



TREE TENURE IN GHANA

A review of progress made by

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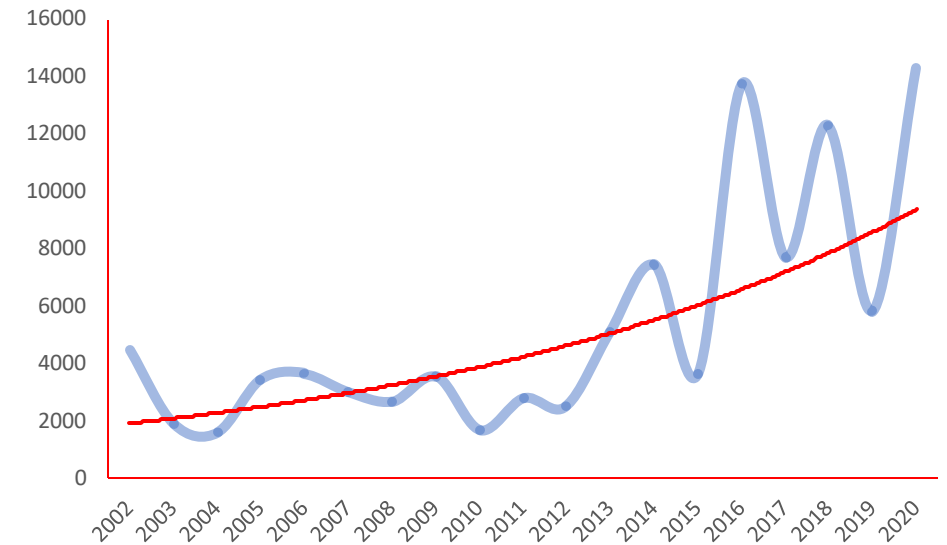
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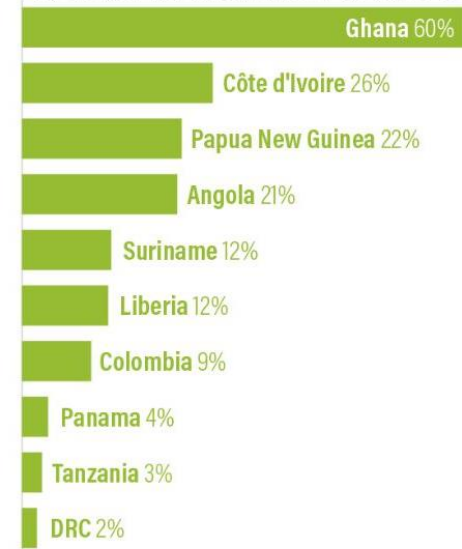
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Background

- Deforestation rates in Ghana
 - Alarming rates (highest change rate in the world)
 - Major drivers are illegal mining, agriculture (cocoa production is highest), illegal harvesting of timber.
- Reduces the potential of local economic development in rural areas
- Loss of biodiversity (including the ability of environment to sustain livelihoods)



BY PERCENT INCREASE FROM 2017*

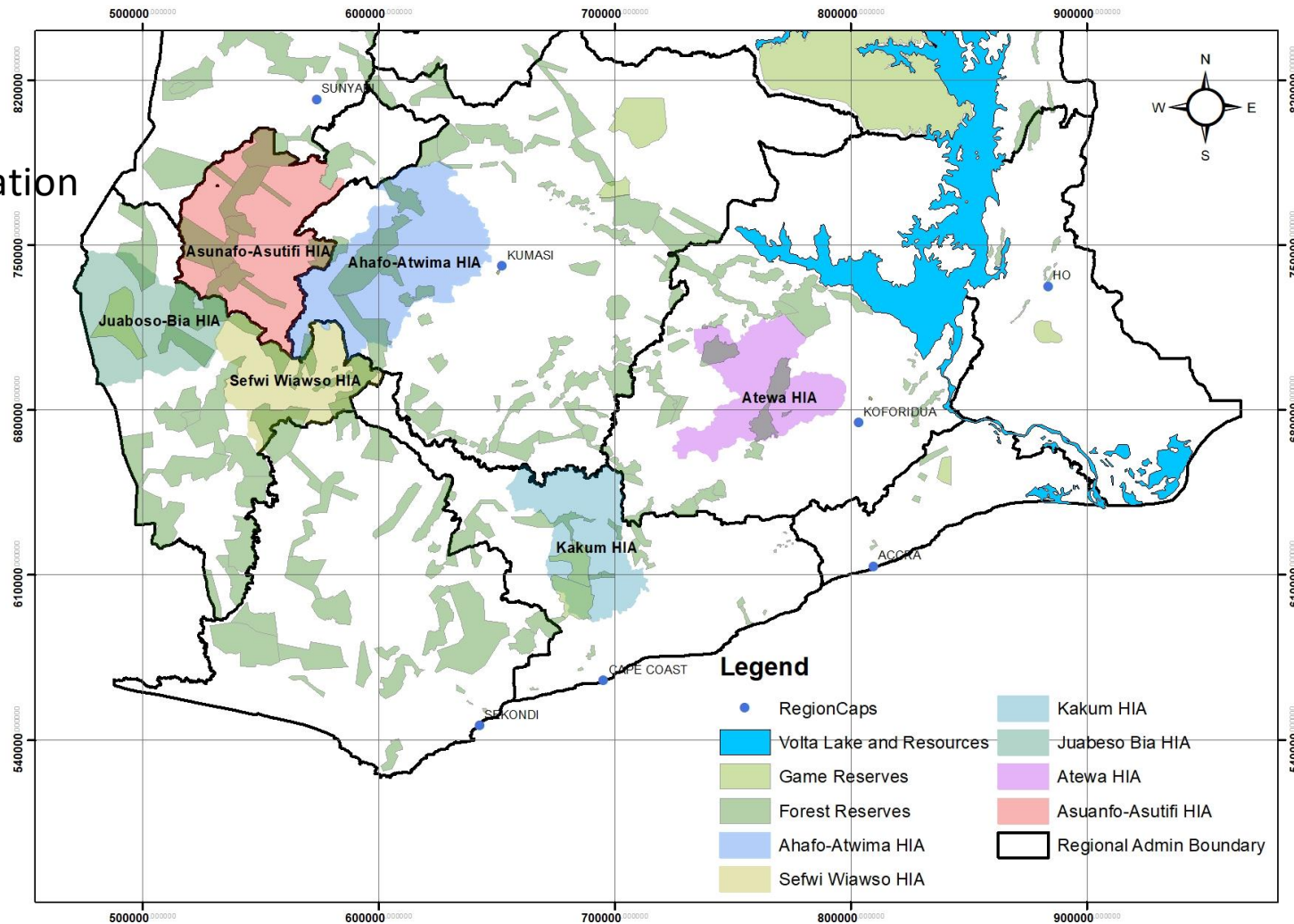


The solution

Adoption of national approach to halting deforestation

- Building partnerships
- Inclusiveness
- Shared resources
- Compliance/alignment with global activities

Coordination Planning Implementation Monitoring and evaluation Learning	NATIONAL	Enabling environment activities - Policies (Tree tenure policy, benefit sharing plan, etc.) - Partnerships (Cocoa & Forest Initiatives) Financial mechanisms to fund priorities
	REGIONAL	Building collection action for implementation - Ghana Cocoa Forest REDD+ Program - Forest Investment Program - Landscape Initiatives
	LOCAL	Law enforcement, community inclusion and involvement, local partnerships - CBNRM mechanisms (CREMAs, HIAs, etc.) - Projects

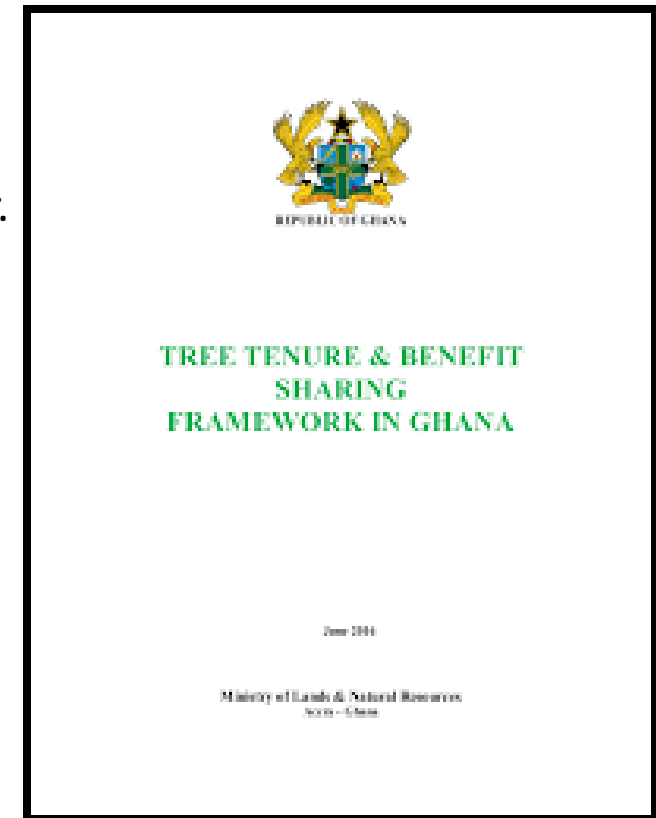


TREE TENURE: A KEY CHALLENGE TO RESTORING COCOA FOREST LANDSCAPE

A leading challenge to planting more shade trees is government ownership and control of all naturally occurring timber trees – even on privately held land. State ownership of naturally occurring trees is widely considered a strong disincentive for landowners and smallholders, regardless of land tenure, to nurture trees on their cocoa farms. In part this is because the benefits of harvesting naturally occurring trees are shared between loggers, traditional authorities, and the government, while landowners are excluded. Numerous government policy documents over the last decade have advocated for vesting title to naturally occurring trees with communities and farmers that cultivate and tend these trees.

The solution- Tree Ownership and Registration

- One of the suite of enabling environment actions taken to help halt deforestation, improve tree cover, and enhance farmer incomes
- Tree tenure policy was developed as a first step to ensure that farmers are incentivised to plan trees on their farms
 - Targets off-reserve areas
 - Published in 2016 by the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources
 - Policy was based a call from various stakeholders for the need to incentivise people to undertake massive tree planting activities to help improve tree cover.
 - A study was initiated and through a multistakeholder process the policy was developed.
- Policy deals with 3 main issues
 - Naturally occurring trees (Trees on farms, scndary forests, CREMAs, others)
 - Planted trees
 - Benefits to farmers



The solution- Tree Ownership and Registration

Planted trees **On Reserve**

- 2 models currently being implemented with Forestry Commission
 - Commercial lease agreements with private developers
 - Modified Taungya System (MTS) with farmers

Planted trees **Off Reserve**

- 100% ownership by farmer
- Farmer has right to negotiate benefit sharing with land owner (usually part of land use lease agreement)
- If not in a plantation, farmers need to prove ownership of trees through tree registration
- Tree registration is expensive (individual farmers are not able to pay for it, usually financed by private sector and government)
- Land ownership/ lease agreements did not take into consideration tree planting.

The solution- Tree Ownership and Registration

Naturally occurring trees **On Reserve**

- Currently there are no issues for trees that occur in the protected areas since there are laid down ways of distributing proceeds from sales of timber
- Usually proceeds that go to traditional authorities, local governments, have been contested and allegations made of their misuse.

Naturally occurring trees **Off Reserve**

- Most controversial aspect that needs attention
- 3 types of management regimes depending on governance in place (CREMAs, On farms, Secondary forests)
- Government does not own trees under these schemes but benefit arrangement in place with all previous agreements on land respected.
- CREMAs and dedicated forests have legal documentation – by laws, constitutions, management plans, etc.
- Local people need education and capacity to manage these kinds of innovations

Where are we going?

The most dominant conclusion from the study is that the existing tree tenure should be reformed such that ownership of naturally occurring timber trees are vested in persons or entities with management, exclusion and alienation rights to trees and land. The implication is that holders of allodial and freehold land titles under customary land ownership would exercise ownership right over naturally occurring trees on their lands. This would incentivize critical stakeholders, such as farmers and forest-adjacent communities, to invest in forest management and conservation for effective implementation of any tree growing mechanism.

- There is a shorter route
 - The concession Act 1965
- Longer and expensive route
 - Complete processes for registering planted trees on farms
 - Publishing the benefit-sharing of naturally occurring trees on farms and other off-reserve areas



Merci beaucoup