



Coastal Sustainable Landscapes Project (CSLP)

In Pursuit of a Green and Healthy Learning Environment

“Our school can now boast of a beautiful environment blended with different of trees. The trees serve as windbreaks and preventing the school roofs from ripping off during rain storms”, the students said excitedly. “They also give is shade to sit under during break periods,” said Stephen Mensah, a member of Komfueku D/A Junior High School Climate Change Club.

Green environments are an essential component of a healthy human habitat. Since 2015, the USAID-funded and USFS-managed CSLP have used Climate Change Clubs interventions as a means to influence and reform the mindset of the students at the junior high school level on the importance of a clean, healthy environment and food security issues, and also foster in students a lifelong commitment to protecting their natural surroundings.



Students of Komfueku D/A Junior High School sitting under a tree planted by the schools' climate change club

The Komfueku D/A Junior High School Climate Change Club was inaugurated in December 2015 with a club membership of 40 pupils and 8 teachers, including the headmaster of the school, with the slogan “Greening Our Environment, Our Priority, Our Future.” The club has been true to its slogan. In 2016, the club planted 65 tree seedlings supplied by the CSLP. The tree seedlings included *Acacia mangium*, *Senna siamea* and *Adenanthera parvominia* on their school's compound. The result of planting the trees have been significant.

“When we started we had no trees around here, and two years later we have a lot of shade trees around,” the students said. “our classrooms are well ventilated and we have somewhere to sit and rest during break periods.” This result did not come without challenges.



“We faced a lot of odds. The soil is clayey mixed with gravel and the land is almost bare; stray domestic animals grazed on the few grasses on the school compound and erosion taken over the compound,” said Mr. Apire, one of the eight focal teachers of the club. Not discouraged, club members planted the trees and added grasses to check the erosion too.



Climate change club members watering trees planted

Students could not hide their excitement as they shared roles they had played in the greening effort. “We brought loamy soil and animal droppings from our houses to fertilize places where we had planted the trees and grasses. We also brought buckets of water to water the trees and grasses regularly.” This made it grow well,” the students said.

According to the headmaster of Komfueku D/A Junior High School, Mr. Elliot Ntiako “Our students made significant improvement in relating with each other, and they become more responsible. They would inspect the trees without being asked to and report whatever they saw back to the teachers.” They could also understand better topics taught in class on environment and science related subjects,” said Mr. Ntiako.

Since 2015, the USAID funded and US Forest Service managed CSLP have formed 20 climate change clubs with a population of over 1000 students across 5 coastal districts in the Western

Region of Ghana. Climate Change clubs and more than 400 farmers across CSLP landscape have planted 45,500 surviving trees to help build resilience to climate change, contribute to the creation of climate knowledge and strengthen local capacities to meet them, each integral parts of implementing sustainable development.

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