



KWABRE-TANOÉ TRANS-BORDER COMMUNITY FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN



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Tanoé-Ehy (FMTE)

With the support of:

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- Direction de l'Ecologie et
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- Conseil Régional d'Aboisso,
Côte d'Ivoire
- West African Primate
Conservation Action
(WAPCA)
- Centre Suisse de
Recherches Scientifiques en
Côte-d'Ivoire (CSRS),
- Noé

December 2021



CSRS
Centre Suisse de Recherches
Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire



Table of Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms.....	ii
Definition and Interpretation of Terms	ii
1.0 Introduction	1
1.1 Background to the Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-Border Community Forest Management Plan.....	1
1.2 Our Resolution	1
1.3 Acknowledgement	2
1.4 How was this document developed?.....	2
1.5 Why was this document developed and whom for?	2
1.6 Duration and Implementation	3
2.0 Current Management Practices	3
2.1 The Ankasa-Tano CREMA.....	3
2.2 The FAIVG.....	3
3.0 The Trans-border Management Roadmap	4
3.1 Management Objectives and Proposed Actions.....	4
3.2 Governance and Implementation Structure	5
3.2.1 Trans-border Steering Committee.....	5
3.2.2 Trans-border Patrol Team.....	5
3.2.3 Trans-border Conservation Education Team	6
3.2.4 Organizational Chart	6
4.0 Trans-border Patrols	8
4.1 Organisation of trans-border patrols.....	8
4.2 Regulations & by-law to apply	8
4.3 Benefit Sharing.....	8
4.2.1 Health and Safety of Patrol team members	9
5.0 Trans-border Conservation Education Programs.....	11
5.1 Organisation of trans-border conservation education programs.....	11
6.0 Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Communication	11
Annex	12
Map of Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-border Community Forest	12
Official Endorsement of Trans-border Forest Management Plan	Error! Bookmark not defined.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AGTM	Annual General Trans-border Meeting
AIVG	Associations Inter-Villageoises de Gestion
CREMA	Community Resource Management Area
CRMC	Community Resource Management Committee
CSRS-CI	Centre Suisse de Recherches Scientifiques en Côte-d'Ivoire
FAIVG	Fédération des Associations Inter-Villageoises de Gestion
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
WAPCA	West African Primate Conservation Action

Definition and Interpretation of Terms

Community patrol team - A selected group of community members trained to patrol the forest of the Ankasa-Tano Forest in Ghana and the Associations Inter-Villageoises de Gestion in Ivory Coast to collect bio data but also to halt illegal activities, to apprehend illegal offenders and to confiscate illegal lumber and other Non-Timber Forest Products on behalf of the CREMA or FAIVG.

Conservation education team – A team build from members of the FAIVG and Ankasa-Tano CREMA dedicated to the sensitization on environmental and conservation matters in the communities and schools of the area.

CREMA and FAIVG – The CREMA and FAIVG are mechanisms that allow local communities the right and authority to manage and govern their natural resources sustainably. In terms of institutional structure, the CREMA and FAIVG are Community-based Natural Resource Management Organizations with democratically elected leaders.

Illegal Activity – Any activity that is done in contradiction to laid down local (i.e. bye-laws of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA and FAIVG, and custom and traditions) and national management regulations and laws.

Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-border community forest – conservation area comprising the community-managed Ankasa-Tano rainforest also called Kwabre Forest in south-western Ghana and the Tanoé-Ehy forest in south-eastern Côte d'Ivoire.

Offender – Anyone who breaks the laws or carry out activities in contravention to laid down regulations and laws including local (i.e. bye-laws of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA and FAIVG, and custom and traditions) and national management regulations and laws.

Ranger – A staff from either the Ivorian ministry of Eaux & Forêt or the Ivorian Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development that is accompanying the community patrollers when needed.

Trans-border Conservation – Conservation across borderlines (in this case, Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire border) which aims to address trans-border resource management issues, empower communities and improve livelihood opportunities.

Trans-border patrol – This includes patrols conducted in the Ankasa-Tano CREMA and FAIVG area including the forests and on the river within the trans-border conservation area.

Wildlife Staff (which can be either the Rangers or the Guards) - A staff from the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana attached to the CREMA to assist the CREMA to conduct conservation education, train the CREMA on its roles and responsibilities and assist the community patrol teams to conduct patrols and halt illegal activities.

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background to the Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-Border Community Forest Management Plan

Forests serve as home not only to plants and animals but also serve as sources of livelihoods to rural populations, keeping many people out of extreme poverty. However, in Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, more than 75% of the forest area has disappeared over the past 30 years. To tackle challenges of forest and biodiversity loss, it is crucial to put in place mechanisms and structures that support the protection and sustainability of the resources to create a win-win situation for people and nature.

The Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-border Community Forest (13,300 ha) extends on both sides of the Tanoé River (which marks the border between Ghana & Côte d'Ivoire). The 10,800 ha stretch of the forest on the Ivorian side of the Tanoé River is called *Forêt des Marais Tanoé-Ehy* (FMTE), and the 2,500 ha on the Ghanaian side is called *Ankasa-Tano Community Rainforest* (previously called Kwabre Forest).

The Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-border Community Forest is home to an exceptional biodiversity and serves as the last refuge for the most endangered primates in the West African Region, including the Roloway monkey (*Cercopithecus roloway*), one of the 25 most endangered primates of the world, as well as the white-naped mangabey (*Cercocebus lunulatus*), the white-thighed colobus (*Colobus vellerosus*), and possibly Miss Waldron's Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus waldronae*) which may already be extinct in the wild. This unique ecosystem is however under threat by illegal logging, poaching and deforestation due to unsustainable agricultural practices. This is fueled by the failure to put in place any formal trans-border agreement, causing an increasing number of Ivorians and Ghanaians to venture into the forests to traffic forest products, while the lack of sustainable livelihood options prevents people to manage the resources over time.

Unless action is taken, this important trans-border ecological corridor will not only vanish – with three Critically Endangered primates going extinct among numerous other niche species – but resident populations will also become increasingly vulnerable.

Two Community Organisations in charge of the management of the natural resources are established on both sides of the river: The *Fédération des Associations Inter-Villageoises de Gestion de la FMTE* (FAIVG) in Côte d'Ivoire, created in 2016, and the Ankasa-Tano CREMA in Ghana, created in 2014. Through this trans-border management plan, both Community Organizations of Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire seek to join forces in protecting the remaining intact forest and wildlife resources.

1.2 Our Resolution

BEING CONVINCED that this forest constitutes a resource of great economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value, the loss of which would be irreversible;

RECOGNIZING its fundamental ecological functions and knowing that the Critically Endangered primates and numerous other niche species and their habitat go beyond the lands of one community and so should be regarded as a communal resource;

NOTING that the conservation and protection of this forest can be ensured by our combined effort and coordinated action;

WE, the inhabitants of the Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-border Community Forest area with the support of key stakeholders, have come together to draft this management plan in response to addressing the aforementioned challenges and to ensure the sustainable management of the natural resources in and around this forest.

This management plan thus outlines the procedures and actions to guide our decision and actions towards the achievement of our core objective – to address trans-border community resource management challenges and to ensure its sustainability for future generations.

1.3 Acknowledgement

We extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the West African Primate Conservation Action (WAPCA), *Centre Suisse de Recherche Scientifiques en Côte d'Ivoire* (CSRS), Noé, the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana, *Direction de l'Ecologie et de la Protection de la Nature* of Côte d'Ivoire, ACB-Côte d'Ivoire, the District Assemblies of both countries and the Paramount and Divisional chiefs of Jomoro traditional area who have supported us in this process and in our overall conservation efforts. We are most grateful that you responded to the request to support us when we saw the need to protect our forest. We acknowledge that without your support, this will not be possible and further look forward to your sustained commitment and technical support for the implementation of this collaborative work.

1.4 How was this document developed?

Recognising that partnership is critical for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), this document was developed in collaboration with all the local communities involved and with the technical support of our Non-Government Organization (NGO) partners – WAPCA, CSRS and Noé – and key local government stakeholders such as the District Assemblies, Eaux & Forêts and Wildlife Divisions of the Forestry Departments of both Countries.

The process began in 2018 through series of dialogues, community consultative meetings and stakeholder workshops. The consultative workshops and meetings offered the opportunity to establish a consensus on the core management challenges and to gain common understanding of the need for the Trans-Border Management Plan and why it is relevant for the management of the resources bordering both countries. It also helped to validate the buy-in of all the stakeholder representatives and our commitment to own the process and to implement it. The data and information gathered from the workshops and meetings contributed to the development of this management plan.

1.5 Why was this document developed and whom for?

This document is developed by and for the community organizations, Ankasa-Tano CREMA in Ghana and the FAIVG in Côte d'Ivoire to guide our decisions and actions towards the sustainable management of the trans-border forest and its resources. Specifically, we seek to join forces and resources (human and financial) **to address specific trans-border community resource management issues** to ensure that the

remaining intact forest and other resources in and around the Trans-Border Conservation Area are protected and sustained for future generations.

1.6 Duration and Implementation

This Management Plan will be in force for a period of 3 years, subject to review and update as may be decided by the management and implementation committee including all relevant stakeholders. Its implementation shall be the responsibility of the CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) in Ghana and FAIVG Executive Committee in Côte d'Ivoire with the technical support of key external stakeholders including WAPCA, CSRS, Wildlife Division, DEPN, Eaux et forêts, the Jomoro District Assembly, Ghana and the *prefectural Corps* of Tiapoum, Côte d'Ivoire.

2.0 Current Management Practices

2.1 The Ankasa-Tano CREMA

In Ghana, the CREMA is established as the mechanism for sustainable management and a collaborative body that work with the Local Traditional Authority for sustainable community development. Since 2012, the communities¹ that surround the Ankasa-Tano Rainforest have been working together to manage their natural resources, after concern was growing over the unsustainable extraction of timber. In 2014, the CREMA was inaugurated and the communities democratically elected their Executives, developed their own constitution and by-law – which is still yet to be approved by the District Assembly. The CREMA is in the process to receive devolution certificate from the national government which will give them the legal and full management authority over their natural resources. The Ankasa-Tano CREMA has also successfully established Community Rainforest Monitoring Teams (CRMT) and community nurseries for reforestation and agroforestry.

2.2 The FAIVG

In Côte d'Ivoire, a community-based management program of the Tanoé-Ehy forest was initiated with nine communities in 2006 under the impulsion of CSRS with the support of local and international partners including WAPCA, the Eaux&Forêts of Côte d'Ivoire, and three local conservation NGOs (SOS Forêts, ACB-CI, and SCNCI). Two other communities joined the program in 2017 for a total of 11 communities under the Tiapoum prefecture. Management committees called AVCD (Associations Villageoises pour la Conservation et le Développement) were formed in each of the 11 communities with their bylaws officially registered by the national administration. In each of the three districts of the project area a paramount association called AIVG (Association Inter-villageoise de Gestion) comprising the different AVCD of the District was officially established as well. Finally, the FAIVG was established in 2017 as a federation of the three AIVGs. The FAIVG is the interlocutor of the government and external institutions for policy making,

¹ Aduzuazo, Akyenenu, Kramosuago, Ebolobo, kojokysuazo, Takinta, Nawule, Medina, Nzelenu, Akeyemenu, Ellekobabo, Allowulley, Ellenda – Waife, Ellena, Nuba, Anwiafutu Town, Nserewaso, Kwabre, Mansa Nkwanta, Allaboare, Amakuakro, Kotinase, Tobotobo, Edobo, Atwebanso, Epu, Kablasuazo, and Bomyere

while the three paramount associations play a coordinating role of the field-based activities carried out by the 11 management committees.

The *Forêt des Marais de Tanoé-Ehy* (FMTE) is in the process to be designated officially as a community-managed reserve called “Réserve Naturelle Volontaire” in the Ivorian law. That status allows for the sustainable use of natural resources while protecting threatened species and habitats. That status is a strong one as the application material is introduced by the government and the designation decision is made by the parliament.

3.0 The Trans-border Management Roadmap

3.1 Management Objectives and Proposed Actions

To achieve the overall goal for the establishment of the Trans-border Community Forest, management will be anchored on three (3) broad Strategic Objectives. The achievement of these objectives will be linked to implementation of specific actions. The table below highlights the objectives and proposed actions – this list is not exhaustive and can be updated as may be deemed necessary by the governing and implementation body.

Strategic Objectives	Proposed Actions
SO 1: To empower the local community governance structures of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA and the FAIVG to contribute to the conservation of the trans-border forest	Form a trans-border patrol team made up of patrollers from the Ankasa-Tano CREMA, FAIVG, and rangers/guards from the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana and from the Eaux et Forêts of Côte d'Ivoire
	Strengthen the patrol teams through trainings and equipment supply
	Conduct trans-border patrols at least every two months on average to halt illegal activities and apprehend offenders
	Support patrol teams to analyse patrol data and provide feedback to the community members to ensure transparency and accountability in resources management and governance
	Seek technical support to implement our constitution, by-laws, and the management plan
	Facilitate participatory community resource mapping or resource survey and inventory to enable community members better appreciate all the resources within the conservation area and to commit to their protection
SO 2: To promote community and trans-border conservation best practices through conservation education in member communities	Establish conservation education team in each country to support community and trans-border awareness/education campaigns
	Document and share community and trans-border conservation knowledge and best practices
	Conduct periodic education and awareness campaigns and the dissemination of Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials (e.g. radio programs, churches, funeral gatherings, etc.)
	Provide trainings and demos to enable communities implement best practices (e.g. farmer field schools, etc.)

	Organize community and peer-to-peer learning and exchanges (e.g. exchange visits to Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire)
	Erect signage and placards around the buffers and boundaries of the trans-border conservation area to clearly show demarcations of the forest.
	Establish data boards at vantage points in major communities and information centres to post information and announcement where relevant
SO 3: Strengthen collaboration among stakeholders of both countries towards securing the ecological integrity of the Trans-border forest	Organise quarterly meetings of the Trans-border Steering Committee (two organize by each country per year), and annual extended trans-border meetings to discuss the progress and challenges to tackle
	Mobilize more communities to join in the conservation efforts
	Facilitate stakeholder fora for learning and sharing of best practices and review of the annual work plan and budget
	Participate in conferences/events organised in both countries
	Build alliance with NGOs/state agencies for joint financial and technical resources mobilization to support planned actions

3.2 Governance and Implementation Structure

3.2.1 Trans-border Steering Committee

A trans-border steering committee shall be set up comprising the CREMA Chairperson, CREMA secretary, President of the FAIVG, Secretary of the FAIVG, representative from Wildlife Division of Ghana, representative from Eaux et Forêts of Cote d'Ivoire and representatives from facilitating NGOs. The steering committee shall be the highest decision-making body with a core mandate to addressing trans-border resource management issues and shall focus on ensuring the implementation of the proposed activities in the management plan. Its specific roles shall include but not be limited to the following:

- a. To foster the trans-border collaboration and cooperation;
- b. To supervise the Trans-border Patrol Team and Conservation Education team;
- c. To facilitate conflict resolution;
- d. To exchange information on ongoing interventions in the CREMA and the FAIVG;
- e. To mobilize financial, material and human resources for the implementation of the trans-border management plan;
- f. To put in place feedback and accountability framework and ensure the flow of information from the patrol and education teams to all the community members.

3.2.2 Trans-border Patrol Team

A trans-border patrol team made up of members from the patrol teams of Ankasa-Tano CREMA and FAIVG, and representatives from the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission of Ghana and from the Eaux et Forêts of Côte d'Ivoire will be responsible for monitoring and ensuring enforcement of and compliance to the regulations. The trans-border patrol team shall report directly to the Steering Committee. Its core mandate shall include but not limited to the following:

- a. Carry out monitoring interventions once every two months (but could be more depending on the situation with regards to illegal activities) in and around the trans-border conservation area;
- b. Collect data on the presence of wildlife, illegal activities, and any other information of interest;
- c. Conduct resource survey and inventory;
- d. Halt illegal activities in the trans-border conservation area;
- e. Apprehend offenders and hand them to the appropriate legal and enforcement authorities;
- f. Report or share patrol data and information annually with the communities;
- g. Perform other duties as may be specified by the trans-border steering committee.

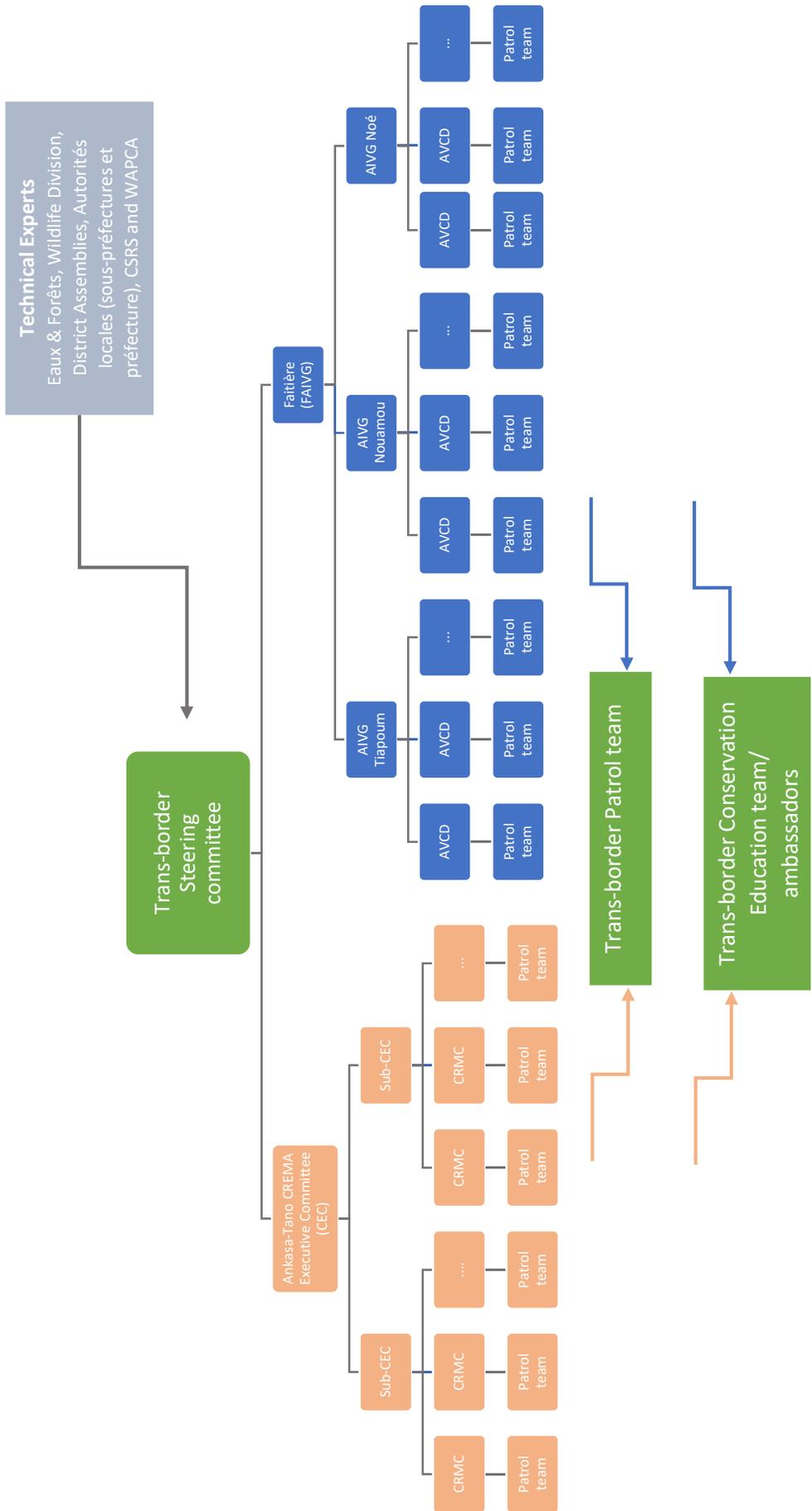
3.2.3 Trans-border Conservation Education Team

A trans-border conservation education team will be established in each country to support community and trans-border awareness/education campaigns. Each country conservation education team will be made of three members (one of whom must be a member of the steering committee) and will be technically supported by a representative of the facilitating NGOs. The trans-border conservation education team shall report directly to the trans-border Steering Committee and shall be responsible for the following:

- a. Identifying key trans-border issues on which to carry education and awareness campaigns;
- b. Develop awareness and education programs including materials for awareness campaigns and education on the key issues identified;
- c. Conduct awareness and education programs on identified issues in schools and communities of the respective countries and where needed, conduct joint awareness events across borders;
- d. Develop radio programs on key trans-border issues to be aired on the local FM stations;
- e. Facilitate celebration of International Event Days (e.g. Mangabey Awareness Day) where joint actions are needed on specific events;
- f. Facilitate and mobilise resource persons for implementation of events where specific technical expertise is needed.

3.2.4 Organizational Chart

The chart below shows the structure and relationship among the management and implementation bodies. External stakeholders will be co-opted to be part of the steering committee to provide technical support.



4.0 Trans-border Patrols

4.1 Organisation of trans-border patrols

- There will be a scheduled plan for the trans-border patrols. The patrol team leaders (one from Ankasa-Tano CREMA and one from FAIVG) or their representatives will meet to design the annual trans-border patrol schedule during Trans-border meetings. The schedule will be validated and approved by the steering committee.
- Ideally there will be one patrol every two months. Additional patrols can be conducted depending on the prevailing issues and threats at a given period.
- A week to the patrol period, the two leaders or their representatives will communicate to determine the exact day for the patrol. Each leader will be responsible for initiating the communication during one semester every year.
- Each team (Ankasa-Tano CREMA and FAIVG) will mobilize equal number of participants i.e. at least three community patrollers, two rangers from Eaux & Forêt and one ranger from Wildlife Division and each patrol will last 1 to 5 days.
- The cost of trans-border patrols will be shared equally by both teams. Perdiem rates will be determined during the first trans-border meeting of the year when the annual trans-border schedule is validated.
- Each team will manage their equipment. In an event where one team's equipment is used by the other one, that one will have to cover the repair and maintenance cost in case it breaks down.

4.2 Regulations & by-law to apply

The Ankasa-Tano CREMA and FAIVG constitution and by-laws shall provide the regulatory framework for management of the trans-border area. No new constitution or by-law will be developed. The laws that will be applied during trans-border patrol activities will depend on where the interventions are taking place. For instance, if the activities are taking place in Côte d'Ivoire, then the constitution and by-law of the FAIVG will be applied and vice versa.

During local monitoring by the patrol teams (non-trans-border), **IF** illegal activities are detected across the border, the team shall call the patrol team in the country where illegal activity is taking place.

During trans-border monitoring by patrol teams (which includes representatives of both countries), **IF** illegal activities are detected and confiscations are made, the appropriate CRMC/AVCD and national regulatory authorities of the country in which the illegality occurred shall handle the case.

4.3 Benefit Sharing

In the case that funds are generated by the patrols (collected fines) communities will receive a share following the regulations of the country where the funds are generated.

- **60%** of the share that is generated from **transboundary patrols** shall be given to the appropriate community regulatory body of the country where the confiscation and arrests were made, i.e. the

CEC as in the case of Ghana and the FAIVG in the case of Côte d'Ivoire and **40%** to the other participating country, i.e. the FAIVG as in Ivory Coast and CREMA Executive committee as in Ghana.

- In the case of Côte d'Ivoire, the sharing of benefits is as follows: 70% goes to the Eaux et Forêts who carried out the patrol and 30% to FAIVG after the withdrawal of funds used for the organization of the patrol (food, boat hire) by FAIVG. This sharing is done because only the Eaux et Forêts are authorized to confiscate products and sell them.
- In the case of Ghana, after deduction of patrol operation cost, the CREMA shall pay **35%** of the money obtained through the trans-border patrols to the patrol team members that were involved in the said patrols. The remainder shall be based on an agreed benefit sharing mechanism between the Ankasa-Tano CREMA and the Wildlife Division. This shall be reviewed when needed.

Fines, confiscation and arrest protocols shall follow the by-laws of the CREMA and FAIVG according to where the actions took place.

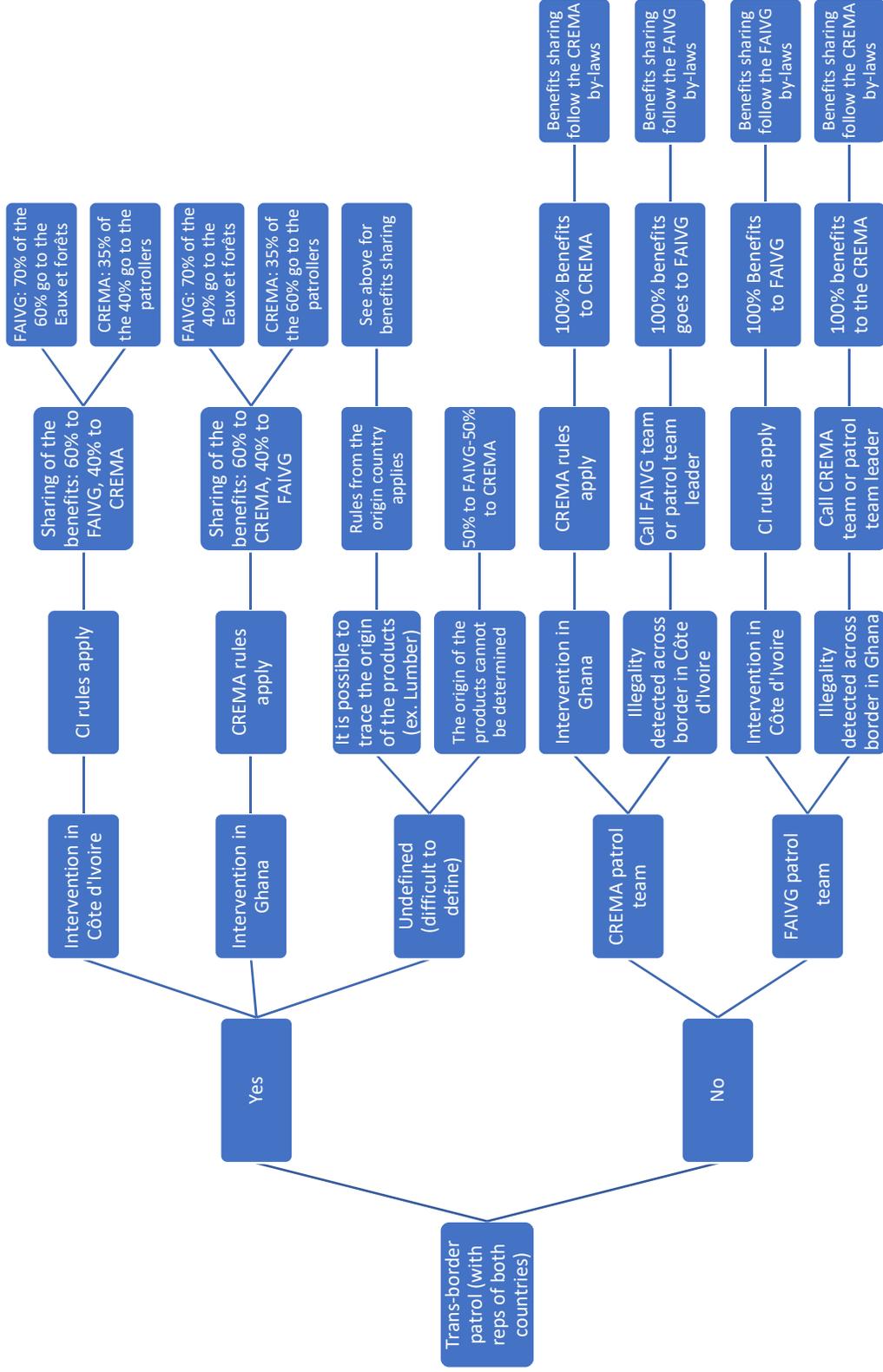
4.2.1 Health and Safety of Patrol team members

The CREMA and FAIVG shall ensure that the health and safety of the patrol team is paramount. The Steering Committee shall ensure that the safety protocols will be applied to the later. Additionally, the steering committee shall ensure that

- There is yearly supply of safety gears and equipment
- All patrol team members sign onto the National Health Insurance scheme as in the case of Ghana
- All patrol team members will be insured as has been enshrined in the CREMA Management Plan.

The decision tree in the next section displays the decision-making process to follow.

Decision tree for patrols: who seizes the timber and chainsaws, where are the offenders taken, and how are the benefits shared?



The repartition of the shares within the CREMA and FAIVG follows the by-laws.

5.0 Trans-border Conservation Education Programs

5.1 Organisation of trans-border conservation education programs

The conservation Education team will draw an annual activity plan with timelines attached. The activity plan will be approved by the steering committee. There will be six education campaigns in a year with one in every two months. The host country will bear the cost for food, accommodation, and transport.

6.0 Planning, Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Communication

Trans-border Steering Committee meetings will be organized four times in a year to plan, review progress and evaluate performance and implementation of planned actions. Emergency meetings could also be organized if the need arises to discuss issues of urgent concern. The following rules will apply in the organization of meetings:

- a. The meetings will be organised and led in a rotational manner between both countries and the host country is covering the cost of the meeting, according to the Financial Management Plan of the FAIVG and CREMA;
- b. Representatives of the host country will facilitate and lead the meeting;
- c. Outcomes of every meeting will be documented as meeting minutes or reports;
- d. A copy of each meeting minutes or reports will be shared with the Departments responsible for forests and wildlife and other Departments directly concerned by the decisions and recommendations of those meetings;
- e. Before each Steering Committee meeting, the committee members from each country must hold prior meetings with their members and teams to collate their views to be taken to the steering committee meeting;
- f. Every meeting Agenda must be circulated 2 weeks prior to the meeting to ensure adequate preparation by the members.

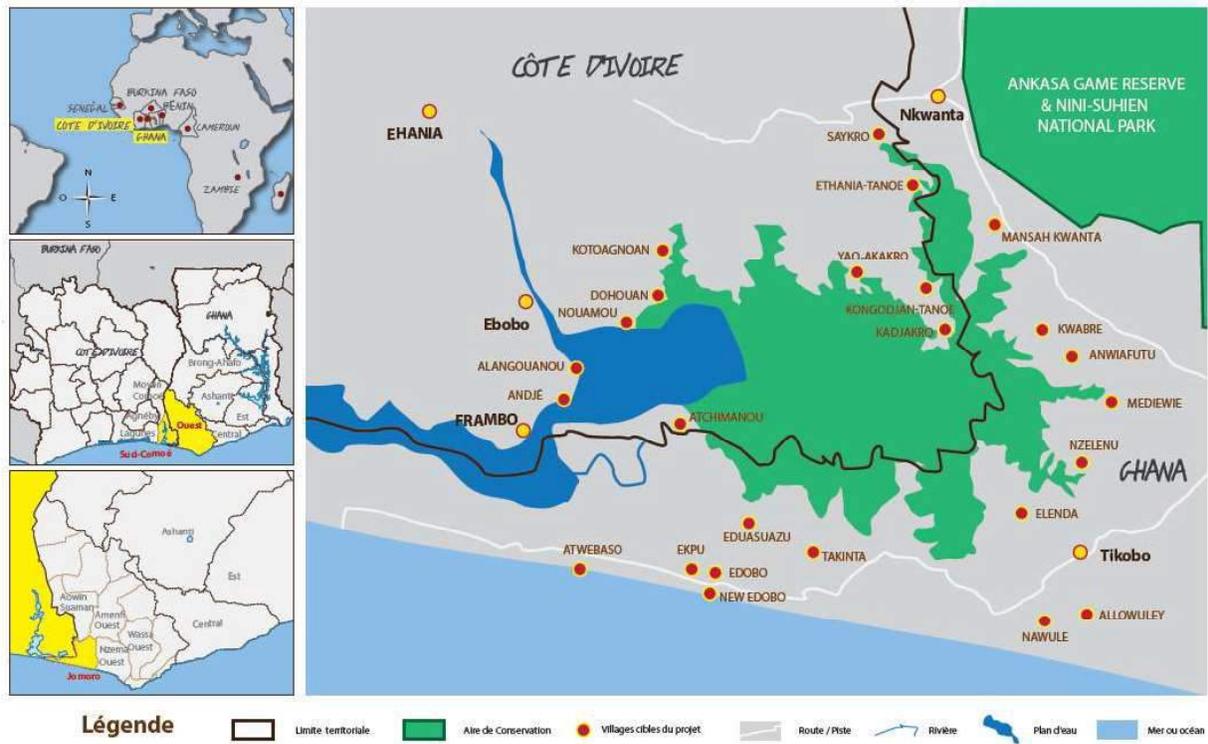
An Annual General Trans-border Meeting (AGTM) will be held at the end of every year to report on progress and achievement of results to members, review the annual work plan and plan activities for the next year. The AGTM will include not only the Trans-border Steering Committee members, but also Trans-border Patrol and Conservation Education Teams and other key representatives as may be decided by the Steering Committee.

The AGTM is expected to be used as a platform for learning and sharing of knowledge, information and best practices. Workshops and trainings on specific topics of interest could be organized during this period to improve skills and knowledge of members.

At the end of every AGTM, reports will be generated and shared with all the relevant stakeholders. Content could also be shared on each community organization's social media page or online platforms.

Annex

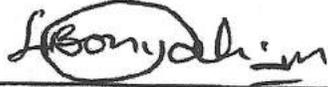
Map of Kwabre-Tanoé Trans-border Community Forest



The constitutions and by-laws of the CREMA and FAIVG hardcopy shall be attached to this document. Additional documents to be attached includes the Annual Action Plan and budget.

Official Endorsement of Trans-border Forest Management Plan

This trans-border forest management plan document has been approved and endorsed in its entirety by the CREMA Executive Committee (CEC) of the Ankasa-Tano CREMA in the Jomoro Municipal Assembly in the Western Region of Ghana, and the Park Manager of the Ankasa National Park of the Wildlife Division of the Forestry Commission, Ghana as well as the Executive Committee of the Fatière des Associations Inter-Villageoises de Gestion de la Forêt des Marais Tanoé-Ehy (FMTE) and Eaux & Forêt of Côte d'Ivoire.



Name Leo M. Bonyah

Date

05/01/2022

Chairperson, CREMA Executive Committee (CEC)

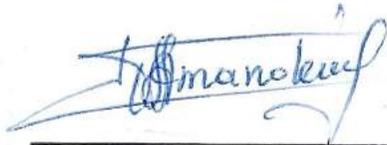


Name Richard Ofori Amanfo

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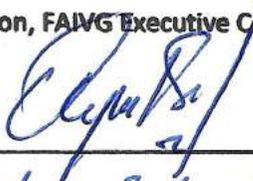


Name Ehouman Amandé Augustin

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14/01/2022

Chairperson, FAIVG Executive Committee



Name Nya Boko Paul

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14/01/2022

Chef de poste des Eaux & Forêts de Nouamou (Ministry of Eaux & Forêts of Côte d'Ivoire)