









GHANA COUNTRY PROGRAMME LANDSCAPE STRATEGY



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR THE SATOYAMA INITIATIVE (COMDEKS) IN GHANA

June 2012 to June 2014













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ACRONYMS

CBO Community-Based Organizations

COMDEKS Community Development and Knowledge Management for the

Satoyama Initiative Project

CPLS Country Programme Landscape Strategy

CREMA Community Resource Management Area

GEF Global Environment Facility

NGO Non-Governmental Organizations

NSC National Steering Committee

SCBD Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity

SGP Small Grants Programme

SEPL Socio-Ecological Production Landscape











PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Weto socio-ecological production landscape has been identified as the target area for the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project (COMDEKS) in Ghana. The Weto landscape forms the southern part of the Togo-Atakora Mountains measuring about 14,863.02 ha spanning over eleven traditional and three political administrative areas, namely South Dayi District Assembly, and Hohoe and Ho Municipalities in the Volta Region.

The landscape is a biodiversity hot-spot of global importance and has probably the biggest potential for eco-cultural, mountain ecosystem, aquaculture, climate resilience farming systems and tourism in Ghana. The landscape is well endowed with diversified natural resources in the form of high biodiversity, hydrological systems, rich soils, stony features and conducive climate, all of which form a strong base for economic activities and sustainable development.

The main environmental challenges confronting the landscape are: Increasing habitat destruction (biodiversity loss and reduced ecosystem services); unsustainable farming practices; inadequate livelihood support systems and weak institutional capacity to support conservation and production.

The results of these environmental challenges have been increasing loss of biodiversity, land degradation and widespread poverty. Generally, the uses of resources in the landscape are unsustainable with increasing use of agrochemicals, cultivation of lands along the water courses, streams drying up, reduction in soil fertility, rarity and loss of flora and fauna, and increasing erosion.

In order to promote sound socio-ecological production systems to conserve biodiversity, while meeting the socio economic needs of communities residing within the landscape, a participatory transformative strategy has been developed by the stakeholders. The overall long term objective of this strategy is to enhance socio-ecological production landscape resilience through community-based activities.

The COMDEKS programme seeks to achieve the following outcomes: a) Natural and seminatural habitats and ecosystem services within the WETO landscape (watershed, sacred groves, wildlife habitats, agro-biodiversity areas) are conserved; b) sustainable agricultural practices implemented across the landscape to enhance and revive traditional conservation and production practices and adoption of new technologies; c) livelihood and wellbeing of











target social groups in the landscape sustained and enhanced through the development of livelihood enterprises, in line with the local tradition and culture; and d) institutional capacity at the landscape level strengthened to realize the goal of integrating conservation and production in the management of the target landscape.

The successful implementation of this programme in the area will be determined in terms of: a) minimized degradation of natural and semi-natural habitats within the landscape to conserve native biodiversity, promote the adoption of sustainable agricultural practices; b) sustained enhancement of livelihood and wellbeing of all social groups within the area c) integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern science to secure a stable supply of diverse ecosystem services; and d) emergence of new forms of collaborative forest management within the context of traditional communal land tenure.

It is expected that the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy for Ghana will secure stable supply of diverse ecosystem services integrate traditional ecological knowledge with modern science and promote new forms of co-management within the traditional land management systems. The strategy will be transformed into concrete actions through appropriate community-based projects, which are to be developed and executed by eligible non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community-based organizations (CBOs).











1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Satoyama Initiative

- 1. The importance of managing biodiversity and building resilient communities in socio-ecological production landscapes has become increasingly necessary due to their relevance in supporting key ecosystems functions, and the role of biodiversity in the livelihoods of millions of people worldwide. (United Nations University Institute of Advanced Studies, 2010). Biodiversity conservation does not entail only preserving pristine environments, but also conserving human-influenced natural environments, such as farmlands and secondary forest, that people have developed and maintained sustainably over a long time.
- 2. These human-influenced natural environments are often inhabited by a variety of species which are adapted to and rely on these landscapes to survive; hence they play an important role in sustaining and enhancing biodiversity. These landscapes—and the sustainable practices and knowledge they represent—are increasingly threatened due to urbanization, industrialization, and rapid rural population increase or decrease. Measures are urgently needed to conserve these sustainable types of human-influenced natural environments through broader global recognition of their value (see www.Satoyama-Initiative.org)
- 3. To tackle this critical issue, the Satoyama Initiative, an international effort to promote activities consistent with the fundamental principles of ecosystem management has been launched. The purpose of this Initiative is to promote sustainable use and management of natural resources in socio-ecological production landscapes. The Satoyama Initiative aims to maintain, rebuild and revitalize Socio-Ecological Production Landscape (SEPL) to conserve biodiversity, while meeting the socio-economic needs of communities residing in these areas, including providing for livelihoods, subsistence uses of natural resources and the cultural values communities place on the environment.
- 4. Funded by the Japan Biodiversity Fund setup within the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (SCBD), the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama Initiative Project (COMDEKS) is a unique global project implemented by UNDP, and delivered through the Small Grants Programme as the flagship of the International Partnership for the Satoyama Initiative. The COMDEKS project, currently piloted in ten countries, seeks to develop sounds biodiversity management and sustainable livelihood activities with local communities to maintain, rebuild, and revitalize socioecological production landscapes.











5. Ghana is one of first phase countries taking part in this Global Pilot, together with Brazil, Cambodia, Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Malawi, Nepal, Slovakia and Turkey. This strategy document, which is referred to as 'Ghana COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy (COMDEKS CPLS)', was developed with the facilitation and financial support from the Community Development and Knowledge Management for the Satoyama initiative Project (COMDEKS). This Strategy will guide the implementation of COMDEKS activities in Ghana.

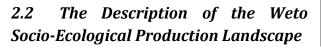
2.0 PRIORITY AREA FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT FOR SATOYAMA INITIATIVE IN GHANA

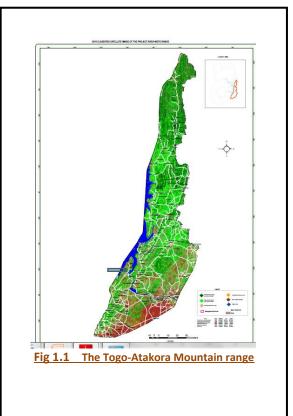
2.1 Identification of the Landscape

1. The socio-ecological production landscape identified for the COMDEKS Project in Ghana is the Weto Range which forms part of the Togo-Akwapim range also known as

Atakora Range. [See figure 1.1]. The Atakora Range with a total area of **343,549.11 ha** is a narrow belt of ridges and hills which begins west of Accra and continues in a northeasterly direction, finally crossing the frontier into Togo and Benin.

2. The average elevation of the Weto section of the range is about 450 meters with very deep and relatively narrow valleys. Ghana's highest point, Mount Afadjato, is located in this area together with Mount Djebobo 876 meters, and Mount Torogbani 872 metres, all situated east of the Volta River near the Togo border. Beyond the Togo-Atokora Mountains to the north lies the Oti River sandstone.





Spatial Analysis

1. The Weto socio-ecological production landscape forms the southern part of the Togo-Atakora Mountains. The delineated priority landscape lies between longitude 0° 10.30`











and 0° 19.30`E and latitude 6° 24` and 6° 55`N measuring about 14,863.02 ha. It is a landscape spanning eleven traditional and three political administrative areas namely South Dayi District (Kpeve); Ho West District (Dzolokpuita), carved from Ho Municipal, Afadzato District (Golokwati), carved from Hohoe Municipals and North Dayi District (Anfoega), carved from Kpando in the Volta Region. The COMDEKS local initiative has been named after the landscape as *The Weto Socio-Ecological Production Landscape Initiative*.

- 2. The area is а dynamic mountainous mosaic landscape with diverse habitats and land uses including cities, towns and villages; farmlands with adjacent cocoa, oil palm, avocado and plantations; natural forests, mango grasslands, wetlands, and water bodies (comprising, streams, rivers, ponds and the Volta Lake). The area has about 126 settlements and corresponds with the stretch of the Weto Range from Peki to Logba on the Asikuma to Hohoe Road, Have to Vakpo on the Have to Kpando Road, and Sanga to Gbadzeme on Asikuma to Amedzofe Road.
- 3. The landscape has been occupied for several centuries and has been shaped over the years by human and



nature interactions in ways that have maintained biodiversity and provided humans with goods and services needed for their wellbeing. The area is inhabited by people with deep cultural beliefs which have guided the conservation of biodiversity and protection of highly ecological sensitive areas. The landscape varies widely due to the unique adaptations to local climatic, geographic, cultural, and socio-economic conditions; and, it is valuable in terms of sustainability.

4. The broad vegetation categories of the landscape are shown in table 1.1. The most common vegetation in the landscape is open forest with very active bushes constituting about 51 per cent of the total landscape. Open forests are mixtures of food crop farms, bush fallows and cash crops like oil palm, oranges, and timber plantations. The closed forests with very active bushes are about 23 per cent of the total area being mostly community conserved areas, sacred groves, and mountain vegetation above 80% gradient. The build-up area is relatively small, constituting only 5% of the total area.











5. The dominant vegetation type is savanna wood dominated by *Vitex Doniana*, *Terminalia Avicennoides*, *Ceiba Pentandra*, *Daniella Oliveri*, etc. The woodlands are dense with a variety of savanna trees and few forest trees along the Dayi River near Vakpo new Adomi.

Table 1.1: Vegetation cover of the Togo-Atakora range & Priority WETO Landscape

Land use Class	Togo-Atakor	a Range	Weto Landscape		
	На	%	На	%	
Close forest very active bushes	83,387.88	24	3,447.9	23.2	
Open forest very active bushes	123,183.30	36	7,528.1	50.6	
Dense shrub/herbaceous cover	62,872.20	18	2,988.1	20.1	
Grass/herbaceous cover	8,098.83	2	163.17	1.1	
Build up/bare surfaces	49,481.01	14	708.84	4.8	
Water body	16,525.89	5	26.91	0.2	
TOTAL	343,549.11	100	14,863.02	100	

Source: Baseline Data 2012.

Climate and Rainfall

The landscape has a tropical climate, characterized by moderate temperature, 12°C—25°C for most of the year. The rainfall pattern is bi-modal, with two rainfall regimes from March to July and then from the mid-August to October. Rainfall figures are highest in the central highland areas and in the forest zone. The annual rainfall ranges from 713.9 mm to 1099.88 mm and is spread throughout the year.

2.3 Weto Socio-Ecological Production Landscape Assets

2.3.1 Ecological and Geographic Assets

Soils

The area consists of a generally rugged complex of folded strata, with many prominent heights composed of volcanic rock. The major soils are savannah ochrosols, tropical grey earth and regolistic groundwater laterites, topohydric and luthochronic earth. The soil types range between heavy clay to sandy loams with heavy clay loams, sandy loams and alluvial soils being common in the valley areas.

Plant Genetic Resources

The Weto range is largely covered with deciduous forests, and their higher elevation provides a relatively cooler, pleasant climate. However there are large transition zones











known as the Lophira -Triplochiton association. Trees found in these zones includes Daniella ogea, Lophira alata (rare), Triplochiton scleroxylon (common) and the endemic or near endemic Hymenostegia afzelii (Fabaceae). This gives way to a Celtis-Triplochiton association, which is considered to be the climatic climax vegetation of the semi-deciduous zone. Here, Celtis species, such as C. adolfi-frederici, C. mildraedii and C. zenkeri, become more abundant and the near endemic Cyclodiscus gabonensis (Fabaceae) makes its appearance, while other emergent or upper canopy species include Cola gigantea var. glabrescens, Nesogordonia papaverifera, Pterygota macrocarpa and Sterculia oblonga. At the northern limit of deciduous forest is a transition zone to the dryer habitat known as the Antiaris-Chlorophora forest association, which eventually gives way to savannah woodland beyond the boundary of this Bio-Province.

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Fig 1.3 Topographical and Satellite Map of the Weto Landscape

Ecosystem Services

1. Being part of the Guinea Forest of West Africa, the Weto Range is identified as a biodiversity hotspot of global significance. The area contains at least 1,500 species of vascular plants (> 0.5 percent of the world's total) as endemics, and has lost at least 70 percent of its original habitat (Conservation International, 2000). In addition to its rich endemic flora, it has rich wildlife, birds, bats, rodents and monkeys, water buck and butterflies. Monkeys, patas, green monkeys, monas, black and white columbus are found in the traditionally protected forests. Other wildlife observed in the area are the red and black buffalos, red river hogs, tats, tortoise, reptiles such as chameleon, spitting cobra, royal African python, alligators, frogs, etc. Details of the animals are attached in a flora and fauna study annexed to this strategy. Birds common in this area are the black kite, common bulbul, village weaver, mattled spine tail, little weaver, etc.











2. There are about 180 streams and river bodies located on the landscape. The Volta Lake and Dayi River are two major aquatic resources being utilized for aquaculture and irrigation within the landscape. ***The detail local names for this water bodies are shown in appendix 1.

2.3.2 Production Assets

Human Resource

The total population of the three districts is 580,588 people (2010 Population Census) with an annual growth rate of 1.9 percent. Comparatively, the area has high literacy rate. The major ethnic groups in the area are Ewes (90%). The rest includes Akans (6%) and Northerners (4%).

Household Wealth

Land and landed properties are the dominant long term assets in the project area. Personal current assets include animals, food cash crop and light equipments such as television sets, radio tapes, etc. The average annual household income in area is about GH¢2,430.00 (US\$1,200) whilst the average per capita income is almost GH¢800 (US\$400.00).

Subsistence

- 1. People living in the area have adapted to their natural environment in various ways. Farming, hunting, and petty trading are the main subsistence activities of these people. On the average, about 20 percent of the population live below that national poverty line¹. Farm holding ranges from half to two hectares of arable land and usually engage in mix-cropping along the slopes of the mountains or in the relatively flat terrain in valleys and downhill. Among cash crops cultivated in the area are avocado pear, oranges, pineapples, banana, oil palm, and cocoa. The main food crops are plantain, sweet potatoes, rice, maize, cassava, legumes, and vegetables. Other subsistent activities undertaken in the area includes small ruminant rearing, cattle ranching, and artisanal fishing.
- 2. About 46 percent of all households in the area operate non-farm enterprises with women operating 72 percent of these businesses. Some 52 percent of the households operating non-farm enterprises are found in the urban localities. Almost every community has a specialist or traditional health practitioner knowledgeable in administering herbs to treat common ailments like malaria and fever, cough, toothache, stomach ache and pain, worm infestation, and snake bites.

¹ The proportion of national population below the poverty line is 28.5 % (World Bank Report, 2012)











2.3.3 Livelihood Assets

Industrial Activities

The industrial activities in the areas include, manufacturing, construction artisans and craftsmen, and technical infrastructure [See Appendix 4]. A number of small scale industries which are widespread include cassava flour processing, mushroom growing, bee keeping, gari production, soap making, batik tie and dye making, carpentry, and metal work.

Commercial Agriculture

The cash economy is dominated by commercial farming activities like rice farming, vegetable production and cash crops like oil palm, citrus, mangoes, avocado, pineapple, and coconut. Oil palm plantation development is one of the



activities where the most people, local and foreign companies are now investing.

2.3.4 Socio-economic Assets

Intangible cultural heritage

The intangible cultural heritage of the local people, beyond language, includes a variety of indigenous music and dance forms, proverbs, specific forms of greeting, values and mores, and indigenous technology. Christianity has, since the 19th century, become the dominant religion among the peoples of Weto. This religion is promoted by mainly the Evangelical Presbyterian and Catholic Churches, although newly established Charismatic Churches are becoming common. The African Indigenous Religion, nonetheless, continues to hold sway over most of the people and several shrines of important communities and personal deities are also found in the area.

Tourism Attractions

There are both natural and man-made features that serve as tourism attraction features in the municipality. The varied attractions provide the basis for both general and special











interest in tourism. Tourism infrastructures, such as roads leading to important sites and other facilities remain undeveloped.

Festivals

The traditional festivals organized in the area include the Yam Festival of the chiefs and people of Asorgli State, the Sasa Festival of the chiefs and people of Akrofu, the Zendo Festival of the chiefs and people of Klefe, and the Kimini Festival of the chiefs and people of Avatime.

Markets

Three forms of markets exist in the area. There are the weekly markets in large towns such as Kpeve, Hohoe, Peki, and Dzemeni among others, daily markets which take place at specified locations within towns and villages, and roadside markets which are well patronized by passengers and traders from outside the areas.

Banking services

There are around twelve major commercial banks and three rural banks operating in the area. There is a regional branch of the Bank of Ghana at Hohoe. Non-formal banking financial operations like *susu* and insurance are springing up in the area.

2.4 Justification for the selection of the Weto landscape

Global Biological Significance

The Weto range is a biodiversity hot-spot of global importance which is currently being overlooked in Ghana. It has probably the biggest potential for eco-cultural, mountain ecosystem, aquaculture, climate resilience farming systems and tourism in Ghana. The range is well endowed with a diversified natural resource base in the form of high biodiversity, hydrological systems, rich soils, stony features and conducive climate, all of which from strong base for economic activities and sustainable development.

Strong agricultural biodiversity and food systems base.

The range is highly heterogeneous in agricultural biodiversity and food systems. Different tree species are left on farms. On the high slopes different species exist especially within sacred sites. Different traditional farming systems that promote the conservation of biodiversity are promoted along the range.











Socio-cultural significance of the Weto Range

- 1. There are over ninety (90) caves of social and religious significance. The caves are either the abode for the gods, or historically hiding places during wars. These caves now serve as shelter and habitat for animals like pythons, birds, bats, and special animals which are totems for the people. There are certain landforms of cultural significance to the people who have given names like *Mountain-Coffin, Mountain-Umbrella, Elephant-Mountain and Chamber & Hall-Mountain* to some of the rock formations because of their physical resemblance. These landforms have important tourism implications.
- 2. There are 136 traditionally protected forests (sacred groves) with the significant groves being Kale, Weto, Tandze, Dienor, Hator, Obudiaye (monkey sanctuary). Most of the local Priests have their abode in these sacred sites. The areas are managed by traditional rules and norms.

Indigenous Landscape resilience

- 1. For the past six years the GEF SGP has been working with some local communities to conserve some portions of the range using the Community Resource Management Area (CREMA)² approach. Due to the fragmentation of the land ownership system, promoting CREMA has been very challenging. To date no CREMA community has been able to secure the certification of devolution for the management of the wildlife resources. Although these interventions have created awareness and promoted biodiversity conservation the coverage is small and the spread effect has been very slow.
- 2. Current thinking requires a landscape approach to managing the resources in the area for multiple goals in biodiversity conservation and climate change. This requires protecting biodiversity through preserving pristine environments and conserving human-influenced natural environments (i.e. the farmlands and secondary forests) to conserve a variety of species adapted to these landscapes.

Consistency of Weto COMDEKS with the GEF-SGP Country Programme Strategy

1. The selection of the Weto range as the landscape for the COMDEKS Project in Ghana fits into the strategic objectives of the Ghana GEF-SGP OP5 country programme strategy of mainstreaming biodiversity conservation and sustainable use into production landscapes

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The Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission developed a Collaborative Wildlife Management Policy in 2000 to address the challenges of wildlife management. A primary mechanism of this policy is the Community Resource Management Area CREMA approach, which creates a win-win situation by creating "a financial incentive for farmers to use and manage natural resources on sustainable basis by developing management rights and responsibilities for themselves











through community-based management of protected areas conservation, taking into account the anticipated impacts of climate change.

2. The Weto COMDEKS CPLS contributes to the attainment of OP5 objectives as follows: a) protection of socio-ecological production landscapes for the benefit of biodiversity and human wellbeing; b) maintaining and rebuilding landscapes in which land and natural resources are used and managed in a more sustainable manner; c) rehabilitation and development of habitats and threatened sites of important conservation areas; and d) promotion of bio-enterprise development to support sustainable use of biodiversity through training in domestication of wildlife, ecotourism, and appropriate techniques of maintenance, harvesting, storage and packaging of traditional medicine and livelihood support activities.

3.0 SITUATION ANALYSIS

3.1 Ecosystems protection and Agro-biodiversity

There is no conscious protection of ecosystems within the landscape. Protection is largely through the use of customary law and practice although knowledge about ecosystem landscape features and resources is very high. Governance systems to regulate land-use for farming, biodiversity conservation and environmental security do not exist. Environmental security, safety and rate of recovery are slow due to extensive agriculture and climate change related underlying considerations. Land is generally not documented but well known with specific names. Land is not zoned for production, conservation, or protection but no land use conflict exists. Land use for settlements and farming at the local level is freehold and not sold.

Uses of Resources

Generally the uses of resources on the landscape are unsustainable. The communities are aware of the unsustainable uses and their effects on the landscape. Disappearing of animals and plants, low soil fertility due to bush fires and changing weather patterns, and increasing agrochemical use were also identified as some factors affecting sustainability of production systems on the landscape.

Agricultural Biodiversity

1. High local knowledge about agriculture biodiversity exists as farmers practice traditional agro-forestry where trees are left on farms and integrated into growing crops like cocoa. Strips of land along water bodies are left uncultivated whilst their maintenance is guided by local belief systems and taboos. Farming practices follow the traditional slash and











burn practices, however fallow period of not less than 3 years are observed to bring back the soil fertility. Conserving what has been inherited is excellent. Local yam varieties, medicinal plants, spices, etc known to elders are usually cultivated. Locally produced food form more than 70 percent of the local dishes eaten, however, there are emerging preferences for some foreign food which is gradually eroding the value of locally produced foods. Examples of such foods are spices and perfumed rice.

2. Wild foods have not seen any value addition though they are still being consumed. Some of the indigenous foods like rice and potatoes are becoming extinct as a result of non-use and being replaced with fast foods prepared locally.

3.2 Key issues confronting the landscape

- 1. Various ecosystems within the Weto landscape, including watersheds, mountain forests, savanna grasslands, lakes, rivers and streams, are under duress. No conscious protections and management strategies exist for these resources, although knowledge about the ecosystem landscape features and resources is very high. Governance systems to regulate land-use for farming, biodiversity conservation and environmental security do not exist. Environmental security, safety and rate of recovery are slow due to unsustainable agricultural and climate change related underlying considerations.
- 2. The natural vegetation in most parts of the district, especially around the settlements, has disappeared. What is seen today has resulted from the interference by man through cultivation, settlement and exploitation of timber and firewood. In the major settlements, grasses are periodically burnt down, especially during the dry season, to clear the land of much of the vegetation for subsistence farming. Annual bushfires in recent years are considered the single most important agent responsible for reducing soil productivity and depleting biodiversity.
- 3. Erosion and soil quality degradation are key environmental problems within the landscape. The sediments transported by the water flow during rainfall have damaged the quality of soil and surface water. Current estimates in the area show that about 60% of the areas is susceptible to slight to moderate sheet erosion; 30% to severe sheet to galley erosion; and 10% exposed to very severe sheet and gully erosion. The erosion has affected soil fertility and productivity of crops. Sediments are usually drained through major tributaries during heavy rain falls.
- 4. The soils found within the area are deficient in nitrogen and phosphorus, probably due to low organic matter. Few areas have rocky soils, which have low water holding capacities and are therefore limited for agriculture. Most of the soils are degraded with 15.8 t ha⁻¹ soil organic carbon stocks within the top 20 cm compare to 27.8 t ha⁻¹ in the











forest/savannah zone. Major environmental impacts of water quality degradation include loss of biodiversity and fisheries.

- 5. Generally, the use of resources in the landscape is unsustainable. The base line data revealed excessive use of agrochemicals, cultivation of lands along the water courses, streams drying up, reduction in soil fertility, rarity and loss of flora and fauna, and increasing erosion. The underlying causes of these identified problems includes increasing population growth, lack of management plans and system, open resources use, lack of sustainable livelihoods, economic interests, ignorance of the importance of the ecosystem, and lack of employable skills.
- 6. The main environmental challenges confronting the landscape could be summarised as: a) Increasing habitat destruction (biodiversity loss and reduced ecosystem services); b) Unsustainable farming practices; c) Inadequate livelihood support systems; and d) Weak institutional capacity (to support conservation and production).

3.3 Major Stakeholder Groupings on the Range

Primary Stakeholders

By virtue of the engagement in their various economic activities, the major primary stakeholders within the landscape are: farmers (migrant and indigenous), hunters, fishmongers, firewood collectors, charcoal producers, timber operators (legal and illegal), herbalists, Traditional Authorities (chiefs and elders), religious groups, (including fetish priests), and the Youth groups. These stakeholders are heavily dependent on the Weto range. Their strengths and area of influence for the target landscape are summarized in Annex 2.

Secondary Stakeholders

The secondary stakeholders are the District Assemblies, Forestry Commission, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Agriculture Extension), Fisheries Department and Ghana COCOBOD. These agencies provide technical services to support projects and are important partners in project implementation. They will help generate public awareness, disseminate information, collaborative resource management services, monitoring of resource utilization, development, and capacity development.

3.3.1 Stakeholder Expectations

1. There was general agreement among the stakeholders that participated in the landscape-wide baseline assessment that all stakeholders will support a change in the management of natural resources in the Weto range. Social groupings in the local











communities are very willing to participate in Weto Range management to enhance the contribution of the landscape to their livelihoods and environmental protection. They are willing to make time available to reverse current practices and better manage Weto range resources, but this will require external support in various forms to formulate and implement management plans effectively.

- 2. Following the administration of the *Socio-Ecological Production Landscapes* (SEPL) indicator score cards and the subsequent generation of the RADAR diagram during the baseline assessment workshop, it became clear that stakeholders have very divergent views on the issues of social equity and infrastructure. This was demonstrated in the high standard deviation recorded in social equity and infrastructure issues and shown in the SEPL performance RADAR diagram below. People's opinions differ on gender inequality, social exclusion, and marginalization.
- 3. The Ewes are mostly male dominated society and this usually hinders the ability of women, indigenous and other groups to participate in decision making processes. Although women hold specific knowledge and skills related to biodiversity, their role in biodiversity conservation and climate change adaptation was not considered as very important or essential. For most of the indigenous communities, resilience is intrinsically linked with their efforts to protect traditional ways of subsistence and cultural heritage.
- 4. Stakeholders' ideas also differ on the ability to access ancestral lands and engage in traditional land use and agricultural practices as a way of encouraging the communities to maintain biodiversity and associated traditional knowledge. The functioning social infrastructure like communication, health, and education, to meet various needs and aspirations of the communities varied across the range. Whilst some have access to these social infrastructures, others do not have access at all.

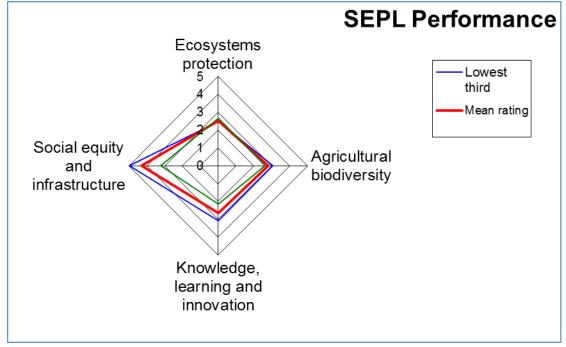












4.0 THE LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

4.1 Conceptual Framework for Intervention

4.1.1 Vision

- 1. Based on the main issues confronting the area, the COMDEKS Country programme intervention in Ghana seeks to maintain and rebuild the Weto landscape by promoting sustainable management of its land and natural resources. This will be done by consolidating wisdom on securing a stable supply of diverse ecosystem services, integrate traditional ecological knowledge with modern science and explore new forms of comanagement system within the traditional communal land tenure systems.
- 2. The vision for the programme is "A thriving socio-ecological production landscape where the local communities are actively involved in the sustainable management and utilization of the natural resources for increased production, the restoration of biodiversity, wealth creation, and continuous flow of ecosystem services".

4.2 Programme Outcomes

The programme seeks to achieve the following outcomes:











- 1) Natural and semi-natural habitats and ecosystem services within the WETO landscape (watershed, sacred groves, wildlife habitats, agro-biodiversity areas, etc.) are conserved.
- 2) Sustainable agricultural practices implemented across the landscape to enhance and revive traditional conservation and production practices and adoption of new technologies.
- 3) Livelihood and wellbeing of target social groups in the landscape sustained and enhanced through the development of livelihood enterprises in line with the local tradition and culture.
- 4) Institutional capacity at the landscape level strengthened to realize the goal of integrating conservation and production in the management of the target landscape.

4.2.1 Programme Outcomes and Indicators

The implementation of the COMDEKS Country Programme Landscape Strategy will produce four main outcomes and indicators as follows:

Outcome 1: Natural and semi-natural habitats and ecosystem services within the WETO landscape are conserved.

- Indicator 1.1 Number of hectares of degraded ecosystems in the landscape brought under sustainable land/resource management.
- Indicator 1.2 Number (and %) of people within the landscape communities participating in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management activities funded by COMDEKS (disaggregated by gender).

Outcome 2: Sustainable agricultural practices implemented across the landscape to enhance and revive traditional conservation and production practices and adoption of new technologies.

- Indicator 2.1 Number of hectares where more sustainable land use and agricultural practices are implemented by type (i.e. traditional and innovative practices).
- Indicator 2.2 Number (and %) of communities participating in sustainable agricultural practices promoted by COMDEKS at the landscape level (disaggregated by gender).











Outcome 3: Livelihood and wellbeing of target social groups within the landscape sustained and enhanced through the development of livelihood enterprises in line with the local tradition and culture.

- Indicator 3.1 Increase in household income and assets as a result of supported activities.
- Indicator 3.2 Number and type of livelihood enterprises and/or alternative income sources established and sustained.

Outcome 4: Strengthened institutional capacity at the landscape level to realize the goal of integrating conservation and production in the management of the target landscape.

- Indicator 4.1 Number of institutions (or participatory governance mechanisms covering more than one community) created or strengthened who are engaged in integrated landscape management.
- Indicator 4.2 Number and type of plans and decisions relevant for the target landscape agreed and implemented.
- Indicator 4.3 Numbers of COMDEKS lessons learned and best practices captured at the programme level.

4.3 Typology of potential community based projects to be supported

4.3.1 Samples of Eligible Projects

- 1. In order to enhance landscape connectivity and increase landscape resilience, the possible eligible projects will include: forest restoration activities along the hillsides, reforestation of riparian forests, restoration and protection of wetlands and watersheds and related ecosystem services such as water flows and water quality through restoration of forest patches with both indigenous and exotic species, and soil and water retention infrastructure.
- 2. The project will also support diversification of agricultural landscapes by introducing agro-forestry and management of trees on farms, diversification of production systems through the cultivation of a higher diversity of crops and varieties and crop-livestock-trees integration. New technologies like low-input agriculture, soil conservation and improved water management and water efficiency (mulching, cover crops, rainwater harvesting, revegetation, intercropping, and crop rotation) will be introduced. All interventions should have livelihood enterprise development component based on the needs of the local people.











4.3.2 Criteria for selecting Communities

- 1. The funding for the programme activities will be channeled to local communities through non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and community based groups (CBOs). The non-governmental organizations and community based organizations operating in the three districts will be encouraged to apply after pre-project appraisal and briefing. The process for the selection, implementation and monitoring of the small grant projects will follow GEF-SGP Operational Guidelines and the established practices.
- 2. The proposals to be submitted must:
 - a) Contribute to realizing the vision of the Satoyama initiative and that of COMDEKS Ghana Country Programme Landscape Strategy (addressing at least one of the outcomes identified in the COMDEKS Ghana Country Programme Landscape Strategy).
 - b) Enhance the capacity of beneficiaries to respond to land degradation and desertification, and provide a clear justification of how the proposed activities could contribute to improve sustainable land management in the target landscape.
 - c) Address the issues of resource use, cyclic use of natural resources recognition of value and importance of local traditions and culture, multi-stakeholder participation, and contribution to socio-economic market access, sustainable trade, and business development of community-based products.
 - d) Ensure that due emphasis is given to the role of gender in natural resource management and decision making.
 - e) The participating local communities must have recognized representatives and well-defined membership and in case of NGOs and CBOs must be registered with the District Assembly, Registrar Generals Department and with the EPA at the district level.
 - f) The participating communities must show willingness to contribute to the cost of the project in kind or in cash, and commitment to apply the relevant lessons learned from training and exchange visits.

5.0 MONITORING AND EVALUATION PLAN

1. The SGP Country Programme in Ghana will report quarterly to the COMDEKS Project Management Unit on the progress in the implementation of this Strategy based on the











approved GEF-SGP project monitoring format. Progress reports will include a gender perspective in the description of results and impacts, and would be focused on reflecting achievements, lessons learned, opportunities, and best practices.

- 2. <u>Country Programme Landscape Level Indicators</u>: SEPL Indicators measured during the baseline assessment will be monitored on an annual basis. A final assessment of SEPL indicators will take place at a workshop financed by a grant. This will serve as a final evaluation of the Country Programme Landscape Strategy.
- 3. **Project Level Indicators:** Each project will identify the specific landscape strategy outcome to which it is contributing and will monitor the corresponding indicators. Progress towards the outcome will be updated using the grantees' progress reports. Additionally, the individual project will have an indicator system aligned with WETO COMDEKS SPLS indicators

Individual Grant Monitoring and Evaluation

- 1. The following minimum standards shall be applied for individual grant monitoring and evaluation:
 - 1. Ex-ante Visits: The project management team would undertake ex-ante visits on a risk basis to grant-requesting organizations upon grant approval by the SGP National Steering Committee (NSC) and prior to the signature of the MOA between the Implementing Partner and the grantee.
 - **2.** *Field monitoring visits:* Every project should be visited at least twice in its lifetime, upon receipt of the first progress report from beneficiary organizations and during the following year. NSC members with relevant expertise in project-related technical areas may join the NC during these visits as appropriate.
 - **3. Progress reports:** Beneficiary organizations should submit half-yearly progress reports to the NC along with a financial report. A forecast of resources needed in the following period should be submitted by the grantee to the NC as a requirement for disbursement of next installment.
 - **4. Final project evaluation report:** Beneficiary organizations should submit a final report summarizing global benefits and other results achieved, outputs produced, and lessons learned. The final report should also include a final financial statement.
- 2. This strategy will be reviewed each year during the Advisory Committee Meeting to be held between the GEF/SGP National Steering Committee and the members of WETO











Platform³. Changes will be made where necessary to ensure improvement in the implementation process.

6.0 KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT PLAN

- 1. The learning and information sharing aspect constitutes one of the major components of the COMDEKS Project. Every grantee organization is expected to contribute to the generation and documentation of best practices and lessons learned. As such, each community project is required to allocate a portion of its budget to produce specific knowledge products that will be developed to summarize lessons learned from the proposed activities.
- 2. Type of knowledge products that will be developed directly by the grantee and by the SGP Country office with support from COMDEKS Project Coordinator, will include:
 - Quarterly Newsletter to be circulated to all stakeholders including the donor community
 - Case studies/Publications on lesson learned, best practices and emerging experiences to be shared with other COMDEKS countries (to be produced annually). The type of case studies shall be determined during the project implementation.
 - Policy papers
 - Brochures and Posters
 - Study tours for key stakeholders, including the media and peer-to-peer exchanges
 - Videos and Photo stories

Policy Influence

The Country Programme will organize yearly roundtable discussions with policy makers and traditional authorities at the regional level to share the lessons learnt from the COMDEKS Project in Ghana. The outcome of the roundtable discussions and policy implications would be drafted into a memorandum for the consideration of the relevant sector agencies. The programme will network with the Natural Resource Platform⁴ to advocate for relevant changes based on the outcome of the programme.

³ The WETO Platform is made up of representatives of the traditional land owners, District Assemblies, coalition of civil society organizations operating within the landscape.

⁴ The Natural Resource Platform is a national coalition of civil society operating in the natural resources sector. They organize annual forest forum to present deliberate on issues and policy options to government regarding the collaborative natural resource management.











Up-scaling and Replication:

As part of its practices, the SGP Country Programme will use the lessons gained from the programme to replicate and up-scale COMDEKS good practices and lessons learned for landscape management to support sustainable socio-ecological production activities at the country, landscape, and community levels. At the end of the programme an open day would be organized for all donors, policy makers, the press and other stakeholders to have first-hand information of the programme outcomes. The model and the best practices would be documented and shared with government and policy makers.











ANNEX 1A PROJECT PLANNING MATRIX

Hierarchy of Objectives	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring and Evaluation	Critical Assumptions
Overall Goal: A thriving socio-ecological production landscape where the local communities are actively involved in the sustainable management and utilization of the natural resources for increased production, the restoration of biodiversity, wealth creation and continuous flow of ecosystem services.	 # of HH and communities able to meet their basic needs whilst sustaining natural resources. % increase in household community income and assets. # of people in the landscape able to adopt to changes in human and non-human population dynamics. 	Landscape Reports: Surveys, sector studies and independent reviews.	Government committed to sustainable land management policy Effective collaboration
Programme Objective: To promote the conservation of the different ecosystems within the Weto landscape, for sustainable production of crops, livestock, fish, forest and non-timber forest products and enhancement of livelihood enterprises for the wellbeing of all social groups in the landscape,	 Ha of natural and semi-natural ecosystem services restored and conserved % of landscape practicing sustainable agricultural practices # of livelihood enterprises established and sustained. Important species protected (quality and quantity) 	Project Progress reports. Field reports Independent reviews. Annual reports of the COMDEKS Project	Communities remain committed to project objectives District assemblies and traditional authorities mainstream sustainable land management issues in development plans
Outcome 1: Natural and semi-natural habitats and ecosystem services within the WETO landscape are conserved	 # of hectares of degraded ecosystems in the landscape brought under sustainable land/resource management; # of people and percentage of communities participating in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management activities funded by COMDEKS (disaggregated by gender) 	Progress Reports Field verification Socio-economic survey Field Report and verification	Farmers are willing to adopt agro forestry system and sustainable land management practices











Hierarchy of Objectives	Key Performance Indicators	Monitoring and Evaluation	Critical Assumptions
Outcome 2: Sustainable agricultural practices implemented across the landscape to enhance and revive traditional conservation and production practices and adoption of new technologies.	 Number of hectares where more sustainable land use and agricultural practices are implemented by type (i.e. traditional and innovative practices). Number of communities participating in sustainable agricultural practices promoted by COMDEKS at the landscape level (disaggregated by gender). 	Field Report Observations	Participatory wildfire management plan in place
Outcome 3: Livelihood and wellbeing of target social groups within the landscape sustained and enhanced through the development of livelihood enterprises in line with the local tradition and culture.	 Increase in household income and assets as a result of supported activities. Number and type of livelihood enterprises (and/or alternative income sources) established and sustained. 	Field report Annual Report	Willingness of communities to participate in the programme
Outcome 4: Strengthened institutional capacity at the landscape level to realize the goal of integrating conservation and production in the management of the target landscape.	 Number of institutions created or strengthened who are engaged in integrated landscape management. Number and type of plans and decisions relevance for the target landscape agreed and implemented. Numbers of COMDEKS lessons learned and best practices captured at the programme level. 	Final Report	Full cooperation of the technical service providers assured











ANNEX 1B INDICATORS FOR PROGRESS

Project Indicator	Baseline Conditio	Y1	Y2	
Indicator 1.1 Number of hectares of degraded ecosystems in the landscape brought under sustainable land/resource management.	3,860.11 ⁶ ha			
Indicator 1.2 Number (and %) of people within the landscape communities participating in biodiversity conservation and sustainable land management activities funded by COMDEKS (disaggregated by gender).	0			
Indicator 2.1 Number of hectares where more sustainable land use and agricultural practices are implemented by type (i.e. traditional and innovative practices).	250 ha			
Indicator 2.2 Number (and %) of communities participating in sustainable agricultural practices promoted by COMDEKS at the landscape level (disaggregated by gender).	0			
Indicator 3.1 Increase in household income and assets as a result of supported activities.	Annual HH Income = U\$\$1,200 Per capita income = U\$\$400			
	Livelihood Enterprise.	No.		
	Brick and Tile	1		
	Gold Smith	1		
	Black Smith	3		
	Distilleries	4		
	Bagged Water	2		
	Key Cutting Carving	3		
	Weaving	3		
Indicator 3.2 Number and type of livelihood	Traditional Medicine	1		
enterprises and/or alternative income sources	Batik, Tie & Dye	1		
established and sustained.	Oil extraction	7		
	Soap making	3		
	Bakery	2		
	Milling	Across		
	Cassava processing	Across		
	Rice mills	2		
	Ply Wood production	1		
	Furniture production	1		
Indicator 4.1 Number of institutions (or participatory governance mechanisms covering more than one community) created or strengthened who are engaged in integrated landscape management. Indicator 4.2 Number and type of plans and decisions	0			
relevant for the target landscape agreed and implemented.	0			

 $^{^{\}rm 5}\,$ Compiled from Baseline report, June 2012

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⁶ Made up of bare surface, grass cover and dense shrub. As calculated by CERGIS











Project Indicator	Baseline Conditions ⁵ =Y0	Y1	Y2
Indicator 4.3 Numbers of COMDEKS lessons learned	0		
and best practices captured at the programme level.	U		











ANNEX 2A INFLUENCE-IMPORTANCE MATRIX OF PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS

Type of beneficiary	peneficiary Group		Relative importance of interest	Participation in project activity	Perceived Project Impact	Influence/ Importance
	Traditional Land owners	 Maintenance of traditional norms and taboos Sustainably management of resources for sustainable income Benefit sharing 	1	high	+	A
	Farmers (men & women)	 Soil fertility improvement Benefit sharing Access to NTFPS Wood fuel availability 	1	high	+	A
Direct beneficiaries	Youth	 Enterprise development at the community level for alternative livelihoods Availability of wildlife, and medicinal plants, Financial support to produce & process products from the woodland Increase productivity 	2	low	(+, -)	A
	Women (Accessibility to tree resources Availability of planted trees Alternative livelihood activities Access to NTFP 	1	high	(+,-)	В
	Hunters	 Availability of wildlife Unrestricted access to wildlife from the woodlands 	2	Very low	(+)	В
	Migrant settlers	 Land availability and accessibility 	2	Very low	(+, -)	D
Adversely	Chainsaw operators Availability of timber Job security Loss of revenue		2	Very low	(-)	В
affected groups	Timber contractors	 Low social responsibility agreements Availability of timber Sustainable management of timber 	1	High	(+, -)	С

KEY TO TABLE

STAKEHOLDER INFLUENCE/IMPORTANCE:

Α

B

Stakeholders of High Importance and also with High Influence on Project Activities
Stakeholder with high importance but with low influence
Stakeholders with High Influence on Project Activities but whose interests are not the targets of the project С

D Stakeholders with of low Importance and also have low Influence on Project Activities

RELATIVE IMPORTANCE OF INTEREST:

High interest in activity and goal of Project

Medium interest in activity and goal of Project 2

3 Low interest in activity and goal of project

PERCEIVED PROJECT IMPACT

Project Impact is positive

Project Impact is negative











ANNEX 2B INFLUENCE-IMPORTANCE MATRIX OF SECONDARY STAKEHOLDERS

STAKEHOLDER STAKEHOLDER R GROUP		INTERESTS	RELATIVE IMPORTANC E OF INTEREST	PARTICIPATI ON IN PROJECT ACTIVITY	PERCEIVED PROJECT IMPACT	INFLUENCE/ IMPORTANC E
Government Policy makers and technical service providers	Forestry Commission Agriculture Extension Division District Assemblies	 Policy, legal and institutional reforms Clear definition of the role of traditional rulers and civil society in natural resource management Custodian/ownership of policy reforms, local byelaws or regulations for natural resource management Provision of fora for sharing of experiences between project sub-components 	1	low	(+)	В
District Assemblies Forest Services Division Implementing Agencies Rural Fire Division Agriculture Extension Install effective regulatory measures to maintain the unique features of the protected areas as well as full capture of the benefits by the local people Timber royalties Bushfire controls Soil fertility improvement Food security		measures to maintain the unique features of the protected areas as well as full capture of the benefits by the local people Timber royalties Bushfire controls Soil fertility improvement	1	High	(+)	В
Civil society (NGOs, CBOs, Religious Organizations	BOs, Churches protected areas (eg. sacred groves)		1	High	(+)	A











ANNEX 3 LIST OF DISTRICTS WITHIN THE WETO RANGE

District	Tradition Area	Population 2010	Remarks	
	Awudome			
	Abutia, Sokode, Akofu			
	Kpale, Hoviefe, Lume, Asogli, Hoe,			
	Dodome	271,881		
Ho Municipal	Etordome, Akoeviefe	Male = 129,180	Covers an area of 266,000 ha	
	Hlefi, Klefe, Taviefe,	Female = 142,701		
	Anfoeta, Ziavi, Shia, Deme			
	Saviefe, Kpedze, Matse,			
	Dzolo, Avatime, Nyive, Honuta,			
South Dayi	Peki, Todome, Kayira,	46,661 Male = 33,132	With a total land area of 100,000 ha population density of the District is	
District	Kpeve, Tsate, Torngor	Female = 24,529	around 45 persons per square kilometer.	
	Woadze, Goviefe, Have			
	Nyagbo, Tafi, Ve, Gbi, Leklebi, Liati,			
Uahaa	Fordome,	262,046	The total area of the district is about	
Hohoe Municipal	Wli, Likpe, Lolobi	Male = 129,180	117,200 ha	
Municipal	Alavanyo	Female = 142,701	117,200 Ha	
	Akpafu/			
	Santrokofi			

SELECTED COMMUNITIES

Thirty-six (36) out of the one hundred and twenty-six (126) communities were selected and studied for the baseline report as follows:

- a) Peki Logba Road: 1) Peki Wudome, 2) Agbate, 3) Tsibu, 4) Kaira, 5) Todome, 6) Adzokoe, 7) Kpeve, 8) Goviefe-Todzi, 9) Goviefe-Kowu, 10) Goviefe-Agordome, 11) Woadze, 12) Agate, 13) Have-Gborxome, 14) Have-Domefe, 15) Nyagbo-Sroe, 16) Nyagbo-Odumase, 17) Tafi Atome, 18) Logba, and 19) Fume
- b) Have Kpando Road: 20) Ando, 21) Aneta, 22) Jordan Nu, 23) Jerusalem
- c) <u>Asikuma Amedzorfe Road</u>:- 24) Sanga, 25) Dededo, 26) Kwanta, 27) Avenui, 28) Wegbe, 29) Bame, 30) Xorse, 31) Kpale, 32) Etordome, 33) Anfoeta, 34) Saviefe-Gborgame, 35) Saviefe-Agorkpo, and 36) Gbadzeme











Table 1: Clusters & Communities Studied

CLUSTERS	SANGA- BAME	BAME- SAVIEFE	PEKI - TODOME	KPEVE- WOADZE	HAVE - JORDANU	NYAGBO- LOGBA
	Wegbe	Kpale – Xorse	Peki Wudome	Kpeve	Have Domefe	Nyagbo Sroe
	Sanga	Kpale	Agbateh	Goviefe Todzi	Have Gborxome	Nyagbo Odumase
	Avenui	Etordome	Tsibu	Goviefe Kowu	Ando	Tafi Atome
COMMUNITIES	Kwanta	Anfoeta	Kaira	Goviefe Agodome	Jerusalem	Logba Tota
	Dededo	Saviefe Gborgame	Adzokoe	Woadze	Aneta	Fume
	Bame	Saviefe Agorkpo	Todome	Agate	Jordan	Gbadzeme

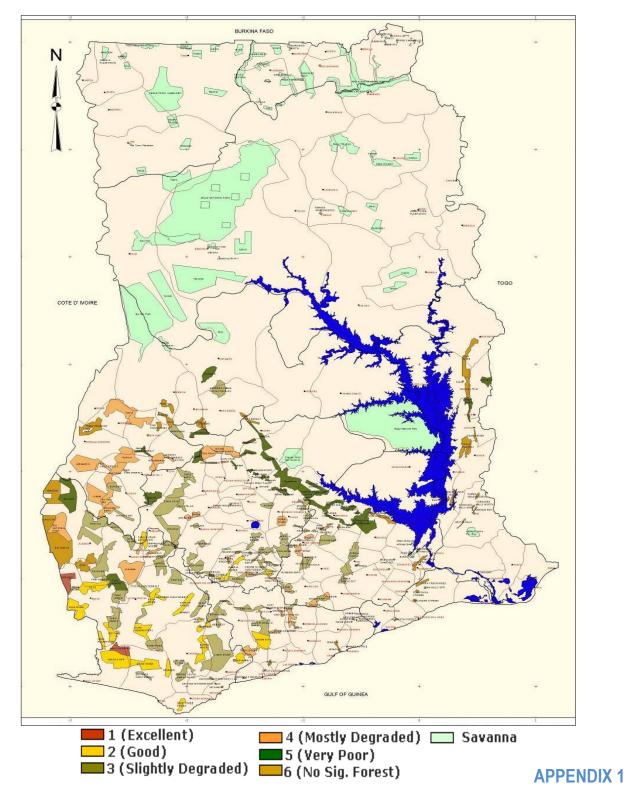












MAP OF GHANA SHOWING THE PROTECTED AREAS



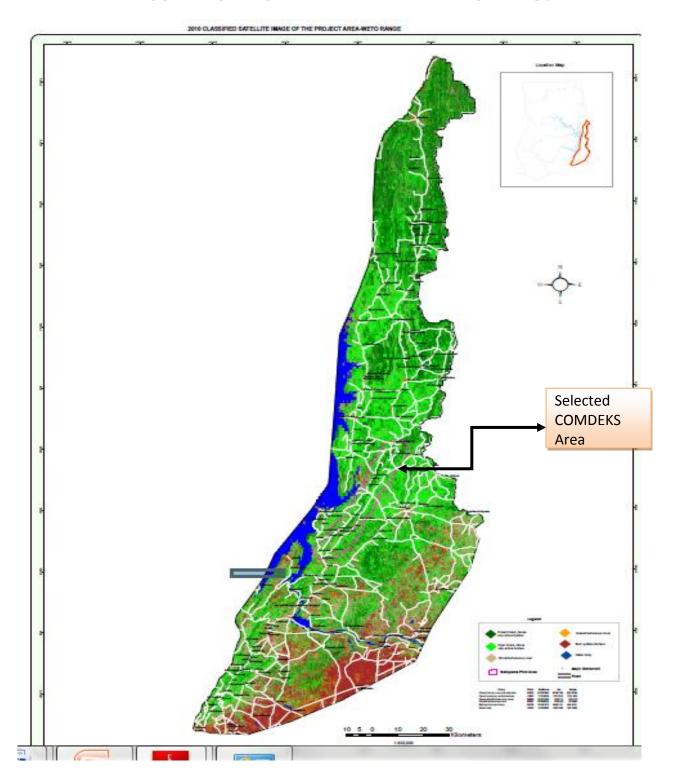








APPENDIX 2 THE COMDEKS TARGET AREA WITHIN THE WETO LANDSCAPE













APPENDIX 3 THE WETO LANDSCAPE PILOT AREA













APPENDIX 4 LOCATION OF INDUSTRIES AND THEIR PRODUCTS

No.	Industry	Туре	Product	Location
1	Brick and Tile	Small Scale	Burnt bricks, roofing tiles	Ve Golokuati
2	Gold Smith	Small Scale	Jewelry (Ear rings, rings and necklaces)	Hohoe
3	Black Smith	Small Scale	Hoes, traps, sickles, knives, etc	Alavanyo, Lolobi, Hohoe
4	Distilleries	Small Scale	Akpeteshie (local gin)	Hohoe, fodome, Ve, Liati, lolobi.
5	Bagged Water	Medium Scale	Water in sachets	Hohoe, Alavanyo
6	Key Cutting	Small Scale	All types of keys	Hohoe
7	Carving	Small Scale	Profiles and effigies	Have, Alavanyo Dzogbedzedeme
8	Weaving	Small Scale	Kente clothes, knapkins, kente stoles	Tafi Abuife, Hohoe, Golokuati
9	Traditional Medicine	Small Scale	Assorted herbal preparations	Hohoe
10	Batik, Tie & Dye	Small Scale	Materials for clothing	Hohoe
11	Oil extraction	Small Scale	Edible palm oil, Palm kernel oil	Logba, Lolobi, Gbledi, koloenu, Fodome, Akpafu, Likpe
12	Soap making	Small Scale	Local laundry soap	Lolobi, Likpe, Akpafu
13	Bakery	Small Scale	Bread, biscuits and confectionery	Hohoe , Agate
14	Milling	Small Scale	Cassava flour, maize flour, corn dough	Across the area
15	Cassava processing	Small Scale	Cassava dough, gari	Across the area
16	Rice mills	Small Scale	Polished rice	Hooe, Lolobi
17	Ply Wood production	Medium Scale	Ply woods of various sizes	Hohoe
18	Furniture production	Small Scale	Furniture of various types	Hohoe