



# FORESTRY COMMISSION (CORPORATE HEADQUARTERS)

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## PRESS STATEMENT

### PHASING OUT OF THE YOUTH IN AFFORESTATION / REFORESTATION PROJECT (YAP)

#### Background

In line with the 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy, the Forestry Commission (FC) launched the Ghana Forest Plantation Strategy: 2016-2040 (GFPS), in 2016 which sought to establish 25,000 hectares of forest plantations annually. Additionally, the GFPS sought to undertake enrichment planting of degraded forest reserves, planting trees on farms, and maintenance/rehabilitation of existing forest plantations.

Under the provisions in the GFPS, the FC and the Youth Employment Agency (YEA) in November 2017, signed a Service Agreement for the joint implementation of the two-year Forest Plantation Programme under the Youth in Agriculture and Afforestation Module. Under the Service Agreement, beneficiaries would provide labour for all the activities to be implemented under the GFPS as well as support forest protection and management. However, in due course, the Project grew in scale and importance to become a full-scale FC project, which was renamed Youth in Afforestation / Reforestation Project (YAP).

#### Delay in Payment of Allowances, Dwindling Beneficiary Numbers and Non-Payment of Seedlings Suppliers

The YAP commenced in April 2018, with an initial number of 61 beneficiaries. By August 2018, a total of 46,330 youth beneficiaries had been engaged as beneficiaries of the Project with the Commission. However, the numbers began to plummet in September 2018, after a downward review of beneficiaries' allowances to align with remuneration under the Government's Nation Builders Corps (NABCO) program. Delays in the payment