



Global Bamboo Products : Ghana

Substituting timber, creating sustainable livelihoods and reforesting with bamboo

Project description

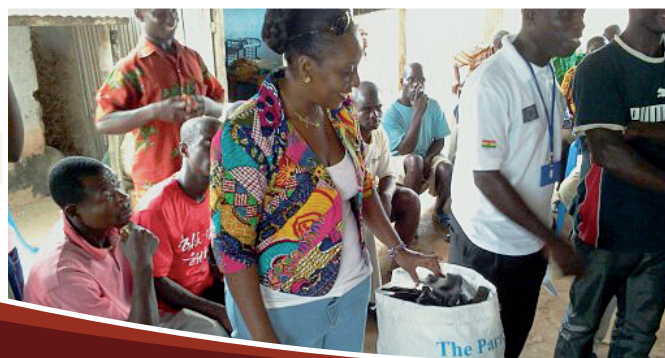
Global Bamboo Products Ghana relieves pressure on dwindling forests through reforestation and bamboo agro-forestry, producing and marketing bamboo and other non-timber forest products (NTFP), and training rural community members in handicraft production and alternative livelihood options such as bee-keeping and bamboo charcoal production.



Business model

Global Bamboo Products Ghana Ltd. (GBPL) owns and operates a bamboo plantation and nursery and a handicraft training centre. It also markets bamboo and rattan handicrafts. The initiative provides the community with a kiln for producing bamboo charcoal, which GBPL then buys and markets. The plan is to expand into industrial bamboo products such as flooring, panels and plyboard.

The bamboo plantation is innovative, being the first in a degraded forest reserve in Ghana. In addition, the production of high-quality industrial bamboo products creates a new local industry: timber substitutes.



Scaling up activities in 2012

- Fully plant a 100-hectare bamboo plantation using tissue cultivation technology
- Train 50 to 100 young people in rural areas in bamboo and rattan handicraft production, construct 100 beehives and distribute them to 50 to 100 members of the rural community
- Provide two additional kilns for bamboo charcoal production and explore local and foreign markets
- Establish a processing factory for the production of bamboo panels and plyboard

Immediate needs

- Technical assistance in bamboo tissue culture application
- Technical assistance in high-quality finishing of bamboo handicraft products
- Grant and loan financing to expand the product portfolio into industrial bamboo products, e.g. flooring, plyboard and activated carbon
- Links and exposure to foreign markets for industrial products



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Partnership

- **Global Bamboo Products Ltd. (GBPL)** is a local enterprise involved in bamboo cultivation and the production and marketing of bamboo and other non-timber forest products
- **The Bamboo and Rattan Development Programme (BARADEP)** of the Ghanaian Government provides technical assistance and in-kind support
- **The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR)** provides capacity-building and technical assistance
- **The BNARI Biotechnology and Nuclear Agriculture Research Institute** acts as research partner in the area of bamboo tissue cultivation



Social, environmental and economic impacts

Social impact: GBPL will provide handicraft training to up to 100 young people, enabling them to earn up to USD 150 a month. It will also provide up to 100 community members, mostly women, with beehives. GBPL will contract 150 farmers to plant bamboo and use the plantation land for agro-forestry.

Environmental impact: The initiative reduces pressure on dwindling forests by reforesting 100 hectares with bamboo, supporting agro-forestry, developing and

promoting non-timber forest products and teaching rural communities how to generate income without clearing forests for agricultural use.

Economic impact: While increasing land productivity by combining bamboo plantation with agro-forestry and bee-keeping, the initiative aims to build a stable and growing market for its artisans' handicrafts and develop a local industrial bamboo product industry.

Contact

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SEED Partners

SEED's founding partners are the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and SEED is hosted by UNEP-WCMC. Other current partners are the governments of Germany, India, the Netherlands, South Africa, Spain, the United Kingdom and the United States of America; the European Union; Conservation International; and SEED's corporate partner, Hisense.

About the SEED Initiative

The SEED Initiative identifies and supports promising small scale social and environmental entrepreneurs around the globe, entrepreneurs that while working towards a greener economy also tackle poverty, marginalisation and social exclusion.

SEED provides these social entrepreneurs with know how and networks, taking the lessons learnt at local level up to decision-makers to promote evidence-based policy making.

More information: www.seedinit.org

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