

- Project Concept Note -

Establishment of a Centre for Sustainable Regional Development in the Rural Area Ochiso - Bebineha, Ghana, Africa

-A Project to relieve the people from poverty, unemployment and disillusionment

Project Plan

1 Project plan

NEPAD and IFEED intend to create a model example of regional development which promotes an independent, comprehensive and sustainable growth as well as a decentralized care unit for rural settlements in Africa. The proposed model is planned for adoption to local conditions. The main objective is income generation which will as a result reduce poverty and unemployment.

Considering that most past development programmes achieved only moderate successes because they did not follow comprehensive approaches, this project is based on a comprehensive development concept. The key issues of the whole project are tuned to local compatibility so that the project approach is understood and supported by all the involved parties. This approach for a successful outcome is as important as the provision of know-how, technology and infrastructure. A new life perspective and a comprehensive way of getting out from poverty and disillusionment will therefore be emphasized at the beginning of the project.

The project is a conversion of the integrated development concept which was developed by IFEED for the UN and is planned for implementation in Ochiso-Bebineha in Ghana. Being the first cooperation project of this kind it will therefore lay the fundamental conditions for a sustainable development of these settlements. Contents of the concept include energy supply from regenerative sources, protection of the drinking water sources/supply, food production and continual benefit for the inhabitants. That is, it will pay particular attention to aspects of education, hygiene, climate, environmental protection and infrastructure. The project also seeks to create the basic social and economic conditions necessary for sustainable development.

2 Site selection

The Ochiso – Bebineha community lies on the main road from Accra to Cape Coast (Regional Capital) via Swedru and in a tropical climate zone with sufficient precipitation. The settlement has 500 inhabitants which makes it manageable for a model project of this kind. The community released a 10 ha plot some 5 years ago to the Association “School Forests for West Africa” for a development project as a sign of their commitment to cooperate in development projects. Hence, an acceptance exists for outside help. This demonstrated commitment is seen as the basic condition for the success of any developmental oriented programme.

3 Project Procedure

The regional development is planned to commence on the aforementioned 10 hectares plot of land. A centre is to be started here (analogue of a model settlement) which is independent of any central care service. It is to serve as a demonstration and teaching destination to be linked with tourist facilities in the Region like "Kaum Nature Park" near the Regional Capital, Cape Coast, which attracts 170 000 tourists a year. The settlement Ochiso – Bebineha will not be influenced directly by the project.

Advantages

1. Project follows a comprehensive development approach. The foundations of the development approach are tuned to local compatibility.
2. The centre itself can grow gradually and adapt itself to changing circumstances and the respective needs and wishes of the inhabitants in the region.
3. No structures will be forced on the population, but an example of an adapted sustainable and regional development will be presented by which the population will integrate at their own discretion on a step by step basis.
4. The inhabitants are to be included in the working and decision making processes. In so doing, they will acquire the capacity to generate income and improvement of their life situation. (Learning by doing)
5. During the time frame of the project, there will be a smooth transition from the "demonstration operation" to the planned regional settlement development.
6. The project can be extended to all areas of life, production and free time

4 Project phases

Phase 1: Elaboration of the project plan

- Self organization of the project team into working groups.
- Preparation of a project plan on the basis of the accumulated data by the working groups (input of the Applicant).

Phase 2: Planning (feasibility study)

- Dispatch an exploratory and field research team to Ochiso – Bebineha.
- Detailed planning of the individual development stages as a result of surveys, enquiries, investigations and negotiations conducted on-site with the inhabitants and responsible authorities.
- Determination of demand for the necessary structures, equipment and the technical know-how in the region, in the country and abroad.
- Development of cost and finance plan.
- Formulation of a chronologically solidly built developed plan.

Phase 3: Implementation of the Project

The establishment of the project will begin after completion of a detailed development plan prepared from the outcome of Phase 2.

5. Project partners

NEPAD <http://www.nepad.org/>

NEPAD, „New Partnership for Africa's Development“ is an African initiative masterminded in 2001 by presidents of Nigeria, South Africa, Algeria and Senegal. It is considered by the G8 states as the most important development initiative for Africa. The objects are challenging: elimination of poverty, sustainable growth, the development of infrastructure on the continent, integration of Africa in the global economy and the strengthening of all social groups, especially of women.

IFEED <http://ifeed.org>

The International Research Centre for Renewable Energies e. V. Germany (IFEED) was founded in 1999 and serves in supporting renewable energies and the implementation of new developments in this area. The tasks of the centre include research, demonstration as well as consultancy and education. Major tasks are the integrated use of all renewable energy resources available at a location, especially in rural areas, the development of an energy supply and utilization management as well as the improvement of the socio-economic structures in developing countries.

Schulwälder für Westafrika e.V. <http://www.schulwaelder.org/>

School Forests for West Africa e. V. was founded in 2000 in Goettingen and is the contact organization between the networks in the West of Africa (Youth and Environmental club, schools in Ghana) and the networks in Germany (Schools Children forest project, German Development Agency (DED regional educational Station). The Association has long-standing experiences in the area of the North-south school partnerships and with partnerships between German and Ghanaian schools. It works together with a partner association in Ghana „Youth and Environmental club“ on the implementation of common projects. In 2002 the association in Germany acquired a property of 10-ha plot of land in Ochiso (Ghana) for its Ghanaian partner association for the establishment of an environmental centre.

Youth and Environmental Club

Youth and Environmental club (youth – environment – club): was founded in 1998 in Ghana. The non-governmental organization (NGO) has proved its worth during the past years by the Initiation of tree planting on school compounds. The number of schools involved in the project increased from 4 in 1998 to 72 in 2006.

The association is ready, in collaboration with its partner association “School Forests for West Africa e. V.” to be involved in establishing an environmental centre in Ochiso after the principles of the education for a sustainable development for Ghanaian schools.

6. Information on Ochiso – Bebinaha, Ghana

6.1. Basic Information about Ghana:

Republic:	Ghana /Republic of Ghana
Motto:	Freedom and Justice
Official languages:	English
Capital:	Accra
Demony	Ghanaian
Form of Government:	Presidential (Constitutional) Republic
President (current):	John Agyekum Kufuor
Area:	238.537 km ²
Population:	22.409.572 (extrapolation, or estimated 2006)
Population density:	94 inhabitants / km ²
BIP/Capita:	95 US-\$ (2005), (Per capita US-\$ 2,750)
Currency:	1 New Cedi = 100 Pesewa, (Ghanaian cedi - GHS
Independence:	6. March 1957
National Anthem:	God Bless Our Homeland Ghana
Time zone:	GMT (UTC)
Internet-TLD:	GH
Calling code:	+233
Mortality (death) rate	13 /1000 Inhabitants
Natarity (birth-rate)	31/1000 Inhabitants
Fertility rate pro woman	4.4
Infant mortality	95/1000 Inhabitants
Baby mortality	59/1000 life births
Population growth	1.8%
Urban population	37%
Population under 15 years	41.9%
Population over 65 years	4.4%

6.2 Information about the Settlement area

Location of Project:	Project-Village-Name: Bebineha
District:	Ochiso
Region in Ghana:	Central,
Regional Capital:	Cape coast
District:	Ajumako/Enyan/Essiam
District Capital:	Ajumako
Population-figure:	500, Density: 30 -40 people / House, ca. 50 Households
Age structure:	45% children, 30% youth, 25% adult Reasons: Migration of the youth
Gender ratio:	Men: Women: 40: 60
Religion:	55 % Christian, 25% Moslem, 20 % various denominations including natural religions
Education:	The level of education is very low. There are no schools in the area. This makes school attendance among the children very irregular.

Employment:	Subsistent farming. Trade with farming products which exceed their own needs. Handwork: Local soap making
Mode of employment:	Self employed: Peasant farmers and traders
Energy source and and consumption	No electricity; Light: only Kerosene; Cooking: exclusively firewood
Security system:	Stable and effective, "Each one for one another"
Administration:	Bebineha is under an Administrative council in the District capital, Ajumako which is about 15 Km away. It is also responsible for the security. In practice, the Headman (chief) administers the village with a traditional council comprised of a representative from each of the 7 clans in the village
Provision:	Self supply with staple foods, fuel, oil and other (very economical) materials which are additionally bought.
Water:	Although a water pipeline runs through the village to Ochiso, the nearby small town, the inhabitants have no access to treated drinking water since they cannot afford to pay. They either fetch water from a small stream nearby or from the Ochiso river which is 3 km away.
Domestic sewage:	No sewage system, pit latrine
Health care:	Travel 6 km to nearby health post, Notification by a running messenger. Traditional medicine
Modern Communication:	None
Food nourishment:	Self supply, mainly starchy food (diet not balanced)
Soil:	Sandy loam, lower humus content, soil erosion
Climate:	tropical, warm, enough precipitation
Economic plants:	Oil palm, Citrus fruits (Oranges), Coconut, Avocado, Pineapple, Guava, Manioc, Banana, Plantain, Maize, Rice, Sugar cane, Papaya, Sweet potatoes
Vegetables:	Onion, Tomatoes, Aubergine, Beans, Carrots, Ocro, Spinach
Spice plants:	Pepper, Vanilla, etc.
Products:	Major: Cacao bean Minor: Soap making, Gari (cassava), Hand work
Technology:	None
Animal husbandry:	Small Ruminants (goats and sheep), cows, pigs, local poultry

Forestry: No sustainable forest enterprise, forest is converted into farmland

Existing Tree species:

Mahogany spp. like Azobi, Sapeli and Okume, Palisander, Khaya; Teak, Abachi, Okume, Afrormosia, Oil palm

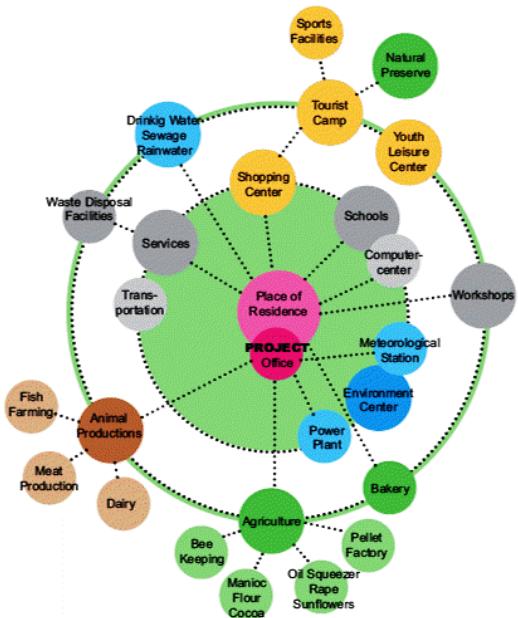
Wood utilization: Personal requirement for fire- and construction lumber; trees on farm lands are sold cheaply to timber dealers; charcoal production

Income: under 1 \$ per day/person

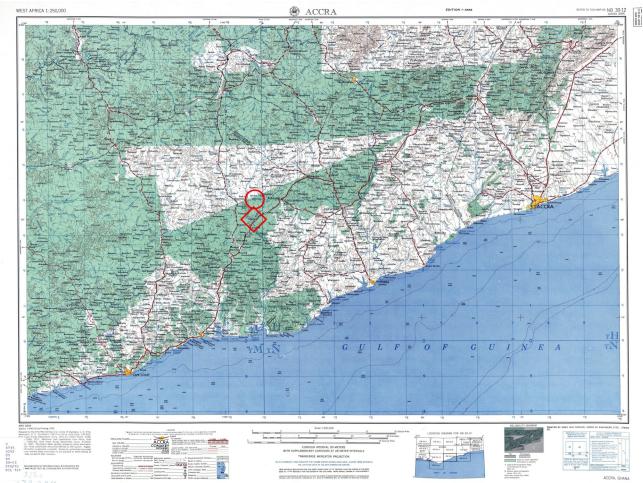
Health care: Contaminated water and lack of general sanitation contributes to infectious diseases.
AIDS, which is a problem in urban areas, is insignificant here.

Fire wood utilization: Formerly only dried dead wood was used; this is virtually not available anymore and collecting distance has increased significantly, therefore felling follows (fits in wood utilization above)

Ochiso-Bebineha Project in Ghana



Graphic: IFEED, Dr. Ing. Hilal Al-Fahad



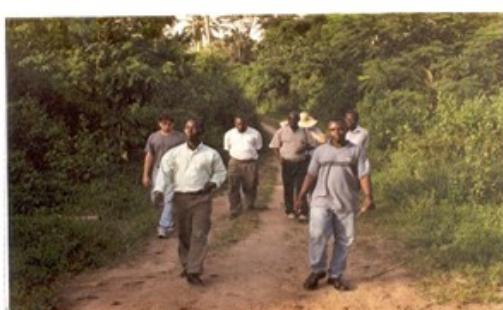
Land for setting up the Environmental Centre (2002)



Part of the 10 ha tract of land



Electric lines already exist



Roads are available



The land is next to a Highway and is 80 km from Accra, the capital of Ghana