The Development Institute

*Empowering People for Sustainable Development*

# CONTRIBUTIONS OF COMMUNITY CONSERVATION TO ACHIEVING THE STRATEGIC PLAN FOR BIODIVERSITY 2011-2020 AND AICHI TARGETS

*The Opportunities and Challenges of Integrating Community Conservation In NBSAPs*

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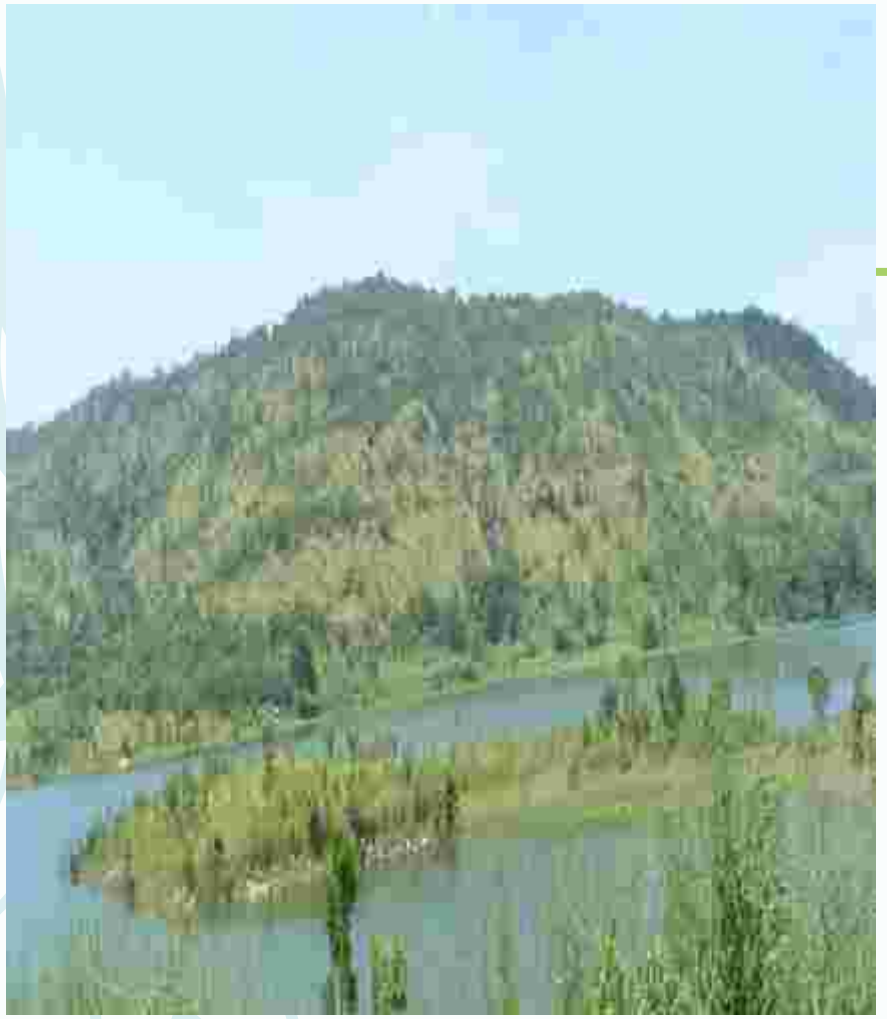
# Community Conservation Resilience Initiative in Ghana

# Project Landscapes



• The Weto Range is a unique mountain area that stretches from the South Eastern shores of the Volta Lake and traverses through the Volta Region of Ghana and continues into the Republic of Togo to Benin.

•It is one of the hot spot biodiversity of the Upper Guinean Forest of West Africa.

•The Weto area is covered with mountain forest and savannah grassland at the foot of the mountain.

•The area is not only a home to buffalo, various monkeys, birds, butterflies, cobes, bats and frogs but also a source of several watersheds with waterfalls; popularly the Wli falls, rivers such as Dayi and Tordzie which drains into the Avu Lagoon

# Project Landscape

Avu Lagoon is part of the Keta Lagoon Complex Ramsar Site (KLCRS).

It is one of the only fresh water lagoon in the KLCRS.

The area covers coastal savannah and wetlands

It is a site for migratory birds and the only site for *Sitatunga* (amphibian mammal) in Ghana.

# Resources In CCRI Communities

Tsiifalls

NTFPs

Cocoa

Rivers

# Spices

Quinin

Xylopia/Etso

Black Pepper

Afromono

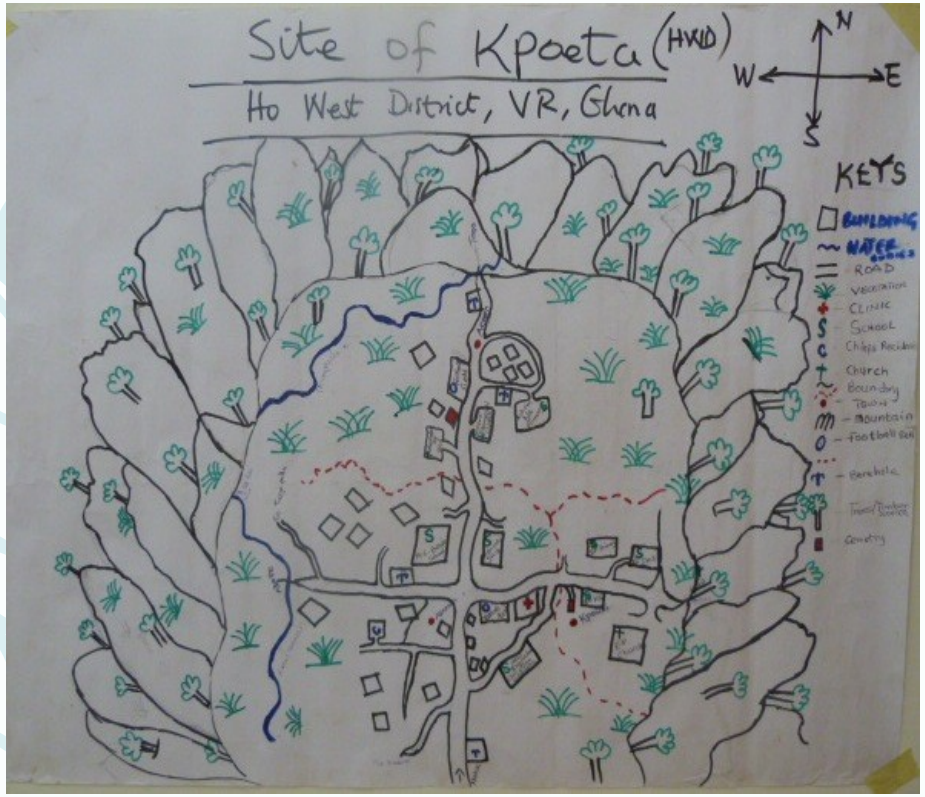
# Medicinal Plants/Spices & Uses

- Adeduti- the bark is boiled and taken for blood boost and also against stomach ache
- Tsiatsi- root and leaves are boiled and taken for stomach ulcer and it also serves as blood tonic. The leaves are also used to heal wound and also chew when snack bites to prevent poison from spreading to the heart
- Nyimor- root and leaves are boiled and taken to heal fever, the root is also used for bitters
- Nyakpekpe- bark is boiled and taken to heal stomach worries, the fruit is taken to improved fertility. The root is also used to cure hernia, the fruit is also used to replace a child for a barren woman who passed on.
- Gatigati- root and bark are used to cure stomach problem
- Adatsigo- bark is used for soup for a woman who has given birth to heal her wounds quickly. The bark is also taken for someone is suffering from cough
- Tontonui (nyamedua)- bark is boiled and taken to cure diarrhea
- Axlie- root is boiled and taken to cure ulcer

# CREMA Intervention

# CCRI Engagements

# Participatory Mapping



# A blind man is not one without sight, but one who is without vision for the future

# Management/Land use Practices

- Formation of farmer groups for collective actions
- Buffer planting (to protect watershed/bodies)
- Cocoa Agro-forestry
- Enrichment planting/analog forestry
- Setting of core zones for protection (eg. Tsiifall)
- Application of Cocoa certification standards
- Leadership & economic empowerment esp for women
- Ensuring financial sustainability and discipline through VSLAs

# Challenges of Integrating Community Conservation in NBSAPs in Ghana

- **Traditional knowledge not documented and fully utilized**: Limited knowledge on value of community conservation undermines political support and integration of biodiversity issues in the planning process
- **Lack of targeted policy/legislation** for communities to claim their rights.
- **Ineffective land-use planning**: Most community conserved territories are not adequately planned and formally recognized in NBSAPs planning processes
- **Low Political Will** to pass the Wildlife Resources Management Bill

# Challenges Cont'd

- **Inadequate financial mechanisms and incentives** (benefit sharing arrangements). Even where these incentives exists, locals do not benefit as much
- **Centralized planning**: Failing decentralized governance system does not provide the enabling environment for incorporating local conservation actions in development planning.
- **Complex land tenure regime**
- **Low capacity of local communities to effectively engage/participate in the planning process**
- **Limited integrated planning and institutional coordination**

# Opportunities for Mainstreaming Community Conservation in NBSAPs in Ghana

- Policy Areas
  - Tree tenure reform: seeks to provide incentive and benefit sharing arrangement for farmers.
  - Forest Master Development Plan: support community forest management
  - Wildlife Resources Management Bill: supports CREMAs and FPIC process
- Existing community conservation knowledge and best practices
- Voluntary certification: respect of rights of communities and encourages conservation
- CSOs and INGOs platforms that amplifies community voices and input into NBSAPs
- Implementation of community-based projects on biodiversity conservation (eg. CCRI)

# Recommendations

- Empower communities and CSOs to push for the passage of the Wildlife Resources bill and clear implementation plan
- Enforcement of policies, strategies and legislations
- Involve, involve, involve communities in planning and implementation
- Government should support CCRI and its upscaling to other communities
- Advocate for targeted and appropriate policy for specific ecosystems

# Thank You

Questions and contributions are welcome

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