



HATOF Foundation



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Message from Chief Executive Officer

I am filled with a sense of pride when I look at the strides HATOF Foundation has made since its official registration in February, 2001. With our vision to advance the involvement of children, youth, women, and communities in the protection of the environment and the promotion of economic and sustainable development, we seek to develop the skills of individuals and communities to effectively conserve, restore

and utilize the natural resources available in the communities for sustainable livelihoods in Ghana and beyond. HATOF is also seeking to strengthen democracy; good governance and development by helping local populations find information needed to fight for environmental justice in their communities.

The Project Team share the conviction that the fight against environmental degradation including, biodiversity loss, climate change, and land degradation can only be won through sound policies and intervention programmes and projects. Our formula are in two folds; the first is through policy dialogues with policy makers on sound policy options; and secondly to pursue pragmatic and inclusive approach in other words, we do not move in with re-made solutions or prescription for our target beneficiaries but together we believe that assisting the local people to harness and declare their target and skills, the benefit can be sustained development.

The progress we have made so far is attributed to our commitment to institutional capacity building and sound policy advocacy at both national and international levels.

2017 saw HATOF, riding high in the continental and international arena, especially within the Africa Union, the Climate Change negotiations and the Global Environment Facility family. I am proud to report that the AU-CSOs steering committee has recognised our influence and expertise and accordingly nominated the organisation as the lead in AU-EU Partnership strategy on Climate Change and Environment.

Finally, I would like to thank our partners (UNDP/GEF Small Grants Program, Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation, Ministry of Finance, Environmental Protection Agency, Energy Commission and Forestry Commission), beneficiaries and their communities, and more especially our volunteers for their enthusiasm and willingness to respond to the challenges and opportunities presented by Climate Change, and address Biodiversity loss and Desertification.

Samuel Dotse
Chief Executive Officer

Executive Summary

Founded in 1999 and officially registered in 2001, HATOF foundation¹ is a national environment NGO engaged in national and international actions for sustainable and inclusive growth, good governance and enhance environmental integrity. With over a decade of experience in Sustainable Development, Multilateral Environmental Agreements negotiation and Green Economy actions, HATOF has spearheaded events such as Climate Justice, Green Economy Week, and CSO-Government Policy Dialogue among others to advance the implementation of global policy framework to achieve sustainable development for the continent and improve the livelihoods of our people. HATOF holds membership and observer status with international organisations including; United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Convention on Biological Diversity, Africa Union Economic, Social, and Cultural Council, and United Nations Department of Public Information.

Our mission is to develop the skills of individuals and communities to effectively conserve, restore and utilize the natural resources available in the communities for sustainable livelihoods in Ghana and beyond as well as to strengthen democracy, good governance and development by helping local populations find information needed to fight for environmental justice in their communities. HATOF has participated in both national and international conferences, workshops, seminars and trainings to build the capacity of staff members; negotiate for sound environmental management policies and programmes, and gender equality. This 2017 Annual report is therefore guided by the HATOF Strategic Plan 2015-2020, which comprises the following key areas; policy influence, knowledge development and management, and institutional strengthening.

Membership/Affiliations

- Global Environment Facility CSO Network
- Green Climate Fund CSO observer
- Convention on Biological Diversity Alliance (CBD Alliance)
- Africa Youth Initiative on Climate Change (AYICC)
- Climate Action Network International (CAN-I)
- African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AUECOSOCC)
- National Technical Advisory Committee- Green Climate Fund, Ministry of Finance
- Ghana Climate Change Agricultural and Food Security Platform
- Marine and Fisheries Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
- United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
- United Nations Department of Public Information
- Ghana CSO Platform on SDGs

Achievements of year under Review

- Organised 5 national capacity building workshops to enhance Capacity Development and Knowledge Management for Civil Society Organizations towards the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks
- Organised a successful Side Event and Exhibition at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP23 in Bonn, Germany
- Developed an Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy for the Social Investment Fund (SIF-Ghana) to apply to Green Climate Fund as a National Implementing Entity.
- Participated in international training programmes on Climate Change, Biodiversity and International Law

¹ www.hatof.org

1. Introduction

Sustainable development has its goal as improving the negative effects of environmental pollution to satisfy the needs of present generation and at the same time ensuring the liveliness of the environmental factors for future generations. However, like the rest of the world, Ghana is faced with various environmental challenges that have both direct and indirect socio-political and economic impacts. The challenges include unsustainable exploitation of biodiversity and other natural resources, climate change, exposure to chemicals and other hazardous materials, land degradation, invasive and alien species, illegal trade in endangered plant and animal species, and indoor and outdoor air pollution. These challenges pose a great threat to the country's sustainable development and green economy prospects.

In the quest to address the above challenges, Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) have come into force to improve global, regional and local environmental governance. The achievement of the objectives of MEAs is thus dependent on the extent to which the general public and decision-makers are aware and understand the content of the various conventions and their respective national obligations. The role of CSOs, women and the youth cannot be over emphasized. They are well placed to support localised response to environment, economic, and social sustainability through provision of relevant information. This resonates with the global call for action against unsustainable practices proclaimed by the United Nations, in recognition that no single individual, institution, country or region that can single-handedly defeat the threats posed by the changing climate and our quest to achieving a sustainable development while Leaving No One Behind.

This 2017 Annual report is therefore guided by the HATOF Strategic Plan 2015-2020, which comprises the following key areas; policy influence, knowledge development and management, and institutional strengthening.

2. Strategic Area and Activities

2.1. Policy influence

This strategic area aims at ensuring realisation of environmental and climate justice for all people in Ghana and beyond, and particularly the most vulnerable, promoting effective environmental governance through strategic engagement with intergovernmental, regional and national government processes in policy and program design, financing, and implementation related to the UNFCCC Paris agreement, Biological Diversity, Land Degradation and the Sustainable Development Goals.

2.1.1. Participation in national policy development process

HATOF supported the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation as the lead CSO to develop Ghana's first ever Environmental Management for Oil and Gas Policy which is currently in its final draft stage awaiting parliamentary and cabinet approval to be adopted. The organisation is also leading the development of Ghana National Biodiversity Policy. Leveraging on the organisations networks with the Convention on Biological Diversity, HATOF supported the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to secure a seed grant of several thousands of dollars to undertake Ecosystem Natural Capital Accounting in Anglophone West African Countries. Through the CSO SDG platform, HATOF made input into relevant documents aimed at aligning the SDGs and Agenda 2063 with National policies such as Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda II. Thus had the opportunity to directly influence how targets are prioritise and indicators localised to inform Ghana's development priorities for the next 15 years. HATOF was part of several workshops organised by National Development Planning Commission of Ghana for input on potential areas of collaboration between government institutions and civil society in achieving the SDGs. Potential areas of collaboration included; - Data collection- Prioritising targets and indicators- Implementation- Reporting and - Information sharing.

2.1.2. Engagement in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP23

The 23rd meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP 23) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was held from 6 to 17 November in Bonn, Germany, under the presidency of the government of Fiji, the first time that a small island nation ever served in this role. This is the second COP since the adoption of the Paris Agreement at COP 21 in 2015 and since the Agreement entered into force on 4 November 2016, just three days before the start of COP 22 in Marrakech, Morocco.

HATOF through its three representatives participated in the COP23 in Bonn, Germany. The participation in the conference provided an opportunity to influence the negotiating text for the COP and provide timely information for CSOs. The focus of the organisation was on Finance, Agriculture, REDD+, mitigation, adaption, and loss and damage. Among other things, the organisation successfully staged two actions (**side event and exhibition**) at the conference of parties.

With HATOF being the lead organiser, the side event was organised in collaboration with the Energy Commission, Environmental Protection Agency, United Nations Development Programme, Ghana and China on the theme; **Demonstrating Progress in Ghana's Climate Agenda: Trilateral Cooperation in Renewable Energy, Cities and Climate**".² The event sought to reveal some national measures being undertaken to combat climate change and the mutual partnerships including trilateral renewable energy project between China, Ghana and Zambia to advance our course. It specifically it was to;

- Demonstrate Institutional Preparedness in Achieving Ghana's NDC commitment
- Highlight mechanisms that have been employed to develop cooperation between Ghana and China to promote Renewable Energy
- Show progress on the China-Ghana-Zambia South-South Cooperation on RE Technology Transfer Project
- Highlight on Key aspects of the Renewable Energy Master Plan

The exhibition on the other hand was organised on the theme: **Demonstrating Progress in Ghana's Climate Agenda: Efforts of government, NGOs and private sector to promote implementation of the Paris Agreement**. It showcased the significant success chalked by CSOs and private sector in supporting Ghana's sustainable development and the quest to make the globe liveable for the next generation.

2.2.3. Engagement with the Green Climate Fund

The Green Climate Fund established under the UNFCCC process is a key area for influence in ensuring that climate financing responds to the African priorities and needs. The accreditation process as well as project proposal submissions, reviews and approvals are ongoing. During the period under review, the organisation contributed to policy documents of the fund including the Whistle blower Acts Policy and the Gender Policy to enhance the operation of the fund in developing countries including Ghana. There is need to continue influencing this process in ensuring that African climate change identified response strategies are funded and GCF executes its mandate as expected.

² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zn0BHQ8FWA&feature=share>
https://seors.unfccc.int/seors/attachments/get_attachment?code=DC3U4XQGA6ESDBNR46BH9GAKOF4WG7KC

2.2.4. Engagement with the Global Environment Facility.

Also a financial mechanism to the Rio- Conventions (framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on Biological Diversity, Convention to Combat Desertification), and the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Global Environment Facility received policy review support from the organisation through the GEFCSO network. Specifically, the organisation supported the review of the GEF Gender Policy and Multi-stakeholder Partnership policy for adoption. The organisation also engaged the GEF through a grant support from the GEF Small grants programme to undertake knowledge management activities in Ghana. That notwithstanding, the organisation played a pivotal role in ensuring that governments of Ghana holds the 2017 GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop in Ghana for ten Coastal Sahel Sahara Countries.

3. Knowledge development and management

In spite of the critical role of CSOs, women and the youth in supporting the sustainability agenda, limited capacity to understand the Multilateral Environmental Agreements that govern these challenges and national mechanisms formulated for their implementation have been identified as militating against the effective engagement of CSOs in ensuring better environmental governance in Ghana.

HATOF Foundation launched a one year national capacity building programme in April, 2017 titled *“Capacity Development and Knowledge Management for Civil Society Organizations towards the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks.”* Funded by the Global Environment Facility Small Grants Programme (GEFSGP) Ghana, the main objective of the project is **to enhance capacity of civil society to contribute to the implementation of MEAs (Multilateral Environmental Agreements), national and subnational policy, planning and legal frameworks**³ and to gain knowledge in best innovative practices and systems for inclusive sustainable development. **Specifically the project seeks to;**

- Enhance capacities of the CSOs to participate effectively in policy planning and formulation
- Develop capacities of CSOs as “Barefoot Consultants” to access bilateral and multilateral funds
- Establish “CSO-Government Policy and Planning Dialogue Platform”
- Establish barefoot training institute to train local people and CSOs in best innovative practices in sustainable agriculture, low carbon technologies, biodiversity enterprise development etc.

Five capacity building workshops were carried out under this programme and it saw about 100 participants spanning across the workshop. Some of the activities include the following;

3.1. A collaborative policy dialogue platform- May 17, June 23 and August 18, 2017

This was organised on **3 different occasions and locations** to provide a collaborative environment for CSOs, academia and government officials to come together to build stronger and more productive relationships, share knowledge and resources for the implementation of relevant national policies. The workshop saw 60 participants; thus 20 participants in each workshop.

3.2. Media encounter and editor’s forum workshop-July 13-14, 2017

With about 24 participants, this workshop was organised to form CSO and citizens groups’ coalition and develop partnerships with the media to strengthen civil society’s voice and advocacy capacity; Support the establishment of the CSO-Government

³ <http://hatof.org/inception-and-training-workshop-on-multilateral-environmental-agreements-in-accra/>
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B90e9V2nuzitaWwwekFtR0VyQkQ3Q2pkT2hoS0ZoQ1lzRnIN>

dialogue platform; Facilitate debate and awareness creation programmes on environmental issues; and raise awareness about communities' rights to service provision and that their DAs are accountable for ensuring these rights are met.

3.3. Capacity building of CSOs on Multilateral Funds- August, 24, 2017⁴

The workshop brought together 40 CSOs to understand the climate finance flow to help facilitate the project activities and to also provided opportunity to discuss priority issues and share lessons and experiences from the development and implementation of GEF projects and their integration within national policy frameworks.

3.4. Consultancies

Developed an Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy for Social Investment fund develop to support their accreditation process to Green Climate Fund as potential National Implementing Entity (April, 30, 2017)

4. Institutional strengthening

This strategic area aims at enhancing HATOF's operational effectiveness in terms of governance, communication, resource mobilisation, capacity development, service delivery and monitoring and evaluation to ensure the achievement of our set objectives.

4.1. Agriculture in Transition, Wageningen Centre for Development Innovations, Netherlands

To enhance the technical and managerial competencies of the organisation to be better positioned to facilitate innovation, with focus on sustainable management of natural resources, agri-business, food and nutrition security and rural development, one staff was supported by the government of The Netherlands through the Nuffic Fellowship Programme to participate in the international course on Agriculture in Transition from April 4-14, 2017 at the Center for Development Innovation, Wageningen University & Research. The programme provided and in depth knowledge of how global environment trends and patterns affect farming practices and policies at the local and national level; provided a clear understanding of the multiple aspects of agriculture and its relations with climate change, food and nutrition security, social stability and resilience, as well as the ability to develop scenarios in search of alternative options and trade-offs in resource-scare situations, using state of the art approaches.

4.2. GYBN Youth Capacity Building Workshop for Africa:

In June, 2017 with support from Japan Biodiversity and the Government of South Africa, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer participated in the Global Youth on Biodiversity Network's Regional Capacity Building Workshop organised in South Africa, from August 9-21 2017 in collaboration with the Department of the Environment of the Republic of South Africa. The GYBN Africa-Workshop brought together approximately 40 young leaders from all over Africa that work on Biodiversity issues in the region. The goal of the workshops wa to empower young people to become change agents in support of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets and the mainstreaming of Biodiversity.

5. Technical Support

The organisation is an ardent member of the Marine and Fisheries Advisory Committee of the Ministry of Fisheries and Aquaculture, and the National Designated Authority Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of Finance. HATOF serve on these committees to bring CSOs perspectives to project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation

⁴ <https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B90e9V2nuzitMkRYZkZ4cTAzcWFrQy1oZk8waHlaUDBzSUIZ>
<https://gefsonetworkgh.org/2018/07/16/gef-cso-network-ghana-training/>

6. Achievements of year under Review

- Organised 5 capacity building workshops to enhance Capacity Development and Knowledge Management for Civil Society Organizations towards the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements and national and sub-national policy, planning and legal frameworks
- Organised a successful Side Event and Exhibition at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP23 in Bonn, Germany
- Developed an Environmental and Social Safeguards Policy for the Social Investment to qualify Green Climate Fund National Implementing Entity Accreditation
- Participated in international training programmes on climate change, biodiversity and international law to enhance institutional capacity
- Supported the development of two national policies (National Biodiversity Policy and Environmental Management of Oil and Gas Policy)

7. Team Members



Mr. Samuel Dotse
Chief Executive Officer



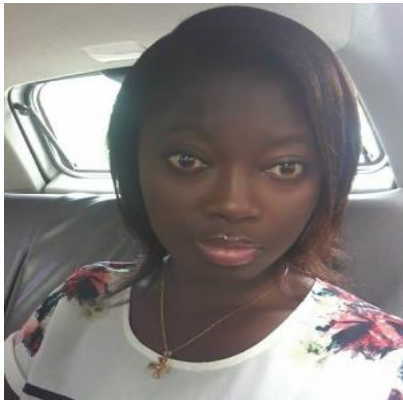
Ms. MaryJane Enchill
Deputy CEO/Head of Communication



Director of Programmes
Dr. Raymond Babanawo



Senior Research Officer
Dr. Ing. Samuel Kofi Tulashie



Finance and Administration
Ms. Sheila Arhinsah

PICTURES ON ACTIVITIES



Participants at the inception and Training workshop on Multilateral Environmental Agreements



Collaborative Workshop on Multilateral Fund



Media Capacity Building and editor's forum



Participants at the second Training workshop on Multilateral Environmental Agreements