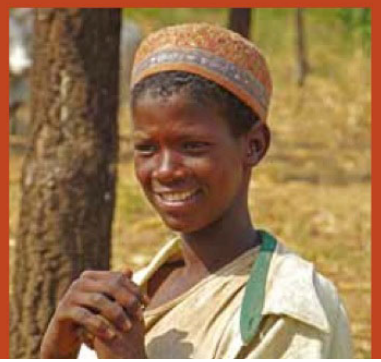
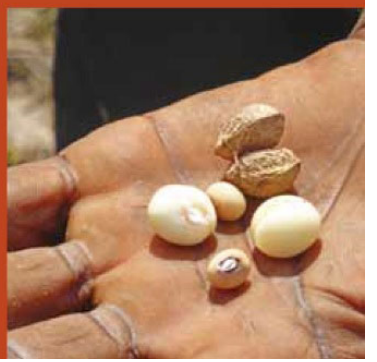
Ghana:
The Measure of a Land

Low-Resolution Version

AM Jarvis, A Robertson & JM Mendelsohn







VITAL SIGNS

Published by: Vital Signs

Printed by: Hemlock Printers Ltd.
http://www.hemlock.com
Printed in Canada

Available online at vitalsignsghana.org/atlas

First published in 2014

Compiled for Vital Signs by:
RAISON
Research and Information Services of Namibia
PO Box 1405, Windhoek, Namibia
http://www.raison.com.na

VITAL SIGNS IS AN INTEGRATED MONITORING SYSTEM FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES IN AGRICULTURAL LANDSCAPES

VITALSIGNS.ORG

ISBN 978-0-9915070-1-6

This work is supported by grant OPPGD943 from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Conservation International. Vital Signs is co-led by Conservation International, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa and the Earth Institute, Columbia University.

Vital Signs Ghana is a partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Ghana.


Ghana
The Measure of a Land

Foreword

Feeding the growing world population will require an estimated 70 - 100% increase in food production, but agricultural activities are degrading ecosystems – and the benefits they provide for people – faster now than ever before. There is an urgent need for better data and risk management approaches to guide sustainable agricultural intensification and ensure healthy and resilient livelihoods and ecosystems.

Launched in 2012 with a US$10 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to Conservation International, the Vital Signs monitoring system is co-led by Conservation International, the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in South Africa and the Earth Institute, Columbia University. Vital Signs addresses the need for open access data and for consistent, quantitative, multi-scale, co-located metrics on agriculture, ecosystem services and human well-being. A key objective is to provide a small set of relevant, scientifically valid indicators to assess and manage risk and to support policy.

Vital Signs Ghana is a partnership with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Ghana. Vital Signs field teams collect data on agricultural management and productivity, ecosystems and human well-being. Field data are integrated with data from satellites and are analysed to provide diagnostic tools for leaders in Africa and the world.

This book, together with an online atlas with downloadable data (www.vitalsignsghana.org/atlas), provides a baseline of available environmental, demographic and agricultural information for Ghana.

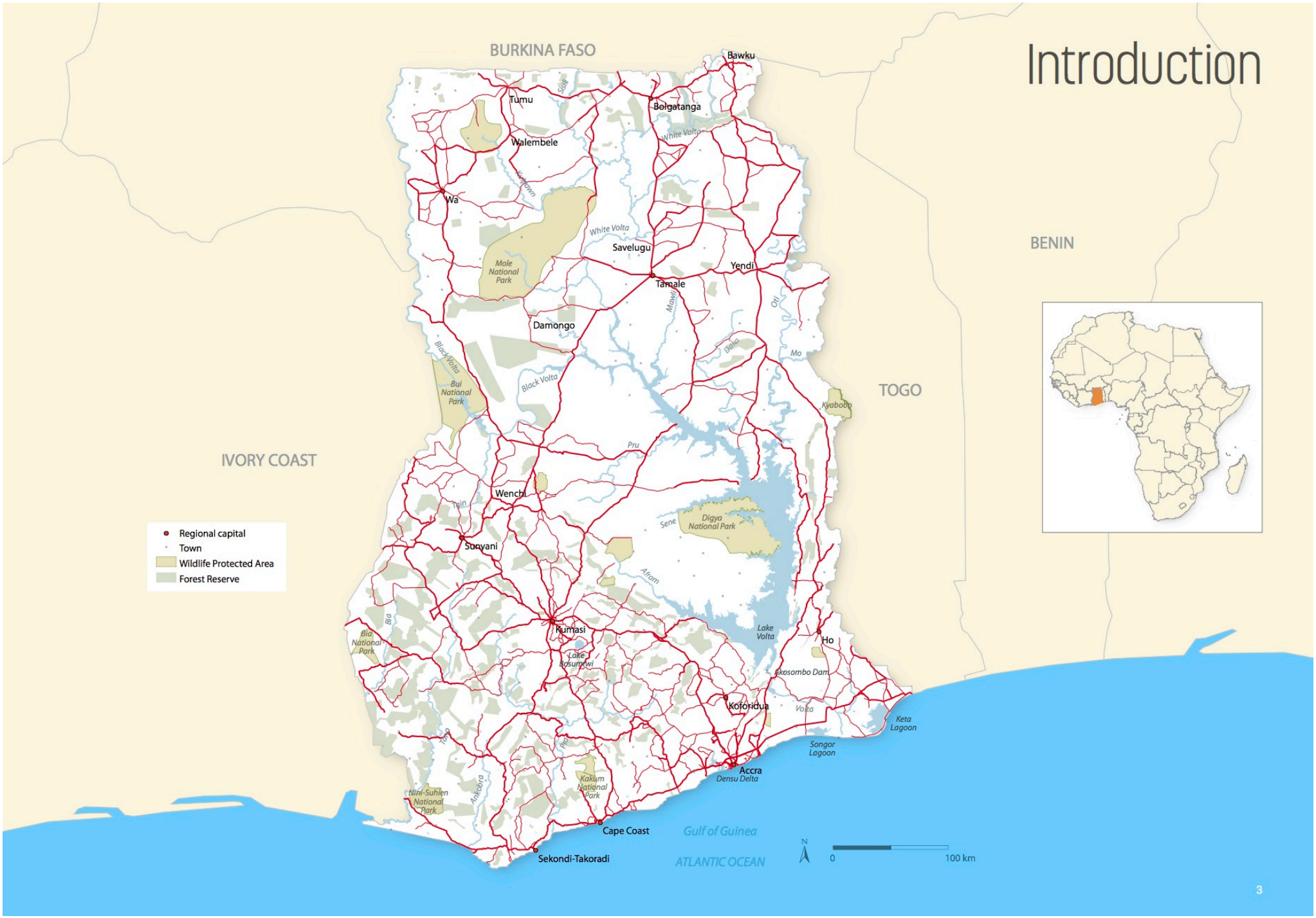
Sandy Andelman PhD, Cheryl Palm PhD & Bob Scholes PhD

Vital Signs Technical Council

A note on sources: Brief notes on the sources of data are provided on each double-page spread. These should be read in conjunction with the Endnotes on page 44 which give full details of all sources, together with citations and additional useful information.

Table of contents

Introduction



THE REPUBLIC OF GHANA IN BRIEF

Geographical extent	Covers 238,535 square kilometres of which 11,000 square kilometres consists of open water, principally in Lake Volta.
Coast line	About 560 kilometres (including bays and major estuaries).
Frontiers with	Ivory Coast (west), Burkina Faso (north), Togo (east) and the Gulf of Guinea and Atlantic Ocean (south).
Administration	Presidential federal and constitutional republic, with its seat of central government in the capital of Accra. Divided into 10 regions, 161 rural districts, 6 metropolitan authorities and 49 municipal assemblies.

Regions

Districts

Population	25.9 million in 2012, estimated to be 27.1 million in 2014. 48.1% in rural and 51.9% in urban areas in 2011, population growth rate in 2012 was 2.19%. Life expectancy at birth was 65.3 years in 2012. The under-15 age group made up 38.7% of the total population in 2011.
Gross Domestic Product	US$45.5 billion in 2013, and US$1,570 per capita in 2012; growth of 7.4% from 2012 to 2013. Contribution to GDP in 2013: services 50.6%; industry 28.1%; agriculture 21.3%.
Exports	US$13.37 billion in 2013. Main exports: oil, gold, cocoa, timber, tuna, bauxite, aluminium, manganese ore, diamonds, horticultural products. Main export partners: France, Italy, Netherlands, China, Germany.
Imports	US$18.49 billion in 2013. Main imports: capital equipment, refined petroleum, foodstuffs. Main import partners: China, Nigeria, USA, Netherlands, Singapore, UK, India.

Sources: Maps - Centre for Remote Sensing and Geographic Information Services, 2013
Text - Ghana Statistical Service, 2013; GhanaInfo, 2014; World Fact Book, 2014; GhanaDistricts, 2014

Physical landscape

TOPOGRAPHY

Much of Ghana lies between 200 and 300 metres above sea level (asl), with gentle relief, consisting largely of flat ground or low, rolling hills. This is reflected in the five profiles of elevation on the facing page.

Several uplands rise above this even landscape, the most prominent being the Akwapim-Togo Range along the eastern border. Mount Afadjato is Ghana's highest peak at 885 metres asl. To the north is Mount Djebobo, the second highest at 876 metres asl.

Most of the highlands surround the Volta Basin, which has an even surface ranging from 100 to 200