

# **NATURAL RESOURCES GOVERNANCE IN URBAN COMMUNITIES OF GHANA**

**By**

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# FORMAT OF PRESENTATION

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# BACKGROUND

- Natural resources are important for the economies of many countries and the livelihood of millions of people around the world
- They provide essentially services like repository of wastes, research, medicine, energy and social and cultural identity
- Africa is endowed with variety of natural resources like forest, water, minerals, fertile, land, sun-shine and game and wildlife.
- Tradition, national laws and nature make some of these resources communally owned. For instance, fresh air by nature is communally owned because no individual or nation has the power to colonize fresh air
- The communal ownership of the resources earns them the accolade common-pool natural resources (CPNR)

# BACKGROUND Continues

- Various actors apply different governance approaches and mechanisms for the protection and management of the CPNRs
  - ❖ Governments use polices, laws and institutions
  - ❖ multi-lateral institutions use conventions and agreements
  - ❖ Donors-Use financial and technical assistance
  - ❖ Civil Society-use research, advocacy and campaigns
  - ❖ Communities-apply their customs and traditional rules
- Urbanization is on the increase in Africa evidenced by growth in the population of towns and cities
- The rise in urbanization is accompanied with natural resource and governance challenges including destruction of CPNRs like
  - ❖ Land acquisition and displacement of people
  - ❖ Siltation and diversion of local streams and rivers
  - ❖ Sanitation

# THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

- In an effort to address the challenges of urbanization external actors tend to introduce solutions to addressing CPNR challenges in local communities
- The government of Ghana with support from the World Bank introduced the Land Administration Project (LAP 1& 2) to address challenges regarding land acquisition in urban urban areas
- Government of Ghana has also evolved and continue to evolve policies and laws for the protection and management of environmental and natural resources
- Despite the effort, natural resources destruction and degradation continues
- Local communities continue to lose the value of their common pool natural resources in particular land and water resources

# RESEARCH QUESTIONS AND OBJECTIVE

- **Key Research questions that guided the study are:**
  - ❖ How are communities responding to the impact of urbanization on their common pool natural resources?
  - ❖ What are the specific and peculiar governance mechanisms applied by local communities for the protection and management of their natural resources?
  - ❖ Which of the identified governance mechanisms have been successful and why?
- **Research Objective**
  - ❖ The objective of the study was to explore the governance mechanisms that urban communities apply to protect and manage their CPNRs in the face of urbanization

# THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

- The study adopts Ostrom theory of common pool resources for the analysis of how local communities govern their common pool natural resources
- Ostrom's theory is a strand of the broad theory of the commons represented by ideas of Gordon (1954), Scott (1955), Olson (1965) among others
- The central focus of Ostrom's theory is that common-pool resources are shared by groups of people and therefore managing them poses several different problems, which require rules to control both entry and effort on the resource.

# RELEVANCE OF THEORY

- The theory recognizes the central role of **rules** and **effort** in governance mechanisms for the protection and management of common property
- By recognizing rules, the theory also recognizes a system in which there is unequal distribution of power and the need to avoid domination and manipulation by instituting rules of access and effort
- By recognizing effort, the theory is fully aware that it takes effort for rules to work
- The recognition of effort is also a call for policy recognition of the legitimate effort that local people have historically been putting to manage their CPNRs



# METHODOLOGY

- Study Area
- Research Design
- Unit of Analysis
- Methods of Data Collection
- Data Type, Instruments & Analysis

# Study Area

- Two communities from Greater Accra Region and Ahafo Region were selected for the study
- The two communities (Accra and Ola in Kenyasi No2) are urban communities in Ghana
- Why the choice of Accra and Ola Kenyasi No2?
- **Accra:**
  - National capital and the largest city in Ghana
  - Accra is undergoing a rapid rate of growth 190,000 people in 1957 to 1, 6 and is projected to reach 4 million in 2020
  - Accra is one of the fastest-growing cities in West Africa
  - Growth is putting pressure on land use.
  - The pressure on land has resulted in conflicts around the allocation and acquisition of land in Accra
- Accra was selected to explore how traditional governance mechanisms respond to the land issue as a key common-pool natural resource

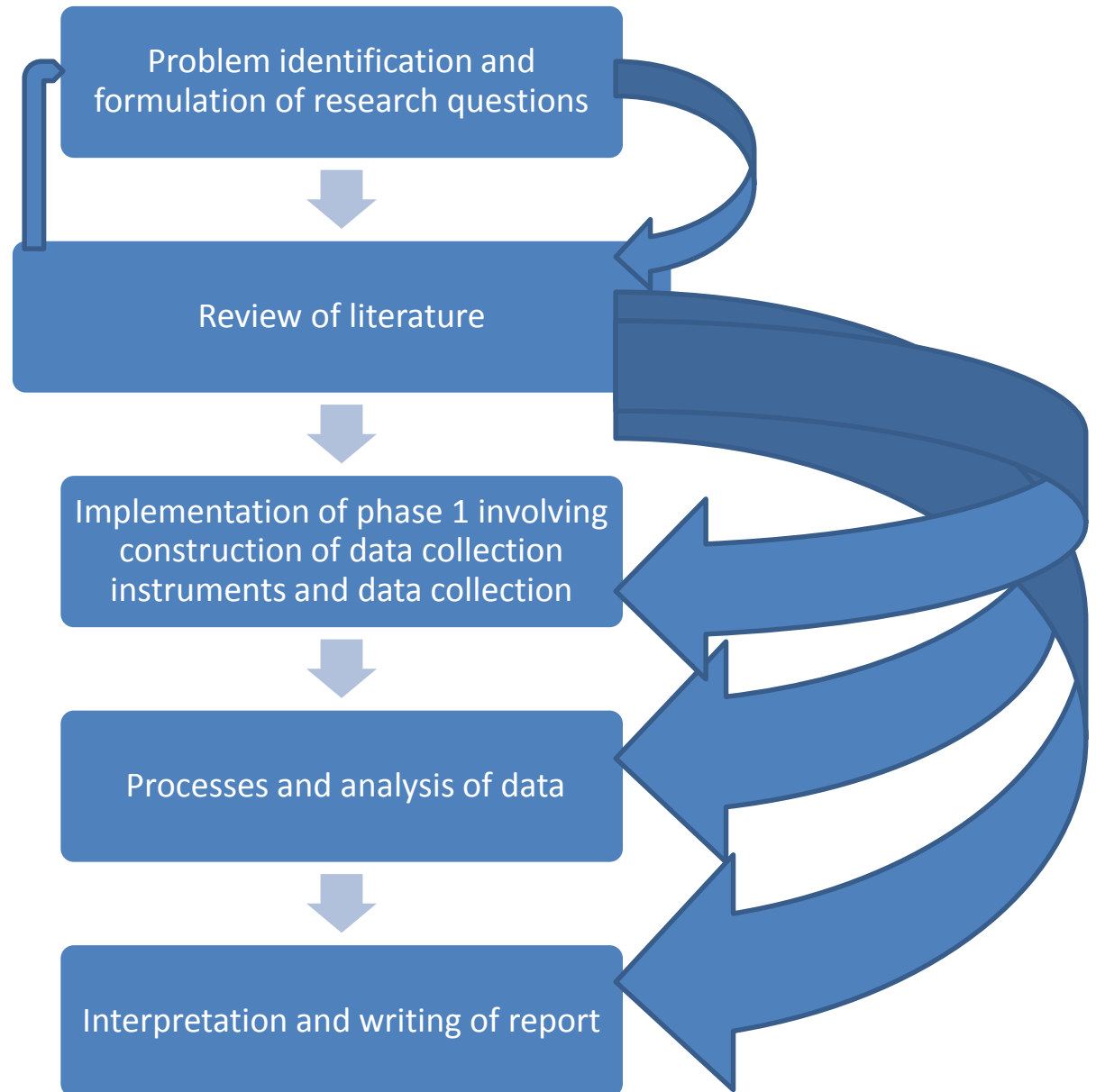
# Study Area

## Ola in Kenyasi No2

- Ola is a suburb of Kenyasi No2.
- Kenyasi is the District capital of the Asutifi North District in the Ahafo Region located in the northwest of Accra about seven hours drive from the national capital
- Kenyasi is a twin-town comprising Kenyasi No1 and Kenyasi No2
- Ola was hosting the only secondary school in the town with less than 200 inhabitants
- In 2005, a number of villages were resettled in Ola to pave way for gold mining
- The resettlement radically transformed the suburb into one compact town of over 4,000 men and women
- The urbanized settlement has also radically re-ordered the social and economic life of the people including their organic relations with CPNRs like fresh water from

# Research Design

- The research was designed in five main stages



# Unit of Analysis

- Two elements were selected as units of analysis
  - The governance mechanisms (rules and procedures for the particular resource)
  - The selected community

# Methods of Data Collection

- Qualitative case study approach was used in the study
- In using the qualitative case study two main approaches were involved
  - A review of literature and digital search focusing on studies that examined Ostom's theory of CPNRs in particular her (1990) design principles.
  - In-depth interviews with men and women in the case study communities
- Snowballing approach was used to identify key personnel and certain professionals for interview in each community

# Data Type, Instruments & Analysis

- Data collected were essentially qualitative, which involved documenting, observing and comparing similarities and differences of responses relating to the subject under investigation
- Three main instruments were used for data collection:
  - ❖ Semi-Structured guided questionnaires were used which allowed participants the freedom to discuss
  - ❖ Informal interviews
  - ❖ Field observations including participation in relevant seminars
- Key informants included community chiefs, opinion leaders, men and women, youth, resource users, local associations and experts/professionals
- Data collected were analyzed by also sorting, clustering and evaluating the theory being used against the responses obtained from the field (empirical observations). Analysis also involved the use of descriptive data to enhance clarity and understanding

# Preliminary Findings

- The study found that the selected communities have undertaken to apply the concept of self-mobilizing and regulation (local level governance) for the management of their CPNR
- In both Kenaysi No2 and Accra, the self-evolution of local governance mechanisms and practices were deliberate and conscious actions in response to a specific problem or concern regarding a particular CPNR.
  - ❖ In the case of Accra, the specific concern was the indiscriminate allocation/sale of land by family members outside of the customary approved way of allocating/sale of land
  - ❖ In the case of Kenyasi No2, the specific concern was access to fresh water. The problem of water access was created by water scarcity resulting from the radical and sudden increase in population and reliance on a single water supply source



# Preliminary Findings

- In both cases, communities have evolved governance mechanisms (rules and procedures) for the management of their CPNR. **Example:**
  - ❖ In Ola, the mechanisms of water access include:
    - Payment of water user-fee
    - Participation in communal labour in the community
    - Membership of the community but not so strictly enforced
  - ❖ In Accra, the mechanisms of land management/allocation
    - Kinship relations and customary rights of access
    - Land so properly allocated by the Nii Odai Ntow Customary Land Secretariat
    - Legal rights to land
    - The combination of informal kinship relations, formal legal rights make the mechanisms quite complicated and often contested through the law courts

# Preliminary Findings

- The case communities have established governance institutions to enforce the rules governing their CPNR

## **In Accra;**

- **The Nii Odai Ntow Customary Land Secretariat (NONCLS)** has been established.
- The secretariat comprises a Management Committee, a Secretariat and Asafo Group
- The management committee is the highest decision-making body and made up of 8 members (2 representatives from each of four families that constitute the Nii Odai Ntow family)
- The secretariat runs the day-to-day affairs and keeps records
- The Asafo Group provides protection and security for the lands

# Preliminary Findings

## In Kenyasi No2

- Water User Association has been established with representation from the different sections of the community
- The association has sub-committees responsible for specific tasks
  - ❖ Pump maintenance committee for minor repairs
  - ❖ Finance committee for water fee collection
- The governance institutions in Accra are dominated by men while that of Kenyasi No2 are dominated by women.
  - ❖ In Accra the management committee had one female representation from one family; there are 2 females out of the 5 staff at the secretariat; and all the Asafo group are male youth.
  - ❖ In Kenyasi No2, only the secretary and Pump mechanic are males, the rest of the members of the Water User Association and its sub-committees are females

# Preliminary Findings

- In both cases, the self-evolution of governance mechanisms around a specific CPNR has attracted support from outside.
  - ❖ In Kenyasi the support came from the Newmont Ghana Gold Limited (NGGL) and the Asutifi District Assembly.
  - ❖ In Accra, the support came from the Lands Commission and the Office of the Administrator of Stool Land.
- The case communities believe that the self-regulation was most successful compared to externally imposed regulation especially from the state
  - ❖ In Kenyasi the water user fee was the most successful water governance mechanism
  - ❖ In Accra the , the establishment of the Customary Land Secretariat was the most successful governance mechanism, it has not only reduced the indiscriminate allocation/sale of land but also made it easy for detecting illegal land sale/allocation

# CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

- The paper explored traditional governance mechanisms and practices for the management of common pool natural resources in urban communities.
- Using qualitative case studies of Accra and Kenyasi No2, the paper demonstrated that local communities have the capacity to evolve governance mechanisms for the management of common pool resources.
- Within the context of decentralization state policy should focus on strengthening community and local level governance as a strategy towards effective and efficient common natural resource management
- Strengthening collaboration and cooperation with local communities and natural resource users and owners is critical for successful common pool resource management

# Conclusion & Recommendations

- There are common mechanisms for effective governance. However, the success of the mechanisms may vary in space and time. This means that state governance approaches should take account of the differences in time and space in the implementation of governance mechanisms for the management of CPNRs
- The study reveals strong gender stereotype in sexual division of labour in CPNRs governance. Intensive public education and affirmative action is required towards minimising the stereotype and the gap in gender division of labour
- Further research is needed to build on or upscale the findings of this study. Specific areas of focus may include:
  - ❖ The gender dimension of local level governance
  - ❖ The effectiveness and sustainability of local level governance in CPNRs
  - ❖ The impact of central state policy on local level governance of CPNR: issues and challenges

**Thank you**

