

## Actors in Ghanaian forest use and governance



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**Who are involved in forest governance and use, and what are their roles and interests? This infosheet provides a brief description of the actors in the Ghana's High Forest Zone. It results from a study undertaken by researchers from the Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology (KNUST) and the University of Amsterdam (UvA).**

### Grouping the actors

Actors in forest governance include all those with roles, responsibilities, and/or interests in:

- Decision making regarding the allocation and regulation of forest and tree resources;
- Implementation and enforcement of rules and regulations regarding forests and trees;
- Forest and tree resource use and management;
- Forest and tree-related conflicts and conflict management.

They can be grouped under the following five governing structures:

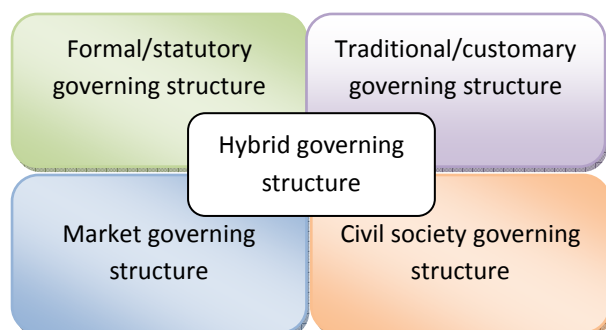


Fig. 1: Categories of actors in forest governance in Ghana's High Forest Zone

**1. The formal/statutory governing structure** includes those legally mandated to manage forest and tree resources, such as the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources (MLNR), the Forestry Commission (FC) and the Administrator of Stool Lands. The legal enforcers – district assemblies, police, military and judiciary – also belong to this group. Related actors are those at national and international level that sponsor and support forestry development, research and capacity building (see Fig. 2).

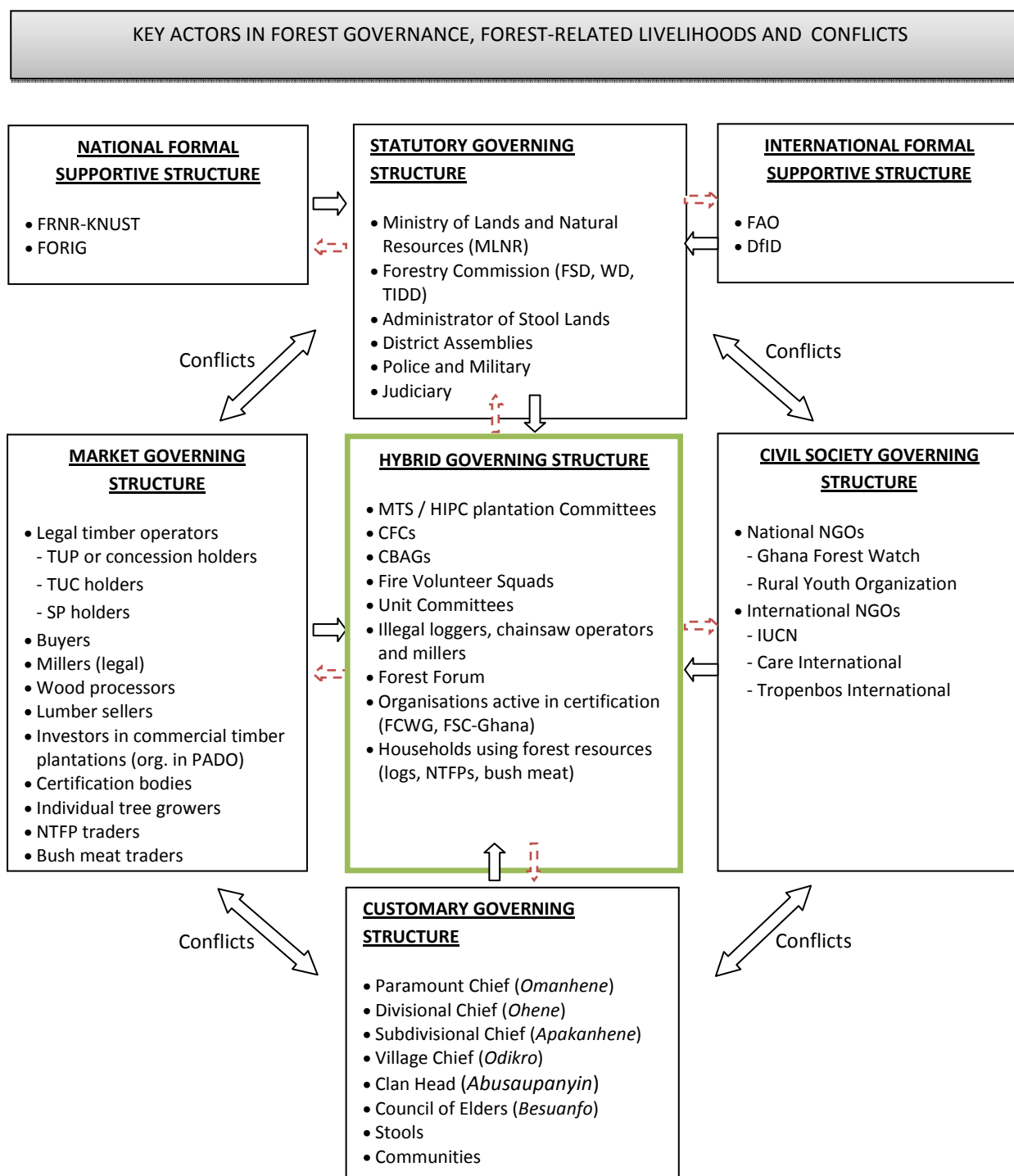
**2. The traditional/customary structure** consists of communities and customary institutions such as stools and chiefs at various levels. Chiefs are appointed caretakers of stools; they hold land in trust for communal landowners, but none of the traditional authorities have a say in forest resource management.

**3. The market governing structure** includes timber companies, legal timber extractors with a Timber Utilisation Contract (TUC), investors in commercial timber plantations, and traders in NTFPs and bush meat. Their interest is in accessing forest products at the lowest possible cost.

**4. The civil society governing structure** includes national and international environmental organisations and NGOs that contribute to capacity building and forest restoration and advocate legality and policy reforms.

**5. The hybrid governing structure** encompasses actors that are a blend of two or more of the other structures. They can be found in several committees at community level, in illegal logging, chainsaw lumbering and lumber selling, and within the Forestry Forum (see Figure 2).

Figure 2: Key actors in Ghana's forest sector



**Acronyms in alphabetical order:** CBAGs = Community Biodiversity Advisory Groups, CFCs = Community Forest Committees, Dfid = Department for International Development (UK), FAO = Forest and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, FORIG = Forest Research Institute of Ghana, FRNR-KNUST = Faculty of Renewable Natural Resources of Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology, FSC = Forest Stewardship Council, FSD = Forest Services Division, FCWG = Forest Certification Working Group, HIPC = Highly Indebted Poor Countries, IUCN = International Union for the Conservation of Nature, MTS = Modified Taungya System, NGOs = Non-governmental organisations, NTFP = Non-timber forest products, PADO = Private Afforestation Developers Organisation, SP = Salvage Permit, TIDD = Timber Industry Development Department, TUC = Timber Utilization Contract, TUP = Timber Utilization Permit, WD = Wildlife Division

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