

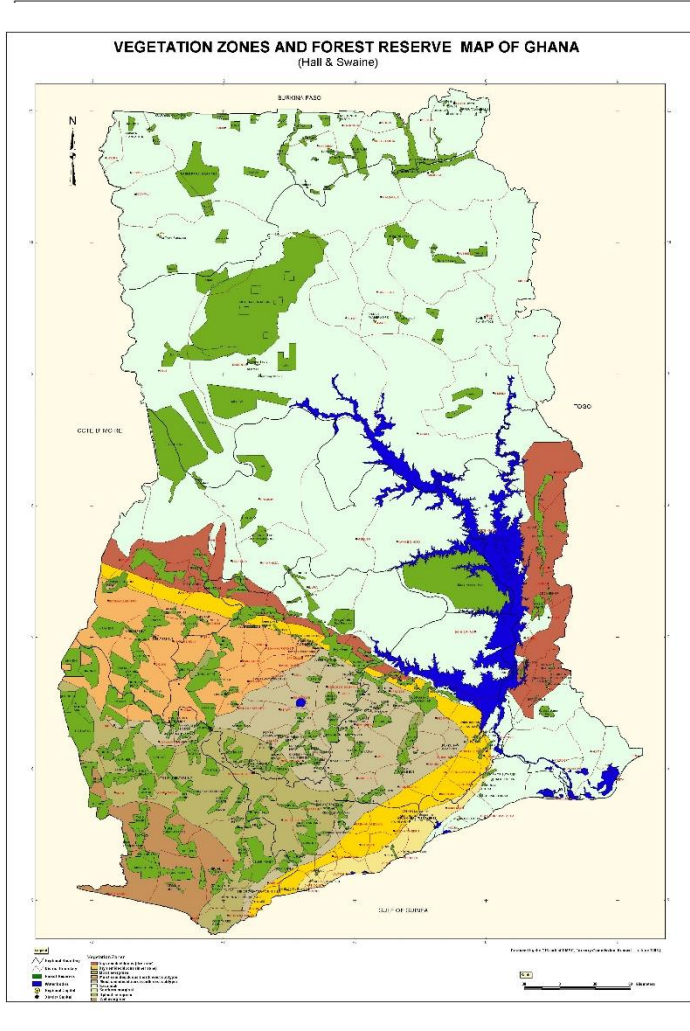


Second Regional Workshop on the ITTO Voluntary SFM Guidelines, 08 -12 May 2017, Cotonou, Benin

GHANA

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Country Forestry Overview



ITEM	FIGURE	COMMENT
Total Country Area	23.854 million ha	
Population (2015 est)	27,670,174 2.55% growth rate	CountrySTATS 2017
Forest Cover	9.3 million ha	39% of Country Area (FAO estimates 2014)
Forestry contr to GDP	2.2%	2013 revised GDP
Dependence on forest	2.5 million people	

Forest own by the people, vested in traditional authorities, held in trust (managed) by the state for the people

Naturally occurring trees vested in the President and managed by the government for the people of Ghana

Policy, legal and Institutional Arrangements

- Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources – overall Policy direction on forests and wildlife
- Forestry Commission - Regulation use, management and coordination of related policies
- The Forest Research Institute of Ghana (under the Ministry of Science Technology and Innovation) and the Universities support forest research
- Environmental Protection Authority – regulation of all environmental protection issues
- Community and Civil Society

Policy, legal Institutional Arrangements - Cont

Legal Framework:

- The 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Ghana - the overall highest law on Forestry
- Forest and Wildlife Policies (first 1948 Forest Policy to current 2012 Forest and Wildlife Policy)
- Forest Development Master Plans
- Acts of Parliament and Regulations: (Forest Act 1927 CAP 157 to latest Timber Resources Management (Legality) Regulation of 2012 (L.I. 2184).
- Manuals of Procedures (for forest planning, inventory and yield selection etc)
- Forest best practice manual (harvesting code)
- Administrative directives

Policy, legal Institutional Arrangements

Timber Right Sources:

- Timber Utilisation Contract (TUC) awarded through competitive bidding
- Administrative Permits: - Salvage permit, Timber Utilisation Permit and special permits

Stakeholder Participation

- Stakeholder Participation in Forestry – Community Forest Committees, NGO's, Community Resource Management Areas (CREMAs)

SFM Experiences, Lessons Learnt and Achievements

1) Enabling Conditions

- A new Forest and Wildlife Policy -non-consumptive values, balance timber supply; savannah ecosystem mgt; SFM financing
- Forest Development Master Plan 2016-2036
- Timber Resources Management (Legality) Regulation of 2012
- Tree Tenure reforms underway – Relevant studies done
- A Wood Procurement Policy for the domestic market developed

1) Enabling Conditions - Cont

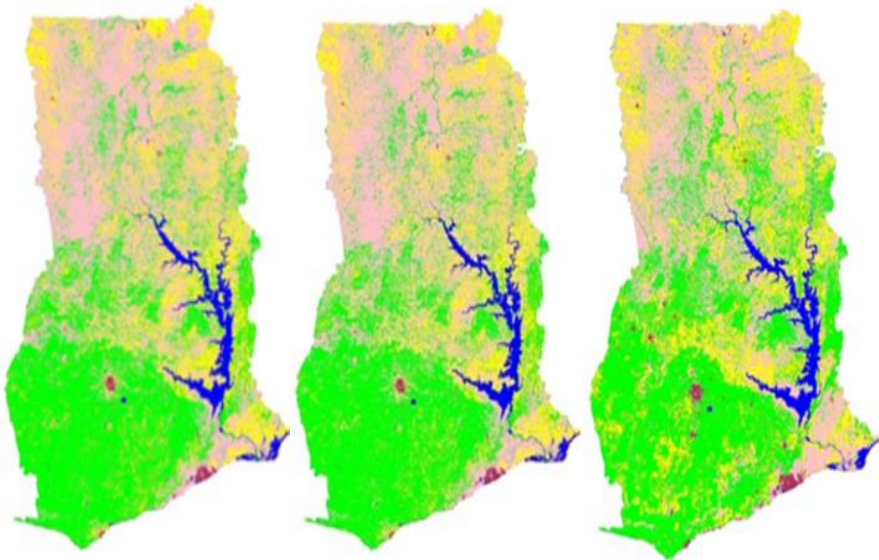
- A draft Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulation – consolidates various subsidiary legislation, other related matters eg grant of small scale timber rights
- Forest Plantation Strategy: 2016-2040 – Sets long term timber supply target and support to SFR development including carbon

Significant Achievement:

Improved forest governance with respect to effective stakeholder participation in key areas of SFM

- triggered by Ghana's FLEGT VPA with the EU

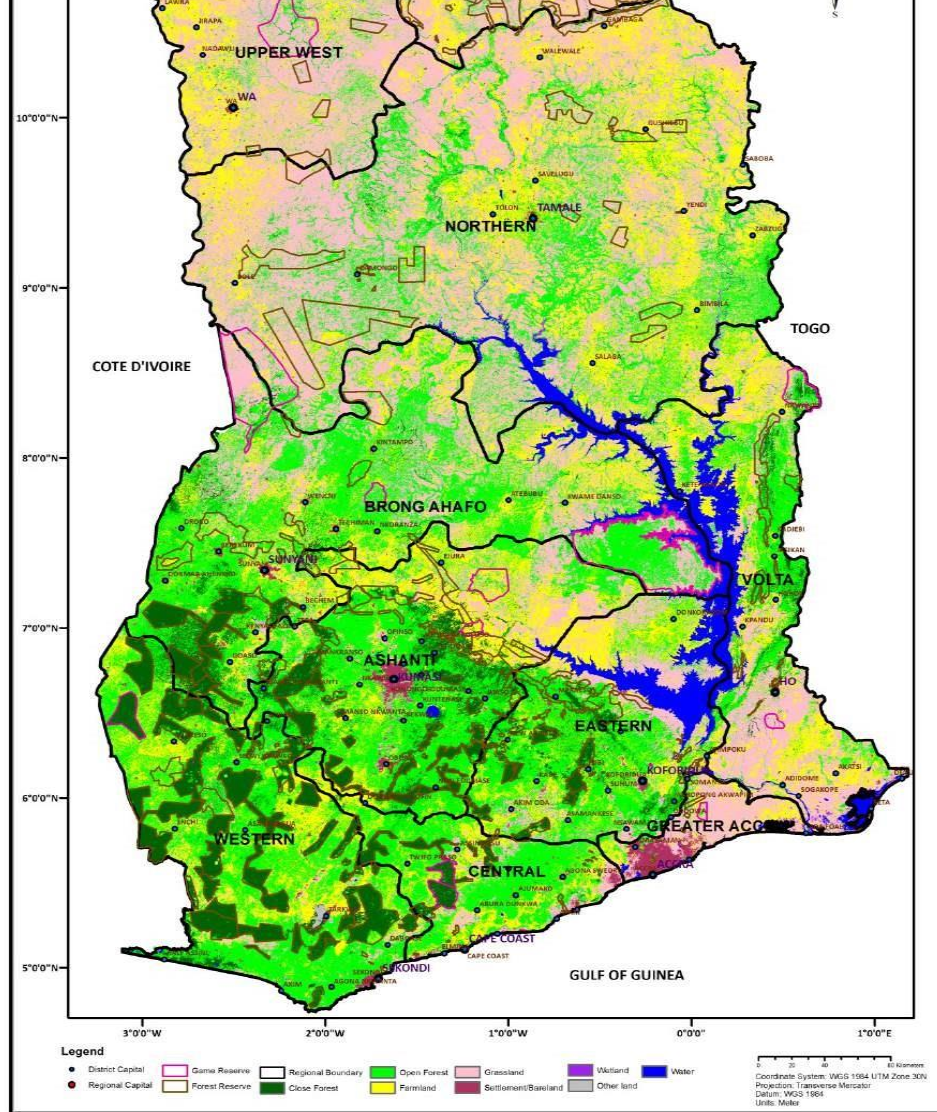
2) Extent and Condition of Forests



Year	Estimated Natural Forest Area (million ha)	Total Closed Natural Forest (000 ha)	Permanent Forest Estate (000 ha)			
			Production		Protection	Total
			Natural	Planted		
2010	4.68	838	774	164	396	1334
2015				229		

Country forestry overview

Land Use Situation



4) Forest Ecosystem Health and Resilience



Deforestation and Degradation not much improved

Illegal logging/Mining, Mining prospecting, Agriculture Expansion, Wildfires

Forest Ecosystem Health and Resilience - cont.

Actions!

- Renewed political commitment against illegal mining
- A shift to agriculture intensification programme – Cocoa under Ghana REDD+
- Forestry Commission Rapid Response Task Forces
- Wildfire Management and Forest Restoration efforts
- SFM a priority area under NAMA / INDCs (REDD and SFM for mitigation and adaptation policies respectively)



Forest Production

Demand of certain products (timber) and competing land use affecting forest production and services – AAC of 2million M3 less than estimated wood demand

Achievements:

- Total of 229,000 ha planted over the last 6 years
- Rolled out of National WTS under FLEGT VPA
- Efforts underway to secure the imports of timber to sustain the wood processing industry

SFM Multifaceted Challenges

- Lack of legally enforced National Land use plan
- Conflicting national natural resources priorities and policies – Minerals under forest
- Increasing population, unemployment and poverty - increasing demand for forest products and services / competition for forest land
- Sectorial jurisdictional conflicts where other national facilities are established in the forest – eg Bui Dam within Bui National Park
- Inadequate staff due to lack of replacement of exited staff
- Inadequate funding for SFM – Global community not adequately paying for global non-market services

Way forward and Strategies

- Development and implementation of Integrated FR & PA management plans
- Reinforce Domestic Market Legality Initiatives
- Enhancing Technologies to Support Utilization of Lesser Use Species (LUS)
- Final roll out Wood Tracking System (WTS) under the Legality Assurance System (LAS)
- Survey, re-demarcation and re-pillaring of Admitted Farms and Destruction of Illegal Farms and settlements in Forest Reserves
- Maintenance of established plantations (2010-2013) including fire management

Way forward and Strategies -2

- Get critical bills passed :
 - Wildlife Resources Management Bill
 - Timber Resources Management and Legality Licensing Regulation
- Clamp down on Illegal mining in forest and wildlife reserves
- Implementation of Forest Plantation Strategy 2016-2040 –
Leverage funding from government support and levies, private fund, grants etc
- Importation of timber to feed the processing industry
- Upgrade of Atewa Range Forest Reserve to a National Park

Conclusions

- Political Commitment critical for achieving SFM
- Addressing unemployment and poverty holds the lasting key against illegal logging and mining
- Good forest governance - especially effective stakeholder participation is a game changer
- A legally enforced National Land Use plan and progress in agricultural intensification crucial for SFM
- Adequate funding (national and global) to implement REED+, INDCs and other restoration strategies key for SFM

Thank You for Your Attention

