



Presents



YOUTH IN NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL GOVERNANCE (YOUTH – NREG)

INCEPTION MEETING REPORT

Supported by



THE WORLD BANK

Contact:

Chibeze Ezekiel

Coordinator, Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND)

Email address: synd.ghana@hotmail.com

Website: www.strategicyouthnetwork.org

May, 2019

BACKGROUND:

The Government of Ghana launched the Natural Resource and Environmental Governance (NREG) program from 2008 – 2012 to address governance issues related to the mining and forestry sectors and to improve environmental management with the overall objective of ensuring economic growth, poverty alleviation, increasing revenues and improving environmental protection. The program was supported by the Agence Francais de Development (AFD), Department for International Development (DfID) of the United Kingdom, the European Commission (EC), the Royal Netherland Government (RNG) and the International Development Association (IDA - WB).

In recent times, the issue of natural resources and environment management has increased owing to their inter-relatedness and cross-cutting nature as well as their inevitable impact on development agenda. They include Climate Change; Biological Diversity (Biodiversity); Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); Forestry; Fisheries; Oil and Gas; Food Security; Land Degradation; Renewable Energy; International Waters and Wildlife.

Increasingly, development partners are acknowledging the need for **extensive consultation** involving local communities, indigenous peoples, civil society organizations, private sector, women, men, girls and boys in addressing environmental challenges. Yet in the planning, implementation and evaluation of environmental action interventions, the inclusion of young people as relevant actors has been poorly executed. Even where issues of social inclusion are specifically discussed, little attention is paid towards empowering young people to participate in environmental governance. There is therefore a lot more that need to be done in enhancing the access of young people to public participation and decision making.

For this reason, the Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) developed a concept note on the need for a common platform for youth groups working on natural resources and environmental governance to among others provide opportunity for knowledge sharing and learning. The World Bank Institute, Ghana as part of demonstrating its commitment to this cause generously hosted the inception meeting of this platform

COMMENCEMENT OF MEETING:

The meeting facilitated by Ben Nii Addo and Benedicta Nartey officially commenced at 10:15am with a short word of prayer by Akua Agyeman after which each participant was given the opportunity for a brief self-introduction.

WELCOME ADDRESS BY MR. KEN FOSU (COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, WORLD BANK)

In his welcome address, Mr. Fosu stated that he was very happy to see young people coming together to add their voice to addressing issues affecting the environment. He stated that, since the coalition is a youth based one, he hopes to see action and not the usual talk shows. He reiterated the World Bank's commitment to support such platforms by providing information that will enhance our advocacy work. He was hopeful that the platform will also take action, engage other relevant stakeholders and collaborate with organizations that share similar objectives to help make more impact.

SOLIDARITY MESSAGES:

1. Mr. Fredua Agyeman (Director of Environment at the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation)



Mr. Agyeman lauded the initiative as a good one and commended the organizers for taking such step. He stated that environmental governance is not taken seriously in our part of the world and that even though government has making efforts in dealing with environmental challenges which are seriously confronting Ghana, a lot more still needs to be done. Some of the issues or challenges currently facing the sector are Waste management, Urbanization, Galamsey, Loss of biodiversity; Air pollution; and Climate change effects.

He further stated that despite the previous neglect, government has begun taking action to address these challenges. According to Mr. Agyeman, some initiative undertaken by the Ministry of Environment Science, Technology and Innovation are;

- A. Development of the Plastic Management Policy
- B. Re-instituting Town and Country Planning
- C. Development of the Oil and Gas Environmental Policy
- D. Introduction of climate change into school curriculum
- E. Integration and enforcement of all international environmental treaties signed by Ghana

He concluded by stating that his office will support the platform in any way within their capacity since the challenges in the sector needs a concerted approach to finding a sustainable solution.

2. Mr. Justice Odoi (Environment Specialist, World Bank Country Office)

Mr. Odoi explained that the goals of the World Bank is to end extreme poverty and promote shared prosperity, adding that it is important for the World Bank to engage the youth to make these goals achievable. He stated that, the role of the World Bank is to support government to better the lives of its citizens. However, before funding any project, it is mandatory for such projects to follow its environmental and social standards policies before implementation. Projects implemented must consider issues of the environment and biodiversity and that country environment analysis identifies the key environmental and natural resource issues he emphasized. Issues at hand in Ghana include air and water pollution, climate change effects, galamsey therefore urging the platform to look for like-minded organizations for collaboration to expand the platform's reach and influence. He also reiterated the World Bank's support for this cause.



3. Mrs. Theodora Williams Anti (Coordinator, Foundation for Security and Development in Africa)

Theodora in her message advised that the platform should not focus so much on finance as that'll affect the vision of the group which has been the reason for the collapse of most coalitions. She also said she's ready to support in building the capacities of the youth in making this platform a sustainable and action group.

PRESENTATION BY CHIBEZE EZEKIEL (COORDINATOR, STRATEGIC YOUTH NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT)



Title: The Concept of Youth in Natural Resources and Environmental Governance (Youth in NREG)

Key Objective for the formation of the Platform: To establish a Youth Platform in Natural Resources and Environmental (NRE) Governance in Ghana.

Specific Objectives

1. To create an opportunity for learning and sharing among young people as well as embark on joint campaigns in a concerted manner.
2. To form an organized group towards stakeholder engagement processes (policy dialogues, interface meetings etc.) at all levels of the decision making process
3. To build the capacity of young people as change agents in promoting environmental sustainability.

The Various Thematic Areas within the Natural Resources & Environmental Sector to Work Within

- ❖ Climate Change
- ❖ Biological Diversity (Biodiversity)
- ❖ Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH)
- ❖ Forestry
- ❖ Fisheries
- ❖ Oil and Gas
- ❖ Mining
- ❖ Land Degradation
- ❖ Renewable Energy
- ❖ International Waters &
- ❖ Wildlife

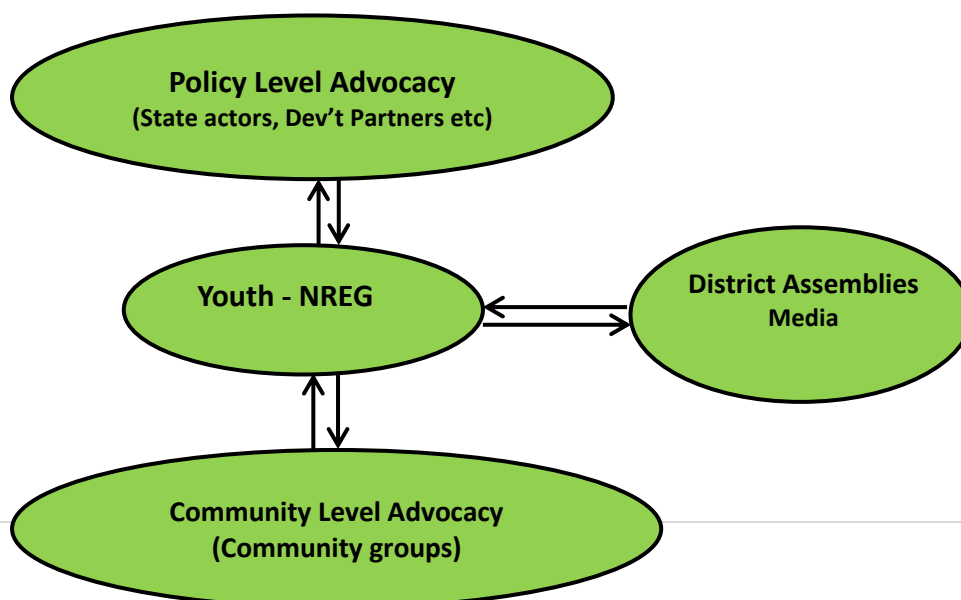
Strategic Focus of the Platform:

- Enhancing Policy Dialogue and Evidence-based Advocacy at all levels
- Increasing capacity building programs for Youth groups on NRE issues.
- Strengthening Institutional Development of the Platform
- Promoting knowledge and learning among members

Levels of Engagement:

The platform will engage stakeholders at 2 main levels:

Level	Targeted Groups	Activities
Policy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ State actors, ▪ Development partners, ▪ International bodies ▪ MMDAs ▪ Private sector ▪ Media 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Actively participating in the formulation, reviewing and implementation of national & International policies, laws/regulations and programs. 2. Publishing papers to influencing relevant policies. 3. Organizing Consultative engagement with relevant actors.
Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Community Leaders ▪ Community Based Organizations ▪ Organized groups (women and youth groups etc.) ▪ Media 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conducting research or survey on youth participation in environmental management at the local level. 2. Building the capacity of community young people in natural resources and environmental governance 3. Complementing the effort of government & other actors in community education and awareness creation on environmental issues.



Expected Outcomes:

- A formidable national youth platform in natural resources and environmental governance established and recognized by policy and decision makers at all levels.
- Increased public awareness and education on environmental issues through youth activism.
- Evidence-based (best) practices of Ghanaian youth in natural resources and environmental governance documented and disseminated for learning and sharing both nationally and internationally.

Rules of Engagement:

- Members of the platform are to still pursue their respective organizational work or mandate
- Knowledge/Experience sharing and learning
- Collaboration and leveraging on members resources
- Platform purely for NRE issues
- SYND is the convener of the platform

Examples of Gaps in Youth inclusion in NRE issues:

1. The National Youth Policy (2010) provides a number of provisions which are not being implemented. The policy states that:
 - *make the youth active participants in the protection, preservation, and improvement of the environment;*
 - *provide alternative livelihood programs for the youth who engage in negative practices that affect the environment.*
 - *provide regular rewards for young people whose ideas and activities ensure better understanding, appreciation and preservation of their local environment.*
2. National Climate and Green Economy Strategy, 2016

Government concedes that even though children and youth are vulnerable to the impact of climate change, they can also be agents of change in the fight against climate change.

3. Discussing Article 6 of the UNFCCC which bothers on *Education, Training & Public Awareness* the 33rd session of the Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) in its decision charged parties among others to:
 - *Enhance the involvement of, and create training opportunities for, groups with a key role in climate change communication and education, including journalists, teachers, **youth**, children and community leaders;*

- *Foster the participation of women, **youth**, indigenous peoples, civil society groups and relevant stakeholders in decision-making on climate change at the national level and their attendance at intergovernmental meetings, including sessions of the Conference of the Parties, the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol and the subsidiary bodies;*
- 4. Article 5, clause d of UNCCD, also states that "*In addition to their obligations pursuant to article 4, affected country Parties undertake to: (d) promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of non-governmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;...*"

Proposed Activities:

1. Embark on membership drive (secondary research)
2. Organize Capacity building sessions
3. Organize periodic Consultative Meetings (also with relevant stakeholders)
4. Develop relevant Information, Education & Communication (IE&C) Materials
5. Outreach and Public Awareness Campaigns

** Chibeze as part of his presentation also shared the strategy or approach adopted by a youth group to successfully halt government's intention to establish a super-critical coal fired power plant.*

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q1. Gideon Ofosu inquired about how the coalition intends to ensure financial sustainability. He also wanted to know about the governance structure of the platform.

Answer:

- ✓ The platform currently has no funding but it is supported by the World Bank and UNDP providing space and refreshments for this year to help Youth-NREG put its structures together.
- ✓ The convening platform, SYND doesn't want to impose the governance structure on members thus it's one of the key issues to deal with in subsequent meetings by members based on the principle of ownership and inclusion.

Q2. Richard Martey requested to know what plans have been made to engage the private sector.

Answer:

- ✓ In response, it was noted that the private sector will be actively engaged once the structure and action plan of the coalition is put together.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- ❖ Involve and collaborate with the media to ensure campaigns reach a wide audience.
- ❖ Transparency and accountability measures must be put in place to attract donor support.
- ❖ Direct service provision to development partners and other organizations to raise funds
- ❖ Identify other coalition to partner with.
- ❖ Put together action plans to help achieve the targeted goals and objectives.

NEXT STEPS

1. Planned meetings for coalition members (June, September and November 2019)
2. Next meeting to be hosted by UNDP office in Accra. (Date and time to be announced).
3. Develop the governance structure.
4. Members to identify which of the thematic area(s) on the NRE sector they want to be part of according to their capacity/expertise.
5. Develop activity plan for the rest of the year in line with existing processes.

The meeting ended at 12:15pm with a closing prayer by a volunteer.

MEDIA PUBLICATION:

<http://www.ghananewsagency.org/science/civil-society-organisation-holds-nreg-meeting--150642>

About SYND:

The Strategic Youth Network for Development (SYND) is a youth-oriented NGO which focuses primarily on contributing to ensuring good governance in the natural resources and environmental sector through active youth inclusion. Our thematic areas of work are **Climate change, Biodiversity, Forestry and Energy for All.**

SYND is the convener for the Youth-NREG.

PARTICIPANTS LIST:



Mobilizing Youth for Environmental Action

Tuesday May 28, 2019

Participants List

Name	Org./Institution	Position	Tel Number	Email Address
Rachel Bulley	SYND	Member	0276877324	rachelbulley20@gmail.com
Richard Matey	Abibimen Foundation	Programs Officer	0241582873	matey.richard@airesec.net
Bortei Portia	SYND	Member	0548458651	montezcamelita@gmail.com
Emelia B. Addae	SYND	Member	0240689347	emrig92@gmail.com
Daniel Kesse	SYND	member	0241291115	Kwekukessejor@gmail.com
Chibeze Ezekiel	SYND	Coordinator	0244967931	Chibeze@gmail.com
Thomas Ametepe	W.W.A	Student	☎	Ametepethomas@gmail.com
Gertrude Lamptey	SYND	Member	0540857888	gertrudelamptey@gmail.com
FREDA AGYEWAH	NESTI		024284162	freda_a@yahoo.com
Gideon Peasah	ACCESS	Deputy Executive Director	0246067976	gideon@accessgh.org



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD - IDA

Mobilizing Youth for Environmental Action

Tuesday May 28, 2019

Participants List

Name	Org./Institution	Position	Tel Number	Email Address
Josephine Sumaila	W.W.A	visitor	02	sumailajosephine@yahoo.com
Justica Odoi	wrldbank	Environmental Specialist	0201756349	jodoi@worldbank.org
Daniel Duah	University of Ghana	Visitor	0542604682	evangelistdanielduah@gmail.com
Beverlyn Naadu Laky	SYND	Member	0509010880 024493	Naadu123@gmail.com
Kamal Fanaas	YUDAF	Member	0545448818	yudafwest@gmail.com sirkamal15@gmail.com
Theodor W. Anli	FOSDA	Visitor/Partner	0243203060	theodora@fosda.org
Glady's Cudjro	Synd		0245930114	Senaur500@jalu.com
Stanuel Tetteh	GYUM	visitor	0576334993	stanueltetteh@gmail.com
Amedor Bismark	AGROC	Member	0506421773	thmarck47@gmail.com
Emmanuel Akroko	GGDP	member	0542227494	bishopnana01@gmail.com



Mobilizing Youth for Environmental Action

Tuesday May 28, 2019

Participants List

Name	Org./Institution	Position	Tel Number	Email Address
Ali Addo	SYND	Member	0260704666	plyfeastface@gmail.com
Patience Agyekum	SYND	Member	0207849729	agyekumaidy@gmail.com
Tricia E-Thompson	SYND	Member	0542871234	ekuaagyebea@gmail.com
Daniel Anyorigye	SYND	Member	0247486167	danielabugre15@gmail.com
Grace Apua Agbeuke	SYND	Member	0540 688998	graceapuaagbeuke@gmail.com
Emmanuel Atutome	SYND	Member	0540079726	emmanuelatutome@yahoo.com
Ashrifu Priscilla		Member	0246449660	ashrifu Priscilla@yahoo.com
Evelyn Addor	SYND	Member	0246474228	evyaddor@gmail.com
Lailah Gifty Akita	Smart Youth, Volunteers Function	Executive Director	0260967610	lailah.akita@gmail.com
Edmund Yao Selorm Kwatin	SYND	Member	055688078	edmundkwatin@gmail.com



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD - IDA

Mobilizing Youth for Environmental Action

Tuesday May 28, 2019

Participants List

Name	Org./Institution	Position	Tel Number	Email Address
AKACHUBE ANSELM	EFFGH	DEPUTY Commander	055-3447980	akachubeanselm59@gmail.com
Asiam Thomas Penny	EFFGH	National Treasure	0553381595	tompee2015@yahoo.com
\$ Nii Noi K. Quabre	350	Member	02 544036	nnomaboe@gmail.com
Benedicta B. Nartey	SYND	Member	0260962266	msbiankie@yahoo.com
Gifty Kwarteng	SYND	Member	0542182196	giftykwarteng123@gmail.com
Akua Asiedua Agyemang	W.W.A	visitor		akuaagyemang@yahoo.com
Grace Jemima Ekpe	W.W.A	visitor		Grace.jemima.ekpe@yahoo.com
Solomon YAMPAH	SYND/SYND	MEMBER	0233682783	slaw2096@gmail.com
ISORDZO GUESHO XI	D.G.I	HEAD OF POLICY	0555272832	tsordzo@gmail.com
PRINCE Y. OYEWIYA	SYND	MEMBER	0559231375	prinwoyewere723@gmail.com



THE WORLD BANK
IBRD · IDA

Mobilizing Youth for Environmental Action

Tuesday May 28, 2019

Participants List

Name	Org./Institution	Position	Tel Number	Email Address
Jonas - Henry	Myriad Projects	Co-Founder	0201586330 (whatsapp) 0244958967	joannavie09@gmail.com
Elizabeth N.A. Akushey	WOB	Prog. Assistant	0243623399	eakushey@worldbank.org
Kennedy Fosu	WOB	Comm. Officer	0244312541	kfosu@worldbank.org
CHRISTOPHER GTAN - PLAINAH	E201 Earth Services	Operation	0542538832	stanchristopher@gmail.com
LUDWIG K. AJAKIOG	GOV ENVY SERV.	GENERAL MANAGER	0208981016	Adjakioeludung@gmail.com