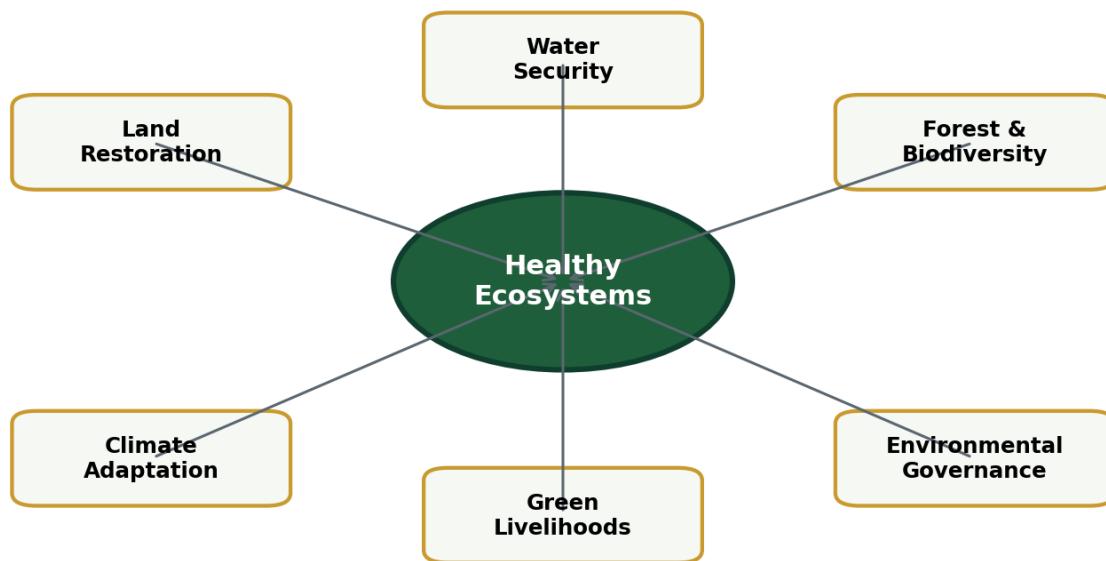


GETCARE FOUNDATION



IMPROVING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Programme Framework for Ecosystem Restoration, Biodiversity Conservation,
Climate Adaptation and Environmental Governance



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Publication Information

This programme framework has been prepared for GetCare Foundation as a public-facing institutional document for partners, donors, government agencies, research institutions, communities and development actors. It expands the Improving Environmental Health programme area presented on the GetCare Foundation website into a practical, evidence-informed and partnership-ready framework.

Item	Description
Title	Improving Environmental Health: Programme Framework
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Programme area	Environmental health, ecosystem restoration, biodiversity, climate adaptation and governance
Geographic focus	Ghana, with a long-term pathway for West Africa
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Foreword

Environmental health is not a peripheral development concern. It is the foundation upon which food systems, water security, public health, livelihoods, climate stability and community resilience depend. Across Ghana and Africa, communities are confronting rapid changes in the landscapes that have sustained them for generations. Forests are shrinking, water bodies are under pressure, farmlands are losing productivity, biodiversity is declining and climate shocks are becoming more frequent and severe.

GetCare Foundation believes that the response to these challenges must be practical, community-centred and evidence-driven. Environmental restoration should not be treated as an isolated conservation activity; it must be connected to livelihoods, agriculture, governance, science, youth opportunity, climate finance and long-term local stewardship.

This programme framework explains how GetCare Foundation approaches Improving Environmental Health as one of its core programme areas. It sets out our environmental rationale, strategic pillars, implementation model, partnership approach, monitoring system and expected impact. It is designed to guide programme development, strengthen institutional partnerships and provide a clear reference for visitors who download the full document from our website.

Our ambition is to work with communities, traditional authorities, government agencies, universities, research institutions, private sector actors and development partners to restore degraded landscapes, protect ecosystems and build resilient communities across Ghana and beyond.

Evans Odoom
Chief Executive Officer
GetCare Foundation

Executive Summary

Improving Environmental Health is one of GetCare Foundation's core programme areas. It responds to the interconnected challenges of land degradation, deforestation, biodiversity loss, water insecurity, climate vulnerability and weak environmental governance. These challenges affect community livelihoods, food systems, public health and the long-term productive capacity of rural landscapes.

Globally, FAO estimates that deforestation continued at about 10 million hectares per year during 2015-2020. UNCCD reports that up to 40 percent of the world's land is degraded, affecting more than 3 billion people, while IPBES has warned that around 1 million animal and plant species face extinction risk. These global pressures are highly relevant to Ghana and West Africa, where forest degradation, illegal mining, unsustainable land use, agricultural expansion, pollution and climate variability are reshaping ecosystems and local economies.

GetCare Foundation's response is built around four strategic pillars: advancing land restoration and conservation; protecting forests and biodiversity hotspots; strengthening community climate adaptation; and advancing environmental governance and policy engagement. The programme combines nature-based solutions, community participation, scientific planning, digital monitoring, institutional partnerships and sustainable livelihood alternatives.

The framework is designed to support practical implementation. It includes restoration planning, community mobilization, watershed protection, agroforestry, biodiversity conservation, environmental education, local governance support, climate adaptation, monitoring and learning. The programme also links directly with GetCare's wider work in agrifood systems, community resilience and inclusive rural development.

This publication presents GetCare Foundation as an implementation partner, knowledge partner and community mobilization platform for environmental health in Ghana and West Africa. It is intended for donors, government agencies, universities, research institutions, private sector partners and civil society organizations seeking credible, locally grounded and scalable environmental solutions.

Programme Goal

To restore and protect the ecological systems that sustain communities, food security, water resources, biodiversity and climate resilience in Ghana and West Africa.

1. Introduction

Environmental health refers to the condition, functionality and resilience of the natural systems that support human life. It includes the health of forests, soils, farmlands, rivers, watersheds, biodiversity habitats and climate-regulating ecosystems. When these systems are healthy, communities benefit from clean water, productive soils, stable rainfall patterns, food security, lower disaster risk and stronger livelihood opportunities.

Across Ghana and West Africa, environmental health is increasingly under pressure. In many landscapes, rural households face declining soil fertility, reduced forest cover, polluted water sources, loss of biodiversity and greater exposure to droughts, floods and heat stress. These challenges are not isolated environmental problems; they are development challenges that affect poverty reduction, nutrition, public health, youth employment, gender equity and local economic stability.

GetCare Foundation's Improving Environmental Health programme provides a structured response to these challenges. It integrates ecosystem restoration, conservation, climate adaptation, environmental governance, research and community engagement into a single programme framework. The programme is built on the understanding that communities must be at the centre of environmental transformation, while science, partnerships and policy alignment provide the support needed for scale and sustainability.

1.1 Purpose of this Document

This document broadens the Improving Environmental Health page on the GetCare Foundation website into a full downloadable programme framework. It explains the strategic direction, operational model, technical components and expected results of the programme. It also provides a professional reference for partners and stakeholders who wish to understand how GetCare Foundation works in environmental restoration and conservation.

1.2 Intended Audience

Audience	How the document serves them
Development partners and donors	Provides a clear investment case, results logic and programme architecture.
Government agencies	Shows alignment with restoration, climate, water, agriculture and environmental governance priorities.
Research institutions and universities	Identifies opportunities for field research, monitoring, learning and innovation.
Traditional authorities and communities	Clarifies the role of local leadership, stewardship and benefit-sharing.
Private sector and carbon actors	Shows pathways for responsible restoration, ESG engagement and climate finance.
Civil society organizations	Creates a basis for coalition-building, advocacy and joint implementation.

2. Global, African and Ghana Environmental Context

The environmental crisis facing Ghana and West Africa must be understood within a wider global context. Environmental degradation is now recognized as one of the defining development risks of the twenty-first century. The degradation of forests, land, water and biodiversity undermines progress in food security, climate action, poverty reduction, public health and economic development.

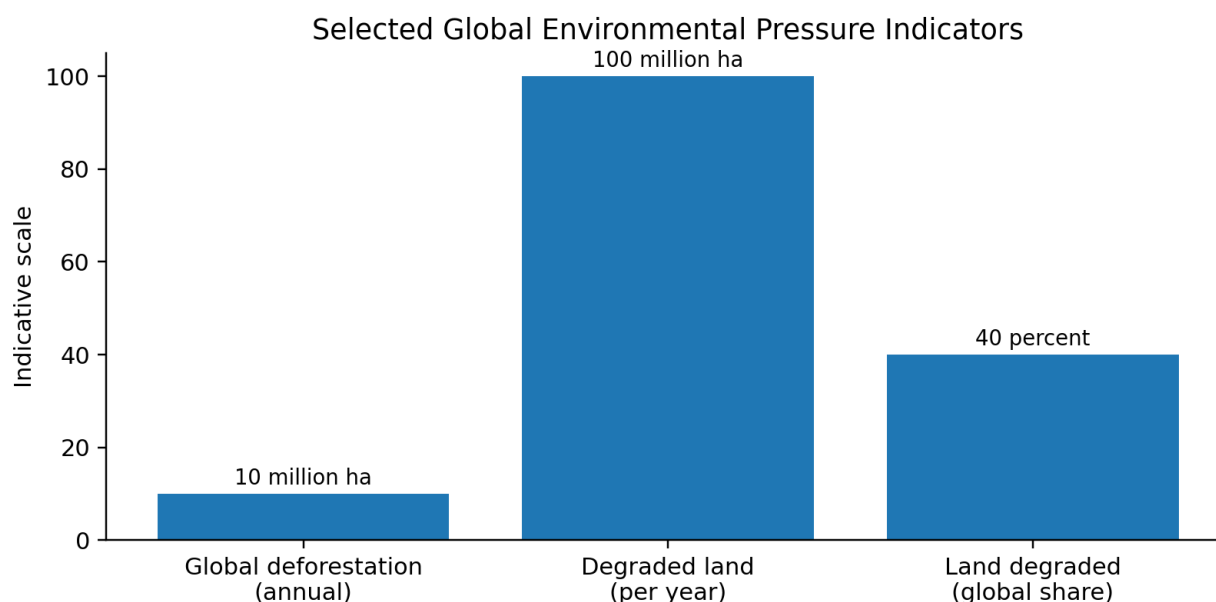


Figure 1. Selected global environmental pressure indicators. Sources: FAO, UNCCD and IPBES.

2.1 Global Environmental Pressures

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations estimates that the world lost around 420 million hectares of forest through deforestation between 1990 and 2020. During 2015-2020, the annual rate of deforestation was estimated at 10 million hectares. Although the rate has slowed compared with previous decades, the continuing loss of forests remains a major threat to climate regulation, biodiversity, watershed protection and rural livelihoods.

Land degradation is also increasing in scale and urgency. The United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification reports that up to 40 percent of the world's land is degraded, affecting more than 3 billion people. This degradation reduces productivity, increases vulnerability to drought, intensifies conflict over natural resources and undermines the capacity of communities to adapt to climate change.

Biodiversity loss adds another layer of risk. The Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services has warned that around 1 million animal and plant species are threatened with extinction. This loss affects pollination, soil formation, pest regulation, water purification, cultural values and the stability of ecosystems on which communities depend.

Theme	Global signal	Implication for GetCare programming
Forests	Deforestation remains approximately 10 million ha per year.	Forest protection and restoration must be linked to livelihoods and community stewardship.
Land	Up to 40% of global land is degraded.	Restoration must address soil health, water, vegetation cover and productive use.
Biodiversity	Around 1 million species face extinction risk.	Biodiversity protection must be mainstreamed into restoration and agriculture.
Water	Watersheds are affected by pollution, land-use change and climate variability.	Water protection must be central to landscape planning.
Climate	Climate shocks are increasing exposure of rural communities.	Adaptation must combine nature-based solutions with local preparedness.

2.2 Africa and West Africa

Africa's environmental challenges are shaped by rapid population growth, pressure on land, dependence on rain-fed agriculture, weak infrastructure, climate variability and the degradation of forests, rangelands and watersheds. In West Africa, these pressures are visible in deforestation, soil erosion, declining water quality, desertification in dryland zones and increased frequency of floods and droughts.

For rural communities, environmental degradation directly affects livelihoods. When soils lose fertility, farm yields decline. When forests are degraded, communities lose non-timber forest products, climate regulation and watershed functions. When rivers are polluted or silted, households face higher health risks and reduced water access. These realities make environmental health a development priority, not simply a conservation issue.

2.3 Ghana Context

Ghana's environmental situation reflects many of the pressures affecting West Africa. Forests and biodiversity habitats face threats from illegal logging, agricultural expansion, settlement growth, mining and weak enforcement. In mining-affected landscapes, river systems and farmlands are often exposed to sedimentation, chemical contamination and loss of productive land. In agricultural zones, continuous cultivation without adequate soil restoration contributes to declining fertility and reduced resilience.

The policy conversation in Ghana increasingly recognizes the urgency of protecting forest reserves and water bodies, particularly in the context of illegal small-scale mining. Parliamentary discussions and recent environmental analyses have highlighted the seriousness of threats to Ghana's forests and water resources. These challenges create a strong case for community-led restoration, local environmental governance and practical livelihood alternatives.

Ghana Relevance

GetCare Foundation's environmental health work is especially relevant in landscapes affected by forest degradation, mining, declining soil fertility, watershed stress and climate vulnerability. The programme offers a platform for combining local action with national environmental priorities.

3. Why Environmental Health Matters

Environmental health matters because ecosystems provide the basic services that enable communities and economies to function. These services are often invisible until they are lost. Forests regulate water flows, store carbon, protect biodiversity and support livelihoods. Healthy soils sustain agricultural productivity and food security. Rivers and wetlands provide water, habitat and flood regulation. Biodiversity supports pollination, pest control and ecological stability.

For GetCare Foundation, improving environmental health is closely connected to its broader commitment to agrifood systems, poverty reduction, rural development and community resilience. Environmental decline increases vulnerability; environmental restoration creates pathways for recovery, adaptation and inclusive green growth.

Ecosystem service	Examples	Development value
Provisioning services	Food, water, fuelwood, medicinal plants, non-timber forest products	Supports household income, nutrition and local enterprise.
Regulating services	Carbon storage, flood regulation, water purification, erosion control	Reduces climate and disaster risk while supporting public health.
Supporting services	Soil formation, nutrient cycling, pollination, habitat functions	Maintains long-term productivity and biodiversity.
Cultural services	Sacred groves, landscapes, eco-tourism, heritage values	Strengthens identity, stewardship and local development opportunities.

3.1 Environmental Health and Food Systems

Agriculture depends on healthy ecosystems. Soil fertility, rainfall patterns, pollination, water availability and pest regulation are all shaped by environmental conditions. When ecosystems decline, farmers face higher costs, lower yields and greater uncertainty. GetCare's environmental health programme therefore complements its agrifood systems work by restoring the ecological foundations of production.

3.2 Environmental Health and Public Health

Environmental degradation can increase exposure to unsafe water, polluted air, chemical contamination, disease vectors and nutrition insecurity. Protecting watersheds, reducing pollution and restoring ecosystems therefore contributes to healthier communities. This connection reinforces GetCare Foundation's integrated development identity, where environmental action supports human wellbeing.

3.3 Environmental Health and Climate Resilience

Healthy ecosystems act as natural buffers against climate shocks. Forests and wetlands reduce flood risk, vegetation cover protects soils from erosion, agroforestry improves microclimates and restored landscapes can increase resilience to drought. Nature-based solutions are therefore central to GetCare's climate adaptation approach.

4. GetCare Foundation Environmental Health Programme

The Improving Environmental Health programme is organized around a practical theory of change: if degraded landscapes are restored, forests and biodiversity are protected, communities are equipped to adapt to climate risks and environmental governance is strengthened, then ecosystems will recover, livelihoods will become more resilient and communities will be better positioned for sustainable development.



Figure 2. Improving Environmental Health theory of change.

4.1 Programme Vision

Vision

Healthy, resilient and productive landscapes where communities protect natural resources, restore degraded ecosystems and build sustainable livelihoods in harmony with the environment.

4.2 Programme Goal

To improve the long-term health of forests, farmlands, watersheds, biodiversity habitats and climate-sensitive ecosystems through community-led restoration, conservation, adaptation, research and environmental governance.

4.3 Specific Objectives

- Restore degraded lands, farmlands, riverbanks, watersheds and mining-affected landscapes using climate-smart and community-led approaches.
- Protect forests, biodiversity hotspots and ecosystem services through local stewardship, monitoring and sustainable livelihood alternatives.
- Strengthen community capacity to adapt to climate risks through nature-based solutions, climate information and resilient livelihood practices.
- Support environmental governance through land-use planning, community bylaws, policy engagement, research and evidence-based advocacy.
- Develop partnerships that connect local implementation with government priorities, scientific knowledge, climate finance and long-term sustainability.

4.4 Guiding Principles

Principle	Meaning for GetCare implementation
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Community ownership	Projects are designed with communities, not merely delivered to them.
Science-driven planning	Environmental interventions are informed by baseline data, ecological assessment and monitoring.
Landscape approach	Restoration considers farms, forests, water systems, settlements and livelihoods together.
Inclusion	Women, youth, smallholder farmers and vulnerable groups participate in benefits and decision-making.
Partnership	Complex environmental challenges require collaboration across sectors and institutions.
Sustainability	Interventions must continue beyond project funding through local stewardship and viable livelihoods.

5. Advancing Land Restoration and Conservation

Land restoration is central to GetCare Foundation’s environmental health agenda. Degraded land reduces agricultural productivity, increases erosion, contributes to biodiversity loss and weakens community resilience. In many rural landscapes, degradation is driven by unsustainable farming, vegetation loss, mining, fire, overharvesting, poor drainage and climate stress.

GetCare’s land restoration work focuses on returning ecological function to degraded landscapes while also creating value for communities. The goal is not only to plant trees or rehabilitate land, but to rebuild soil health, protect water flows, improve vegetation cover, restore productive capacity and create incentives for long-term stewardship.

Core Components

- Landscape assessment and participatory mapping
- Soil health improvement and erosion control
- Assisted natural regeneration and enrichment planting
- Agroforestry and productive restoration systems
- Riverbank and watershed rehabilitation
- Post-mining and degraded land recovery pilots
- Community restoration committees and local stewardship

Operational Approach

The pillar will be implemented through an integrated process that begins with baseline assessment and stakeholder engagement, moves into participatory planning and technical design, and continues through implementation, monitoring, learning and scale-up. This approach ensures that interventions respond to local realities while remaining aligned with national and global environmental priorities.

Intervention area	Typical activities	Expected outputs
Assessment	Community mapping, ecological baseline, stakeholder analysis	Prioritized landscapes and intervention plans
Implementation	Restoration works, training, livelihood support, monitoring	Restored sites, trained groups and active stewardship structures
Governance	Local agreements, reporting systems, coordination meetings	Improved rules, accountability and institutional collaboration
Learning	Data collection, field reviews, knowledge products	Evidence for adaptation, scaling and policy engagement

Indicative Indicators

Indicator	Unit	Frequency
Area restored or placed under improved management	Hectares	Quarterly/annually
Community members trained or engaged	Number disaggregated by sex and youth	Quarterly
Local governance structures supported	Number	Semi-annually
Environmental monitoring reports generated	Number	Quarterly
Livelihood alternatives supported	Number of groups/enterprises	Semi-annually

6. Protecting Forests and Biodiversity Hotspots

Forests and biodiversity hotspots provide critical ecosystem services. They protect water sources, store carbon, regulate climate, support pollinators, conserve wildlife habitats and sustain local livelihoods. Yet these ecosystems are often threatened by illegal logging, destructive mining, encroachment, fire, unsustainable harvesting and weak enforcement.

GetCare Foundation's forest and biodiversity work combines community protection, livelihood alternatives, monitoring, education and institutional partnerships. The programme recognizes that conservation is most effective when local people see clear benefits from protecting ecosystems and when traditional authorities and local governments are part of the governance structure.

Core Components

- Community forest stewardship and forest guard models
- Biodiversity hotspot identification and monitoring
- Forest-friendly livelihood alternatives
- Sustainable harvesting and non-timber forest product management
- Conservation education and school/community campaigns
- Threat detection and reporting systems
- Research partnerships for species and habitat protection

Operational Approach

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7. Strengthening Community Climate Adaptation

Climate change is increasing the vulnerability of rural communities through rainfall variability, droughts, floods, heat stress, pest outbreaks and reduced agricultural predictability. Environmental degradation makes these risks worse by weakening the natural buffers that communities depend on.

GetCare Foundation approaches climate adaptation through nature-based and ecosystem-based solutions. These solutions restore ecological functions while helping communities reduce exposure, diversify livelihoods and prepare for climate shocks. The programme links environmental restoration with practical community preparedness and resilience-building.

Core Components

- Climate-resilient agroforestry and land-use practices
- Water harvesting and small-scale watershed protection
- Drought-resilient cropping and soil moisture management
- Flood-risk reduction using vegetation and drainage planning
- Climate information services and seasonal advisory support
- Community preparedness and early warning engagement
- Resilient livelihood diversification for women and youth

Operational Approach

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8. Environmental Governance and Policy Engagement

Environmental protection cannot be sustained without strong governance. Community action must be supported by clear land-use rules, local bylaws, institutional coordination, traditional leadership, policy engagement and accountability mechanisms.

GetCare Foundation supports environmental governance by helping communities and local institutions organize, plan, monitor and advocate for responsible natural resource management. The programme also creates pathways for evidence from field implementation to inform district, regional and national policy conversations.

Core Components

- Community environmental committees
- Support for district-level land-use and restoration planning
- Environmental bylaws and local stewardship agreements
- Stakeholder platforms and policy dialogues
- Evidence generation and policy briefs
- Traditional authority engagement and customary governance
- Environmental education and citizen reporting mechanisms

Operational Approach

The pillar will be implemented through an integrated process that begins with baseline assessment and stakeholder engagement, moves into participatory planning and technical design, and continues through implementation, monitoring, learning and scale-up. This approach ensures that interventions respond to local realities while remaining aligned with national and global environmental priorities.

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9. Implementation Model

GetCare Foundation uses a phased implementation model that allows projects to move from evidence and community engagement to field delivery, monitoring and scale-up. The model is designed to be practical enough for local landscapes while maintaining the rigour expected by institutional partners and donors.

The approach is flexible and can be applied to small pilots, district-level interventions and larger landscape programmes. Each stage produces outputs that inform the next stage, reducing implementation risk and improving accountability.



Figure. Programme implementation and strategic delivery framework.

10. Research, Innovation and Technology

Science and technology are essential for credible environmental programming. GetCare Foundation seeks to strengthen its use of GIS, remote sensing, mobile data collection, biodiversity monitoring, soil and water assessment, climate information services, carbon measurement and digital dashboards.

Research partnerships with universities and technical institutions will help GetCare generate evidence, improve programme quality and contribute to knowledge on restoration, adaptation and community-led environmental governance in Ghana and West Africa.

Technology/innovation	Use in programme	Value
GIS and remote sensing	Mapping degradation, restoration sites, land cover and watershed risks	Improves planning and monitoring
Mobile data collection	Community registration, training records, field verification and surveys	Improves data quality and timeliness
Drone or satellite monitoring	Visual verification of land recovery and forest threats	Supports transparency and reporting
Soil and water testing	Baseline and follow-up assessment	Strengthens technical credibility
Digital dashboards	Aggregation of indicators and visual reporting	Supports donor and management decisions
Carbon and biodiversity MRV	Measurement, reporting and verification for climate and nature outcomes	Supports climate finance and evidence generation

11. Partnership and Delivery Model

Environmental health requires a partnership ecosystem. No single organization can restore landscapes, protect forests, build climate resilience and influence governance alone. GetCare Foundation positions itself as a convener, implementer and local mobilization partner that connects communities with technical expertise, government priorities, research institutions and development finance.

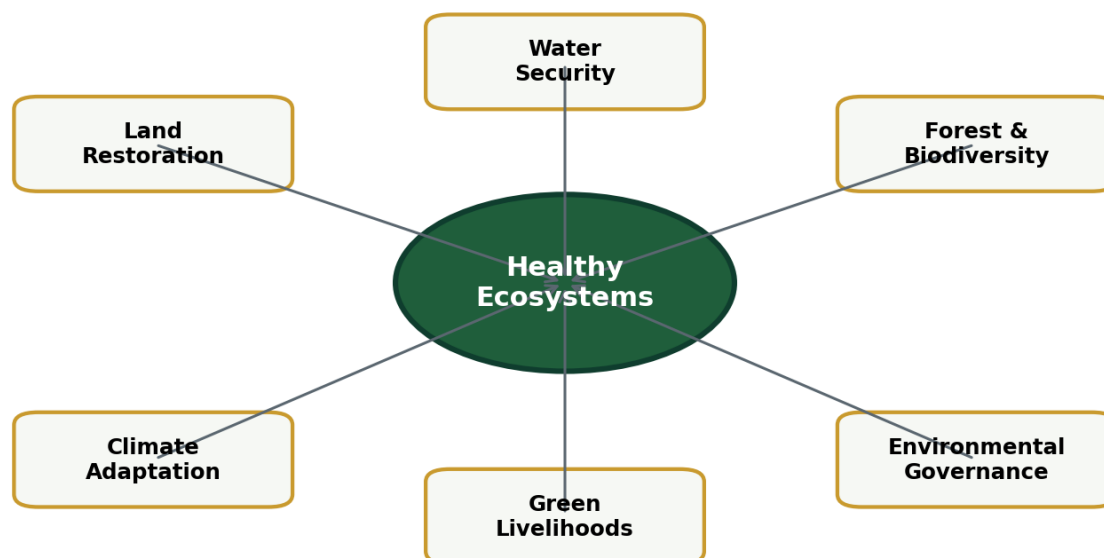


Figure. Programme implementation and strategic delivery framework.

Partner group	Potential role
Communities and traditional authorities	Land access, local legitimacy, stewardship, cultural knowledge and conflict resolution
District assemblies and government agencies	Policy alignment, technical oversight, permitting and public service coordination
Universities and research institutes	Baseline studies, monitoring protocols, research publications and training
Development partners and donors	Programme financing, technical assistance and scaling support
Private sector and ESG actors	Responsible investment, restoration finance, supply chain sustainability and carbon opportunities
Civil society networks	Advocacy, learning exchange and coalition building

12. Landscape Typologies and Priority Intervention Areas

GetCare Foundation recognizes that environmental degradation does not look the same in every landscape. A mining-affected river basin requires a different response from a deforested agricultural frontier, a degraded savannah watershed or a peri-urban pollution zone. The programme therefore uses landscape typologies to identify the right mix of restoration, conservation, governance and livelihood interventions.

Priority intervention areas will be selected using ecological need, community readiness, partnership potential, risk level and opportunity for measurable impact. This allows GetCare to avoid fragmented action and build coherent restoration portfolios that can be scaled over time.

Area	Description
Mining-affected landscapes	Riverbank rehabilitation, soil stabilization, alternative livelihoods, water monitoring and local governance support
Degraded agricultural landscapes	Soil restoration, agroforestry, farmer training, erosion control and climate-smart practices
Forest-edge communities	Forest stewardship, conservation education, non-timber forest products and threat reporting
Watersheds and river systems	Riparian restoration, pollution prevention, water quality monitoring and community bylaws
Climate-vulnerable dryland zones	Drought adaptation, water harvesting, farmer advisory and resilient livelihoods
Biodiversity-sensitive areas	Habitat protection, species monitoring, community conservation and research partnerships

13. Programme Components and Service Packages

To make implementation practical, GetCare Foundation organizes the environmental health programme into service packages that can be combined depending on funding, geography and partner priorities. Each package has a clear implementation logic, expected outputs and monitoring requirements.

These packages help partners understand what GetCare can deliver, while allowing the Foundation to build modular programmes that can start small and grow into district, regional or multi-country initiatives.

Area	Description
Environmental baseline and landscape assessment	Mapping, stakeholder analysis, ecological diagnosis and intervention design
Community restoration mobilization	Formation of local committees, training, nursery support and field implementation
Watershed and riverbank protection	Riparian buffer restoration, water quality awareness and community monitoring
Forest and biodiversity stewardship	Forest guard models, education, hotspot protection and conservation livelihoods
Climate adaptation support	Climate-smart practices, water harvesting, agroforestry and early warning engagement
Environmental governance support	Local bylaws, district planning support, policy dialogue and community accountability
Research and monitoring partnership	Data collection, GIS products, learning briefs and technical studies

14. Capacity Building and Community Stewardship

Community capacity is the foundation of sustainable environmental health. Restoration projects fail when communities are treated only as labour providers rather than long-term stewards. GetCare Foundation's approach therefore prioritizes training, leadership development, local institutions and practical knowledge transfer.

The capacity-building model is designed for farmers, youth groups, women's groups, traditional leaders, local government officers, community volunteers and school-based environmental clubs. It combines classroom learning, field demonstrations, peer learning and follow-up coaching.

Area	Description
Target group	Capacity focus
Farmers	Soil health, agroforestry, water conservation and sustainable land management
Youth	Green jobs, restoration entrepreneurship, monitoring and environmental campaigns
Women	Nursery management, livelihood diversification, household resilience and leadership
Traditional authorities	Land governance, conflict resolution and customary environmental stewardship
District actors	Planning, coordination, monitoring and policy implementation
Schools and clubs	Environmental education, tree care and community awareness

15. Knowledge Products and Communication

GetCare Foundation will use knowledge products to turn field experience into institutional learning and public value. Environmental work becomes more credible when evidence is documented, communicated and used for decision-making. The programme will therefore produce practical knowledge outputs for communities, donors, government agencies and research partners.

Communication will emphasize dignity, evidence and partnership. The aim is not to portray communities as passive victims of environmental decline, but as capable partners in restoring ecosystems and building resilient futures.

Area	Description
Knowledge product	Purpose
Baseline briefs	Summarize environmental conditions and priority needs in target landscapes
Restoration dashboards	Track hectares, beneficiaries, indicators and implementation progress
Policy briefs	Translate field evidence into recommendations for district and national actors
Community guides	Provide simple tools for restoration, tree care, water protection and climate adaptation
Partner reports	Document results, lessons, risks and opportunities for scale
Stories of change	Capture community leadership, innovation and environmental recovery

16. Illustrative Implementation Roadmap

The implementation roadmap below provides a generic sequence for a three-year environmental health programme. It can be adapted for specific projects, donor requirements and geographic conditions. The roadmap emphasizes the need to begin with strong diagnostics, move into implementation and then consolidate sustainability mechanisms.

A phased roadmap also helps GetCare Foundation manage resources, avoid rushed implementation and build evidence for scale.

Phase	Timeline	Main focus	Key outputs
Phase 1	Months 1-3	Assessment and mobilization	Baseline, maps, stakeholder agreements and workplan
Phase 2	Months 4-12	Pilot implementation	Restoration sites, committees, training and initial monitoring
Phase 3	Year 2	Expansion and integration	Scaled restoration, governance systems and livelihood packages
Phase 4	Year 3	Consolidation and learning	Impact review, policy products, sustainability agreements and scale strategy

17. Institutional Quality Standards

To maintain professional credibility, GetCare Foundation will apply quality standards across programme design, implementation, reporting and learning. These standards help ensure that environmental action is not only visible but measurable, ethical and sustainable.

Quality standards also position GetCare as a reliable partner for institutional grants, research collaborations, government programmes and private sector restoration investments.

Area	Description
Standard	Practical requirement
Evidence-based design	Every major intervention should be supported by baseline data and stakeholder consultation
Safeguard compliance	Projects must avoid social or environmental harm and include grievance mechanisms
Transparent monitoring	Indicators must be verifiable through records, GIS, photos, surveys or partner validation
Inclusive participation	Women, youth and vulnerable groups must have defined roles and benefits
Technical review	Specialized activities should involve qualified technical partners or advisors
Adaptive management	Learning must be used to revise activities when conditions change

18. Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Impact

Monitoring, evaluation and learning are central to GetCare Foundation's environmental health programme. The programme will track outputs, outcomes and longer-term ecological and community impacts using a combination of field data, community reporting, GIS evidence, surveys, partner assessments and periodic learning reviews.

MEL area	Key questions	Tools
Relevance	Are interventions responding to actual community and ecological needs?	Baseline assessments, stakeholder consultations
Effectiveness	Are planned outputs and outcomes being achieved?	Indicator tracking, field verification, surveys
Impact	Are ecosystems and livelihoods improving over time?	GIS monitoring, ecological surveys, household data
Sustainability	Will gains continue after project funding?	Governance assessments, livelihood viability checks
Learning	What should be adapted or scaled?	Reflection sessions, learning briefs, partner reviews

19. Programme Results Framework

The results framework below summarizes the relationship between objectives, indicators, verification sources and indicative targets. Final targets will be adapted to each project, geography and funding agreement.

Result level	Illustrative indicators	Means of verification
Impact	Improved ecosystem health and climate resilience in target landscapes	Longitudinal assessments, satellite data, partner evaluations
Outcome 1	Degraded lands restored and managed sustainably	GIS polygons, restoration records, field inspections
Outcome 2	Forests and biodiversity habitats protected	Patrol reports, threat reports, biodiversity monitoring
Outcome 3	Communities adopt climate adaptation practices	Training records, household surveys, demonstration sites
Outcome 4	Local environmental governance strengthened	Bylaws, committee minutes, district plans, policy briefs
Output	Training, restoration, monitoring, stakeholder platforms and knowledge products delivered	Activity reports, attendance sheets, databases, publications

20. Risk Management and Safeguards

Environmental programmes operate in complex social, ecological and political contexts. GetCare Foundation will apply risk management and safeguards to protect communities, avoid unintended harm and maintain institutional credibility.

Risk	Likelihood	Potential effect	Mitigation
Land tenure disputes	Medium	Delay or conflict over restoration sites	Participatory mapping, traditional authority consent and written agreements
Low community adoption	Medium	Weak sustainability	Benefit-sharing, livelihood integration and continuous engagement
Fire, drought or flood damage	Medium/High	Loss of restoration gains	Climate-sensitive species selection, fire management and site maintenance
Political or regulatory changes	Medium	Implementation delays	Government engagement and compliance tracking
Data quality gaps	Medium	Weak reporting credibility	Digital data systems, verification and enumerator training
Safeguard concerns	Low/Medium	Reputational or social harm	Do-no-harm protocols, grievance channels and inclusion standards

21. Sustainability and Financing Strategy

Sustainability will be pursued through local ownership, livelihood incentives, diversified financing, institutional partnerships and long-term monitoring. GetCare Foundation recognizes that environmental gains are only durable when communities benefit, governance structures remain active and financing continues beyond short project cycles.

Financing pathway	Description
Institutional grants	Multi-year funding for restoration, climate adaptation, conservation and governance programmes
Climate and carbon finance	Potential restoration, agroforestry and carbon monitoring initiatives where technically feasible
Corporate ESG partnerships	Private sector support for responsible restoration, watershed protection and biodiversity initiatives
Research contracts and partnerships	Field research, baseline studies and environmental monitoring collaborations
Community enterprise models	Forest-friendly livelihoods, agroforestry products and green micro-enterprises
Government and development cooperation	Alignment with national restoration, climate and environmental programmes

22. Alignment with SDGs and Global Frameworks

The Improving Environmental Health programme contributes directly to global and national development priorities. It aligns with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Rio Conventions, land degradation neutrality, climate adaptation, biodiversity conservation and Ghana's environmental governance agenda.

Framework	Relevant contribution
SDG 2: Zero Hunger	Restoring productive land and supporting climate-resilient agriculture
SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation	Watershed protection, riverbank restoration and pollution prevention
SDG 13: Climate Action	Nature-based adaptation, ecosystem resilience and carbon-related opportunities
SDG 15: Life on Land	Forest protection, land restoration and biodiversity conservation
SDG 17: Partnerships	Multi-stakeholder implementation and knowledge collaboration
UNCCD	Land restoration and land degradation neutrality
UNFCCC	Climate adaptation, mitigation co-benefits and resilience
Convention on Biological Diversity	Habitat protection, biodiversity monitoring and conservation partnerships
Ghana policy priorities	Forest, water body and land-use protection through local governance and restoration

23. Conclusion and Call to Partnership

GetCare Foundation's Improving Environmental Health programme is a practical platform for restoring degraded landscapes, protecting forests and biodiversity, strengthening climate adaptation and improving environmental governance. It is grounded in the realities of communities while aligned with the priorities of government, donors, researchers and global environmental frameworks.

The programme invites partnership. GetCare Foundation is ready to work with institutions that share a commitment to healthy ecosystems, resilient communities and sustainable development in Ghana and West Africa.

Call to Partnership

Partner with GetCare Foundation to restore landscapes, protect ecosystems, build community resilience and advance environmental health for current and future generations.

Annex A: Indicative Programme Indicator Matrix

Domain	Sample indicators
Land restoration	Hectares restored; survival rate of planted/enriched trees; erosion control structures established
Forest protection	Community patrols conducted; forest threats reported; forest-friendly livelihoods supported
Biodiversity	Species records generated; habitat areas protected; conservation awareness sessions held
Water systems	Riverbanks restored; water points monitored; watershed protection committees active
Climate adaptation	Households adopting adaptation practices; climate advisory sessions delivered
Governance	Bylaws supported; stakeholder platforms convened; policy briefs produced
Inclusion	Women and youth participation; vulnerable groups reached; benefit-sharing mechanisms established

Annex B: Glossary

Term	Meaning
Assisted natural regeneration	A restoration approach that protects and manages naturally regenerating trees and vegetation.
Biodiversity hotspot	An area with significant biological richness and high conservation importance.
Ecosystem-based adaptation	Use of biodiversity and ecosystem services to help people adapt to climate change.
Land degradation	Reduction or loss of land productivity and ecological function.
Nature-based solutions	Actions that protect, restore or manage ecosystems to address social and environmental challenges.
Watershed	An area of land that drains rainfall and streams into a common water body.

References and Data Sources

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GETCARE FOUNDATION

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