

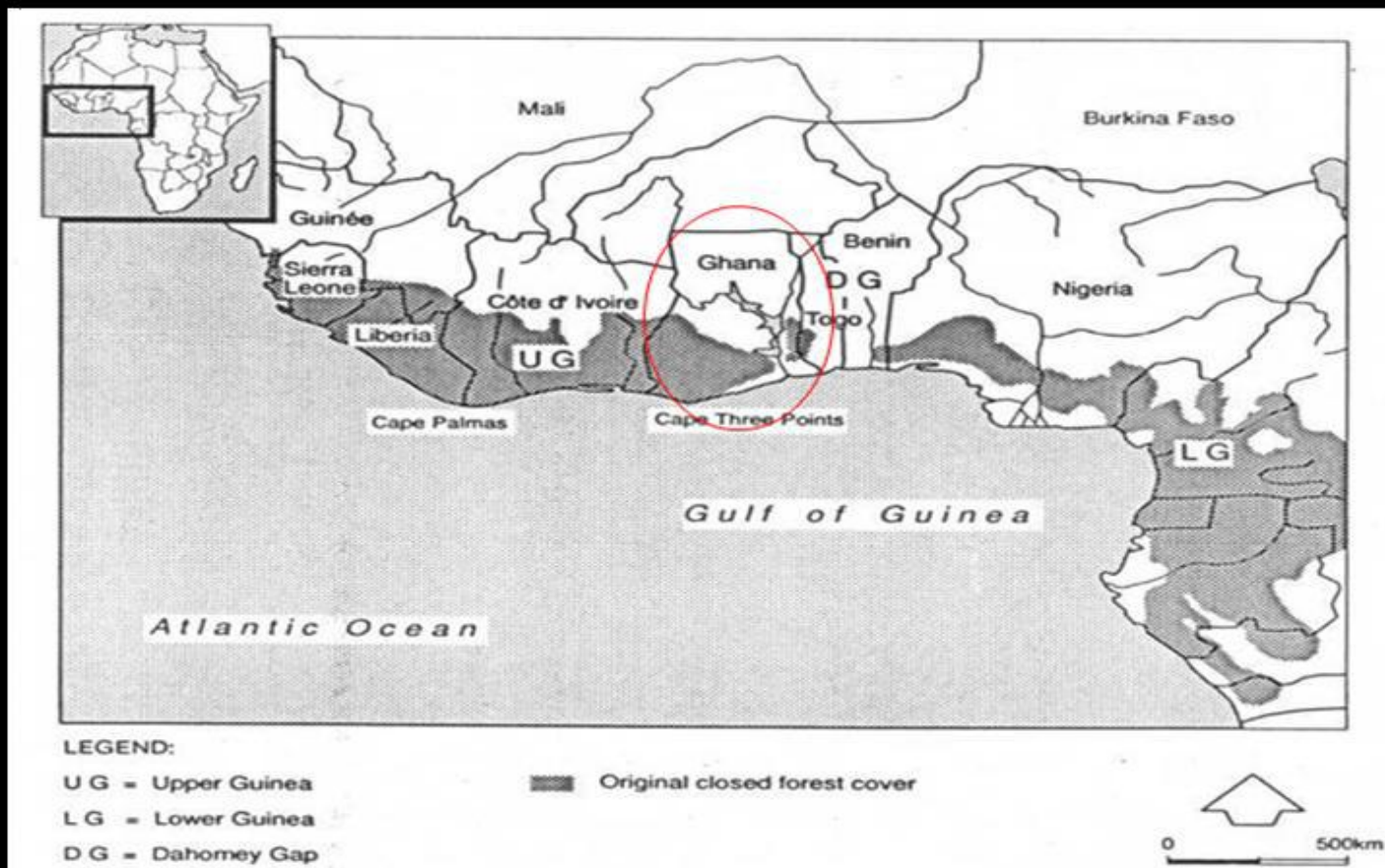


# **THE FOREST DIALOGUE: Ghana Field Dialogue on REDD+ Benefit Sharing**

## **Forest and Land Uses in Central Ghana**

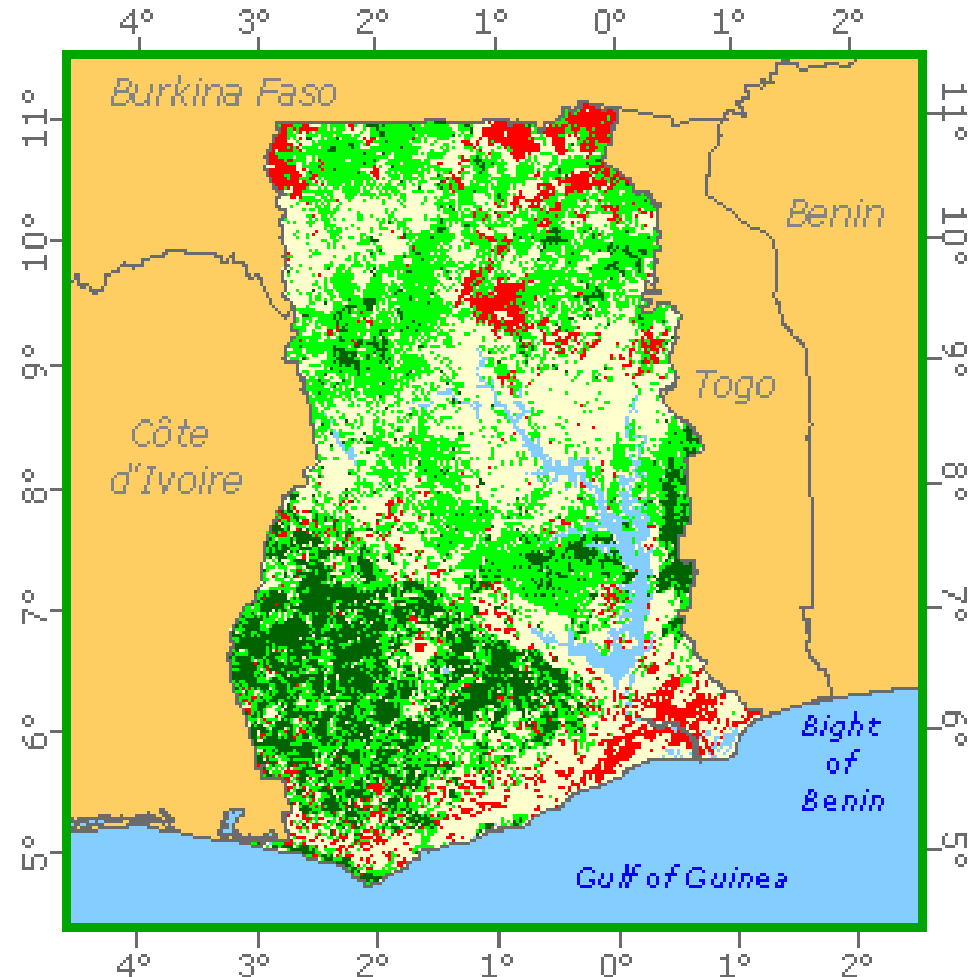


# MAP OF WEST AFRICA SHOWING LOCATION OF GHANA AND THE TROPICAL HIGH FOREST ZONE



## Forest and Wildlife Reserves

- ❑ Forests and Wildlife Reserves cover 16% of the territory.
- ❑ Forest Reserves occupy approximately 20% of high forest zone (Southern part of Ghana)
- ❑ Forest owned by local communities, vested in traditional authorities and managed by FC on behalf of government





## **WUCN Major Land Uses in Ghana**

The condition of Ghana's forests has been in decline for many years, particularly since the 1970s. Many forest reserves are degraded, and the off-reserve stocks are being rapidly depleted. Plant and animal populations are becoming increasingly fragmented, reducing the future quality of the natural environment. Below are some of the major land uses in the country:

- Agriculture (both commercial and subsistence) – especially cocoa production in the forest zones.
- Commercial timber production through logging operations
- Livestock production and management.
- Fuel-wood and Charcoal production.
- Mining (both Industrial and Artisanal)



# Ghana's REDD+ Initiative

- To reduce further forest losses and contribute its quota to climate change mitigation, Ghana has committed itself to the global REDD initiative.
- It gained approval and funding from the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility to prepare a REDD strategy
- After elaborate processes, the Readiness Preparation Proposal (R-PP) was approved in 2010
- During the consultation process for the R-PP one of the most sensitive underlying cause of forest degradation likely to impact on REDD is the lack of clear forest tenure rights especially amongst forest fringe communities.
- National Steering Committee, Expert and Consultative Groups have been established to guide implementation of subsequent REDD strategies

# Rights to Natural Resources

- Customary ownership - Chiefs are trustees of the land and the natural resources on behalf of their subjects (communities)
- 1962 Concessions Act vested timber in the President on behalf of the stools
- In practice the FC governs the resource: grants timber concessions, collects fees
- 1992 Constitution stipulates the sharing arrangement of the “stool land revenue”



## Timber Benefit sharing arrangement

Beneficiary	Distribution according to Constitution 267(6)	<i>De facto</i> distribution of revenue (gross)	
		On-reserve	Off-reserve
Forestry Commission	-	60 %	40 %
Administrator of Stool Lands	10 %	4 %	6 %
District Assemblies	55 % of remaining 90 %	19.8 %	29.7 %
Stools	25 % of remaining 90 %	9 %	13.5 %
Traditional Councils	20 % of remaining 90 %	7.2 %	10.8 %
<b>Total</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>	<b>100 %</b>



## **WUCN Land Ownership, Rights and Tenure in Ghana**

Generally, land ownership refers to the means by which lands are owned either by an individual or a group of people. There are basically 5 ownership types in the country:

- **State Land:** This refers to land that the Government has compulsorily acquired under the State Lands Act 1962 Act 125 in the interest of the public.
- **Vested Land:** This is the vestment of stool lands in the state under the Administration of Lands Act 1962 Act 123. The state acts as a Trustee for the appropriate stool.
- **Stool Land:** This refers to land that is vested in the appropriate stool on behalf of the community represented by the Chief, or any in a fiduciary capacity for his people.
- **Family Land:** This represents land vested in a family represented by a Head of family.
- **Privately Owned Land:** This is land with the freehold interest purchased outright by an individual or a group of persons.





# Forest Tenure

- The allodial title holder of land in Ghana is the traditional paramountcy represented by the skin or stool. In the past, allodial title was derived from conquest or occupation.
- Land tenure for the individual or group of persons is guided by accruing bundle of rights over the use of the land by virtue of belonging to the stool or skin or tenancy.
- Statutory laws currently regulate rights over land acquired from allodial title holders and their rightful subjects.
- The state has the right to appropriate land for national purposes in return for compensation or certain benefits as is the case of forest reserves.
- In forestry terms, tenure rights is linked to whether the land is within a reserve or off-reserve area.



## Forests tenure rights

Land Category	Resource Management Category	Tenure rights	Current status
All lands	Mining	Minerals vested in the state thus licenses granted by government.	Mining increasingly being extended into FRs
Reserve	Wildlife Reserves	State acquired but reversion to land owners upon de-reservation	Largely intact but limited benefit to forest fringe communities
	Forest Reserves	Still owned by stools/skins but vested by the state under Forest Ordinance (Cap 157) in return for 50% share of revenues and access to NTFPs domestic use	Severe degradation due to illegal farming & harvesting, apathy from lack of adequate benefits
Off-Reserve	Dedicated Forests	Community managed with restrictions on use under general technical advice by govt.	Only a few existing and not backed by legislation nor adequate financial resource to effect proper management.
	Farms and Fallows	Unrestricted use for farming and other purposes but timber tree exploitation controlled by the state.	Slash and burn has reduced productive capacity thus resort to more fertile FRs.

# Tenure issues under REDD

- As part of the R-PP, consultation was conducted on cross-cutting issues including
  - Land Use Rights / Land Tenure Systems
  - Forest Governance
  - Benefit Sharing systems
- Land Use Rights / Land Tenure Systems
  - What would be the potential implications of REDDplus benefits within the existing legal context?
  - Which elements need to be included in a functioning REDDplus mechanism within the Ghanaian context?
  - What impacts could potential tenural revisions have?



# Challenges to REDD BS Issues

- National level accounting but localized actions
- Benefit distribution channel bureaucracy and structures
- Individual actions but communal benefit
- Devising benefit more attractive than existing benefits from current land use activities and rights
- Gaining understanding of REDD and its implications of climate change on ordinary actors



# THANK YOU