

Dwindling forest resources, a myriad of actors with competing interests and claims, and emerging initiatives such as the Voluntary Partnership Agreement (VPA) and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation (REDD) pose enormous challenges as regards the governance of Ghana's forest resources. Tropenbos International Ghana, the University of Amsterdam (UvA) and Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) took up the challenge of generating knowledge needed to improve governance and conflict management for sustainable forest-related livelihoods. This infosheet provides an overview of the project.

#### Thematic focus

Since the inception of the project in 2008, it has focused on:

- The role of forest resources in the livelihoods of forest-adjacent people;
- The governance arrangements that hinder or enhance the poverty-alleviating potential of forest and tree resources; and
- The conflicts that occur in relation to forest and tree resources and the mechanisms available to minimise them.

The aim is to contribute knowledge for improved forest governance and forest-dependent livelihoods.



#### Project components

The project integrates research and capacity building. Two Ghanaian PhD students are conducting research on forest governance in Ghana's High Forest Zone. Thomas Insaadoo (Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources - KNUST) is doing so with a focus on innovations that help improve forest and tree-related livelihoods, while Mercy Derkyi (Amsterdam Institute for Social Science Research - UvA) is concentrating on forest-related livelihood conflicts and conflict management.

The project also provides opportunities to Ghanaian MSc students to receive three months of training at the University of Amsterdam, and to UvA students in Human Geography and International Development Studies to gain fieldwork experience within the framework of the Tropenbos Ghana programme. Figure 1 provides an overview of the various studies.

## Outputs

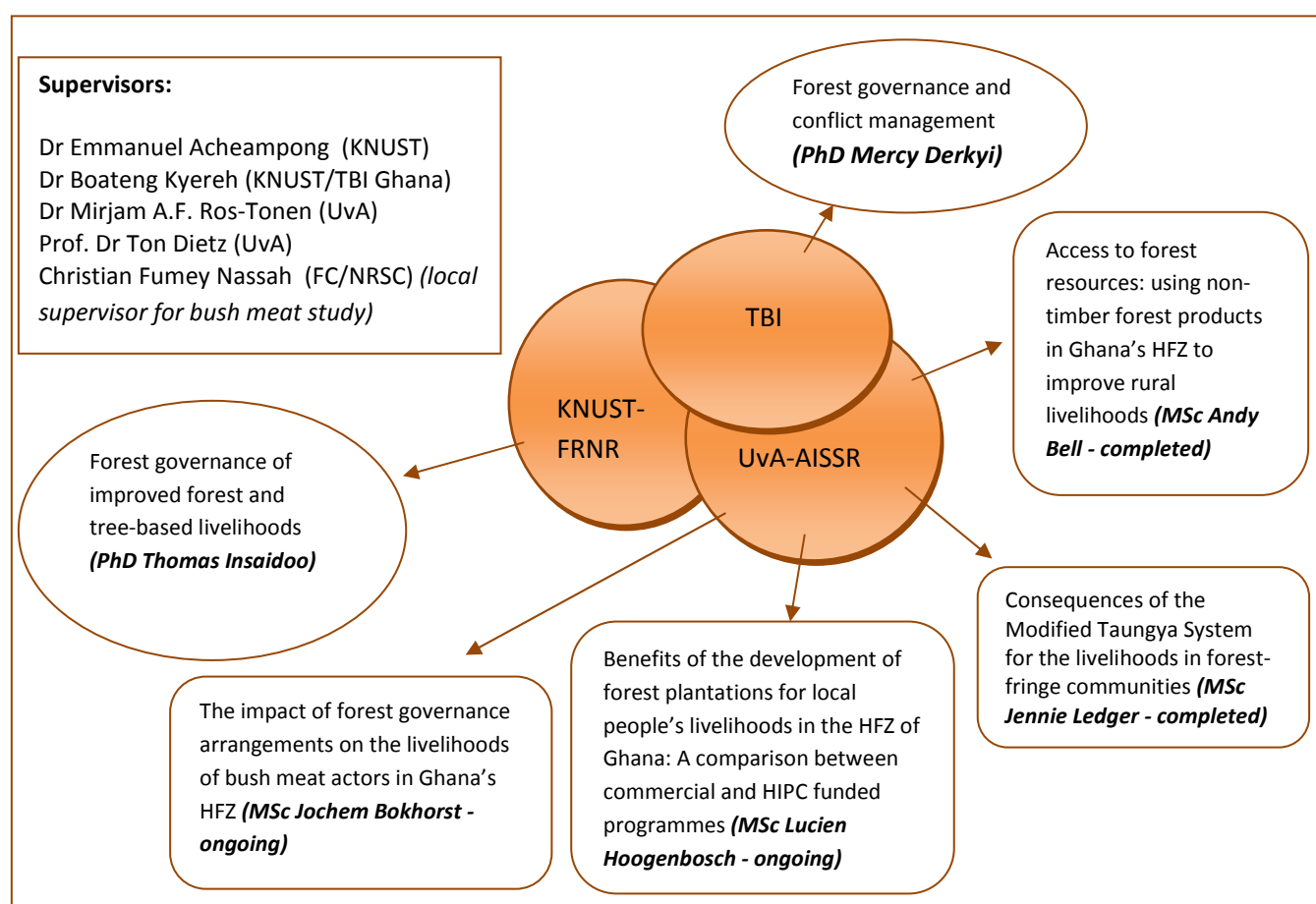
This project is intended to result in:

1. *An actor analysis*: Which actors have a stake in the resources in Ghana's High Forest Zone, and what are their characteristics and interests?
2. *A policy analysis*: What policies are relevant for securing and enhancing forest-related livelihoods and how have these changed in recent decades?
3. *An institutional analysis*: Which formal and traditional institutions regulate people's access to forest resources, *i.e.* their rights to own, use and have a say in the allocation of these resources?

4. *A livelihood analysis*: What livelihood options exist in Ghana's High Forest Zone?
5. *A conflict and conflict management analysis*: What forest livelihood-related conflicts exist in Ghana's High Forest Zone and which actors, resources, interests and conflict management strategies are involved?

The integrated results are to be available in 2011, along with recommendations for improved forest-based livelihoods, forest governance arrangements and conflict resolution mechanisms.

**Fig. 1 UvA-AISSR / KNUST-FRNR Contributions (2008 – 2011)**



This infosheet is an output of the 'Governance for Sustainable Forest-related Livelihoods' project, carried out under the TBI Ghana programme by researchers from Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and the University of Amsterdam (UvA).