

## Project Updates: June 2020

From October 2019 to April 2020 community education and sensitisation continued in the project communities (Menji, Kulmasa and Maluwe) which falls within Tain, Bole and Sawla-Tuna-Kaliba district Assemblies respectively as indicated in the map below where over 700 people (including adults and children) were reached.

Community sensitisation and education was done during community gatherings however, from January to May 2020 education was done using the various community information centres. Community members have now become aware on the need to conserve their forests and wildlife resources and showing more interest in rehabilitating degraded areas and restraining from activities that will destroy the resources.

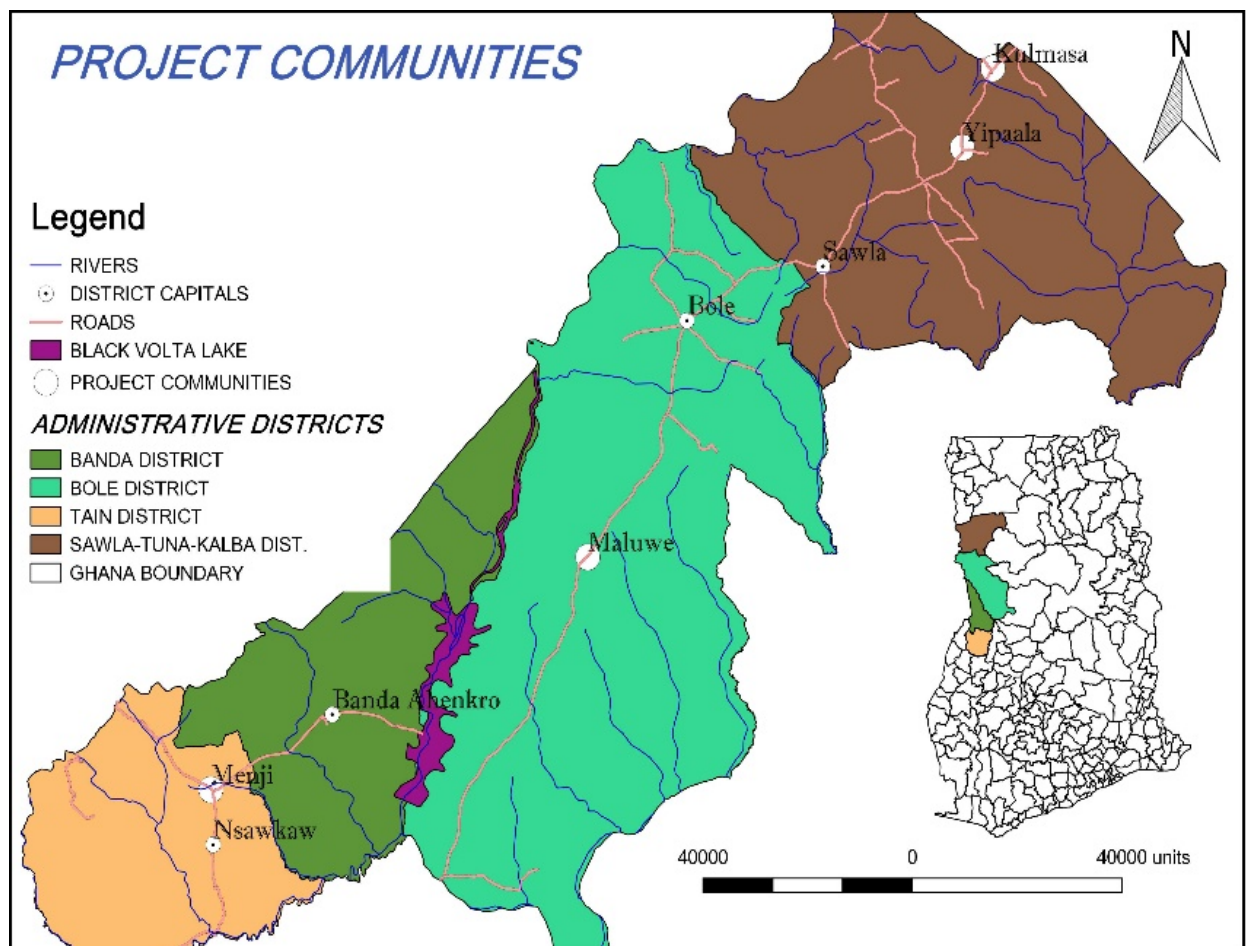


Figure 1: Map including the 3 project communities



*Left: Picture taken during community sensitization and education at Kulmasa. Right: Picture taken during community education at Maluwe.*



*Left: Picture taken during community education at Menji. Right: Picture taken during education on Menji Information centre.*

Since 2018, through the initiative of this project, Menji and Kulmasa communities are able to use local calls to bring crocodile from the water to the riverbank for sight-seeing which is currently gaining tourist attraction. This is a link (<https://youtu.be/a03szwXPvXE>) for a video during the call of crocodile at Kulmasa community.

The project team assisted Menji community to review and amend its by-laws on conservation of their riparian forest and wildlife (especially crocodile) species and to serve as a guide for other communities to emulate.

During the review and amendment of the by-law, all vital stakeholders were involved which included representatives from Tain District Assembly, Forest Services and Wildlife Division, various youth and women groups' representatives, political leaders, traditional authorities, various religious leaders, NGOs and community based organisations.

Participants were strategically divided into smaller groups during review and amendment to solicit for the views of each person in each group and later presented the compilation participants for validation following final compilation (copy attached for your study).



A copy of the final draft has been sent to the Tain District Assembly for amalgamation into the District Assembly by-laws on forest and wildlife conservation at district level. Copies have been distributed in the community and are also discussed at the information centres to create general awareness. This has immensely reduced illegal activities which has created conducive environment for the increase of crocodile at Menji crocodile pond.



*Left: Picture taken during review of Menji by-la. Right: Picture taken during review of Menji by-law, participants were divided into groups to gather their views.*



*Left: Picture taken during Menji by-law amendment; participants were divided into groups to solicit for their views. Right: Picture taken during Menji by-law amendment where each group presented their suggestions to the entire participants for comments and inputs*

From February to April 2020 community members were supported to plant 5000 seedlings including mahogany and shea butter tree (2500 each at Menji and Kulmasa).



*Left: Tree planting exercise at Kulmasa. Right: One of the sub-chiefs planting tree at Menji.*