

Organizational Profiles

CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL

Conservation International (CI) is an international, nonprofit organization based in Washington, DC. CI believes that the Earth's natural heritage must be maintained if future generations are to thrive spiritually, culturally and economically. Our mission is to conserve the Earth's living heritage, our global biodiversity, and to demonstrate that human societies are able to live harmoniously with nature.

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CONSERVATION INTERNATIONAL – GHANA

Conservation International Ghana's work started in 1990 with the Kakum National Park, where the habitat of globally threatened species was secured against further degradation and species extinction through innovative ecotourism development. To further secure Kakum National Park, CI-Ghana implemented the Cocoa Agro-forestry Programme in partnership with Kuapa Kokoo, assisting cocoa farmers within the Kakum Conservation Area to adopt ecologically sustainable agronomic practices for increased production. This agroforestry initiative has provided a buffer zone and additional wildlife habitat for the threatened species within the Park. As a result of CI-Ghana's interventions, Kakum National Park currently receives about 80,000 visitors annually, contributing significantly to the socio-economic development of Ghana.

From the project site at Kakum National Park, CI-Ghana has expanded its focus to the national level. CI-Ghana's work focuses on preventing species extinction, increasing protection and improving management of the remaining forest fragments, and the development of biodiversity corridors. To curb the threat of species extinction in Ghana, as a result of the bushmeat trade, CI-Ghana carried out a two-year nation-wide bushmeat campaign. This was done in partnership with the Wildlife Division, Atomic Energy Commission, Ghana Standards Board and Food and Drugs Board. Others included the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and the Environmental Protection Agency of Ghana. In partnership with the Ministry of Environment and Science, CI-Ghana provided technical support, secretariat and funding for the completion of the *National Biodiversity Strategy for Ghana*. To ensure the effective implementation of the Strategy, CI-Ghana also provided technical support for the formulation of the Action Plan. Currently, CI-Ghana is represented on the National Biodiversity Committee in Ghana. In December 1999, CI-Ghana facilitated a conservation priority-setting workshop that built a broad-based consensus on priorities for biodiversity conservation of the Upper Guinea forest