



Securing biodiversity and ecosystem services of the WETO socio-ecological landscape in the mid-Volta region of Ghana



Presentation Outline

1. The implementation structure and concept of COMDEKS
2. Expected Outcomes
3. Project interventions within the landscape
4. Project Results

COMDEKS: CONCEPTUAL STRUCTURE

Vision

Realising societies in harmony with nature



Approach

- ▶ Consolidate wisdom on securing diverse ecosystem services and values
- ▶ Integrate traditional knowledge and modern science
- ▶ Explore new forms of co-management systems

Resource use within the carrying capacity and resilience of the environment

Contributions to socio-economies

Cyclic use of natural resources

Recognition of the value and importance of local traditions and cultures

Multi-stakeholder participation and collaboration

Five Key Perspectives in the Approach

COMDEKS CONCEPT

- Protecting biodiversity through conservation of pristine environments, and human-influenced natural environments.
- Managing human-influenced natural environments to conserve variety of species adapted to the landscapes
- Promoting activities consistent with existing fundamental principles including the ecosystem.



Vision

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”.



Major activities

- I. Conservation of natural and semi-natural habitats and ecosystem services within the landscape (i.e. conservation of watershed, sacred groves, wildlife habitats, agro-biodiversity areas, etc.) conserved.



Major activities

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



Major activities

3. Promotion of livelihood enterprises targeted at social groups in the landscape in line with the local tradition and culture.

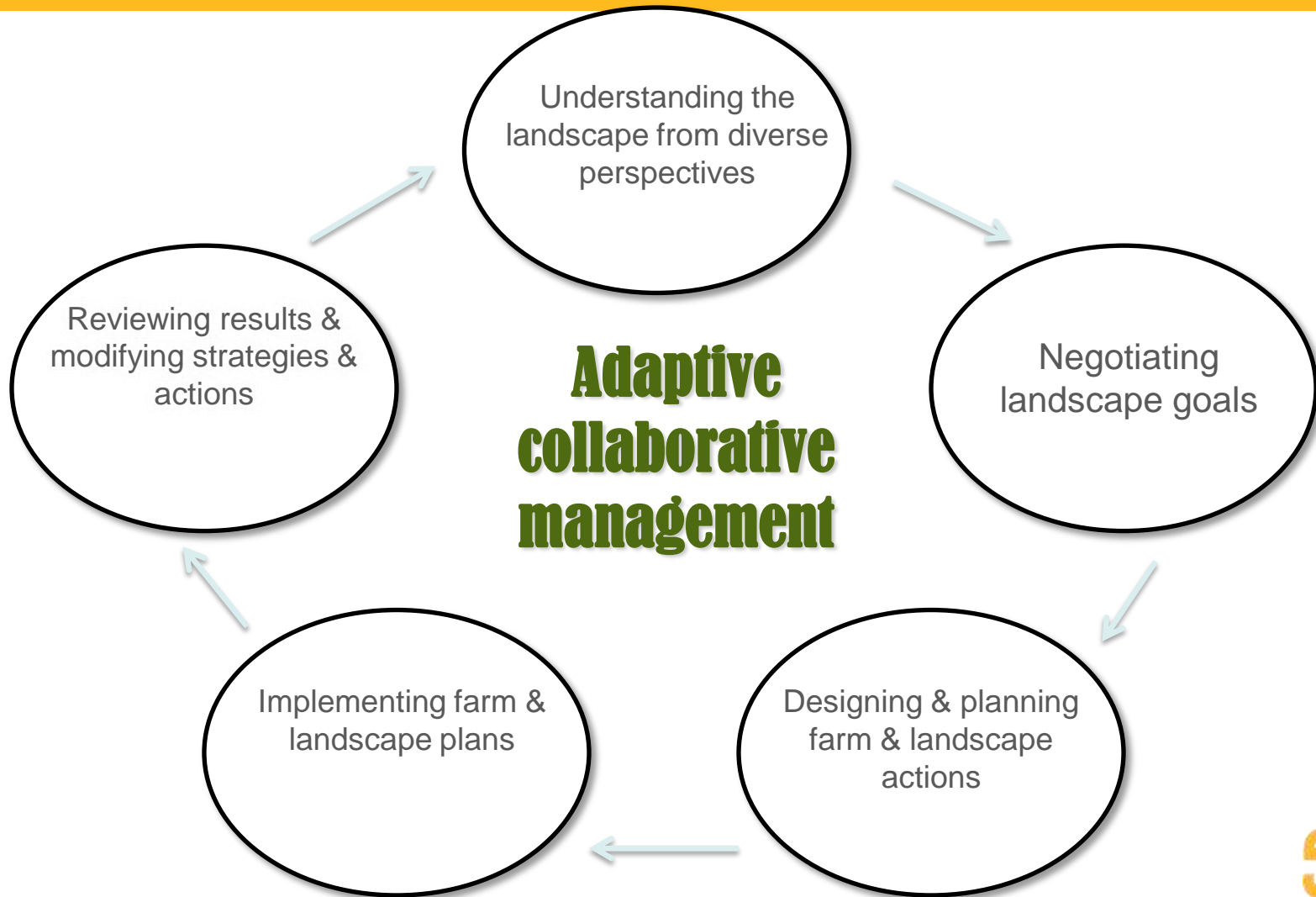


Major activities

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



COMDEKS LANDSCAPE MANAGEMENT PROCESS



LANDSCAPE INTERVENTION APPROACH

- **Phase One: Understanding landscape through community engagements**
 - Landscape baseline assessment to define problems and interventions
 - Formulation of participatory Country Programme Strategy
 - Stakeholders meetings and capacity building training workshops for CSOs within the landscape



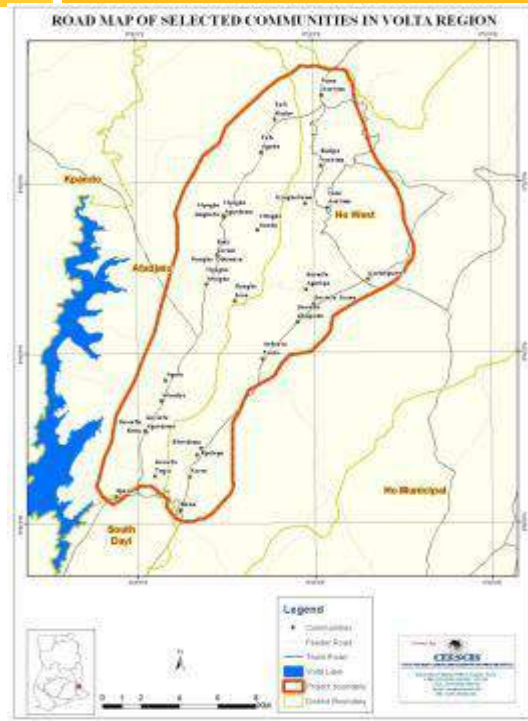
LANDSCAPE PROBLEM ANALYZED



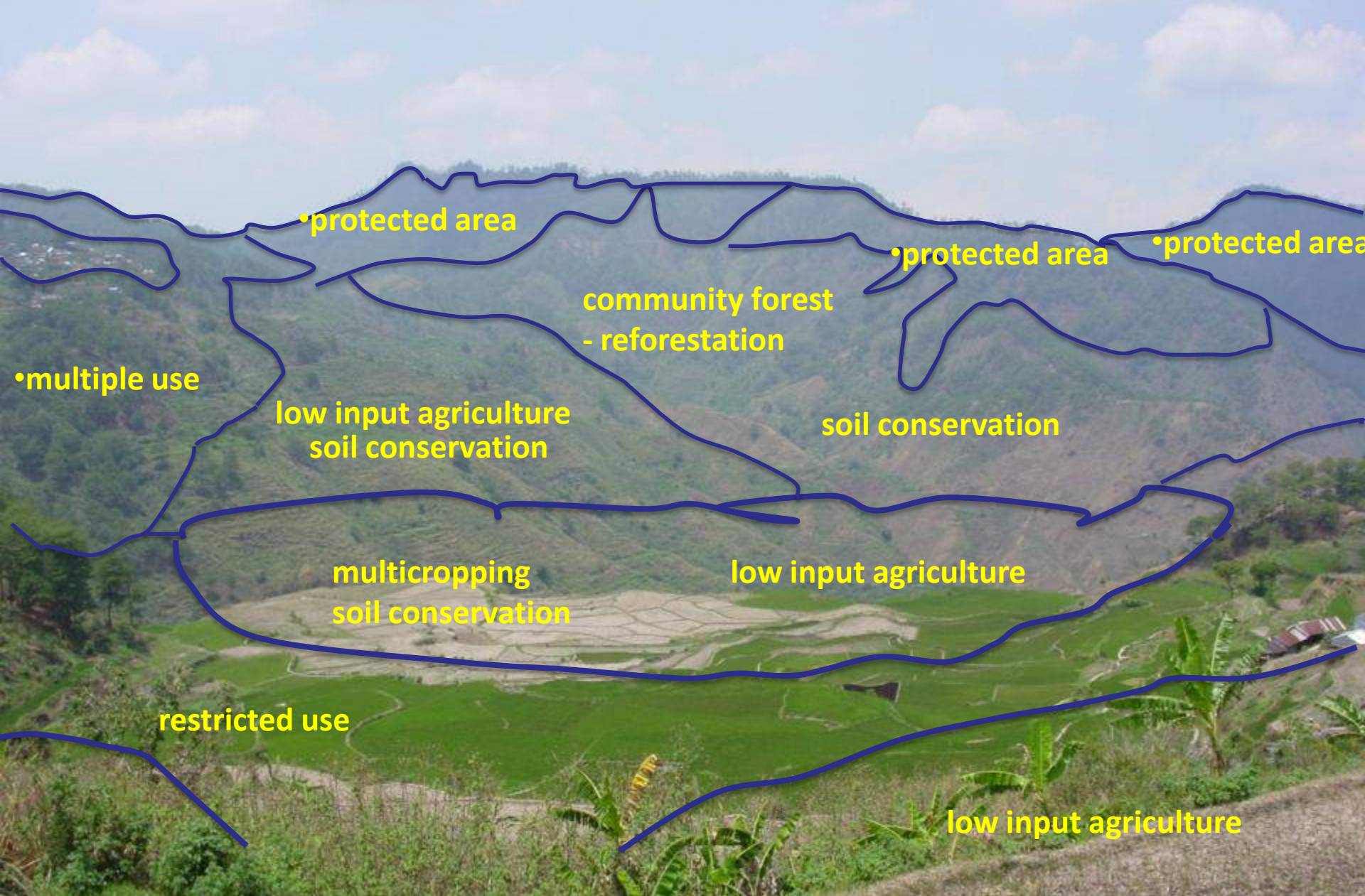
Phase 2: Negotiating landscape goals

Understanding landscapes:

- Stakeholders formed a working group
- Leaders collaborated with experts to create a base map of the landscape
- Local actors communicated their analysis of their map with other stakeholders



Phase 3: Design Landscape Action Plan



Implement socio-economic production landscape activities

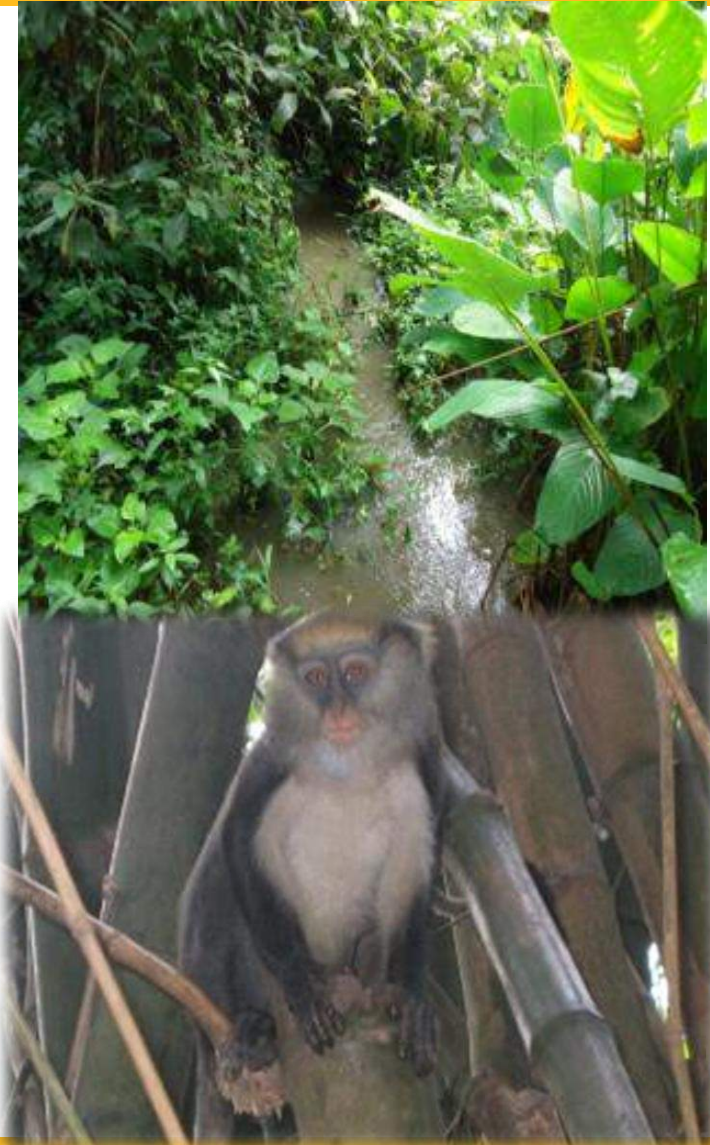
Action and Implementation:

- Natural regeneration
- Native tree nurseries establishment
- Aquaculture & Apiculture
- Economic trees under agroforestry
- Organic agriculture
- Indigenous leafy vegetables



LANDSCAPE RESULTS

- 65,000 ha landscape under sustainable management.
 - incidence of wildfires reduced by over 95% since 2012
 - major stream and rivulets are perennial
 - restoration of wildlife



LANDSCAPE RESULTS

- 65 Agro farmer groups formed to support landscape activities in bee-keepers association, nursery operators, tree crop farming (cocoa, coffee, mango and oranges)



LANDSCAPE RESULTS

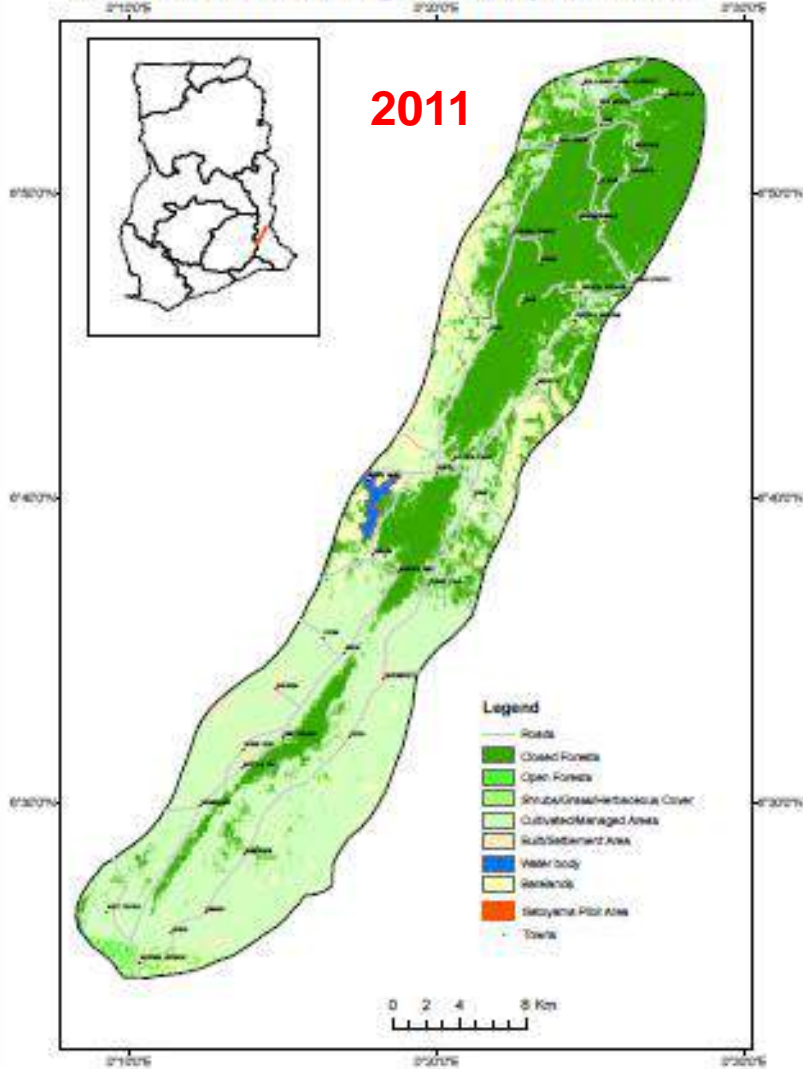
- Signed 10 MOUs with public institutions for technical and financial support to local communities within the landscape.
- Established landscape wide governance system to create ownership.



Improvement in land cover (2011-2014)

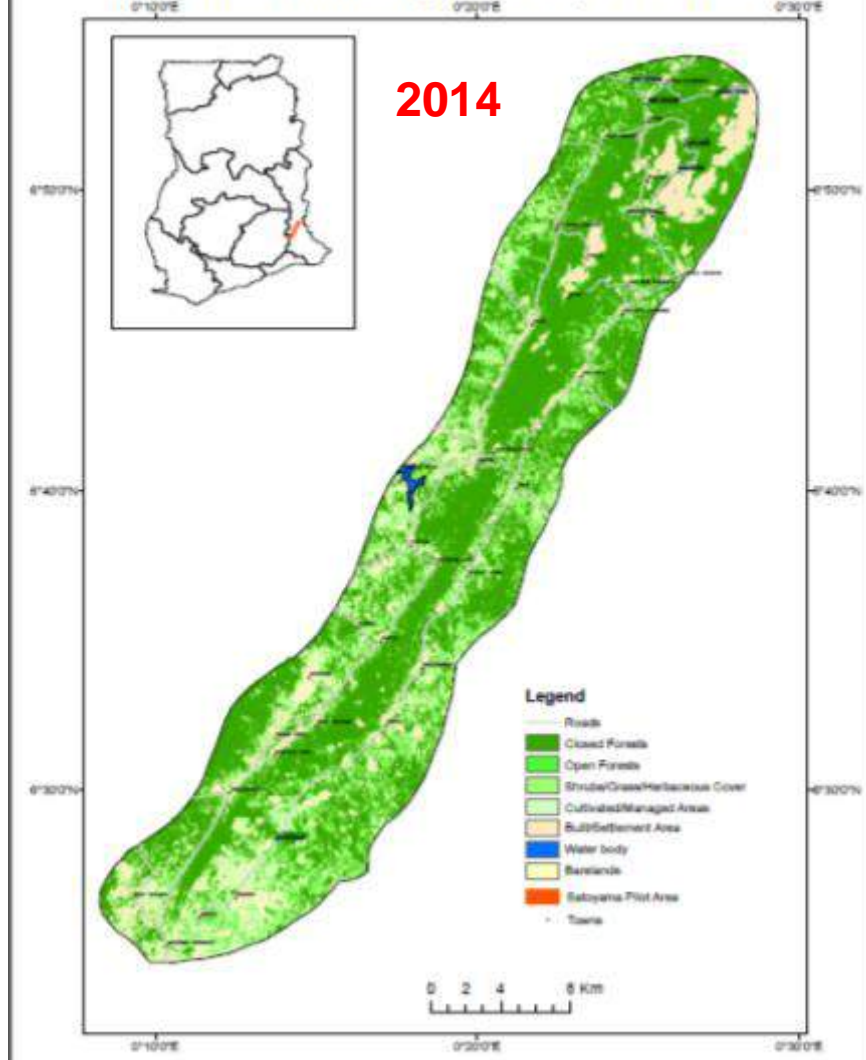
2011 Classified Satellite Image of the Satoyama Pilot Area

2011



2013 Classified Satellite Image of the Satoyama Pilot Area

2014



Project Results – Innovative practices

- Innovative practices adopted were:
 - Sustainable water harvesting, food and fodder security (agriculture), agroforestry and reforestation,
 - Conservation tillage applied for water harvesting in furrows and improving soils through zero tillage.
 - Production of organic material in the form of compost, and/or application of organic fertilizer that would lead to soil rehabilitation and sustainable land management

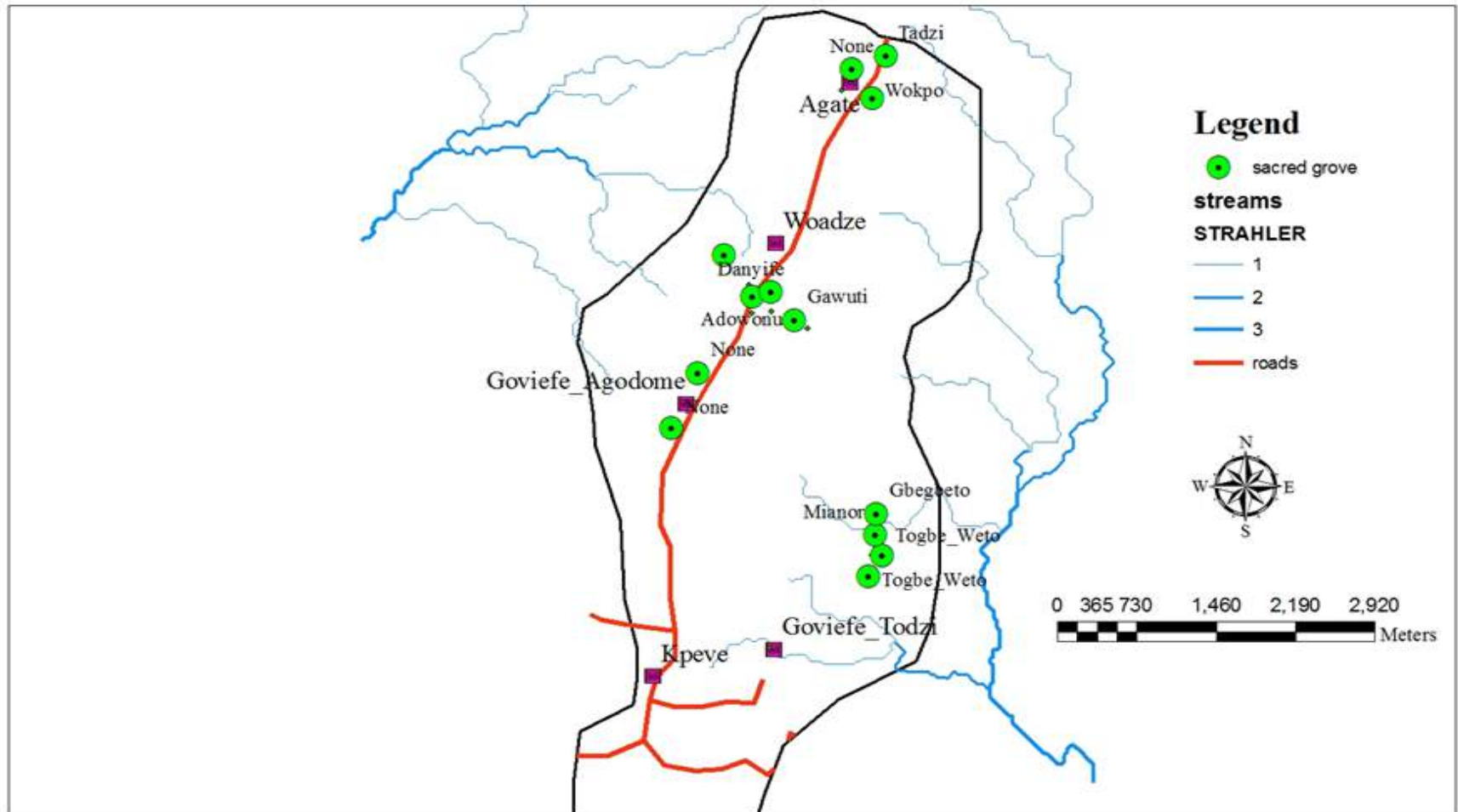
Landscape management plans

- Two major plans drafted for the landscape development:
 - Strategy for the Restoration of landscape; and
 - Ecotourism Development Plan
- Establishing a Community Resource Management Area (CREMA) within the landscape..

Cultural festival and eco-tourism

- Cave Agabteh being developed as tourist site. There was picnic to the site by the people of Dafor during the 2014 Easter Monday.
- Eco-cultural and home-stay tourism promotion has began at Agabteh by Local Eco-tourism Committee
- Celebration of Yam festivals revived in the traditional areas.

Sacred landscapes identified and mapped



Result: Micro credit

- Micro credit initiated for 125 women entrepreneurs.
- Village savings and loan schemes started in 12 villages.



KNOWLEDGE MANAGEMENT

- one baseline and case studies on the landscape completed and published
- 8 newsletters published
- 6 publications in the national print and electronic media
- 3 video documentary (on U-tube)
- One ex-poste study
- Two national knowledge fairs conducted.

Social and Economic Infrastructural development

- 2 Technology demonstration and knowledge centre established
- One community water system rehabilitated
- One eco-tourism centre developed
- Village saving and credit system established
- Drip irrigation system introduced

Lessons learnt in landscape management

- i. Define the landscape around commonly perceived conservation , production and/or livelihood issues and opportunities.

- ii. Identify and support communities and organizations with clear stakes in the landscape assets and have control over resources for realizing new opportunities.

Lessons learnt in landscape management

- iii. Engage knowledgeable opinion leaders and stakeholders to identify and initiate baseline assessment with key landscape performance indicators covering conservation, production, livelihood and institutional dimensions.

- iv. Adapt and use tools for understanding landscapes with opinion leaders and stakeholders to assess current status of the landscape across the multiple dimensions.

Lessons learnt in landscape management

- vii. Share findings from the various tools with stakeholders to mobilize interest and focus for desired change.

- viii. Consider possible ‘entry points’ and strategies for change-improvement-action, and for deepening the baseline information.

CHALLENGES

- Managing emerging landscape expectations.
- Creation of seemingly class system of elite farmer (beneficiaries versus non beneficiaries).
- Getting other donors to be interest in investing in the landscape.

THANK YOU

