- GHANA -
A COUNTRY UPDATE ON NATIONAL REFERENCE LEVEL

TECHNICAL WORKSHOP ON NATIONAL REFERENCE LEVELS FOR REDD+ NOVEMBER 9-10, 2011, WASHINGTON D.C

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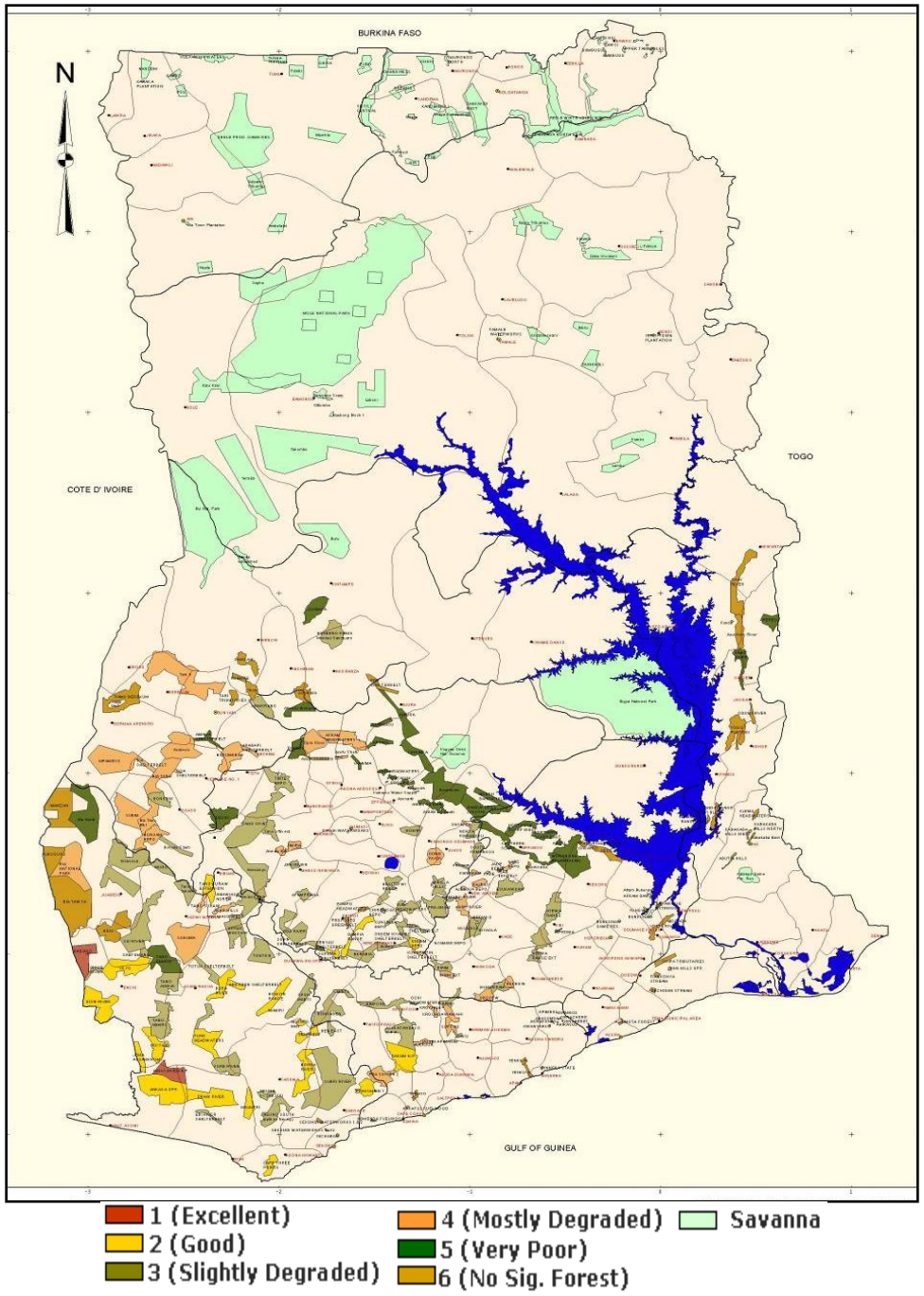
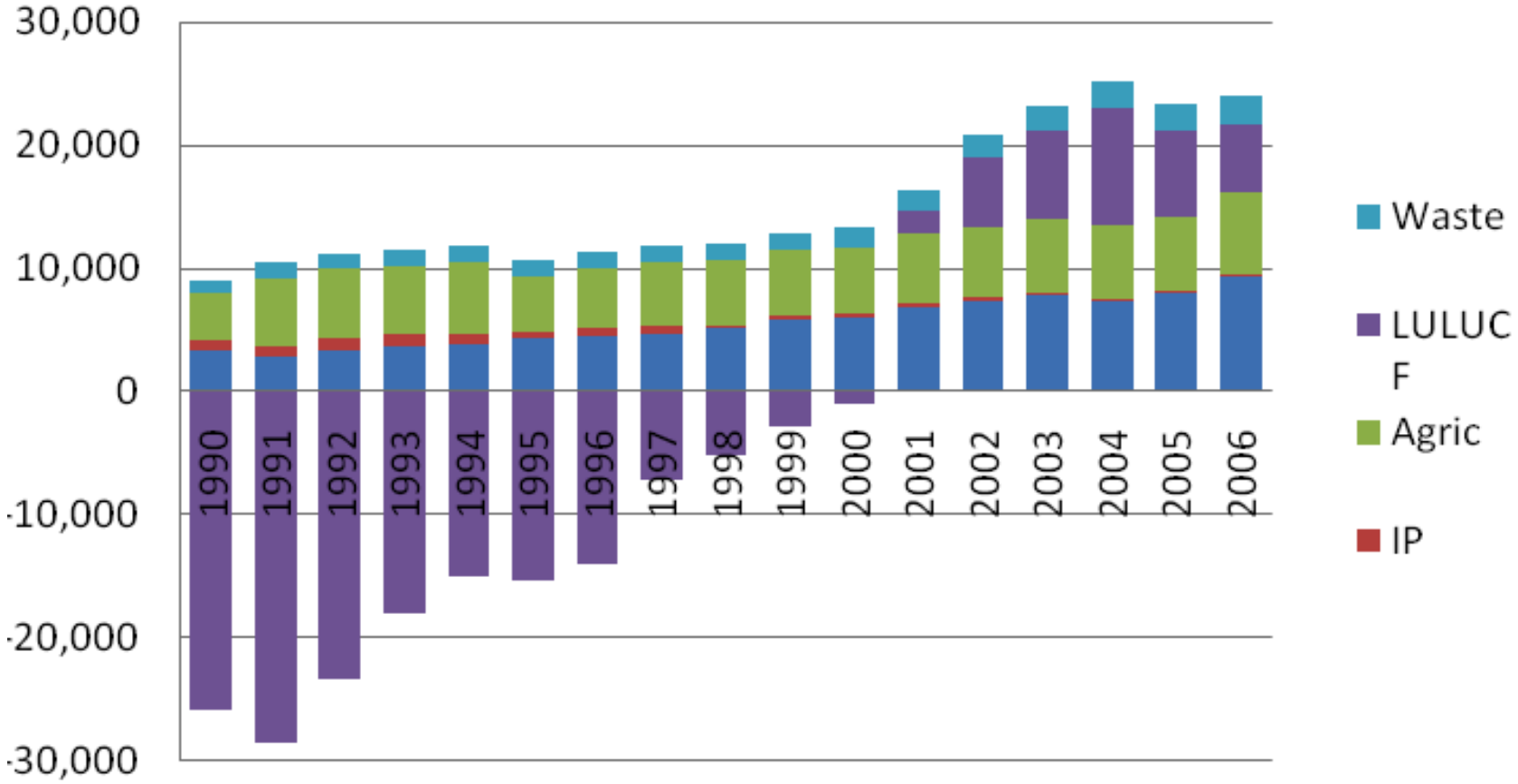
INTRODUCTION

- The Republic of Ghana has a land area of 23.9 million ha
- In broad terms, there are two ecological zones in Ghana which are the High Forest Zone to the south (35%) and the Savanna Zone (65%) to the north. They are separated by a fast-expanding Transitional Zone where grassland is replacing forest.
- The REDD+ mechanism provides immense opportunities for reversing the trend of deforestation and forest degradation
- Ghana's R-PP was approved in March, 2010 at the FCPF 5th Participants Committee Meeting in Gabon.
- The R-PP provides useful guidance for establishing a national reference level and MRV system for Ghana

Forest Condition Assessment (FC)



National GHG Estimates
-Trends by Sectors-



Source: Ghana EPA 2011

THE R-PP and RL

- Developing a Reference Scenario is one of the components of Ghana's R-PP
- The overall objective of this component is to construct reference scenarios that forecast emissions and removals of CO_2 into the future in the absence of REDD+ interventions.
- Will be based on historical information and international practice, within the context of national circumstances
- Consistency with the national MRV system is paramount

UPDATE ON STEPS TOWARDS SETTING RL

- Establishment of RL/MRV Technical Committee
- National forest definition reviewed
  - 15% canopy cover, 5m height, 1ha
- Required input data and sources identified
- Forest Carbon map developed and launched
  (led by Katoomba with support from the Gordon & Betty Moore Foundation)
- In-country training activities; GHGi, Carbon stocks assessments, data analysis etc.

KEY EXPECTED PRODUCTS

- Maps of deforestation for 2000 to 2004 and 2004 to 2009.
  - These maps will indicate areas of forest lost (canopy cover transition from at least 15% to less than 15%) during each census period.
- Maps of forestation for 2000 to 2004 and 2004 to 2009.
  - These maps will indicate areas of new forest (forest regrowth) during each census period.
- Maps of forest degradation every two years

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- Data gaps resulting in recourse to default values
- Capacity remains a big challenge at different levels
- Landsat data for Ghana which is ideal for mapping deforestation at the national scale is freely available for 2000-2009
- National GHG inventory system reviewed, with special attention to LULUCF/AFOLU
- Demonstration phase provides opportunities for testing ideas, systems and tools
- Anticipated fast-growth of the economy presents both opportunities and threats for REDD+

WAY FORWARD

- Need to fast-track implementation of the R-PP (particularly RL/MRV component which is crucial to the success of the REDD+ programme)
- Stronger coordination of local and international actions to reap synergy effect (e.g. FPP funded by the Japanese Government)
- Knowledge exchange and the sharing of experiences among participating countries are key
- A learning-by-doing approach should be actively encouraged

THANK YOU