

KEY BIODIVERSITY AREA SCOPING REPORT

**PROJECT: PROTECTING ATEWA CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM THROUGH
BIODIVERSITY ASSESSMENTS AND PARTICIPATORY MONITORING**

IMPLEMENTOR:



DONOR:



PARTNERS:



INTRODUCTION

The protected Atewa Range Forest Reserve and the Atewa Range Extension Forest Reserve (the Atewa Forest from hereon) in Ghana's Eastern Region together form a Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) due to their earlier status as an Important Bird and Biodiversity Area (IBA).

Since the IUCN published *A Global Standard for the Identification of Key Biodiversity Areas, Version 1.0* in 2016, the Atewa Forest has been a priority for reassessment using this new standard to determine if it is a Global or a Regional KBA¹. Although a priority site, this reassessment has not yet been carried out.

A Rocha Ghana with support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) undertook a scoping exercise to identify potential trigger species which would serve as additional identifying biodiversity elements to validate the current status of the Atewa Forest as a Key Biodiversity Area.

SCOPING PROCESS

A desk review of done to identify from literature as well as previous KBA trigger species, which species should be focused on as priority species for the assessment. With support from Birdlife International and A Rocha International, taxonomic groups that were identified to be key indicators of the forest's health were identified. The scoping assessment went through the KBA database and other key research finding on Atewa to identify key species that could serve as potential triggers for the KBA assessment due to limitations on funding and time constraints of the project duration.

The outcome of the scoping assessment identified four taxa that were critical to the health of the forest. These were birds, amphibians, primates and butterflies. The scoping assessment went ahead to identify potential species that could trigger the KBA status based on criteria outlined in the Global KBA standard.

The identified species were further prioritized based on the IUCN Redlist status and whether the species has been previously identified as a KBA trigger. The species were colour coded to guide the consultants prioritize their limited time for the assessment and also available funding. For the butterflies, most of them had not been assessed by the IUCN Redlist and therefore based on previous reports the Conservation International RAP report (McCullough et al. 2007), butterfly species were selected for the assessment. The selected butterflies were therefore not colour coded.

	1 st Priority	Based on the scoping assessment, had been previously identified as a trigger and there was a high chance of it meeting the global trigger criteria
	2 nd Priority	Based on the scoping assessment and the IUCN Redlist status, consultants were to focus them as 2 nd priority
	3 rd Priority	These species had previously been identified as triggers and the assessment was to confirm their current population status and range

¹ <http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/factsheet/6312>

SCOPING RESULTS FOR AMPHIBIANS

Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Redlist Status
Afia Birago's Puddle Frog	<i>Phrynobatrachus afiibirago</i>	Critically Endangered (CR)
Bobiri Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius bobirensis</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
Ivory Coast Running Frog	<i>Kassina arboricola</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
Togo Slippery Frog	<i>Conraua derooi</i>	Critically Endangered (CR)
Ghana River Frog	<i>Phrynobatrachus ghanensis</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Ivory Coast Wart Frog	<i>Acanthixalus sonjae</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Broad-headed Night Frog	<i>Astylosternus laticephalus</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Big-eyed Forest Treefrog	<i>Leptopelis macrotis</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Tai Forest Treefrog	<i>Leptopelis occidentalis</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Baumann's Reed Frog	<i>Hyperolius baumanni</i>	Least Concern (LC)
Nimba Banana Frog	<i>Afrixalus vibekensis</i>	Least Concern (LC)

SCOPING RESULTS PRIMATES

Scientific Name	Common Name	IUCN Redlist Status
<i>Cercocebus lunulatus</i>	White-naped Mangabey	EN
<i>Cercopithecus diana</i>	Diana/roloway Monkey	EN
<i>Colobus vellerosus</i>	White-thighed Colobus	CR
<i>Cercopithecus lowei</i>	Lowe's Monkey	VU
<i>Procolobus verus</i>	Olive Colobus	VU
<i>Cercopithecus petaurista</i>	Spot-nosed Monkey	NT

SCOPING RESULTS BIRDS

Common Name	Scientific Name	IUCN Redlist Status
Yellow-bearded Greenbul	<i>Criniger olivaceus</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
Yellow-casqued Hornbill	<i>Ceratogymna elata</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
Grey Parrot	<i>Psittacus erithacus</i>	Endangered (EN)
Nimba Flycatcher	<i>Melaenornis annamarulae</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
White-breasted Guineafowl	<i>Agelastes meleagrides</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
Brown-cheeked Hornbill	<i>Bycanistes cylindricus</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
Western Wattled Cuckooshrike	<i>Lobotos lobatus</i>	Vulnerable (VU)
Green-tailed Bristlebill	<i>Bleda eximius</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Rufous-winged Illadopsis	<i>Illadopsis rufescens</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Copper-tailed Starling	<i>Hylopsar cupreocauda</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Red-fronted Antpecker	<i>Parmoptila rubrifrons</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Yellow-footed Honeyguide	<i>Melignomon eisentrauti</i>	Near Threatened (NT)
Sharpe's Apalis	<i>Apalis sharpei</i>	Least Concern (LC)

Butterflies

Scientific Name	Common Name	Redlist Criteria
<i>Mylothris atewa</i>	Atewa Dotted Border	VU
<i>Tetrarhanis baralingam</i>		
<i>Neaveia lamborni</i>		
<i>Bicyclus auricruda</i>		
<i>Euphaedra mariaechristinae</i>		
<i>Ceratruchia maesseni</i>		
<i>Astictopterus anomoeus</i>		
<i>Papilio antimachus</i>		
<i>Anthene helpsi</i>		
<i>Acraea kibi</i>		
<i>Liptena griveaudi</i>		
<i>Celaenorrhinus sagamase</i>		

Based on the scoping report, a TOR was developed and consultants were invited to carry out the assessment within the scope and deliverables outlined below.

Scope of the assignment

- Undertake field studies in the Atewa Range Forest Reserve covering the current KBA area
- Provide data on abundance and distribution of the target trigger species
- Provide a range map
- Assess whether each potential trigger species identified meets the relevant threshold at the Atewa Forest outlined in the KBA Global Standard

Key deliverables

- Written report providing findings according to the requirements of the IUCN Global Standard to support KBA assessment of the Atewa Range Forest Reserve.
- Provide GIS shapefiles showing estimated range for each of the trigger species identified.
- Number of matured individuals each of the trigger species identified.
- Make a presentation at the stakeholder engagement workshop to share and validate KBA results.