

Profile Of

PROFESSOR ALFRED A. OTENG-YEBOAH

Born on 13 August 1946 at Tafo, Eastern Region, Ghana

E-mail: alfred.otengyeboah@gmail.com; a.otengyeboah@ug.edu.gh

Telephone: +233 244 77 22 56

Academic and Professional Background

A Professor of Botany and based at the University of Ghana, having taught in other universities in Africa. He holds a BSc. (Ghana) and a PhD (Edinburgh) degrees (obtained in 1968 and 1972 respectively) and other academic including teaching and research qualifications. He has published extensively in reputable scientific journals in plant systematics, ecology, biodiversity and traditional knowledge.

He was the Deputy Director-General of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR-Ghana) with special responsibility towards national research co-ordination of issues of the Ghanaian environment and health. He combined this position and that of acting in the capacity of Director-General of CSIR for several months when the incumbent retired.

Experiences at the National Level

He has served as board/council member of a number of Ghanaian public institutions, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Government of Ghana Scholarship Review Committee, the University of Ghana College of Health Sciences and the Centre for Scientific Research into Plant Medicine, the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO. For several years he chaired the management boards of the Forestry Research Institute of Ghana, the Plant Genetic Resources Research Institute, the Soil Research Institute and the Water Research Institute of CSIR. Within the Ghana National Commission for UNESCO, he chaired the Science Committee and has been instrumental in developing statutes for the establishment of a Bioethics Committee for the commission. He has chaired the Ghana National Biodiversity Committee since its inception in 1996 and has contributed immensely in awareness creation of issues of biodiversity as a national heritage. He is the immediate past (since March 2014) chair of the management committee of the Cocoa Research Institute of Ghana (CRIG).

Experiences at the international level

He served on a number of high profile bodies and committees such as the Council of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) where he represented 8 coastal West African states, the International Advisory Committee of Biosphere Reserves of UNESCO, and the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee of the UN Convention on International Trade on Endangered Species (CITES). Currently he acts as the Vice-Chair of the Standing Committee of the UN Convention on Migratory Species (CMS), and a member of its Scientific Council.

Previously he served as a member of the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment (MA) and its follow-up Scientific Advisory Body.

He was a member of the UNEP Advisory Body for the Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) and co-chaired its maiden intergovernmental meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and subsequent 2 meetings in Nairobi (Kenya) and Busan (Korea), having previously served as the co-chair of its preceding French government sponsored International Mechanism of Scientific Expertise on Biodiversity (IMoSEB). In the latter 2 sessions of the plenary of IPBES to decide on modalities for its establishment, he acted as the spokesperson for Africa. After establishment and at its first plenary in Bonn, Germany in January 2013, he was appointed as one of 4 Vice-chairs of the bureau of IPBES and acted as the interim chair for almost the entire meeting period before the substantive chair was appointed on the last day.

He was selected to serve on the advisory group on indicators for 2010 biodiversity target within the UNEP-WCMC.

He has presided over the subsidiary body (SBSTTA) of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) during its 9th (Montreal) and 10th (Bangkok) meeting periods. It was during his tenure, which coincided with the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) and its Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that discussion on the 2010 biodiversity target and the new strategic vision for the CBD started.

Within the CBD circles, he has successfully chaired many important contact groups, in particular on Forests (COP 5 Nairobi and COP 6 the Hague), on Protected Areas (COP 7 Kuala Lumpur), on Marine Areas beyond national jurisdiction and Global Taxonomy Initiative capacity building (COP 8, Curitiba, Brazil), on biofuels (SBSTTA 12, Rome) and expanded programme on Protected Areas (COP 9, Bonn)

He has also chaired several international meetings including the Coastal West African Constituency of GEF, the Committee of the Whole (COW) of the 9th COP of CMS in which he also acted as Vice-Chair of the meeting.

Currently he chairs the Steering Committee of the International Partnership of *Satoyama* Initiative (IPSI) which is a Japanese initiative, recognised as a useful tool for sustainable use of biodiversity and administered by the United Nations University Institute for the Advanced Study of Sustainability. This partnership enables stakeholders at all scales including governments to utilize environmentally friendly approaches including sustainable use principles to enhance socio-ecological productive landscapes and seascapes.

Some Major publications

1. **Oteng-Yeboah, A.A.** (1974). Four New Genera in Cyperaceae-Cyperoideae. *Notes of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh*, 33:307-31
2. **Oteng-Yeboah, A.A.**(1977). Some observations on the Genus *Ascolepis* Nees, *Notes R.B.G. Edinburgh* 33:399—397
3. **Oteng-Yeboah, A.A.**(1994). DNA Bank Depositories in Developing Countries: the way Forward. In: R.P. Adams *et al* (eds.) *Conservation of Plant Genes II: Utilization of Ancient and Modern DNA* pp. 173-186, Missouri Botanical Garden, St. Louis, Missouri, USA.
4. **Oteng-Yeboah, A.A.**(1995). Biodiversity Assessment of forest tree species in Bia National Park, Ghana. In: T.J.B. Boyle and B. Boonawe (eds.) *Measuring and Monitoring Biodiversity in Tropical and Temperate Forests*, pp. 247-256, CIFOR, IUFRO
5. Alex Asase, **Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah**, George T.Odamtten and S.J.Simmonds (2005) Ethnobotanical Study of some Ghanaian anti-malarial plants. *Journal of Ethnopharmacology*, Vol. 99 issue 2 pp.273-279
6. Alex Asase and **Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah** (2005) An ethnobotanical study of plant uses in Wechiau Community Hippopotamus Sanctuary, Ghana. *XVII International Botanical Congress Book of Abstracts No. 6.17.4 page 109*
7. Alex Asase, **Alfred A. Oteng-Yeboah**, George T. Odamtten and S.J. Simmonds (2006) Anti-malarial properties of four selected ethnobotanicals from Ghana. *Legon Journal of Science*, Vol.1 issue 1:55-59
8. Michel Loreau, **Alfred Oteng-Yeboah**, M.T.K Arroyo, D. Babin, R. Barbault, M. Donoghue, M. Gadgil, C. Hauser, C. Heip, A. Larigauderie, K.Ma, G. Mace, H.A. Mooney, C. Perrings, P.Raven, J. Sarukhan, P. Schei, R.J. Scholes and R.T. Watson (2006). Diversity without representation. Commentary in *Nature* vol. 442: 245-246, 20 July 2006
9. **Oteng-Yeboah, A. A.** (2007) The philosophical foundations of biophysical resources. in Gyasi, E.A., Kranjac-Berisavljevic, G., Blay, E.T and Oduro, W. (eds.) *Managing Agrobiodiversity the traditional way: Lessons from West Africa in sustainable use of biodiversity and related natural resources*. United Nations University Press, Tokyo, Japan

10. Stephen R. Carpenter, Harold A. Mooney, John Agard, Doris Capistrano, Ruth S. DeFries, Sandra Diaz, Thomas Dietz, Anantha K. Duraiappah, **Alfred Oteng-Yeboah**, Henrique Miguel Pereira, Charles Perrings, Walter V. Reid, Jose Sarukhan, Robert J.Scholes and Anne Whyte (2009). Science for managing ecosystem services: Beyond the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. *PNAS Vol 106 (5): 1305-1312*
11. Parrotta, J.A., R.L. Trosper, M. Agnoletti, V. Bocharnikov, S. Feary, M. Gabay, C. Gamborg, J. Garcia Latorre, A. Laletin, Lim Hin Fui, L. Jinlong, **A. Oteng-Yeboah**, M. Pinedo-Vasquez, R.S. Ramakrishnana, Y. Yeo-Chang (2012) Traditional Knowledge contributes to sustaining forests and biocultural diversity. *Bois et Foret Des Tropiques* No. 312 (2) Editorial 1-7
12. **Oteng-Yeboah, A.**, D. Mutta, D. Byarugaba, W.A.Mala (2012) Africa. in Parrotta JA and RL Trosper ed. *Traditional Forest –Related Knowledge* pp. 37-78. Springer, IUFRO and The Christensen Fund