

The Republic of Ghana

Geography

Ghana is a country located on the Gulf of Guinea, only a few degrees north of the Equator, therefore giving it a warm climate. The Greenwich Meridian also passes through Ghana, specifically through the industrial city of Ghana-Tema; so it is said that Ghana is geographically closer to the "center" of the world than any other country. Côte d'Ivoire is located to the west of Ghana while Burkina Faso and Togo are located to its north and east respectively. The coastline is mostly a low, sandy shore backed by plains and scrub and intersected by several rivers and streams. A tropical rain forest belt, broken by heavily forested hills and many streams and rivers, extends northward from the shore. North of this belt, the land is covered by low bush, park-like savannah, and grassy plains.

The climate is tropical. The eastern coastal belt is warm and comparatively dry (see Dahomey Gap); the southwest corner, hot and humid; and the north, hot and dry. Lake Volta, the world's largest artificial lake, extends through large portions of eastern Ghana.



Map of Ghana

Government: Ghana was created as a parliamentary democracy at independence in 1957, followed by alternating military and civilian governments. In January 1993, military government gave way to Fourth Republic after presidential and parliamentary elections in late 1992. The 1992 constitution divides powers among a president, parliament, cabinet, Council of State, and an independent judiciary. The Government is elected by universal suffrage.

Administrative Divisions: There are ten administrative regions which are divided into 110 districts, each with its own District Assembly. Below districts are various types of councils, including 58 town or area councils, 108 zonal councils, and 626 area councils and 16,000 unit committees on the lowest level.

Cape Coast City Profile



Cape Coast Castle

Population and expected growth (2015 horizon):

The total population of Cape Coast Municipality is 118,106 out of which 57,365 are males and 60,741 females. Farmers and fishermen as well as those into agricultural-related activities form about 60% of the population (Statistical Services, 2000 population census). Active agricultural population is approximately 18,000. Commercial farmers are approximately 0.3% and peasants (majority) approximately 99.7%.

Expected growth (2015 horizon)-10% growth for 15 years- entire population 129,916

Ecosystem and climate:

Vegetation is mainly secondary forest with thickets and shrubs growing to an average height of 4.5 m. There is a coastline which is about 13 km long. Temperatures range between 24⁰C and 32⁰C with Relative Humidity of between 60 % and 80 %. There are two seasons of rainfall with peak in May - June and October. The annual total rainfall is between 90 cm and 110 cm along the coast to between 110 cm to 160 cm in the hinterland. Dry periods (harmattan) are experienced between November and February.

Different types of soil series are found in the municipality. Classifications vary from the coast to the hinterland. Types found include Chichiwere-Kakum (suitable for tree crops), Ayensu-Chichiwere (suitable for both tree and non – tree crops) and Achenfu-Kuntu-Asokwa-Suprudu (mainly for non – tree crops).

Land is generally hilly and the highest point is approximately 60m above sea level with valleys in between the hills.

The major stream and river are Siwere and Kakum respectively. Lagoons include the Fosu. Flood prone areas lie below 60m above sea level. The river and stream end up in wetlands and finally drain into the Fosu Lagoon at Bakaano and the sea at Abakam (this one marks the boundary between the Municipality and K. E. E. A. District.

Main characteristics of the city:

Cape Coast Municipality lies within latitudes 5⁰.07' to 5⁰.20' north of the Equator and between longitudes 1¹¹' to 1¹⁴.41' west of the Greenwich Meridian. Cape Coast Municipal is bounded on the East by Abura –

Asebu - Kwamankese District, West by Komenda – Edina – Eguafio - Abrem (K. E. E. A.) District and South by the Gulf of Guinea and North by Twifo Heman Lower Denkyria District. There are 84 communities in the municipality. The Capital of the Municipality is Cape Coast which doubles as the regional capital of Central Region of Ghana. Other major communities include Efutu, Adisadel, Apewosika, Nkanfoa, Koforidua, Abura, Pedu and Nyinesin. The inhabitants are mainly Fante. Other tribes, which make up 5% of the total population, are the Ashantis, Ewes, Gas, Hausas, Dagbanis, Dagombas, Nzimas, Fafras and few non Ghanaians. The people are of different educational backgrounds from illiterates to degree holders who are involved in occupations such as trading, artisanship, farming, teaching, health services, fishing, transport, government employment, construction, financing, tourism and ministration.

The municipality can boast of one regional referral hospital, one district hospital and one university hospital. Others are three urban health centres, two clinics and one health chip zones which are government establishments. The private health facilities are seven dotted all over the municipality belonging to qualified medical specialists, who provide quality services to patients. Schools include one public university, one public polytechnic, one public teacher training college and 2 nursing training colleges. Others are 9 public second cycle institution, 3 private second cycle institution, and about 120 junior high schools, primary schools and pre-schools belonging to both public and private sectors.

Financial services could be obtained from both formal and informal sectors. The formal sources include Ghana Commercial Bank, Agricultural Development Bank, Kakum Rural Bank, Barclays Bank, National Investment Bank, Twifo Rural Bank and Credit Unions. Informal sources are “susu”, Money Lenders, self and family sources. Major market is located in the Cape Coast township with market days throughout the week. Facilities in the market include stalls, taxi/lorry stations, toilets, banks nearby, water, slaughter house, cold stores nearby, electricity, schools nearby, ware/storehouses and hospital nearby. Smaller markets exist in most communities e.g. Abura and Efutu.

Transportation is mainly by buses, trucks and cars (taxi) and head portage. Within farming communities (house to farm), it is mainly by head portage. Communication facilities covered the entire municipality. Services provided include postal services, Ghana Telecom land lines well developed in the municipality, mobile services available include MTN, One Touch and TiGo. Other services like courier, fax and E-mail are also available. Roads within the central business areas are tarred and named. Roads linking Cape Coast to Twifo Praso, Elmina and Saltpond are all tarred. Roads linking farms to communities are laterite and bad during most parts of the year.

Current and Future Challenges on UA

Summarize in a few words illustrated by key quantitative or qualitative data both the current and expected challenges that the city is facing for the following issues that CFF is contributing to:

Urban poverty:

- Although the youth have the opportunities to upgrade their knowledge and skills in the educational institutions in the municipality, there are inadequate plans for integration into the trades/ vocations and job placement. The education and training offered have little link to the needs of the important sectors of the economy. These have contributed to the high level of unemployment and underemployment being experienced in the Cape Coast Municipality
- Rapid increase in population as a result of increase in sexual life of both the youth and the adults. It is ascertained that about 85% of the youth and adult population are aware of family planning measures available in curbing unplanned pregnancies
- Cape Coast Municipality is experiencing a sharp increase in unemployment due to the shrinking of the public sector employment opportunities coupled with a relatively slow growth of the private sector.

Urban food security:

- Generally, it is difficult for interested individual and groups to secure credit for agricultural activities
- Limited land availability for urban agriculture due to expansion in estate development
- As a commercial centre, most of the able youth, women, and men in the nearby villages and towns journeyed to the Cape Coast Municipality to have a feel of city life and to seek non existing “white collar” jobs, leaving small number of people into urban agriculture
- Inadequate water availability to provide moisture for agricultural activities. This could be the effect of use of poor water management techniques, drastic changes in the rainfall distribution and intensity, and lack of appropriate and efficient irrigation facilities
- High cost of agricultural inputs

Urban environment:

- Application of contaminated drainage water to water urban crops and as drinking water for animals
- Farming along available streams in the municipality leading to heavy silting and agro-chemical contamination of water bodies, which later affect aquatic and human life dependent on the waters of these streams
- Potential conflict situations where stray animals defecate openly, especially in the street and people's compound. Also, when these animals graze on crops grown by urban crop farmers
- Continuous land tillage will definitely brought about land degradation, where farm lands are exposed to erosion and soil infertility
- The regular application of agro-chemical endangers the life of the farmers, decreasing their life expectancy due to constant accumulation of toxins in the body systems

Empowerment of urban farmers:

- Higher rate of illiteracy among some of the urban farmers contributing to slow acceptance and low adoption of modern and appropriate agricultural production recommendations
- Higher percentage, about 70% of the total farming population of 18,000 is above the age of 50 years, who are considered less active.
- Difficulties in identifying lucrative farming ventures due to inadequate knowledge of the market and unnecessary interventions by so called “middlemen” which rather prevent agricultural producers from having direct contact with the markets

Participatory city governance:

- Inadequate representation of farmers in the municipal assembly
- Unless strong farmers association(s) is or are formed, Urban Agricultural Farmers would be continuously sidelined, when decisions are made towards improving people's livelihood. This is because individual farmers most often think differently;
- Women farmers and physically challenged persons are most often under represented in governance activities.

Other Major Challenges Faced by the City

Apart from challenges in the 5 areas mentioned above, what are the current and expected (horizon 2015) challenges and potential problems faced by the city:

- The youth engaging in armed robbery, prostitution, street hawking, drug peddling, and the associated teenage pregnancy and other forms of indiscipline in society due to inadequate job opportunities
- Inadequate agro-processing facilities leading to higher post-harvest losses of agricultural produce, and affecting value addition to most of the produce
- Inadequate markets, with associated poor market facilities
- Increase in HIV/AIDS prevalence rate, affecting the youth and adults including farmers
- Poor networking and collaboration among Ministries, Departments and Agencies as well as the Non Governmental Agencies affecting streamlining of strategies towards livelihood improvement and rapid community development

Other Relevant information

Agricultural investment potentials in Cape Coast Municipality:

- Land suitable for the production of citrus, oil palm, cassava, maize, vegetables (pepper, okra, egg-plant, cabbage, watermelon etc.) and plantain on large scale.
- There is a river and streams suitable for Irrigation scheme development. Aquaculture is feasible.
- Rice can also be cultivated in the valley bottoms and catchment areas of the streams.
- Marine fishing is another major activity along the coast. Mainly canoes and few motorized vessels do this. No major fish-landing site is developed in the area. A fish market site is necessary in the municipality.
- Establishment of multi purpose agro-processing facilities for citrus and pineapple is feasible. Cottage industries to process citrus, vegetables and or fish will be viable in the area. Raw materials to feed these industries could be easily produced with little effort and assistance to farmers and fishermen.
- There are busy markets at Cape Coast, Abura and nearby Mankessim/Jukwa for produce to be sold.
- Tourism related areas:
 - ❖ Ostrich Farm at Efutu Mampong
 - ❖ Wetlands for birds at Duakor
 - ❖ Crocodile Pond at Bebianiha (Hans Cottage)
 - ❖ Lagoon bodies at Cape Coast
 - ❖ Good beaches available for development

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Or

Visit: en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cape_Coast