

ANNUAL REPORT 2022



**Helping to regreen mindscapes to
regreen landscapes through
partnerships**



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WHO WE ARE...

Forum for Natural Regeneration (FONAR) is a Ghanaian non-governmental organization (NGO) that promotes ecological restoration, especially in degraded agricultural landscapes for improved livelihoods and poverty reduction. We work with communities, schools, civil society organizations, local and national government agencies and international partners to promote Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) through advocacy, research, education, community mobilization, sharing of lessons learned and supporting the actions of others.

FONAR originally called Movement for Natural Regeneration (MONAR) was established in 2014 by the late Norbert Akolbila and colleagues. We work with our partners to engage local communities and government agencies to deliberate on context-specific environmental and food security challenges in Northern Ghana.

Working together we find and promote adoption of feasible land restoration solutions like FMNR to improve food security and livelihoods, build community resilience to climate change and reduce rural poverty. We believe it is critical to work with local communities on environmental restoration and governance issues that affect them directly.

After all, agroforestry policies and technologies supporting on-farm greening interventions for smallholder farmers are more likely to contribute to poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods when they are culturally sensitive, acceptable and feasible. We share our evidence and lessons learned from the field with traditional and formal governance structures at all levels and with our external partners to influence environmental policies and sustainable restoration practices.

Message from the Board and Management

FONAR believes that innovative ideas are needed to solve today's complex local and global environment challenges. Increasing degradation of farmlands, deforestation and biodiversity loss, and climate change threatens poor rural livelihoods. This calls for collective action for solutions. FONAR believes strongly that our approach, farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR) offers a feasible solution to restoring the productivity of degraded farms and communal lands in northern Ghana.

This report throws light on some activities we implemented during the year 2022 to promote the scaling up of FMNR.

Thanks to the generous support of Awaken Trees Foundation of Austria (our core funding partner) and strategic partners, including FMNR Hub of World Vision Australia and Tony Rinaudo. We would also like to thank our staff for the dedication and commitment.

COP (Rtd) Patrick Atampugre Akolgo
Board Chairperson,

VISION, MISSION, VALUES AND APPROACH

VISION

FONAR will rank among leading environmental restoration organizations inspiring hope in communities and individuals to care of the environment for food security, resilient livelihoods and communities.

MISSION

FONAR will create a forum for action learning to preserve and restore the productivity of degraded landscapes through natural regeneration and restoration for sustainable livelihoods.

CORE VALUES

- **Integrity:** We are honest, trustworthy and professional in our work.
- **Accountability:** We take responsibility for our results, report on them and act appropriately.
- **Respect:** We promote the dignity of all persons.
- **Excellence:** We are committed to the pursuit of innovation, efficiency and effectiveness. We explore innovative, inspirational and creative solutions to achieve our results.
- **Transparency:** We ensure transparency in our working relationships.
- **Equity, Non-Discrimination & Inclusiveness:** We ensure equity while working towards social equality, justice, respect and social inclusion in our programming. We respect cultural diversity and beliefs. We will recruit and develop staff to create a diverse, inclusive and equitable organization that reflects our vision and mission.
- **Passion for Results:** We show pride, enthusiasm and dedication in everything we do. We are committed to delivering high quality programmes in our intervention communities.

APPROACH

FONAR promotes the widespread adoption and scaling up of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) as a simple and cost-effective technique for the restoration and greening of degraded landscapes. We do this through community and social mobilisation, advocacy, education and building genuine partnerships. FONAR is committed towards building partnerships with local communities, government and non-government agencies and other civil society organizations; and then building the financial and human resources within our organization as needed to meet the changing times.

“The best friend on earth of man is the tree. When we use the tree respectfully and economically, we have one of the greatest resources of the earth.”

– Frank Lloyd Wright

WHERE WE WORK ...

FONAR is a registered Ghanaian environmental non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO). We currently operate in the semi-arid Upper East region (UER) of Ghana. The region is located in the Sudan Savannah and Guinea Savannah agroecological zone of north-eastern Ghana, which lies in the transition area between the dry Sudan and Sahel Savannah grasslands of West Africa. The region covers an estimated land area of 8,842 km², of which 80% suffers from moderate to severe land degradation. The UER had a total population of 1.3 million people in 2021, with an annual growth rate of 2.0 percent¹. The average population density of the region is 147.2 people/km², as compared to the national average population density of 139.5 people/km².

Almost 80% of the region's population is rural with many people living in degraded scattered settlements, where more than four in every 10 people are poor². Majority of the people are dependent on rain-fed subsistence agriculture, primarily cultivating cereal crops like millet, sorghum and rice, and rearing livestock. Rapid environmental degradation due to negative land clearing practices, overgrazing, annual bushfires and rapid population growth are the main causes of land degradation in the region³. The livelihoods of rural farm households are thus threatened by increasing agricultural drought and loss of soil fertility. To reverse the trend, FONAR works with local communities and its partners to promote the uptake of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and related livelihood activities for re-greening degraded farms and communal lands.



Map of Upper East Region (UER), Ghana

¹ <https://statsghana.gov.gh/regionalpopulation.php?population=MTQ3NzkxOTU0MS4wODQ=&&Upper%20East®id=8>

² Ghana Statistical Service, (2014). Ghana Living Standards Survey Round 6 (GLSS6). Poverty Profile in Ghana (2005-2013)

³ Alex B. Owusu, A.B. et al., (2013). Analysis of Desertification in the Upper East Region (UER) of Ghana Using Remote Sensing, Field Study, and Local Knowledge.

HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR

1. Key Milestones

February 2-12, 2022: The Founder and Executive Director of Awaken Trees Foundation (Austria), Mr. Josef Ertl was in Ghana to familiarise himself with the work of FONAR. While in the Upper East Region of Ghana, Josef visited the world acclaimed Yameriga FMNR rehabilitated hills and some schools where FONAR is implementing school kids FMNR eco-clubs with funding from Awaken Trees. He also participated in a two-day FMNR and environmental education lesson planning workshop organised for eco club teachers. The visit was very productive as it allowed Josef to have first-hand FONAR field activity implementation and boosted the moral of the newly formed FONAR team to put in our best.

Awaken Trees is the core funder of FONAR programmes. He also met FONAR partners and had fun visiting the Paga Crocodile Pond (a popular tourist site in northern Ghana).



February 22, 2022: FONAR signed a two-year Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Talensi District Directorate of the Ghana Education Service (GES) to formalise implementation of the school kids FMNR eco-clubs' project. FONAR is implementing the project in the district with funding from Awaken Trees Foundation.

March 29, 2022: FONAR formally registered with the Talensi District Assembly (TDA) to operate as a non-governmental organization in the district.

November 08, 2022: The BBC World Service featured Tony Rinaudo (FMNR pioneer and global icon) and FONAR Executive Director, Sumaila Saaka on its "People Fixing the World" podcast. The BBC weekly podcast looks at brilliant solutions to the world's problems. The episode titled "*COP27: Growing a forest the right way*", was broadcast to coincide with the COP27 Climate Change Conference in Egypt. It urged world leaders to consider alternative best practices of forest restoration, including the application of FMNR rather than the overly focus on tree planting. Farmers in Niger and Ghana (West Africa) have reforested and restored huge areas of agricultural and communal grazelands without planting a single seedling using the FMNR technique.

The podcast is available at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/w3ct3j38?partner=uk.co.bbc&origin=share-mobile>

2. Knowledge Sharing and Partnerships

FONAR participated in a number of programmes and activities organized by partners in 2022.

- **December 12, 2022:** FONAR Finance and Administrative Officer (Juliana A. Atagra) participated in a development partners meeting organized by the Upper East Regional Coordinating Council (UERCC) under the auspices of the Regional Minister, Honourable Stephen Yakubu. The meeting was held at the Ghana Health Service (GHS) In-Service Training Centre in Bolgatanga. The meeting was sponsored by UNICEF and attended by representatives of local and international development partners. International organizations present at the meeting included UNICEF, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), World Vision International in Ghana (WVI-G), Action Aid International in Ghana, International Organization for Migration (IOM) and Care International in Ghana. The meeting brainstormed on finding creative solutions to the myriad of developmental challenges in the region in health, agriculture, poverty reduction, water sanitation and hygiene (WASH).
- **December 19, 2022:** FONAR Project Officer (Christopher Pubeng) attended a roadshow organized by the US Government Feed the Future Ghana Market Systems and Resilience (MSR) Project for its partners and potential partners. The workshop was held at GANASS Hotel in Bolgatanga. The MSR supports and strengthens agricultural market systems that will result in greater efficiency, productivity and investment in goods and services that drive agricultural-led economic growth and ultimately increase income for households in Northern Ghana. The USAID-funded MSR is a 5-year project.
- **During the year under review,** FONAR with funding from Tony Rinaudo of World Vision Australia (WVA), partnered with the Northern Sector Operations Office of World Vision Ghana (WVG) conduct a series of public policy advocacy engagements with regional and district (local government authority) stakeholders for scaling up of FMNR in the Upper East Region (UER) and northern Ghana. Shortly after the engagements, some district assemblies started reaching out to FONAR for FMNR implementation technical support.

“The fate of our ecosystems and the plants, animals and people that depend on them lies with our ability to educate children and adults, in settings as diverse as schools, communities, farms and forests.”

Jacobsen, S.; McDuff, M.; Monroe, M. (2005)
Conservation Education and Outreach Techniques.
Oxford University Press, Oxford, NY.

CONNECTING CHILDREN WITH NATURE

THE TALENSI SCHOOL KIDS FMNR ECO CLUBS PROJECT

Regreening young minds, a primary focus of environmental restoration

As we look into the future with hope in the midst of the current climate crises, FONAR's approach to environmental restoration is to proactively engage young people by providing them with quality nature-based environmental education activities.

Research shows that early contact with nature plays an important role in developing pro-environmental values and behaviours. The evidence also suggests that frequent, positive early childhood experiences with the natural world have a major impact on the healthy growth of a child's growth and development.

Besides, young people have a wide span of outreach and influence in the community across several generations, cultures and different spheres of life.

This understanding informed the decision of FONAR and Awaken Trees Foundation (Austria) to introduce the Talensi School Kids Farmer-Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Project. The project, which began in August 2021, is being implemented in 15 primary schools in the Talensi District of Upper East region. The project reaches 300 children (girls/boys) and 30 teachers directly.



The objectives are to: 1) raise tree regeneration and conservation awareness among school children, teachers and local communities; 2) encourage young people to participate in the regeneration of native tree species for sustainable livelihoods, and 3) mobilize pupils, teachers and the youth to raise tree regeneration awareness in their communities. Various activities were carried out under the project during the year.



3. FMNR and Environmental Education Lesson Planning Training for Club Teacher

In February 2022, the Project organized a two-day workshop for eco club teachers on the concept and principles of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and Environmental Education Lesson Planning. Thirty eco club teachers (15 club in-charges/15 headteachers) and five members of the District Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DIMC) attended the workshop.



Key immediate outcome of the FMNR training:

Shortly after the FMNR and environmental education lesson planning training, the eco club teachers started implementing the knowledge and skills gained in their schools. Club coordinators (in-charges) of some schools trained members of their clubs on basic FMNR principles and proper pruning of shrubs to grow into trees. Eco club members who took part in these trainings now have an understanding of the FMNR principle and its benefits, skills in tree pruning and are putting the skills into practice.



4. Project Implementation Monitoring and Support Visits

Monitoring and support visits are an important part of strengthening communication and building relationships between FONAR and the Eco Clubs. Regular visits to the schools enhance open and positive communication as well as quality project management and reporting. FONAR also uses the monitoring and support visits to assess progress of project implementation, verify delivery of activities and achieved results, verify written, audio-visual and oral reports from the field, identify challenges and assist with corrective measures. During the period under review, FONAR conducted two rounds of monitoring and support visits to the eco club schools.

The Project Officer (Christopher) visited all the 15 target schools to provide technical support (backstopping) to the clubs. FONAR developed guidelines outlining requirements that schools must meet for their eco clubs to be revived. The requirements were that each eco club should have a maximum of 20 registered members (preferably equal numbers of girls and boys) from upper primary classes (P4-6), a club constitution or byelaws (rules and regulations) and an action plan of club activities for the school term or year. The Project Officer supported the eco clubs to revise and improve their workplans.

The Project Officer carried out another round of visits to all the 15 project target schools in May 2022. The purpose was to facilitate and support the eco clubs to develop their second term activity plans and for some of them to improve their byelaws (club rules and regulations). During the visits, Christopher explained FONAR's requirements for writing the eco club byelaws and action plans, which are clearly spelt out in the Guidelines for the Formation and Strengthening of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) eco Clubs in Basic Schools



5. Printing and Distribution of Branded T-Shirts to Eco Clubs

The project procured and distributed 340 branded green t-shirts to the eco clubs in March 2022. Each of the 15 eco clubs received 22 t-shirts (20 for club members/2 for eco club teachers). In total, 300 pupils received t-shirts (green colour) with a tree conservation message - *"trees take care of us, let's return the favour"* – printed on the back. The eco club teachers received sea blue t-shirts with the same message. The t-shirts were to motivate the young green warriors as they wear them during club meeting days or during club organized activities. In addition, the t-shirts with tree conservation messages written on them helped to bring tree growing and regeneration awareness to the schools and communities as the children wear them. The t-shirts were also part of the project branding, which ensured that we tell the story of the partnership between FONAR and Awaken Trees Foundation towards environmental conservation and highlight achievements of the project.



6. Orientation and Inauguration of Revived FMNR Eco-Clubs

FONAR project team visited all the 15 primary schools where the FMNR Eco Clubs were revived in March 2022 to train and formally inaugurate them. The theme of this activity was – “igniting young minds towards environmental restoration through school kids FMNR eco clubs in the Talensi District.”

The objectives were to; 1) provide information about the FMNR eco-clubs initiative - the structures needed to make them, 2) sensitize the children (club members) on various environmental issues and threats in their communities and how they (children) can contribute to protect the environment through tree regeneration, and 3) officially inaugurate the clubs. FONAR staff and eco club teachers (headteachers as club patrons and club in- charges) jointly facilitated the sessions. School headteachers or their assistants performed the inaugural ceremonies. At the separate functions, facilitators explained the importance of eco- clubs and why the children must participate very actively in club activities.

We took the children through what they (club members) and their teachers needed to do to sustain their FMNR eco-clubs. These included the election of club leaders, ensuring everyone participate in club activities, developing byelaws (rules and regulation) and action plans. The facilitators (FONAR staff) educated club members on the roles and responsibilities of eco club

leaders (Executives), how to agree on (adopt) club rules and regulations (constitution or byelaws) and how to develop their action plans (things to do) during the school year or term. We also trained the children on some common local environmental problems such as bushfires, small scale mining and deforestation using interactive picture cards.



7. Supply of Pruning Tools & Learning Materials to Eco Clubs.

In June 2022, the Project procured and distributed basic pruning tools, kids' wellington boots and teacher drought lesson learning materials to the eco clubs. These were procured with funding from Awaken Trees. Each of the 15 Eco Clubs received five (5) pairs of kids' wellington boots, five (5) pairs of hand gloves, five (5) cutlasses, five (5) pruning knives, a pen drive containing FMNR and kids' environmental videos, and Drought Awareness Education Teacher Guide & Teaching Aids. In all, FONAR donated 75 kids' wellington boots, 75 pairs of protective hand gloves, 75 cutlasses and 75 pruning knives to the eco clubs. This was to support the eco clubs to practice Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) and related tree management practice in school demonstration fields. The pruning tools and learning materials were formally presented to the schools through the Talensi District Director of Education, Madam Christiana Azure, at a ceremony in the District Education Directorate (DDE) in Tongo.



8. FONAR Commemorates 2022 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought

FONAR marked the 2022 World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought (WDCDD) at an event jointly organized with the Eco Club of Tongo-Balungu Primary School. The WDCDD is observed on June 17 every year to promote public awareness of international efforts to combat desertification and drought in drylands. FONAR operates in the Upper East region of Ghana, which is highly prone to drought and desertification. However, we do know that farmer managed natural regeneration (FMNR), which we promote, is very effective in combating drought and desertification⁴.

The day was observed under the global theme: *“Rising up from drought together”*, to raise public awareness on the impacts of drought, land degradation and desertification and with a focus on collaboration of all including children to build resilient communities. Officers from the Talensi District Education Office attended the event. They were Joseph Zida (Deputy Director), Silas S.B Mahama (Eco Club focal person), Adamu Nyalon (Circuit Officer), Samuel Azuure (Public Relation Officer) and Abugbila Thomas (Parent Teacher Association [PTA] Chairman of the school).



Activities organized to observe the day included a tree pruning exercise by members of the Balungu Primary school eco club on the school FMNR demonstration plot, poetry recitals by the children on pressing environmental concerns, a lecture and film show on the effects of drought and how FMNR can be used to combat it. The event was highly publicized through national television and radio coverage.

Ghana News Agency (GNA) -June 18, 2022: Gov't urged to support Assemblies develop drought preparedness plans. Available at: <https://newsghana.com.gh/govt-urged-to-support-assemblies-develop-drought-preparedness-plans/>

⁴ The World Bank. (2018). Mitigating Drought Impacts in Drylands Quantifying the Potential for Strengthening Crop- and Livestock-Based Livelihoods.

9. Review Meeting of Eco Club Teachers for Sharing Lessons Learned



Year one of the project implementation ended in July 2022. FONAR organized a review meeting at the Talensi District Information Centre in Tongo, the District capital. Twenty-one people attended the meeting, comprising eco-club teacher coordinators (12), members of the District Implementation and Monitoring Committee (DIMC) of the project (5), a representative of the District Education Office and FONAR staff (3). Participants reviewed progress of the project implementation for the first year (August 2021 to

July 2022). FONAR used the opportunity to present its planned activities for year two.

Highlights of key project achievements:

- > The project conducted a baseline assessment of the eco clubs, which guided the design of the project.
- > The project developed eco club guidelines, modalities and training materials.
- > Organized orientation training for 15 eco club teachers drawn from target schools.
- > Trained 25 eco club teachers and DIMC members on FMNR principles and environmental education lesson planning.
- > Distributed 330 branded T-Shirts to eco clubs children and teachers; and
- > Provided the clubs with pruning tools and protective gear.

Identified implementation challenges

- The attitude and behaviour of some people in a few eco-club school communities were unsupportive of tree planting initiatives on school grounds. In two project schools where tree seedlings were planted on compounds, some community people deliberately removed the trees when the schools were closed for holidays.
- The practice of allowing animals to roam freely to graze during the long dry season (November to May) in the communities was also identified as a barrier to greening school compounds. This practice often times creates friction between community members and school authorities. Hence the need to get all key community stakeholders involved so that they can support the eco-clubs and school authorities to regreen their grounds. A participant at the meeting advised the school heads to engage key community leaders to find solutions to these problems.
- It emerged from the discussion that soils in a few school grounds and surrounding areas were not supportive of tree planting as tree survival rates were poor. Teachers from these schools said attempts to regreen their school compounds by planting trees have resulted in limited tree survival rates.
- Some school eco clubs were yet to establish FMNR demonstration plots for the children to practice as they needed to engage community leaders for land allocation.

10. Eco-clubs introduced to Community leaders and key stakeholders.

FONAR is implementing nature-based school kids FMNR eco-clubs' approach, which encourages learners to build connections with their school grounds and immediate surroundings. Through the eco clubs, we are reaching out to more children and adults in local communities to increase environmental awareness and tree regeneration practices using the FMNR technique.

In October 2022, the project introduced community leaders and local decision makers to the FMNR eco clubs and solicited their support for the clubs. The meetings were also used to address the community level project implementation challenges identified during the first-year review meeting. The engagements exposed the children to community environmental concerns and FMNR actors as well as increased their capacity to engage local leaders on these collective action problems. The activity also increased the visibility of eco clubs.



Meeting with Elders of the Yameriga Community

These strategic community stakeholder engagements were held in all the 15 project eco club schools, involving community traditional authorities (chiefs and elders) and FMNR lead farmer group executives. Club teacher coordinators and club leaders took part in the engagements. The meetings were largely successful and welcomed by the community leaders. We used the meetings to discuss challenges identified by school authorities about the behaviour of some community members toward tree planting in school compounds. We also used the engagements to ask the community leaders to allocate parcels of land near the schools for the eco-clubs to set up demonstration plots.



Meeting at Balungu Community



Sawaliga Community meeting



Kulpeliga Community meeting

11. School Kids' Bushfire Prevention Awareness Campaign

Children and young people are valued resources in bringing information into their communities and as active participants in local environmental restoration actions such as bushfire prevention and control. Thus, involving children early in life to reduce the incidence of perennial bushfires in Northern Ghana is the way forward. Getting everyone involved in efforts to contain the destructive effects of bushfires would positively impact on the lives of children, their families and communities. FONAR introduced the innovative School Kids Bushfire Prevention Awareness Campaign to educate children about the good and bad aspects of fire, the dangers of bushfires and how they can contribute to bushfire prevention and control in their communities.



The campaign was launched in early November 2022, to coincide with onset of the dry and windy harmattan season, when bushfires are usually set. FONAR designed the school kids' bushfire prevention and control awareness campaign to address the social context within which bushfires are caused in the target project communities. A major cause of bushfires in Talensi and Northern Ghana in general is rooted in the traditional practice of farmers using fire for agricultural land clearing, for hunting and other socio-cultural purposes like festivals. Therefore, the perception of risk is low because wood and grasslands are considered as agro ecosystems of low value.

FONAR in partnership with the Upper East Regional Rural Fires Department of Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS) launched the campaign under the theme: "Bushfires destroy lives, don't set them," in Gorogo Primary school on November 3, 2022. The ceremony was attended by regional and district officers of the Ghana National Fire Service (GNFS), a representative of the Talensi District Directorate of Education (DDE), school teachers, journalists, eco club members and pupils drawn from upper primary classes of the school. The activity created awareness on the dangers of bushfires among school children and empowered them to take action to prevent and control bushfires in their communities. The campaign reached more than 3,000 school children and 56 teachers directly in all the 15-target schools. The bushfire prevention and control awareness sessions covered classroom lessons on: (1) the causes and effects of bushfires and (2) demonstrations on how to prevent bushfires and to create firebreaks. The children were also shown educational videos and posters, and encouraged to share the information with their peers, families and community members. This novel school kids' bushfires awareness campaign attracted both local and international media attention.

See: <https://gfmc.online/2022/11-2022/fonar-launches-bushfires-campaign-in-basic-schools.html>



12. Most Significant Change (MSC) Stories of project beneficiaries.

The FMNR eco club concept introduced in basic schools had the following objectives: 1) to raise tree regeneration and conservation awareness among the children, teachers and their communities, 2) to encourage them to participate in the regeneration of native tree species in the communities, and 3) to mobilize pupils/students, teachers and the youth to raise tree regeneration (conservation) awareness. Ultimately, the goal is to regreen young minds to become youth FMNR ambassadors. The project targets children in upper primary classes four to six. A total of 120 (68 boys/52 girls) of the eco club members in all the 15 target schools graduated from primary school in December 2022 and have become FMNR ambassadors. FONAR interviewed some of them, including Priscilla and Devine. They graduated from the Tongo-Balungu Primary School and are continuing their education in the nearby junior high school (JHS). They were club leaders in their previous school and are now young FMNR ambassadors.

Priscilla Akolgo Ayinpoka (F, 12 years old), Secretary of Balungu Primary School Eco-club

"As a member of the eco club, I learned that cutting down of trees can cause drought and desertification," Priscilla said. Learning about the importance of trees helped me to educate my community members on how to protect trees through natural regeneration to prevent drought and desertification," she added. Priscilla made many friends through the eco club and also learned more about the importance of trees. She has since been educating her friends and family members on the importance of trees.



Devine Ayine (M, 12 years old), President of Balungu Primary School FMNR Eco-club

Devine's motivation for joining the school FMNR eco-club was to gain more knowledge on how to protect the environment, particularly on the importance of taking care of shrubs and young trees to grow into big trees. "This is because trees give us oxygen (air) to breath, shade, medicine and many other benefits such as increasing soil fertility for our parents to grow food to feed us," he said. Through the eco-club, Devine has learned how to prune and nurture shrubs to grow into trees and is spreading the good news in his community.



Creating Change through Policy Advocacy for FMNR Scaling

Since its establishment in 2014, FONAR has been engaging with government agencies (district, regional and national), its civil society partners and traditional authorities, using various platforms to advocate for the mainstreaming of FMNR into national agroforestry and environmental policies. These engagements are yielding modest results.

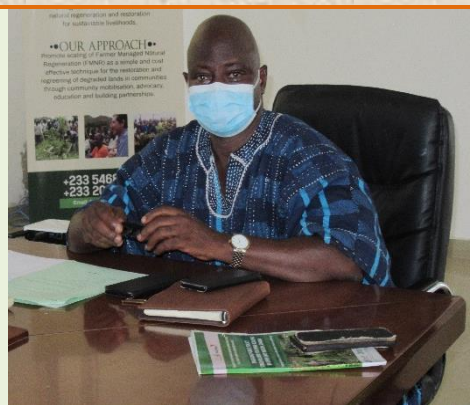
Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) is a traditional agricultural land management practice in most Ghanaian societies but had been replaced with modern agricultural land management systems over the years. The semi-arid Upper East Region of Ghana, where FONAR works, is highly degraded and prone to drought and desertification. Deforestation is a major cause of land degradation in the region due largely to human activities – traditional ‘slash and burn’ farming practices, rapid population growth, overgrazing and perennial bushfires. This results in severe loss of soil fertility, declining crop yields and the widening annual hunger gap. Attempts have been made over the years to use costly tree planting afforestation programmes to reverse land degradation in the region without much success.

So, revisiting the time tested traditional FMNR land management practice becomes necessary. After 10 years of implementation, the World Vision International (WVI) Talensi FMNR Project clearly demonstrated the immense potential of reviving and using this traditional, practical and cost-effective land restoration technique to reverse land degradation in the region and elsewhere in Northern Ghana. Yet, FMNR has not received the needed attention from national, regional and local government policy makers, even though it is recognized in the national re-greening policy strategy mix.

In Ghana, Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) are responsible for the overall development of the district, including ensuring sound environmental management. It was for this reason that FONAR in partnership with World Vision Ghana (WVG) embarked on policy advocacy engagements with regional and local government policy makers and implementers to make a case for scaling up FMNR in the Upper East region. The main objective was to help shift mindsets of local government decision makers and build critical support for FMNR scaling up in the region and beyond.

The policy engagement series were funded by FMNR pioneer and Global advocate Tony Rinaudo and his brother Peter Rinaudo.

The FMNR policy advocacy engagements began in March 2022 with the Upper East Regional Minister, Honourable Mr. Stephen Yakubu and relevant regional level heads of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs). In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Yakubu acknowledged that the level of human induced land degradation in the region was alarming and unacceptable. He, therefore, supported effective local level policy measures and actions like FMNR to reverse the situation.



The face-to-face policy advocacy campaign involved speeches, presentations, sharing of experiences and questions and answers (Q&A) sessions. Two presentations were made at each engagement. Samuel Abasiba (former Manager) of the Talensi FMNR Project first presents on “The Many Faces of Talensi Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Project. The PowerPoint presentation highlights the Talensi FMNR Project success story, which was implemented in partnerships over a 10-year period from August 2009 to June 2019. The objective was to demonstrate that FMNR is a feasible, rapid, low-cost, culturally appropriate and scalable community-based land restoration. In addition, that FMNR could be used to restore degraded farms and communal lands for improved rural livelihoods, food security and poverty reduction if all stakeholders work together to address implementation challenges.

Sumaila S. Saaka, FONAR Executive Director and Co-facilitator of WVI Global FMNR eWorkshop presents on “The Global Scaling up of FMNR, where does the UER and Ghana Fit In ?” The PowerPoint presentation highlights the problem of land degradation in the Upper East region, the cost of inaction, looks at potential feasible solutions/options to reverse land degradation such as FMNR. The presentation provides a brief history of the current FMNR movement starting from when Tony Rinaudo discovered the technique in Niger and highlights the global FMNR success stories. The 63-slide presentation underscores the benefits of FMNR (direct and indirect), especially at the farm household level, shares some reflections on the route to FMNR scaling up worldwide and concludes with key FMNR messages and a call to action.



Twenty-five (25) people attended the regional level policy advocacy engagement under the auspices of the Upper East Regional Minister Hon. Stephen Yakubu. They comprised regional heads of ministries, department and agencies (MDAs), officials of the Regional Coordinating Council (RCC), journalists, staff of World Vision Ghana (WVG) and FONAR, a traditional ruler and community FMNR Champion from Talensi.

An immediate outcome of the policy engagement was the Regional Minister's pledge to take up the issue of FMNR scaling up with Municipal and District Chief Executives (MCEs/DCEs) in the Region. He said MCEs/DCEs would be encouraged to adopt the practice into their annual development plans. "When this is done and the District Assemblies (Local Government Authorities) are able to adapt/adopt FMNR into their existing development plans and programmes, then WV and FONAR can support with technical assistance. If we are able to do that across in each municipality or district and in two communities every year then we will be getting somewhere and in another 20 or thirty years we will be restoring our degraded lands", the Minister noted.

The FMNR policy engagement with the Regional Minister was widely publicized in the local and national media:

1. Natural regeneration helps in sustainable land use – Minister.
Available at: <https://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/NewsArchive/Natural-regeneration-helps-in-sustainable-land-use-Minister-1504952>
2. UER Minister pledges support for natural regeneration concept
Available at: <https://www.ghanaiantimes.com.gh/uer-minister-pledges-support-for-natural-regeneration-concept/>
3. Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration Concept Is Sustainable Land Restoration Strategy
Available at: <https://newsghana.com.gh/farmer-managed-natural-regeneration-concept-is-sustainable-land-restoration-strategy/>

FONAR and WVG also held separate face-to-face FMNR advocacy policy engagements with four local government authorities (Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly, Bolga East District Assembly, Nabdam District Assembly and Kassena-Nankana West District Assembly). The engagement with authorities of Bolgatanga Municipal Assembly was held on June 7, 2022; followed by one with the DCE and heads of departments of Bolga East District Assembly on June 30, 2022, Nabdam District Assembly on July 21, 2022, and Kassena-Nankana West District Assembly on September 13, 2022. A total of 73 people attended all the engagements, made up of DCEs, heads of decentralised departments, journalists, NGO partner staff as well as WVG and FONAR staff. The engagements were widely publicized in the local and national media. Shortly, after these engagements, FONAR started received request from the assemblies for technical support to develop FMNR funding proposals.



Bolga Municipal Assembly Engagement



Meeting at Bolga East District Assembly

Our Partners

Our work is possible thanks to the financial and technical support of our funding partners and collaborators. Special thanks to our core funding partner, Awaken Trees Foundation of Austria and its founder Josef Ertl. We also wish to express our sincere appreciation to Tony Rinaudo of World Vision Australia (pioneer of FMNR and our Global Advisor) for connecting us to strategic partners and increasing our visibility on the global stage.

Awaken Trees Foundation of Austria



Awaken Trees Foundation of Austria is the core funding partner of FONAR. Awaken Trees is a registered not-for-profit organization based in Amstetten, Austria. It was established in 2021 by Josef Ertl, a young environmental activist and FMNR advocate, with the goal of contributing towards the greening of drylands in the Global South for improved livelihoods through the promotion of Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR). The Foundation mobilizes funds in Austria to support local FMNR initiatives in Africa, and FONAR is its first implementing partner. Awaken Trees supports other project in Senegal and Tanzania. Josef Ertl, Founder and Executive Director of Awaken Trees has a strong connection to work with young people towards environmental restoration.

FMNR Hub Of World Vision Australia



The Farmer Managed Natural Regeneration (FMNR) Hub is hosted within World Vision Australia's Climate Action and Resilience Team. It leads and fosters the development of FMNR globally through coordination, communication, collaboration, technical support, building scientific credibility, advocacy and project fundraising. The Hub is led by World Vision Australia's Principal Climate Action Advisor, Tony Rinaudo, who pioneered FMNR in Niger during the 1983 famine and is regarded as the leading expert in FMNR worldwide. FMNR is now in more than 25 countries across the world.

World Vision International - Ghana



World Vision is a Christian relief, development and advocacy organization dedicated to working with children, families and communities to overcome poverty and injustice. World Vision International (WVI) has been working in Ghana since 1979. FONAR was a key partner of the WV Talensi FMNR Project and still collaborates with WV in other FMNR intervention areas in Ghana.

District Assemblies (Local Government Authorities)

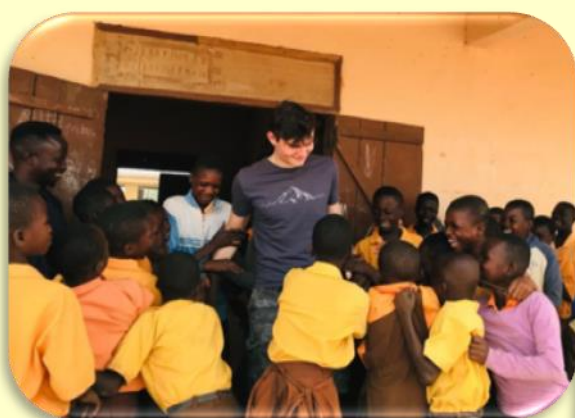
FONAR implements projects in local communities under the administrative jurisdiction of District Assemblies (local government authorities). FONAR believes that the role of District Assemblies in promoting policies to combat climate change through the adoption of FMNR and sound land management practices is critical. In order to play this role effectively, District Assemblies must have different capacities that allow them to analyse, design, manage and transform their environment through public policies, policy communication and citizen engagements. It is for this reason that FONAR engages local government policy makers and implementers through policy advocacy around FMNR scaling up in Northern Ghana. We are also partnering with District Assemblies in the Upper East Region to implement various projects aimed at promoting natural regeneration in local communities.

Ghana Education Service (GES).

FONAR is partnering with the Talensi District Education Office to implement nature-based environmental education and school kids FMNR eco clubs in basic schools with funding from our core partner – Awaken Trees Foundation.

Traditional Authorities

Through FONAR advocacy engagements with traditional leaders around the feasibility of FMNR in its operational areas, the Paramount Chief of Bongo Traditional Area, Naba Baba Salifu Aleeyaarum has become a key champion of FMNR. In December 2016, Naba Aleeyaarum, a prominent traditional ruler in Northern Ghana launched an FMNR Project in his traditional area. Naba Salifu Aleeyaarum is also promoting the FMNR practice among peers in Northern Ghana.



Entity Registration Certificates

| | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|
| Reg No. CG121292014 |  REPUBLIC OF GHANA | TIN : C0003987914 |
| <h3>Certificate of Incorporation of a Company</h3> | | |
| <p>I hereby certify that</p> | | |
| <p>FORUM FOR NATURAL REGENERATION LBG</p> | | |
| <p>originally called</p> | | |
| <p>MOVEMENT FOR NATURAL REGENERATION</p> | | |
| <p>which name was changed by Special Resolution and with the Approval of the Registrar of Companies on the 14th day of December 2021 and was Incorporated under the Companies Act 2019, Act 992 as a Limited by Guarantee, on the 27th day of August 2014</p> | | |
| <p>Given under my hand at Tamale, this 14th day of December 2021</p> | | |
|  | | |
| <p>For: Registrar of Business Names</p> | | |

Certificate of Recognition as a National NGO



Annex 1: Financial Report

9


FORUM FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2022

| | Note | 2022 GH¢ | 2021 GH¢ |
|---|------|------------------|------------------|
| Non-Current Assets | | | |
| Property, Plant & Equipment | 5 | 30,281.20 | 20,576.20 |
| Total Non- Current Assets | | 30,281.20 | 20,576.20 |
| Current Assets | | | |
| Accounts Receivable & Prepayments | 6 | 15,000.00 | - |
| Cash & Cash Equivalent | 7 | 13,160.86 | 100.00 |
| Total Current Assets | | 28,160.86 | 100.00 |
| Total Assets | | 58,442.06 | 20,676.20 |
| ACCUMULATED FUND & LIABILITIES | | | |
| Accumulated Fund | 10 | 54,341.17 | 19,176.20 |
| Total Accumulated Fund | | 54,341.17 | 19,176.20 |
| LIABILITIES | | | |
| Current Liabilities | | | |
| Accounts Payables | 8 | 4,100.89 | 1,500.00 |
| Total Current Liabilities | | 4,100.89 | 1,500.00 |
| Total Accumulated Fund & Liabilities | | 58,442.06 | 20,676.20 |


Chairperson, Board of Directors


Director

The Board of Directors approved the financial statements on07/02/2023.....

FORUM FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

| | 2022 GH¢ | 2021 GH¢ |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| Operating Activities | | |
| Surplus/(Loss) for the year | 35,164.97 | 19,176.20 |
| Adjustments for: | | |
| Depreciation | 8,011.00 | 4,467.80 |
| Decrease/Increase in Prepayments | (15,000.00) | - |
| Increase/Decrease in Payables and accruals | 2,600.89 | 1,500.00 |
| Cash flow from operating activities | <u>30,776.86</u> | <u>25,144.00</u> |
| Interest Paid | - | - |
| Net cash flow from operating activities | <u>30,776.86</u> | <u>25,144.00</u> |
| Investing Activities | | |
| Purchase of property, plant and equipment | (17,716.00) | (25,044.00) |
| Disposing of Property, plant & equipment | - | - |
| Net cash flow from Investing activities | <u>(17,716.00)</u> | <u>(25,044.00)</u> |
| Financing Activities | | |
| Borrowing (Loan) | - | - |
| Payment for Borrowing (Loan) | - | - |
| Net cash outflow from financing activities | <u>-</u> | <u>-</u> |
| Net changes in cash & cash equivalents | <u>13,060.86</u> | <u>100.00</u> |
| Analysis of Changes in Cash and Cash Equivalents | | |
| Balance at 1st January, | 100.00 | - |
| Net changes in cash & cash equivalents | <u>13,060.86</u> | <u>100.00</u> |
| Balance at 31ST December, | <u>13,160.86</u> | <u>100.00</u> |
| Analysis of cash and bank balances shown in the Statement of Financial Position | | |
| Cash and bank balances | <u>13,160.86</u> | <u>100.00</u> |
| Balance at 31ST December, | <u>13,160.86</u> | <u>100.00</u> |

FORUM FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

| | 2022 GH¢ | 2021 GH¢ |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| DONATIONS | | |
| 3 Gross Income | | |
| Awaken Trees Foundation | 207,860.00 | 29,125.00 |
| Director's Contribution | - | 22,966.00 |
| | <u>207,860.00</u> | <u>52,091.00</u> |
| 4 General Expenditure | | |
| Direct project cost: | | |
| Fuel & Lubricants | 11,575.16 | 3,130.00 |
| Travel & transport | 7,370.00 | 7,102.00 |
| Facilitation/expert | 8,400.00 | 3,250.00 |
| Training/ workshop refreshments | 14,599.81 | 885.00 |
| Data entry | - | 900.00 |
| Design of manuals and booklets | - | 6,000.00 |
| Community organisation | 3,960.00 | - |
| Pruning tools | 8,579.00 | - |
| Eco Club T-shirt | 10,952.31 | - |
| Media & Publicity | 1,915.00 | - |
| Sub Total | <u>67,351.28</u> | <u>21,267.00</u> |
| Recurring Capital cost: | | |
| Installation and maintenance cost | - | 450.00 |
| Maintenance of equipment | 471.00 | - |
| Sub Total | <u>471.00</u> | <u>450.00</u> |
| Overheads/Administration cost: | | |
| Printing//Photocopying/Stationery | 5,912.20 | 2,023.00 |
| Stationery | - | 731.00 |
| Communication/Postage | 1,902.00 | 950.00 |
| Office beverages/maintainance | 2,350.58 | 566.00 |
| Utilities | 2,300.00 | - |
| Computer assessories | 416.00 | - |
| Office rent | 2,400.00 | - |
| Bank charges | 1,113.00 | - |
| Sub Total | <u>16,393.78</u> | <u>4,270.00</u> |
| Personnel | | |
| Salaries | 76,350.32 | - |
| Sub Total | <u>76,350.32</u> | <u>-</u> |

FORUM FOR NATURAL REGENERATION
(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)
NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

| | 2022 GH¢ | 2021 GH¢ |
|--|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <u>General Expenditure - Continue</u> | | - |
| Registrations/Subscriptions/renewals: | | |
| change of name at the registrar general | - | 960.00 |
| Registration of certificate at the TDA | 200.00 | - |
| Insurance premium | 417.65 | - |
| Social welfare | 1,500.00 | - |
| Sub Total | <u>2,117.65</u> | <u>960.00</u> |
| Depreciation | <u>8,011.00</u> | <u>4,467.80</u> |
| TOTAL EXPENDITURE | <u><u>170,695.03</u></u> | <u><u>31,414.80</u></u> |

FORUM FOR NATURAL REGENERATION

(A COMPANY LIMITED BY GUARANTEE NOT HAVING A SHARE CAPITAL)

NOTES FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

5 PROPERTY, PLANT & EQUIPMENT

| Fixed Assets | Furniture & Fittings GH¢ | Computers & Equipment GH¢ | LAND GH¢ | Grand Total GH¢ |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------|--------------------|
| Cost/Valuation | 5,410.00 | 19,634.00 | - | 25,044.00 |
| Balance at 1/01/22 | - | 17,716.00 | - | 17,716.00 |
| Additions/Adjustments | <u>5,410.00</u> | <u>37,350.00</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>42,760.00</u> |
| Balance at 31/12/2022 | | | | |
| Depreciation | | | | |
| Balance at 01/01/2022 | 541.00 | 3,926.80 | - | 4,467.80 |
| Charge for the year | <u>541.00</u> | <u>7,470.00</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>8,011.00</u> |
| Balance at 31/12/2022 | <u>1,082.00</u> | <u>11,396.80</u> | <u>-</u> | <u>12,478.80</u> |
| Net Book Value | | | | |
| As at 31/12/2022 | 4,328 | 25,953 | - | 30,281 |
| As at 31/12/2021 | 4,869 | 15,707 | - | 20,576 |

| | 2022 GH¢ | 2021 GH¢ |
|---|------------------|-------------|
| 6 Accounts Receivable/prepayment | | |
| Pre-finance | <u>15,000.00</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>15,000.00</u> | <u>-</u> |

| | 2022 GH¢ | 2021 GH¢ |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 7 Cash and cash Equivalent | | |
| Balance | 13,160.86 | 100.00 |
| | <u>13,160.86</u> | <u>100.00</u> |

| | 2022 GH¢ | 2021 GH¢ |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 8 Accounts Payables | | |
| Audit & Accountancy fee | 3,000.00 | 1,500.00 |
| Staff Salary Accrued | <u>1,100.89</u> | <u>-</u> |
| | <u>4,100.89</u> | <u>1,500.00</u> |

APPENDIX 2: BOARD AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM

1. THE BOARD

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| 1. COP (RTD) PATRICK A. AKOLGO | CHAIRPERSON |
| 2. SUMAILA S. SAAKA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |
| 3. ROBERT A. ALIBO | DIRECTOR/SECRETARY |
| 4. TITUS O. ALZUMAH | MEMBER |
| 5. LINDA MARFO (MRS.) | MEMBER |

2. SENIOR MANAGEMENT

| | |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. SUMAILA S. SAAKA | EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR |
| 2. JULIANA A. ATAGRA | FINANCE/ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER |
| 3. CHRISTOPHER PUBENG | ASSISTANT PROGRAME OFFICER |

4.