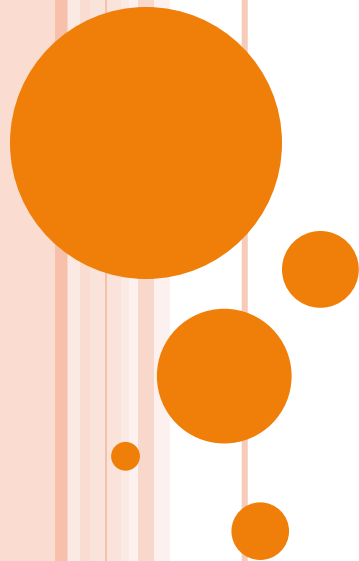


LAND USE SYSTEMS IN GHANA AND THE IMPLICATION FOR ACHIEVING MIGRANT -FRIENDLY LAND USE

**NANA KOFI ADU-NSIAH
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



OVERVIEW

- Ghana loses about 2% of its forest cover annually representing a loss of 135,000 hectares per year
- Ghana has lost half of her forest cover as at the year 2000, only 4.6 million hectares of closed forest remained in 2011 with 1.6 million hectares being forest reserves.

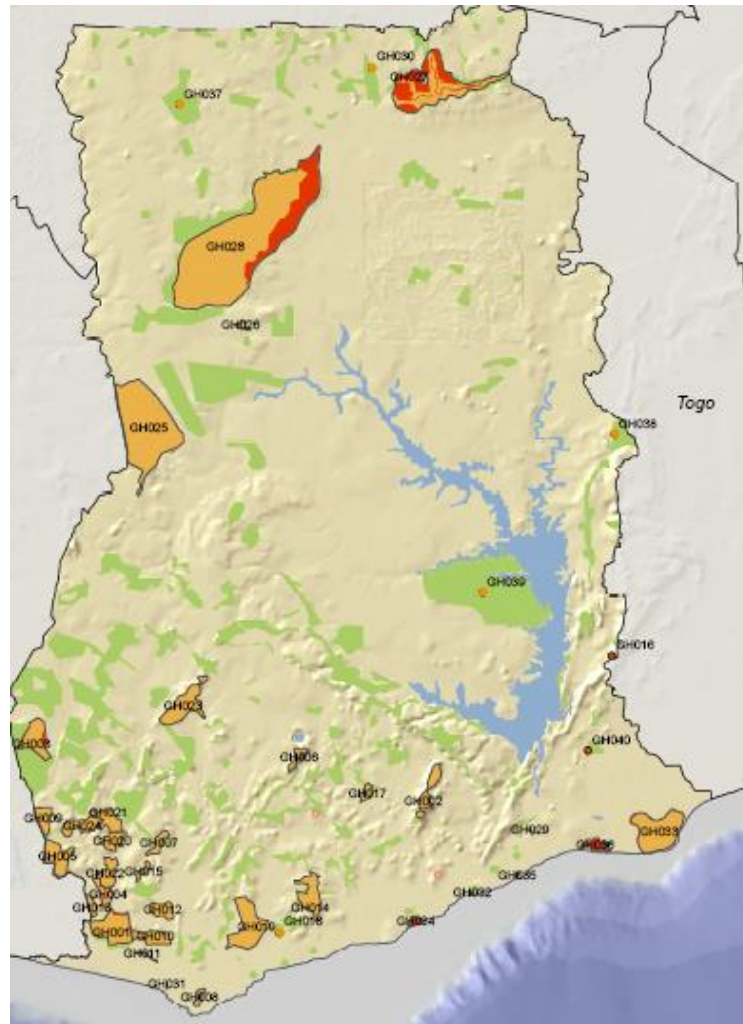


LAND USE CHANGES THAT AFFECT HABITATS OF MIGRANT LANDBIRDS

- Agricultural expansion particularly for cash crop production (cocoa, oil palm and rubber) and food crop (cassava, plantain, cocoyam, Maize etc.)
- Unsustainable harvesting of wood for firewood and charcoal production
- Illegal logging
- Uncontrolled wildfires and biomass burning
- Mining and mineral exploitation
- Infrastructure development



PROTECTED AREAS AND IBAS



PROTECTED AREAS

- Conserve the biodiversity occurring in the area and to specifically protect viable population of indigenous wildlife, migrant landbirds and species of high conservation interest
- Community Resource management Area (CREMA) constitutes the key wildlife management system in areas outside of protected areas



THE UNDERLYING PHILOSOPHY -CREATING THE WIN WIN SCENARIO:

- *The underlying philosophy of CREMA is that - if natural resources are given “value” and communities are given the “authority” to “manage” then they will have the “incentive” to sustainably manage and conserve natural resources.*
- *From a rural development perspective it results in improved livelihoods and human well being.*
- *From a conservation perspective it secures habitats, protects endangered species and may enhance the security of protected areas.*
- *From a political perspective it strengthens democratisation and accountability at local levels.*
- *From an economic perspective it strengthens local economies and diversifies income at community and household levels.*
- *It establishes a congruency of interests.*



THE CREMA WORKS BY:

- Creating an incentive (financial or otherwise) for farmers to *use* and *sustainably manage* natural resources by *devolving* the *authority* to benefit from sustainable natural resource use.
- Creating a social and political incentive for farmers by giving them *tenure* over natural resources on their land and an institutional mechanism to make collective decisions on management (based on existing decision making structures).
- Creating an ecological or conservation incentive by devolving the right to *control access* to natural resources to land holders and communities.



PRESENT SITUATION

- 1st CREMA established in September 2003
- To date 20 CREMAs are full functional across Ghana by virtue of receipt of certificate devolution
- 17 others are at various stages of establishment
- Most of these CREMAs are located next to Important Bird Areas (IBAs)



SUCSESSES OF CREMA

- Improved governance, conservation awareness and increased collective community action and unity
- Contribution to a number of ecologically sensitive areas being well protected to the extent that native wild animals are returning.
- Murugu Mognori CREMA constituents have stopped illegal harvesting of trees within their CREMA.
- Improved linkages between communities, the wildlife division, District Assemblies and Traditional Authorities.



CONTINUATION

- Improved security for state Protected Areas as surrounding communities develop their CREMAs
- Improved environmental Security and land use practice by farmers
- CREMAs are about land and water security, benefits to local livelihood, Biodiversity conservation, climate change adaptation, good governance etc

The CREMAs provide a home grown solution for management of our natural resources.



END

The wildlife Division cannot carry across Ghana alone and would need the involvement of interested NGOs and other civil society groups to play a part

○ Thank you

