

IPSI Case Study Summary Sheet

Basic Information

Title of case study			
Empowering communities for natural resource management: the case of Community Resource Management Areas (CREMA) in Western Ghana			
Submitting IPSI member organization(s)			
Conservation Alliance International			
Other contributing organization(s) <i>(IPSI members and/or non-members)</i>			
Author(s) and affiliation(s)			
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Format of case study <i>(manuscript or audiovisual)</i>	Manuscript	Language	English
Keywords			
CREMA, Natural Resources Governance, Rural Communities, Traditions and Customs, Stakeholders			
Date of submission <i>(or update, if this is an update of an existing case study)</i>		13 December 2019	
Web link <i>(of the case study or lead organization if available for more information)</i>	https://collections.unu.edu/eserv/UNU:7506/SITR_vol5_fullset_web.pdf#page=57		

Geographical Information

Country <i>(where site(s) or activities described in the case study are located – can be multiple, or even “global”)</i>									
Ghana									
Location(s) <i>(within the country or countries – leave blank if specific location(s) cannot be identified)</i>									
Aowin, Juabeso, Bia West, and Akotombra, Western Region									
Longitude/latitude or Google Maps link <i>(if location is identified)</i>									
https://www.google.com/maps/place/6%C2%B035'55.4%22N+2%C2%B050'19.1%22W/@6.5987275,-3.398947,9z/									
Ecosystem(s)									
Forest	x	Grassland		Agricultural	x	In-land water		Coastal	
Dryland		Mountain		Urban/peri-urban		Other (Please specify)			
Socioeconomic and environmental characteristics of the area									
<p>The project area lies within the Western Region of Ghana and covers an area of approximately 2,391 square kilometres, which represents about 10 percent of Ghana’s total land area. Ghana’s Western Region constitutes part of the Upper Guinean forest hotspot. The region has about 75 percent of its vegetation within the high forest zone of Ghana, and lies in the equatorial climatic zone that is characterized by moderate temperatures. The landscape is restricted to a number of isolated patches of forest that contain exceptionally diverse ecological communities, distinctive flora and fauna, and a mosaic of forest types that provide refuge to numerous endemic species.</p>									
Description of human-nature interactions in the area									
<p>Agriculture is the main economic activity within the landscape. Both tree and food crops are widely cultivated. Cocoa production is an important economic activity and the region accounts for more than 50 percent of Ghana’s cocoa export. Traditional land ownership hierarchies and governing systems prevail over the area. The communities within the project area have a unique attachment to natural resources as exhibited in the naming of villages (e.g. ‘Bokaso’, name of a village, translates ‘mountain top’), as well as the festivals that are directly related to celebrating the fruitfulness of agricultural lands (e.g. ‘Eluo Festival’ celebrates fruitful harvests)</p>									

Contents

Status (<i>"ongoing" or "completed"</i>)	Completed	Period (<i>MM/YY to MM/YY</i>)	
<i>Rationale (why activities or policies described, or information shared in the case study are needed)</i>			
<p>With an increasing pressure on resources and the resulting land degradation, an urgent action to develop a more efficient management system that would sustain the integrity of the natural resources and serve the needs of all stakeholders was required. The CREMAs were thus put in place to allow for local participation in natural resource management and to address multiple demands on ecosystem goods and services. A knowledge of the needs of the different stakeholders was thus critical in designing a more robust management system to enhance the health of the socio-ecological landscape and reduce biodiversity loss.</p>			
<i>Objectives (goals of activities or policies described, or of producing the case study)</i>			
<p>As a means of safeguarding the integrity of these natural resources to be able to deliver multiple benefits to different stakeholders, management systems were modified and programs initiated to take on board the elements of traditional and protected area management. The CREMA intervention focuses on bringing together communities that share common resources and take affirmative action to jointly manage their shared resources. The increasing demand for the landscape to deliver multiple values and benefits to all the different stakeholders within the socio-ecological landscape poses a great challenge to the sustainability of the initiative.</p>			
<i>Activities and/or practices employed</i>			
<p>This study sheds light on the multiple values that different stakeholders have placed on the CREMAs and the health of the production landscape. It used two main approaches to generate data for analysis and reporting: a Community Biodiversity Value Typology (CBVT) and a rapid biodiversity assessment using the Rapid Assessment Program (RAP) technique.</p>			
<i>Results</i>			
<p>The study has clearly established the significance of the CREMAs in promoting multiple benefits to communities within the landscape. The use of the Community Biodiversity Value Typology helped to define the differences among stakeholders with respect to the value they place on the CREMAs. There was evidence to suggest that different stakeholders have different preferences.</p>			
<i>Lessons learned (factors in success or failure, challenges and opportunities)</i>			
<p>The high consumptive value of the CREMAs is an indication that most respondents expect the landscape to support agricultural activities. Any management system should therefore ensure that the ecological health of the CREMAs is sustained to deliver ecological goods and services.</p>			
<i>Key messages</i>			
<p>The diverse but critical services delivered by CREMAs to the vast majority of the communities justify their continued protection through a community-based arrangement. Further investigation into the value that the different categories of stakeholders place on the CREMAs and the services they provide could help in the development of appropriate management actions that ensure the delivery of conservation outcomes, the distribution of social benefits and management effectiveness.</p>			
<i>Relationship to other IPSI activities (if the case study is related to any other IPSI collaborative activities, case studies, etc.)</i>			
<p>This case study originally appeared in the Satoyama Initiative Thematic Review v. 5.</p>			
<i>Funding (any relevant information about funding of activities or projects described in the case study)</i>			

Contributions to Global Agendas

CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (<https://www.cbd.int/sp/targets/>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the CBD’s Aichi Biodiversity Targets respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

Strategic Goal A				Strategic Goal B					
●	■			■		■			
Strategic Goal C			Strategic Goal D			Strategic Goal E			
●								●	

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgs>)

The table below shows based on the self-evaluation by author(s). ● and ■ indicates the “direct” or “indirect” contributions to the SDGs respectively to which the work described in this case study contributes to.

	■	■			■			