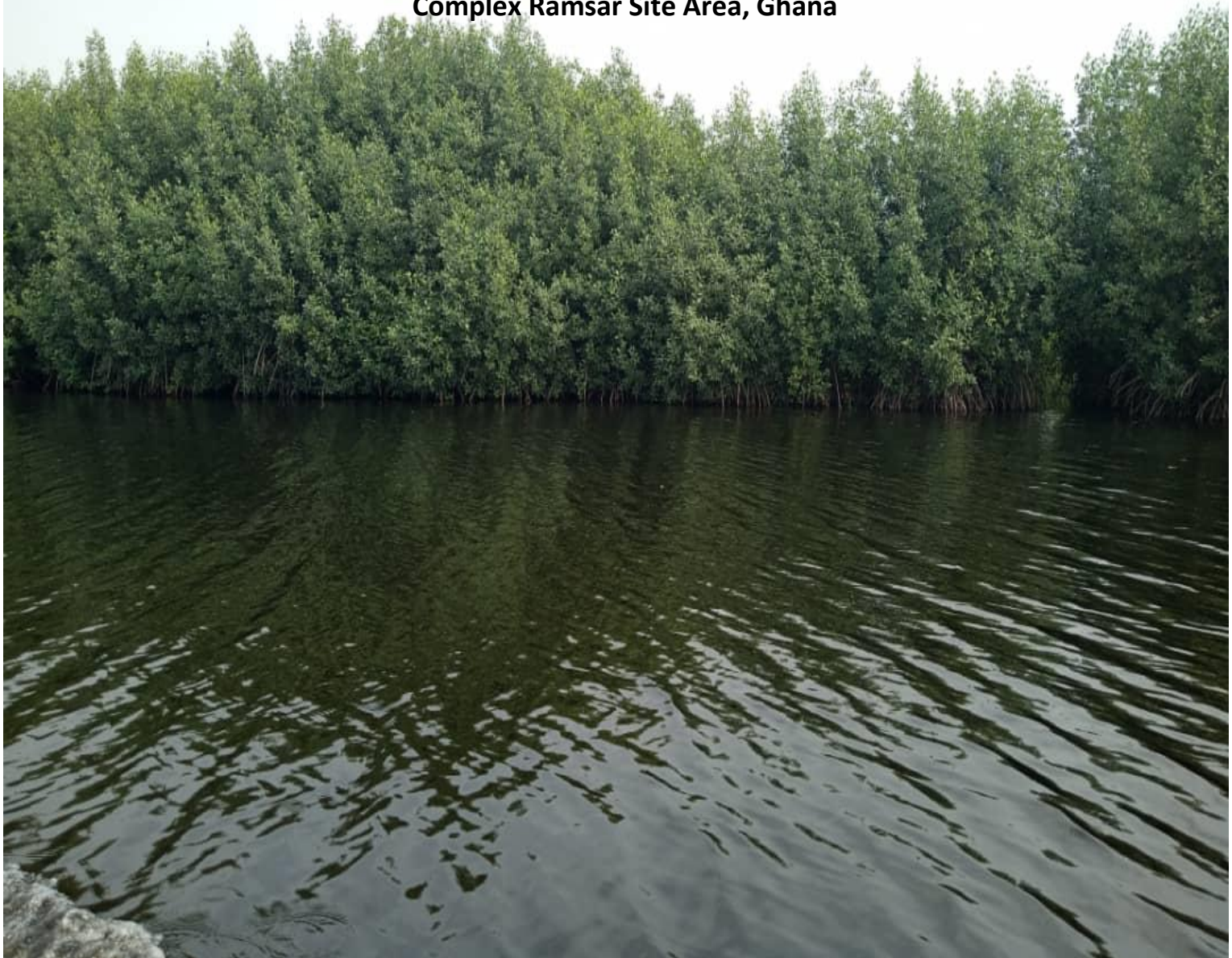


# PAPBio PROJECT LAUNCH REPORT



**Promoting Conservation, Pro-Conservation Livelihoods and Community-Based Management of Mangroves Ecosystems in the Southwestern End (Anyanui-Bomigo) of the Keta-Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site Area, Ghana**



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## **Executive Summary**

Country: Ghana

Project Title: Promoting Conservation, Pro-Conservation Livelihoods and Community-Based Management of Mangroves Ecosystems in the Southwestern End (Anyanui-Bomigo) of the Keta-Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site Area, Ghana

Project Objective: To contribute to both national and international efforts on managing and protecting mangrove ecosystems for sustainable coastal marine resources and human wellbeing

Donor: European Union (EU) through the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)

Duration: 24 months

Starting Date: 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021

Completion Date: 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

Implementing Entities: A Rocha Ghana and Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana (WD/FC)

Mangroves are among the most important ecosystems on the planet. They are considered as high priorities in climate change adaptation and mitigating strategies throughout the world with exceptionally high carbon stocks, among the highest of any ecosystems (Center for International Forestry Research CIFOR 2012). Like other mangrove areas in the world, mangroves of Africa and for that matter Ghana play significant ecological, socioeconomic and climate amelioration functions: supporting high flora and fauna diversity; providing direct wood and non-wood products and services to the people in terms of building poles, charcoal, firewood, shoreline protection and also serving as reliable carbon sink. Due to the phenomenal growth in the population of the coastal zone, dependency on mangroves and encroachment of habitats has increased. This has led to over-exploitation of mangroves and pollution of its habitats with serious adverse effects in many parts of Africa. The project will contribute to both national and international efforts on managing and protecting mangrove ecosystems for sustainable coastal marine resources and human wellbeing.

**The specific project objectives are:**

1. Sustainable pro-conservation Livelihood development (based on initial catchment area assessment existing and/or potential ones and their impacts)
2. Innovative demonstration projects on mangrove restoration and/or rehabilitation, sustainable harvesting techniques and the creation of alternative sources of energy and building materials.
3. Deployment and application of a governance baseline tool for participatory management and support.
- 4: Increase the awareness and build capacities of communities and general public on mangrove conservation as well as the adaptation to global climate change

**From the participating communities, the direct project beneficiaries include:**

60 local community members capacity built and supported in at least two sustainable pro-conservation livelihood schemes (to be determined and validated after baseline).

90 local farmers/fishers who will participate in the analysis and rollout of the marine governance baseline tool training program and network. Like the trainers, these farmers/fishers will benefit from training topics along with strategies to assist in increasing mangrove production and sustainability, soil conservation and fertility management.

20 locals (trainer of trainees) who will participate in the learning mangrove program of sustainable harvesting schemes and benefit from enhanced knowledge towards mangrove restoration for enhanced mangrove ecosystems.

15-member Coastal Resources Management Committees with built capacity to support co-management effort of the KLCRS office of the Wildlife Division, Forestry Commission.

1200 locals including community members and student's awareness raised and educated on sustainable mangrove ecosystem values and relevance to biodiversity, human wellbeing, climate change mitigation/adaptation for both the present and future generation.

Communities and KLCRS supported with monitoring and surveillance tools. Overall, the project will also indirectly benefit more than 5000 people in the beneficiary villages and environs. Over the long-term, increased mangrove ecosystem, sustainable proconservation livelihood diversification will allow farmers/fishers to reinvest capital into identified opportunities.

The project is in line with the 2012 Ghana Forest and Wildlife Policy (GFWP) Objective 4, which gives recognition to forest communities in the implementation of sustainable forest management, and transparent forest governance. The GFWP further states that “the focus of forest management in Ghana is shifting from a government-led system to a community-government collaborative management approach”- that notwithstanding, there are limited legislation in support of community participation in Sustainable Forest Management (SFM). Forest communities have limited capacity in SFM, limited capacity to engage the State Actors for equitable roles and benefits in forest resources. The case of communities fringing mangrove forest areas is dire.

## **List of Abbreviations**

**ARG:** A Rocha Ghana

**CIFOR:** Center for International Forestry Research

**CSO:** Civil Society Organizations

**EU:** European Union

**FC:** Forestry Commission

**GFWP:** Ghana Forest and Wildlife Policy

**IUCN:** International Union for Conservation of Nature

**KLCRS:** Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site

**KNUST:** Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology

**SFM:** Sustainable Forest Management

**WD:** Wildlife Division

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## **1. Introduction and Background**

The project titled “Promoting Conservation, Pro-Conservation Livelihoods and Community-Based Management of Mangroves Ecosystems in the Southwestern End (Anyanui-Bomigo) of the Keta-Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site Area, Ghana” is a 24-month project being implemented in four communities (Galotse, Galo, Sota, and Bomingo) from two District Assemblies (Anloga and South-Tongu) of Volta Region, Ghana. The project will contribute to both national and international efforts on managing and protecting mangrove ecosystems for sustainable coastal marine resources and human wellbeing, as well as develop and pilot a mangrove management framework for local action planning capacities and methodologies to increase community-based participation through joint learning, and planning in the KLCRS catchment.

To start the implementation of the project in the targeted communities as mentioned above, this launch program with all the relevant partners was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021 to formalize the management structure for the project, review the project objectives, adjust and develop plans for project activities.

### **1.1 Planned Objectives & Results of the launch**

#### ***Objectives***

1. Kicking –off and launching the project.
2. Knowing more about the KLCRS catchment, it’s resources, Mangrove Forest Management and participatory planning (The Marine Governance Baseline Tool).
3. Creating the atmosphere and concept of co-management of mangrove resources with participating partners (agreed management and communication structure)
4. Enhancing networking and exchange between different partners and Getting to know each other better.

#### ***Results***

1. Agreed methodological framework, management and communication structure
2. Partners’ tasks and roles established
3. Project activity plan reviewed and agreed on.
4. Baseline studies criteria reviewed and established.

## **1.2 Design & Methodology**

The launch program combined conceptual introductions with plenary sessions, to increase participant involvement. The Participants took active roles in all segment of the workshop.

## **1.3 Inputs to the Launch**

Address and Key notes by dignitaries and experts

Presentation of the projects overview and prospects

Short briefing notes on management, and communication structure of the project

## **1.4 Participants**

The project team recruited 100 participants from the participating communities (20 community members each from the 4 communities, 5 Chiefs with/without their Queen Mothers), key agency leaders from the two District Assemblies (District Executive Directors, Planning Officers, Coordinating Directors, Assembly Members, etc), KNUST Research Team, representatives from IUCN Ghana and Forestry Commission.

Some key dignitaries represented, who will be providing future technical, and conceptual support to the project partners are:

- Mr. Daryl Bosu (Deputy National Director-A Rocha Ghana)
- Dr. Richard Gyimah (Executive Director for Wildlife, Ghana)
- Mr. Dickson Agyemang (Wetlands Operations Directors, Ghana)
- Mr. Lawrence Ocloo Tetteh (KLCRS, Manager) and Team

The detailed list of participants is included in this document as **Annex 4.1**.

## **1.5 Launch Agenda**

The launch was held on 10<sup>th</sup> December, 2021. The program started at 9:30 a.m. and ended around 2:45 p.m. The constituted working group proceeded to work on details of relevant documents after the launch. The detailed agenda is included in this document as **Annex 4.2**.



## **2. Proceedings: Presentations and Deliberations**

The launch program considered presentation, and deliberations as well as interesting co-management act-outs or scenarios to ensure the engagements and understanding of all participants. The following are key notes from the different sessions.

### **2.1 Key Note Address by Special Guests**

**Dr. Richard Gyimah (Wildlife Executive Director and Chairman for the launch):** We are motivated to working with committed CSO to improve the lives of people living with wildlife resources. It is our core mandate to partner with organizations, bodies and entities who are also committed to protecting our landscape.

**Mr. Daryl Bosu (A Rocha Ghana, Deputy National Director):** “Wetlands and Mangroves Ecosystems are very critical components to the survival and livelihoods of communities. A Rocha is always willing and motivated as we work together with you (participating Communities) to ensure the long term sustenance of the wetland ecosystems through a project such as this”.

**Anthony Mba (IUCN Ghana Rep.):** Gave a congratulatory message to the A Rocha Ghana Team for responding to the call and winning the small grant and gave their good wishes for the promising work to be done within the landscape. He also urged the communities to give their maximum support to the team to the end of the project.

**Gershon Tuduabor (South-Tongu District Assembly- Planning Officer and Rep. for the District Director):** The district is under the political arms of government, notwithstanding, their planning activities considers assisting the ordinary farmers, fishers and general community members in several ways. “A project like this is actually in the right direction to help all of us in realizing our goals even as a district assembly. We pledge to give our full support. We are willing to give whatever support A Rocha Ghana will need in implementing this project within this landscape. We will help in organizing the people for trainings and so on”.

**Mr. Dickson Agyeman (Wetlands Operations Director):** Let us all come together as one body void of different interests and seek the good of our future. It is important to think long term and continual supply of ecological services than short term and suffer in the future. The generation unborn are looking up to us. This is what supports our lives and the lives of our children and our children's children. The mangroves that will be planted is for us to protect. "We believe that this project will increase the knowledge of the local people on the importance of their mangrove resources".

**Mr. Lawrence Kisseh Tetteh-Ocloo (Wildlife Division, KLCRS Manager):** He gave a general overview of the landscape, the size, the species and mangrove resources that it contains. Mr. Ocloo also mentioned the current threats the landscape resources are facing and their challenges. They are also happy that this project is an answer to most of their wetland management challenges as it will provide training to the indigenes and equipment for effective management of the site.

**Mr. Prosper Kwame Antwi (A Rocha Ghana, Programs Manager and PAPBio Project Manager):** He began by sharing a quote from Theodore Roosevelt, **"But there must be the look ahead, there must be a realization of the fact that to waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to hand down to them amplified and developed"**.

He described the import of the project, its aims and objectives and the participatory nature of all its implementation protocols. "We (ARG) envisions that the community will own it for their livelihood improvement and the future of the young generation". He also facilitated to create a symbolic partnership scenario of the project; by handing over mangrove and indigenous tree species seedlings over to the Chiefs and elders of the participating communities.

He ended with this quote, **"Here is your landscape. Cherish these Natural Wonders, Cherish the Natural Resources, Cherish the history and romances as a sacred heritage for your children and your children' children. Do not let any selfish man or greedy interest skin your landscape of its beauty, its riches or its romance"**.

**Traditional Chiefs, Elders and Community Members from Participating communities:**

The Five (5) Chiefs (Galotse-Torgbe Apasu Hawu IV, Galo- Torgbe Kwakudua III, Sota-Torgbe Kokonu III, Bomigo- Torgbe Akude and Galotse- Torgbe Gedza Ahiamadzor V) that showed up for the launch were happy to support and seek the success of the project in their landscape. They also happily received the symbolic mangrove seedlings signifying their acceptance to partnership with the A Rocha Team and Wildlife Division. Expressions on their faces and some one-on-one conversations shows their excitement having to be a participating community in the project.

**2.2 Selection Criteria for Communities**

- Communities were selected from two distinct districts; Anloga District (comprising Bomingo and Galo) and South-Tongu District (comprising Galotse and Sota).
- Consideration was given to the ‘greyness’ of both the area and communities members with regards to their participation and engagements on projects such as this.
- Another consideration was their closeness to key areas of the site, their livelihoods and human pressures.

**2.3 Knowledge Transfer and Visibility**

- A Rocha will be working in close proximity with the KLCRS Management team
- Through the baseline study, all other necessary considerations will be made in this project.
- All Participating bodies are encouraged to join the all-inclusive and participatory journey in realizing the ultimate goal of this project.
- Targeted persons will be well informed of all the stages of engagement during the project’s lifespan.

### **3. Conclusion of the Launch:**

- Ghana urgently needs a transformation in its forestry and wildlife systems that ensures a productive and protected ecological haven for both man and animals.
- The Chiefs, District Executives, and communities within the KLCRS landscape will also join to ensure a successful 24-months project
- This project aims to contribute to that transformative management of mangrove resources and also support both national and international efforts to effectively manage wetlands.
- We are starting where it matters: from the communities, the very people whose livelihoods depends on the resource we seek to protect.
- The launch was very successful as most invited dignitaries and experts showed up to grace the occasion.

## 4. Annexes

### 4.1 List of Participants



#### PAPBio Project Launch- Participants List



Names	Agency/Community	Contact
Dickson Agyeman	WD/FC	0244843464
Dr. Richard Gyimah	WD/FC	0246420261
Mustapha Mohammed	WD/FC	0277115636
Francis Ayrah	WD/FC	0540824076
Francis Tsitsikla	WD/FC	0547302420
Lawrence Tetteh-Okloo	WD/FC	0244693507
Hope Avuletey	WD/FC	0248590394
Torgbe Apasu Hawu IV	Galoste (Chief)	0245949003
Torgbe Kokonu III	Sota (Chief)	0549712436
Torgbe Kwakudua III	Galo (Chief)	0246648057
Ben Yao Agbeyegro	Galotse	0244894256
Seth Habada	WD/FC	0244167742
Paul Dery	WD/FC	0243127637
Godwin Yegbe	WD/FC	0248248370
Seth Abganyo	WD/FC	0249497588
Dogbo Rita	Media / Sela Radio	0240963225
Peter Narteh Agbeyome	Media / Sela Radio	0552471625
Torgbe Gedza Ahiamador V	Galotse (Chief)	0543390247
Gershon K. Tудоabor	DCE – South Tongu D/A	0246302063
Torgbui Akude	Bomigo	

## **PAPBio Project Launch- Participants List**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Agency/Community</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Hon. Dedzo Samuel	Anloga - Dzito	0245315112
Senyo Adzah	The Development Inst.	0249593060
Anthony A. Mba	IUCN	0554249019
Hon. Ashileri Christopher	Assembly Member	0248443355
Hon. Gambu Rushime	Assembly Member	0248787578
Obed Dزامboe - Ahey	Anloga Dzita Assembly	0500235294
Aboshie Natasha	Galotse	0249407246
Kubuator Kwame Winstone	Galotse	0549939025
Kpogli Gbedenia	Galotse	0552769082
Beatrice Badasu	Galotse	
Mary Nukegbe	Galotse	0548535628
Adikah Adzo	Galotse	0548151105
Abotsi Shine Yayra	Galotse	0557681974
Attaa Felicia	Galotse	0548534325
Attaakuma Lena Emefa	Galotse	0557185260
Sefanu Dogbatse	Galotse	0542648493
Tobo Kudohia	Galotse	0542648493
Kofi	Galotse	0246622933
Christian Kuleafenu	Galotse	0545130880
Duadze K. Aluta	Galo-Sota	0246850607
Mr. Abotsi David	Galotse	0246186269
Mr. Davis Ageke Mensah	Galotse	0242969244
Mr. Jerome Seble	Bomigo	0242343925
Mr. Hatan Alese	Bomigo	0249939279

## **PAPBio Project Launch- Participants List**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Agency/Community</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Christiana Ablodepey	Galotse	0249392785
Vivian Dorkudzor	Galotse	0551212414
Regina Danyo	Galotse	0549806855
Kuleapena Emmanuel	Galotse	0548901484
Patience Aboshie	Galotse	0540780676
Jacob Adika	Galoste	0240634842
Eric Afolnolpe	Galo-Sota (with chief)	0553189324
Daniel Kwame Afolnolpe	Galo-Sota (Elders)	0245264590
Ernestina Kumuzi	Galo-Sota	0597478754
Faustina Kukuh	Galo-Sota	0246880400
Janet Agbolosu	Galo	0552281034
Regina Ageke	Galotse	0594901876
Matilda Osei	Galotse	0542140533
Banini Bethar	Galotse	0249015666
Mr. Dzatagbo Joseph	Bomigo	0241938495
Robert Badasu	Galo	
Havor Mark	Galo-Sota	0545369536
Emefa Agbevem	Galoste	
Olivia Avinu	Galotse	0249539650
Patience Alorklu	Galotse	0593194705
Lover kede	Galotse	0558006495
Banini Judith	Galotse	0249921168
Veronica Eklu	Galotse	
Yayra Minadzi	Galotse	0542968072

## **PAPBio Project Launch- Participants List**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Agency/Community</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Mr. Helegbe Godwin	Bomigo	0549818968
Tsoeno Forgive	Bomigo	0543899073
Fiagbedu Mawusi	Galo-Sota	0547253896
Ahiabor Peter	Bomigo (Mangrove Chairman)	0558203950
Felicia Kudohia	Galotse	
Torkudzor Famous	Galotse	0273255446
Nelson Gedsea	Galotse	0540578045
Francisca Adeke	Galotse	0249308815
Humali Bright	Bomigo	059551486
Adzika Abraham	Bomigo	0249131246
Nkegbe Ebenezer	Bomigo	0543247674
Seglah Selasi	Bomigo	0243979974
Nunekpeku Emelia	Bomigo	0543815611
Ahorlu Eric	Galotse	0544532935
Banini Felicia	Galotse	0240991676
Sandra Banini	Galotse	0549393657
Etina Torkudzor	Galotse	0273255446
Aboshie Alice	Galotse	0249407246
Ashilevi Christopher	Anloga Assembly Member	0248443355
Norkplim Gershon Ashilevi	MC-Opinion Leader Galo	0243615177
Mamisi Misiso	Galo	0547978494
Sufui Joyce	Galo	0249077956
John Nyaledzigbor	Galo	0542140533



## **PAPBio Project Launch- Participants List**

<b>Names</b>	<b>Agency/Community</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Elorm Dogbey	Galo	0249845371
Christiana Awagah	Galotse	
Adika Kotokloyi	Galo	
Lawrence Gomli Dagba	Galotse	0545556746
Kuleapenu Daniel	Galo	0243844553
Florence Agbokpa	Galo	0549716582
Mansah Dzanado	Galotse	
Auinu John	Galotse	0245428605
Dorgbe Patric Agbesi	Galotse	0248444343
Felix Ahedor	Galo	
Faustina Abotsi	Galo	
Fortune Abotsi	Galo	
Rebecca Gidi	Galotse	0249581364

## 4.2 Launch Program Outline



### PAP Bio Project Launch- PROGRAMME OUTLINE

Time	Activities and Persons
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Arrival and Registration
10:00 am – 10:10 am	Opening prayer
10:10 am – 10:30 am	Introduction of Chairman/ Chairman's response
10:30 am – 10:55 am	Welcome address by District Chief Executive
10:55 am – 11:35 am	Statement from A Rocha Ghana
11:35 am – 12:05 pm	Status of the project site-KLCRS
12:05 pm – 12:45 pm	Project One overview (A Rocha Ghana)
12:45 pm - 01:20 pm	Project Two overview (KNUST Team)
01:20 pm – 01:30 pm	Keynote Word from IUCN (Donor)
01:30 pm – 02:00 pm	Keynote word from Wetlands Operational Director (WD)
02:00 pm – 02:15 pm	Keynote word from Traditional Chiefs
02:15 pm – 02:25 pm	Message from the Anloga Assembly
02:25 pm – 02:35 p	Chairman's remarks
02:35 pm – 02:40 p	Vote of Thanks: KLCRS Management
02:40 pm– 02:45 pm	Closing prayer



#### 4.3 List of Pictures



**Picture 1: PAPBio Project Launch-facilitators and experts seated**



**Picture 2: Chiefs, Queen Mothers and Elders from the different participating communities**





**Picture 3: A Rocha Ghana Programs Manager (Prosper Antwi) presents project overview to participants**



**Picture 4: The KLCRS Manager (Lawrence Ocloo Tetteh) gives an overview of the ramsar site and its challenges**





**Picture 5: IUCN Ghana Rep (Anthony Mba) gives an address and congratulatory message to A Rocha Ghana Team and KNUST Research Team**



**Picture 6: The Innovative Co-Management and Partnership Scene**