is ongoing
6	Increase production at FCTC workshop	To increase production at FCTC workshop	<p>Furniture Section: Panel doors -56pcs, Architraves lining - 21 sets, Lecture chairs- 94pcs, Coffin – 1</p> <p>Moulding Section: Floor parquet - 113.903m² T&G- 787m², Corner moulding- 180 pcs, 4 size planning- 972 pcs (1 ½ x 5” x 8”)</p> <p>Sawmill Section: Beams- 413 pcs, Billets- 16 pcs Poles- 24 pcs</p> <p>Saw shop: Circular saws -77, Diamond knives- 35 pairs, Profile cutter- 28pcs, Wood-mizer saw- 20 TCT cutters- 39pcs, Narrow band saw- 29</p>

2.8 Rapid Response Unit

The Rapid Response Unit was established as a special Law Enforcement Unit of the Forestry Commission to complement efforts at regional and district levels in the enforcement of forestry and wildlife regulations on illegal activities especially in forest reserves and wildlife protected areas which have come under intense encroachment and destruction.

Key Achievements

- Four hundred and fifty seven (457) ha illegal farms were destroyed during operations in some forest reserves
- Thirty five thousand and five (35,005) assorted lumber was seized (evacuated from FRs & illegal conveyance)

- Seventy four (74) logs were seized
- One hundred and seventy eight (178) chainsaws were seized
- Sixty seven (67) vehicles that were involved in various illegalities were arrested
- Two hundred and thirty three (233) suspects were arrested for various forest & wildlife offences
- Fourteen (14) gold detector machines were seized
- Six hundred and seventy eight (678) galamseyers evicted from Upper Wassaw FR
- One hundred and six (106) chanfan machines were destroyed to curb illegal mining in reserves
- Fifty six (56) water pumping machine were seized

2.9 Climate Change Unit

The Climate Change Unit of the Forestry Commission serves as the National Secretariat for Ghana's REDD+ implementation. The Unit commenced activities under the Additional Funding Phase of the FCPF's REDD+ Readiness Project after the successful completion of activities under the Original Grant by the end of 2014. A final phase of REDD+ Readiness commenced in January, 2015 and will be completed in December, 2017. Table 13.0 provides the components of the FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project and expected deliverables

Table 13.0 Components of FCPF REDD+ Readiness Project and expected deliverables

FC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE
Implement the framework for the sustainable management, development and protection of forest and wildlife resources	Development of Ghana's cocoa-forest REDD+ programme in the High Forest Zone to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation and also contribute to efforts towards carbon stock enhancement, conservation and sustainable forest management Technical Field Training on Estimating Carbon Emissions for REDD+	Significant progress made in developing the Emissions Reduction Program Document(ERPD) Thirty (30) participants from FC, IUCN, CERSGIS and COCOBOD staff were trained
Secure and enforce a policy and legal framework that ensures effective delivery of the FC mandate	Development of the National REDD+ Strategy	National REDD+ Strategy was validated
Identify and activate a diversified portfolio of sustainable revenue sources without compromising the integrity of the resource.	Solicit for funding from different sources e.g. UNDP, FAO, AfDB etc.	UNDP provided support for National REDD+ Forum and "REDDEYE" Campaign Launch

FC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE
		Receipt of computers from the FAO for the establishment of a GIS laboratory
Create an enabling environment for forest and wildlife stakeholders (especially industries, communities and landowners) to thrive	Series of community stakeholder consultations were organized to sensitize and build capacity of forest fringe communities within the High Forest Zone from September through to October 2015.	Community consultations on REDD+ were undertaken in Enchi, Asamankese, Bibiani, Goaso, Nyinahini and Assin- Fosu
	The “REDD EYE” campaign was successfully launched on 21st November, 2015. The REDD EYE campaign is targeted at enhancing awareness amongst the youth on the need to address deforestation and forest degradation in Ghana as part of national efforts aimed at addressing climate change.	About 1000 students from second cycle institutions were sensitized on climate change and REDD+
	The first National REDD+ Forum was successfully completed on 25th November 2015. The theme for the Forum was: "Conserving our Forests for better lives and a better climate". The aim of the forum was to galvanise high-level and public support for actions and measures targeted at addressing the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation as part of Ghana's contribution to ongoing global efforts at abating global warming and its impacts.	All relevant stakeholders including high profile dignitaries such as H.E John Agyekum Kuffour, Ministers of State, Parliamentarians and Traditional leaders actively participated in the Forum. Overall, about 1000 people were present.
	The Climate Change unit successfully completed its high level ambassador meeting in 2015, where select group of people were chosen	About 40 ambassadors showed support and commitment to the ERP

FC STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMMES/ ACTIVITIES	PERFORMANCE
	to be ambassadors of Ghana's ERP.	
	Training on Tropical Forest Monitoring	Three staff from the Forestry Commission and a staff from the Environmental Protection Agency benefitted from a capacity building programme on forest monitoring in Brazil
	Training workshop for staff of Ghana's Cocoa Board and the Forestry Commission on Ghana's Emission Reduction Programme for the Cocoa Mosaic Forest Landscape	About 70 participants from COCOBOD and FC participated in the workshop

2.10 Timber Rights Administration Unit

The Timber Rights and Administration Unit pursues the administration and implementation of competitive bidding and other timber rights allocation processes to create value and promote good governance for the Forestry Commission and other stakeholders.

The core function of TRAU includes the following:

- Enhance access to Forest Resources through vetting and processing application for timber rights holdings.
- Manages and update of concessions and Timber Utilization Contracts (TUCs) database for management decisions.
- Facilitate the programmes/plans of Timber Rights Evaluation Committee (TREC).
- Translate TREC decisions into plans and actions for implementation.
- Regulate access to mineral resources in Production Areas in Forest Reserve.

2.10.1 Plantation Permits

The unit vetted and processed a total of eighty-five (85) plantation permits constituting a total volume of 125,967m³. The tree species included Teak, Cedrela, Wawa, Ofram, Gmelina, Emire, Leucaena and Eucalyptus, occurring in Ashanti, Brong Ahafo, Eastern, Central, Northern, Volta and Western regions of the country.

2.10.2 Salvage Permits

These are permits approved by the Chief Executive of the Forestry Commission to salvage trees on lands under-going development such as road construction, human settlement, expansion and cultivation of farms. This is in consonance with Regulation 38 of the Timber Resources Management Regulation, 1990 (LI.1649).

One hundred and eighty nine (189) Salvage Permits were granted within the year. The Regional breakdown is presented in Table 14.0 below.

Table 14.0 Salvage Permits

REGION	OFF -RESERVES	ON-RESERVE	NO. OF PERMITS
Ashanti	37	4	41
Brong Ahafo	44	0	44
Central	12	4	16
Eastern	20	2	22
Northern	0	1	1
Volta	36	0	36
Western	16	13	29
TOTAL	165	24	189

2.11 Corporate Affairs and Media Relations Unit

The Corporate Affairs and Media Relations Unit adopted some strategies to create a positive image in the eyes of the public for the Commission. In view of this, the media was engaged to facilitate the achievement of this objective.

2.11.1 Media Engagement

To ensure the creation of a very positive image for the Commission and to also disseminate information about the Commission’s activities to the public, the Corporate Affairs & Media Relations Unit ensured that all activities were duly and fully covered by the media at the headquarters and in all the regions. The following were media houses that ensured coverage of the various programmes by the Commission.

- Graphic Communications Group Ltd – Daily Graphic & Mirror – Accra, Kumasi & Tamale
- Ghanaian Times – Accra, Kumasi & Tamale
- Ghana News Agency (GNA)- Accra, Kumasi & Tamale
- Western Publications - Daily Guide
- Marble Publications – The Finder
- Multimedia Group - JOY FM, Adom FM, Love FM, Nhyira FM
- Despite Group of Companies – UTV, Peace FM, Okay FM, Hello FM
- Metro Television
- Citi FM
- Kencity Media – Oman FM & Net 2 TV
- TV 3 Network
- Viasat 1
- Radio XYZ

The Commission was live on the following programmes at the various TV stations stated below;

- GTV, Breakfast Show
- UTV, Morning Show
- Oman FM, Morning Show
- Uniiq FM, Morning Show

- Radio Gold, Morning Show
- TV3, Sunrise Morning Show
- VIASAT 1, Morning Show
- Radio XYZ, Africa In Focus Show
- Joy FM, Super Morning Show

2.11.2 Events Undertaken

Some of the events held during the period under review were:

- 4th Forestry Week & Greening Ghana Day Celebration 2015, 23rd – 29th May, 2015. This event comprised:
 - a. Inter-schools Quiz Competition on Forests and Climate Change
 - b. Launch of “One Man , One Tree Campaign”
 - c. National Colloquium on Forest Investment Opportunities & Climate Change
 - d. Legal Education Day on Forest and Wildlife Laws
 - e. Grand Durbar & Greening Ghana Day
- Inauguration of Trooper Vehicles for the Rapid Response Unit
- Stakeholder Engagement of the Forestry Commission Board with Stakeholders in the Ashanti & Northern Regions.
- Participation in the 2015 Ghana International Trade Fair
- Signing of Memorandum of Understanding between the Forestry Commission and the Ghana Rubber Estates Limited (GREL).
- Inauguration of GH REDD+ Gender Sub-Working Group
- 2015 Meet the Press Series
- EU-FAO FLEGT Project Training Workshop
- Lunch of FC Scheme of Service Manual
- Launch of REDD Eye Campaign
- REDD +Ambassadors Meeting
- National REDD + Forum
- Chief Executive’s End of Year Awards Ceremony

2.11.3 Press Release and Synopsis

The Unit generated a press release and a media discussion synopsis for the 4th Forestry Week & Greening Ghana Day Celebrations 2015, REDD Eye Campaign launch and the REDD + National Forum. The press releases were posted on the Commission’s website.

The Commission’s website was beefed up with pictures from the 4th Forestry Week 2015 celebration, the National REDD + Forum and the REDD Eye Campaign launch.

2.11.4 Generation and publication of Insider

The Unit in collaboration with divisions, departments and other units generated information and published them for dissemination. This was mainly referred to as the Forestry Commission **INSIDER**. It covers all issues related to the Commission internally and is produced on quarterly basis.

2.11.5 Community and Schools Sensitization

Total of one hundred and nine (109) communities, two thousand seven hundred and twenty-seven (2,727) students and one hundred and twenty-three (123) teachers at the Songor Ramsar Site (Ada) were sensitized on the necessity of the stakeholder's engagement in forest and wildlife conservation.

2.12 Internal Audit Department

The Internal Audit is mandated to provide independent, objective assurance and consulting services designed to add value and improve the Forestry Commission's operations. The Internal Audit unit helps the Forestry Commission to accomplish its objectives through a systematic, disciplined approach by evaluating and recommending improvements in risk management, controls and governance practices.

2.12.1 Financial and Operational Audit

Ninety-eight (98) divisional and outstations audits were performed during the year. Audit reports in respect of these assignments were issued to auditees and issues requiring the attention of the Executive management and the Board were consolidated into quarterly reports and submitted to the Board and Management for their attention and action.

2.12.2 Consolidated Audit Reports

Quarterly Consolidated internal audit reports were completed and submitted to the Board and the recommendations received acceptance by the Board.

2.13 Timber Validation Department

The Department is mandated to coordinate key activities that will enable Ghana issue FLEGT/Legality license under the Ghana-EU VPA. Central to the issuance of FLEGT/Legality license is the establishment of Legality Assurance System (LAS). In related functions, the TVD provides secretariat support to the Timber Validation Committee, the VPA Multi-stakeholder Implementation Committee as well as the overall implementation of the VPA where the TVD represents Ghana as its secretariat.

During the development phase of the LAS implementation, the TVD functions are focused on activities to oversee the completion, roll out and full implementation of three (3) of the LAS components. These include:

- Wood Tracking System
- Legality Verification Systems
- Independent Monitoring

Table 15.0 Progress of Activities undertaken

Program	Activity Undertaken	Percentage achievement
Roll Out of Wood Tracking System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Train a targeted 76 TIDD inspectors and graders • Continuation of phase two roll out of WTS in four (4) FSD districts • Develop and test Interface of WTS and Sun financial system • Complete plantation module of the WTS • FoE/FC FLEGT exchange programme. Participating countries were, DRC, Ivory Coast, Ghana, Cameroun, and Denmark. • Testing and selection of suitable Hand Held Computers for WTS • Develop and test of Barcodes (labelling) • Commencement of WTS end-to-end testing exercise. 	70% Complete
Field Audit Verification System	• Develop verification protocols, checklist and related audit procedures	90% Complete
	• Train 9 selected auditors in ISO 19011 and GhLAS procedures and protocols	100% Completed
	• Conduct nation-wide legality audits and report on compliance	80% Completed
	• Monitor the implementation and closure of Corrective Action Requirements (CARs)	80% Completed
	• Assist Independent Monitoring (IM) in LAS Audits	70% Completed
Independent monitoring	IM audit system fully operational	100% Completed

2.14 Information and Communication Technology Unit

The ICT Unit worked assiduously to effectively and efficiently manage user expectations as well as automate most of the business processes which hitherto were manual and thus slowed processing speed of operations for the Commission. The period had been very remarkable with a whole lot of activities lined up besides the normal operational tasks like trouble-shooting faulty equipment and network facilities, servicing of equipments, and general user support etc. Notwithstanding the time constraints and deadlines, some milestones have been met without any delays.

2.14.1 Achievements

2.14.1.1 Implementation of ICT Policy

The ICT team successfully prepared a draft ICT User Policy to ensure that computer facility users are aware of their responsibilities and the potential consequences of a breach of these responsibilities with respect to the usage of FC's ICT infrastructure (PCs, E-mail, and Internet etc). This policy also ensures that the proper ICT standards are adhered to so as to promote efficiency and effectiveness of productivity.

2.14.1.2 Development of Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan

A workshop was organized by the ICT Unit, bringing all ICT staff to validate a first draft of a Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery Plan (BCDRP) document for FC.

2.14.1.3 Implement an Internet-based Comprehensive Corporate E-mail System

An internet-based comprehensive corporate e-mail system was procured, installed and configured on FC's hosting site. This was deployed to the FC head office, divisions and units. What is outstanding is to deploy it to all outstations (regional, districts and area offices). This internet-based system is always active anywhere there is internet both inside and outside the Commission's Virtual Private Network (VPN).

2.14.1.4 Development of GEO-Spatial Portal for National REDD+ Secretariat

This portal was designed for publishing and sharing spatial data on the internet for all relevant stakeholders. The initial testing of portal on local host has been accomplished and technical specification and requirements for actual deployment have been submitted.

2.14.1.5 Development of E-Document System

To facilitate the electronic storage and retrieval of incoming and outgoing correspondence, personal files, memos and letters, an e-document system has been developed and tested. At the moment digitization of documents is ongoing and the Registry and HR staff have been trained on the system.

2.15 Legal Department

The Legal Unit of the Forestry Commission is a registered Professional Chambers that provides all legal services of a law firm in accordance with the Legal Profession Act, 1960 and the Legal Profession (Professional Conduct and Etiquette) Rules, 1969.

2.15.1 Key Activities and Achievements

- The Commission was legally represented in court on thirteen (13) different legal suites
- Two (2) of the cases have been decided in favour of the Commission
- One (1) of the cases have been dispensed with by way of an amicable settlement
- Four (4) of the cases have been discontinued by the plaintiffs

2.17 Corporate Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Department

The Department is made of the Planning and the Monitoring and Evaluation Units. It is responsible for facilitating, coordinating and ensuring that the strategic corporate plan of the Forestry Commission is implemented. The role also includes monitoring and evaluating reported activities of the Divisions, Departments and Units that support the corporate strategic imperatives.

2.17.1 Activities and Achievements

The Department's activities fall under the 6th corporate imperative, that is to develop and implement an efficient and effective organisational infrastructure and culture. Table 16.0 below highlights the achievements of the Department during the period.

Table 16.0 Activities and Achievements

SN	PLANNED ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
1	Review FC's 2014-2017 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan	The 2015-2018 FC Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan was reviewed by all Business Planning Managers and representatives of Departments and Units of the Corporate Headquarters.	A validation workshop on the Plan was organized for FC Officers (Headquarters, FSD Regional & District Managers, TIDD Area Managers and WD Park Managers). Each Office was provided a copy of the Plan as a reference document.
2	Collate and submit 2015 Quarterly and Half Year Progress Reports to other government agencies	Submitted FC's four (4) Quarterly and Half Year Progress Reports of 2015 to the Ministry of Finance and MLNR	The reports were prepared based on the reporting formats provided by the MLNR and Ministry of Finance
3	Organize 2014 Performance Review Workshop	The FC Performance Review workshop for 2014 was planned and organized successfully	Information provided by reporting Divisions, Departments and Units were validated and used to prepare the 2014 performance reports
4	Participate in the 2015 Mid-Year Performance Review Workshop of the Sector Ministry	The FC prepared and participated in the 2015 Mid-Year Performance Review Workshop of the Sector Ministry	The Review agreed on the way forward for the next six (6) month of 2015
5	Prepare the Forestry Subsector 2014 M&E Annual Performance Report (APR) and submit to the NDPC	The 2014 Annual Performance Report (APR) prepared and submitted to the sector Ministry and NDPC as input to the 2014 National APR	The APR was prepared using the NDPC's GSGDA II Guidelines
6	Collate and write the 2014 FC Annual Report	The 2014 FC Annual Report was drafted using reports collated from the Corporate	Validation of the draft report done. Printing and Distribution still pending.

SN	PLANNED ACTIVITY	ACHIEVEMENT	COMMENTS
		Headquarters, Divisions, Departments and Units	The 2014 Audited Financial Report still not submitted by the External Auditors of the Commission
7	Submit input on the forestry sub-sector's performance for the 2015 Meet-The-Press series of Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	The Commission prepared and submitted the forestry sub-sector input and participated in the 2015 Meet The Press Series of the sector Ministry	The series took place at the Ministry of Communication
8	Submit 2014 FC Annual Report to MLNR and Head of Civil Service	The 2014 FC Annual Report prepared and submitted to the MLNR and Head of Civil Service	The report was prepared using Office of the Heads of Civil Service (OHOCS) Guidelines and was submitted through the sector Ministry
9	Undertake quarterly M&E Field Visits and submit reports to the Chief Executive	Two (2) M&E field visits were undertaken and reports submitted to the Chief Executive	The field visits were to randomly selected FSD Divisional, WD Protected Areas (Parks) and TIDD Area Offices
10	Prepare Chief Executive's Board Briefs and Responses	Six (6) Briefs were prepared for CE's meeting with the Board of Commissioners	Responses collated and submitted as attachments to the Board of Commissioners
11	Prepare and submit CE'S End of Year Address	Brief prepared and finalized with HR Department and Corporate Affairs and Media Relations Unit	The CE's brief was presented at the End of Year Address
12	Organize Quarterly ARIC meetings and submit reports to the sector Ministry	Assisted in organizing two (2) Quarterly ARIC meetings and reports submitted to the sector Ministry	
13	Prepare project and programme budgets for 2016-2019 as part of FC MTEF Programme-based Budgets	Led a Team from the Finance and Administration Department and Business Planning Managers to prepare FC 2016-2019 Programme-based Budgets	The FC 2016-2019 Programme-based Budgets prepared was submitted through the sector Ministry to the Ministry of Finance
14	Review FC 2010-2015 Corporate Strategic Plan	The process to review the 2010 – 2015 Corporate Strategic Plan of the Commission was initiated with engagement of a Facilitator	The process will continue to 2016

PART THREE

PROJECTS AND PROGRAMMES

3.1 Introduction

The Forestry Commission undertakes Programmes and projects to enable it achieve its mandate of protection, conservation, development and regulation of forest and wildlife resources in the country.

3.2 Natural Resources Environmental Governance – Technical Assistance (NREG-TA)

The Natural Resources and Environmental Governance Project Technical Assistance (NREG-TA) aims to improve the capacity of government agencies to plan, manage and use natural resources in selected sectors more effectively and sustainably. The proposed project will support the analytical work, policy dialogue, consultations and capacity building to address critical sector challenges identified in the first phase of the NREG Programme (2008-2012).

The Technical Assistance is designed to help the government improve policies, develop technical tools and skills, and solidify institutional capacities needed to sustain Ghana's NREG programme in achieving desired policy reforms.

The NREG-TA will provide the government with timely and targeted technical support and analysis to support the implementation of its programmes and improve environmental and natural resource outcomes in key sectors. The NREG-TA will also support the NREG Programme's efforts to consult widely with multiple stakeholders involved in the policy reform agenda. Consultation processes will be inclusive and stakeholder engagement will be fostered at key phases of the process: inception, design of studies, results from studies, validation of conclusions and recommendations.

- a. NREG- TA provides funding support to complete outstanding activities under NREG.
- b. NREG-TA is a 3 year project and will end by December 2016.
- c. NREG-TA has been a very useful intervention for the forestry sector.

3.3 Forestry Development Master Plan

A draft framework was developed by a consultant that was used as a working document for stakeholder consultative engagement. This framework was subjected to an expert review team which further enriched the document for additional regional consultative meetings to solicit more inputs and debates from large stakeholders.

The stakeholders comprised of traditional authorities, chiefs, NGOs, district assemblies, farmers, women groups, assembly members, academia etc.

3.4 Integrated Forest Reserve Management Plans

The selection of three (3) priority models integrated forest reserves management plan was done for Yakumbo Forest Reserve, Tinte Bepo Forest Reserve and Fure Headwaters Forest Reserve. An inception workshop was later conducted for all stakeholders to adequately prepare participants for the task ahead.

Field investigations and compilation of data on flora and fauna, including socio-economic surveys were done by teams from Forest Services Division (FSD) and the technical wing of FC the Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC).

The draft report was used as a working document to engage stakeholders in consultative meetings and workshops.

3.5 Forest Plantation Strategy

An expert group met to review the draft plantation strategy document produced earlier on to be used for further stakeholder consultation and engagement.

There were three (3) Regional Stakeholder consultative meetings held in Tamale (Northern Zone) at Modern City Hotel, Kumasi (Middle Zone) at Kosados Arena Hotel and Koforidua (Southern Zone) at Capital View Hotel representing the 3 eco-zones. These consultative processes produced the final draft for stakeholder validation to be completed next year. However, the final draft document was hosted on the Forestry Commission website for inputs.

3.6 Tree Tenure and Benefit Sharing Framework

Messrs PAB Consult, have been engaged to undertake the review of the Tree Tenure and Benefit-sharing Schemes. The Consultants have presented their Inception Report including the timelines for completing the assignment and the report has been reviewed. Extensive desk review and field data collection have been undertaken. The first draft of the framework on the tree tenure has been prepared which provides highlights on the underpinnings of land and tree tenure and benefits sharing rights, differences in tree tenure regimes in various regions, rights of various stakeholders, preliminary favoured options of tree tenure and benefit sharing schemes. First Draft report of the Framework is available.

3.6.1 Legislative Proposals on the Tree Tenure

Terms of Reference for the engagement of a consultant to carry out this assignment was developed and no objection obtained from the World Bank. The assignment has been given to Messrs PAB Consults who are already developing the framework for the tree tenure and benefit sharing scheme. Negotiations have been completed with PAB Consults and Contract Agreement prepared for signing and award of contract. The legislative reforms for the various schemes are expected to be completed by February 2016 for validation at a national stakeholder's workshop.

3.6.2 Legislative Proposals for the Forest and Wildlife Policy

- First draft was prepared by Consultant
- Draft was reviewed by experts
- Inter-sectoral consultation was held

3.6.3 Monitoring and Evaluation System

- Draft document prepared by the consultants
- Draft was reviewed by an expert group
- Three (3) regional stakeholder consultations held in Ho, Kumasi and Tamale

Messrs. CICADA Consultants was engaged to undertake the development of the M&E System for the forestry sector. The consultants presented their Inception Report including the timelines for completing the assignment and the report has been reviewed. Field data collection and stakeholder consultations completed.

The consultants visited various stakeholders including the EPA, MC, MESTI, MLNR, some selected Regional and District offices of the FC to gather data and information sharing for the development of the system. A draft report of the system has been prepared which provides highlights on;

- i. Data information management system in support of the sector-wide M&E system
- ii. Institutional capacity for implementing sector wide M&E system
- iii. Linking the M&E System with M&E systems of other sectors.

The draft report is now ready for regional consultative workshops. The regional consultative workshops, together with a national validation workshop of the M&E system are expected to be completed by March 2016.

3.7 Ghana Forest Investment Programme (GFIP)

3.7.1 Background of the GFIP

The overall goal of FIP finance activities in Ghana is to reduce green house gases (GHG) emissions from deforestations and forest degradation, while reducing poverty and conserving biodiversity and based on technical and consultative processes. The FIP investments are being focused on the High Forest Zones (HFZ) of the Western and Brong-Ahafo Regions, where deforestation rates and carbon stocks are high.

The project objective is to mobilize and invest funds to reduce deforestation and forest degradation and also financially benefit local communities. This will lead to emission reductions and the protection of carbon reservoirs as part of the REDD+ agenda. The project is being piloted by a jurisdictional approach to REDD+ at the regional level.

- The Forest Investment Programme (FIP) is a targeted programme under the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) of the Climate Investment Funds (CIF).
- The FIP is to finance country specific efforts to address the underlying causes of deforestation and forest degradation and to overcome barriers that have hindered past efforts to do so.
- Ghana was among eight (8) countries in the world selected in March 2010 as a pilot country for the FIP.
- The Ghana Forest Investment Plan outlined three (3) projects and secured a total funding of 50.0 Million Dollars from the SCF to be disbursed through Multilateral Development Banks (WB, AfDB & IFC).

- Along the FIP funding is the Dedicated Grant Mechanism (DGM) of US\$ 5 million from the World Bank which seeks to build capacity of FIP projects communities to effectively engage in the FIP process.

3.7.2 FIP Project Components

The project will have four main components, during the five (5) years life span of the two (2) projects as follows:

(1) ENHANCING NATURAL FOREST AND AGROFOREST LANDSCAPES (ENFAL) PROJECT

Component 1: Policy Reforms and Institutional Strengthening

Component 2: Pilot Investments for Improved Forest and Landscape Management

Component 3: Innovation, Capacity Building, and Communications

Component 4: Project Management, Monitoring and Coordination

(2) ENGAGING LOCAL COMMUNITIES IN REDD+ (ELCIR+) PROJECT

Component 1: Community (small and medium size) Restoration of degraded off-reserve forest and agriculture landscape

Component 2: Promoting suitable cocoa and agro-forestry systems that are climate smart and environmentally responsible

Component 3: Community alternative livelihoods and capacity building

Component 4: Project management and M&E

3.7.2.1 Reconnaissance visit to project districts

- All project sites under the thirteen (13) forest districts in both Western and Brong Ahafo Regions (Biabiani, Sefwi Wiawso, Juaboso, Enchi, Asankrangwa, Tarkwa, Takoradi, Sunyani, Bechem, Goaso, Dormaa, Kintampo and Atebubu) are ready for the implementation activities.
- District officers are very conversant and beneficiary communities were found to be fairly familiar with the project activities and implementation modalities. Sensitization on the project is still on-going.
- Field visits showed that project sites selected are largely suitable for the purpose.

3.7.2.2 Formation of tree planter groups and training

- As at the end of 2015, 491 tree planters were indentified, grouped and trained in tree planting activities in Takoradi, Asankrangwa, Juaboso, Sefwi Wiawso, Bibiani, Sunyani, Bechem, Dormaa, Kintampo and Atebubu forest districts.
- A total area of 552 ha has been identified off-reserve in both Western (501ha) and Brong Ahafo (51ha) Regions so far.
- Consultations are ongoing to identify more people interested in tree planting in off-reserve areas.

3.7.2.3 Rapid assessment of resources in sacred groves

- Key traditional authorities were consulted to seek their consent.
- In the Western Region, seven (7) Sacred Groves with total area of 1,500ha were identified in the Bibiani, Enchi, Sefwi Wiawso, Asankrangwa and Takoradi Districts
- In the Brong Ahafo Region, eleven (11) Sacred Groves with an area of 674ha were identified. Rapid assessment of resources in the Sacred Groves identified in the Brong Ahafo Region (BAR) were completed.

3.7.2.4 Establishment of six (6) model plantations in Brong-Ahafo and Western Regions initiated

- The initiation activities of all the six (6) model plantations have been completed. Initiation activities included site identification, survey and demarcation.
- **Western Region:** Bibiani (Tano Suraw F/R cpt, 15ha), Sefwi Wiawso (Sui River F/R cpt 54ha) and Juaboso (OFR site at Teabante community, estimated 8ha)
- **Brong Ahafo Region:** Bechem (Bosomkese F/R cpt 59ha), Kintampo (Bosomoa F/R cpt 49ha) and Atebubu (OFR site at Beposo community)

3.7.2.5 Identify and organize charcoal producers into groups

- Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) in collaboration with Tropenbos International have identified and trained displaced chainsaw operators in the use of metal carbonization kilns for commercial charcoal production, as an alternative livelihood programme.
- The programme trained about thirty (30) displaced chainsaw operators as a pilot, drawn from fifteen (15) communities with high incidence of illegal chainsaw activities.
- The trainees were placed in three (3) groups, drawn from Ahyiam near Yamfo in the Bechem Forest District and communities near Bosomkese Forest Reserve. Two (2) other groups were drawn from Daboase close to the Subri Forest Reserve in the Western Region. Other identified groups were in Breweniese and Sanko.

3.7.2.6 Identify and select suitable community based enterprise for rural dwellers

- Strategy and operational plan for identification of livelihood enterprises developed and literature review was completed.

- Nine (9) Forest Districts were visited in Brong-Ahafo and Western Regions.
- Consultations held with FSD, community-based enterprises, MoFA, Ghana Bamboo Bike Limited, opinion leaders and community members.
- Fifteen (15) community-enterprises have been identified

PART FOUR

FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE

4.1 Introduction

The financial performance review for the year 2015 of the Forestry Commission is outlined below. The revenue performance of the Commission was not as expected by management; hence management have to review its strategy on revenue generation.

4.2 Sources of Revenue

The Forestry Commission derives its revenue from the following sources:

- Subvention from Government of Ghana. This comprises subvention for Personnel Emoluments, Administration, Services and Investment.
- Internally Generated Fund includes income from natural forest timber stumpage, plantation timber sales, export levies, zoos and parks entrance fees and others.
- Donors contribution, which includes cash, assets and technology consolidated into NREG.

4.2.1 Government of Ghana Subvention

An amount of GH¢48.6million was spent on the staff of the Commission by the Government of Ghana as against a budgeted figure of GH¢41.6million. The actual amount spent exceeded that of the budget by 17%.

The main reason for this disparity was that the Ministry of Finance under Budgeted the Compensation of Commission's Employees.

4.2.2 Internally Generated Fund (IGF)

For the IGF, an amount of GH¢50.1million was earned as against a budget of GH¢34.3million. The revenue earned during the year exceeded that of the budget by 46%.

4.2.3 Donor funds

A total amount of GH¢7.5million was actually received from the Donor Partners as against a budget of GH¢16.9million.

These funds were meant for the Forest Investment Project, Global Investment Fund, the Natural Resources and Environmental Governance Technical Assistance, the Voluntary Partnership agreement and the Sustainable Land and Water Management Project.

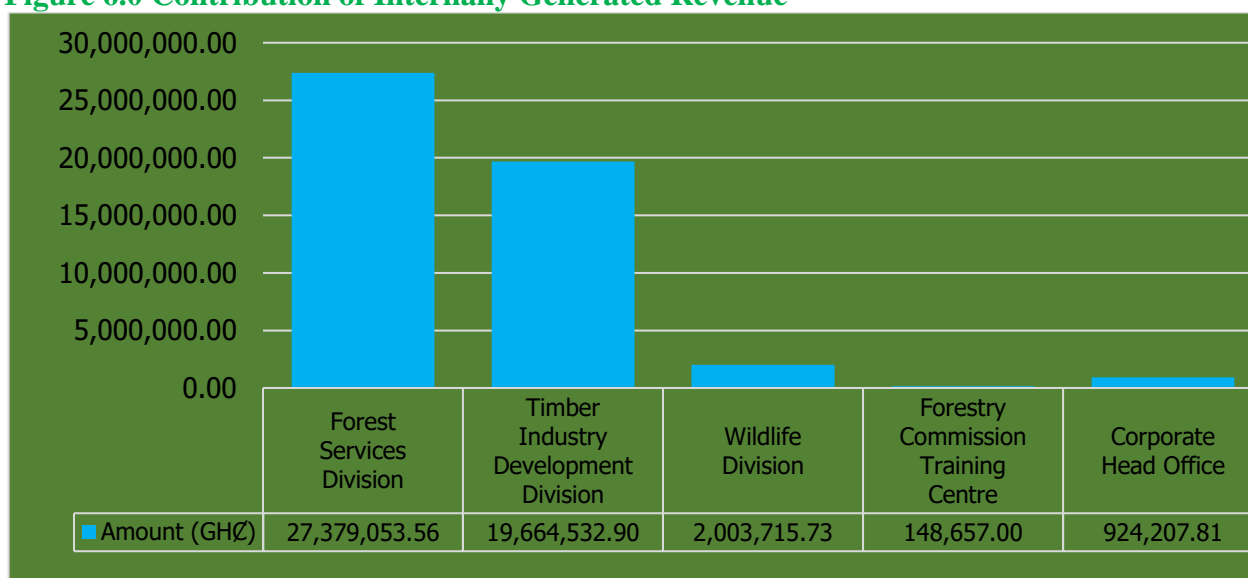
The Table 17.0 below gives a complete revenue performance for the year 2015

Table 17.0 Cumulative Financial Performance

SOURCE	ACTUAL (GH¢)	BUDGET (GH¢)	VARIANCE (GH¢)
COMPENSATION	48,645,384.67	41,560,360.00	7,085,024.67
IGF	50,120,167.00	34,345,894.00	15,774,273.00
DONOR	7,544,094.87	16,895,679.00	(9,351,584.13)
GRAND TOTAL	106,309,646.54	92,801,933.00	13,507,713.54

The Internally Generated fund is grouped into Divisions and Units to show how much each contributed to the Commission during the year.

Figure 6.0 Contribution of Internally Generated Revenue



4.3 Expenditure

The Commission’s expenditure is categorized into three (3) activities which are Compensation, Goods & Services and Asset Management.

The full year ending, a total amount of GH¢96.8million was actually spent as against a budget of GH¢76.4million, also exceeding the budget by 27%.

The main reason for the differences between the actual and the budgeted was as a result of inadequate ceiling given to the Commission by the Ministry of Finance and also the depreciation of the cedi as well as increase in energy cost and utilities. The Commission also purchased vehicles for its Rapid Response Teams to monitor illegal forest activities.

4.3.1 Compensation

A total amount of GH¢48.6million was paid as against a budget of GH¢41.6million, exceeding the budget by 17%.

4.3.2 Goods and Services

A total amount of GH¢43.1million was spent on Goods and Services as against a budgeted amount of GH¢28.5million also exceeding the budget by 51%.

The increase was due to hike in utilities, escalated amount spent on the official generator during the peak period of the energy crisis and the depreciation of the cedi.

4.3.3 Assets

On assets expenditure, a total amount of GH¢5.0million was spent on assets as against a budget of GH¢6.3million. Thus, it was able to meet 79% of its expected expenditure on this activity.

Most of these expenditures were incurred as a result of renovating of official bungalows and the purchase of new vehicles for the Rapid Response Team to monitor illegal activities in the nation's forest reserves.

Table 18.0 Expenditure

SOURCE	BUDGET (GH¢)	ACTUAL (GH¢)	VARIANCE (GH¢)
COMPENSATION	41,560,364.00	48,645,384.67	(7,085,020.67)
GOODS AND SERVICES	28,553,310.00	43,122,230.01	(14,568,920.01)
ASSETS	6,292,583.00	5,034,807.57	1,257,775.43
GRAND TOTAL	76,406,257.00	96,802,422.25	(20,396,165.25)

PART FIVE

CHALLENGES AND CONCLUSION



Photo 1 A culvert over River Bontire near the town of Abrewapong leading to the EcoPlanet Bamboo LLC's plantation in North Bandai Hills Forest Reserve, Juaso Forest District, Ashanti Region, washed away by heavy rains.

5.1 Plantation Development

The key challenge to the NFPDP is the absence of reliable and adequate sources of funding for plantation establishment and maintenance by Government; and access to credit for small and medium scale commercial forest plantation developers.

5.2 General Constraints

The implementation of activities in all the above areas was not without constraints. This includes:

- Delay in the release of funds for the implementation of the 2015 work plans.
- Irregular and inadequate supply of protective clothing to field staff for field work.
- Inadequate or total lack of the required field equipment for more effective law enforcement in wildlife protected areas and forest reserves.
- Difficulty in attracting private sector investors in ecotourism development in wildlife protected areas.
- Human populations within admitted farms and villages in some forest reserves continue to increase resulting in encroachment of internal boundaries of these reserves.
- Though some staff were recruited, staff inadequacy for the core operational areas is still affecting the performance of the Divisions adversely.

5.3 Conclusion

The Commission is on track to meet the vision of leaving future generations and their communities with richer, better and more valuable forest and wildlife endowments than inherited— though it is struggling to keep pace with illegalities in the forest reserves and wildlife protected Areas. The vision will plainly not be met unless progress is greatly accelerated, where more funds are made available for plantation and maintenance activities, targeted sensitization of the major communities, collaborative resource

management intensification, awareness creation, provision of alternative livelihood support programmes for communities and building capacities of the technical work force.

The population of the country depends on the forest for timber and other resources. Most communities get access to valuable drinking water sourced from the forest. To a large extent, the ability of the Commission to keep the forest and its environment under control will sustain progress in health.

The Commission therefore is poised to press for greater efficiency in the delivery of its vision and mission statements to minimize the current constraints that may result to hazards in the country. This can be achieved greatly through impact of staff and community engagement.

The relatively slow progress in addressing issues of illegal mining and other illegalities in Ghana's forest reserves and protected areas should be resolved through energetic means that will accommodate citizenry interest in leaving future generations and their communities with richer, better and more valuable forest and wildlife endowments.

Annex 1:

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 2015

FORESTRY COMMISSION

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

GENERAL INFORMATION

COMMISSIONERS:

		Date of Appointment
Mr. Edward Aloysius Prah	- Chairman	3 rd October 2014
Mr. Richard Duah Nsenkyire	- Timber Trade and Industry representative	3 rd October 2014
Mr. Gerard H. O. Boakye	- Wildlife Trade and Industry representative	3 rd October 2014
Dr. Kinsley K. F. Ghartey	- Institute of Foresters Representative	3 rd October 2014
Dr. Ernest Asare Abeney	- Representative of NGO's in Forest and Wildlife Management	3 rd October 2014
Dr. Wilfred K. Anim-Odame	- Lands Commission	3 rd October 2014
Naa (Dr) Puore Chiir VII	- National House of Chiefs	3 rd October 2014
Awulae Attibrukusu	- Government Nominee	3 rd October 2014
Alhassan Alhassan Moomen	- Government Nominee	3 rd October 2014
Madam Agnes Bertha Amanuvor	- Government Nominee	3 rd October 2014
Mr. Samuel Afari-Dartey	- Chief Executive	3 rd October 2014

SECRETARY:

Mr. U.K. Armoo, Head of Legal Unit

INSTRUMENT OF INCORPORATION:

Forestry Commission Act, 1999 (Act 571)

HEAD OFFICE:

Forestry Commission Building
GIMPA Road
West Legon
P.O. Box MB 434
Accra

BANKERS:

Bank of Ghana

LOCAL:

Ghana Commercial Bank Limited
National Investment Bank Limited
Barclays Bank (Ghana) Limited
Standard Chartered Bank (Ghana) Limited
Merchant Bank (Ghana) Limited
Agricultural Development Bank Limited
Ecobank (Ghana) Limited
Cal Bank Limited

FOREIGN:

Ghana International Bank Pic, London, U.K.

AUDITORS:

State Enterprises Audit Corporation
P.O. Box M.198
Republic House, Accra

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

The Commissioners have the pleasure in presenting the financial statements of Forestry Commission for the year ended 31st December 2015 to the Minister of Lands, Forestry and Mines. The financial statements covered the activities of the divisions and units of the Commission.

The divisions of the Commission are: Forest Service Division (FSD), Wildlife Division (WD) and Timber Industry Development Division (TIDD) and the supporting units are: Corporate Head Office, Wood Industries Training Centre (WITC), Resource Management Support Centre (RMSC) and London Office of Forestry Commission.

(a) Principal Activities

The Commission's principal activities include:

regulation of the utilization of forest and wildlife resources including the conduct of pre-shipment inspection and examination of timber, wood and wildlife products;

conservation and management of forest and wildlife resources;
co-ordination of policies related to forest and wildlife resources;

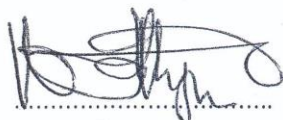
undertaking the development of forest plantations for the restoration of degraded forest areas; and

expansion of the country's forest cover and increase in the production of industrial timber.

(b) Results of operations

The Commission registered Net Surplus of GH¢38,313,591 against a Surplus of GH¢15,534,389 the previous year. This has been transferred to the Accumulated Fund Account.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD



COMMISSIONER



COMMISSIONER

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONERS' RESPONSIBILITIES

The Board of Commissioners are responsible for preparing the financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the financial position of Forestry Commission at the end of the financial year and of its net surplus or deficit for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the Board of Commissioners is required to:

- Select suitable accounting policies and apply them consistently;
- Make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- Prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the Commission will continue to carry on its operations in the foreseeable future.

The Board of Commissioners is responsible for ensuring that the Commission keeps accounting records which disclose, with reasonable accuracy, the financial position of the Commission and which enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with International Accounting Standards. They are responsible for taking such steps as are reasonably open to them to safeguard the assets of the Commission, and to prevent and detect fraud and other irregularities.

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the statement of respective responsibilities of the Commissioners in the Independent Auditor's Report



INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT ON THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF FORESTRY COMMISSION FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of **Forestry Commission** which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2015, and the statement of financial performance, cash flow statement for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements including a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory notes as set out on pages 9 to 16.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly in all material respects (or give a true and fair view) of the financial position of the Commission as at 31st December, 2015 and of its financial performance and its cash flow for the year then ended in a manner required by the companies Act 1963 (Act 179) and Forestry Commission Act, 1999 (Act 571)

Report on Other Legal and Regulatory

The Ghana Companies Code 1963, (Act 179) requires that in carrying our audit we consider and report to you the following matters. We confirm that:

- We have obtained all the information and explanations, which to the best of our knowledge and belief were necessary for the purpose of our audit
- In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept by the commission, so far as appears from our examination of those books and
- The statement of financial Position and Statement of Financial Performance of the Commission are in agreement with the books of account.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with international Standard of Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report.

We are independent of the Commission in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code), and we have fulfilled our ethical responsibilities in accordance with the IESBA Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis four opinion.

Responsibilities of the Board of Commissioners for the Financial Statements

The Board of Commissioners is responsible for the preparation of financial statements in accordance with Companies Code, 1963 (Act 179), and for such internal control as the Board of Commissioners' determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. In preparing the financial statements, The Board of Commissioners is responsible for assessing the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Board of Commissioners either intends to liquidate the commission or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so. The Board of Commissioners are responsible for overseeing the Commission's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion.

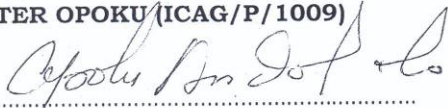
Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Commission's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by The Board of Commissioner's.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of The Board of Commissioners' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Commission's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with The Board of Commissioners regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

PETER OPOKU (ICAG/P/1009)



.....
OPOKU, ANDOH & CO.
(ICAG/F/2017/053)
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS
SDA 8, COMMUNITY 5
TEMA

DATED: 17 / 11 / 2017

PARTNERS: MANAGING, PETER OPOKU FCCA, STEPHEN BOATENG MENSAH ACCA, MAXWELL ANDOH ICAG

**STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	Note	2015 GHC	2014 GHC
<i>Assets:</i>			
Non-Current Assets			
Property Plant and Equipment	2a	13,714,979	15,052,605
Capital Work-in-Progress	2b	82,599	-
		13,797,578	15,052,605
Current Assets			
Inventory	3	550,615	802,674
Accounts Receivable	4	27,306,647	23,556,637
Cash and Cash Equivalents	5	102,394,425	55,539,875
		130,251,687	79,899,186
<i>Total Assets</i>		144,049,265	94,951,791

FUNDS AND LIABILITIES

FUNDS

Accumulated Fund		87,141,702	69,027,022
Plantation Development (Gmaelina)		2,771,853	3,196,592
Capital Grants	6a	-	1,494,021
Minerals Development Fund		41,226,506	11,349,370
Car loan Revolving Fund		1,334,170	1,334,170
		132,474,231	86,401,175

CURRENT LIABILITIES

Accounts Payable	7	11,575,033	8,550,616
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TOTAL FUNDS AND LIABILITIES 144,049,265 94,951,791


COMMISSIONER


COMMISSIONER

FORESTRY COMMISSION

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	Note	2015 GHC	2014 GHC
INCOME			
Subvention from Government of Ghana	8	53,710,53	47,638,895
Internally Generated Fund (IGF)	9	62,508,304	76,032,976
Recurrent Grant from Donor Agencies	6b	13,158,915	13,662,989
		129,377,749	137,334,860
EXPENDITURE			
Compensation of Employees	10	54,284,961	47,944,474
Goods and Services	11	42,164,751	40,084,065
Depreciation charge		5,006,838	3,460,230
Project expenses		9,806,518	7,532,500
		111,263,068	99,021,269
Net Surplus transferred to Accumulated Fund Account		<u>18,114,680</u>	<u>38,313,591</u>

ACCUMULATED FUND ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

	2015 GHC	2014 GHC
Balance as at 1st January	69,027,022	30,713,431
Net Surplus/ (Deficit) transferred from Statement of Financial Performance	18,114,680	38,313,591
Balance as at 31st December, 2015	87,141,702	69,027,022

**STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	Note	2015	2014
Operating Activities			
Net Cash Inflow from			
Operating Activities	12 (a)	22,604,335	37,490,369
Investing Activities			
Property, plant and equipment purchased		(3,669,212)	(7,992,138)
Capital work-in-progress		(82,599)	-
Proceeds from sale of property and equipment		43,650	-
Net cash flow into investment activities		(3,708,161)	(7,992,138)
Financing Activities			
Capital Grants		(1,494,021)	(1,835,591)
Car Loan Revolving Fund		-	1,334,170
Plantation Development Grants		(424,739)	3,196,592
Mineral Development Fund		29,877,136	(1,518,202)
Net Outflow into investing activities		27,958,376	1,176,969
Net Cash Inflow from financing activities	12 (b)	46,854,550	30,675,200
Cash and cash equivalents- 1st January		55,539,875	24,864,675
Cash and cash equivalent- 31 st December		102,394,425	55,539,875

The notes on pages 9 to 16 forms an intergral part of these financial statements

FORESTRY COMMISSION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

1. Accounting Policies

The following are the significant accounting policies adopted by the Commission in the preparation of the financial statements.

a. Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared using the historical cost basis of accounting and in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles considered applicable to the commission.

b. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment are stated at cost less depreciation

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis at rates calculated to write off the cost of each property Plant and Equipment over its estimated economic useful life. The annual rate in use are as follows:

Building	2.5%
Furniture and Equipment	10%
Plant and Machinery	10%
Motor Vehicles	25%
Computers and Communication Equipment	25%
Tools and other Equipment	25%

c) Inventory

Inventory is valued at lower of cost and net realizable value. Cost is the aggregate of cost of purchases, cost of conversion and other costs incurred in bringing the item to its present location and condition. Net realizable value is the price at which the inventory can be realised in the normal course of business after allowing for cost of realization. Provision is made for obsolete, slow moving and defective inventory.

d) Debtors

Debtors are stated at book value less provision for specific debts which are considered doubtful.

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014 (CONTINUED)**

e) Grants

(i) Capital Grant

The costs of property, plant and equipment acquired through grants are set off against the contributed capital grants.

(ii) Revenue Grant

Revenue grants are recognized in the statement of financial performance as and when received and utilized.

f) Foreign Currency Transactions

Transactions involving foreign currencies are translated into cedis at the exchange rates prevailing at the date of transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities are translated at the rates ruling at the date of financial position. Exchange differences arising are dealt with in the Income Statement.

g) Project Expenses

Project expenditure which does not result in the creation of fixed assets to be employed in the operations of the Commission is expensed as and when incurred.

Expenditure which results in the creation of Property Plant and Equipment is capitalized and depreciated on a straight-line basis over the expected useful lives of the assets concerned.

FORESTRY COMMISSION

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2014

c. Property, Plant and Equipment

	Building and Civil Works	Plant and Machinery	Motor Vehicles	Computer and Accessories	Office Equipment And Furniture	Residential Equipment and Furniture	Totals
Cost	GHC	GHC	GHC	GHC	GHC	GHC	GHC
Balance at 1st January 2015	8,856,650	947,852	13,080,244	8,511,650	2,664,348	608,924	34,669,668
Additions	602,886	109,450	1,672,446	1,011,361	232,917	40,152	3,669,212
Disposal	-	-	(523,000)	-	-	-	(523,000)
Balance at 31 st December 2015	9,459,536	1,057,302	14,229,690	9,523,011	2,897,265	649,076	37,815,880
Depreciation							
Balance at 1st January 2015	1,120,216	695,459	10,365,789	5,042,151	1,906,213	487,235	19,617,063
Charge for the year	235,638	102,731	2,024,501	2,378,233	223,482	42,254	5,006,838
Disposal	-	-	(523,000)	-	-	-	(523,000)
Balance at 31st December 2015	1,355,854	798,190	11,867,290	7,420,384	2,129,695	529,489	24,100,91
Net Book Values							
At 31st December 2015	<u>8,103,682</u>	<u>259,113</u>	<u>2,362,400</u>	<u>2,102,628</u>	<u>767,570</u>	<u>119,587</u>	<u>13,714,979</u>
At 31st December 2014	<u>7,736,434</u>	<u>252,393</u>	<u>2,714,455</u>	<u>3,469,499</u>	<u>758,135</u>	<u>121,689</u>	<u>15,052,605</u>

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	2015	2014
	GHC	GHC
2b Capital Work-In-Progress		
Balance at 1st January	-	2,185,542
Additions in the year	82,599	-
Transfers to Property, Plant and Equipment	-	(2,185,542)
Balance at 31st December	<u>82,599</u>	-
3. Inventory		
Hardware	227,970	461,564
Stationery	322,645	341,110
	550,615	802,674
4. Accounts Receivable		
Trade Debtors (Stumpage Fees)	4,432,965	6,032,387
Less: Provision for Doubtful Debts	<u>(2,550,396)</u>	<u>(2,550,396)</u>
	1,882,569	3,481,991
Trade Debtors (Plantation)	27,133,579	23,169,043
Less: Provision for Doubtful Debts	<u>(13,555,944)</u>	<u>(13,555,944)</u>
	13,577,635	9,613,099
Export Levy Debtors	785,539	2,639,748
* Plantation Development (W.I.P) Debtors	8,689,641	2,639,748
Staff Debtors	1,650,648	1,340,595
Sundry Debtors	333,670	-
Accountable Imprest	386,945	481,204
	27,306,647	23,556,637

**Plantation Development (W.I.P) Debtors- is the cost of failed areas established by Service Contractors from 2010 to 2013. The cost of rehabilitation has been secured by financial bonds by the Contractors (Zoil and Ecotech Services).*

**NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015**

	2015	2014
	GHC	GHC
5. Cash and Cash Equivalents		
Fixed Deposits	75,374,462	42,623,919
Call Accounts	5,399,536	2,354,563
Bank Balances:		
Local	8,810,319	4,799,089
Foreign	7,223,832	5,762,304
Project Balances	5,586,276	-
	102,394,425	55,539,875
6a. Capital Grants		
Forest Preservation Programme (FPP)	1,494,021	3,331,612
Less: Amortization transferred to Recurrent Grant	(1,494,021)	(1,837,591)
	-	1,494,021
6b. Recurrent Grants from Donor Agencies		
(i) Wood Tracking System (VPA) (DFID)	5,549,049	4,636,017
(ii) Forest Carbon Partnership Facilities (FCPF) (World Bank)	2,798,080	6,998,847
(iii) Amortization transferred	1,494,021	1,837,591
(iv) Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO)	518,317	190,534
(v) GEF (SLWMP)	2,698,432	-
(vi) GoG Grant	101,016	-
	13, 158,915	13,662,989

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2015

2015
GHC

2014
GHC

7 Accounts Payable

Office of the Administrator of Stool Lands (OASL):

Stumpage Fees payable	6,311,874	6,291,083
Plantation	1,495,314	-
Sundry Creditors and Accruals	3,767,845	2,259,533
	11,575,033	8,550,616

8. Subvention from Government of Ghana

Consolidated Fund Account	53,054,440	47,439,195
Natural Resources Environmental Governance (NREG) – Technical Assistance	656,090	199,700
	53,710,530	47,638,895

9. Internally Generated Fund

(i) Stumpage Fees	6,718,317	10,234,211
(ii) Plantation and Natural Forest Timber	18,288,384	12,295,321
(iii) Export Levy	19,169,898	19,061,353
(iv) Investment Income	7,951,317	6,650,626
(v) Park Entrance fees	1,050,559	-
(vi) Other Income	9,329,829	27,791,465
	62,508,304	76,032,976

10. Compensation of Employees

Salaries and Wages	49,107,824	34,964,808
Allowances	62,702	8,291,266
S.S.F. – employer’s contribution	5,114,435	4,688,400
	54,284,961	47,944,474

11. Goods and Services

	2015 GH¢	2014 GH¢
Electricity and Water	944,111	851,237
Postal, Telephone and Internet Subscriptions	585,855	448,990
Security Service	442,815	225,725
Cleaning and Sanitation Charges	268,180	221,536
Office consumables	1,434,947	1,372,633
Printing and Publications/ Advertising	845,203	864,392
Donation, Contributions and Staff Welfare	769,784	710,491
Hotel Accommodation	798,457	973,491
Residential Accommodation	121,878	300,564
Travel and Transport (Local and Foreign)	7,712,115	7,278,533
Vehicle Running cost and Repair & Maintenance	4,359,707	3,667,314
Repairs and Maintenance of buildings and equipt.	1,396,256	1,253,995
Insurance and Compensation to Staff	583,649	341,532
Bank charges	222,862	23,366
Software Maintenance	431,903	309,037
Board expenses	222,862	23,366
Medical expenses	202,214	106,755
Audit fees	115,500	112,500
Property Rate and Ground Rent	14,087	25,739
Consultancy/Professional and Legal fees	3,310,120	3,142,429

Training and Conferences	5,479,726	5,364,126
Maintenance of Zoo Animals	320,931	198,166
Trade Promotion	87,922	23,212
Operation Halt Campaign	4,455,141	4,029,968
Fire Prevention Campaign	153,590	245,441
Plantation Development cost	5,870,198	5,702,950
Retirement benefit	530,195	-
Increase in Provision for doubtful Debts	-	1,078,989

		2015	2014
12 a.	Reconciliation of Net Income (Deficit) to Net Cash Inflow from Operating Activities	GH¢	GH¢
	Surplus for the year	18,114,680	38,313,591
	Adjust for:		
	Depreciation	5,006,838	3,460,230
	Gain on disposal	(43,650)	-
	Increase in Provision for doubtful Debts	-	1,078,989
	(Increase)/Decrease in Inventory	252,059	(56,248)
12 b.	Analysis of Movements in cash and cash Equivalents		
	Increase/Decrease in Receivable	(3,750,010)	(3,984,001)
	Increase/(Decrease)in Accounts Payable	3,024,417	(1,322,192)
	Net Cash inflow in the year	22,604,335	37,490,369