



Achieving inclusive and participatory fire management in Ghana

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Background and goal

Forests and trees play revering roles in climate smart, and resilient landscapes globally. Such roles include carbon stocks enhancement, improving resilience to climate change, supporting livelihoods and sustaining agricultural value chains. In Ghana, productive landscapes serve similar purposes. However, they are highly exposed to the recurring threats and risks of wildfires owing to less effective fire use and management practices occasioned by limited stakeholder inclusiveness and collaboration in fire management, limited capacity in fire management at scale, unsustainable land use activities, policy and regulatory gaps, climate change, etc. Consequently, wildfires have thus become annual occurrence in most parts of Ghana resulting in loss of lives and property including farms, agricultural produce, biodiversity resources, etc. To address this, the Fire-Smart Landscape Governance Project seeks to replicate by contextualizing the Fire Smart Territory approach to fire use and management (Tedim et al., 2016). The approach is intended to reduce or eliminate risk of wildfire events for the benefits of sustainable use of forest and trees resources in Ghana.

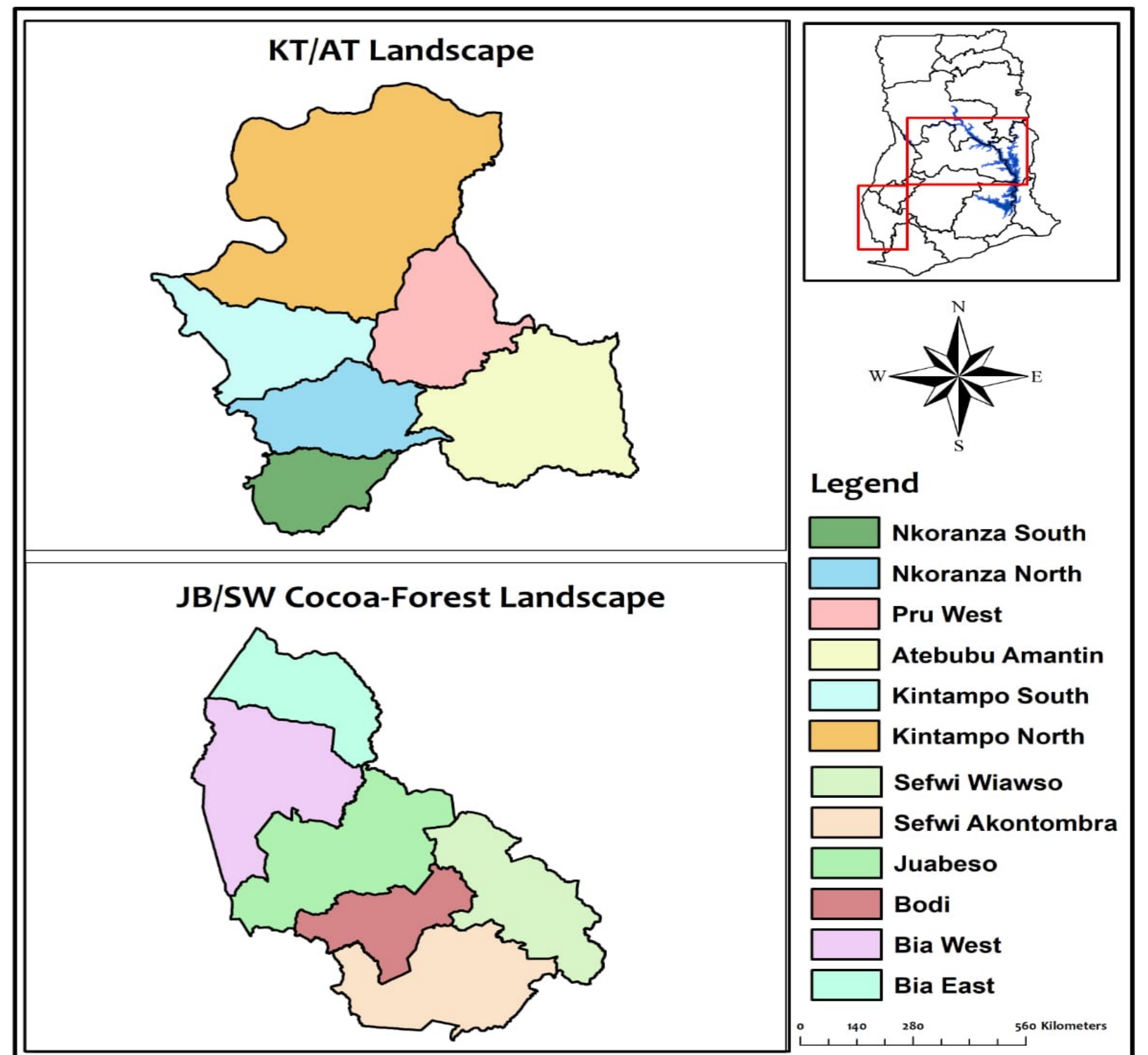
The goal is to ensure that, communities and other landscape actors such as government and para-government effectively collaborate, and inclusively plan and manage fire use with mechanisms to consolidate landscape approach to fire use and management. This will be pursued through research and evidence generation on effective fire management practices i.e., for lobby and advocacy, multi stakeholder fire management planning, capacity development in fire-smart practices, regulatory reform, institutional development, etc. It is expected that, *i.* communities and other landscape actors will effectively collaborate to sustain mechanisms for inclusive and participatory fire management at scale; *ii.* Fire users in target landscapes will enhance adoption of fire-smart practices in their land-use activities; *iii.* national and local policy and/regulations (formal & informal) are reformed to support landscape approach to fire use and management.

Initial activities

- Stakeholders have been engaged and analysis conducted to identify roles, responsibilities and power
- Training conducted for hunters, charcoal producers, farmers, palm wine tappers, and honey tappers in fire belt creation and fire management techniques.
- Formation and inauguration of a community fire volunteer group in the landscape
- Logistics for fire-fighting and management supplied to Ghana National Fire Service and Community Fire Volunteers Groups



Project Target Landscapes in Ghana



Next steps

1. Communities and other landscape actors effectively collaborate to sustain mechanisms for integrated Fire Smart Territory approach to wildfire management.
 - Formally engage Regional West Africa Fire Management Resource Centre as an implementation partner of the fire project with defined roles
 - Facilitate stakeholder consultations, engagement, and meetings to develop fire management plan
2. Communities in forest landscape (Juaboso Bia /Sefwi Wiawso)and transition landscape (Kintampos -Atebubu /Amanten) adopt fire smart practices
 - Facilitate meetings to draft, process for gazetting and enforcement of fire bye-laws.
 - Organize meetings to develop stakeholders capacity and enhance understanding in landscape approach to fire management.
3. National policy and/regulation (formal & informal) reformed to support landscape approach to wildfire management
 - Develop modalities for forming CSO/media coalition on fire including lobby and advocacy for effective fire use and management.
 - Facilitate meeting to constitute the coalition and link it existing larger coalition e.g., forest watch
 - Facilitate one national forum to share lessons and experiences on the landscape approach to fire management and its effectiveness



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Asante J, Ansah MO and Abu DK. 2022. Inclusive fire management in Ghana's transitional zone. *Tropical Forest Issues* 61.