

New Planting Procedure – Notification Statement

		
NPP Reference Number	SCS-RSPONPP-000479	
Country of the NPP Submission:	Ghana	
RSPO Membership Number	2-0017-05-000-00	
Name of Subsidiary (if any):	Benso Oil Palm Plantation PLC	
Name of Management Unit:	Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate)	
Name(s) of Estate(s) covered under this management plan:	Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate)	
Location of NPP area:	Mpohor District, Western Region, Ghana,	
Address of NPP area:	Mpohor District, Western Region, Ghana	
Business/operation Permit Reference Number and Issuing Authority:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Permit: CA 698/LG/PL/01 dated 13/03/2023 2. Certificate of Incorporation, referenced: C-8570 3. Certificate to commence Business, referenced: C-8570 	
Size information (ha)	a) Total area as per permit:	1,213.9 ha
	b) Area for new planting:	748.44 ha (<i>610.39 Ha to be planted</i>)
	c) HCV area (if any):	65.295 ha
	d) HCS forest (if any):	20.66 ha
	e) Peatland (if any):	0
	f) Steep terrain (if any):	0
	g) Riparian buffer (if any):	61.772 ha

	h) Marginal and fragile soil (if any):	0
Projected GHG emissions	-4,851.15 tCO2e	
Geospatial Coordinates	Lat: 5° 3'20.86"N Long: 1°55'17.36"W	

Boundary Maps

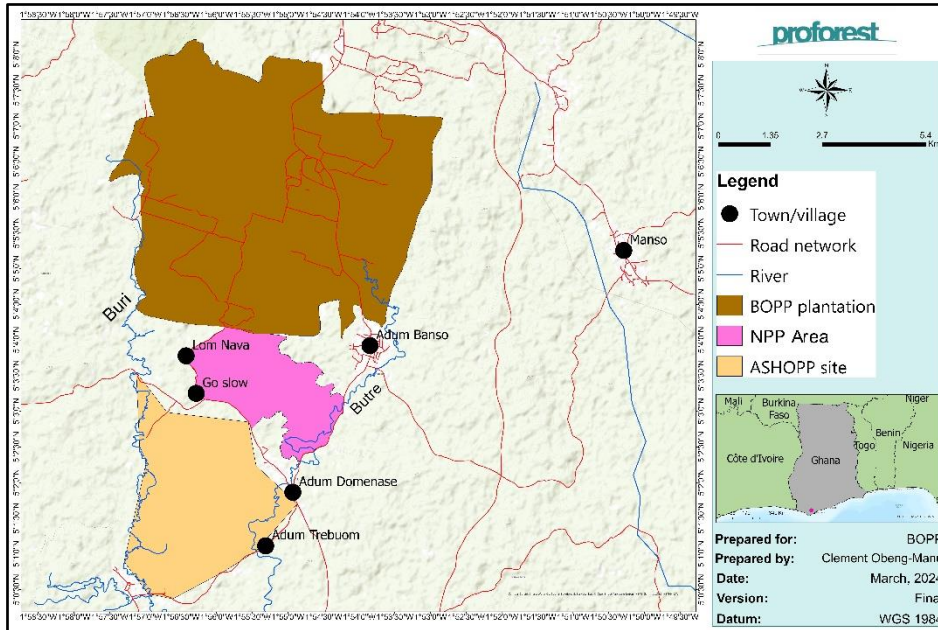


Figure 1: Boundary Map of the NPP Area

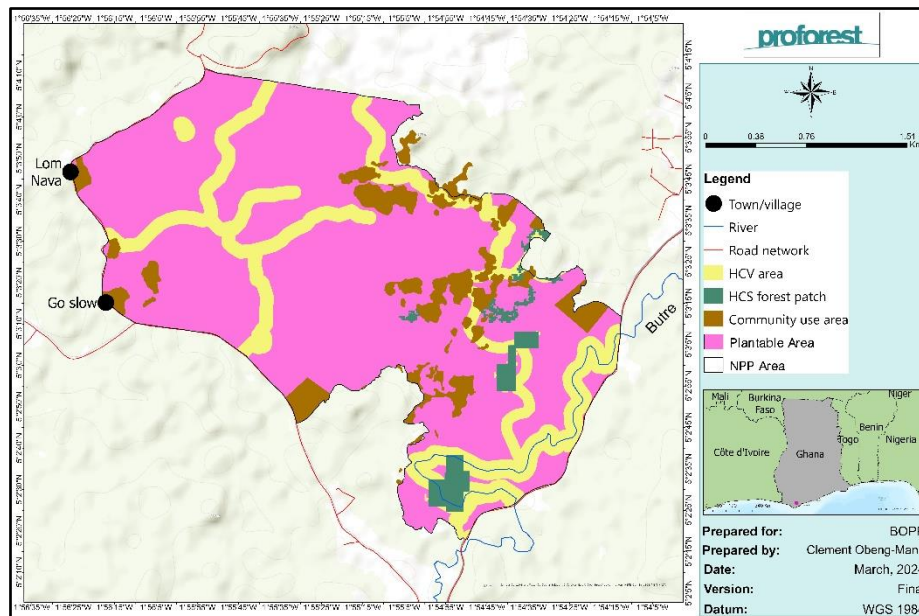


Figure 2: Map showing proposed area for new planting, HCV, HCS and other areas within the boundary as well

Areas and proposed time for new planting

Table 1: Proposed Timebound Plan for Development

Location	Proposed Time Plan for Development		Approx. size of clearing (Ha)
	Month	Year	
Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate)	February – Phase 1	2025	100
Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate)	May - Phase II	2025	300
Adum Baso (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate)	June – Phase III	2026	210.39
Total Plantable Area			610.39 Ha
<p>NB: Plantable area is the total NPP area of 748.44 less the HCV and Conversation management area, community land for food of 94.48 Ha and Cocoa and Rubber areas of 43.57 ha.</p>			

Summary of the NPP Verification by CB

A) Assessment Team and Methodology

Benso Oil Palm Plantation PLC (BOPP), a subsidiary of Wilmar International Limited in October 2023 engaged SCS Global Services to conduct the New Planting Procedure (NPP) verification for its Scheme Smallholder plot named Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate). The NPP verification was led by:

Table 2: NPP Verification Team and qualifications

Name	Role	Location	Qualifications/ Experience
Frank Kwesi	Lead Auditor	Ghana	Approved RSPO Lead Auditor, FSC Auditor, and HCV Assessor with over 10 years of experience implementing of quality, environmental and safety procedures for a timber company in Ghana, and over 9 years' experience in HCV assessments, consultancy and RSPO, FSC, ISCC and RA audits. Frank is also qualified as SA8000 auditor and has participated in several RSPO online trainings and webinars including FPIC, DWL, RSPO Dispute Settlement Facility, RSPO Palm GHG Assessment, Gender Guidance to RSPO,

The verification was done in accordance with the New Planting Procedure 2021 and Mandatory Requirement for Certification Bodies in Assessing Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in New Planting Procedures (February 2018). Verification was conducted through the following methodology:

- 1) Remote document reviews of the proposed NPP area and supporting documents prior to on-site visit
- 2) On-site verification conducted on 17 – 21 June 2024.
- 3) Stakeholder consultation conducted during the on-site visit with all relevant stakeholders. Formal notification to meet during the on-site visit or to provide feedback on concerns regarding the project were sent to several NGOs and government bodies prior to the onsite verification. These included:
 - i) Conservation Foundation
 - ii) Mpohor District Assembly
 - iii) Ministry of Agriculture (MOFA) - Mpohor District Assembly
 - iv) Department of Social Welfare - Mpohor District Assembly
 - v) Forest Service Division
 - vi) P4F
 - vii) Stool Landowner (Chief and Elders of Adum Bansa)
 - viii) Representative of Asubonteng Family (Current Landowner)
 - ix) Local Communities (Affected Farmers)
 - x) Adum Bansa Collaborative Network for Development (ABCOBEN)

The above invited organizations, groups and individuals were interviewed on-site and in some cases via phone calls during the verification and gave their feedback or concerns regarding the proposed new planting project.

The verification process of the NPP assessment documents and verification results are described further below.

B) Verification of Applicability of New Planting Procedure

The proposed new planting project for Benso Oil Palm Plantation PLC, Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) was confirmed to meet the NPP 2021 applicability requirements due to the following:

- i. Oil palm plantings and associated development have not commenced, as verified during the on-site visit. Therefore, no development before 1 January 2010
- ii. The area is not undergoing replanting
- iii. The area does not belong to Independent Smallholder(s)
- iv. Oil palm plantings and associated development will be carried out by an RSPO member, i.e., Benso Oil Palm Plantation PLC a subsidiary of Wilmar International Limited.
- v. There is not previously approved NPP for this area
- vi. The area is not located within an RSPO certified management unit
- vii. The oil palm plantings and associated development will not be carried out on Land re-clearing of actively managed areas.

C) Verification of Assessment Reports and Supporting Documents

Off-site document review of the NPP assessment reports and supporting documents commenced upon receipt of the documents from BOPP from February 2024. During the review process, the verification team requested for additional supporting documentation and evidence as required to meet the New Planting Procedure requirements. All requested documents and evidence were provided by BOPP by the end of the on-site verification to demonstrate their conformance and commitment to adhering to the New Planting Procedure requirements. Description of the verification of all documents is described further below:

1. Legal land use documents

Benso Oil Palm Plantation PLC, Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) is confirmed to have legal ownership of the land proposed for the new planting as seen from the land use documents issued below:

- a) Indenture covering the land with Land Registry No. 2747/1982 covering an area of 1,999.60 Acres (809.21 Ha).
- b) Indenture covering the land with Land Registry No. 2748/1982 covering an area of 1,000 Acres (404.69 Ha).

The total area covered under the permits is 2,999.60 Acres (1,213.9 Ha), However 748.44 Ha is to be used for the project with 610.39 Ha as the area to be planted. *The area to be planted (Plantable area is the NPP less the HCS forest, HCV areas, Conservation, Cocoa/rubber farms, as well as allocated food crop areas).*

During on-site visit, it was confirmed that though boundary stones have not been fully established, landmarks surrounding the NPP area clearly shows the boundaries as per the land titles (Indentures). The proposed NPP area is bounded to the west by BOPP Industrial Plantation, to the east by ASHOPP (Adum Scheme Smallholder Palm Plantation), to the south by the Butri River and to the north by follow land.



Figure 4: Sampled boundary area at the proposed new planting site for BOPP Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate)

2. Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (EIA)

The Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed BOPP Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) Project at Wassa Mpohor in the Western Region of Ghana was conducted by Maiden Environmental Services in accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency Act 1994, Act 490 and under the provisions of the Environmental Assessment Regulations, 1999, (LI 1652) which mandate an establishment of any undertaking that will deal with agricultural plantations above 40 hectares requires the preparation of an EIS.

The final report is dated August 2022, which is less than 3 years from the time of this NPP submission, hence the findings remain valid.

The area of assessment covered extent of the concession area, which is 748.44 ha. The Environmental and Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed BOPP Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) Project at Wassa Mpohor in the Western Region of Ghana has received approval from the EPA with Environmental permit # CA 698/LG/PL/01 dated 13/03/2023.



ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Environmental Permit

Permit No: CA 698/LG/PL/01

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT REGULATIONS, 1999 (L.I. 1652)

This is to Certify that

Authorization has been given to

BENSO OIL PALM PLANTATION PLC.

Located at Adum Banso in the Mpohor District of the Western Region

To commence a proposed 748.44 hectare Oil Palm Plantation Outgrower Project as per the attached schedule

Date Issued : MARCH 13, 2023

Expiry Date : SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Enanotetteh

ING. ESI NERQUAYE-TETTEH (MRS)

AG. DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/ TECHNICAL SERVICES
FOR: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NB: This Permit is only valid with the Seal of the Environmental Protection Agency and conditioned upon obtaining other relevant permits from relevant institutions (among others)

Figure 5: EPA permit of the proposed NPP area

The EIA assessment had a total of 3 team members with diverse backgrounds in Environment Impact Assessment and research.

The following are brief descriptions of the key staff that were responsible for the EIA.

1. Lebene T. Ledi (Ms.)

Ms. Lebene T. Ledi is the Managing Director of the Maiden Group and a Principal Consultant of Maiden Environmental Services (MES). She has skills and experience in various areas of environmental management including ecological management and assessment; energy and environmental management systems; environmental law; EIA; regulation, monitoring and assessment of water pollution and impact of oil production. She has worked internationally in various countries including Greece and the UK.

Email: l.ledi@seamaidengh.com

Telephone: 0244358932

2. Beatrice Juma

Beatrice is an environmental consultant with a background in environmental impact studies, environmental auditing and research. She has experience in proposal development and providing organizations with support in developing and adapting environmental, health and safety procedures. She has also provided guidance to organizations in adhering to quality and environmental standards and regulations.

Email: bmnjuma@gmail.com

3. Windy Akorfa Azasu

Windy is an Environmental scientist and serves as a project assistant to the company. She has experience in monitoring procedures and checks as well as report writing. She also has experience in stakeholder management and communication as well as education and compliance. Windy plays a very important role in liaising with team members and ensuring the project team has the necessary logistics for the execution of all projects. She has gained her experiences from working with the Environmental Protection Agency, Accra.

Email: windy@maidenvirogh.com

Telephone: 0501052892

Review of the EIA report identified potential adverse environmental impacts likely to occur from implementation of the project. Table 2 summarizes these impacts the study identified at various stages of the implementation of the project.

Table 3: Potential adverse environmental impacts

Environmental Parameters	Duration/Phase	Impacts
Ecological	Pre-construction & Construction	Loss of Biodiversity
Soil	Construction & Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Erosion● Loss of soil organisms● Degradation of soil by machinery and human activities Introduction of chemicals
Air Quality	Construction & Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Use of machinery and vehicles that produce fumes will increase parameters such as CO, NO_x etc.

		Felling of trees also displace surface dust into the atmosphere increasing TSP and PM.
Noise	Construction	Constant use of machinery by employees on the field will lead to higher levels of noise
Water Quality	Construction & Operational	Possible effect of fertilizers from erosion and leaching
Waste	Construction & Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Empty fertilizer and nursery polybags ● Empty chemical containers Empty fresh fruit brunches
Health and Safety	Pre-construction, Construction & Operational	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Animal attacks ● Accidental spills ● Vehicular accidents Human error accidents

Table 3 highlights the significance of the various potential adverse impacts

Table 4: Significance of potential adverse environmental impacts

Impact	Type	Nature	Duration	Magnitude	Significance
Biodiversity	Direct	Negative	Permanent	Moderate	Low
Soil cover	Direct	Negative	Permanent	Moderate	Moderate
Air Quality	Direct	Negative	Permanent	Low	Low
Noise	Direct	Negative	Temporary	Moderate	Low
Water Quality	Indirect	Negative	Temporary	Low	Low
Land-use	Indirect	Negative	Temporary	Low	Low
Sanitation	Indirect	Negative	Permanent	Low	Low
Socio-economic	Direct	Positive	Permanent	High	High
Health & Safety	Direct	Negative	Permanent	Low	Low
Road Network	Indirect	Negative	Permanent	Low	Low

Based on the above, the EIA was confirmed to meet the NPP requirements.

4. Social Impact Assessment (SIA)

The Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of the proposed BOPP Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) Project at Wassa Mpohor in the Western Region of Ghana was conducted by Proforest Ghana.

The final report is dated December 2022, which is less than 3 years from the time of this NPP submission, hence the findings remain valid.

The assessment was undertaken by a team of six members. The list of the team members and their respective roles played are provided in the table below.

Table 5: List of SIA Team

Name	Organization	Relevant Expertise	Role in the assessment
Frederick Antwi	Proforest	Social methods, stakeholder engagement, participatory mapping	Team lead/Community consultations and participatory mapping of HCVs
Stephen Doso Jnr	Proforest	Stakeholder engagement, participatory mapping, agroforestry	Consultations with district and regional stakeholders, community participatory mapping of HCVs
Clement Obeng Manu	Proforest	GIS, Forestry	Community consultations and participatory mapping of HCVs, GIS related work
Dr Albert Adu Gyamfi	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST)	Social methods, stakeholder engagement,	Household Survey Team Lead
Ebenezer Akakpo	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST)	Social methods, stakeholder engagement,	Household Survey Team Member
Amanda Quarshie	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science & Technology (KNUST)	Social methods, stakeholder engagement,	Household Survey Team Member

Result of the significant social impacts

Table 6: Significance of the impacts of BOPP Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation.

Impact	Extent of Impact	Reversibility	Duration	Significance
Positive Impacts				
Direct and indirect forms of employment (Youth employment)	Local/ Regional	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Reliable source of income for project beneficiaries	Local/ Regional	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Support to community development	Local	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Additional livelihood support	Local	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Improvement in water and sanitation	Local	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Training and capacity building	Local	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Health services	Local	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Protection of HCV and HCS areas	Local/Regional	Reversible	Long term	Medium
Potential Negative Impacts				
Potential reduction in farmland for food crop farming	Local	Irreversible	Long term	High

Potential reduction in Non-Timber Forest Product	Local	Irreversible	Long term	Medium
Potential impact on food sufficiency and affordability	Local	Irreversible	Long term	High
Potential pollution of water bodies and air	Local	Reversible	Long term	Medium

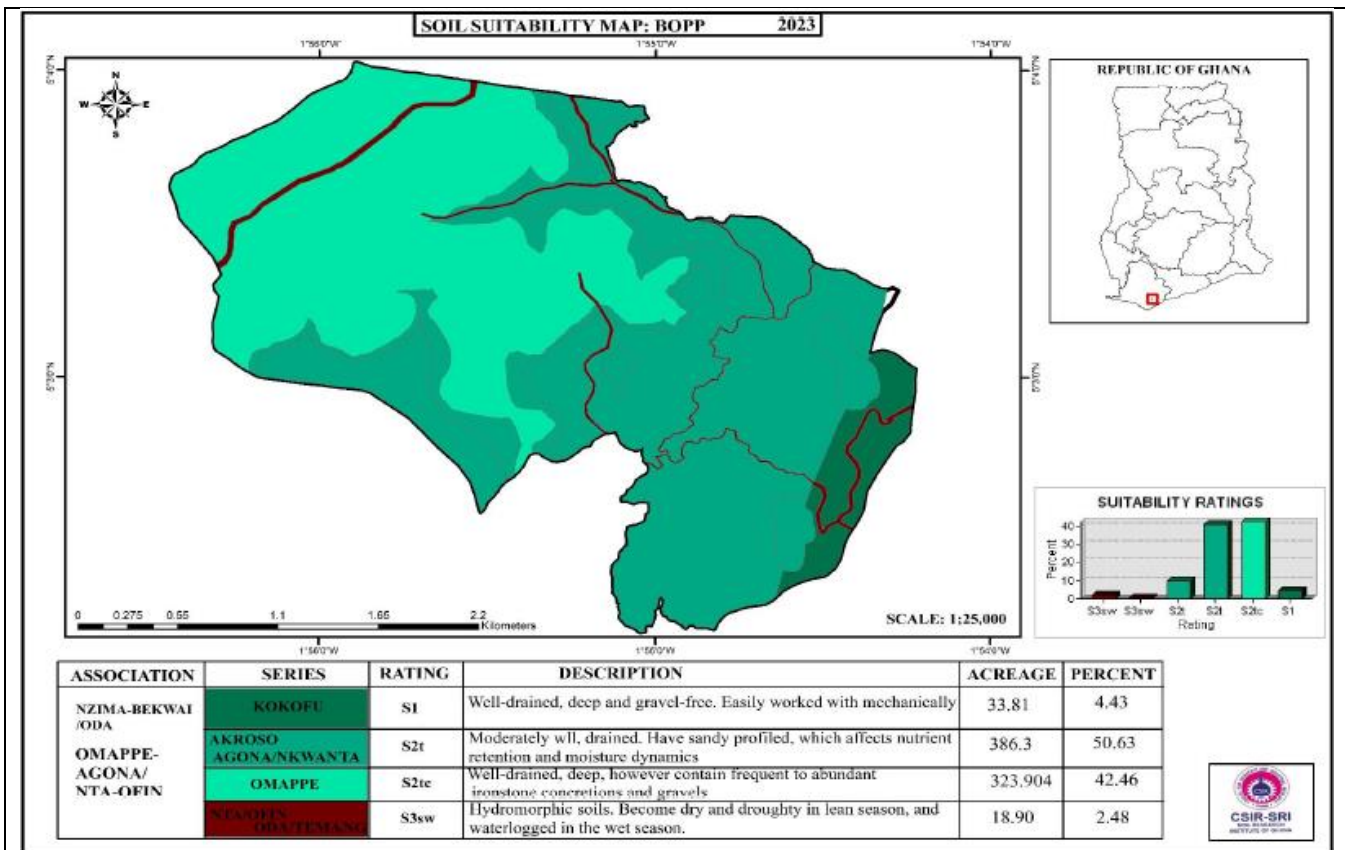
Based on the above, the SIA was confirmed to meet the NPP requirements.

5. Soil and Topography Survey

The Soil and Topography survey was conducted by CSIR- SOIL RESEARCH INSTITUTE of Ghana with the assessment team comprising of F.M. Tetteh, A. Owusu Ansah, A. Appiah, J.K. Gyamfi, G. Nsiah-Boateng, E. Danquah and E. Pankah. The final report is dated August 2023, which is less than 3 years from the time of this NPP submission, hence the findings remain valid.

Review of the soil and topography report, the most extensive soil unit identified in the study area is the Omappe Soil Unit/Series (*Haplic Lixisol*) (323.9 hectares) which occupies the middle to upper lower slopes. Followed by the Akroso Soil Unit/Series (*Gleyic Lixisol*) (311.03 hectares) which occupies the middle to lower slopes. The soils are sandy loams, loamy sands and clay loams which has far reaching implication in their management. There is high soil acidity problem in the study area (pH less than 5.7), which needs liming with rock phosphate to a pH of 6.5 or better.

Kokofu soils (*Haplic Lixisol*), which occupy the middle slopes (33.81 hectares) are highly suitable, owing to their depth over 1.5m, clay loam texture and without gravels, making mechanical production easy. Omappe and Agona soils are moderately suitable because of their gravelly nature and moderately steep topography, whereas Akroso soils are sandy textured and has low moisture retention capacity as



*Figure 6: Soil Suitability for Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation Project
Source of Map: Soil and Topography report*

The topography of the area is generally undulating with narrow valleys interspersing straight and convex hill slopes in the northern to middle portions, around Maame Bolga and Kyenkyenase Village en route to BOPP Main Plantations. The valleys widen to about 100m on the south-eastern portions from Adum Bansa township, and within them, streams and streamlets alongside drainage grooves exist, which sometimes may become dry during the minor season. The hills rise to a height of 110 meters above sea level, assuming a moderately steep topography (15-20%), which allows for upland mechanical cultivation with not so much difficulty.

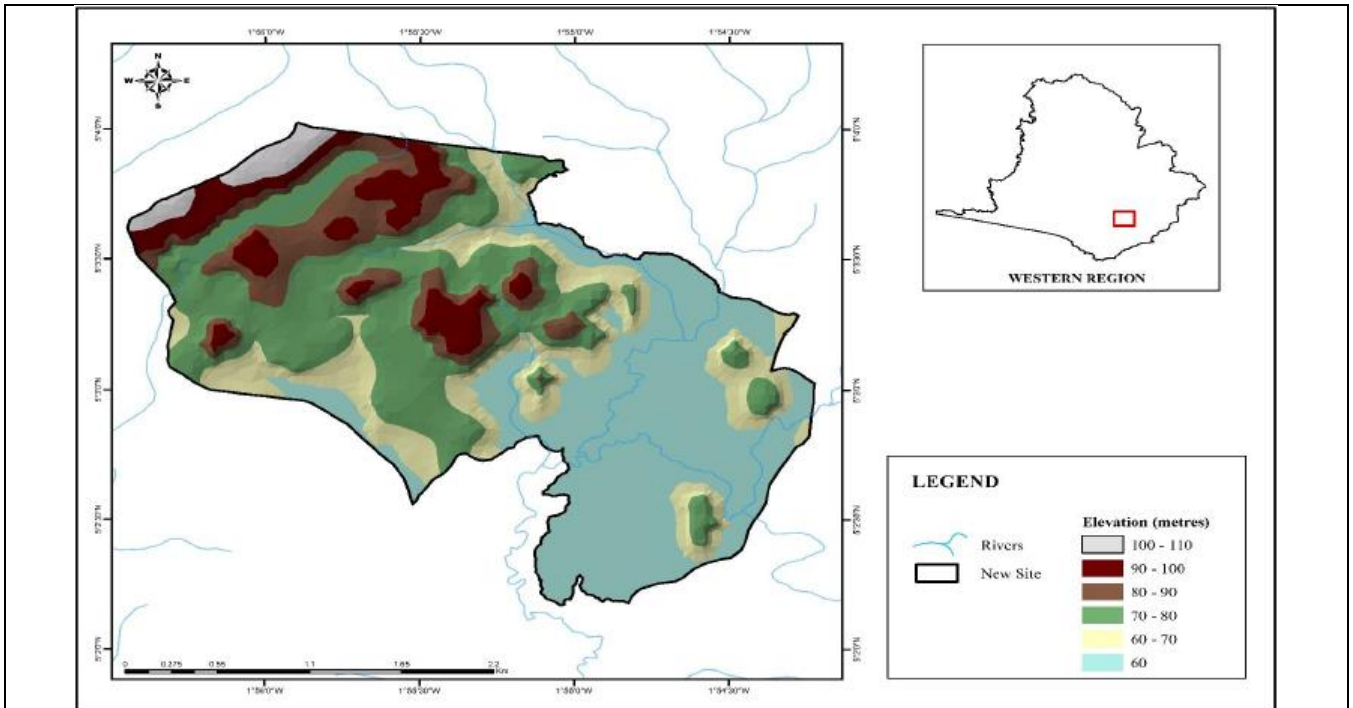


Figure 7: Topography of NPP Area
 Source of Map: Soil and Topography report

Peat

Though the soil and topography study didn't not assess areas of possible peatland as part of the study, the HCV/HCS did assess that and has been extensively addressed in page 76, section 8.2.7. Analysis and review of peatland map for the area indicated that there is no overlap of peatland with the NPP area.

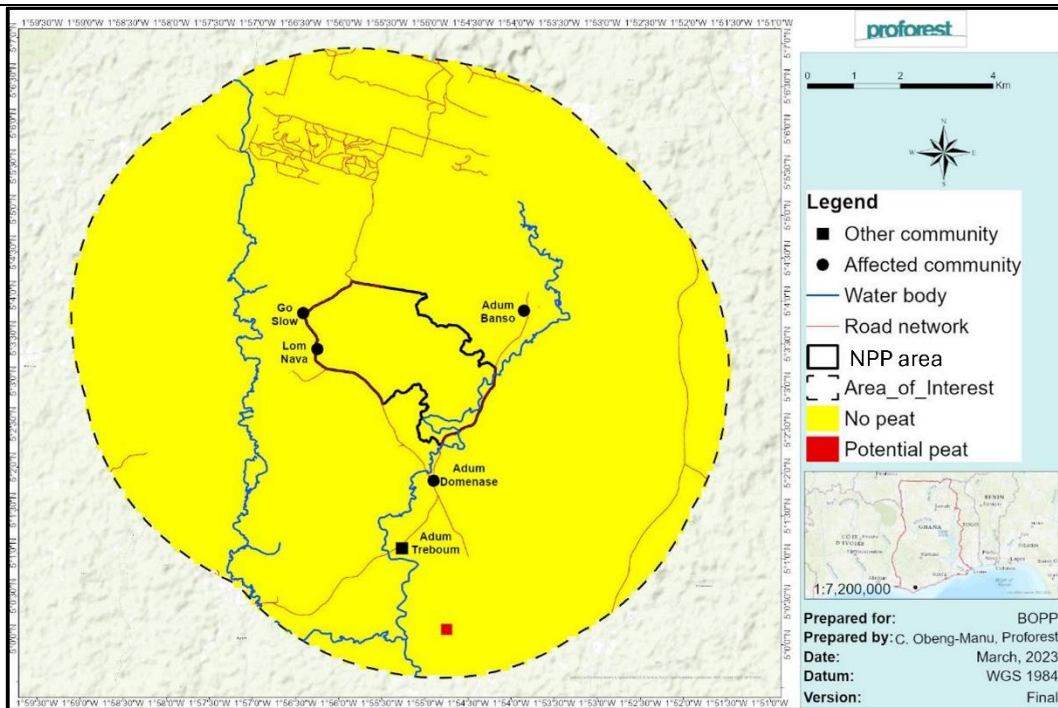


Figure 8: Map showing distribution of potential peat around the NPP Area and AoI
 Source of Map: Proforest HCV-HCS report

During site visit, it was confirmed from visual inspection that there is no marginal soil, steep terrain above 20% or peat soil present in the proposed new planting area



Figure 9: On-site verification of site topography
 Source of picture: Taken by lead auditor during site visit

6. ALS High Conservation Value and High Carbon Stock Assessment (HCV/HCSA).

The ALS HCV-HCSA assessment of the NPP area was conducted by Proforest and documented in the Integrated HCV-HCSA Assessment for the proposed Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate), Mpohor District, Western Region, Ghana. The full assessment report is dated July 2023. The HCV assessment has undergone HCVRN peer review and received a satisfactory evaluation on 29th January 2024 result after 1st resubmission. Report can be access via HCVRN site link: <https://www.hcvnetwork.org/reports/integrated-hcv-hcsa-assessment-for-the-proposed-adum-banso-smallholder-oil-palm-plantation-nana-kwandoh-brempong-iii-estate-mpohor-district-western-region-ghana>. The report can also be access on the HCSA website via <https://highcarbonstock.org/forest-conservation-monitoring/assessment-reports/>

Below are some of the assessment details: Size of assessment area: 748 hectares

Table 7: Summary of identified HCVs and HCS forest patches and allocated land for food crop farming

Environmental and social values to be conserved	Area (ha) where the value is found (inside MU only)	Management areas (ha) (inside MU only)
HCS forest	20.66	20.66
HCV 3	0.840	3.211
HCV 4	61.772	61.772
HCV 5	2.683	29.131
Local peoples lands (if any additional to HCV 5&6)**	11.25	11.25
Net Total (after subtracting overlaps):	90.130	94.479

***Land allocated within the NPP area to be used by communities for food crop farming*

The HCV-HCS assessment was conducted by a team of 8 assessors. The qualifications of the assessment team are confirmed to meet the assessment team competencies as per Section 1.3 of the HCVRN HCV-HCSA Assessment Manual:

- i) The HCV-HCSA assessment was led by Stephen Doso with ALS Provisional Licence # ALS22003SD; <https://www.hcvnetwork.org/people/stephen-doso-jnr>;
- ii) Lead assessor, Stephen Doso is a registered HCS practitioner with Proforest as listed on HCSA website <https://highcarbonstock.org/forest-conservation-monitoring/registered-organisations-practitioners-training-providers-conducting-hcsa-assessments/>
- iii) At least one of the assessment team members is a GIS and remote sensing expert, i.e. Clement Obeng-Manu
- iv) The team has a social expertise, Frederick Antwi with in relation to community facilitation and participatory mapping.
- v) All team members are from Ghana and have better interpretation of the local language and cultural settings of the assessment area. Furthermore, Proforest have conducted similar assessment in the same area for same company in 2018. Hence have better understanding on the area.

HCV-HCSA Assessment Team roles and Expertise

Table 8: Lead Assessor and GIS expert

Name	Role	Institution	Relevant expertise (e.g. plant taxonomy, hydrology, etc.)	Relevant country or regional experience (including language proficiency)
Stephen Doso Jnr	Lead assessor (ALS22003SD)	Proforest	Stakeholder engagement, participatory mapping, agroforestry, environmental management	Uganda, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana (English)
Clement Obeng-Manu	GIS and remote sensing expert (HCSA registered practitioner)	Proforest	GIS, forestry	Tanzania, Uganda, Liberia, Nigeria, Ghana, Netherlands (English)

Table 9: Environmental and social experts in the assessment team

Name	Role	Institution (if relevant)	Relevant expertise (e.g. plant taxonomy, hydrology, anthropology, participatory mapping etc.)	Relevant country or regional experience (including language proficiency)
Stephen Doso Jnr	Environmental Expert	Proforest	Stakeholder engagement, participatory mapping, agroforestry, environmental management	Uganda, Sierra Leone, Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana (English)
Frederick Antwi	Social Expert	Proforest	Social methods, stakeholder engagement, participatory mapping	Ghana (English)

Dr. Augustus Asamoah	Fauna team lead	Proforest	Avifauna, wildlife and forest ecology	Cameroon, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Nigeria, DRC, Uganda (English)
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Table 10: Flora Inventory Team

Name	Position
Seth Kankam Nuamah	Team leader
Salim Mohammed	Species identification technician
Alfred Fosu	Measuring assistant

From the HCV-HCS assessment conducted, as well as the NPP on-site verification conducted, it became evidenced that only HCV 3, 4 and 5 were found to be present in BOPP Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) concession area.

Table 11: Summary findings of social HCVs

HCV	Definition	Finding
4	Basic ecosystem services in critical situations, including protection of water catchments and control of erosion of vulnerable soils and slopes.	Present
5	Sites and resources fundamental for satisfying the necessities of local communities or indigenous peoples (for livelihoods, health, nutrition, water, etc...), identified through engagement with these communities or indigenous peoples.	Present
6	Sites, resources, habitats and landscapes of global or national cultural, archaeological or historical significance, and/or of critical cultural, ecological, economic or religious/sacred importance for the traditional cultures of local communities or indigenous peoples, identified through engagement with these local communities or indigenous peoples.	Absent

Table 12: Summary findings of environmental HCVs

HCV	Definition	Finding
1	Concentrations of biological diversity including endemic species and rare, threatened or endangered species that are significant at global, regional or national levels	Absent
2	Large landscape-level ecosystems, ecosystem mosaics and Intact Forest Landscapes that are significant at global, regional or national levels	Absent

3

Rare, threatened, or endangered ecosystems, habitats or refugia.

Present

All communities consulted as part of the NPP verification stakeholder consultation including Adum Banzo, Dominase and Go Slow confirmed that, they depend on some streams flowing through the concession as their source of water for drinking and domestic purposes and when they visit their farms. They mentioned streams like Bonsamanka stream used by Lom Nava community, Atedja stream used by a section of Go Slow and Mrehua and Afiafi streams used by farmers from Dominase and Adum Banzo when they visit their farms. The communities also mentioned the Butre and Buri River which served as drinking and for domestic purpose, but these have recent times been heavily polluted by illegal small-scale mining activities, popularly known as “Galamsey”. Hence the Bonsamanka, Atedja and Mrehua and Afiafi streams have been identified as HCV 4 and 5.

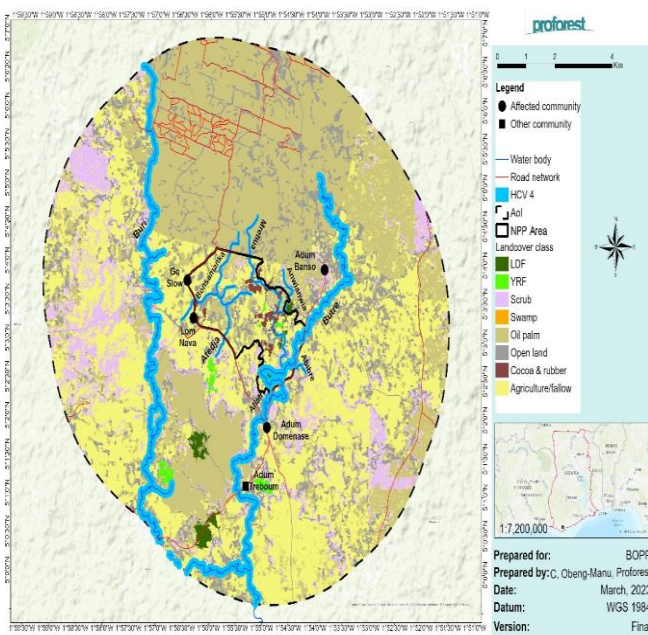


Figure 10: Map of HCV 4 areas identified

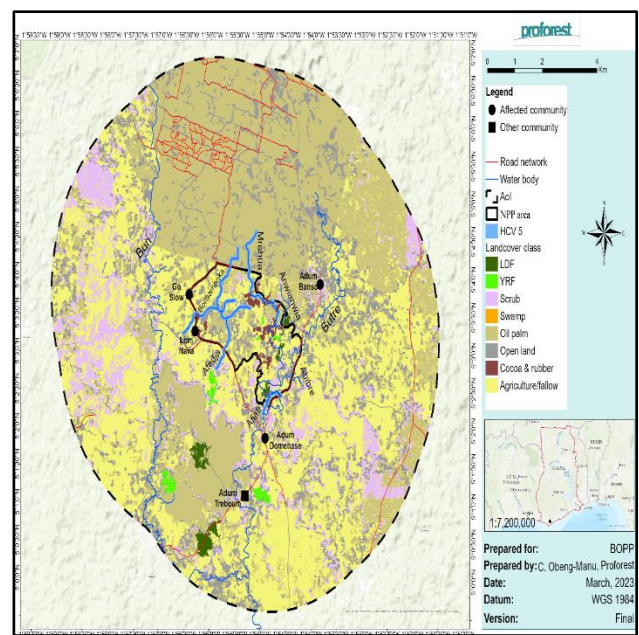


Figure 11: Map of HCV 5 areas identified

Source of Maps: Proforest BOPP HCV-HCS Assessment report



Figure 12: Onsite verification to Atedja stream used by a section of Go Slow community



Figure 13: Onsite verification to Mrehua stream used by farmers from Dominase and Adum Banso communities

HCV 3, according to the Ghana Toolkit is identified as wet evergreen, southern marginal and mangrove forests as naturally rare forest types while upland marshes and wetlands, savannah gallery forest and lowland swamps and coastal savannah are classified as naturally rare habitats. Though BOPP Adum Banso (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) concession area does not fall within or contain any of these naturally rare forest types.

However, two swamp areas which are permanently waterlogged, have waterways and are dominated with fern and wild palm species is found in the area. A third swamp, which is dominated by bamboo and has waterways is located close to the eastern boundary outside the NPP area.

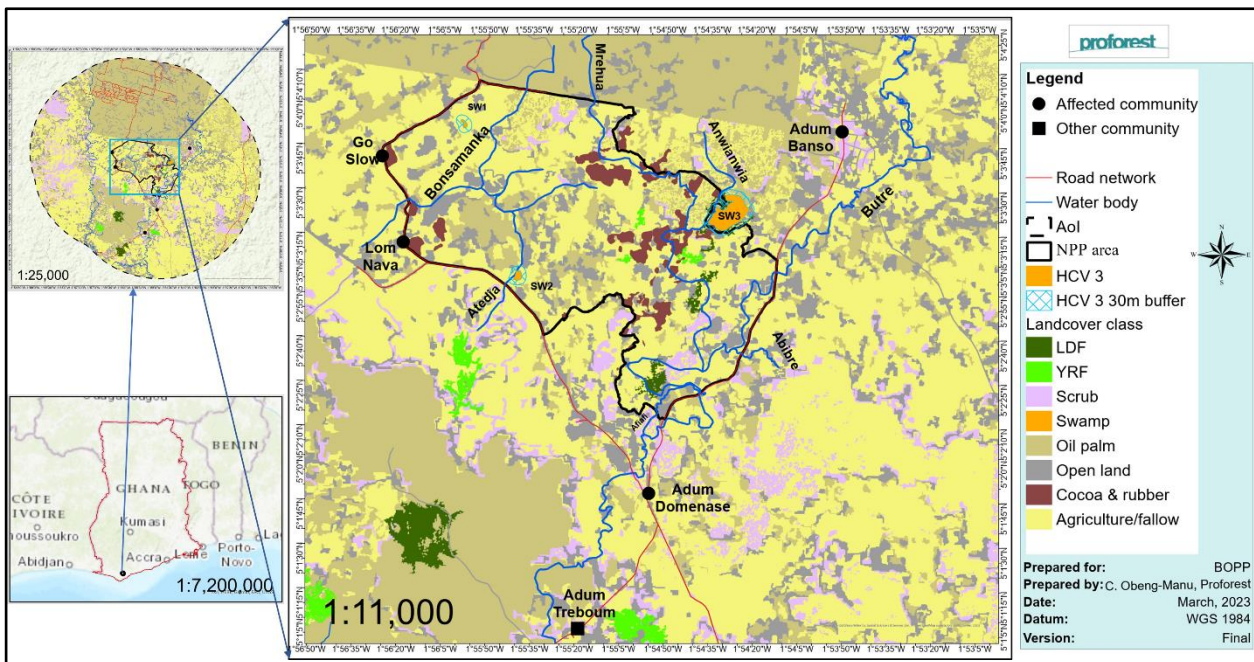


Figure 14: HCV 3 map

Source of Map: Proforest BOPP HCV-HCS Assessment report



Figure 15: Onsite verification to Swamp area with wild palms



Figure 16: Onsite verification to Swamp area with Bamboo

- High Carbon Stock Assessment (HCSA) Assessment

According to the HCV-HCS assessment report, the carbon stock varied from non-forest HCS class to forest HCS class. The estimated average carbon stock was 3.596 Mg and 7.870 Mg in agriculture/fallow and scrub, respectively. The estimated average carbon stock was 31.966 Mg and 27.202 Mg for low-density and young regenerating forest, respectively. The total carbon stock for all the plots was 655.685 Mg.

A visit to the NPP area during the onsite verification, established that no land clear has begun. Evidence was sighted of classes of land cover types as detailed in the table13 below.

Table 13: Total hectares per vegetation class

Land cover class	Area	Number of Plots	Average Carbon Stocks	Standard error of the mean	Confidence limits (95%)		Total Carbon Stocks
					Lower	Upper	
	(ha)		Mg/ha				Mg
Potential HCS classes							
Low Density Forest	12.406	9	4.088	3.609	1.760	11.794	228.151
Young Regenerating Forest	4.516	6	1.540	0.139	1.287	1.671	133.215
Non-HCS classes							
Scrub	15.605	4	1.081	0.110	0.956	1.215	118.379
Swamp	0.840	3	0.896	0.049	0.845	0.942	59.722

Agriculture /fallow land	419.664	9	0.554	0.218	0.281	0.842	107.863
Oil palm	124.010	2	0.273	0.273	0.269	0.277	1.362
Cocoa & rubber	47.325	10	0.058	0.058	0.00	0.135	6.993
Open land	124.074	2	0	0	0	0	0

It is worth mentioning that, visit to the NPP area established no land clearing, hence the HCV-HCS areas are yet to be mapped out and demarcated for their protection and enhancement as detailed in the management plan. However, interview with BOPP management as well as the communities ie Adum Bansa, Dominase and Go Slow, they all confirmed they were involved in the identification of the HCV-HCS areas led by the team from Proforest. They also confirmed the stakeholder meeting held after the assessment where the HCV-HCS areas identified where show to them on the Map. They also confirmed that until now no land clearing has begun, however, they have been informed by BOPP and the Proforest team that these areas will be mapped out and conserved when land clearing begins.

7. Stakeholder Engagement and FPIC process reports

Efforts taken by the company towards stakeholder engagement and FPIC process are detailed in the following documents:

- a) Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) of the proposed BOPP Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) dated August 2022
- b) Social Impact Assessment (SIA) of the proposed BOPP Adum Bansa (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate) Project at Wassa Mpohor in the Western Region of Ghana conducted by Proforest Ghana, dated December 2022.
- c) The ALS HCV-HCSA assessment of the NPP area conducted by Proforest and documented in the Integrated HCV-HCSA Assessment for the proposed Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation (Nana Kwandoh Brempong III Estate), Mpohor District, Western Region, Ghana dated July 2023.
- d) Report on FPIC and Participatory Mapping:
 1. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN ADUM BANSO STOOL REP. BY NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG (III) AND ASUBONTENG FARMS LTD REP BY. MR. JOHN ASAMOAH (CEO)
 2. CONSENT LETTER SIGNED BY THE CHIEF, ELDERS AND OPINION LEADERS OF THE ADUM BANSO STOOL TITLED, RELEASING A PORTION OF THE ASUBOTENG CONCESSION TO BE USED FOR A SMALLHOLDER SCHEME FOR THE ROYAL STOOL AND THE COMMUNIT DATED 29/01/2020.
 3. Several stakeholder meeting minutes with the affected communities carrying out farming activities on the land. *Below are samples for some stakeholder engagement meetings conducted to establish FPIC*

MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS WITH THE CHIEF AND ELDERS OF ADUM BANSO ON THE PROPOSED OIL PALM PROJECT AT ADUM BANSO ON 1ST OCTOBER, 2021

Venue: Adum Bansa Chief's Palace
Timeframe: 4:00pm - 5:15pm

Present at the meeting were:

Adum Bansa Team

1. Nana Kwandoh Brempong III – Chief of Adum Bansa
2. Nana Kwabena Boskraah II- Gyasehene of Adum Bansa
3. A. C. Amoah - Gyase Abusuapanyin
3. Kobina Atta - Abusuapanyin
4. Kwaw Nkrumah- Kyeame
5. Kwasi Nyame- Safohene
6. Kyeame Dadzie
7. Kofi Takyi

BOPP Team

1. Kwasi Baah Ofori- Estate Manager
2. Edward Dagadu- Development Manager
3. Victor Tetteh- Sustainability Manager
4. De-graft Quartey- Snr. Assist Manager, Development

Welcome address by Chief

The Chief gave a brief welcome address and welcomed all especially the BOPP team to the meeting and asked for the purpose of the meeting.

Response by Edward Dagadu

Mr. Dagadu responded to the welcome message and stated the purpose of the meeting as to:

- Engage the chief and elders on BOPP's continued interest in establishing an out-grower project at Adum Bansa
- Carry out an initial land tenure study hence he requested for the history on the land tenure at the project site
- Plan for subsequent engagements with the community and other stakeholders to complete the FPIC process as well as the initial assessments to be carried out on the project

Introduction of attendees

The BOPP staff were introduced by Edward Dagadu while the elders of Bansa were introduced by the Chief

Main address by Chief of Adum Bansa

The chief expressed concern about their perceived delay in the start of the project. He advised BOPP to complete all procedures needed to be carried out in time for the planting to start as early as possible.

MINUTES OF MEETING BETWEEN BOPP MANAGEMENT AND ELDERS AND OPINION LEADERS OF ADUM BANSO COMMUNITY ON THE PROPOSED ADUM BANSO SMALLHOLDER OIL PALM PLANTATION PROJECT HELD ON TUESDAY, 12TH OCTOBER, 2021 AT THE ADUM BANSO METHODIST CHURCH

Attendance

BOPP Team

1. Mr. Kwasi Baah Ofori, Estate Manager
2. Mr. Edward Dagadu, Snr. Div. Manager
3. Mr. Victor Tetteh Zutah, Sust. Manager
4. Mrs. Margaret Kainyah Arthur, Relations Manager
5. Mr. Isaac Addo, Field Supervisor
6. Ms. Stella Akyeré-Takyi, Sust. Admin. Officer

Stakeholder List (Attendance Sheet attached)

1. The Chief and Elders of Adum Bansa
2. Heads of Clan – Atin: Abusuapanyin Kwabena Atta
3. Assemblies and Unit Committee Members
4. Adum Bansa Collaborative Network for Development (ABCODEN)
5. Heads of Schools
6. Women Representatives
7. Heads of Religious Bodies

Opening

The meeting started with an opening prayer by Rev. R. S. Ghartey at 9:42am. Mr. Isaac Addo of BOPP welcomed all present to the meeting and introduced the BOPP team. The purpose of gathering which was basically to discuss the proposed Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation (ABSHOPP) project with all major stakeholders was declared by Mr. Edward Dagadu.

Business of the day

Nana Quandoh Brempong III, the Chief of Adum Bansa in his opening remarks gave a brief history on the land. He said, the land was leased to an organization for the purpose of oil palm plantation (Mr. Asubonteng) but the founder of the said company died and his successors could not continue with the work. Nana also said there was a litigation concerning the land and that has been settled. He also made it clear that Mr. Asubonteng's lease period has not expired.

With the numerous benefits realized from the existing smallholder project and the progress of work currently ongoing at Treboom, Nana entreated all his subjects present to give their consent and support his bid for same on the Asubonteng land.

1

MINUTES OF FARMER STAKEHOLDER MEETING ON THE PROPOSED ADUM BANSO SMALLHOLDER OIL PALM PLANTATION PROJECT

DATE: 22nd October, 2021
VENUE: Adum Bansa Community Center

Attendance

BOPP Team

1. Mr. Kwasi Baah Ofori, Estate Manager
2. Mr. Edward Dagadu, Snr. Div. Manager
3. Mr. Victor Tetteh Zutah- Sust. Manager
4. Mr. De-graft Quartey- Snr Asst. Manager

Adum Bansa Chief and Elders

5. Nana Asare Kofi III- Kyidom Hene
6. Abusuapanyin Kobina Atta- Head of clan
7. Sarfo Kantunka- Lingulst
8. Mr. Stephen Nketsiah- Unit com. Chairman
9. Mr. James Aggrey- family head
10. Mr. J.B. Aubyn- ABCODEN

Opening session

The meeting started with an opening prayer by Mr. Nicholas Cudjoo at 2:48pm. The Abusuapanyin Kobina Atta welcomed all to the meeting and also declared the purpose of the gathering as to inform the farmers of BOPP's intention to start the Smallholder project and to offer them the opportunity to interact with BOPP management on issues pertaining to the proposed smallholder project.

The BOPP management staff headed by Mr. Kwasi Baah Ofori (BOPP Estate Manager) also took turns to welcome all the farmers to the meeting.

Address by Nana Kwandoh

The chief reviewed the agenda and welcome everyone to the meeting. He gave a brief history of the proposed land. He stated that the Asubonteng land was given a company called Asubonteng in 1976 and the company later collapsed. The land is currently marked to be used for an outgrower project by BOPP for the benefit of the community

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING ON SELECTION OF ADDITIONAL LIVELIHOOD ENTERPRISES WITH BOPP MANAGEMENT AND MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE DIRECTORS

VENUE : ADUM BANSO COMMUNITY DURBAR GROUNDS DATE: 11-04-2023

Agenda

- > Selection of additional livelihood enterprises
- > Drafting of Production and Protection Agreement
- > AOB

The meeting started with open prayer by Mr. Stephen Nketsiah, at 9:00am. Mr. Isaac Addo introduced the invited guests and purpose of gathering to the entire members present.

In attendance were:

- Mr. Henry Yankson, Regional MOFA office rep
- Mr. Bright Adabo, Agric Extension officer, Mporhor MOFA Directorate
- Mr. Stephen Donkor, Retired MOFA Director, Ellembele District.

Mr. Addo took the opportunity to give a brief education/background of the additional livelihood projects. He said the additional livelihood project is sponsored by Partnership for Forest (P4F) and they are activities farmers can undertake to get sustainable income alongside their regular farming activities and also serve as incentives for their commitment to forest protection/conservation or businesses. Due to the success stories of the Adum Additional Livelihood project attached to the Adum Smallholder Oil Palm Project, Partnership for Forest has given BOPP another grant on a scale up project which must be completed at the end of June 2023

Mr. Yankson advised the farmers to choose

Frank Kwesi (fkwesi@scsglobalservices.com) is sign

to the best of their abilities, and will generate a higher incomes. He also advised them to take ownership of the chosen activities because they will be held accountable to BOPP, Partnership for Forest, and the Adum Bansa community. He then asked the farmers to list some of the areas they would want to operate. Fish farming, snail farming, beekeeping, poultry, pigs farming, small ruminant, bakery, cattle rearing, mushroom were some of the activities that the farmers mentioned.

Production and protection agreement: the house were informed that once they accept to be beneficiaries of the project, they have automatically agreed to the production and protection agreement. That is, planting and nurturing of trees and again reducing rate of dependence on forest by beneficiaries. He said, Nananom and the committee have agreed on the area where the trees will be planted. They were informed that a Lawyer will be engaged to explain the details of the agreement to the entire community before Nananom and the committee executives sign on behalf of the community.

MINUTE OF MEETING AT BRUSO, LOMNAVA AND KYENKYESE WITH P4F TEAM, FARMERS AND BOPP MANAGEMENT ON 28-04-2023

Agenda

- Selection of additional livelihood enterprises
- Production and Protection Agreement
- AOB

The meeting started with open prayer by madam linda Dolf at 9:00am. Mr. Isaac Addo introduced the invited guests and purpose of gathering to the entire members present.

In attendance are:

Mr Kwasi Baah Ofori : Estate Manager -BOPP

Madam Henrietta Aseidu : Partnership for forest (P4F)

Seth Gyan : Assistant Manager – BOPP

Isaac Addo: Assistant Manager- BOPP

Mr. Stephen Nketsiah – Central committee chairman

Mr. Addo gave a brief education/background of the additional livelihood projects. He said the additional livelihood project is sponsored by Partnership for Forest (P4F) and they are activities farmers can undertake to get sustainable income alongside their regular farming activities or businesses. Due to the success stories of the Adum Additional Livelihood project attached to the Adum Smallholder Oil Palm Project, Partnership for Forest has given BOPP another grant on a scale up project which must be completed at the end of June 2023

Production and protection agreement: Mr Kwasi Baah Ofori, Estate Manager of BOPP explained to the house that once they accept to be beneficiaries of the project, they have automatically agreed to the production and protection

FINAL STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTATIVE MEETING ON THE PROPOSED OIL PALM SMALLHOLDER PROJECT AT ADUM BANSO, DOMINASE, LOMNAVA AND KYENKYESE HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH OCTOBER, 2022 AT THE MPOHOR DISTRICT ASSEMBLY HALL.

The meeting started with an opening prayer by Mr. James Kojo Ageyifi at 10:40am. All attendees were given a warm welcome to the meeting by Mr. Isaac Addo, who also introduced the Proforest team and all dignitaries in attendance.

The objective of the meeting, according to the Estate Manager of BOPP, Mr. Kwasi Baah Ofori, was to provide the Proforest team with the opportunity to present their final draft on the various assessments (i.e. HCV-HCSA and Social Impact Assessment) carried out on the area for the proposed oil palm smallholder project.

The following main conclusions were provided by the Proforest team under the direction of Mr. Stephen Doso, a Consultant from Proforest.

Fauna – None of the 118 species of global conservation concern (CR, EN, VU) and no forest dependent and forest edged red-listed species encountered

Flora - 4 species of global conservation concern – Omphalocarpum abia (EN), Guarea cedrata (VU), Afzelia africana (VU), Entandrophragma cylindricum (VU), Others: Hallea ledermannii (Red); Milicia excelsa (Scarlet); Anthostema aubryanum, Erythrina vogelii & Pentadesma butyracea (blue)

The table below was explained into details on HCV that are present and needs to be protected and those that are absent on the concession for the proposed oil palm smallholder project.

HCV	Definition	Present	Potential present	Absent
1	Species diversity			
2	IFLs and landscape level ecosystems and mosaics			
3	Rare, threatened or endangered ecosystems, habitats and refugia			
4	Ecosystem services			
5	Community needs			
6	Cultural values			

1

During the on-site verification by the NPP verification team from 17 to 21 June 2024, meetings were held with the affected communities of the project area as well as other stakeholders relevant to the project.

Table 14: Relevant stakeholders consulted during on-site verification.

Date	Stakeholder	Position
17/06/2024	BOPP Management	Sustainability Manager Plantations Manager
	Chief and Elders of Adum Bansa Stool	Stool Landowner
	Adum Bansa Collaborative Network for Development (ABCODEN)	Executives
18/06/2024	Local Government Authority – Mpohor District	District Chief Executive
	Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) – Mpohor District	District Extension Officer
19/06/2024	Rep from Asuobonteng Family	Current Landowner
	Affected Communities	
	Adum Bansa	Farmers
	Dominase	Farmers
	Go Slow	Farmers
	Department of Social Welfare - Mpohor District	District Social Development Officer

21/06/2024	Forest Service Division of the Forestry Commission - Tarkwa	Range Supervisor (retired)
	P4F	Communication and External Relation
	Conservation Foundation	Executive Director

Summary of interviews and discussions

Table 15 below presents the summary of consultations with relevant stakeholder institutions.

Table 15: Summary of interviews and discussions

Name of Stakeholder/Date	Name/Position	Consultation Type	Outcome/Concerns/Recommendation
Stool Landowner 17/06/2024	Chief and Elders of Adum Bansa	Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The chief of Adum Bansa gave an overview of the ownership of the land. He mentioned that the land belongs to the Adum Bansa stool. In the year 1976 and 1981, section of the land totalling 2999.60 Acres (1213.90 Ha) was leased to Asubonteng Farms Ltd for the purpose of Oil Palm Development. Details of the land lease include: Land Registry # 2747/1982 – 1999.60 Acres and 2748/1982 – 1000 Acres. Out of the total land lease area, only 100 Ha was developed with oil palm and a mill. However, the farm became defunct after the demise of the owner. Prior to the development of the farm by Asubonteng Farms Ltd, all those farming on the land were compensated. ●As a result of the benefit from the ASHOPP project which is also a scheme smallholder project managed by BOPP for the people of Adum Treboum, the chief and elders of Adum Bansa decided to take back the land from Asubonteng Farms Ltd after consultation and give it to BOPP for a similar project with benefit sharing for all parties involved i.e. the Stool, Asubonteng Farms Ltd, and farmers currently farming on the land. ●Meetings were held with the families of Asubonteng Farms Ltd and upon reaching an agreement, MOU was signed by both parties.

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Both leases of Asubonteng Farms Ltd are yet to expire i.e. Lease with Land Registry # 2747/1982 is due to expire 2026 (2 years left to expiration). Whiles Lease with Land Registry # 2748/1982 is due to expire 2031 (7 years left to expiration). ● Following the agreement to take back the land from the Asubonteng Farms Ltd and use for the scheme smallholder project, all farmers cultivating tree crops i.e. oil palm, cocoa and rubber were informed not expand their farms with 2019 set as the cut-off point for enumeration and compensation. Which mean any expansion after 2019 will be excluded. ● There have been several meetings with the community members and those farming on the land which was led by BOPP as part of the FPIC process. As part of the meetings, it been explained that: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. All cultivated oil palm on the and will be enumerated and compensated for. 2. All cocoa and rubber will not be touched. Meaning those farms will remain and will not be cut down for the project. 3. All other crops will be given timeline for their removal prior to land clearing. ● So far, BOPP has enumerated all farms planted with palms (a total of 197 farms), but compensation is yet to be paid to beneficiary farmers. ● Benefit sharing for all farmers who will lose their farms for the project is yet to established. There is a steering committee in place that will see to the sharing when the plantation is developed. ● They are very happy to convert the defunct Asubonteng Farms Ltd lease into an oil palm scheme smallholder project which will benefit the community.
Adum Bansa Collaborative Network for	Executives	Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The group explained that they are scholars within the Adum Bansa community who have

<p>Development (ABCODEN)</p> <p>17/06/2024</p>			<p>come together to fight for the development of the community.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The group confirmed that the land for the project is a stool land which was leased out to the Asubonteng Farms Ltd ●The owner died and the family could not manage the farm. Hence the chief and the elders decided to take over and use it of the scheme smallholder oil palm project managed by BOPP. ●They explained since BOPP is the only oil palm plantation in the area and supporting other communities in similar project, it was a good idea and welcomed by all the community people. ●There is a benefit sharing for the Asubonteng Family which has been agreed in an with MOU signed by parties involve. ●They mentioned the area is not a forest, has been cultivated with oil palm, cocoa, rubber and other food crops. ●Farmers farming on the land are aware the area belongs to the Asubonteng Farms Ltd, hence they are occupying the place illegally ●There have been several meetings with BOPP, team from Proforest, ESIA team conducting several studies. They confirmed meeting with Proforest in the identification of HCVs area and meeting at the district assembly hall where the result of the HCV-HCS assessment was shared. ●Enumeration has been done for all those with oil palm, but compensation is yet to be paid. Cocoa and rubber will not be touched while those farming other food crops will be given timeline to remove all their crops prior to land clearing. ●Livelihood support project including Catfish, Piggery and Poultry has been established for the community to help them survive during the development of the plantation until they start to benefit from proceeds from the oil palm
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			<p>sale. There is a steering committee in place that is managing the project where all proceeds accrued benefit all the affected members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●A place set-side for the community for farming activities. ●No land clearing has begun by the company yet.
<p>Local Government – Mpohor District</p> <p>18/06/2024</p>	<p>District Chief Executive Officer (DCE)</p>	<p>Interview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The DCE oversees all government projects as well as the wellbeing of the area under his jurisdiction i.e. Wassa Mpohor District i.e. serve as the “local government” ●He confirmed Asubonteng Farms Ltd as the current owner of the land, however under a lease agreement from the Adum Bansa stool. ●Confirmed several engagement meetings with affected farmers of which one was held at the district assembly hall where he was part of the meeting. ●The project will benefit the entire community since it will create job opportunities for the youth, and farmers/community members who will benefit from the sharing of the scheme smallholder plots through regular income from the proceeds from their harvest. ●Area set-aside where community members could farm to feed themselves. ●ESIA has been conducted and No land clearing has been done.
<p>Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA) – Mpohor District</p> <p>18/06/2024</p>	<p>District Agric Officer</p>	<p>Interview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The district agric extension officer oversees all agriculture projects within the district and give technical support. ●He mentioned the area is currently being cultivated with oil palm, rubber, cocoa and other food crops. ●There have been several consultations as far as the project is concern where he has been part of such meetings. ●Livelihood support project has been established for the community while waiting for the project. It includes 6000 fingerlings

			<p>(Catfish), 1000 birds (poultry), 6 piglets for piggery farming provided. So far, all the all the birds are sold out and waiting for new arrivals. The fishes are also on sale now.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●There is a set-aside area for the community members where they have continued with farming activities to feed themselves. ●Largely the area is not farming community due galamsey activities and BOPP industrial plantation. Most of the youth are either working in BOPP industrial plantation or involve in "galamsey". ●The project is a good initiative for the community since most of the land is being destroyed by the galamsey activities.
<p>Rep from Asuobonteng Family 18/06/2024</p>	<p>First Son of the Asubonteng Farms Ltd and Rep for the family</p>	<p>Interview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The late father leased the land from the Chief of Adum Bansa in 1976 and 1981, a total of 2999.60 Acres for oil palm plantation. Only 700 acres was developed with a mill. After some years in operation, he died, and the family did not manage the farm. ●The family was looking for investors to take up the farm when the chief and elders brought up the idea of taking over the land for scheme smallholder project to be managed by BOPP ●Upon deliberation with the other family members, agreement was reached, and consent was given to the chief to go ahead with the project. ●Both parties have agreed on benefit sharing with MUO signed to that effect with all details spelt out. ● Confirmed the late father compensated all farmers farming on the land then prior to developing his oil palm plantation. But because the farm was left un-attended and most areas were not developed, other people have cultivated on the land illegally. However, from the stakeholder engagement with BOPP, all those cultivating Oil Palm will be compensated prior to land clearing. However, areas planted with rubber and cocoa will not be cleared while

			<p>those cultivating other food crops will be given time to remove their crops prior to land clearing. All this have been communicated to all those farming on the land.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirmed the livelihood support program set-up for the community while waiting for the maturity of the project when the plantation is developed. ● He is in total support of the project and wish to see it start soon.
<p>Community and affected farmer of Adum Banso, Dominase and GoSlow</p> <p>19/06/2024</p>	<p>Affected Farmers</p>	<p>Town Hall Meeting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● All affected farmers present at the meeting confirmed they do not own the land. ● They mentioned they are aware that the land belongs to the Adum Banso stool and was leased to Asubonteng Farms Ltd for Oil Palm Plantation. ● Part of the land was developed with a mill but collapse after the death of the owner. ● They have been farming oil palm, cocoa, rubber and other food crops on the land since there was no development ongoing on the land. ● They have been informed through several engagement meetings with BOPP about the project. They confirmed that only areas planted with oil palm will be compensated with the palms already enumerated but payment is yet to be made. Rubber and cocoa will not be touched while food crops will be given time to be cleared prior to the land clearing by BOPP. ● Still now, they continue to do their farming activities on the land, however, they have been informed by the chief and elders that any tree crop cultivated after 2019 will not be considered for compensation. ● It was also confirmed that an area has been demarcated as community land to be used for farming activities (food crop). ● The farmers also confirmed of their involvement in the HCV assessment as they were interviewed by the team from Proforest. They mentioned apart some streams the drink

			<p>from when they visit the farms and also for some domestic chores, there are no known HCVs in the area. They mentioned streams like Atedja which is used by the Go Slow community and Mrehua which is used by Dominase and Adum Banso communities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The affected farmer however, mentioned that the BOPP has kept long in developing the land because of that their compensation is yet to be paid. According to BOPP, compensation will only be paid when clearing is yet to begin. And so, they want the project to commence so they can have their compensation. ● The establishment of livelihood support project including Catfish, Poultry and Piggery was confirmed. It was also confirmed that, there is a steering committee in place managing the project for the community members.
<p>Department of Social Welfare - Mpohor District</p> <p>21/06/2024</p>	<p>District Social Development Officer</p>	<p>Interview</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Oversees social issues in the district and come up with interventions ● The project will bring economic empowerment as affected farmers will benefit from the project on monthly basis from the proceeds of their harvest when the plantation is established and fruiting. ● Conservation areas will be protected from the engagement with assessment team i.e. HCV-HCS and ESIA team ● Intercropping at the initial stage of the plantation establishment until it forms canopy, which will continue to give food and income to the farmers ● Confirmed the community land that will be set-aside for community farming ● Confirmed the project is a good initiative for the community considering that largely oil palm plantation is practice by most community people ● The project will create more job for the community people especially the youth who

			largely involved in the 'galamsay' activities which is destroying lands and water bodies
Forest Service Division of the Forestry Commission – Tarkwa 21/06/2024	Range Supervisor (retired)	Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●The forest service division of the forest commission of Ghana oversees the forest operations in Ghana. ●Partnered with BOPP and P4F to establish plantation as part of conservation and help to enrich the degraded areas around the project area. Tree planted including Emire, Papao, Mahogany, etc. ●The NPP area is a farming area with no forest, but conservation was introduced. Community is tasked to protect the forest around forest and the trees planted.
P4F 21/06/2024	Communication and External Relation	Interview	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●Supporting BOPP smallholder project since 2019 ●Community provides the land while BOPP secure funding on behalf of the community for the project and provide technical support ●Support the community with livelihood support program while waiting for the maturity of the project. ●Set up committee for proper landscape management to help in conservation activities ●Forest committee is in place to ensure the forest and HCV areas are protected. ●Regarding the current NPP area, all studies including EIA, SIA and HCV-HCS have been conducted and shared. ●Establish tree planting committee to ensure degraded areas are planted. ●Confirmed the landownership as Adum Bansa stool and leased to Asubonteng Farms Ltd. ●Establish livelihood support project for the community including Fish farming (mainly catfish), Poultry and Piggery. There is a steering committee in place managing the project for the benefit of the community. Selection of the project was brought up by the community

		<p>themselves. BOPP provided list of beneficiaries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Confirmed set-aside area for community farming. •No land clearing has been done by the company.
Conservation Society	NGO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Contact was not available through out the verification period and even after the verification via phone calls.

NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG III

ADUM BANSO HENE & BENKUMHENE OF WASSA FIASE TRADITIONAL AREA

Tel: 0208307027
Mobile: 0276087267

My Ref:

Your Ref:



P.O.BOX AX 255
TAKORADI

29-01-2020

The Group Manager
BOPP
Adum Banso Estate

Dear Sir,

RELEASING A PORTION OF THE ASUBONTENG CONCESSION TO BE USED FOR A SMALL HOLDER SCHEME FOR THE ROYAL STOOL AND THE COMMUNITY.

The Chief and Elders of the Adum Banso community have agreed that part of the above named concession be used for a small holder scheme for the Royal Stool and the community. If this project materialize, a certain percentage amount would be deducted from the proceeds of the would be beneficiaries into a community development account. This amount would be used for developmental project.

The Stool would also be on her feet financially to support the community in some developmental project.

I hope if this our request is granted the Chief and His Elders with the opinion Leaders in the community would meet the management of your company to discuss on the modalities for the implementation of the project.

Looking forward to hear from you.



Yours faithfully

[Signature]
NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG III

ATTACHED ARE THE SIGNATORIES:

ADUM BANSO HENE

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

BETWEEN

ADUM BANSO STOOL
REP. BY
NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG III

AND

ASUBONTENG FARMS LTD
REP. BY
MR JOHN ASAMOAH [CEO]

Figure 17: Sample of consent letter and MOU shared with BOPP to convert the area for scheme smallholder oil palm project.



Figure 18: Meeting with Chief, Elders of Adum Banso and the DCE of Mpohor District Assembly



Figure 19: Meeting with the First son of Asubonteng Farms Ltd and the Rep of the family



Figure 20: Meeting with Community and Affected farmers of the project area



Figure 21: Meeting with Community and Affected farmers of the project area



Figure 22: Meeting with Executive of ABCOBEN



Figure 23: Visit to the Livelihood support site with the steering committee – Catfish farming



Figure 24: Catfish farming



Figure 25: Visit to the Livelihood support site – Poultry Farm



Figure 26: Visit to the Livelihood support site – Piggery Farm



Figure 27: Picture of settlement in the project area showing No land clearing

8. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Report

The GHG assessment for ADUM BANSO SMALLHOLDER OIL PALM PLANTATION (NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG III ESTATE) was conducted internally by BOPP sustainability team dated 1st March 2024. The assessment team is confirmed to meet the NPP 2021 requirements.

- i. Knowledge of carbon emission accounting methodologies for above and below ground carbon stocks, including peat.
- ii. Experience in verifying land cover maps and/or conducting carbon stock assessment in agriculture and/or forestry sectors.
- iii. Experience and expertise in using remote sensing technology to estimate carbon stocks.

Table 16: List of GHG assessors and their qualifications.

Name	Organisation/company	Role/Expertise in the assessment
Foo Siew Theng	Wilmar International Ltd	Carbon emissions accounting and methodologies
Victor Tetteh Zutah	Benso Oil Palm Plantation (BOPP)	Carbon emissions
Kwasi Baah Ofori	Benso Oil Palm Plantation (BOPP)	Carbon emissions
Yaw Ofori Lartey	Wilmar International Ltd	GHG accounting and methodology
Emmanuel Boateng	Benso Oil Palm Plantation (BOPP)	Land cover maps and remote sensing techniques for carbon estimation

The estimation of the GHG emissions were done using the 2016 New Development GHG Calculator provided by RSPO and downloaded from the link below: <https://rspo.org/resources/?category=ghg-calculator&id=5743>.

Review of the GHG report establish that, four main scenarios were considered and analyzed. The table below presents the characteristics of the four scenarios considered for the analysis. The project area is intending to set aside 94.479 ha of area for conservation purposes. Scenarios 3 and 4 are presented

to guarantee strong effort in conservation and in reduction of emissions.

Table 17: Characteristics of the scenarios used for the GHG emission estimations (Land sizes in hectares)

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
Concession lease	748.44	748.44	748.44	748.44
Low density forest	12.406			
Young regenerating forest	4.516			
Open land	124.074		62.35	62.35
Scrub	15.605		15.605	15.605
Swamp				
Agriculture/ fallow land	419.664		404.67	404.67
Oil palm	124.010	124.010	124.010	124.010
Cocoa & rubber	47.325			47.325
Set aside area for conservation	0	0	94.479	94.479
Percentage of conservation area (%)	0	0	12.62	12.62
Land in hectare cleared for other use (%)	0			
Proposed development (ha)	748.44	124.00	653,961	653.961
Percentage of proposed development area (%)	100	16.57	87.38	87.38
Total planted area (ha)	748.44	124.00	606.636	653.961
Percentage of planted area (%)	100.00	16.57	81.05	87.38

Table 18 below present the results of the GHG analysis.

Table 18: Carbon emissions/sequestration under four different scenarios.

	Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4
	t CO ₂ e	t CO ₂ e	t CO ₂ e	t CO ₂ e
Land clearing	50.51	4.97	40.32	40.72
Crop sequestration	-6,507.79	-1,078.28	-5,274.78	-5,686.28
Fertilisers	274.52	45.49	222.51	239.86
N ₂ O	241.00	39.93	195.33	210.57
Field fuel	379.03	62.80	307.22	331.19

Peat	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Conservation credit	0.00	-1,504.88	-341.75	-227.69
POME	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Mill fuel	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Purchased electricity	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Credit (excess electricity exported)	0.00	0	0.00	0
Credit (sale of biomass for power)	0.00	0	0.00	0
Field emissions & sinks	-5,562.73	-2,429.98	-4,851.15	-5,092
Mill emissions & credit	0	0	0	0
Total emissions (field and mill)	-5,562.73	-2,430	-4,851.15	-5,092

Review of the GHG report establish that the main sources of emissions are expected to emanate from:

- Land use change
- Transport fuel
- Fertilizer usage

The ABSHOPP land area does not contain any peatlands *see figure 8*, and largely consist of mineral soils. Therefore, there are no anticipated emissions from decomposing peat.

The findings from this assessment demonstrate that the concession area consists of open land (16.6%). The carbon sequestration potential of the current vegetation is average and converting the proposed concession to oil palm could yield a potential gain in carbon stocks. In addition to this, recommendations have been made for setting aside of areas for conservation purposes. It is expected that this would also serve to store some additional carbon.

9. Land Use Change Analysis (LUCA) report

The Land Use Change Analysis Report: ADUM BANSO SMALLHOLDER OIL PALM PLANTATION (NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG III ESTATE) proposed development was conducted by Proforest dated June 2024. The LUCA report is therefore current at time of the NPP assessment.

Table 19: List of GHG assessor and qualifications.

Name	Organisation/company	Role in the assessment
Clement Obeng-Manu	Proforest	Lead Assessor/Flora survey coordination plus GIS and mapping

Outcome of the LUCA report

Review of the LUCA established that:

2005 to 2008 change detection

Four land cover types were identified in the 2005 and 2008 land cover classifications. The changes in the land cover classes and the resulting area coverage are shown in figure 28 and table 20 below.

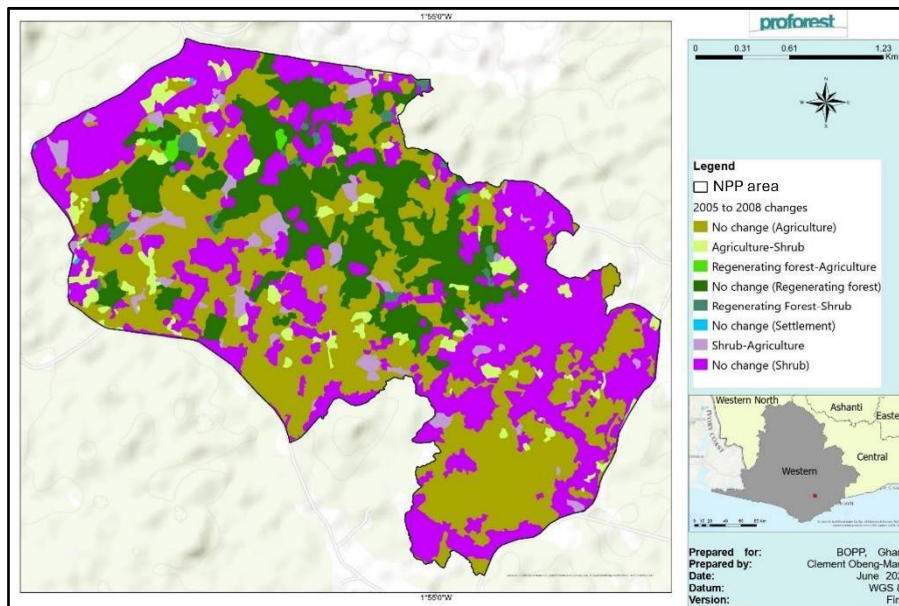


Figure 28: 2005 to 2008 land cover change map.
Sources of Map: LUCA report.

Table 20: 2005 to 2008 change matrix

Land cover class	Agriculture		Shrub		Regenerating Forest		Settlement	
	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage
Agriculture	280.05	37.42%	30.87	4.13%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Shrub	28.62	3.82%	264.99	35.41%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Regenerating Forest	2.80	0.37%	8.23	1.10%	132.56	17.71%	0.00	0.00%
Settlement	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.32	0.04%

2008 to 2009 change detection

From the change detection map presented in figure 56 below, most of the agriculture, young regenerating forest, and shrubland areas were maintained between 2008 and 2009. One of the dominant changes that can easily be observed from visual inspection is the shrub to oil palm change. The change matrix between 2008 and 2009 is presented below the map.

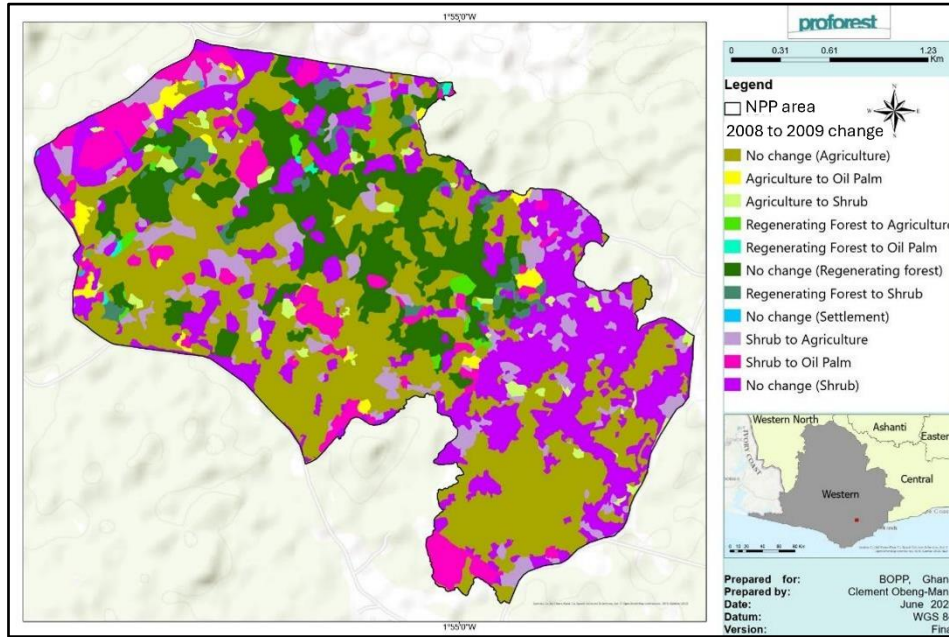


Figure 29: 2008 to 2009 change map
Sources of Map: LUCA report.

Table 21: 2008 to 2009 change matrix

Land cover class	Agriculture		Oil palm		Shrub		Regenerating Forest		Settlement	
	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage
Agriculture	302.53	40.42%	1.92	0.26%	7.02	0.94%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Oil palm	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Shrub	48.23	6.44%	64.46	8.61%	191.40	25.57%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Regenerating Forest	3.74	0.50%	0.38	0.05%	8.53	1.14%	119.91	16.02%	0.00	0.00%
Settlement	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.32	0.04%

2009 to 2014 change detection

The changes in land cover between 2009 and 2014 is shown in figure 30 below.

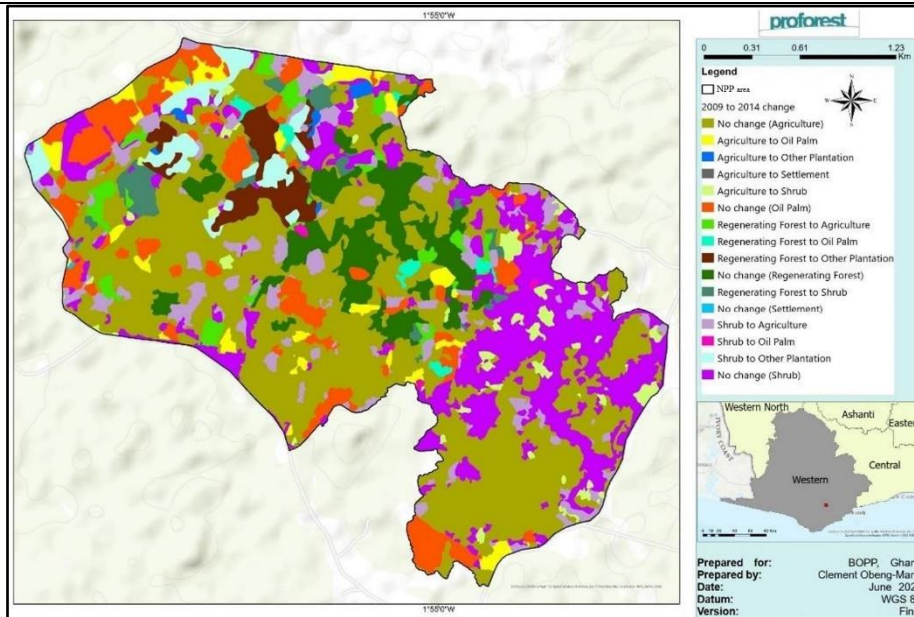


Figure 30: 2009 to 2014 change map
Sources of Map: LUCA report.

A quick overview of the 2009 to 2014 change map shown in figure 30 above reveals that most of the agriculture areas were still not converted to other land cover types. Detailed information is shown in the change matrix table 22 below.

Table 22: 2009 to 2014 change matrix

Land cover class	Agriculture		Oil palm		Other plantation		Regenerating Forest		Settlement		Shrub	
	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage
Agriculture	307.66	41.11%	20.69	2.76%	2.87	0.38%	0.00	0.00	0.09	0.01%	17.61	2.35%
Oil palm	0.00	0.00%	66.75	8.92%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Other plantation	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Regenerating Forest	16.45	2.20%	5.50	0.74%	22.32	2.98%	60.87	0.08	0.00	0.00%	14.77	1.97%
Settlement	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00	0.32	0.04%	0.00	0.00%
Shrub	52.29	6.99%	1.73	0.23%	22.54	3.01%	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	130.40	17.42%

2014 to 2018 change detection

The change map and the corresponding change matrix are presented in figure 31 and Table 23 below.

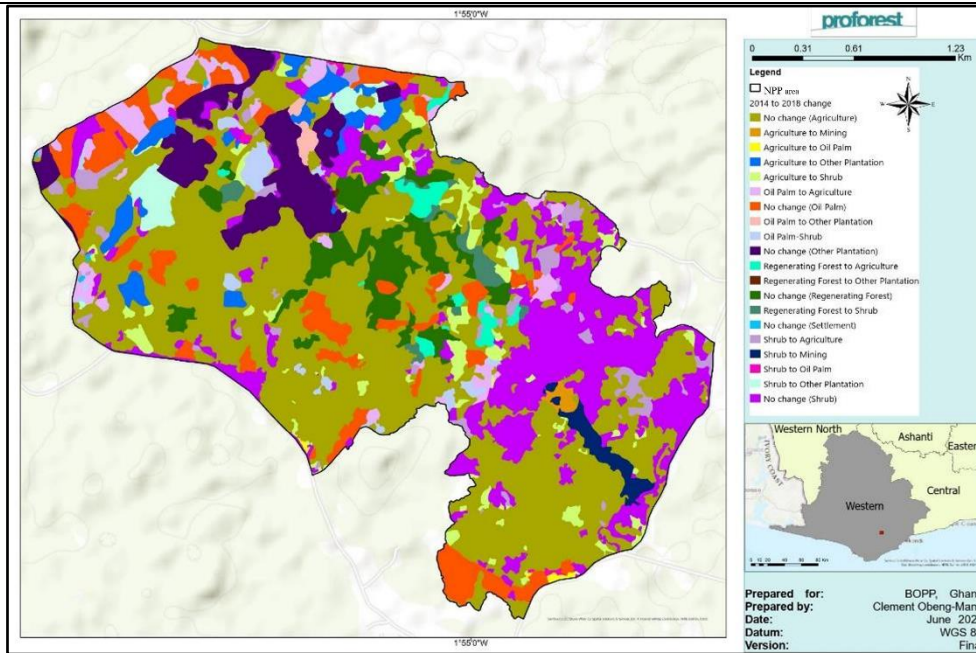


Figure 31: 2014 to 2018 change detection map
Sources of Map: LUCA report.

Table 23: 2014 to 2018 change matrix

Land cover class	Agriculture		Mining		Oil palm		Other plantation		Regenerating Forest		Settlement		Shrub	
	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage
Agriculture	335.46	44.82%	2.02	0.27%	0.91	0.12%	18.91	2.53%	24.70	3.30%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Mining	20.54	2.74%	0.00	0.00%	61.55	8.22%	2.71	0.36%	9.86	1.32%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Oil palm	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	47.72	6.38%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Other plantation	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Shrub	19.35	2.59%	7.92	1.06%	0.99	0.13%	11.57	1.55%	122.95	16.43%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Regenerating Forest	9.01	1.20%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.10	0.01%	8.11	1.08%	43.65	5.83%	0.00	0.00%
Settlement	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.41	0.05%

2018 to 2024 change detection

The 2018 to 2024 change map and matrix are also shown below

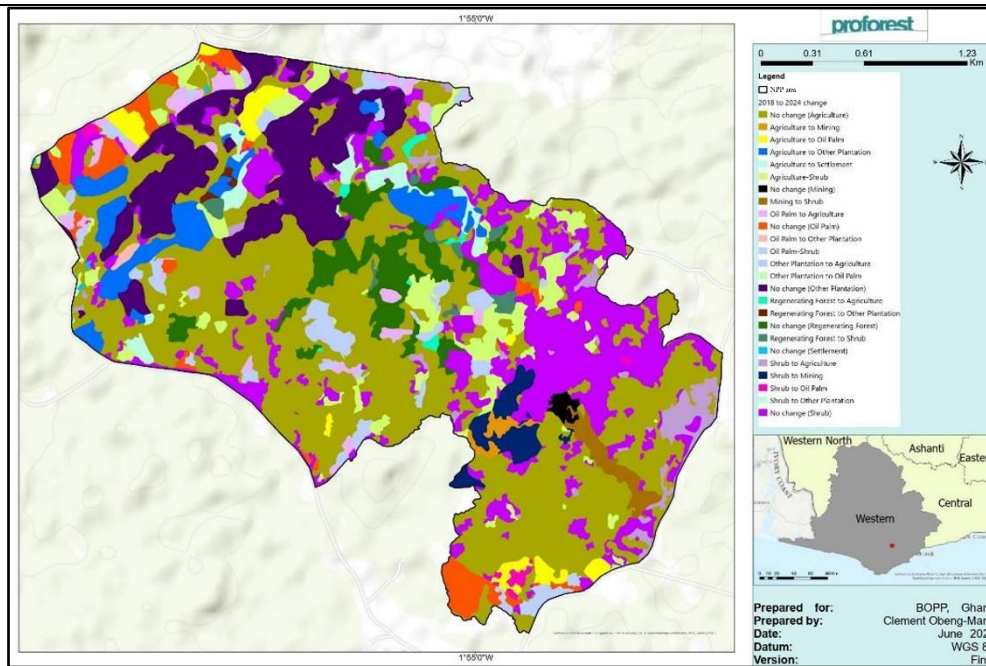


Figure 32: Change map for 2018 to 2024
Sources of Map: LUCA report.

Table 24: 2018 to 2024 change matrix

Land cover class	Agriculture		Mining		Oil palm		Other plantation		Settlement		Shrub		Regenerating forest	
	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage	Area (ha)	% coverage
Agriculture	296.69	39.64%	3.17	0.42%	13.86	1.85%	30.87	4.12%	0.09	0.01%	39.69	5.30%	0.00	0.00%
Mining	0.00	0.00%	2.24	0.30%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	7.70	1.03%	0.00	0.00%
Oil palm	13.34	1.78%	0.00	0.00%	22.86	3.05%	1.00	0.13%	0.00	0.00%	26.24	3.51%	0.00	0.00%
Other plantation	0.49	0.07%	0.00	0.00%	0.10	0.01%	80.43	10.75%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Settlement	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.41	0.05%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%
Shrub	15.45	2.06%	11.84	1.58%	2.77	0.37%	12.40	1.66%	0.00	0.00%	123.15	16.45%	0.00	0.00%
Regenerating forest	2.34	0.31%	0.00	0.00%	0.00	0.00%	0.90	0.12%	0.00	0.00%	5.65	0.75%	34.76	4.64%

The result of the land cover analysis between 2005 and 2024 shows that the NPP area is predominantly an agricultural area. Agriculture also increased between 2005 and 2018 but reduced in 2024. The increase in agriculture area between 2005 and 2018 can be attributed to the type of agriculture practice carried out as well as the intensification of agriculture practices while the reduction in the size of agriculture area in 2024 can be attributed to the fact that farmers who grow food crops are encouraged to farm outside the NPP area as the project timeline draws close.

There was a general reduction in the area of regenerating forest between 2005 and 2024. The regenerating forest changed to other land cover types such as agriculture and shrub. Within the assessment area, no primary or secondary forest was identified within the timeframe of the analysis. The regenerating forest are as a result of agricultural areas left to fallow for a long period of time resulting in some tree species developing. The conversion of regenerating forest to fallow may be attributed to farmers returning to clear those areas for agriculture as this is common with the type of farming practices carried out. It can be concluded that no deforestation of primary forest has taken place between 2005 and 2024 as no primary forest was identified.

10. NPP Integrated Management Plan

BOPP ADUM BANSO SMALLHOLDER OIL PALM PLANTATION (NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG III ESTATE) has developed NPP Integrated Management Plan as documented in the Assessment Summaries and Management Plans. The management plan provides an overview of all the NPP assessments report and includes management plans for all required aspects which are consistent with the proposed management plans as per the assessment reports above.

The integrated management plan is confirmed to take into consideration as a minimum, but not limited to, the following:

- Impact of the development on any established customary rights of local peoples which have been identified through the assessments and related FPIC processes.
- Exclude planting on areas identified through the HCV and HCSA assessment.
- Exclude planting in riparian buffers.
- Exclude planting on peatlands (as no such areas are identified in the concession).
- Provide for the maintenance and/or enhancement of all identified HCV-HCS forest that have been agreed upon through the FPIC process and/or following appropriate management recommendations from relevant assessments.
- Avoid extensive planting on steep terrain and/or marginal and fragile soils (as no steep terrain or marginal and fragile soils are identified in the concession).
- Minimise net GHG emissions from the development in ways which take into account the avoidance of land areas with high carbon stocks and/or maximise sequestration options.

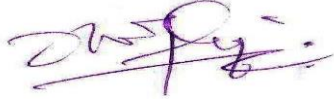
The management plan includes a statement of acceptance of responsibility for assessment and formal sign-off by top management of Benso Oil Palm Plantation (BOPP) i.e. the General Manager.

11. Conclusion

Through in-depth review of the NPP assessment reports and supporting documents as well as on-site verification of site conditions and interviews with local communities and all relevant stakeholders, the verification team confirms that the company has met the requirements of the RSPO New Planting Procedure, conducted an effective FPIC process and has established a detailed integrated management plan in line with the assessment reports in order to ensure the sustainable development of the concession.

Acknowledgement by RSPO Member

Benso Oil Palm Plantation of Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation acknowledges that this NPP submission had been conducted in accordance with the New Planting Procedure 2021. All assessments had been carried out accordingly and without any prejudice. Benso Oil Palm Plantation will ensure all legal requirements are continuously met pre, during and post development of this NPP area.

Confirmation by Certification Body	The work recorded in this NPP submission by Benso Oil Palm Plantation of Adum Bansa Smallholder Oil Palm Plantation (NANA KWANDOH BREMPONG III ESTATE at this Wassa Mpohor in the Western Region of Ghana has been verified by SCS Global Services and has been carried out in accordance with the requirement of the RSPO New Planting Procedure 2021 for the time being in force and in that respect that this area is considered satisfactory for development of new plantings.	
Signatures	RSPO Members	Certification Body
	Name of Person Responsible: Samuel Avaala Awonnea	Name of Lead Auditor: Frank Kwesi
	Designation: General Manager	Designation: Lead Auditor
	Signature: 	Signature: 
	Date: 04/09/2024	Date: 04/09/2024