



# GHANA FORESTS ECONOMY PROGRAM (GFEP)

## Leveraging Ghana's untapped forest potential

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## Forests in Ghana



- The country's economy is **heavily reliant on renewable natural resources**, with **over 70%** of the population depending directly on these resources for food, water, and energy, etc.
- Agriculture, forestry, and fishing sectors employ about **3.3 million people** in rural areas.
- It is home to rich and diverse ecosystems: **coastal wetlands, mangroves, savannahs, and tropical forests**, which support a variety of flora and fauna.
- The forests serve as the source of many rivers in the country, providing **major sources of surface and ground water resources**.

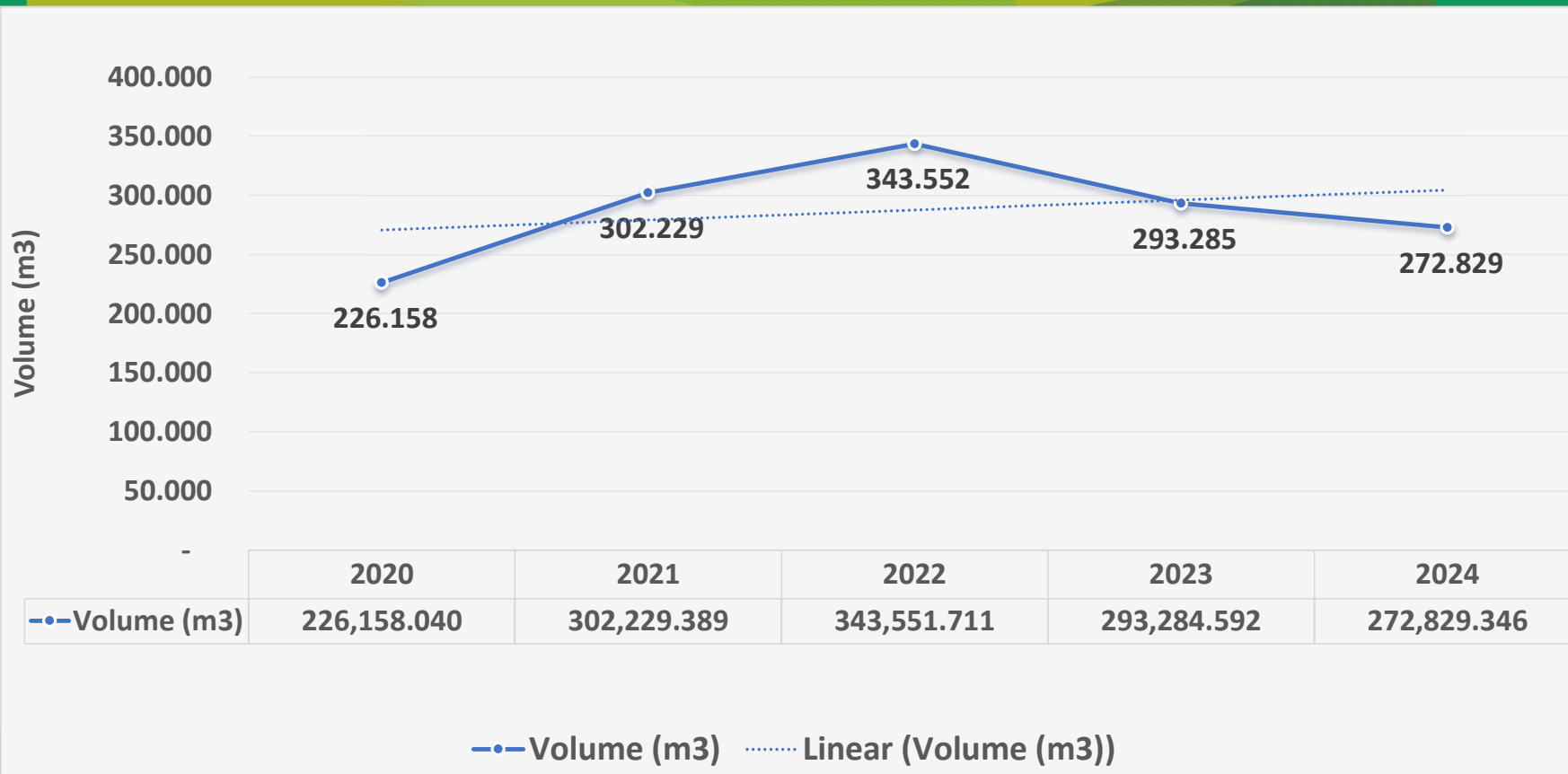
## Contribution to the Economy



- Contribution to GDP: Decline from **5-6% (2002) to 2.86% (2019)**
- Contribution to Export Earnings: **11% (FAO statistics)**
- Timber Export Earnings (2024): **€123.4 million**
- Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry: **21.1% combined contribution to GDP**
- Resources Provided: **Firewood, medicinal plants, bushmeat, and other NTFPs**
- Energy Needs: **75% of the country's energy needs met through fuelwood and charcoal**
- Micro-climate for Cocoa Production: Ghana is the **second-largest cocoa producer**



# Trend Analysis on Volumes (m<sup>3</sup>) of Timber Export from 2020 to 2024



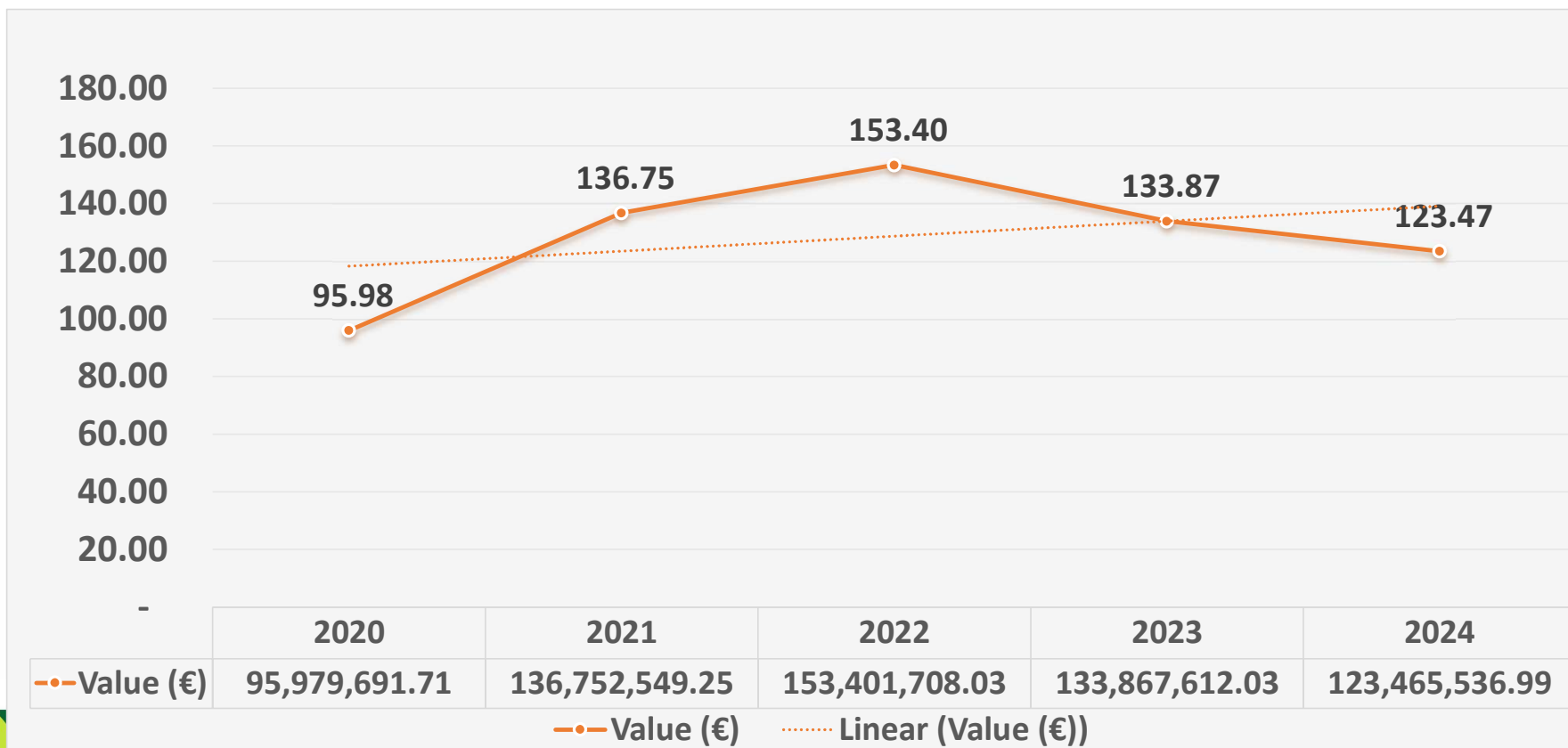
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# Trend Analysis on Value (€) of Timber Export from 2020 to 2024



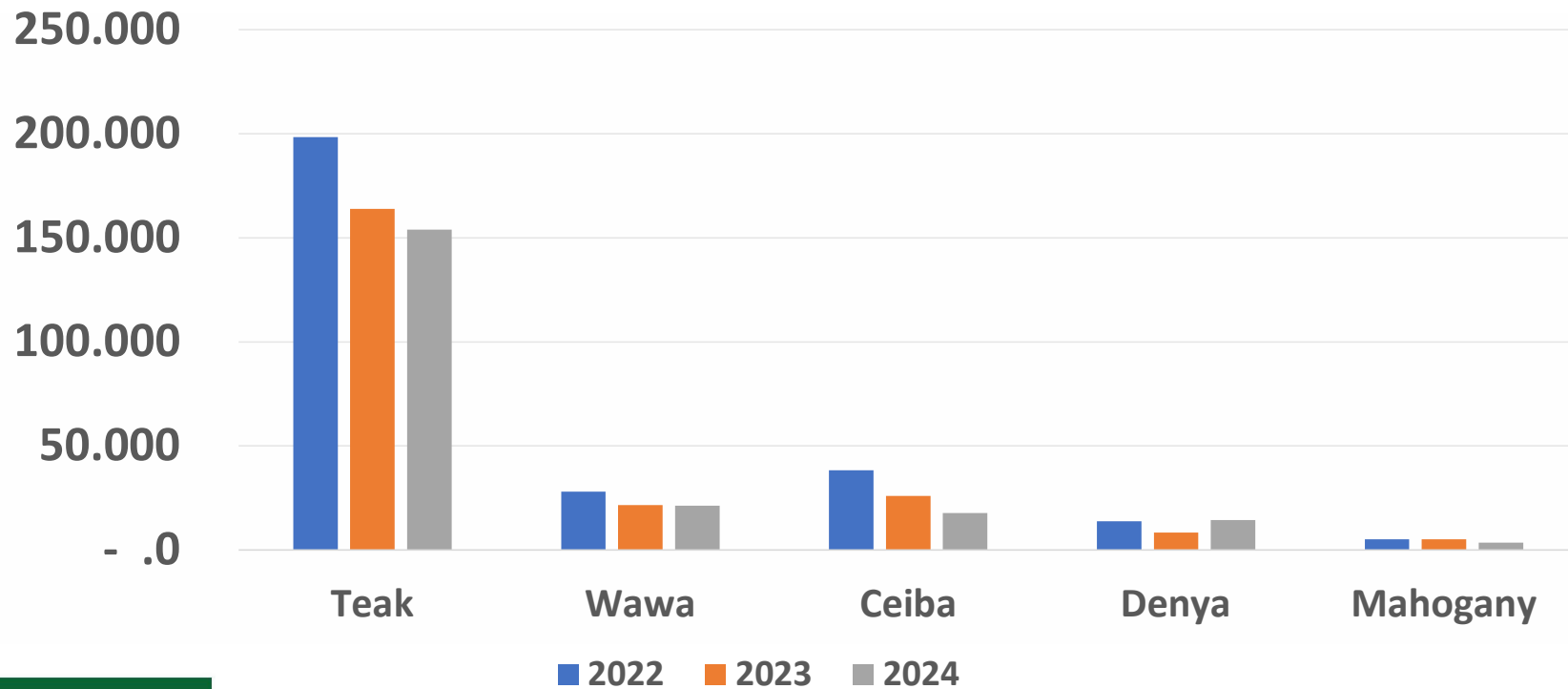
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# Top Five (5) Species from 2022 to 2024 - Volume (m<sup>3</sup>, Thousands)

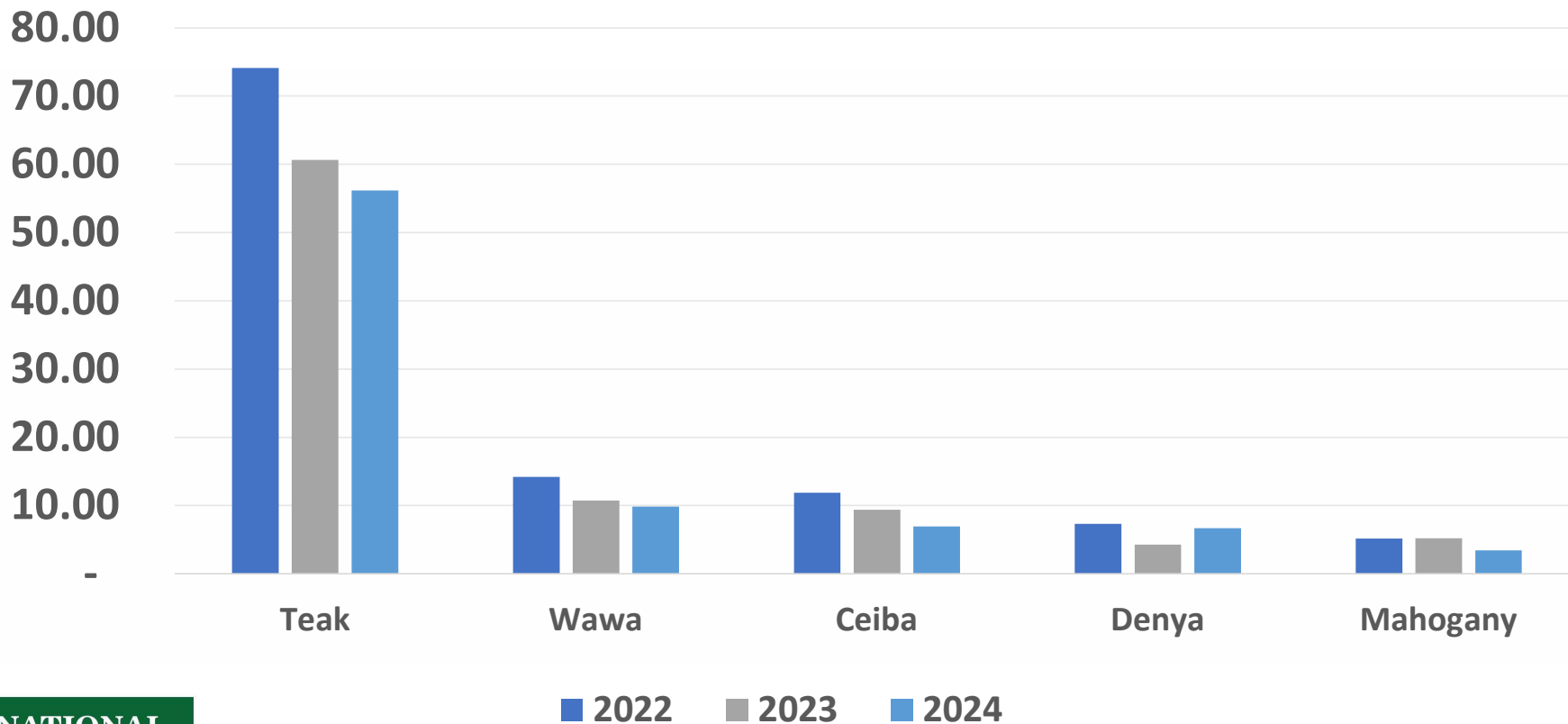


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## Top Five (5) Species from 2022 to 2024 - Value (€, Millions)



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# Key Challenges Overview



## Key challenge is Deforestation and Forest Degradation

Main Drivers:

- Agriculture expansion
- Logging
- Mining (mostly galamsey) and sand winning
- Fuelwood harvesting /charcoal production
- Wildfires
- Infrastructure development due to population increase and demand for land
- Ineffective law enforcement
- Inadequate capacity of regulatory institutions (logistics, personnel etc.)



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# Successful Interventions



## PAST AND PRESENT INTERVENTIONS

- Ghana Forest Investment Programme (GFIP)
- Ghana Landscape Restoration and Small-Scale Mining Project (GLRSSMP)
- Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Programme
- Ghana Shea Landscape Emission Reduction Project
- VPA/Wood Tracking System- WTS
- Natural Resources Environmental Governance Project – NREG
- Natural Resources Management Project (NRMP)



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# Investing in Ghana's Forest Economy



## KEY STRATEGIC FOCUS AT SCALE

Manage and enhance the ecological integrity of forests, savannah, wetlands and other ecosystems.

Promote viable forest and non-wood forest products industries

Implement mechanisms for transparent forest governance and people's participation and inclusion

Embark on afforestation and reforestation of degraded landscapes

Promote job creation through wildlife tourism/ eco-tourism

Explore innovative mechanisms for sustainable forest financing



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# Key Interventions and Activities - I

Area of intervention/Scale-up	Key Activities
<b>Managing and enhancing the ecological integrity of forests, savannah, wetlands and other ecosystems</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Forest conservation and protection,</li> <li>▪ Establish a system for forest inventory and monitoring</li> <li>▪ Law enforcement</li> <li>▪ Wildfire management</li> <li>▪ Implementation of Wood Tracking System</li> <li>▪ Mitigation and adaptation measures and carbon emission reduction</li> <li>▪ Promote mangrove and bamboo forest protection and restoration</li> <li>▪ Promote the protection of water catchment areas (Blue Water Initiative)</li> <li>▪ Implement robust Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) System</li> </ul>
<b>Embarking on Afforestation and Reforestation of Degraded Landscapes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implement Tree For Life Reforestation Initiative</li> <li>▪ National Afforestation Project</li> <li>▪ Modified Taungya System (MTS)</li> <li>▪ Trees on Farms Models</li> <li>▪ Enrichment planting</li> <li>▪ Promoting private sector investment in Commercial Forest Plantations</li> <li>▪ Reclamation and revegetation of mined out areas</li> </ul>
<b>Promoting Viable Forest And Non-wood Forest Products Industries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wood industry development and value-added processing/Downstream processing</li> <li>▪ Wood industry revamping and retooling/ Wood Processing Modernization Program</li> <li>▪ Developing sub-regional market and establishing partnerships with international markets</li> <li>▪ NTFP, value chain, and marketing program, sustainable harvesting campaigns and sustainable enterprises</li> </ul>





# Key Interventions and Activities - II



Area on intervention/scaleup	Key activities
<b>Promoting Job Creation Through Wildlife Tourism / Ecotourism</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Promote nature-based ecotourism</li> <li>▪ Developing ecotourism infrastructure within existing National Parks</li> <li>▪ Establishment of Zoos in Regional Capitals</li> <li>▪ Exploring community-based ecotourism potentials</li> </ul>
<b>Implementing Mechanisms For Transparent Forest Governance And People's Participation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation of Tree Tenure Policy Reforms and Benefit Sharing Schemes</li> <li>▪ Roll out Tree registration Schemes on off Reserve landscapes</li> <li>▪ Scale up of CREMA Models</li> <li>▪ Develop and promote regional and district level forest protection incentive schemes</li> <li>▪ Community livelihood and economic empowerment</li> </ul>
<b>Exploring Innovative Mechanisms For Sustainable Forest Financing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wood industry development and value-added processing/Downstream processing</li> <li>▪ Wood industry revamping and retooling/ Wood Processing Modernization Program</li> <li>▪ Developing sub-regional market and establishing partnerships with international markets</li> <li>▪ NTFP, value chain, and marketing program, sustainable harvesting campaigns and sustainable enterprises</li> </ul>





# Key Impacts



- i. More revenues and more jobs associated to sustainable timber harvesting, eco-tourism, and high-value NTFPs
- ii. Enhanced infrastructure for forest monitoring, adoption of innovative practices and technologies, such as tree registration software, to streamline and enhance forest management processes.
- iii. Increased areas under Sustainable Forest management -reduced deforestation, forest degradation and unsustainable forest practices—contributing to the country's higher targets that have been set in the national documents.

- iv. Eco-tourism development, anchored by unique biodiversity, attracting international tourists, providing stable, long-term investment returns.
- v. Develop and expand programs that provide alternative livelihoods to communities involved in galamsey.
  - This includes training in sustainable, agroforestry, and other income-generating activities.
  - Through the establishment of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs) and other community-led initiatives, empower local communities to manage natural resources sustainably.

- vi. Increased private sector investment in forest industries including plantation establishment and value-added processing.
- vii. Sustainable climate financing significantly increased.





# Way Forward



- Consolidation of the gains made and lessons learned under various interventions and scaling up
- Recognition of investments in the sector in a business-like fashion with high returns on investments ( no more business as usual)
- Adoption of an integrated approach in tackling nature, forest and biodiversity conservation ( no more working in silos)
- Bringing on board more Development Partners to complement funding from the World Bank - IDA
- Securing sustainable forest financing



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