

KEY PROJECT RESULTS

Three persons prosecuted for illegal logging in the Atewa Range Forest Reserve as a result of use of **Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART)**

Five species identified as additional triggers for **Key Biodiversity Area status** for the Atewa Range Forest Reserve

Two species identified as potential additional triggers for **Alliance for Zero Extinction (AZE)** for the Atewa Range Forest Reserve

One Conservation Agreement signed with one Mining Company for restoration of 9.13 acres of degraded land as contribution **for the conservation and sustainable management of the Atewa landscape.**



Illegal Mining in the Atewa Forest



SMART: Training of Community Monitoring Groups



ATEWA FOREST BRIEF

Atewa Forest in Ghana's Eastern Region is a unique highly biodiverse upland evergreen forest providing habitats for many endemic and endangered wildlife species such as the Atewa Slippery Frog, the Atewa Dotted Border butterfly, and the White Naped Mangabey.

It is designated one of Ghana's Globally Significant Biodiversity Areas due to its exceptional biological value. It is home to well over 1000 different plant species, a wide diversity of birds and mammals.

The forest provides many critical ecosystem services for local communities, Ghana and the world, including clean water for 5 million people, clean air, and climate resilience and mitigation. Communities secure their food and livelihoods through farming and non-timber forest product collection.

Atewa Forest faces many threats such as illegal mining (Galamsey), deforestation – both legal and illegal, encroachment by farmers and government's plan to mine the forest's mountains for bauxite.

PROTECTING ATEWA CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM THROUGH BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENTS AND PARTICIPATORY MONITORING

DONOR: **CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND**



IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:



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Water quality checker

Project Bio

A Rocha Ghana (ARG) in March 2021 initiated this project, funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) aimed at protecting the biologically rich Atewa Range Forest Reserve from current threats of illegal mining, the government's intended bauxite mining plan and other forms of degradation.

Key Project Component

1 Develop innovative participatory monitoring system for sustainable management of critical ecosystems

- use of the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) involving forest patrols
- Water and Biodiversity Monitoring involving use of eDNA test kits
- Water quality analysis for physicochemical parameters



2 Strengthen the knowledge base for international designation for Atewa

- Reassessing Atewa against the new global KBA standards.
- Results will feed into the Ghana National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) review and the Post 2020 Global Biodiversity framework



Atewa Slippy frog



White-thighed Colobus



African finfoot
Photo credit: <https://ebid.org>



Limbochromis robertsii
Photo credit: <https://www.nvcweb.nl/>

New discovery in Atewa

3 Engage the private sector to support protection and sustainable management of Atewa Forest



Training for Business consortium members



SMART: Handing over of Desktop and Smartphone to Staff of the Forestry Commission - Atewa District



Water Quality Monitoring



eDNA sampling - Atewa Range Forest Reserve