

complete extinction and irreversible loss of valuable genetic material for plant growing and agricultural production.

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THE AUKASA PROTECTED AREA IS NOT SPOT OF BIODIVERSITY IN GHANA

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Biodiversity loss and conservation have been a global focus for at least two decades, mainly addressing issues of prioritization for efficient fund allocation. At the national and local levels where all biodiversity driving forces converge, and where conservation needs to be implemented, prioritization is often biased by parochialism due to poor data availability [2]. Over the past century, different human activities especially in agriculture have degraded Ghana's biological resources significantly. Exactly 80 years ago, 63% of the country's forests were in pristine or near-pristine condition in the forest zone [1]. Today, the landscape is mostly human-dominated with forest patches covering 15% of the country's land area. This is mainly due to land conversion to agriculture, a phenomenon which may continue to biodiversity losses until the economy grows and becomes less dependent on agriculture [4]. This trend can however be reversed, or at least stabilized, under land-use management regimes in which crop production is maximized with no significant losses to 682. Essentially, every efficient management plan is driven by quality agro-ecological data, and should gravitate towards increasing ecological complexity through the cultivation of multiple resource-efficient crop varieties under enhanced fertilization while allowing some less-competitive native flora. Like other African countries, Ghana lacks location and landscape-scale ecological data, a setback to biodiversity conservation [3].

The purpose of this work – analysis of the biodiversity in the Aukasa protected area

Material and methods. In the course of our work, the analysis and generalization of biodiversity in the Aukasa protected area. The comparative-comparative method, methods of generalization and analysis of flora and fauna in protected areas in the case of Ghana.

Results and their discussion. I would like to narrow my study to, the few protected areas in Ghana and how it should be managed.

Below are some few protected areas, which I will be elaborating on:

The Ankasa Conservation Area is an ancient rainforest and the most biodiverse in Ghana. It represents the only wet evergreen protected area in almost pristine state. As such its preservation is of paramount concern. Its importance for scientific study, environmental stability and educational and recreational purposes cannot be overstated. It is home to over 800 vascular plant species, forest elephants, leopard, bongo, chimpanzees and virtually all of the West African forest primates. It has an impressive avifauna, six hundred butterfly species and its network of streams is an important breeding ground for many of the fish species in the Eburneo-Ghanaian ichthyofauna region as well as being of immense importance for the biotic integrity of waters west and south of the Protected Area.

The major threat to the integrity of the Ankasa Protected Area comes from external pressures. Pressures that arise from the increasing human population, uncontrolled immigration and settlement, leading to a major change in land use with subsequent depletion and degradation of natural resources off-reserve. The off-reserve areas are governed by a plethora of national and local government institutions and traditional authorities. Arbitrated by, often, archaic legislation and conflicting, policies frequently developed in isolation of each other. The implementation of the laws and regulations are further constrained by a lack of both human and physical resources. The future integrity of Ankasa Protected Area relies on both developing a system through which these disparate players can interact and a programme of intervention involving resource input, training and education. This will enable and empower stakeholders to regulate their resource use efficiently. Therefore this management plan does not simply regard the Protected Area in isolation but rather takes a holistic approach and considers the Protected Areas position in the structure and economy of the District in which it constitutes a major asset.

Conclusion. With this regards, I would like to say, Ankasa conservation area is a highly ancient protected area and most biodiversity zone in Ghana. It is home to over 800 vascular plant species, forest elephants, leopard, bongo, chimpanzees and virtually all of the West African forest primates. It has an impressive avifauna, six hundred butterfly species and its network of streams is an important breeding ground for many of the fish species.

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